

GoodNEWS

The Fruit of the Spirit is
Love, Joy, Peace

Lindfield URC's Village Magazine

June 2011

- 
- Spring Harvest
 - Bible by the Beach
 - Final Practical Prayer Tips

Patience, Kindness, Goodness
Faithfulness, Gentleness
and Self - Control

FREE
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF

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

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Josh Thomas (Youth Pastor)

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Mobile No: 07598 779553

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Co-ordinator:

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

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



I really don't quite know what to highlight this month, there is so much good stuff, so an especial thank you to all who have contributed.

Charles has written combining two recent sermons on the Holy Spirit. I personally found it really helpful to have an opportunity to re-visit sermons to think over and around them more slowly.

We also have 'feed-back' from Spring Harvest and Bible by the Beach. Both sound as if those who went have gained a great deal from them. I guess what it boils down to is whatever you do, go somewhere or do something which enables you to have time to be especially focused on God's Word.

There seems to be lots of Family News too.

So do read and enjoy.

Val

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(All may be contacted via the 'pigeon holes').

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

Dear Friends,

June 12th is Pentecost Sunday, the Church's birthday, the day when everything began. The small group of Jesus' followers, probably no more than one hundred and twenty in all, burst out of their hiding place and began to tell the world what God had done in Christ. Until then, they had been a frightened bunch of people, trying to come to terms with Jesus' death and resurrection. On Pentecost Sunday everything changed.



Maybe you know the story. On the day of Pentecost, as they were praying, the air in the room where they were was suddenly filled with a strange kind of movement. It was as if wind was blowing indoors and fire seemed to pass from one to another. All of a sudden their fear had gone and they couldn't stay inside any more. They ran out into the street shouting because they just had to tell everyone about Jesus.

By a miracle, the barrier of language was removed and the foreign pilgrims who packed Jerusalem understood everything they said. It was quite literally pandemonium and the bystanders accused them of being drunk. Then Peter took charge. They couldn't be drunk he said, because the pubs weren't open. No! This was nothing less than the out-pouring of God's Holy Spirit, something that had been promised centuries before.

Birthday parties are great, but as we get older, they are usually celebrated with less and less enthusiasm – until we start getting telegrams from the Queen that is. This birthday is different. For Christians, every year it's an opportunity to re-discover the tremendous truth at the heart of our faith - that Jesus is alive and through His Spirit, He can fill us with power to live for Him.

Being a Christian is not easy these days. Contemporary society is less and less sympathetic to our message and atheism seems to be very fashionable. We could be forgiven for feeling a bit tired and fed-up. It's at those moments that we need to remember we've been given a birthday present and it's not something that can get lost or broken or put at the back of a cupboard and forgotten. We've been given the life of God Himself in the Holy Spirit. Every believer can tap into that life by opening

themselves to His power and influence, because Jesus promised that His Father would always give His Spirit to those who asked Him.

He also said that whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds and to the one who knocks, the door will always be opened. God is so big-hearted! He never stints in His generosity. If you want a fresh share of His birthday present, you have only to ask.

Your Pastor and friend,

Charles S. Martin

Prayer Focus

North Korea is renowned as one of the most repressive regimes in the world. All Christian meetings, Christian literature and Bibles are banned, forcing believers to meet secretly, at great personal risk to themselves and their families. Our monthly prayer meeting on 23rd June will be focusing on this needy country and other mission matters.



Also please pray for Katie Cookney and the “Revive Team” who are involved in outreach in Wales this month. For more information read Katie’s article in this edition of Good News.

In Touch

In Touch meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month unless otherwise announced. We met in April and had a good evening shared with around 20 ladies attending a “Quiz” night. Ladies worked in pairs and answered multiple choice questions and also grappled with a picture quiz. I think it fair to say we were not “mastermind”, but we did have a good fun evening.

