

Produced for Lindfield United Reformed Church,
50 High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex, RH16 2HL
© Lindfield URC 2010

Editorial Team: Val Cookney (Editor), Jacqui Adams, Martin Hall, Carol and Stuart Marsh.

Editorial Oversight/Proof-reading: Carol and Stuart Marsh.

Setting: Tim Sanderson and Lydia Goodchild

Printing: Tom Burford.

Next Copy Date: 10th May 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.

DIRECTORY

Pastor: Rev. Charles Martin

Tel: 01444 482098 Mob: 07821 904785

Church Secretaries:

Mrs Sue Waller

58 Queens Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1EE

Tel: 01444 455047

Email: susanwaller@lineone.net

Mr David Jones

13 William Allen Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2SA

Tel: 01444 483037

Email: dlandfc13wal@talktalk.net

Church Treasurer and Accountant:

Michael J Davies

13, Savill Road, Lindfield, RH16 2NY

Tel: 01444 482024

Email: michael.j.davies21@btinternet.com

A list of serving Elders can be found in Who's Who?

Editorial



I am writing this with the sun shining through the window. The garden is full of bright spring flowers and the birds are chirruping in every corner of the garden – spring is springing!! There is evidence of new spring life everywhere. Tim Sanderson helpfully writes about Pentecost, explaining how it celebrates the giving of the Holy Spirit at the birth of the new church. He goes on to remind us that the gift of God's Spirit is for all when we give our lives over to God and is constantly available as we seek to be more Christ like and as we allow God to use us to be His witnesses 'to the ends of the earth'.

What else have we got? Jacqui Adams gives a précis of a book by Max Lucado 'A Love worth Giving' – it sounds like a very good read but not a book to read lightly - it could completely change your life!

There is also news about forthcoming meetings and events not to be missed.

Val

Dear Friends,



Words are powerful things. They can do great damage. I felt very sorry for Archbishop Rowan Williams just before Easter, when he expressed an opinion which many would share, but which brought great distress to Roman Catholics in Ireland.

He said he thought that the Roman Catholic Church there had “lost all credibility”. He was referring to the consequences of the child abuse scandal, which are tearing the heart out of Catholicism in Ireland.

I felt even more sorry for the Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, who said that he had never felt so discouraged as when he heard Rowan Williams’ comment. Diarmuid Martin is a good man, untouched by the scandal, who has the enormous and unenviable task of bringing some kind of healing and resolution to the pain his church is going through. The sad truth is that Rowan Williams is right. The influence which the Roman Catholic Church once wielded in Ireland, has been carried away like driftwood in a flood and all that is left is the wreckage of disappointment and betrayal.

It must be horrific to have been abused by someone you had been led to trust. That kind of maltreatment leaves deep emotional and psychological scars which sometimes never fully heal and it’s understandable that the victims want someone to blame. Of course the guilty should be brought to justice and punished, but it must be intensely painful for men like Diarmuid Martin who, while blameless themselves, have to absorb the condemnation and bitterness of those who have been exploited. You see, while human beings always need someone to blame, the truth is, that to greater or lesser extents, we are all to blame for something.

We are passing through the Easter season and we shall soon be celebrating Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit. Easter has both sad and joyful associations. The darkness of Good Friday is more than balanced by the stupendous joy of Easter Sunday, but even so, at the heart of it all is this; **the one Person Who was totally innocent was the One Who bore the blame** – the blame not just for the sordid cruelty of

child abuse, but the blame for everything sinful human beings have ever done and that includes you and me.

The message of Easter and Pentecost is that God's Spirit can bring healing and renewal, no matter how bitter the failure or deep the betrayal. As George Herbert put it

*"And know you not," said Love
"Who bore the blame?"*

Your Pastor and friend,

Charles S. Martin.

Josh Thomas

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Josh Thomas as our new Youth Pastor. Originally from Waterlooville where he grew up in a URC Church, he is currently at Woking URC and is due to complete a JNC qualification in Youth Work and Ministry with Oasis College in June. He plans to move to Lindfield in July prior to taking up the post in August. We give thanks to God for his provision to make this possible, and clear guidance that it is His will for Josh to join us. We wish him every blessing in his ministry amongst us and trust that he will settle in quickly and be made to feel most welcome.

