

Dear Friends....



As Arnold Schwarzenegger said in *Terminator 1*“I’ll be back!” And here I am!

First of all, let me express my gratitude for all your good wishes, cards and of course your prayers. Unfortunately the attempt to open-up my blocked right coronary artery was unsuccessful. I will have to undergo further treatment, but the medical staff who have looked after me so well, assure me that as long as I follow their guidance, there is no reason (while I am waiting to find out what they have in store) why I should not return to full-time ministry and resume my duties as your Pastor.

Having had the benefit of two weeks sick leave and four wonderful days spent at St. Cuthman’s – the retreat centre belonging to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton near Coolham – I feel really well and raring to go. Please have no anxiety about me. I am in God’s hands and He is teaching me so many lessons about trust and submission to His will.

We often make plans and when something happens to make a mess of them, imagine that we have a right to complain. One thing this experience has taught me is to thank God that I can find Him *in the mess* and that sometimes the way He works things out is infinitely better than what I had in mind in the first place.

Easter is not far away and of all the instances in which God used something dreadful to bring about something good, the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ stands supreme. It never fails to amaze me that today, we Christians cherish the cross as the symbol of love and forgiveness, when for people in Jesus’ day, it was the ultimate refinement in brutality. For me, that helps to prove the truth of the Gospel. This year we shall again be sharing the Easter worship with our two sister churches here in Lindfield and that will be such an encouragement.

Last year I had another lesson in how God can use what seems to have gone wrong to achieve a positive purpose. I didn’t realise that six weeks’ notice is necessary to ask for a road closure, so when I applied a month in advance, it was too late. As it happened, it would have been disastrous to have stopped the traffic on Good Friday for the march of witness. The fact that we had to use the pavement *instead* of the road, meant not only that we didn’t hold up the traffic, but our witness was in full view of the drivers as they went by.

The cross was not God’s last word at Easter time. It is the empty tomb that speaks his final triumph. Not even death can defeat His sovereign purpose and the power that raised Jesus to life is at work in every Christian believer – even weak and faltering ones like you and me!

Your Pastor and friend,

Charles S. Martin.

GoodNEWS

Produced for Lindfield United Reformed Church,
50 High Street, Lindfeld, West Sussex, RH16 2HL
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Printing: Tom Burford.

Next Copy Date: 10 March 2010.

All contributions should be emailed to goodnewseditor@lindfieldurc.org, or hard copy placed in the "GoodNEWS" pigeon hole at the rear of the church. Please ensure that you include your contact details, in case of query. You can contact Val Cookney on 01444 440029.

Editorial



I would like to use my editorial space as an opportunity to say a very big thank you to Steve Farley who has stepped down from his role of setting the magazine. He has been the expert behind the scenes of the magazine for the past 3 years although he had already been part of the Editorial team several years before that. Steve has always been most gracious in his dealings with an IT /Graphics idiot, and I am truly grateful to him for all that he has done for the magazine. We will miss him greatly and thank God for Steve and Ellie and for all that they have done for us here at the Lindfield URC.

I now hear a collective intake of breathe at the thought of what happens now? Fear not I am not touching the setting or graphics or whatever – indeed no for we shall be in the far safer technologically savvy hands of Tim Sanderson who will be carrying out the setting etc., and Lydia Goodchild who will be in charge of the cover. Tim in particular has a lot to take on and so we would ask for your understanding patience, and support.

Finally, thank you to Tim and Lydia for taking on these responsibilities.

Val

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Prayer Focus



Youth Pastor

By the time you read this the closing date will just have passed for applications for our post of Youth Pastor, and we will be about to embark on the selection process.

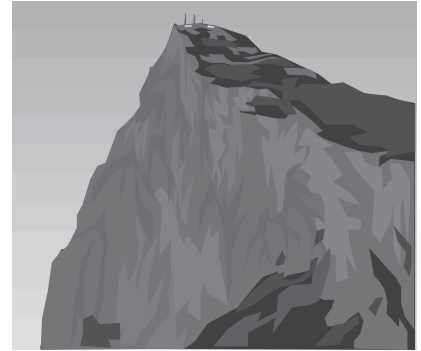
This is a hugely exciting time for us. The Church committed to appoint a Youth Pastor, set a budget and then held a gift day. The amount pledged was almost exactly the same as the sum set out in the budget for a 3 year appointment. Praise the Lord for such amazing provision. We firmly believe this confirms it is His will that someone should come to Lindfield in this role.

