

*Good*NEWS

Lindfield URC's Village Magazine

Summer 2011



- **Sports in the Bible**
- **Recommended holiday reading**
- **Young people's pages**



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

The church is open most mornings from 10.00am
to 12.30pm

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:

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Friday:

Anne Parker 01444 473519

Magazine Editor:

Val Cookney 01444 440029

The Fellowship:

Chris Comber 01444 482641

Stepping Stones:

Janet Goodenough 01444 417002

Transport (Car Czar):

Janet Drayton 01444 483621

Zest Co-ordinator:

Josh Thomas 07598 779553

Lighthouse (Junior church)

Co-ordinator:

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Cover photo courtesy: Matt Flew 2011



I am sitting at the table in a farm cottage in the heart of rural Monmouthshire. The sun is shining, so it really does feel as if it is the start of the long lazy summer holidays. We have tried to reflect the holiday mood in the magazine by offering some suggestions of good holiday reads. Thanks to Jonathan and Alex Hall and to Mike Gardiner for their contributions, which are wonderfully varied and all equally whet the appetite to read the books.

Thanks too to Martin Hall for his article on sport in the Bible. This article is coming from a different angle and makes for an interesting read. We have contributions from members of our youth group; there is information about meetings over the summer months.

Finally, the Editorial team hopes that you all have a really good summer, whether you are at home or away. Whatever you do or wherever you go it will be an opportunity to delight in the Lord.

The next **GoodNews** will be in September and the copy date for that issue will be 10th August. Val

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Editorial Team: Val Cookney (Editor),
Martin Hall, Stuart Marsh.

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

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goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk, 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

Youth Pastor: Josh Thomas
Mob: 07598 779553

Church Secretaries:

Sue Waller
58, Queens Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1EE
Tel: 01444 455047
Email: susanwaller@lineone.net

David Jones
13, William Allen Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2SA
Tel: 01444 483037
Email: dlandfc13wal@talktalk.net

Church Treasurer:

Michael J Davies Tel: 01444 482024
13, Savill Road, Lindfield, RH16 2NY
Email: michael.j.davies21@btinternet.com

(All may be contacted via the ‘pigeon holes’).

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

Dear Friends,



One of my favourite scripture verses is II. Corinthians 5: 7

“We live by faith, not by sight.”

When I know that God wants me to do something and I haven't the faintest idea of how I'm going to do it, that verse comes to my rescue. All the same, what does “living by faith” mean in practical terms? The best way I can answer that question is to tell you the story of someone who did. His name is George Muller.

He was born in Germany in 1805 and his parents wanted him to study to be a minister, but George didn't want to study. He wanted to have a good time. Even so, God's hand was on his life and when he was twenty years old, he met some fellow students whose radiant love for the Lord Jesus drew him to put his faith in Christ. From that moment on, he had only one ambition. He would live for God.

He came to England nine years later and worked as an evangelist in London, but his health was not good and he had to leave the city. He went to Teignmouth on the south west coast and he was persuaded to become the pastor of a church. However he didn't stay there long. God had something very special for him to do and soon afterwards, he left the pleasant surroundings of the sea-side and went to live in the great bustling city of Bristol. The work that God had in mind for George Muller was to look after street children, of whom there were thousands.

If you are going to look after children, you need accommodation in which to house them. You have to have money to feed and clothe them. How did George get the necessary funds? The answer is that he prayed. Every day, until he was seventy years old, he would pray that God would give him the food he needed that day to feed the street children and every day, it came. People gave him money because they knew he was doing God's work. Often they gave him food – enough to feed all the children in his care, but he never asked for help from anyone – except from God. Eventually, he was looking after two thousand orphaned and abandoned children and the only resource he had was his faith.

I find George Muller's life tremendously challenging, but at the same time very encouraging. George Muller's God is our God. He's calling us to live for Him in a world which has less and less room for Him. The constant message from media of all kinds is "religious faith is in decline". It's not true of course. There has never been a greater hunger for spiritual things than there is today. Our task is to connect that hunger with the truth of the Gospel. To do that we need two things – real love for people and genuine faith that God will give us both the opportunities and the resources that are necessary.

It's good to live by faith, not by sight. It's the way true disciples have always lived and it's our privilege to follow in their footsteps.