Jeremy Campling

Rototial Update

Many thanks to all those who have already returned their booking forms, we look forward to seeing you in September.

For those who have yet to return your forms- this is just a quick reminder that we are looking to have all forms back by the end of May.

Please place your forms in the box in the concourse, or return them to any member of the committee. We look forward to seeing you there.

The *Rototial* committee

PENTECOST – what does it mean?



As we approach the time of Pentecost, also traditionally known as Whitsun, what does it mean? What relevance does it have to the modern Church?

The Jewish feast of Pentecost traditionally took place 50 days after Passover. However, the original instruction was to count off 50 days after the Sabbath at which the first harvest was brought in, and presented to God as a thanksgiving (first fruits). This feast was known as the feast of weeks, and was celebrated with bread cooked from the early harvest, with animal sacrifices. By the time of Jesus it appears that this latter Feast had become known as Pentecost, and represented both the “first fruits” and the thanksgiving for the early harvest (the full harvest celebration took place in the Autumn). Some commentators therefore describe Pentecost as the First Fruits celebration, others state that it took place after First Fruits, associating this feast with Passover.

Whichever theme is chosen, it is clear that the Passover feast celebrated the promise of greater things to come.

In the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter, God had transformed the Passover feast into a whole new meaning; so too, when the new-born Church met at Pentecost, God was about to renew their understanding of this feast. The believers (about 120 according to Acts 1 v15) recorded as meeting on that day were either Jews, or Jewish converts (Acts 2 v 1-13). They would certainly be expecting to celebrate with the traditional bread from the early harvest. However, it seems that they had already separated from the traditional Jewish community, and formed themselves into a distinct group. Jesus had told the disciples to return to Jerusalem and await the promise from the Father - “..you will be clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24 v 49). Luke repeats the promise in a different form at the beginning of Acts (Ch 1 v 8) “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”. I am sure that they did not fully understand what this would mean, any more than we often do, nor

did they particularly expect this clothing with power to take place at this feast. Nonetheless, they were faithful to their Lord's command to stay together, and wait. We are told that the believers were together early on the Day of Pentecost, as Peter states in his speech - "...it is only 9 o'clock!" (v 15). They had possibly not yet started the formal feast, but, into their gathering in Jesus name, God broke through in His sovereign power. We are told that the first effect was "the sound of a violent wind." This was no gentle breeze, to calm and assure, but a frightening experience. This was followed by "tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them." Note that this was not reserved for the leaders or 'special ones', but each and every one received this token of God's love, cleansing and anointing for service. Finally, as the Holy Spirit filled them, they all began to speak in 'other tongues'. Whether these tongues were human languages which they had not learned, or the language of angels (see 1 Cor 13 v 1) the effect on them, and on those who heard them (presumably the believers had gone out into the streets) was extraordinary. The crowds heard in their own language, and the one time scared believers became bold; in particular, Peter was given words to explain the strange events, which led to a great number of people believing, being baptised, and added to the number of the Church.

How do we stand and react with respect to these events? Peter makes it clear that he understood the promise of the Holy Spirit to apply down the ages to all believers (Ch 2 vv 17 - 21, 38 - 39). The rest of Acts, along with the letters of the New Testament, explains how the early Church continued to experience the power of the Holy Spirit, and witness to the death and resurrection of our Lord. Whilst we may not know how and when God will break through in power, we should individually be like these first Christians, and wait and expect God to bring us **each** His gifts. The feast of Pentecost truly became a "first fruits" of the greater harvest, which continued through the New Testament, and is still as relevant today.

Do we expect such an experience to come on us together as a church? "Yes" and "No". The events of the first Pentecost were extraordinary in that the Church had not yet properly started. Whilst Jesus had accepted and saved every one who had believed in Him up to that date, His

command and promise was clearly to wait for something new. Rather like the original creation, the birth of the Church needed a sovereign act by the creator God. Once the Church had been “re-created”, the expectation was that individual believers would receive the promise as they were “reborn”. So, for us, the filling of the Holy Spirit should come as a personal experience hand-in-hand with conversion. Nevertheless, it is clear that, over the years, at times the church has become dry, and forgotten the Lord’s final commands. Where this has happened, as God reminds His people once more, and they cry out in repentance and willingness, He will be faithful to pour out his Holy Spirit afresh on whole groups and congregations.