It is most important that we continue to keep this whole process immersed in prayer. We would urge you to share the excitement and join us in prayer.

Please pray that:

- Lindfield will be placed on the heart of the person that God wants to fill the post;
- The Interview Panel and Elders will have discernment during the selection process;
- God will speak clearly to us and to the right candidate so that there can be no doubt of His will;
- We will have unity of heart;
- Any practical issues during the selection process and for the appointment will be swiftly overcome;
- In the fullness of time we will see His Kingdom grow through the work with Children and Young People in this place.

This article is by way of an introduction to what we hope will become a periodic but regular item in the magazine which you the reader have contributed to....



It's funny how ideas come about don't you think. I have been struggling to reduce a 3000 plus word article down to 1000 or less so that I could use it in the magazine, it is proving a challenge! It is about, do miracles happen today and in essence it is saying yes because of what Jesus said in John 14.12. Jesus promised to those who have faith in Him that they will do 'greater miracles' than the ones he had been doing, because through us He would bring His light and life into the lives of men and women we know, if we are willing to be in partnership with Him. Just prior to this, in one of our recent meetings the Editorial team tossed around an idea that it would be really good if we could get more people to write about being a Christian in the 'every day'. There were more discussions and the idea seemed to get lost. Then one Sunday at the beginning of January Charles was introducing the idea which the Outreach team had had for us as a church to talk more with each other about our Christian faith so that we would be able to talk more to our friends and family about why we are Christians. So this is the idea, we would love people to offer a short bit about what God is doing in their lives now. The scary bit of this idea is that I am going to put my 'money where my mouth is' and start the ball rolling!!

I don't think I would be the only one to describe my Christian journey as 'variable'; there have been times when spiritually I have trudged, other times when my relationship with God was like walks on the mountain tops bathed in sunlight or then, more often than not, due to my stubbornness, it can be like stumbling on the crags in the dark.

Recently I came up against a particularly large and steep 'crag'. It is a situation which is outside of my control. So, I have been praying outlining to God a) the solution that would of course be the best in my view and b) the time scale in which this was all to happen. Of course this hasn't happened; so frustration and indeed anger has grown. However, recently a number of things have occurred. I read 2 books. Firstly I read the Old Testament book – Habbakuk. This tells us of the prophet getting angry with God for not sorting out the Israelites' waywardness. God tells Habbakuk that He will send the Israelites' enemy to conquer them! Habbakuk complains again; because that was not the answer he was looking for! But Habbakuk then says in Chapter 2 'I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts. I will look to see what he will say to me....', I realised that that is what I too had to do. I had made my request and now I needed to wait and watch for whatever God was going to do. But I wasn't quite ready to agree to the last bit.

Living our Faith...

Then I re-read *The Shack* – by Wm Paul Young. It tells of a man experiencing the pain and anger of feeling that God had let him down, I could relate to that. I could also relate to the fact that he had forgotten and indeed doubted that God really loved him to listen to His cries for help. In the book Mac spends time with God as Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit in the shack. Through his time with each of them he is gently brought to the point of understanding that God loves him beyond limits but situations may not work out the way he wanted all the time. Even so, God is still in control.

About half way through the book Jesus takes Mac across a lake, walking on water of course. On the outward journey Jesus holds Mac's hand from the start, but on the return journey Jesus starts out without Mac and calls Mac to join him. Mac started out and sure enough the water got deeper and he got wetter higher and higher up his legs until Jesus reached out and took him by the hand and Mac was once again walking on water. This picture had a profound effect on me as I realised that all too often I am standing in the shallows unable or unprepared to walk into the depths trusting that Jesus really loved me enough to take my hand. Fearfully I have to admit I visualised myself walking out beyond the shallows into the dark water of the depths, saying to Jesus that I trusted him. He has not disappointed. Over the next weeks and months I have begun to understand again the depths of Jesus' love for me and that he knows all about my situation.

