

GoodNEWS

Lindfield URC's Village Magazine

April 2011

HOSANNA!

*Blessed is He
who comes
in the name of the Lord!*



FREE EXHIBITION



KING EDWARD HALL CENTENARY & LINDFIELD IN 1911

***THE HALL, KING EDWARD HALL
TUESDAY 3 MAY
10.00 am – 8.00 pm***

***PRESENTED BY
LINDFIELD HISTORY PROJECT GROUP***



David Goodchild has written about what Easter means to him and looks at the close links between old and new testament.

Charles continues his thoughts on Prayer, and again he suggests very helpful and usable ideas to help us develop our own prayer lives.

Martin Hall tells us about a book that he has recently read. It is about a gospel singer called Helen Berhane from Eritrea. It is a story of great faith in the face of dreadful hardship.

Josh has compiled for us some articles giving us information about what the young people in our church are up to.

Two Rosemarys have written this month as well: Rosemary Tijou tells us more about Lucy their dog and her role as a PAT dog and Rosemary Davies tells us about Lindfield in 1911.

There are, of course, the usual reminders of events and meetings happening throughout the coming month.

Val

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

Dear Friends,



C. S. Lewis wrote a trilogy of science fiction novels, the first of which is "Voyage to Venus". All the books have a man called Ransom as their central character and in "Voyage to Venus", he finds himself on that planet, pitted against a creature which has taken over the identity of one of Ransom's colleagues, known as the Un-Man. In Lewis' imagination, Venus is a world which has not yet been tainted by sin. The tragedy of the Fall in our own world has not yet happened. Innocence still reigns and the two figures who correspond to Adam and Eve in Genesis have not yet disobeyed the one command that God has given them. The story is the account of the Un-man's attempt to influence them to do so and Ransom's struggle to stop him.

During one of their confrontations, the Un-Man baits Ransom about the way Jesus died on earth. What a triumph for evil, he says, when the incarnate God was subjected to that agonising death! Ransom quietly asks how the Un-Man felt when he understood the result of this act of sacrificial love. His power over sinful humanity had been broken. Where was his triumph then? The Un-Man's only response is to throw back his head and howl in fury.

The Bible says that "He who knew no sin became sin for us
(2 Corinthians 5:21)

An old hymn puts it like this

"O show me what it cost Thee to make a sinner whole,
And teach me Saviour, teach me the value of my soul!"

There is so much evil in the world and we might be tempted to think that it has the upper hand, that it might, in the end, have the victory. If we did, we would be wrong. In spite of everything that challenged it, God's love in Christ had the last word. That was the achievement of Calvary. The whole armoury of hatred was flung at Jesus as He hung there dying, but it wasn't enough, finally, to overcome Him. Three days later He was more alive than He had ever been.

When we bring it down to personal terms, in other words when we comprehend how it affects us as individuals, it becomes almost too much to understand, but it's true. The Creator of the Universe loves you and me so much that no price was too high for Him to pay for our redemption. No wonder the legions of Hell howled in fury when they realised that love had won the victory!

Your Pastor and friend,

Charles S. Martin

Prayer Focus

As we continue our teaching on the Holy Spirit let us continue in prayer, that we will know a greater sense of his presence and power. Jesus calls us to persistence.



Scripture, Acts 2, says at Pentecost the church received the “promise of the Father” poured out by the Son of God, which they were able to see and hear. Since this pouring out of the Spirit is his gift to us dare we spurn it?

This is to be received by all believers as Peter makes clear. Whether you believe this comes at conversion or as a second blessing, the question is am I living in the good of it each day? Am I satisfied that I am currently filled with the Spirit? Do I know this power? Do I experience daily that for which Paul prays for the Ephesian Christians?

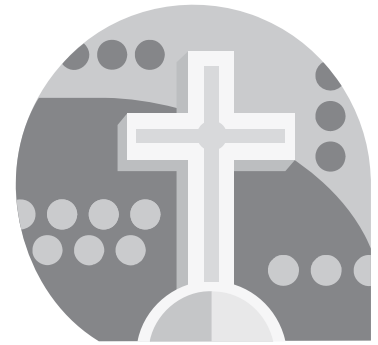
“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power, through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love may have power, together with all the saints to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of the fullness of God.”