Just as the feast of Pentecost was a precursor to the full Harvest, so the events of that first Pentecost for the Church was only the start of what God has done through the last 2000 years, and continues to do. Similarly, the history of the Church has only been a shadow of the glory to come, when Christ returns for His bride.

So, let us be keen to receive the same power that the first believers received, in similar fashion, and allow God to make us his witnesses “to the end of the earth!” If you have never considered, or received, the power of the Spirit, ask God, who gives all things richly to those who trust Him.

Tim Sanderson

Prayer Focus



During 2010 a number of groups throughout the nation and the world have committed themselves to seasons of prayer for the Nations including a “Global Day of Prayer” on May 13th which will continue for 10 days until Pentecost. These tend to be 24/7 prayer events and details of the Global Day of Prayer are available on the internet.

For this year the Prayer Focus Group felt it right to start a 10 day prayer time to coincide with Global Day of Prayer so that we will be able to join millions of others throughout the world in bringing the desperate needs of people, who do not know him, before the Lord. We should also be equally

concerned that the name of the Lord will be exalted throughout the world. We would like to encourage as many as feel able to unite in prayer between Ascension Day May 13th and Pentecost May 23rd.

It would be good if we were all able, in our own private devotions, to commit ourselves to pray for at least 20 minutes a day over that period for renewal and revival in the Church that would reach out to the neighbourhood, the Nation and worldwide.

Suggested themes and some specific prayers will be available. Those that meet together in triplets, small groups etc might like to consider interceding in this way.

Global Day of Prayer have taken 2 Chronicles 7;14 as one of their scriptures which tells us that if we will humble ourselves and pray and seek His face in genuine repentance He will hear our prayers and healing and renewal will follow.

More information will be available for May13th.

Prayer Focus Group

Book Review....

Max Lucado ~ "A Love Worth Giving"

For those of you familiar with Max's writing you will already know that he is an extraordinarily talented, perceptive writer. I bought this book before Christmas with the thought of giving it as a gift . . . and ended up keeping it myself! It's the sort of book that lifts your spirit because its entire focus is the love of God for us, each of us, as individuals. If I may I shall quote the back cover to you, because Max will put it so much better than I. "Loving people isn't easy. How do you love someone who is hard to love? Could it be that the first step of love is not toward them but toward God? Are you low on love? Down to your last dose of forgiveness? Scraping the bottom of the barrel of patience? You may be trying to give what you've never received. In "A Love Worth Giving" Max explores what he calls the forgotten first step for relationships. 'The secret to loving', he says, 'is living loved'.



I'm going to leave my copy of this wonderful book in the church lounge bookshelf area if anyone would care to borrow it. Do let me know what you think ~ positive feedback is always welcome! All the best,

Jacqui Adams

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

So we come to the last in this sad and sorry tale of ministerial misfortunes.

Let me end on a contemporary note. Making a fool of myself has become such a habit that I scarcely notice when I say crazy, inappropriate things, but a few weeks ago, on Easter Sunday evening, while saying goodbye to the congregation at the united service, I crowned it all. Instead of giving someone Easter greetings, I wished them a happy Christmas!

There’s an art in saying farewell to a congregation and I suppose I can be forgiven for my senior moment. Ministers say all kinds of things to the departing faithful and I remember as a student, hearing one irate cleric say to an over-enthusiastic lady “Get off my foot woman!” He should have said (as someone recently said to me when I trod on her toe) “I’m so sorry for placing my toe underneath your foot.” Thank God that amidst all the mistakes I have made, I can encounter magnanimity like that. There’s hope for me even yet!

Charles

May Mission Giving. ---

Last month I had a chill and was confined to the house for two days. What a great time to catch up on reading! I gave myself a treat and re-read the book ‘God’s Smuggler’. What a tremendous faith booster this book is – full of challenges and answers to prayer.