The third thing that happened was Mike Gardiner talking at an evening service about the Song of Songs. Mike mentioned that the language used by the Beloved and the Lover is like worship, and our response to God's love for us is to be exuberant love and worship. So I returned to Habbakuk's advice and his conclusion...however bad things we are still to worship God as our Lord and Saviour because He is with us. (Habbakuk 3:17-19 see inside front page of magazine)

Have I had an answer to my particular prayer? Yes and no; no in that the situation still seems to be the same, but yes because I have a promise that God knows the situation and is dealing with it and does indeed do the miraculous. For my part I need to watch and wait but also to give to God my worship because of His extravagant love for me and that He is absolutely trustworthy. I need also to give my thanks for what He has done, is doing, which I cannot see, and what He will do, whatever that may be. Do I do this every day - no - but God does keep reminding me!

Post Script: Will the 3000 word article ever be reduced to 1000 I know not but will keep you posted.

Now it is over to you. Please do put pen to paper and write a about what God is doing in your life now. Please don't feel you have to write pages a paragraph or two will be just right. We look forward to hearing from you!

Val Cookney



Signposts to Service

*Responding to God's
Call to Mission within
the Southern Synod*

Come and explore how **YOU** might be able to offer service
in the following areas:

Youth and Children's work Local Church Leaders

Elders

Church Secretary

Church Treasurer

Lay Preaching

Chaplaincy

Training

Ministry of Word and Sacraments

Church Related Community Workers

Special Category Ministry

Signposts to Service will take place on
24 April 2010

@

East Croydon United Reformed Church

Between 10.45 a.m. and 3.15 p.m.

With Key Note talks on Christian Service
between 12 noon and 1.00 p.m.



Signposts to Service

The timetable for the day will be:

10.45-11.00 a.m. Opening Worship

11.00-12 noon Displays Open

12 noon-1.00 p.m. Key Note Talks

1.00-2.00 p.m. Lunch

2.00-3.00 p.m. Displays Open

3.00-3.15 p.m. Closing Worship

Revd Nigel Uden and Miss Pam Tolhurst
Will give Key Note Talks on Christian Service
Between 12 noon and 1.00 p.m.

Lunch
Is from 1.00-2.00 p.m.
Bring a packed lunch
Soup, tea and coffee will be provided

Mothers!...who needs them!? _____



“Go and tidy your room!”, “Go and brush your teeth!”, “Go and brush your hair!”, “Wait till I get you home!” Mothers! Who needs them?!

Well I suspect that all of us have a mother so, biologically speaking, they are absolutely indispensable.....we **all** need them! In fact it is the fathers who have more to worry about, because recent study suggests that it is the male who might become irrelevant sometime in the not too distant future, at least in theory. Scientists have predicted that it should soon be possible to develop sperm cells from female bone marrow cells, which might one day allow women to conceive without men.

The position of women in western society has changed greatly in recent years. There are some societies that are historically matriarchal, where women dominate, but not so in the west. In fact, women had such a second class position here that it wasn't until 1920 in USA and 1928 in UK that they achieved the vote on equal terms with men. It is ironic that it had to be a woman who created Mother's Day in the USA, in 1912. Anna Jarvis is reputed to have sworn at her mother's gravesite in 1905 to dedicate her life to her mother's project – “Mothers' Work Days”, to improve sanitation in her town - and to establish a “Mother's Day” to honour mothers, living and dead. Shame it wasn't a man who came up with the idea, but a cynic might say that it would have been a bit patronising for a man to suggest, “let's have a Mother's Day to keep the women happy, but we won't give them the vote just yet”!

