

GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

December 2012

Alpha Course

January 2013, New Year - New Life

Christmas Carols

The story and meaning of festive favourites



Bible verse of the month

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

James 1:17



If you would like to share a special verse of scripture email :

goodnews@lindfielddurc.org.uk



Editorial

This month we have some very exciting 'Good News' to tell everyone. Our wonderful go ahead Youth Pastor, Josh Thomas, has news that our Lindfield United Reformed Church has been given a very special award from the Synod. It is that

'Lindfield United Reformed Church in Lindfield Welcomes Children and Young People with open arms.'

This award is not given to very many Churches, we are so proud that Josh has managed to get recognition of the work done, with our Children and Young People here at Lindfield United Reformed Church. Do read more about this in Josh's Youth Pages. The 'Boys Brigade' has been very busy too; so do read what they have been doing lately. We have a very mixed bag of articles for you to read. Christmas is just around the corner; Charles reminds us what the festivities should really mean. David Goodchild tells us about favourite Christmas Carols.

This month you can find out how to find a special sort of 'Heaven' that is not too far away. I hope all that is written in our 'Good News' will encourage you to be part of our Church Family. I trust that we will all feel cherished, with the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the Season of Peace and Goodwill be with you all, together with the many blessings that Jesus gives to us all.

Anne

Copy Date for the Next Edition :
December 9th 2012

EDITOR

Anne Elvin
01444 456840

EDITORIAL TEAM

Martin Hall, Stuart Marsh

EDITORIAL OVERSIGHT

Val Cookney

PROOF-READING

Carol and Stuart Marsh

SETTING/DESIGN

Dan McQuillin

PRINTING

David Walters

Audio Edition

Richard Walters

*Contributions should be
emailed to
goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk
or hard copy placed in the
"GoodNEWS" pigeon hole at the
rear of the church*

*Please include your contact
details in case of query*

*Produced for
Lindfield United Reformed
Church,
50 High Street, Lindfield, West
Sussex, RH16 2HL
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Dear friends

What's your idea of a perfect Christmas? The advertisements that bombard us from every direction provide plenty of suggestions. There's all that gorgeous food and wine you can buy from any number of supermarkets, not to mention the latest toys for the children, the alluring deodorants for the man in your life and the expensive lingerie for the little lady! You can indulge yourself endlessly and shower your loved ones with presents to die for, if you can afford it, but will any of this guarantee perfection? I don't think so.

Of course everyone knows that there is no such thing as a perfect Christmas. Something's bound to go wrong. One of the children will be sick, or someone will upset your mother-in-law and she'll insist on being taken home to Yorkshire on Boxing Day. The dog will eat the turkey or your Dad will have one too many glasses of brandy after lunch and to your intense embarrassment, will insist on telling the same questionable jokes that he's told every Christmas since you can remember.

You and your wife will take refuge in the kitchen, because that's the only place no one else wants to go (in order to avoid doing the washing up) and promise each other that next year you will have Christmas on your own, which is exactly what you said last year and the year before! Come on – be honest. You know I'm right!

But inspite of it all, we love Christmas don't we? Inspite of the agony of the shopping, the profligacy of the expense, the demands of the children and the unpredictability of the relatives, we all look forward to it and every year we feel the same excitement and anticipation we did when we were children. It's daft isn't it? Surely we should have learnt by now.

No. It's not daft. It's inevitable. It's the only way we can react, because love is at the centre. At its heart, is the amazing, incredible, earth-shattering gift of God's Son – His love Gift to a world He can't stop loving.

If you want a Christmas which is as near prefect as anything can be in this world, fill it with love – and that doesn't mean expensive presents or gourmet food. It means showing people that you care about them, inspite of their failings (and yours). The most precious gift anyone can receive is to know someone cares about them. If only more people understood that's how God feels about us! After two thousand years of celebrating the Gift He gave, you would think by now we would have got the message –

"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die, but have eternal life."

Have a great time and enjoy yourselves!

Charles S Martin

Thank You

Isaiah 41:10 says

“So do not be afraid, for I am with you: do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”

This is one of the many texts the Lord blessed me with, during the last 9 months, since being diagnosed with breast cancer, and I want to use this opportunity to publicly thank all those from Lindfield who have expressed their concern and prayed for me.

I know it has been said so many times, but it is not until you are on the receiving end of Christian love do you really appreciate how to do it and how much it means.

I have been blessed in many ways: timely text messages, e-mails, cards, flowers, meals and gifts and most importantly prayer. I could give numerous examples of how I have experienced God going before me and upholding me through the operation and subsequent treatment and knowing someone was praying made an incredible difference.

Now the treatment has finished I am focusing on the words of Proverbs 3:5 “Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him...” and look forward to being used for His glory, as you have been, through your support of Norman and me.