Are we taken up with Jesus in this way? Do we know this fullness? Let us seek an ever deepening relationship with Him.

What does Easter mean to me?



or



Easter is a strange time of year. Christmas seems a distant memory and the year seems to be speeding up around us. The daffodils are already 'springing' up and the clocks have changed. Despite the ever increasing commercialisation, I still find that we have some space in this season to stop and consider. For me, Easter is a more special time than Christmas. It may be taken over a little with eggs and bunnies but Christ is still significant to this time amongst the world at large.

Some of you may know that I was challenged by a friend a few years ago whether I really believe the Bible is true. I said 'yes' and my friend said 'so you've read it all then?' I had to admit that actually I hadn't and since then I've managed to read the whole Bible in a year on a couple of occasions. I heartily recommend this to anyone reading this article. I found that as my understanding of the Old Testament grew, so did my understanding of the events in the New Testament. The reason I mention this is that for me Easter starts with Moses in Exodus 12. Moses leads God's people out of Egypt on the day after the first Passover. That night, at Moses' instruction a lamb, without blemish is taken, roasted and eaten with bread and herbs by each Jewish household. This is significant because this Passover is the time that Jews celebrate how, when they trusted in God, He brought them from being enslaved in Egypt to being set free. When John the baptist sees Jesus in John chapter 1 and says "Behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world", he is referring to the Passover lamb. When Jesus says 'Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you" during the last supper he is declaring that He will be the new Passover lamb. If we trust in Him, we will be rescued from being enslaved in our own guilt and wrongdoing.

So Jesus willingly paid the price for us, He was the sacrifice just as the Passover lamb was the sacrifice in Moses' day. But the really great news is that it didn't end there. On the third day, Easter Sunday, He beat death and was raised to life. Now those of us who believe in Him can speak to Him in Prayer and know His Spirit in us. We have been rescued from death and brought to new life with Him.

I find it strange that Christmas is the time when we send and receive gifts. After all, Easter is the time we celebrate receiving the greatest gift of all. Easter is the time when we celebrate God's gift of salvation. Our sins went to the cross with Jesus, he atoned for us and we are raised to new life with Him through His resurrection on Easter Sunday. Now, that is a gift worth celebrating.

David Goodchild



Easter Worship at Lindfield URC 2011



Maundy Thursday (April 21st) *8.00pm Joint Communion Service at The Evangelical Free Church.

Good Friday (April 22nd) *9.30am Walk of Witness. Meet at Hickmans Lane, Playing Fields.

*10.15am United Service at All Saints.

Easter Sunday (April 24th) 6.15.am *Son –Rise Service on Lindfield Common followed by bacon rolls at LURC.

9.30am All-age Worship for Easter

11.15am The Pastor - Communion

6.30pm *United Easter Praise at the United Reformed Church.

* - Joint meeting with Lindfield Churches

Monthly Mission Giving – April: The Bible Society

For the past 200 years, Bible Societies across the world have worked to make the Bible available in the languages people need most. As a result, they have been responsible for more than **300 of the 450 languages** that now have a translation of the whole Bible. This has made the Scriptures accessible to more than five billion of the world's population.

However, **more than 4,400 languages still wait** for even one book of the Bible. This means millions either have no access to the Bible at all or can only encounter it in something other than their 'heart' language.

The big picture is that there are 6,912 languages in the world. Of these – 451 languages have a translation of the whole Bible.

2,479 languages have part of the Bible.

This leaves 4,421 languages still waiting for even one book of the Bible.

In addition to Bible translation, The Bible Society is involved in a variety of initiatives around the world including:

Audio Bibles. Across the world, a billion people live in communities that don't read. For some their language has never been written down. For others they have **never learned to read** or have a limited education.



These oral communities 'read with their ears' – telling stories and sharing information by **word of mouth**. They are also some of the world's poorest people.

The Bible Society meets their need by providing the **Bible in audio format**. Communities listen to the New Testament for 30 minutes weekly. They then take part in a question and answer session run by a church leader.

Making the Bible affordable. Some of the greatest demand for the Bible comes from among the **world's poorest communities**. For millions, many who are 'living' on less than 60p a day, the Bible is simply a **luxury they can't afford**.

This is why much effort goes into raising the funds to subsidise the cost of the Bible in such communities. Occasionally, in situations like **prisons and refugee camps**, Bibles are provided without charge.