Of course Mothering Sunday has been around a lot longer as a Christian festival, to honour the Virgin Mary and “Mother Church”. Today Mother's Day and Mothering Sunday have tended to merge into one and many do not realise the differences. Whatever the origins, I believe that a non-commercial day to remember mothers is really important, but if that's the only day children think to bring their mum tea in bed what a pity. Far more important is to remember mothers the whole year, especially in today's society where the pressures on them appear greater than ever. There is huge pressure to not only cook, clean, look after the children and so forth but also to go out and work to earn money. Although having a fulfilling career is really important whether you are male or female, it doesn't take away from the fact that being a mother today, juggling home and work, is tough.....and the pressures keep rising. In 2008, 72% of married/cohabiting mothers with dependent children in UK were working and, even more striking, the proportion of single mothers at work was 56%.

If men are responsible for pressurising women, especially mothers, it is well they bear in mind these two anonymous quotes:-

Mothers!...

"Sure God created man before woman, but then again you always make a rough draft before creating the final masterpiece."

"Woman was taken out of man; not out of his head to top him, nor out of his feet to be trampled underfoot; but out of his side to be equal to him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be loved".

The final word on mothers should be from God's Word, the Bible, and what it says about mothers (and fathers), in the Old Testament, reiterated in the New Testament:-

Exodus 20:12

Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you

Ephesians 6:2

"Honour your father and mother" – which is the first commandment with a promise – "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth".

Martin Hall

MID SUSSEX CHOIR SPRING CONCERT

Rather a different programme than usual for our next concert on **Saturday, March 27th**. It will take place at Perrymount Road Methodist Church at 7.30pm. The varied programme includes the Chorale Suit from Karl Jenkins' "The Armed Man", and excerpts from a number of musical shows and light opera - "The Phantom of the Opera", "Die Fledermaus" and some Roger and Hammerstein favourites. So an evening not to be missed!

A number of Church members sing in the Choir and any of us will be pleased to get tickets for you. See Carol or John Merrett, Fiona Tingley or Graham Wood.



A 'Thank You' from Sid and Daphne Collins

It has been months since I last said 'Thank You' to our Church Family and I really do feel guilty about it. However, as many of you know, things got worse before finally improving so I am able to put pen to paper (or rather put the paper in the typewriter).

We have been so grateful for all the prayers and followers and visits that have helped us to keep going over the last months, all of which have cheered us up and kept us going. Sid isn't out of the wood yet, but we can see daylight. When we have felt very downhearted we have suddenly found our spirits lightening and can only put that down to the prayers that we know have been ongoing from many of you. Thank you so much. Sid and Daphne

March Church Diary

4th

Thursday House Groups meet

6th

Saturday 8.45 - Prayer Meeting
9.30am at All Saints

7th
Sunday

9.30am Family Worship
with Communion
- The Pastor
11.00am The Pastor
6.30pm Evening worship
Dan McQuillin

10th

Wednesday 12.30 Lunch
Fellowship

11th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting

12th

Friday 12.30 Lunch
Fellowship

13th

Saturday 8.45 - Prayer Meeting
9.30am at All Saints

14th
Sunday

9.30am The Pastor -
Mothering
Sunday
11.00am The Pastor
6.30pm Evening Worship
& Communion -
David Walters

18th

Thursday 8.00pm Christianity
Explored/
House Groups

20th

Saturday 8.45 - Prayer Meeting
9.30am at All Saints

21st
Sunday

9.30am Family Worship -
David Jones
11.00am David Jones
6.30pm Healing Service -
The Pastor

23rd

Tuesday 7.45pm In Touch Group

24th

Wednesday 2.45pm Afternoon
Fellowship
7.30pm Elders

25th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Prayer
Meeting

27th

Saturday 8.45 - Prayer Meeting
9.30am at All Saints

28th
Sunday

9.30am Palm Sunday -
Family Worship
The Pastor
11.00am The Pastor -
Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship
- Mike Gardiner

Balcombe United Reformed Church



Bramble Hill, Balcombe RH17 6HR

Our services are held weekly at 10.30am.
Visitors are welcome to join us.

Speakers for January and February are as follows:-

March 7th 10:30am To be arranged
March 14th 10:30am Philip Wren
March 21st 10:30am Charles Martin -
Communion
March 28th 10:30am Jenny Martin

FLOWERROTA



Arranging

Distributing

March

07 Betty Billins
14 Jean Baxter
21 Zoe MacQuillin
28 Audrey McKee

Jacqueline Wood
Barbara Shepherd
Kay Phillpot
Jo Bloxham

April

04 Easter Flowers
11 Ann Parker
18 Chris Caswell
25 Mies Campling

Heather Swann
Iris Bingham
Janet Sanderson
Sue Tester

Sunday Services explained....