Your Pastor and friend,
Charles S. Martin

Prayer Focus

The July prayer meeting will be an open evening when we can bring those concerns that the Lord places



on our hearts to him. We will also remember the autumn programme and work of groups within the fellowship. We need to continue to seek the Lord for the way forward as a fellowship, Charles has recently reminded us of the need for perseverance, passion and purpose in our praying "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29,13. This is reiterated by Jesus in the parable of the friend at midnight in Luke 11.

The Fellowship

The last meeting of the current session is on Wednesday 27th July at 2.30p.m. This the occasion of our Garden Tea, held in the Church garden. We hope that the sun will shine for us, if not it will be as usual in the lounge. We look forward to seeing our old friends and, as always, we are pleased to welcome new friends.

We do not meet in August and the next session of meetings will begin with our A.G.M. on Wednesday 28th September, at 2.30p.m. We hope to have the new programmes out before this meeting.

July/August Mission Focus

revive+

This month we will be supporting the Outreach organised by the Cardiff Christian Union. Katie Cookney wrote about Revive last month and we do commend to you that article to give the background information of Revive. In addition for those of you who use the internet there is the website: www.revivewales.co.uk which will provide you with information and updates on the Mission.

This year's outreach will be based in the Welsh town of Abertillery, the same as last year. The dates of the mission are from Monday 20th June to Sunday 3rd July. The team will be based at the Blaenau Gwent Baptist Church whose Minister is Bob Buchannan.

There will be about 50 young people sleeping in church halls around Cardiff and commuting each day up to Abertillery. They will be doing a range of different activities, including: Mum's and toddler groups, youth clubs, school assemblies, coffee drop-ins, as well as participating in the Council-run Town Fun Day.

Please pray giving God thanks and praise for who He is and for His faithfulness in the past, and to also pray specifically for:

- The town of Abertillery, for the emotional, social and economic needs of the families there.
- God by His Spirit will be working in and transforming lives for His glory and praise.
- God by his Spirit will be leading and directing all that is planned and carried out.
- That the team members will each day first and foremost long to love the Lord more dearly, grow in their knowledge and understanding of His Word, and to seek to follow Him more closely as they serve the town.
- For the school assemblies.

- The participation in the Town's Festival Day.
- Mum's and Toddler groups.
- Opportunities to meet and chat with townsfolk.
- Safety in daily travel.
- Protection against spiritual attack.
- The planning and organisation of events and the team.

Thank you.

Holiday Sudoku

Yet again we have a holiday Sudoku for you! As we are thinking of sports and the fast approaching Olympics, rather than the numbers 1-9, all you have to do below is fill the empty cells so that each 3 x 3 box, each row and each column contains all of the eight different letters and the exclamation mark in OLYMPICS! This puzzle is marked with a Metro difficulty rating of "Easy" (i.e. you can complete it between East Croydon and Clapham Junction!). The answer is on page 21 (no peeping!). Good luck!

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Sports in the Bible

As I write, you will be learning the outcome of your Olympic ticket applications! If, like many, you received none you will either be very disappointed or secretly relieved that you do not have to part now with a small fortune for something a year away. However, that year will pass quickly and, with the opening ceremony on 27th July 2012, we thought it would be good to begin to get into the spirit of the Olympics by taking a look at sports in the Bible.

In June 2009 I visited the Sanctuary of Olympia where the first Olympic Games took place in 776 BC. The Olympic flame which burnt throughout the Games symbolized the death and rebirth of the Greek heroes. The modern Olympic torch relay, started at the Berlin Olympics in 1936, begins in the Sanctuary of Olympia at the Altar of Hera (wife of Zeus, King of the Gods of Greek mythology), where the flame is lit by the reflection of sunlight in a parabolic mirror. The only sports at the first games were sprints (“stade”) over 192 m and you can visit the main stadium to have your photo taken at the start line!



The main stadium at the Sanctuary of Olympia where sprints (“stade”) were held.

The restored stadium in the Sanctuary of Olympia was used in the 2004 Olympics in Greece for the shot put competitions. Just as today, stadia were the centre piece of the original games and were built throughout the ancient world. Herod had a stadium constructed in Jerusalem in 25 BC. Later, in 12 BC, he opened a magnificent stadium in Caesarea, where he held games according to the programme of the Greek Olympics. However, around the time of Jesus there was generally no worship of physical strength in Israel. Although the Sadducees enjoyed the spectacle of Greek style games, the Pharisees believed them to be wrong and Jewish people found it offensive that Greek athletes competed naked and that their games were closely linked to the Greek religion, being dedicated to the Greek Gods.