The next evening planned is in June for a Walk in Lindfield followed by Supper in the Church Lounge. The walk is being led by Brenda Johnson – but do not be alarmed she has assured me it will be no longer than an hour – a toddle by her standards.

Please do come along and support this group which is a very friendly way of getting alongside each other and being supportive, as well as a way of introducing new ladies to the fellowship in a non—threatening manner.

Should you have any queries about the group or have not been before and are “shy” please be assured of a warm welcome.

Speak to Sue Waller on 455047 if you need a lift, one can always be arranged.

What is God doing in Lindfield URC?

There's a question and a half! Since last September, when Ian Macfarlane came to lead our weekend at Walstead, things have been stirring in the fellowship. Folk have been reaching out for a deeper experience of the Holy Spirit in their lives and the Editor has asked me to put my own thoughts down in an article for this edition of Good News.

What follows is a distillation of two sermons I preached on May 8th on 1 Corinthians 12. Those sermons in themselves were part of a series which I hope to complete on Pentecost Sunday later this month. We've looked at Jesus' own teaching especially in the Last Discourses in St. John's Gospel. We've also paid some attention to the other Gospels and Acts. However, 1 Corinthians 12 contains so much of what is really important and significant in the New Testament's teaching about the Holy Spirit and that's why I've chosen to base this article on my exposition of that chapter.

An experience everyone can share

Before we go any further in trying to understand what God is doing here at Lindfield URC, we have to come to terms with something that should be at the centre of every Christian's experience.

It's been described in a number of ways – being filled with the Spirit – receiving the Spirit – being baptised in the Spirit – but they all refer to the same thing – knowing that God is at work in your life and again I stress it's an experience we can all share.

We have to keep a balance between experience and faith. We can never base faith on experience. Our faith is based on what God has done in Christ, on objective facts - the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. All the same, we cannot deny that experience has its place, because the New Testament testifies that every Christian can be filled with the Holy Spirit in a life-transforming way.

This is at the heart of what God is doing in our fellowship. He's opening the way for us all to have a deeper relationship with Him. He's showing us that we can all enjoy a new freedom in worship and a new ability to live

close to Him. So how can we claim this experience?

Jesus said that the Spirit is like the wind. We hear the sound and feel the breeze, but we don't know whence it comes or where it's going. Much as some people would like to, you can't put God in a box and tell Him to behave Himself. He will do what He wants in the way He wants. We just have to put ourselves at His disposal.

Over the weeks and especially when we looked at St. John 14 & 16, we saw how the Holy Spirit is present in every believer's life. He is the One

- Who awakens us to our need for repentance;
- Who draws us to Christ and;
- Who makes us the adopted children of God through an act of sovereign grace.

Again in St. John 14 & 16, we've seen how Jesus had to go away, so that the Spirit could come and make His presence available to everyone everywhere. We've seen how He guided and led the infant Church through the Spirit and in 1 Corinthians 12 we've considered how we can all share in His gifts, strengthening and equipping the fellowship to be the Body of Christ.

So how does it work in practice?

1 Corinthians 12:3 is a key verse.

"I tell you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says 'Jesus be cursed' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit."

"This is the test", says Paul. "If you want to tell a genuine experience of the Holy Spirit from a false one, Jesus has to be Lord." Then as now, the hall-mark of God's presence and power in anyone's life is whether they acknowledge the lordship of Christ and that doesn't mean just saying "Jesus is Lord". It means submitting your whole life to Him in complete surrender.

It's when we make that complete surrender that the Holy Spirit's presence and power can be released in our lives and we can share the gifts He has to give. Paul lists them later on in 1 Corinthians 12 –

- The message of wisdom - which is followed by
- Knowledge – a kind of special insight into what God is doing.
- Faith comes next and then
- The gift of healing.
- The power to perform miracles is followed by
- The gift of prophecy (which can also mean preaching).
- Then comes the ability to distinguish between spirits,
- And lastly come the two gifts which the Corinthians (and almost everyone else) have found irresistible –Tongues of ecstasy and the ability to interpret them.