The **9.30am service** is an opportunity for all age groups to join in a relaxed informal time. There is a crèche, and after about 20 minutes children and young people up to age 14 go out to their own groups on most Sundays.

Coffee is served between the morning services, and after the evening service.

The **11:00am service** is usually more set and formal.

At **6:30pm** it is sometimes a celebration, sometimes a quieter ministry time and sometimes an open communion service or something quite different!

Personal prayer is available after every service. Prayer requests and brief statements of praise for answered prayer can be put in the red book on the concourse table. We can also offer personal prayer ministry at home or in hospital.

We **do not take up an offering** during the services, but those wishing to give are invited to place a gift in one of the bowls at the doors before or after the service. Thank you.

Recordings of services can be borrowed free from the church.

An Unforgettable Week



We call it Holy Week, but I doubt that it felt like that for Jesus. Wise counsel would have told him to stay away from Jerusalem that fateful Passover; three years of public ministry had polarised opinion, with many common people hailing him as king while religious leaders were gathering evidence to expose him as a blasphemer with the aim of getting rid of him. But Jesus' actions were governed by a higher wisdom. His meat and drink were to do his Father's will and to finish the task he had given him, and Jerusalem was drawing him like a magnet. He knew that this week was to fulfil his destiny.

Jesus had been to Jerusalem before, but this time he staged a deliberately dramatic entry. His enactment of Zechariah's prophecy of a king who would come to his people on a humble donkey proclaiming peace provoked hosannas from his followers whilst inflaming a furious reaction from the religious observers. As for Jesus, he could only look down over the city and weep over its people who were rejecting God's peace.

That Sunday was to set the scene for the rest of the week. Jesus asserted his own authority in God's house not only by demonstrating against the traders, but by being there early each morning for the pilgrims who flocked to hear him. With untiring patience, he taught them and answered their questions. Not all his questioners were sympathetic: "By what authority are you doing these things?" they demanded. What's the greatest commandment? How can the dead be raised? Should Jews pay Roman taxes? These men, skilled in religious debate yet so lacking in genuine devotion to God, provoked Jesus to go on the offensive, denouncing their hypocrisy. He even went so far as to say that tax collectors and prostitutes understood more than they did!

Amidst the emotions of that week, two individuals typify the love of Jesus' friends and the treachery of his enemies. The woman who anointed Jesus with a vast quantity of very expensive perfume performed an act of extravagant devotion that Jesus saw as a preparation for his burial and moved him to exclaim "She has done a beautiful thing to me." In stark contrast was the betrayal by Judas Iscariot, a man privileged to share the closest friendship of the Master. Yet even as Judas sells his soul, Jesus finds time to reassure his anxious followers by sharing a poignant last Passover meal with them and by his promises of the Holy Spirit's ongoing counsel and help.

When we read the gospel accounts closely, we realise that there was no way that week could have ended other than in Jesus' death. The religious leaders played their cards with deadly skill, securing a guilty verdict by the Jewish Council and the death sentence from Caesar's reluctant representative. In this, they fulfilled God's plan, and on that dark Friday afternoon, Jesus hung on a cross for you and for me, bearing the sins of friend and foe alike, becoming for all of us God's Passover Lamb.

Palm Sunday, 28th March, opens Holy Week for us. Why not take the time to walk with Jesus through the week, as you read one of the Gospel accounts of

those momentous events. Why not read all four?

Matthew 21 v1 – 27 v66. Mark 11 v1 – 15v47. Luke 19 v28 – 23v56. John 12 v12 – 19 v42.

Mike Gardiner

March Mission Giving

We will be devoting our mission giving this month to Project Ruth in Romania. The Project was started some years ago by Oti Bunaciu, a Baptist Minister and many will remember his visit to us in 2007 with a mandolin band.

Project Ruth gives life-changing educational opportunities to poor children, especially from Roma (Gypsy) communities.