Thank you so much

Sarah Smith

(wife of our former minister Norman Smith)

Thank You

I would like to say thank you to all who have sent cards, flowers and given me so much help at my husband John's funeral on the 31st October.

Your prayers are helping both my family and me through a very difficult time.

God bless you all.

Pat Davies

Compton House Autumn Fair

Many thanks to everyone who braved the drizzly weather to come to the fair on Saturday 10th. November. We made a profit of £660, slightly down on last year but a good effort nonetheless.

This money will go towards hiring a mini-bus several times a year for outings, afternoon entertainers, and other extras that improve the lives of the residents.

Thank you.

Stuart Marsh

(Trustee)

Alpha Course

Starting January 7th 2013

Alpha was devised at Holy Trinity, Brompton in London in 1977 originally by Charles Marnham and then developed by Nicky Gumbel when he joined the staff in 1986. It is now active in 169 countries, has been translated into 112 languages and 19 million people have attended. There are 66,000 courses running in churches, bars, coffee shops and homes.

Typically Alpha includes food, a short talk about the Christian faith and an opportunity to share thoughts on the big questions of life.

The sessions cover topics such as "Who Is Jesus?", "Why Did Jesus Die?" and "Why and How Should I Pray?" There is no pressure, no follow up and no charge.

Who is Alpha for?

Alpha is for people who do not believe in God, who have given up going to church, who attend church but want to deepen their knowledge and those who are just curious.



Lindfield URC's Previous Alpha Courses

During 2010/11 the church ran three Alpha courses - an evening one, Youth Alpha and Senior Alpha.

Sally Ross-Clark who attended comments:

"The Alpha course (September 2010) was run in a comfortable, welcoming, relaxed, friendly and non-pressurising atmosphere. It gave me a personal opportunity to take much needed 'time-out' to focus, renew, refresh and satisfy my spiritual thirst. I would highly recommend the course to anyone who wishes to explore their spirituality."

Alec Fruin also attended, along with his Wife, Vi and provides this insight:

"The Alpha course can, and did bring, together Christians, Non-Christians and those who are not quite sure. Nobody need be fearful of attending. Spread over a number of weeks each meeting consisted of a social gathering over a meal, a DVD presentation by the main speaker, Nicky Gumbel, and concluded with group discussions. Nicky Gumbel was an excellent presenter and his presentations were very interesting and thought provoking.

The group discussions were an ideal opportunity to share ideas and problems. Alpha is a very useful forum for furthering understanding and exploring your Christian development although it is but one step in the process. I enjoyed Alpha and would recommend the course."

Alpha 2013

We are holding another Alpha launching on Monday, 7 January, 6.30pm at the Manse "Ryecroft". This first evening will be an opportunity for people to find out what is involved. There will be a supper and a short introduction to the Alpha course. People can come along to the evening without feeling they have to commit to attending further sessions.

The course itself will then follow each Monday night and each session will start with supper. After the meal guests will watch an Alpha session on DVD before breaking into groups for discussion over coffee.

Invitations are available from Charles or me and there are some at the stands where the bibles and notice sheets are. Most people who attend an Alpha have responded to a personal invitation so please ask the Lord to prompt you about who you could invite. You may feel that you would like to come along yourself and if you have not completed a course recently, you would be very welcome.

Please Pray for the 2013 Alpha course - for the guests - that lives will be transformed by the power of God's love and for the leadership and catering teams - that we will be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all the arrangements and during the course itself. Thank you so much!

If you have any questions about Alpha please ask me on 01444 458050 or Rev Charles Martin on 01444 482098.

Lydia Goodchild

Christmas Carols

As I write this it is early November and the weather has suddenly decided that we are definitely moving out of Autumn. The shops are starting to advertise their wares to us with the sound of sleigh bells in the background and images of snow and warm jumpers. With the smoke of bonfire night still in the air, all too soon Christmas is coming. As you read this the Christmas season will, I am sure, be well underway. With Christmas comes many traditions and peculiarities that we don't encounter at any other time of the year. As part of the worship team in our church there is always one big thing that pops up for me towards the end of November - carols. They are such an intrinsic part of our church worship in this season that we don't often stop to ask ourselves where did they come from, what do they mean to us and are they still relevant and appropriate to our worship today?

I also wonder sometimes what God thinks of our carols (or for that matter, all of our worship). For him, are they joyful expressions of our hearts that he delights in, or does He feel like we do when we hear the opening chords of Slade's 'Merry Christmas Everybody' comes on the radio yet again? Perhaps it's all about how our hearts are when we worship.

The word 'carol' is believed to be derived from either the ancient Greek 'choros' meaning 'dancing in a circle' or the middle

ages French word 'carole' meaning 'a song to accompany dancing'. So really we should dance our carols as well as sing them.