These gifts are at the heart of what the Holy Spirit does, but they must be used in a corporate way. In other words they are for the good of the whole fellowship. They are not supposed to serve individual interests.

As a fellowship we need wisdom and knowledge and faith by the barrow-load. It would be great if our healing ministry grew and developed and that we lived so close to Christ that we were able to speak powerfully and effectively in His Name. We certainly need the protection of being able to tell which spiritual lead to follow and which to ignore and the gift of tongues can be a wonderful way for God to speak directly to His people.

Wouldn't it be fantastic if our fellowship here throbbed and pulsed with exercise of these gifts! Well, there's no reason why it shouldn't – apart perhaps from one – and that is that we don't want it to.

Perhaps we ought to take the safe way and close the door on the Holy Spirit. He won't mind will He? After all, He can give His gifts to someone else, someone who is prepared to take risks for God, someone who doesn't value security more than obedience and therein lies the challenge. Which do we value more - security or obedience?

Charles S Martin

June Mission - Be Part of a Miracle!



This month we devote our giving to the work of Tearfund. Tearfund's vision is about building up churches in the world's poorest communities so that they are equipped to carry out God's purposes. Tearfund is passionate about the local church bringing justice and helping to transform lives. Their 10 year vision is to see people released from material and spiritual poverty through a worldwide network of 100,000 local churches. 'Poverty is huge, but it's not too huge. When the global church works together lives can be transformed. Miracles can happen.'

You can be part of that miracle. Whether it is the severe drought in Central Africa, the devastating floods in Pakistan, the horrific earthquake in Haiti wherever and whatever the disaster, Tearfund's response is fast and effective. But they do need your help. Please pray for them and give now.

More information is on the Mission Display area. If you would like to give, 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.

PRAYING FOR OUR STUDENTS

You may have noticed that a new photo-board has gone up, showing the five members of our church family who are currently away at university. Can we urge you to remember them in prayer, not only for coping with the pressure of their studies, but also with homesickness and with social pressures from fellow students who do not share their beliefs.

If you would like to send them a message of encouragement, I'm sure it would be gratefully received. I can let you have their email addresses.

Mike Gardiner
on behalf of the Pastoral Group



Revive is a student-led organisation that exists to make Jesus Christ famous in the South Wales Valleys

by preaching the gospel, praying for revival and supporting local churches.

The Valleys is an area made up of 13 valleys from Swansea to Torfaen and are home to roughly 30% of the Welsh population. One hundred years ago this area was the industrial hub of Great Britain, and churches were filled with worshippers and communities were thriving. Now, however, the mines and steelworks have been closed and the Valleys have some of the highest unemployment rates in Britain. Wales has one of the lowest church attendance records in Europe, and outside of the cities and major towns the existing churches and chapels are often not evangelical in belief or practice. The Valleys also have serious socio-economic and health problems, such as high rates of depression, teenage pregnancies, drug and alcohol abuse, and heart-breaking suicide rates. The reality is that the South Wales Valleys are crying out for Jesus; He is the only answer!

Our message is simply the gospel; that Jesus Christ, God incarnate, lived a sinless life, died on a cross to take the punishment for all sin so that we can be reconciled to God, that He was raised from the dead on the third day and He ascended to heaven, where He now reigns glorified at His Father's right hand, and that He will come again to judge the living and the dead and only those who have receive Him through repentance and faith will spend eternity worshipping Him. Our goal is to see disciples of Jesus Christ made, this means not just ticking 'conversion boxes', but loving God, obeying His word, and loving others. We seek to do this through serving and working alongside the local Church.

We have been sending students to various locations in the valleys for 15 years to help run youth and children's clubs. Currently, we have 11 teams running each week with over 50 volunteers. Furthermore, every

year we take 50+ students for a two week mission to one particular community in the Valleys.