For hundreds of years Gypsies have been living on the margins of society and are still the victims of persecution and suffering. Project Ruth was started in Bucharest, Romania following the collapse of communism as a response to the desperate situation of the poorest of the poor in Eastern Europe.

Gypsies are almost always outsiders wherever they live. Their distinct culture, traditional clothing and itinerant lifestyle have made them the object of suspicion and discrimination in many countries. Gypsy communities are almost invariably subject to all of the problems associated with acute poverty – illiteracy, unemployment, lack of access to health care, high crime rates and low life expectancy.

Project Ruth is working to transform Roma communities and the lives of Roma children by providing:

- Education
- Literacy programmes
- School meals
- Medical and hygiene support
- Vocational training
- Humanitarian aid
- The Good News of hope

The main focus of this work is the Ruth School in the poor Bucharest suburb of Ferentari. This is where Project Ruth began as an outreach to Roma children through a Sunday school and day centre in 1992. This initiative was undertaken by Providence Baptist Church.

The pastor of Providence and the volunteers involved quickly realised two things: firstly that the children were hungry – they fought over sandwiches and snacks provided for them; and secondly that they were illiterate and that most had never been to school or had quickly dropped out. These two key insights provided the blueprint for the Ruth School and for all the work undertaken by Project Ruth – namely ministry in Roma communities through education backed up by free school meals, humanitarian aid and health and hygiene support.

March Mission Giving...

The Ruth School has Ministry of Education approval and is now an accredited private day school for poor and disadvantaged children offering Grades 1 – 8. In September 2006 there were 180 children on roll.

Building on the success of the Ruth School, the work is expanding through day centres and literacy classes in other parts of Romania. These centres are helping dozens of children to stay in school or to find a way back into the education system.

Project Ruth is also now working in Moldova, the poorest country in Europe. Our extension centres help Gypsy and other marginalized children living in desperate poverty in rural areas and in the capital city, Chisinau.

More information and photos can be found at the Mission Display Area. If you would like to give to the work please use the special envelopes and place your donation in the offertory at any Sunday service. Please complete a Gift Aid Slip if appropriate.

Thank you.

Missions Weekend – April 16th & 17th April

Steve Bell who is the National Director of Interserve will be with us in April. As well as heading up Interserve he is at Spring Harvest and has been involved with cross cultural Christian witness for over thirty years. He will be preaching at our Sunday morning services and running seminars on Saturday during the day, addressing aspects of Islam and interfacing cross culturally.

More information will be available later but please put the dates in your diary.

He has also written two very good books.

Firstly 'Friendship First – the manual' (Ordinary Christians discussing good news with ordinary Muslims), which is both informative and practical.

Secondly 'Grace for Muslims' which in addition to being very informative is biographical in giving details of his many years experience in interfacing with Muslims, giving his conclusions as to how we can share the Good News of the Christian Faith in a sensitive and gracious way. This is a very readable book and is available on-line from Eden Bookshops

Alternatively if anyone would like the missions group to order for you please speak to John Barling or Ron Goodenough

FAMILY NEWS

BEREAVEMENTS

We send our love and sympathy to a number of families who have lost loved ones over the past couple of months.

Sidney Burden died suddenly in December, following a massive stroke. Elise and her family are much in our thoughts and prayers. Sidney will be much missed for his lovely tenor voice which enhanced the Sunday Morning Singers, and for his informed input into many a conversation, not least raising important issues and keeping us on our toes at Church Meeting.

Sally Russell lost her fight with failing health just before Christmas, and she too will be much missed by her many friends here and at All Saints. Our thoughts and prayers are with Robin and his family.

We also uphold in prayer Jenny Machell whose mother died recently, leaving a big hole in their family circle.

Rosemary Tijou's brother died a while before Christmas, and she and her sister, Iris, value our prayerful support.

Doris Bayley, who has been associated with Lindfield URC for over 40 years, has died in Compton House at the age of 103. She will be sadly missed there and by her extended family.

Clifford Cook, who had been housebound and in a Residential home for some time, went home to his Lord in January. Our thoughts are with his daughter Ruth and the family.