Many of our carols have interesting stories behind them. Silent night was written by an Austrian priest when his church organ had broken one winter and all he had to lead worship with was a guitar (hence this song being one of my particular favourites - most carols are horrible to play on guitar!).

I also find the story of the twelve days of Christmas (not strictly a carol I know) to be quite interesting.

What seems to be a random collection of Christmas presents to outdo the unwelcomeness of the well-meaning knitted jumper, actually turns out to be imagery from the Bible.



The 12 Days of Christmas refer to the twelve day period that starts with Christmas day and ends on Epiphany (6th January). The song begins, On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me... The 'true love' was meant to represent God, the true love of the world. The 'me' in the carol is the Christian man or woman who receives these presents.

The meanings given to the 12 Days are:

1 The 'partridge in a pear tree' is Jesus who died on the cross. In ancient times a partridge was often used as a mythological symbol of a divine, sacred king.

2 'two turtle doves' are the Old and New Testaments of the Bible - another gift from God. Doves also symbolise peace.

3 The 'three French hens' are faith, hope and love - the three gifts of the Holy Spirit. (See 1 Corinthians 13). The French hens can also represent God the Father, His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

4 The 'four calling birds' are the four Gospels in the New Testament of the Bible.

5 The 'five golden rings' are the first five books of the Bible also called the Pentateuch, the Books of Moses or the Torah.

6 The 'six geese a-laying' are the six days of creation (see Genesis 1).

7 The 'seven swans a swimming' are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. (See 1 Corinthians 12:8-11, Romans 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4:10-11)

8 The 'eight maids a milking' are the eight beatitudes, Jesus' teachings on happiness. (See Matthew 5:3-10)

9 The 'nine ladies dancing' are nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. (See Galatians 5:22)

10 The 'ten lords a-leaping' are the Ten Commandments in the Bible. (See Exodus 20)

11 The 'eleven pipers piping' are the eleven faithful disciples of Jesus.

12 The 'twelve drummers drumming' were the twelve points of the Apostles' Creed or the twelve tribes of Israel.

(Thank you to www.whychristmas.com for the help in finding this out)

Carols are a wonderful part of Christmas and we must keep singing them (if only to stop the likes of Slade and the X-factor completely taking over!) So when we sing our Carols, let's give thanks for the Christmas story, for the Light of God entering our dark world so that we may be reunited with Him.

Have a very Merry Christmas as you sing with your hearts AND your voices!

David Goodchild

Wider World

Christmas Customs

Russia

Pozdrevlyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdestva is Novim Godom!

Thirteen days after our western Christmas, on January 7th, the Russian Orthodox Church celebrates its Christmas, in accordance with the Julian calendar. It's a day of both solemn and joyous celebration. After the 1917 Revolution, Christmas was banned throughout Russia, and it wasn't until 1992 that the holiday was openly observed once more.

Christmas Eve starts with a fast until the first evening star appears and then the festivities begin with a meal called 'The Holy Supper'. It is meatless and very symbolic as are the other items on the table. A white cloth to represent Christ's swaddling clothes, hay to symbolise the poverty of the manger, a tall white candle symbolic of Christ as the Light of the World and a large round loaf of Lenten bread is placed next to the candle. For Christ is the Bread of Life.

Other traditional food is eaten and then the Christmas presents are opened. After that the family all go to a midnight Mass which lasts several hours into the next morning.

Sweden

God Jul och Ett Gott Nytt Ar!

Christmas celebrations in Sweden are spread over many days and start with Lucia Day on December 13th. A young girl, often the eldest daughter in a family is chosen as Lucia or Queen of Light. She is dressed all in white and wears a crown of candles on her head. She and her attendants go round the neighbourhood delivering gifts of ginger biscuits, coffee and often, mulled wine and singing traditional carols.

On Christmas Eve "Tomte" the Christmas Elf comes with gifts for the children. By tradition, Swedish people attend church in the early hours of Christmas Morning occasionally, as in olden days, travelling by sledge.

Ethiopia

As in Russia, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church celebrates Christmas on January 7th and the time is known as "Ganna". Most Ethiopians wear a long white traditional garment with brightly coloured stripes across the ends, when they attend the Christmas service. Twelve days after Ganna, the Ethiopians begin a three day celebration called "Timkat" which commemorates the baptism of Christ.

Spain

Feliz Navidad!

In Spain at midnight on Christmas Eve families attend Mass known as "La Misa Del Gallo" (the Mass of the Rooster) and the Christmas meal is eaten after the service. It is a great feast, often of turkey with truffles and the rejoicing continues well into the early hours. Christmas Day is spent in church.

It is not Santa who brings the presents but the Three Wise Men. On the Eve of Epiphany on January 5th children place their shoes on the doorstep and, in the secret of the night, the Wise Men pass leaving gifts.

The next day, Epiphany, is celebrated with parades in various cities where cakes and sweets are handed out to the children.