This is a typical testimony of a prisoner who received a free Bible:



It was as a prisoner in an Ethiopian jail that Gerba Addisie joined a Bible listening group. Expressing his thanks in a letter, he said, 'The Word of God gives me peace for my life in the prison. I have received Jesus Christ as my personal saviour. But even though I am a Christian, I don't have a Bible. Currently we are using one Bible for 40 prisoners.'

It is because of this need that Bible Society has helped provide tens of thousands of Bibles for prisoners in Ethiopia's jails. And reports from prison staff say there now there's less aggression in prison yards and people treating each other with more respect.

More information can be found at the Mission Display Area or on The Bible Society website; www.biblesociety.org.uk

If you would like to make a donation please use the special envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any Sunday service. Please complete a gift aid slip if appropriate.

Thank you

FAMILY NEWS

GOLDEN WEDDING

We send our love and offer many congratulations to Mike and Jean Gardiner as they celebrated 50 years of marriage in March.

Thank you from Sid and Daphne Collins

"I really have to apologise for not sending thanks to everyone before now, for the ongoing telephone calls, offers of help, together with flowers and the Christmas Poinsettia. We are both very appreciative and aware of the prayers and thoughts that come our way and hope that the lateness of our acknowledgement will not be considered that we take it all for granted."

Coffee and Cakes Morning for Sussex Air Ambulance

Saturday 2nd April, 10am – 12noon, in the Church Lounge

With great coffee kindly supplied by World Coffees of Lindfield (and great tea from us if you prefer it) together with cakes lovingly baked by several donors, the Barling family invite you to a fundraising morning as a big 'thank you' to the county's Air Ambulance Service who gave emergency treatment to Heather after her cycling accident in October and whisked her off to expert trauma care in Romford, Essex. Surprisingly these 'angels of the sky' depend almost entirely on public donations. Hopefully, after seeing the article about the Service in the March issue of Lindfield Life, many friends from around the village will also be dropping in.

As many of our church family already know, Heather sustained serious head injuries when she was knocked off her bike outside the barber's near the pond on 7 October last year. Thankfully she is making a sure but slow recovery and as her husband I am so grateful to God for that, and also for your prayers, friendship, words of encouragement and practical support with meals in those early days out of hospital, and for the help of good neighbours and of the medical professionals along the way.

It's still early days in the journey back to 'normal life', but the whole experience has reminded us of the frailty of life and the fact we need to treasure each day, value the people we love, be thankful and recognise and make the most of opportunities that come our way. Although conversation, crowds and all manner of noise and bright lights are problematic for Heather at the moment, we hope it won't be too long before these are no longer to be avoided.

As followers of Jesus we know that we are not immune from life's difficult times, accidents, failing health, family and financial worries, but we can experience the comfort of the Spirit of God and the support of others as we go through them.

So, we hope you'll be able to drop in. We'll have a little more information about the Air Ambulance Services of Kent, Surrey and Sussex....and there will be cakes for sale as well.

John Barling.

Book Review:

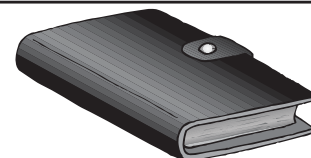
“Song of the Nightingale” by Helen Berhane

“Song of the Nightingale” is the dramatic story of one woman’s unwavering Christian faith in the face of horrendous persecution. Helen Berhane, a gospel singer, was born in Eritrea in 1974 and grew up in Asmara. Her parents were from the Orthodox tradition and so Helen attended church from an early age and has no recollection of a specific “conversion moment”. Her childhood ended suddenly at the age of 16 when she was entered into an arranged marriage with a man 20 years older. Helen gave birth to a daughter in 1994 but the marriage did not last and divorce brought with it the disapproval of her church. However, this was as nothing compared to the real physical and mental torture and other hardships she faced later, when arrested by the police in an increasingly anti-Christian atmosphere. She was sent to a desert jail where the cells were empty shipping containers, crammed with prisoners, freezing at night and roasting by day. In spite of the brutality she endured throughout the years she was incarcerated in this hell on earth, Helen remained a wonderful witness for Christ, both to other prisoners and to her jailers. On the verge of death, Helen was finally freed on medical grounds after 31 months and two weeks in prison. Her closing message to Christians in the free world is to, “...not take freedom for granted. Use every opportunity to praise the Lord every day. If I could sing in prison, imagine what you could do for God’s glory with your freedom”. “Song of the Nightingale”, published by Release International in 2009, is a moving, inspiring and ultimately uplifting true story and, at only 106 pages, is a quick and easy read. I thoroughly recommend it.