ENGAGEMENT

Congratulations to Ray Smith who got engaged to Sally on New Year's Eve.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Kathleen Smith has now moved into Room 17 at Compton House (Lindfield Christian Care Home), Compton Road, Lindfield.

Her phone number is (01444) 487211. We uphold Kathleen in our prayers as she adjusts to her new surroundings, where we trust she will be happy.

THANK YOU FROM ELISE BURDEN

I have received so much kindness and support from my dear friends in the church and Lindfield after the death of my dear husband Sidney, that I want to thank everyone with all my heart.

It was much appreciated at this very sad time.

Elise.



COMPTON HOUSE VACANCIES



Lindfield Christian Care Home, otherwise known locally as Compton House, is owned by the three churches in the village. Despite its name, it is open to every one without priority.



At the time of writing, there are vacancies in Little Compton, next door, for short or long term stays. It offers sheltered housing accomodation in bright rooms with en-suite facilities facilities. Residents are expected to prepare their own breakfast. Midday and evening meals are served in the dining room.



The Little Compton support worker is available two days a week to assist with shopping and other errands. In addition there is a 24 hour emergency telephone support.



Residents are welcome to join in the comprehensive activities programme in the main building, Compton House, which cares for those who have greater dependency. The Home has a top 'Three Star' 'excellent' rating from the Care Quality Commission.



For an informal visit or further information please contact Jennie Herring RGN-Matron, or Lucy Munroe, Administration on (01444) 482662 at Lindfield Christian Care Home, Compton Road, or visit the Spring Fair.



COMPTON HOUSE 'SPRING FAIR'.



We are very keen to raise the funding and profile of Compton House and, to this end, our popular Spring Cake Sale has been widened out to include more and different types of stalls. To give us more room and to increase awareness, this will be held in the central village location of Lindfield URC with wide participation from the two other churches.



Details are shown on the opposite and we look forward to seeing you.



Stuart Marsh - Compton House Trustee



The first Lindfield

Spring Fair



Cards

Cakes

Jams & Chutneys

Crafts

Fairtrade

Refreshments

*Art
Exhibition*

Saturday 6th March 2010

10:30am until 12:30pm

Lindfield United Reformed Church

High Street, Lindfield

*This event is to support
Lindfield Christian Care Home, Compton Road*

We look forward to seeing you!

Away Weekend At Home ---

Since publication of an introductory article in the Winter edition of GoodNEWS, plans have been developing for the 'Away Weekend at Home' on the 18th and 19th September 2010. A team is now in place to look after the organisation of the weekend including: Charles Martin, Sue Waller, Jessie Green, and Dawn and Richard Walters (who is acting as the coordinator).

Overview of the weekend

It will be a time of teaching and fellowship, with separate activities for the children, although exact details of the title, focus and leaders of the weekend are still being finalised.

We will meet after lunch on Saturday, and the afternoon will consist of two sessions of teaching and worship with a break for afternoon tea in the middle. We are then considering rounding the afternoon off with a fish and chip supper, maybe with some entertainment. After that we'll retire to our own homes to sleep.

After breakfast on the Sunday morning, we'll reconvene for additional times of teaching in the morning, followed by lunch and some free time. The weekend will culminate with a closing communion at about 4pm.

What next?

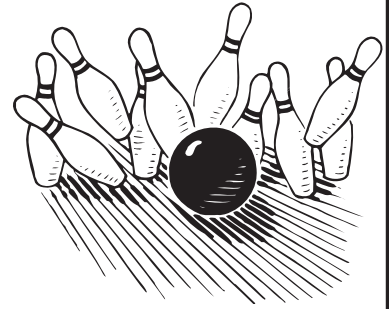
Look out for the full information leaflets and registration forms which will be available later this month. We will be looking to have registrations in by the end of May, so that arrangements can be completed before we get into the summer holiday season.

Also, please pray that the team will be guided by the Holy Spirit as preparations are made, and that the church will sense God speaking to us as we are away together.

Finally, if you have any questions, please come and have a chat to us, we'll be happy to help.