So, perhaps it is not surprising that the Bible does not contain an abundance of references to sports....but what can we find? Proverbs 20:29 says, “The glory of young men is their strength”. Strength is a characteristic of one sport that was popular in Biblical times, wrestling. Paul used the image of wrestling (or “struggles” depending on your translation), to illustrate the battle that Christians face against “the devil’s schemes” (Ephesians 6:12). It was in an all-night wrestling bout with God (called in the scriptures a “man”), that Jacob learnt that blessing must come from God (Genesis 32: 24-32). The next morning God renamed Jacob as Israel, thereby also naming a nation.

Other popular Biblical sports were competitions for distance and accuracy with bows and arrows or slings. Slings were cheap, ideal for poor shepherds, made by mounting a pouch in the middle of a cord of flax, hemp or wool. Stones placed in the pouch could be shot from the sling after whirling the cord around the user’s head and so the sling was primarily a valuable tool for hunting and for protection of the flock from wild animals. If he had ever entered a competition, I am sure a clear favourite for champion would be David, who showed formidable accuracy and strength in felling Goliath (1 Samuel 17). David’s use of the sling in combat was not unique, they were a common weapon (Judges 20:16) that could hurl a stone over 400 m. In addition to rounded pebbles from a stream, as used by David, ancient Greeks made ammunition from clay or lead. The lead shots, shaped like a small rugby ball, often had symbols (e.g. lightning bolts) or words moulded into them, which could be amusing or sarcastic, e.g. “ouch”, “take that” and “catch”!

(Continued overpage)

The main Biblical references to sport are in the New Testament, where Paul draws parallels between the life of an athlete and that of a Christian. The Corinthians held the Isthmian Games every couple of years, second only to the Olympic Games. So, in writing to them Paul used athletic imagery, running and boxing, with which they would all be familiar. The strict training regimes practised by sportsmen served as an example of the degree of devotion and perseverance that Christians should show (1 Corinthians 9:25). Paul called on Christians to run the race (their life) in such a way as to win the prize that God offered, a crown that would last forever (eternal life in heaven with Christ), in contrast to the worldly crown won by Olympians, a perishable wreath of olive leaves, a 'kotinos' (1 Corinthians 9: 25; Philippians 3: 14). Hebrews 12:1-3 suggests an athletic contest in one of the great amphitheatres of the time, with Christians racing under the gaze of a great crowd of special spectators, men and women of faith, the inspiring examples of the Old Testament (Hebrews 11). Paul wrote that, as Christians, we should run with our eyes fixed on Jesus, remembering his suffering so that we do not grow weary or lose heart when the going gets tough.

Although researching "sports in the Bible" is fascinating, just as important today is the "Bible in sports". There are many fine examples of Christians in sport and the Olympics provides an opportunity for them to show the world what Christ means to them. The London Olympics are also a once in a lifetime opportunity for Churches in the UK to reach out to their community. "More Than Gold" is the charity representing the Churches in the UK for the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics and plans to help Churches make the most of them – by hosting families of athletes, outreach, ministry, hospitality centres and much more (<http://www.morethangold.org.uk/>). The Christians in Sport website says, "We want to see a great celebration of sport because, as Christians, we believe that sport and our ability to participate and enjoy it is part of God's creation." The Olympic motto is, "Citius, Altius, Fortius," which means "Swifter, Higher, Stronger." This could also be a challenging motto for how we should live our Christian life and, in the analogies of Paul, our pursuit of an eternal life with Jesus. Enjoy your own Olympics!!

Martin Hall

HIDDEN CHURCHES

Like many of you, when Stuart and I are on holiday we love looking around old country churches, especially those that are off the beaten track and yet are still regularly used and lovingly cared for. We thought we would share a couple of these with you that you may like to visit.

The first is St Winnow church which is in a tiny hamlet near Lerryn in Cornwall and literally on the banks of the River Fowey. We were lucky enough to stay next to this beautiful little church once and whenever I went inside, I was struck by the complete sense of peace and tranquillity. People have worshipped on this spot since the 7th century although some of the present church was built in the 12th. and 15th centuries. There are wonderful carved bench ends which include some unusual figures including a man in a Cornish kilt drinking cider! The worn down step at the entrance to the church bears witness to the many thousands of feet that have trodden that way.