Martin Hall



April Church Diary



PLEASE NOTE NEW TIMES FOR SECOND SERVICE.

2nd

Saturday 8.45 — Prayer Meeting
9.30am at LURC

3rd Sunday

Mothering Sunday
9.30am The Pastor -
Communion
11.15am The Pastor
6.30pm The Pastor

6th

Wednesday 10.00am Lent Course at
All Saints
7.30pm Lent Course at
All Saints

9th

Saturday 8.45 — Prayer Meeting
9.30am at LURC

10th Sunday

9.30am Tim Griffiths
11.15am Tim Griffiths
6.30pm The Pastor -
Communion

13th

Wednesday 10.00am Lent Course at
All Saints
12.30pm Lunch
Fellowship
7.30pm Lent Course at
All Saints

15th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch
Fellowship

16th

Saturday 8.45 — Prayer Meeting
9.30am at LURC

17th Sunday

Palm Sunday

9.30am Jenny Martin
Fair Trade stall
11.15am Jenny Martin
6.30pm The Pastor

21st

Thursday

Maunday Thursday

See Page 5

22nd

Friday

Good Friday

See Page 5

23rd

Saturday

8.45 — Prayer Meeting
9.30am at All Saints

24th Sunday

Easter Sunday

6.15am Son-Rise Service
(See Page 5)
9.30am The Pastor
11.15am The Pastor -
Communion
6.30pm United Easter
Praise

26th

Tuesday

7.45

In Touch group

27th

Wednesday

2.30pm

The Fellowship

7.30pm

Elders Meeting

30th

Saturday

8.45 — Prayer Meeting
9.30am at All Saints

*Please note these dates are correct at
time of printing, but watch the weekly
notices in case of change.*

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 February are as follows:-

- April 3rd **David Walters**
- April 10th Philip Wren
- April 17th Charles Martin
- April 24th **EASTER SUNDAY**
Philip Wren

FLOWER ROTA



Arranging

Distributing

April

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 3rd Anne Parker | Jo Bloxham |
| 10th Carol Marsh | Iris Bingham |
| 17th Audrey Saunders | Heather Swann |
| 24th Easter Flowers | Janet Sanderson |

May

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1st Winifred Scopes | Sue Tester |
| 8th Boys Brigade | Barbara Shepherd |
| 15th Fiona Tingley | Jo Bloxham |
| 22nd Heather Swann | Iris Bingham |
| 29th Janet Wade | Heather Swann |

Distribution Rota

If anyone is able to offer help with distributing church flowers to the sick on Monday mornings please contact Heather Swann Tel: 450335

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.

The **11:15am service** is a traditional service.

(Exceptions to these times are shown in the Diary).

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.

Hi everyone and welcome to the new look youth pages in GoodNEWS. This month Alex Jeffs tells us of his journey to becoming baptised; we hear all about youth Alpha; and Geoffrey gives us a flavour of what has been going on in boys brigade - enjoy!

Josh

Alex Jeffs' Baptism

If God told me a year ago how much my life would change, I would have offered him a glass of water and some paracetamol. Twelve months ago, I was invited to go to the Youth Fellowship at Ryecroft, where we had food, socialised with like-minded individuals, and talked about the Christian faith. When I first went, I found it was rather enjoyable, even the chat with Charles! So naturally I started going along to them on a more regular basis, creating and building friendships within our group. Time flew, and before we knew it the summer holidays had arrived. It was then we found out Charles wasn't going to be running Youth Fellowship, and was going to be replaced by our new Youth Pastor, Josh Thomas. I had so many questions at the time. What was Josh like? What does he know about being a Christian? Does he know how to cook pizza?!

Fortunately for us, he knew a fair bit about the Bible, but he also knew how to relate to young people in general. The main reason I wanted to be baptised was because I felt I was being called by God to be. No one argues with God! I've always seen being baptised as a natural progression in becoming a Christian, so to be born again last month felt amazing. If I could go through that day again, it would be just as amazing.