**Happy
Christmas!**



Traditional Carol Concert

Wednesday 19th December at 7-30pm

It is that time again when we get the carols books out and contemplate the above.



The Copthorne Silver Band will be joining with us to provide a selection of Christmas music and will be supported by our own singers together with guest artists.

Tea and mince pies will be provided plus the opportunity to sing many carols.

There is no charge for admission, however there will be a collection for St Peter and St James Hospice who will be represented at the event.

**Peter Swann
01444 450335**

December Mission



It's fantastic that members and friends of Lindfield URC are again supporting the work of Worthing Churches Homeless Projects throughout December with gifts of money, goods for its two charity shops and by volunteering.

Every year around 500 individuals (we can't tell you their names but all have a story to tell), who find themselves homeless or insecurely housed. They are often friendless but they are helped to regain their place in society. This is done by the team of 35 or so professionals, namely project workers, counsellors with specialist drug and alcohol rehab experience, mental health specialists, administrators, fundraisers, housekeepers, charity shop managers and technicians.

They are supported by over 150 volunteers, who regularly cook, wash up, drive and serve in many different roles for the benefit of the charity's Clients.

What started as a 'soup and sandwich' run 21 years ago by a small number of concerned Christians in Worthing has now grown into a professionally managed organisation providing a holistic and long term approach to rehabilitation, exercised with love and determination regardless of

the reasons and circumstances that have brought many to hit 'rock bottom'.

St Clare's Day Centre (a former fishermen's facility) offers showers, clothing, laundry facilities, needle exchange, advice, information and meals whilst the Short Term Assessment Hostel allows people to stay up to 28 days and work with staff to begin the task of rebuilding their lives and regaining independence.



Delaney House is a secure facility offering the chance, with structured supervision over up to a two year period, for clients with drink or drug habits to manage their addictions and return to work in the community.

The Stepping Stones Project at Cornerstone House offers up to 9 months accommodation to brush up life skills whilst the Move On Project offers experience of independent living, whilst receiving minimal support.

Another Alpha Course was launched in November for clients wanting to explore Christian faith and life.

There are now two charity shops, the latest at Strand Parade, Goring offering cycle repair, selling bikes and giving opportunity to gain a bike mechanic qualification.

We're also pleased to report that local Lindfield artist Leesa LeMay through her 6by4gallery at the re-opened Toll House on the High Street is supporting the Worthing Churches Homeless Projects' Art Event 2013. Call in and find out more.

If you would like to support the Homeless this December, please use the special Missions donation envelopes available in church.

There are also opportunities to volunteer; Claire, the volunteer co-ordinator, would love to hear from you and will happily explain how you can help.

Email claire.thomas@wchp.org.uk or telephone 01903 227825, if you would like to know more please speak to any member of our Missions Group..

Don't forget to check out the website at www.wchp.org.uk or, for the social media savvy, follow them on Twitter or Facebook.

The Missions Group



Sunday Services

The **9.30am** service is an opportunity for all age groups to join in a relaxed informal time. Most weeks, children leave after 20 minutes for their own activities (including crèche). Lighthouse (Junior church) is for children and young people up to age 14. Holy Communion (1st Sunday)

Coffee is served between the morning services.

The **11:15am** service is a more traditional service than at 9:30. Holy Communion (4th Sunday) Where there is a fifth Sunday in the month, normally a joint service is held at 10:30am

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

Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)

Healing services as announced

Personal prayer is available after every service. We can also offer personal prayer ministry at home or in hospital.

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

Recordings of services can be borrowed free from the church.

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.

Venue rotates between the three churches

Prayer requests and brief statements of praise for answered prayer can be put in the red book on the concourse table.

Regular Activities

Mon	10.00am	Art Group
	5.45pm	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 men and women of all ages
Thur	10.00am	Pop-In 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

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

December Church diary

1st
Saturday
8:45am Three Churches
Prayer Meeting
Tiger - All Saints

22nd
Saturday
8:45am Three Churches
Prayer Meeting
Tiger - All Saints

2nd
Sunday
1st Sunday in Advent
9:30am Communion
11:15am Morning Worship
6:30pm Evening Worship

23rd
Sunday
4th Sunday in Advent
10:30am Joint Christmas
Celebration
(Communion)
7:00pm Carols by
Candlelight

4th
6:00pm Village Night

6th
Thursday
House Groups

24th
Monday
Christmas Eve
4:30pm Crib Service

8th
Saturday
8:45am Three Churches
Prayer Meeting
Tiger - All Saints

25th
Tuesday
Christmas Day
10:00am Christmas
Celebration

9th
Sunday
2nd Sunday in Advent
9:30am Morning Worship
11:15am Morning Worship
6:30pm Healing Service
with Communion

26th
Wednesday
Boxing Day

12th
Wednesday
12:30pm Lunch Fellowship

14th
Friday
12:30pm Lunch Fellowship

29th
Saturday
8:45am Three Churches
Prayer Meeting
Tiger - All Saints

30th
Sunday
10:30am Joint Morning
Service
6:30pm Carols in Ryecroft

15th
Saturday
8:45am Three Churches
Prayer Meeting
Tiger - All Saints

31st
Monday
New Year's Eve

16th
Sunday
3rd Sunday in Advent
10:30am Joint Service
Rev. Mike Gardiner
4:30pm Family Praise Party
Josh Thomas

Happy Christmas!