For this year's mission we are going back to Abertillery, where we send a team each week and also where we had the mission last year. The mission involves everything from youth work, kids work, street evangelism, social action projects, community fun days, discipleship and a whole lot more! We are praying for more volunteers so that God can use us all for His glory that Jesus would be made known to the people of Abertillery. People are still talking about last year, so we pray that we would be able to build on that.

I have been involved in 'revive' since fairly early in my first year at Cardiff University, and it has been so amazing to see how God is working in the Valleys. It has been heart-wrenching at times, seeing these young people growing up with little hope, and often losing the innocence of childhood, being forced to grow up too quickly. But God is shining His light in the darkness, and we have had so many encouraging stories of conversations and commitments even this last year.

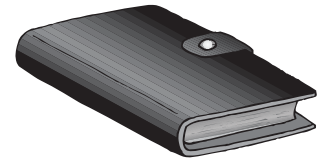
Some prayer points:

- Please pray for the organisation of the mission, that we would do all things in God's strength and not our own – there is so much to do, whilst balancing exams and placement and all that uni throws at us!
- Please thank God for using our poor efforts, and please be praying that God would continue to build good relationships between the teams and churches and the young people and children we serve.
- Please pray that God would be raising up a generation of people in the Valleys who are disciples of Jesus Christ, who are passionate to see His name glorified.

Thank you.

Katie Cookney

June Church Diary



PLEASE NOTE REVISED TIMES FOR SECOND SERVICE.

2nd
Thursday

House Groups meet

19th
Sunday

9.30am Jenny Martin
Fair Trade

11.15am Jenny Martin

6.30pm The Pastor -
Healing

4th
Saturday

8.45 — Prayer Meeting
9.30am at All Saints

5th
Sunday

9.30am David Jones -
Communion
11.15am David Jones

6.30pm Haywards Heath
District
Evangelical
Fellowship at Clair
Hall

22nd
Wednesday

2.30pm The Fellowship
7.30pm Elders Meeting

23rd
Thursday

8.00pm Prayer Meeting

8th
Wednesday

12.30pm Lunch
Fellowship

25th
Saturday

8.45 — Prayer Meeting
9.30am at All Saints

9th
Thursday

8.00pm Church Meeting

26th
Sunday

10.30am The Pastor -
Baptism

6.30pm Mike Gardiner

10th
Friday

12.30pm Lunch
Fellowship

28th
Tuesday

7.45pm In Touch

11th
Saturday

8.45 — Prayer Meeting
9.30am at All Saints

12th
Sunday

9.30am The Pastor
11.15am The Pastor
3.00pm Strawberry Tea for
newcomers
6.30pm The Pastor -
Communion

16th
Thursday

House Groups meet

18th
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 June are as follows:-

June 5th	TBA
June 12th	Philip Wren
June 19th	Charles Martin - Communion
June 26th	Philip Wren

FLOWER ROTA



Arranging

Distributing

June

5th Mies Campling	Janet Sanderson
12th Brian Tuppen	Sue Tester
19th Gladys Porter	Barbara Shepherd
26th Mary Comber	Jo Bloxham

July

3rd Zoe McQuillin	Iris Bingham
10th Carol Marsh	Heather Swann
17th Audrey McKee	Janet Sanderson
24th Fiona Tingley	Sue Tester
31st Serena Nathan	Barbara Shepherd

Distribution Rota

If anyone is able to offer help with distributing on Monday mornings please contact Heather Swann.

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.

Practical tips on Prayer (Part 4)

We say it all the time, don't we? "I'll pray for you." Some of us take that seriously and honour the promises we make. Then again, folk ask us to pray for them and if you are anything like me, you hope against hope that you will remember to do so. The question I want to ask this month is this – is there any point in praying for someone in trouble? Or to put it more simply, does prayer really work?