Another of our favourites is Culbone church in the Minehead area. This tiny building is best approached by the SW coast path from Porlock Weir which winds along through wonderful woods with views down to the rocky shoreline. Culbone is the smallest complete Parish church in England where regular worship still takes place. It is 35 feet in length, the chancel 12 feet wide with the nave being 12ft 4ins and the walls two feet thick! Parts of the building are Saxon with a Norman font, 15th century pews, a lepers' squint and the oldest bell in W. Somerset. It is well worth a trek through the woods on a fine day.

Carol Marsh.

In Touch.

In July (26th) we welcome to our meeting David Goodenough – Princess Royal Hospital Chaplain, it would be great to have a good number to listen to David as I believe the Chaplaincy work has many interesting points to raise in the current situation with regards to sharing our faith.

In August (weather permitting) we will meet at 6.30pm in the Manse garden for fellowship ---- and tea! Do please feel free to join with us for either of these dates. We look forward to welcoming you. Just a reminder that on September 3rd we will meet at the Tiger for our Ladies Quiet Day so, please keep that date in mind.

Sue Waller

July Church Diary



2nd 8.45 — Prayer Meeting
Saturday 9.30am at LURC

3rd 9.30am The Pastor -
Sunday Communion
11.15am The Pastor
6.30pm The Pastor

9th 8.45 — Prayer Meeting
Saturday 9.30am at LURC

10th 9.30am The Pastor
Sunday 11.15am The Pastor -
Communion
6.30pm The Pastor -
Communion

16th 8.45 — Prayer Meeting
Saturday 9.30am at LURC

17th 9.30am Tim Griffiths
Sunday 11.15am Tim Griffiths
6.30pm TBC

20th 7.30pm Elders Meeting
Wednesday

21st 8.00pm Prayer Meeting
Thursday

23rd 8.45 — Prayer Meeting
Saturday 9.30am at LURC

24th 9.30am Mike Gardiner
Sunday 11.15am Mike Gardiner -
Communion
6.30pm David Jones

26th 7.45pm In Touch - David
Tuesday Goodenough,
Hospital Chaplain

27th 2.30pm The Fellowship
Wednesday

30th 8.45 — Prayer Meeting
Saturday 9.30am at Evangelical Free

31st 10.30am Nick McQuaker
Sunday SGP
6.30pm David Walters

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 July are as follows:-

July 3rd	Mike Gardiner
July 10th	Jenny Martin
July 17th	No Service
July 24th	Matthew Wren
July 31st	Philip Wren

August Church Diary



NOTE CHANGE IN SERVICE TIMES THIS MONTH

6th 8.45 — Prayer Meeting
Saturday 9.30am at Evangelical Free

7th **10.30am** The Pastor - Communion
Sunday 6.30pm The Pastor

13th 8.45 — Prayer Meeting
Saturday 9.30am at Evangelical Free

14th **10.30am** The Pastor
Sunday 6.30pm The Pastor - Communion

20th 8.45 — Prayer Meeting
Saturday 9.30am at Evangelical Free

21st **10.30am** The Pastor
Sunday 6.30pm The Pastor - Healing

23rd 6.30pm In Touch - Manse Garden
Tuesday

24th 7.30pm Elders Meeting
Wednesday

27th 8.45 — Prayer Meeting
Saturday 9.30am at Evangelical Free

28th **10.30am** The Pastor - Communion
Sunday 6.30pm The Pastor

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

9.30am and 11.15am Services will recommence in September.



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 August are as follows:-

August 7th	TBA
August 14th	Philip Wren
August 21st	Charles Martin - Communion
August 28th	TBA

FLOWER ROTA



Arranging

Distributing

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

August

7th Anne Parker	Jo Bloxham
14th Jean Baxter	Iris Bingham
21st Barbara Shepherd	Heather Swann
28th Audrey Saunders	Janet Sanderson

September

4th Jean Durrant	Sue Tester
11th Wedding	Barbara Shepherd
18th Winifred Scopes	Jo Bloxham
25th Harvest Festival	Harvest Distribution

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.

WHY NOT TAKE A HISTORY BOOK ON HOLIDAY?