Further details and a full updated Church
Calendar is available on our website:

www.lindfieldurc.org.uk



**Josh
Thomas
Writes...**



Lindfield United Reformed Church has been granted the 'Child Friendly Church Award!'

The Synod have certain criteria we had to meet, in order to get the award, something that has taken quite a long time to fully achieve, but we have met everything that is needed and we have the award, which is very exciting!

I am pleased to report that the Synod chose our Church to be worthy of this award. This means we can display a plaque outside our Church, advertising the fact that we are a Church which

'Welcomes Children and Young People with open arms'

This is an award that we very proud to have! I am particularly delighted, as there are so few Churches in the Synod that have gained this prestigious award. This makes it even more special. Thank you to everyone for helping our Church to achieve this fantastic award. I also would like to thank the Youth Council for being alongside me during the very long process.

Young Leaders Training Weekend

On the 3rd and 4th November 2012 we were able to take some of our older young people to St Barts Residential Centre in Barcombe, to lead them through a Young Leadership Course.

The course was put in place, as we identified that several of our young people were moving into roles of increasing leadership. As a Church we aim to support them through training and in any other way we can.



We arrived on Saturday morning and spent a few hours just socialising and playing some silly games together, pictures of which can be seen! At around 4 pm that day we commenced the learning part of the weekend and thought about what it meant to be a leader. We thought about people who are in leadership roles and what makes a good leader. We were also able to explore the different stages of development that children go through, so we could better understand how to support them in their growth.

Later that evening we had a very tasty dinner and then shared a time of worship together.

We thought about prayer and in particular how Jesus taught us to pray. We studied 'The Lord's Prayer' and the young people were encouraged to really think about what the words meant. So often the words become simply something we say at Church and do not really think about! We rewrote the prayer and spent time praying our prayers together.



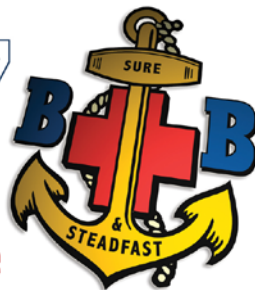
The young people were then given a challenge to test their leadership skills, they were asked to put together a presentation, pitching a totally useless product to us, this was a lot of fun! After a late night movie it was bed time and everyone went off very ready for sleep! On the Sunday we woke up to what had been torrential rain overnight but that did not deter us after a full English breakfast!

We had a further two training sessions. We explored the more practical aspects of being a young leader, as well as looking briefly at child protection. We rounded off the weekend, by thinking about how Jesus demonstrated leadership. He is the ultimate example of how a leader should be! After some more worship and lunch it was time to go home very tired, but having learnt so much and at the same time being able to enjoy each other's company.

Well done Tom & Millie McQuillin, Alex, Johanna & Kieron Harfield for completing the course and thanks to Richard and Dawn Walters for helping run the weekend!

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

>the adventure begins here



For a change, our Juniors and Anchors have been more active than the Company Section!

A team of Juniors took part in the Indoor Games competition in Burgess Hill, an event in which we have not been involved for some years. As a consequence they lacked experience, and did not do particularly well, but the sheer novelty of participating was enjoyed by them, and we were well-pleased with their enthusiasm.

Our Anchors were represented at an outing organised by the BB Battalion on the Bluebell Railway, which I enjoyed as much as the boys. Despite living in this part of the world for several years, it was my first time on this now famous railway; and it's good to know that Dr Beeching did not ruin everything for the train enthusiasts!

Wesley Heyward and Tom Hewitt have been promoted to full Corporals, and Josh is now working with them and other lads in the older age group on a Seniors

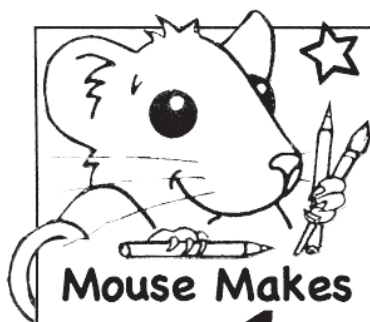
programme. To judge by the delicious pizza which they cooked for us, they are going to have a good time.

We are open most times of the year to new members, and would appreciate the congregation spreading the word that Boys between 5 and 14 could join us, and will receive a warm welcome.