Becoming a URC member would mean a lot to me, as it would be a way for me to make a contribution to our Church, therefore our community.

Despite the lack of biblical knowledge, I know I am around the best people who can help me improve. All I can bring with me is a Spirit-filled heart, with the best intentions for our family. I would relish this commitment, and would make sure I put 110% into our Church.

Thanks for taking the time to read this, I really appreciate it :-)

Alex Jeffs

Youth Alpha

We are now two weeks into our Youth Alpha course, and the topics covered so far have been 'Who is Jesus?' and 'Why did he die?'. Both topics have sparked some interesting discussion and we hope this will continue in the coming weeks. Around 16 young people are attending each week to enjoy a meal together, a live talk with games and video clips and then small groups discussions on the subject matter. We are also planning a residential weekend on the 9th-10th April for all attending Youth Alpha. This will be a weekend at West Watch residential centre consisting of continuing discussion along with some fun games and time for socializing. So far, our Youth Alpha sessions have been a great success and it is truly brilliant and exciting to see so many young people wanting to understand or continue a relationship with God.

Thank you all for your continued prayer and support.

Hannah Durrant

Boys Brigade

After a difficult start, BB has picked up again. The Company Section held a sponsored overnight stay in the church, which raised £220 for Sam Muhumuza's school. For the first time for many years, our Boys led the Remembrance Day Parade down the High Street, our drummers earning praise for their efforts. The format of our Mondays in Company Section has undergone some change: we have a Bible Class once a month, in place of parade, inspection, and drill, polo shirts being worn in place of the more formal full uniform. Junior Section is now being led by Terry Ward, and we are pleased that Janet Wade is back with us after a long absence. The Anchor Section is growing, and we welcome Alex, Ben and Oscar into membership. The Company Display will be held on a Monday from now on: please note the date of this year's event, 16th May, at 6.30 p.m., when Mark Jago, Captain of the 9th Brighton Company, will be our Chief Guest.

Geoffrey Cocksedge

Practical tips on Prayer (Part 2)

In the March edition of *GoodNews* I began a short series of articles entitled: *Practical Tips on Prayer*. I said that Bible reading is an essential part of anyone's prayer life, because prayer is a two-way conversation and reading the Scriptures is the principal way we listen to God. With that in mind, this month I want say something about how we listen to the Holy Spirit as we read the Bible.

I well remember the Salvation Army Commissioner who told me that the secret of good spiritual teaching is **KISS** – Keep It Simple Stupid! So I want you to be clear about just two things. The first is -

The Authority of Scripture

This is what the Bible says about itself – 2 Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, correcting, rebuking and training in righteousness”

Over many years the authority of the Bible has been attacked from both within and without the Church. This has led to a fundamental weakness in the Christian Community. We have ceased to expect God to speak to us in the Bible, because we no longer believe that it has any unique authority. Instead of **being** God's Word, the assertion is made that it merely **contains** God's Word, with the implication that it also contains a great deal which is **not** God's Word. So we have a “pick and mix” version of Christian faith and that has led to confusion and uncertainty. To borrow a phrase from the Book of Judges, everyone believes what is right in his own eyes.

It is clear that everything in the Bible is not literally true. For instance, when it speaks of the physical attributes of God – His finger, His arm and His voice etc:- it is evidently not referring to parts of a literal body. It's talking about His creative energy, the way in which He acts in the world and the Holy Spirit's teaching and guidance in our daily lives.

There is much that is difficult to understand in the Bible. That is why we need to set aside pastors and teachers who have spent years in careful study, but the **whole** of Scripture is “*God-breathed*”. From beginning to end, it reveals the truth about God and His plan and purposes for men and

women. If we are to hear Him speaking to us as we read it, that is the spirit in which we must begin.

Head / Heart / Hand

But just how are we to hear Him speaking? The simple answer is that we have to listen. Don't be frightened of the word "meditation". That is what we do when we seek to listen to God as we read the Bible. Here is an easy pattern to help us meditate on any given passage of Scripture and it's based on three words all beginning with the letter "H".

Head. What does this passage **teach** me about God and the way He wants me to live? What new truth do I need to learn (or old one do I need to remember) about God's plan and purpose for my life?

Heart. How does this passage help me to **love** God more? What does it reveal about His overwhelming grace and mercy? And what does it show about the nature of my obedience? In other words, can I really say I love Him if I don't do what He says?