“A Little History of the World” by Ernst Gombrich is no ordinary history book. It was written in 1935 by a young Austrian, Ernst Gombrich, later to become famous as an eminent art historian. He was challenged to write a history book that would grip the imagination of children, and in only six weeks he succeeded in writing a book that is eminently accessible to enquiring minds of all ages. In just 283 very readable pages, the book tells the story of our world, from the dinosaurs to the nineteen-thirties, with a poignant post-war chapter added later by the then elderly author. Surprisingly, it’s only been available in English since 2008.

The book has few dates and no charts and chronological tables. There are some maps, but these are simple and helpful. But what makes this book so attractive is not just its brevity and simplicity, but the delightful warm and gentle humanity that pervades every page, and the author’s ability to make history’s mixture of discovery, invention, religion, battles and political intrigue so interesting. How? By lifting them out of the dry pages of history and showing that all these happenings involved flesh-and-blood people like you and me. You may not have known that Julius Caesar was “a thin bald-headed man, who liked to wear a laurel wreath made of gold on his head, a man whose weak and sickly body hid a shining intellect and a will of iron.” Nor what the Gordian Knot was, or who cut it. Or who Demosthenes was, and why his speeches were called “philippics.”

No, it’s not a specifically Christian book. But if we think that God is only involved in what happens in temples and churches, we should take another look at the Bible (Psalm 24v1 for a start). This is a book that helps us to understand just a little of the fascinating story, with all its joys and heartbreaks, of this wonderful race created in God’s image. I’ve read it through twice and enjoyed it enormously – it’s beautifully written, and it’s a great read.

Mike Gardiner

(“A Little History of the World” by E F Gombrich, paperback, Yale University Press 2008)

(Nearly) New Faces

After 39 years in the locality, how did we come to Lindfield URC? It's a long story but hopefully not too long!

We met some 50 years ago working for the same company and discovered, to our mutual delight, that we were both Christians and Congregationalists. We settled in the Southend area after getting married and were members of Thundersley Congregational Church. In 1971 shortly after the birth of Stephanie, our second child, Brian's job was moved from Southend to Crawley and after trials and tribulations we moved to Sharpthorne in February 1972.

With two small children, we found that church was difficult to attend meaning a journey into neighbouring towns or villages and we 'fell by the wayside' for two or three years. Then we supported the Family Services at the Evangelical Sunday Schools based in the village that our children attended and later we went to Turners Hill Free Church for a few years which was connected to one of the Sunday schools.

The West Hoathly Chapel became reinvigorated and we joined it and worshipped there until it closed due to falling membership (we were the last two regulars!).

We then happily became members of The Haven Baptist Church in Crawley Down for a number of years but that too closed in 2009 due to the ageing congregation being unable to carry out all the furniture moving necessary in using a public hall. So where do we go?

Fortunately, in the absence of a minister, Trevor Dickerson from Evangelism UK, who is known to many of you, was acting as Moderator at Crawley Down and he said that we should try Lindfield URC as he thought that we would find it suited us. He was right! We have experienced a warm welcome here from all we have met at services and other functions. We transferred our memberships in June last year.

You will have seen us at the 11/11.15am services as we prefer that format and certainly have been stimulated by many of them. We have always taken an active role in churches we have belonged to and have started to contribute to the Sunday morning services and Gill also helps in the kitchen from time to time. Living some way away from the village, we don't find it easy to attend all church activities but we hope to continue to become more involved in church life in the future.

God Bless

Gill and Brian Couchy



Brian and Gill Couchy



Youth Group at BIG Church Day Out (see Page 17)

Hello all. In our youth pages this month we look forward to some of the opportunities for the summer ahead, and we take a look back at the Big Church Day out!

Enjoy, Josh.

The summer!

Wow so summer is here again! There are many opportunities to get involved with for young people this summer, here is just a flavour of some of the things you could be getting involved with!

Greenbelt Festival – This isn't confirmed yet but if there is enough interest in going along to this Christian arts festival on August bank holiday, I will start planning. The price for the weekend will be £120 for adults or £80 for anyone under the age of 18. This will cover food, tickets and camping costs. Acts for the weekend include: Billy Bragg, Idlewild, Get cape wear cape fly and a talk from American Preacher Rob Bell. The event is well worth the money and will take place on the last weekend in August at Cheltenham race course. For more info please contact Josh (jthomas@lindfieldurc.org.uk)

A week of fun activities – this is in early stages of planning at the moment but will aim to cater for all Children and young people in the church and will take place on the 1st – 5th August. We will be doing things such as learning how to produce a podcast that can be listened to throughout the world, a day of sports and games and a surprise trip! More information will be available soon so watch this space.