To be challenged by the Gospel is an experience every young person should have. This is what they will certainly get in the BB, and is their first real encounter with the Christian faith for many.

However, I should stress that the sons of church going families are also welcome, and it is interesting to note that among our new intake in Anchors are Boys from a Christian background whose parents want them to get as many Christian influences as possible in an increasingly secular society.

Geoffrey Cocksedge



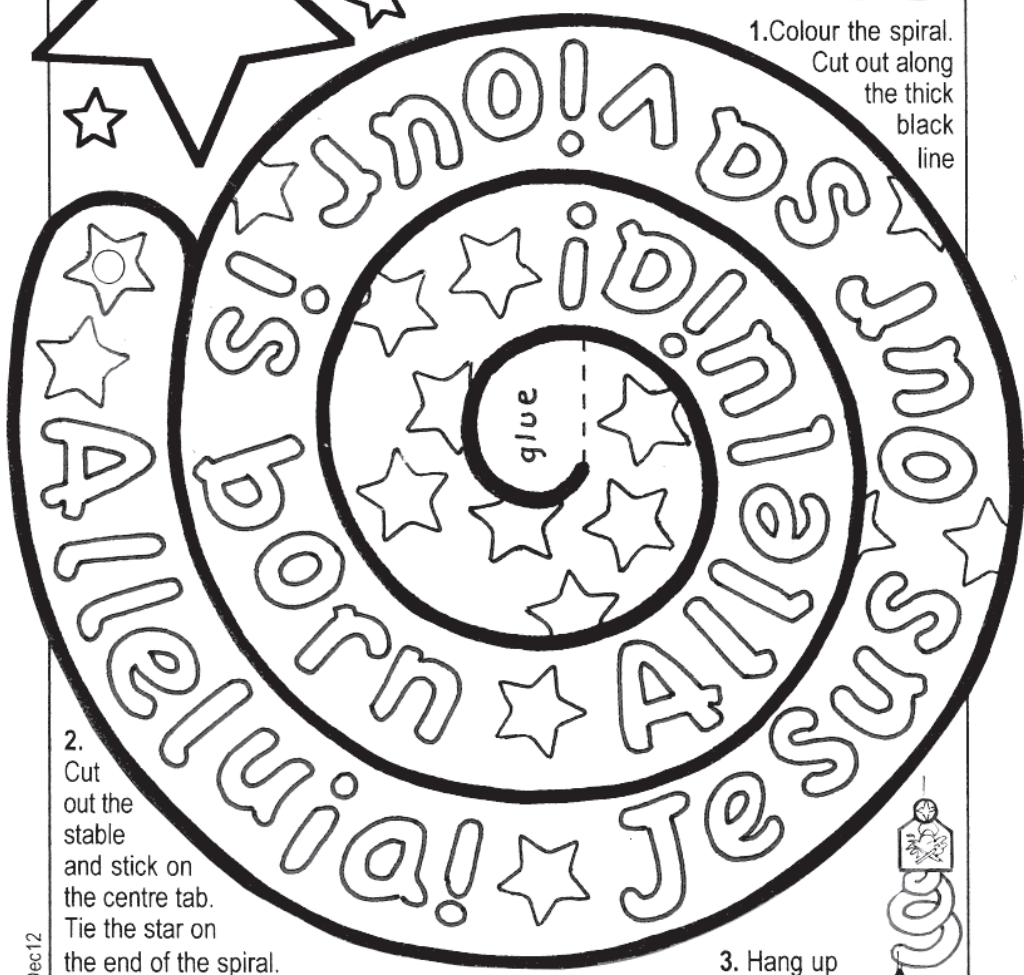
Mouse Makes

"I bring you **good news** that will cause **great joy** for *all* the people. Today in the town of David a **Saviour** has been born to you; he is the **Messiah**, the Lord"

Read:
Luke 1-20



1. Colour the spiral.
Cut out along the thick black line



2. Cut out the stable and stick on the centre tab. Tie the star on the end of the spiral.

3. Hang up



Student Update

After taking a year out of my degree last year to study sports and exercise medicine in London, I have returned to Leicester to complete my fifth and final year of medicine - my sixth year at university.

I had an amazing time in London, partly because I was immersed in the world of sports and exercise medicine (which I hope to pursue as a career), and partly due to my experiences at Hillsong church, which I started going to. I really felt God telling me to get involved in a Connect Group at Hillsong, so I joined a young adults group which met every Wednesday evening.

I learned the importance of Christian fellowship and made some great friends there.

Upon returning to Leicester, I have joined the student group at the local church I go to and have also joined the university Christians in Sport group; 'Pray Play Say'. I am excited about the opportunity to combine my love for Jesus with my love for sport and seeing where it leads.

I have started my new journey with God by being baptised by full immersion in Leicester a week before my 25th birthday. It was a fantastic day, made more special by my family being there, along with a good friend from university.