Hand. Is there a **command** here - something He is telling me to do? Is there some way my life needs to change? Is there someone I need to forgive or pray for? Is there a challenge to which I must respond?

When you have read the Scripture passage (and the notes I recommended everyone should use) simply be still and go through the list – *head / heart / hand*, listening to the gentle but insistent voice of God's Spirit.

Next month we'll be looking at the way the Psalms can be the well-spring of our relationship with God.

Charles S Martin.

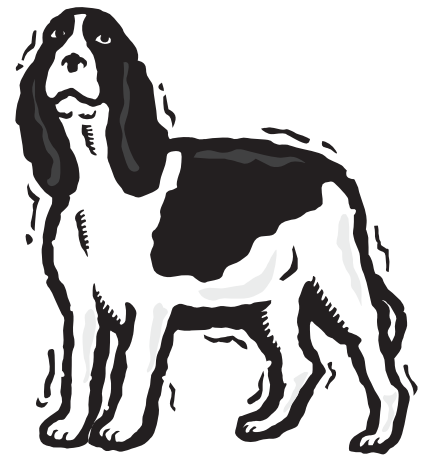
The Fellowship

The meeting this month is on Wednesday 27 April at 2.30pm. This is the occasion of our Charity Tea, and the speaker, on behalf of St. Peter & St. James, is Carol Hughes. We look forward to meeting her and hearing about the work of the Hospice.

We give a warm welcome to all, old and new friends. There will be our usual Bring and Buy Stall.

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE!

Hello! My name is Lucy and I'm a Blue Roan Cocker Spaniel now aged 10 years and a bit! You may remember I wrote to you before telling you a bit about myself and my work as a Pets As Therapy visiting dog. Well, I still continue to visit in St. Peter & St. James' Hospice and Compton House Nursing Home fortnightly and really enjoy my work. I have met so many lovely people over the years. Sadly, some people I only know for a few weeks; others I have known for several years.



Back in January I became ill and was constantly vomiting. Ray and Rosemary took me to the vet and they kept me in the hospital on a drip. When Ray and Rosemary rang to see how I was they were put through to the ward nurse - just like a human's hospital! I know there were other dogs and there was at least one cat near me in the hospital as I heard it meowing. The vets and nurses were very kind to me and tried to make me warm and comfortable.

The vet treated me for pancreatitis but I did not respond to the treatment. He finally did some ex-rays and the canine equivalent of a barium meal to see if there was a blockage somewhere along the line. Finally he had to operate as I was getting no better and he could see a shadow in my stomach. He warned Ray and Rosemary that if it was an inoperable tumour then he would ring them to give the o.k. to put me to sleep whilst I was under the anaesthetic. Phew! They came to terms with the situation and three hours later heard that I had had a peach stone lodged in my intestine! They have the stone in a little pot as proof. I cannot even remember where I picked up the tasty peach morsel and swallowed it.

I came home after two days and in a short while had fully recovered. The following week I was able to resume my visiting. So many people rang up asking about me (and still do!) and one kind lady even sent a get-well e-card! I heard that some people were praying for me too, so thank you. Although I have slowed down a bit and don't always want to go out for walks (getting a bit lazy in my old age!) I still enjoy playing with my collection of balls and my football, plus my squeaky monkey with flapping legs! Even after several years my blood pressure still rises when I see the postman and the window cleaner cleaning our windows. Some things never change. I am so pleased to still be around and to bring pleasure to people both young and older.

Lucy Tijou (written on her behalf by Rosemary Tijou).

The problem of DEBT

One of the biggest problems facing this country is debt, both Government and private. The figures are so large it is hard to take them in. At the end of January, individuals owed no less than £1452 billion, mostly on mortgages but £212 billion was on such things as credit and store cards and personal loans. For those households with loans this averages over £16000 each excluding mortgages. Not surprisingly, with wages frozen for many, unemployment rising and uncertainty about the future, many people are struggling desperately to keep their heads above water. Not all succeed; 337 people each day are declared bankrupt or insolvent and three times that number seek some form of debt rescheduling. Debt brings huge pressures both physical and mental and has even driven people to suicide.