The opening paragraph begins thus:

‘From the time that I first put on wooden shoes – klompen we call them in Holland – I dreamed of derring-do!’ I guess that Brother Andrew, who wrote the book, never dreamt of the incredible adventures that awaited him when he grew up. In 1955, Brother Andrew smuggled Bibles into Eastern Europe, his experiences related in his book make heart-stopping reading. Brother Andrew eventually established the organisation Open Doors.

.....May Mission

Open Doors is the world's largest outreach to persecuted Christians. Now there are many co-workers who operate in over 45 countries including many of the most high-risk places on earth, China and N.Africa to S.E. Asia and the Middle East. There are extensive projects that seek to support Christians where the Church is most under threat and where Christians are forced to live as secret believers. These secret believers need encouragement and help. They need to know that they are not forgotten and that those in the West do indeed pray faithfully for them.

Money that is channelled through Open Doors is used to buy Bibles and Christian literature; to own a Bible can bring tremendous joy and comfort to a secret believer. Money is also used to train and support Church leaders as they seek to help their congregation stand strong in the face of persecution. And money is used to equip needy Christians with livelihood skills that they need to provide for their families. Please help our brothers and sisters in Christ.

If you would like to give to Open Doors 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 for your prayerful and practical support.

Jean Gardiner

Do see the display area for more information and for free literature.

Gladys Porter writes

I would like to thank everyone who came to my 80th Birthday party recently, and for the very generous presents you so kindly gave me. I really enjoyed celebrating my Birthday with you all.

It is just over a year now since my husband, Paul, died and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those friends who have supported me so well throughout this difficult time. Your prayers, love and practical help have been so much appreciated.

May Church Diary

1st

Saturday 8.45 - Prayer Meeting
9.30am at Evangelical Free

2nd Sunday

9.30am Family Worship
The Pastor -
Communion
11.00am The Pastor -
6.30pm Evening Worship-
David Jones

6th

Thursday House Groups

8th

Saturday 8.45 - Prayer Meeting
9.30am at Evangelical Free

9th Sunday

9.30am Family Worship
The Pastor
11.00am The Pastor
6.30pm Evening Worship
The Pastor -
Communion

11th

Tuesday In Touch. Walk and Supper
at Heaven Farm (Bluebells
permitting) *

12th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch
Fellowship
Outing

13th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting
Ascension Day. Start of 10
days of prayer

15th

Saturday 8.45 - Prayer Meeting
9.30am at Evangelical Free

16th

Sunday

9.30am Jenny Martin
11.00am Jenny Martin
6.30pm Healing Service -
The Pastor

20th

Thursday House Groups

22nd

Saturday 8.45 - Prayer Meeting
9.30am at Evangelical Free

23rd

Sunday

Pentecost

9.30am Family Worship
The Pastor
11.00am The Pastor-
Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship-
Ron Goodenough

26th

Wednesday 2.45pm The Fellowship
7.30pm Elders

27th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Prayer
Meeting

29th

Saturday 8.45 - Prayer Meeting
9.30am at Evangelical Free

30th

Sunday

10.30am Family Worship
Dan McQuillin
6.30pm Evening Worship -
Mike Gardiner

* In Touch Walk and Supper will take
place on Tuesday 25th if deferred
from 11th by weather.

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 May are as follows:-

May 2nd	Stephen Haggar
May 9th	Philip Wren
May 16th	Charles Martin
May 23rd	WHITSUN – Join with LURC
May 30th	Jenny Martin

FLOWER ROTA

Arranging

Distributing

May

2nd Boys Brigade	Jacqueline Wood
9th Fiona Tingley	Barbara Shepherd
16th Serena Nathan	Kay Phillpot
23rd Wedding	Jo Bloxham
30th Winifred Scopes	Heather Swann

June

6th Barbara Shepherd	Iris Bingham
13th Brian Tuppen	Janet Sanderson
20th Audrey Saunders	Sue Tester
27th Heather Swann	Jacqueline Wood

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.