I only have two and a half more clinical attachments before my final exams in March! Right now though, I already have to choose where I will apply to work as a junior doctor next year... it is suddenly all becoming very real. In between exams and entering the real world though, I will be going to New Zealand on my medical elective. I have been fortunate enough to be invited to spend that time at a sports medicine clinic in Wellington, run by a doctor who is an ex-professional triathlete - I can't wait!

Thank you all for your prayers during my time at university - I really feel I have been supported.

Jonathan Hall



Dear friends

I am writing this in the wake of having completed the degree course of which, I am convinced, the Lord set before me for His purpose.

I would like to say a big 'thank you' for all your prayers and encouragement during my studies over the last few years.

This period of time was both a challenge, with many hiccups along the way and yet an interesting and fulfilling journey. However, it would have been unbearable without your help and that of my family spurring me on when things got tough.



It was especially so without God's grace and strength, which He lovingly poured upon me, and His guiding presence keeping me focussed.

Several times during the final year, I felt I'd hit the wall and couldn't go on, but His spirit spoke to me so clearly saying, 'my strength is sufficient unto the day'.

And now here I am with BSc (Hons) Social Sciences with Sociology, who would have thought it?

God fulfils His promises & completes His work in us, if we put our trust in Him!

I wonder what the next step in His plan is for me.

Please keep praying?

Thank you so much, and God bless you all!

Iris Bingham

'Heaven'



We have caravanned for many years, in a variety of locations, and latterly chose CIs. [certified locations where only 5 vans are allowed to comply with Caravan rules]. They are quieter and more secluded but often are not electrified. When our gas fridge ceased to function we had to look for a new site. Long journeys were not favoured any more, and in our searching we found "Heaven" only 15 minutes drive away and providing all we needed.

Heaven Farm is situated off the road from Danehill to Sheffield Park in a lovely setting.

Once a working farm it has now diversified and has a camping field, caravan field, and CL. We look over a paddock with Wallabies (several Albinos) and some deer. Beyond are fields and woodland and the latter having fascinating trails through them. The Spring period is special, first a carpet of anemones and then bluebells, a real picture and a 'must visit' if you have not been before. At one point in the woods you cross the Greenwich Meridian

and can stand with one foot in the east and the other in the west! This invisible line can be followed up the field slope to a large Wellingtonia, a land mark planted as a sapling and a marker of the Greenwich Meridian.

The stable tea rooms provide really delicious meals,[ask Aubrey about the 'all day breakfast', he will eulogize]. The recently added decking has greatly improved access for the more infirm,



while many choose to sit at bench tables on the grass and are entertained by cheeky chickens all vying for titbits that hopefully may come their way.

Behind the tea room, in the old milking parlour there is the most interesting display of tools and machines, used in the days of yore. There is also a small museum in the oast house, when once again you can look back in time.



Our favoured corner spot allows us to relax, read, chill out and just 'BE'...the break we all need, to get away from routine pressures and be refreshed, surrounded by the changing scenes of nature, [which was somewhat wet and windy on our last trip]! My special time is returning after a shower at about 11.00pm each night. Everything is tranquil and quiet. The canopy above sometimes cloud covered, at other times the moon plays hide and seek in the clouds, or the night is clear and the sky star studded, with occasional planes blinking their way across the darkness. The best however is full moon. This magnificent golden orb rises slowly in the heavens, casting many shadows and silhouetting the trees, some tall sentinels; others crouched like runners in the race.

Words from Psalm 8 say it all,

"O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth.....

When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and

Stars which thou hast established; what is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him?"

This is our 'Heaven on earth'
Norna and Aubrey Derham

Lunch Fellowship

This group began some twenty years ago by a House Group who wished to show God's love to the elderly people of the village. The lunches have been running smoothly ever since.

There have been a number of ladies and their teams from the congregation who have in past been responsible for many meals that have been served over the years since then.

At the present time, Sue Waller heads up the Wednesday team with helpers and Anne Parker the Friday team also with helpers, who perform differing tasks. These dedicated helpers come along each time to set up table and chairs prepare vegetables cook and serve meals. Some enjoy the meal before the marathon wash and clear up session.



Lunches are served in the church hall on the 2nd week of the month from September to June, and participants come to one day or the other. We provide a two course meal of freshly cooked food with tea/coffee to follow for the cost of £3.00.

An enjoyable feature of the lunch is the time spent in praise and listening to the talk given by a variety of local speakers who bring God's message.

Both groups have a resident pianist who supports our singing with their playing of the piano in the Hall.

We have an outing in May which usually takes the form of a coach ride around the Sussex countryside and a visit to a garden centre for shopping and afternoon tea. We do, on specific occasions, provide limited transport for those who are able to get in and out of a car unaided.

Some quotes from our helpers:

"I like talking to the elderly and hearing their family news"

"I enjoy the company of the helpers and love to serve the Lord in this way."