Faced with the enormity of the problem it is all too easy to feel helpless; we feel so small. But God can and does use ordinary people to help. In Mid-Sussex for the last 15 years there has been a free specialist face-to-face debt advice service. Here in a confidential interview with as many follow-up sessions as required the problems are identified and solutions offered. The service includes establishing what debt repayments can be afforded, negotiating with creditors, seeing whether any benefits are due, advice on budgeting, and generally guiding clients through the stressful period. Advisors are fully trained and in Mid-Sussex work on a voluntary basis. Help is provided by a national charity (Community Money Advice) established 10 years ago to support the growing number of centres across the nation. There are now almost 100 firmly based in their local community nearly all linked to a church or group of churches. The National Director, Heather Keates who started the first centre in Mid-Sussex, has many opportunities to speak to the media as well as to influence government policy.

To find out more about the local centre you can phone on 01444 232444, whether you want to offer help, whether you would welcome help, or just want to know more.

Debt statistics are available from Credit Action (www.creditaction.org.uk).

Community Money Advice's website is www.communitymoneyadvice.com.

There you can find much more information.

Ian Dancy (Community Money Advice)

Rosemary Davies shares some of the research she has made into the non-conformist church history in Lindfield.

Lindfield 1911

This year sees the centenary of the King Edward Hall and the appointment of the Evangelical Free Church's first pastor, Rev Arthur Ellems. But what was happening at the Congregational Chapel?

To recap on non-conformity in Lindfield, three hundred years ago the parish church had been neglected and was at very low ebb when two Presbyterian Congregations started meeting at Burstye and Kenwards. However they then went out of existence following a very public and unseemly row between the two groups. A hundred years later, in November 1810, William Durrant and four others applied for a licence to hold services in the village which resulted in the building, two years later, of the first Congregational Chapel.

Fast forward to 1911 and times were hard. Real wages had fallen leading to social unrest in the country and in Lindfield this had been a strain on chapel finances. Faced with a declining membership and the need to renovate Ryecroft at the same time as urgent repairs, including a new heating system, were needed in their 50 year-old-Church building, they had accepted a £100 loan from their Church Secretary in 1903 rather than apply to the Sussex Home Missionary Society. They preferred, as Thos Wells put it, "to retain their independence" but by 1907 they had voted to incorporate the church, schoolroom and manse in the Sussex Union.

Indeed 1907 had been their pastor, Rev A Chapman-Davis's last as their paid minister as they had had to suspend his £120 pa stipend. Thomas Wells resigned as Church Secretary after more than 50 years of church leadership and there then followed a 5-year gap in the minutes before the Rev Jesse Taylor returned to the pastorate in 1913 for "at least six months" and happily stayed until 1920.

However, when the Congregational Chapel was struggling, another worshipping community was gathering strength in Lindfield. In 1907 we had been happy to lend chairs to "St John's Mission" and had agreed to join them in a united mission to the village. By 1911 the then named Sewell Mission was in a position to call their first pastor. The cordial relations between the two groups is not surprising bearing in mind that Miss Mary Trevatt in Osborne Cottage

was a key member of the Sewell Memorial Mission, and her younger sister, Esther, was an active member of the Congregational Chapel. To find out more about Lindfield in 1911 be sure to look out for the centenary celebrations at the Evangelical Free Church and the “King Edward Hall Centenary and Lindfield in 1911” Exhibition on May 3rd in the King Edward Hall presented by the Lindfield History Project Group, from 10.00 am to 8.00 pm

So what of 2011? In another hundred years how will historians view our village churches? Will this be viewed as a time of opportunity and promise for the URC as in 1811, or as a time of the faithful holding on as in 1911? Whatever else is said, the Three Churches’ Joint Lent Study Course is proof of their happy collaboration.

Those who call on the Lord...

In my recent reading and the church prayer meeting, the topic of calling, or waiting, on God has been mentioned. This led me to consider the topic of calling on the Lord, who may do so, and to whom will God listen?

The first reference to calling on the Lord is in Genesis 4 v 26: “At this time men began to call on the name of the Lord”. This presupposes that before then no-one did call on His name – perhaps the fall out from Cain’s murder had turned the attention on mankind away from their creator. The following books of Israel’s history show that there has been, and still is, a division between those who do and do not call on God. However, there are numerous examples of exhortations to call on God. As an example: Jeremiah 33 v 3 – “Call to me, and I will answer you, and tell you great and unsearchable things that you do not know”. Although addressed to the nation of Israel, this was during a period of national shame and defeat, when the people had turned away from God. So, although the psalmist states: “If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened”, (Psalm 66 v 18) I believe that God will listen to those who are willing to humble themselves and seek him earnestly.