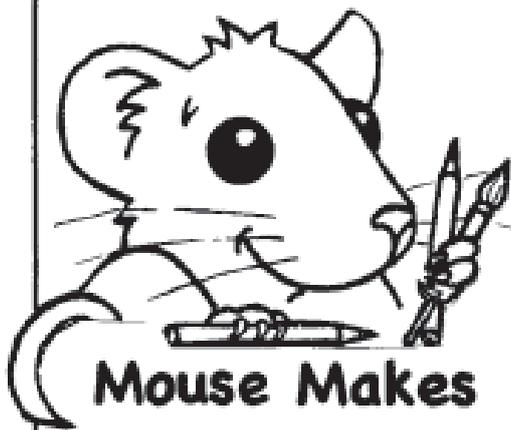
The **11:00am service** is usually more set and formal.

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.

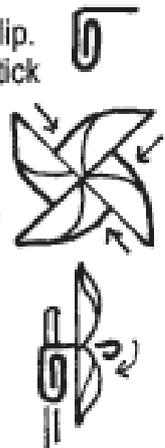


Mouse Makes

What happened at
PENTECOST?
READ Acts 2:1-42

"They
were
all
filled
with the
**HOLY
SPIRIT**"
Acts 2:4

1. Glue onto coloured paper.
2. Cut out and cut along '.....' diagonal lines
3. Bend out a paperclip. Tape onto wooden stick
4. Push clip end through centre 'x'
5. Bend each corner with a 'o' to centre 'x' and push over end of clip
6. Bend over clip end to secure.