"Jesus said, "Feed my lambs" and this is one expression of that commandment."

"I didn't think I could ever provide a meal for forty people, but with God's help I can"

Sue Waller

Prayer Focus

As everyone will be aware, our monthly church prayer meetings are now given over exclusively to praying for revival. That's great. In the end, revival is the only hope for the church. However, I want to give a focus to our prayers for revival and what better focus to use but the coming Alpha Course which is planned to take place in Ryecroft, beginning on January 7th next year?

Dan McQuillin has produced a plentiful supply of eye-catching cards to hand out, making it dead easy to invite people to come. The Lord sent us an Alpha banner which is quite un-missable. All we have to do now is pray. So here are the prayer priorities for December and January

- **For the Holy Spirit to lead us to the right people to invite to the Alpha Course**
- **For courage to invite them and not to be disappointed if they say "No" first time, but gently to invite them again and again**
- **For Lydia as she organises the material and receives enquiries**
- **For Lydia and Charles as they organise the Alpha Team**
- **For Jenny as she heads up the catering**

It may be that "Ryecroft" will be too small. If so, we shall use the church, but at the moment we plan to use the house. If you have been on an Alpha Course before, please give priority to unbelievers as space is limited.

Charles Martin

The Fellowship

Because of the clash with the Christmas period, there is no meeting in December.

Please note after many years serving 'The Fellowship' in various capacities Winifred Scopes has now retired and Pat Phillips has taken over as Secretary.

Our grateful thanks to Winifred for all she has done to make our meeting so enjoyable.

Pat Phillips

Silver Foil Collection

Please note that Brenda Johnson will end the recycling of silver foil for charity from now on. After 50 years this is no longer viable.

Thank you to the many people who have contributed over the years.

Brenda Johnson

Merry Christmas!

POSTEARLY!

At the beginning of Advent, weekend 1st/2nd December, a giant fluffy red and white post box will appear in the concourse.

This is for church members and regular worshippers to post Christmas cards to other friends in the church. We hope that you will use this facility as stamps are much more expensive this year. We just ask that you give a donation instead of buying stamps and this money will go to the Worthing Churches Homeless Project.

The latest posting date will be Friday 14th December and we will have the cards sorted for final collection on Sunday 16th December.

A FEW TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL DELIVERY

- Please put the full surname of the person you are sending to as we have several Davids, Janets and Jennys etc.!
- Please put the full first line of the address in case we have to deliver them by hand.
- Please put your cards into alphabetical order and use an elastic band as it considerably cuts down the collating time.
- Please confine addresses to the Lindfield, Haywards Heath and Cuckfield areas.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Wishing you a very 'Merry Christmas'
the Post Box Team.

Village Night

On Tuesday December 4th Lindfield will celebrate the village Christmas festival.

The high street will be shut from 5:30pm and festivities will start from around 6pm.

Lindfield URC will play host to many of the activities on this special night including:

- Father Christmas
 - Childrens Craft
 - Coffee and Mince Pies
 - Christmas Carols
- (From Great Walstead School & Lindfield Primary)
- Youth Lounge
 - Nativity Scene

A sign up sheet for helpers will be on the concourse, make sure you join us to share the celebration and help keep the true message of Christmas at the heart of this event.

This year the high street Christmas lights make a welcome return.

Dan McQuillin

Phonebook

Charles Martin (Pastor)

Mobile 07821 904785
Email cmartin@lindfieldurc.org.uk

Josh Thomas (Youth Pastor)

Youth Office 01444 487607
Mobile 07598 779553
Email jthomas@lindfieldurc.org.uk

Church Secretary

Sue Waller 01444 455047
Email waller.s@sky.com

Treasurer

Terry Ward 01444 482986

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

Pastoral Group

Fiona Tingley 01444 483419

The Fellowship

Chris Comber 01444 482641

Stepping Stones

Janet Goodenough 01444 417002

Transport

Janet Drayton 01444 483621

Zest Co-ordinator

Josh Thomas 07598 779553

Lighthouse (Junior Church)

Co-ordinator

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Flower Rota

Arranging

Distributing

December

2nd	Zoe McQuillin	Irisi Bingham
9th	Serena Nathan	Heather Swann
16th	Christmas	Fo Tingley
23rd	Christmas	No Distribution
30th	Christmas	No Distribution

January

6th	Gladys Porter	Janet Sanderson
13th	Barbara Shepherd	Sue Tester
20th	Lesley Sparks	Jane Foreman
27th	Mary Comber	Barbara Shepherd



Lindfield
United Reformed Church

**KEEP
SEARCHING**

Life is worth exploring

Alpha course starts January 7th 2013

For more information call 458050

email alpha@lindfieldurc.org.uk

online www.lindfieldurc.org.uk or alpha.org