Church Youth camp – This will take place on the 3rd & 4th September for 11-17 year olds. It will cost £25 if booked before the Summer holidays and £30 afterwards, spaces are limited so early booking is essential! We will have the opportunity to try things such as abseiling and kayaking. For more details please speak to Geoffrey Cocksedge or Hannah Durrant.

I hope and pray that you will have a fantastic, safe and well-needed break and I look forward to seeing some of you at some of these activities!

God Bless, Josh.

The BIG Church Day Out

Wow! So where do I begin? The BIG Church day out was amazing, with Alex Harfield, Alex Jeffs, Tom McQuillin, Gina Balicki, Alice Thomas, Hannah Durrant, Josh Thomas, Simon Merrett and myself. (See picture on Page 15).

When we arrived at Wiston House, where The BIG Church Day Out was held, we immediately split up, Josh, Hannah and Simon stayed and went somewhere, while me, Tom, Alex, Alex, Gina and Alice went off. Alex J and Gina went on the Ferris Wheel, which they enjoyed.

Then we went off and sat by the drink stand and out of, well somewhere! Hannah, Josh and Simon appeared. It was so cold that the boys went off for a race, Tom won, with no surprise. Gina and Alice however went off for a skip.

After a while Chris Tomlin came on to the stage. He sang some great songs including *Our God Is Greater*, *From The Highest Of Heights*, and many more. I went absolutely bonkers although unfortunately I was the one with the camera so I have no picture of that!

While Chris Tomlin was on we made a move closer to the stage just in time for a rapper whose name was Toby Mac. He was so good!

After that Israel Houghton performed for us, He was great, again I went bonkers and took mug shots of everyone although it would be mean for me to show you them. I didn't really know his songs but he still was great.

After that there was a break and during that break we got some Hot Chocolate/Coffee.

Then the best act of the night, MATT REDMAN!!!! He sang *Blessed be your name*, *Our God is Greater*, *Dancing generation* and many more!!! I love Dancing generation, we all went nuts!!! (I went nuts a lot).

That night approximately 100 people became Christians, It was amazing.

Johanna Harfield

ESV Study Bible - Review

Understanding and unlocking the Bible can be difficult to say the least, but I have recently purchased a copy of the ESV Study Bible, published by Crossway Bibles, to help me in the mission! Containing a comprehensive array of study aids, the publishers aim is to give the reader a deeper understanding of scripture. There is a huge variety of information within this Bible including an in-depth introduction to each book, maps, illustrations, timelines, tables and thousands of study notes along the bottom of the pages. One of my favourite features is the articles at the back which cover topics such as Biblical doctrine and ethics, the Bible and other world religions and the canon of scripture. For those who are tech-minded, each copy comes with free access to an online version of the Bible which allows you to see even more articles and make your own notes alongside the text. Overall, this Bible serves to be an excellent aid for anyone who is interested in studying scripture and making sense of some rather tricky topics.

Alex Hall

Cycling Home From Siberia

If you found yourself in Magadan, a port town on the Sea of Okhotsk in far Eastern Siberia, with the aim of arriving back in England in one piece, you would probably not opt for a bicycle as your mode of transport. Nor would you think Australia would feature in the route. You would consider it wise to give Afganistan a miss, too. Rob Lilwall, a geography teacher from London, was after an adventure, though, and “Cycling Home From Siberia” is his gripping, humorous and emotional account of this epic journey.

“Learning not to sweat at -40 degrees”, “The naked cyclist”, “The priest who dodged bullets” and “Trespassers on the roof of the world” are names of chapters which give just a taste of the wealth of experiences Lilwall recounts after three-and-a-half years and 30,000 miles of cycling. Lilwall’s Christian faith gives this story an extra dimension as relationships with friends, family and God are tested through the good and the very tough times. I would absolutely recommend this truly inspirational book. Be careful though, Lilwall’s thirst for adventure is contagious... a week or two sitting by the swimming pool may not cut it anymore this summer holiday.

Jonathan Hall

Creation or Evolution: Do We Have to Choose?

Denis Alexander

To say that evolution has become a source of controversy in recent decades may be something of an understatement. To quote Oscar Wilde - "In all matters of opinion, our adversaries are insane." Anyone exploring the topic of our origin will quickly get bogged down in a world of polarised opinion where each party claims to hold the truth, often using arguments that are simply inaccessible to the majority. The topic is made unnecessarily confusing by people who hijack evolution to fit their own agendas, as is the case with atheists such as Richard Dawkins.