You would expect me to answer with a resounding "Yes!" And that is indeed my answer. Of course I believe in prayer, but if our intercessory prayer – praying for other people and the situations they face – is going to be effective, we have tackle some difficult problems, not least of which is the fact that sometimes God appears to say "No".

The most important of these problems is theological. Don't let that frighten you and make you throw down the church magazine in panic, complaining "Oh help! The minister is going all theological!" Prayer is communication with God and we need some ground-rules. That's bound to get a bit theological. So here's a theological question – can we alter God's mind? Clearly the answer is either yes or no and neither answer is very satisfactory.

- If the answer is yes, what has become of God's unchangeable purposes? Malachi 3:6 says "I the Lord do not change." How do we reconcile that with praying that God will stop doing what He's doing and do something else instead?
- If the answer is no, why bother to pray at all? If you can't influence a situation by praying about it, you might as well save your breath!

What does the Bible say?

- It says we should pray and not give up. In St. Luke 18, Jesus tells His disciples a parable with a very specific intention. It's about a widow who went on demanding justice from a Judge who was too lazy or corrupt to listen. In the end she got her way. St. Luke 18:1 explains Jesus' intention

"Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up."

That's pretty clear. Paul says roughly the same thing in Philippians 4, so we

can be sure that God wants us to pray and go on praying, but what about the problem of seeming to change His mind?

- In Genesis 18, we have one of those mysterious incidents which give us a glimpse into how God's mind works. Abraham had settled temporarily close to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. They were a by-word for immorality and God had decided to destroy them along with everyone who lived there. This caused Abraham great concern, because his nephew Lot and his family lived in Sodom, so when he was visited by an angelic deputation which turned out to be more divine than angelic, Abraham tackled God head on.

It was one thing to destroy the wicked people who lived in Sodom, but what about good people who lived there? Was God going to destroy the evil and good together? How could that be fair? And with wonderful gentle but insistent persuasion, Abraham appears to sway God's intentions to take account of as few as ten righteous people who live amongst the rest of Sodom's wicked inhabitants.

Was Abraham changing God's mind? I don't think so. I think that God was revealing his mind to Abraham.

There's a very helpful illustration which I've used sometimes in trying to explain how our prayers of intercession work. Picture a small boat which is coming into harbour. It approaches the jetty and as it gets near, a rope is thrown to haul it in.

Eventually the boat comes alongside and the rope is secured at either end – one on the boat and the other around a stanchion on the quay. Now, ask yourself this question; which has moved – the boat or the quay? Clearly the boat has moved. The jetty has stayed still because it is part of the land.

I believe it is always God's intention to heal, to bless, to protect, to help, to comfort, indeed to do anything at all which will lessen people's pain and anguish. As we pray for them, rather than we persuading God to be more loving and merciful (an impossibility anyway, because He is infinitely loving and merciful) He is drawing us closer to an understanding of His will both for us and those for whom we pray.

Just how that will is worked out may be different for different people and it may not always accord with how we want things done. Sometimes the answer

to our prayers may be “Not in that way” or “Not at this time”. It may even be “No” but God always wills what is best, because that is His nature and His nature never changes. The real change takes place in us as we learn to trust God more, to be more confident in His love and care for us and those for whom we pray.

Nevertheless, it is true that sometimes situations do change. We have seen some remarkable answers to prayer in our own fellowship just lately – witness the way Mike and Jean Gardiner’s son and daughter-in-law were able to join them for their Golden Wedding, inspite of problems over visas and flights from Thailand. No one knows precisely how prayer works. What we do know is that it does and that we have been commanded to pray and not give up. For now knowledge and understanding are not important. Faith and obedience count much more.

Charles S Martin

Spring Harvest Reflections – 2011 David Goodchild

We made our annual pilgrimage to Minehead this year with a sense of excitement and expectation. For the first time both children would be in the same group and Lydia and I would both be able to get to the evening sessions together. We arrived in good time and managed to get into our chalet nice and early. Zoe managed to get us all into a wonderful location, pretty near the centre of everything.