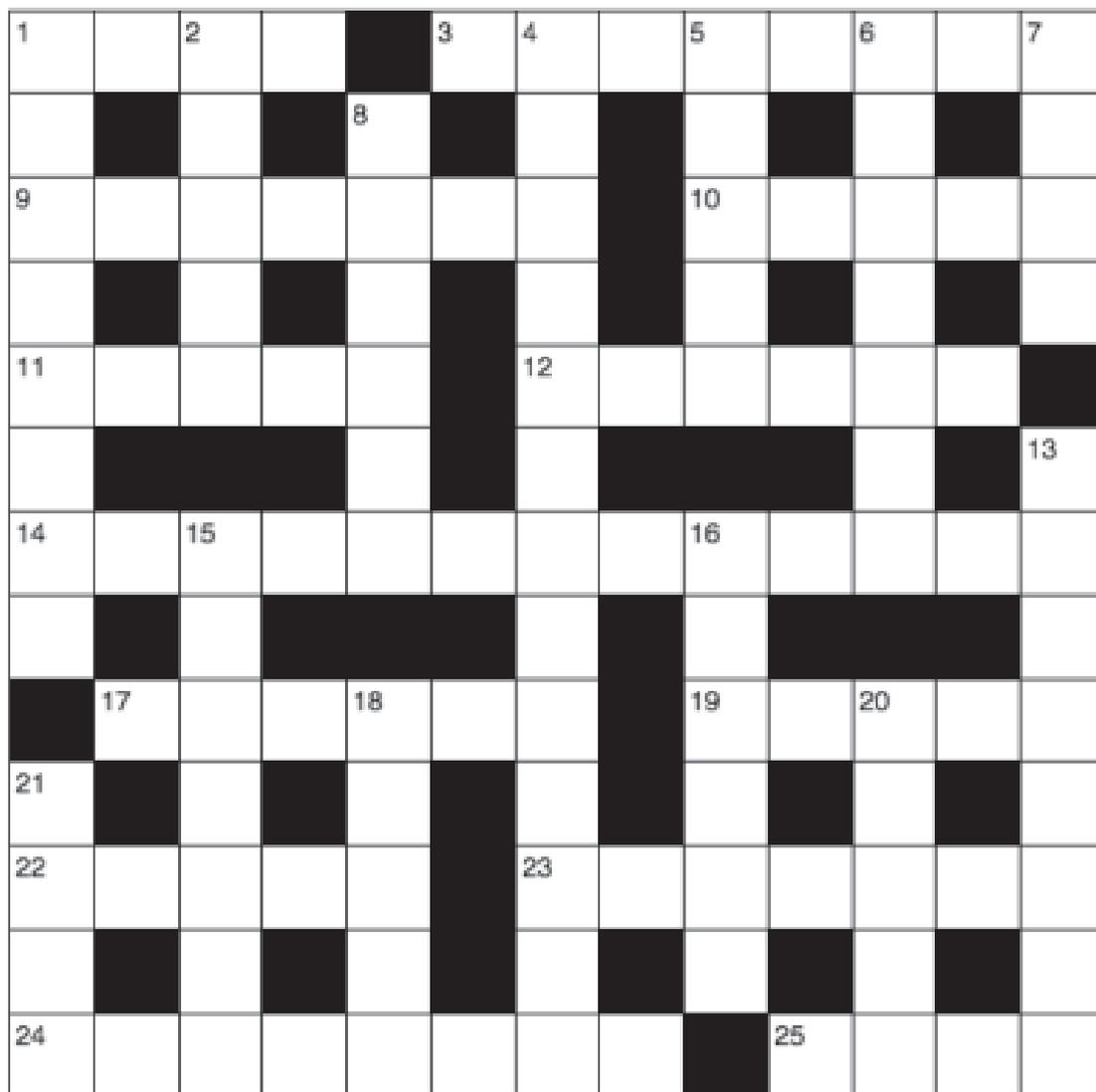
John 14:26
The Holy Spirit teaches us

Romans 8:26
The Holy Spirit helps us

John 16:13
The Holy Spirit guides us

John 14:16
The Holy Spirit comforts us

May 10



Across

- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)
- 3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
- 9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
- 10 Group of eight (5)
- 11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)
- 12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
- 14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)
- 17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)
- 19 Attend to (3,2)
- 22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
- 23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
- 24 Rule of sovereign (8)
- 25 Test (anag.) (4)
- 2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
- 4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
- 5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
- 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
- 7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
- 8 Minister of religion (6)
- 13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
- 15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
- 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
- 18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
- 20 Establish by law (5)
- 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)

[Answers on page 18]

Ascension Day - Forty Days with the Risen Christ

May continues the season of Eastertide, and 40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day.

It may seem crazy to call it Eastertide when Easter is clearly over! - but these are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to his disciples, following his death and resurrection.

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those forty days. Jesus was seen by numerous disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged his disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent him, he was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands - and blessed them."

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with his return to his Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless his disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles - persecution and death - and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: "While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven." (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: "I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God..." (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have him look on you with love. No wonder then, that Luke goes on: "they worshipped him - and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God." (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! "I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

If you wish to read more about Christ's appearances, the stories can be found in Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.

Source: Parish Pump.

The Fellowship

The Fellowship meets every 4th Wednesday in the month at 2.45pm in the Lounge. If you have never been, do come and hear a variety of speakers, ending with a cup of tea. Speakers this year included our Pastor, the Citizens Advice Bureau, holiday memories and visiting speakers with interesting careers.

In March we welcomed back our friend and fellow-member, Brian Tuppen. He reminded us briefly what he had shown us last year, just to make sure we were listening!

He began his slides with pre-Raphaelite paintings by Millais and Rossiter, followed by examples of French artists - Tissot and Blanc. We then admired examples of the Impressionist work.

Brian showed a miscellany of traditional and modern works including still-life portraits, pastoral scenes and dramatic seascapes emphasizing the importance of light, particularly on water.

Several of us recognised paintings by a local artist from Ditchling, Frank Branwin. These were contrasted with Nash's work, known as surrealism.

There was something for everybody, showing Brian's expert and varied knowledge of his subject. We hope he will come again.

Our next Meeting is on Wednesday 26th May at 2.45pm. We welcome back an old friend, Stuart Dew, the title of his talk is 'Growing Old Disgracefully'

There will be our usual Bring and Buy Stall, and new and old members can be assured of a very warm welcome.

Barbara Shepherd

Family News

Our congratulations to Barbara and Will Balicki who have celebrated their Silver Wedding recently and also to Jenny and Phil Machell who have celebrated 40 years of marriage.

A reminder that the following members and friends of this church are now in residential care but do appreciate the ongoing support of those able to keep in contact with them and to pray for them.

They are Owen Broughton and Kathleen Smith in Compton House; Edna Flint in Ashton House; Lucy Thom in Walstead Place; Harold Mighall in Arthur Bliss House, and Ann Blake at Russetings in Balcombe.

For other housebound friends, Fiona Tingley (483419) will be happy to provide more information if you are looking to visit any of these people.