In this book, Denis Alexander expertly discusses both the scientific and scriptural aspects of this divisive issue, taking a route through multiple topics, from the most up-to-date genetic evidence to how evolution may fit with the scriptural perspective on creation, Adam and Eve and the Fall. This book does not claim to give an ultimate truth, instead guiding the reader through what is a very complex topic. Over its course, the author is seeking to suggest, in answer to the book's subtitle, that contrary to what we might think we don't have to choose between creation and evolution. As with all complex topics there are complex ideas involved, but the author's writing style makes the issues readily understandable for whoever is reading.

The current Bishop of Oxford (Rt Revd John Pritchard) said of the book, it is "very timely, thoughtful, thorough and full of integrity. It speaks the languages of both science and faith in a remarkably clear and accessible way."

This is certainly a topic I have struggled with, as there are so many aspects it can be hard to crystallise an opinion. Being both scientist and Christian, Denis Alexander has a wealth of knowledge and wisdom to impart. I would highly recommend this book for anyone who is interested in the topic, and wants to explore why God's immanence in the creation and sustenance of our amazing universe sits happily alongside current scientific thinking.

Alex Hall

There is an excellent website about Rob Lilwall's journey (opposite) from which you can order the book and a DVD of the adventure:-

<http://www.robililwall.com/cyclinghomefromsiberia/>

Family News

THANK YOU:

Barbara and Hilary Shepherd want to say a sincere 'thank you' to all those who sent so many cards, flowers and emails when we moved to Linden Grove on the 13th May.

No! We have not yet sorted (or found) everything, but we are getting there. So thank you again.

Brian Tester - Following my operation for 'teething troubles', I am most grateful to have received many kindnesses of support with cards, flowers and visits. Sue and I have been greatly encouraged and sustained by the prayer life of the Church and much appreciate the support of our House Group who met to pray for my operation and healing.

We are blessed to belong to such a loving and caring Fellowship.

GOLDEN WEDDING

We send our love and congratulations to Vi and Alex Fruin as they celebrate 50 years of marriage on July 1st.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Walter Plimmer is living away (for the time being, at least) at The Brow in Burgess Hill.

Hilary Greatwood has moved into a Retirement Home at the following address:-

Howard Solomon Gardens
91 Hybanthus Road
Ferndale
W A 6148
Australia

SAD NEWS - Alice Piercy died in Compton House on June 12th. We send our love and sincere sympathy to Heather and John Barling and the Family. Alice was a very lovely Christian, a real inspiration to all who knew her. Since moving to Lindfield eight years ago she has been a much loved and valued member of our Church Family, and we shall miss her greatly.

NOTE:

Our Editor will be away at the time of the next Copy Date (10 August). Any material for September *GoodNews* **must** be left in the "G" pigeonhole, or sent to: goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk only. Thank you.

German Precis

As part of my degree I have been on my year abroad in Germany for the last nine months. I was a teaching assistant in a secondary school in the Saarland, in the south west. This involved working four days a week in classes of various ages playing English games and teaching them about the English culture and customs.

I was placed in a small town in a “nature park”, so it was a rural, picturesque place to live which was home to just a few shops and my school. In terms of language learning it was a good place to be, due to being the only English person in my village. This enabled me to practise and improve my spoken German at every given opportunity. I was fortunate enough to be able to carry on with badminton, joining a very welcoming local club.

Overall I found Germany to be a fantastic country to live in and the people I met were always friendly and eager to help me feel welcome in their country.

Helen Merrett

OLYMPICS SUDOKU Solution

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What else is happening in the village?

Saturday 9 July 2 to 5pm. Horticultural Summer Show in the King Edward Hall.

Tiger Arts Light Lunches and Concerts from 12.15 to 2pm in the Tiger and then All Saints Church:

Wednesday 13 July: Classical Folk Group.

Wednesday 10 August: Trio Elan.

Compton House:

We currently have vacancies for either permanent care or respite care. All enquires to: Registered Manager; Jennie Herring -
Tel No.: 01444 482662.

Some places to visit during the Summer:

Wakehurst Place; Borde Hill Gardens; Bluebell Railway; Bentley Wildfowl and Motor Museum; Standen House and Sheffield Park (NT) ...and many more.