What struck me most this year was the morning bible study teaching time. We looked at the book of Malachi, only four chapters long, and the last book of the Old Testament. These sessions were lead by Gerard Kelly, co—founder of 'the bless network' and regular poet on Twitter under the name 'twitturgies'. We spent five mornings with Gerard in the big top with hundreds of others opening up this amazing book and seeing what God was saying to us today through it.



The story of Malachi ('Malachi' means 'messenger') is one of God speaking to His people. The people are not going through trauma, persecution or desperate times, it is just 'business as usual' for the

people of Israel in these days (about 430BC). They have come out of Exile, rebuilt Jerusalem and are just getting on with their lives in a time of peace. It is into this situation that Malachi speaks, challenging the priests and then the people about their half-hearted worship. The book ends with a promise that there is a greater prophet to come, one who will offer God's forgiveness to all people through repentance and faith. Gerard took us through each part of the book in the context of the Jewish people it was written for at the time and then we looked at the same passages 'through the Jesus window' which enabled us to look at them from the perspective of New Testament understanding.

One of the things that struck me most was when Jesus overturned the money changing tables in Matthew 21. The area of the temple where this happened is the court of the gentiles. This is where non Jews could come and seek the God of Israel. They were allowed no further, all they saw of the great God of Israel was the corruption, greed and extortion of the money changers. The money changers were employed by the priests, selling imperfect animals for sacrifice for extortionate prices. This was exactly what Malachi was criticising the priests for 430 years earlier. The Jews at that time were trying to 'keep God behind a wall' where only they had access. They were presenting nothing of His grace to the non-Jewish world. When Jesus overturned the tables He was announcing that this system was over and that God's love is now available to all.

The Spring Harvest experience this year taught me most of all that the bible is a truly amazing book. So often we will look at a book like Malachi and read it in ten minutes and move on. If we spend the time on it (shame we don't have an hour and a quarter for five days running every week!) we see that God has put real treasures in there for our times today.

Let's not put God 'behind a wall' where those who seek Him are put off by the image of 'the church' or the strange language we sometimes use (ecumenical eschatology anyone?). Lets show the God of love to the world around us by allowing ourselves to be transformed by our relationship with Him to show Him to the world around us.

David Goodchild



Spring Harvest 2012 – We are thinking about it already!!

It seems like we have only just returned but we are looking ahead already to Spring Harvest 2012. (Bookings have to be made by the 9th June!!)

Next year's theme - Church Actually: God's Brilliant Idea

Spring Harvest is unique. It's a holiday and it's a conference. It's a retreat and it's a challenge. Through vibrant worship and inspirational Bible teaching, it offers you a truly refreshing break. There is something for everyone, and the theme is taught from the under 5's to adults.

Next year at Spring Harvest we'll be looking at the Church. We'll explore what it is in theology, in history and in reality. We're focusing on 'Church Actually' because we love the Church and because we believe that it is God's hope for the world! We'll answer some of the big questions that get asked about the Church by exploring four of the pictures used in the New Testament to describe it – the People of God, the Community of the Spirit, the Body of Christ and the Bride of Christ. We'll look at the mission of the Church in our culture and our calling as God's people. Our vibrant, practical programme will get you thinking more, loving more and doing more. Spring Harvest 2012 is a celebration of the most life-changing, world-shaking community in history.

Take a week to encounter God, learn from His word and grow with your friends and family. There's something for everyone, and our prayer is you'll leave more inspired, full of hope and with a heart to change the world. Kicking off at 10am, you choose one of two in-depth Bible studies – a traditional exposition or a more creative, interactive one – letting you explore God's word in different styles. These will give you a firm foundation to understand the place of the Church in your life. Next up, you choose from several Zones to apply what you've learnt to everyday life. Whether you're a new Christian or a leader, an academic or prefer debate, there's a style to suit you. The Zones make taking the teaching home and applying it to your church life really easy.