Richard Walters

BOYS' BRIGADE



To provide a break from the training sessions on parade nights, our Company Section lads were taken for a ten pin bowling evening at Brighton Marina. Several of us travelled in Terry Heyward's landrover, and we had nearly reached our destination when – the vehicle broke down! Fortunately, we were able to walk the rest of the way, a mere 200 metres or so, and had a pleasant evening in the bowling lanes; while I phoned for staff and parents to come out and pick the boys up, one boy took my place, and name, and I nearly won! So it turned out to be a successful event in the end – except, of course, for poor Terry, who had to wait hours for his landrover to be towed to a garage.

Apart from that, we have taken part in the annual badminton tournament at Oathall School, and are preparing now for drill and scripture competitions. The January blizzard presented us with a fresh challenge. Meetings for the younger Boys were cancelled, but, with a certain amount of trepidation, we went ahead with a Company Section meeting – I was very pleased that my faith in the lads was confirmed by several of them turning up. So we did have a meeting, non-uniformed, and shorter than usual, to be sure, but, nevertheless, we did not let the fury of nature defeat us.

Anchors and Juniors have been having lively meetings, and their numbers have grown a little, partly thanks to a couple of visits to schools with Charles and Jenny, where we had a good reception from staff and children.

Please note the date of our Display, Friday 14th May, to which we hope as many of our friends in the congregation will come.

Finally, a word of appreciation for our dear departed friend Priscilla Walden. Priscilla and Ken were warm and generous benefactors of the Brigades, having been members when young themselves. Priscilla was a great supporter, and I never spoke to her without feeling heartened by her enthusiastic words of encouragement, and little acts of practical generosity when she was able. She was one of those people who enable those at the sharp end, actually doing the work, to keep going. We thank God for her.

Geoffrey Cocksedge

“You’d never believe it” - Tales from a minister’s murky past (part nine)

I lost most of my hair before I was nineteen. This may have been a blow to my vanity, but it has always stood me in good stead in the ministry. No one has ever said “Of course, you’re too young to understand.” However, it has led to some serious errors in calculating my age.

I remember my consternation when I was met by the Chaplain of the Mid Ulster Battalion of the Boys’ Brigade. He and his boys were vacating the camp site at Bembridge on the Isle of Wight, which our BB and GB companies at the Temple St. Mary Cray were going to use. He wanted to pray with me before they left.

We walked quietly to a corner of the camp field and he put his arm round my shoulder. This happened when the “Troubles” in Ulster were still in full swing and he looked at me seriously. “Brother” he said in his strong Ulster accent “We in Northern Ireland live constantly under the threat of the bomb and the bullet, but I’m sure you can remember the days of the Blitz and it must have been even worse then.” Fortunately he gave me no opportunity to reply, but bowed his head and thanked God for bringing me through the worst of 1939 – 45. I hadn’t the heart to tell him that I didn’t even see the light of day until half-way through 1948!

Charles Martin

The Fellowship

The Meeting in March is on Wednesday 24th at 2.45pm when we shall have a return visit from Brian Tuppen. We enjoyed his talk last year so we asked him to come again. We will have ‘Paintings of Sussex’ Part 2. Our thanks to our friends of the Art Group, who put on such a wonderful display of their talents at a Coffee morning at the end of January. The money given, £41, has gone to help the people of Haiti.

Our meetings are open to all, we have a Bring and Buy Stall and you can be assured of a very warm welcome.

IN TOUCH

The ladies IN TOUCH celebrated their annual meal in the Red Lion on Tuesday 26 January. There were 26 present - the food was good and we all enjoyed fun and fellowship.

On 23 February Fiona Tingley led us in her journey of music and testimony. Again a great evening.

Put the date in your diaries for 23 March when we shall be meeting for tea or coffee at 7.45 in the Church Lounge to hear Sarah Tapp giving us a talk on Sussex Churches.

You will receive a warm welcome.

In Touch Away day

A reminder that the Away day at Ashburnham will take place on the 22nd April at a cost of £18 to include coffee, lunch and afternoon tea.

Please contact Sue Waller for more information, and as soon as possible to book your place, together with £10 towards the final total.

Thank you from The IN TOUCH TEAM