Charles' Day off -

Please note - the Pastor has changed his day off from Monday to Friday. Should you need to speak with someone on a Friday please contact either Sue Waller or David Jones (details on page 1).

IN Touch

Our March meeting involved a 'tour' of numerous churches with local expert Sarah Tapp. We were introduced to many fascinating aspects of the architecture and special features both inside and outside and the talk was illustrated with some excellent slides.

We are very grateful to Sarah coming to speak to us and we hope she will come again and share some more features of the churches she plans to visit in the future.

In May we are hoping to go for a walk to Heaven farm to see the bluebells and then have supper at Heaven farm. We anticipate the bluebells will be out by the 11th May and this is the date we intend for our visit, however if they are over by then we will go for a local walk followed by supper at the church (May 25th). We will be 'in touch' about these dates nearer the time.

The IN Touch team

BOYS' BRIGADE

Geoffrey Cocksedge

Our annual display is on **Friday 14th May**, starting this year at 6.30 p.m. Everyone connected with the Church is welcome to come along, and see what the Boys get up to. We have some major awards to present this year, including a couple of Duke of Edinburgh Bronzes, so it will be quite an important evening for the lads.

During March our Company Section entered teams for the Scripture and Drill Competitions, and we were runners up in the Drill Shield, losing out only to the splendid 1st Southwick Company, who have achieved remarkable standards in this type of BB activity - their Captain, and drill instructor, is the minister of the Church!

I have heard it suggested that the BB is old fashioned to do drill in this laid back age. I have always taken a dim view of the "trendy" philosophy of life: where does it get you? Just come and see the Boys on parade: so smart and still as statues (well, sometimes!) Their behaviour and teamwork are markedly improved by the discipline of drill; the evidence is that drill helps us to do much better work all round with exuberant, high spirited Boys – it is much harder to get useful results with undisciplined Boys. Our thanks to David Walters for the excellent job he has done with the lads in this activity. After a bout of strenuous effort, we usually try to reward Boys with something relaxing, this time a bowling evening at Crawley – and chips! You cannot part Boys from their chips!

Voluntary youth organisations have an uphill task in the world of today, and the BB is no exception. But we always aim to put shortcomings and disappointments behind us, think positively about the future, and look forward to doing better. So it is with this summer: we have much to look forward to – athletics, paintballing, and both a weekend camp (for our own Boys), and a week long one (with Companies from around Sussex). A new batch of Boys are starting Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and we would like to stress that we offer this as a service to other young people connected with the Church, girls as well as boys. We look forward too, to working with our new Youth Pastor, Josh, who has been both a Boy and Officer in the BB. The Lord has blessed, and we believe will continue to, bless our work.



Bentley Miniature Railway Silver Jubilee

Bentley Miniature Railway operates at Bentley Wildfowl and Motor Museum, Halland, near Uckfield, East Sussex. The railway celebrates 25 Years of operation in 2010.

The railway has recently been granted Planning permission for an extension to a new station adjacent to the wildfowl park, subject to preliminary conditions. This extension will double the length of line, from ½ mile to 1 mile.

These events will be celebrated during early June 2010; Bentley Miniature Railway will be in operation, as usual, from Saturday 29 May to Sunday 6 June 2010, during the local school Half Term week. On Saturday and Sunday 5th – 6th June, special events, including a model railway show and a cavalcade of locomotives on the Railway are planned. TV celebrity Bob Symes will formally launch the work on the Extension.

All are welcome to join us for these days. Visitors to Bentley Wildfowl on 5/6 June will receive one free train ride – additional rides (and on all other Railway operating days) are 80p return . For further details, please see our website: www.bentleyrailway.co.uk, or phone Tim Sanderson on: 01444 455830.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Answers.
 ACROSS: 1, Stop. 3, Call upon. 9, Regular. 10, Octet. 11, Inner. 12, Hudson. 14, Holy Communion. 17, Myself. 19, See to. 22, About. 23, Iterate. 24, Monarchy.
 25, Stet.
 DOWN: 1, Straight. 2, Organ. 4, Abraham's faith. 5, Lloyd. 6, Puteoli. 7, Note. 8, Cleric. 13, Innocent. 15, Lay down. 16, Ussher. 18, Enter. 20, Enact. 21, Balm.