Afternoons offer seminars exploring big questions alongside hands-on workshops and training streams. There are lots of organised sports and leisure activities too, plus all of Butlins facilities and our exhibition. You'll be amazed with the choice available to you!

We'll also be offering practical sessions for church leaders and those involved in leading worship. Keep an eye on our website for details as they unfold.

In the evenings, a choice of Celebrations let you encounter God with thousands of others for Spirit-filled worship and inspirational speakers. Many guests tell us these are the highlight of their week and a life-changing experience.

Wherever you are on your Christian journey, you can worship and learn in ways which suit you as you respond to God.

As the day ends, our After Hours entertainment gets going. There's music, drama, chat and comedy – with the odd debate and praise party thrown in.

We would like to see many people of all ages coming next year, and joining together as a church fellowship. The dates will probably be Saturday 31st March to Thursday 5th April 2012 (Week 1 at Minehead); this will be slightly dependant on availability at booking.

We usually book self-catering, but half-board is an option. Adult self-catering costs are approximately £190 per person, and half board is £300 per head. If you would like to come and require further information please contact **Zoe McQuillin on 01444 484364 or email her on zoe@mcquillin.com**. You can then confirm your attendance by signing up on the form in the concourse or contacting Zoe direct, by **Sunday 6th June**.



Bible by the Beach in Eastbourne

On the first Bank Holiday Weekend of May, a few of the church members attended the Bible by the Beach at Eastbourne — here are some thoughts on the weekend.....

It has been a privilege and a joy to be a part of Spring Harvest at Minehead, and Bible by the Beach at Eastbourne this year. Both are run along similar lines, but Eastbourne is closer and more convenient. It is a smaller venue and I chose one day out of four to attend, which provided me with excellent Bible teaching, lively worship and an evening concert led by Noel Tredinnick from All Souls.

Over the last few years circumstances have caused me to question my faith. This drove me to a spiritually dry place in which I was shutting God out of my life. The emptiness was almost unbearable. Then a Christian friend gave me a bookmark with this quotation from Psalm 37:4

“Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart”.

I knew that my desires were not necessarily God’s desires for me, but the phrase “Delight thyself in the Lord...” satisfied a deep longing, so I made the effort to study the Bible every day with the help of Bible notes, and soon I developed what I can only describe as a hunger for more and more of God’s word. My search for a deeper relationship with God has been helped by attending events like Bible by the Beach, where you can be in an environment which is totally focused on God, His Son Jesus, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Bishop Wallace Benn, the main organizer of BBTB says: “What has the Church got to offer the Western world.....nothing new or clever.....but we have Jesus, the one who can meet the deepest needs of the human heart, in whom alone there is fullness, in whom alone there is knowledge of God, in whom alone we can find restoration.”

With God’s grace I have found restoration, answer to prayer, and the peace which passes all understanding.

Lesley Sparks

It was the first time I attended this event on the Saturday at Eastbourne, having just returned from Spring Harvest I was interested to see the different approach from these two events.

The teaching was concise and very “to the point” which was good from my perspective. I think to do it justice I had to go for the other days, but was

unable this year to do so. I will go again, but I am concerned that I have too much head knowledge and not enough time to put that into action as a Christian. A lesson for me I think . Sue Waller

Excellent weekend! Great teaching, challenging seminars, awe inspiring worship, spiritually refreshing. It will happen again next year over the May Day bank holiday weekend – book it in your diary NOW.
Ron and Janet Goodenough.

Where do I begin? There was so much going on for the four days in Eastbourne at the Bible by the Beach.

We had times of Worship which delighted to the core as we joined hundreds singing the praises of our Risen Lord.

Then there were Bible readings on what it means to live our lives in the light of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Death is dead, we have been rescued, we have a sure hope because Christ died and was raised to life.