As Psalm 147 shows, God will answer even those who get into trouble through their own foolishness or rebellion – as long as we recognise our need of Him.

(Continued overpage)

As in the time of Malachi, God looks for those who will fear him, Malachi 3 v 16 – “Those who feared the Lord spoke with each other, and the Lord listened”. So, whether we think ourselves to be “ok” or are in a desperate position, God is ready to hear the cry of our hearts. This is true whatever religion you believe in, or no religion. As Peter says in Acts 2 v 21, quoting Joel 2 v 32, “...everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”. None of us, who call ourselves Christians, came to God on our own merits, but we were lost in our ungodliness, before God opened our eyes to our need of Him.

This is not to say that there are many ways to God. When he answers us he will show us himself, through his revealed way – his son Jesus, who was killed on our behalf, and rose from death to give us new life – Acts 4 v 10 - 12 “... by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead..... for there is no other name by which we must be saved.

Will you humble yourself, recognise your wrongdoing, turn and call on the name of the Lord?

Tim Sanderson

Around and About HAYWARDS HEATH MUSIC SOCIETY

Saturday 9 April

Jayson Gillham (piano)

7.45 pm at St Wilfrid's.



Photo quiz....

As a change from the Crossword, this month we have a photo quiz on the back page.

See if you can identify the items, which are all situated in Lindfield High Street. - Answers next month!

(Back cover photography and design by Chris Sanderson - www.chris-sanderson.net. E: contact@chris-sanderson.net).

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

- 9.30am Service for all the family, including crèche and Lighthouse (Junior church) (Most weeks, children leave after 20 minutes for their own activities).
Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
- 11.15am Traditional Worship
Holy Communion (4th Sunday)
- 6.30pm Evening Service
Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)

Healing services as announced

PRAYER MEETINGS:

- Mon 9.30am An Hour of Prayer
- Wed 9.45am Short Service of Intercession
- Thur 8.00pm Church Prayer Evening
(As announced)
- Sat 8.45am Three Churches Prayer Meeting.
– 9.30am Venue rotates between the three churches.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

- Mon 10.00am Art Group
 - 5.45pm Boys' Brigade - Anchor Boys
(5–7 years)
 - 6.15pm Boys' Brigade - Junior Section
(8–11 years)
 - 7.15pm Boys' Brigade – Company
Section (11+ years)
 - Tue 10.00am Stepping Stones
(Parents and toddlers - term time)
 - 7.45pm In Touch (4th Tues) for women of
all ages
 - Wed 2.30pm The Fellowship (4th Wed)
for mature ladies and gentlemen
 - Thur 10.00am Pop-In (for coffee and a chat)
 - 8.00pm Church Meeting (2nd Thur)
 - Fri 7.15pm Zest (Years 6–9) games, craft,
tuck and a bible message
(term time)
 - Sun 8.00pm Youth Fellowship
- House Groups normally meet 1st and 3rd
Thursday

Church (payphone): 01444 484620

Charles Martin (Pastor)

Mobile No: 07821 904785

Josh Thomas (Youth Pastor)

Youth Office: 01444 487607

Mobile No: 07598 779553

Boys' Brigade:

Geoffrey Cocksedge 01444 474007

Cradle Roll:

Sue Tester 01444 482810

Flowers:

Betty Billins 01444 484494

Hall Booking Secretary:

Carol Walters 01444 457938

In Touch:

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Lunch Fellowship:

Wednesday:

Janet Drayton 01444 483621

Friday:

Anne Parker 01444 473519

Magazine Editor:

Val Cookney 01444 440029

The Fellowship:

Chris Comber 01444 482641

Stepping Stones:

Janet Goodenough 01444 417002

Transport:

Vacant

Zest Co-ordinator:

Josh Thomas 07598 779553

Lighthouse (Junior church)

Co-ordinator:

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

The church is normally open Monday to Saturday
from 10.00am to 12.30pm

Where/What is it?



A.....



B.....



C.....



D.....



E.....



F.....



G.....