Greg Venables did the daily Bible Readings - He reminded us that everything starts with God , when we reach the end of our tether God is there, He can break through our locked doors to be with us, He gives us Peace ,purpose and Power, Jesus breathes new life , but we have to take in a breathe in order to receive.

There were choices of Seminars. From Bible studies on Jeremiah – which reminded us, that God is in control. Another seminar gave an opportunity to think about practical ways to help us pray more continuously steadfastly. To talks given by John Lennox, professor of Mathematics at Oxford University who regularly debates with the likes of Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchen, and who passionately believes that we need not be afraid and that we need to discuss Science and Christianity, because our faith is robust and can stand up to the debates.

There was a full programme for children as well. I could go on.... There was something for everyone....and a Book store too. Suffice it to say it was an opportunity to be immersed in the Word of God for a time, and to allow His words to fill my thoughts and my heart, to indeed satisfy my soul.

Val Cookney

Family News

CONGRATULATIONS to:

Vi and Alec Fruin, who will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on July 1st.

Chris Comber will be celebrating a 'special' birthday in mid-June, so we would love it if all our friends would come to the church lounge for coffee and cakes with Chris on Sat. June 18th 10a.m. to noon.

Come for 5 minutes or 2 hours, but no presents please Mary Comber.

THANK YOU from....

Evelyn Lea — to all my dear friends for their kind thoughts, prayers and flowers over the last few weeks. - God bless you all.

Jean and Mike Gardiner — We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in prayer over the past few weeks. As many of you know, our dream of the whole family being together for our Golden Wedding celebrations looked in doubt as our Thai daughter-in-law unaccountably had her visa application refused. Many of you prayed, and everything came wonderfully together almost at the last minute – only for Jean to slip and break her wrist on the eve of Adam and Tikky's arrival from Bangkok. But amidst it all we have been conscious of God's presence, and the prayers and love expressed in the many cards we received have contributed to a very joyful time of celebration. Our testimony is summed up in our wedding hymn: "Great is Thy Faithfulness".

Derrick and Chris Caswell — Thank you so much for all your prayers, support, cards and flowers that we have received over the last few weeks. We feel so uplifted by the prayers of our church family.

Praise God for His unceasing love!

CHANGE of ADDRESS — Hilary and Barbara Shepherd: as from Friday 13 May their new address is: 12 Linden Grove, Lindfield, West Sussex, RH16 2EE. New telephone 01444 482957, Mobile: 0771 800 7723.

SAD NEWS -

Arthur Corley died recently in Compton House. He has been associated with our Church for many years and was Treasurer of the Boys Brigade for a considerable time.

Thank you....

My family and I wish to thank Charles for the lovely service he conducted and to thank everybody for the lovely cards and kind thoughts for the sad loss of my dear wife Louise and also for the lovely flowers the church sent to me

Thank you

Harold Buckland

The Fellowship

The June meeting is on Wednesday 22 June at 2:30 pm. We have no speaker at the moment, and this will be announced later.

There will be the usual Bring and Buy Stall. A warm welcome is extended to all.



“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.....All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.”

1 Corinthians 12 verses 7,11.

LOCAL EVENTS

Ardingly Village Gardens Open Day



14th Ardingly Gardens Open Day

Saturday, 9th July 2011 — 11am to 5pm

Start at St Peter's Church Centre or at any of the open gardens (see orange "Open" notices or posters at Village Hall and St Peter's Church Centre).

Car Park at Church Centre.

- Refreshments on sale in Church Centre 11am to 4.30pm.
- Crafts on sale in Church Centre 11am to 4.30pm.
- Plants for sale.
- Musicians playing in St Peter's Church.
- Bring (or buy) a picnic lunch to eat in any of the gardens.

Entry Fee £4 per Adult, pays for all gardens. Accompanied Children free.

Proceeds for St Peter's Church Centre refurbishment

Organisers: Angela Box 01444 892318 and
Barbara Lucas 01444 892583.

[Photograph from St Peter's Church website, used with permission.]