

Good NEWS

Lindfield URC's Village Magazine

Winter 2012

What is Jesus looking for?

Book review





BIBLE BY THE BEACH

*The flagship family event
for quality Bible teaching
in the South East*

Christ IN ALL THE *Scriptures*

4 – 7 May 2012

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

**Stephen Gaukroger
Alec Motyer
Rico Tice
Andy Hawthorne
Graham Daniels
& many more**

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Congress Theatre, Eastbourne



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rear of the church. Please ensure that you
include your contact details in case of query.
You can contact Tim Sanderson on:
01444 455830.

The December issue of **GoodNEWS** was the very last one edited by Val Cookney. The Editorial Team and, we're sure, the rest of the church, would like to send her our heartfelt thanks for all the hard work, ideas and inspiration that she has given us over the years.

Val's resignation, therefore, leaves us without an Editor, as, so far we have found no one to replace her.

We ask that you give this your prayerful consideration over the next few weeks that someone may feel led to perform this important work in the life of the church and village.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

The Editorial Team.



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

Dear Friends,



As the advertising slogan rightly says “It’s all going on!”

We have a very full programme as we look into 2012. On Saturday January 21st, Jonathan Berry who is the Director of True Freedom Trust will be speaking at a Breakfast and preaching both at our church and All Saints on Sunday 22nd. You can find details of who he is and what True Freedom Trust stands for elsewhere in the magazine, but put simply it seeks to maintain biblical standards in the ever changing world of sexual ethics.

Then on the weekend of March 16th, 17th and 18th, we have the Mission “Gospel Gold for Lindfield”. This is being planned and run with the help of a team from All Saints Crowborough. Again there are separate details elsewhere, but it’s vital that in the two months running up to the mission we pray for its success and effectiveness as much as we can.

Easter will follow very quickly and then in June we have our Church Weekend Away at Pilgrim Hall.

It’s good to have a full church programme, but we must never lose sight of the need to wait on God for His direction. It’s so easy to imagine that the future of the Kingdom depends on us and on what we do, forgetting that Jesus said He is the One Who builds the Church.

2012 is going to be an exciting year for Lindfield URC, but there are also great events going on in the life of the nation. In the summer, the Olympic Games will be in full swing and we shall be celebrating a remarkable anniversary – the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

I hope to comment on both the Olympics and the Queen’s Jubilee in later editions, but as the new year turns and we step into the future, this is a good opportunity to remember how blest we are in this country. Of course there are things to regret. We are in the midst of one of the most serious economic crises for many years and the level of unemployment, especially youth unemployment is appalling, but even so, there is so much to be thankful for.

It is fatally easy to be negative. Certainly the Christian Faith doesn't occupy the same place of honour and respect as it once did, but Jesus warned us that if the world hated Him they would hate us as well. It thrills me to be alive at a time when it's tough to be a Christian, although in comparison to our fellow believers who are persecuted for their faith, we don't know we are born! I found it so challenging when we were told that while they want us to pray for them, their request is not for protection, but for greater boldness and strength. We need that too and I have no doubt that as we faithfully bear our witness, the Holy Spirit will give us all we need.

Your Pastor and friend,

Charles S. Martin

Prayer Focus

It's the beginning of a new year and, as it is a double issue, we have

several weeks so the suggestion is that we take this time to pray for the church family. You can use the 'Quick list' at the beginning of 'Who's Who' for easy reference. If you pray for two to three names each day it should mean that you have covered the entire fellowship by the end of February!



Feel free to do this in any way that fits for you, below is a suggestion.

- Sunday: Surnames beginning with A and B;
- Monday: Surnames beginning with C, D and E;
- Tuesday: Surnames beginning with F, G and H;
- Wednesday: Surnames beginning with J, K and L;
- Thursday: Surnames beginning with M and N;
- Friday: Surnames beginning with O, P and R;
- Saturday: Surnames beginning with S, T and W .

A Plea from the Sunday Readings coordinator...

Please could I ask those of you who enjoy reading at the Sunday services to sign the list (kept in the concourse beside the Missions board). This would be much appreciated. If you have not read in church before, but would like to consider doing so, please speak to me.

Thank you - Terry Ward

Book Review

God is not great, Christopher Hitchens, Atlantic Books (2007)

Having just returned home from singing “How great is our God” at Church this morning, it is somewhat ironic that I am now writing a review of “god is not great” by Christopher Hitchens (who uses a small g for God). This is the book that sparked Peter Hitchens, his brother, to write “Rage against God”, which I reviewed last month.

“god is not great” is subtitled, “How religion poisons everything” and it is the subtitle that really suggests what the book is about, with its emphasis on the faults of organised religion. In many ways it could be better titled, “Things done by humans in the name of God are not great”. For example, chapter two is headed “Religion kills” and describes many instances of death and destruction due to intolerant religious fanaticism. I agree with many of the points the author makes - there are few who would dispute that some actions performed in the name of God over the course of history are awful, but, in my opinion they are often performed from greed, fear, ignorance and other human failings, and usually when people do not follow the faith they profess. There is no balancing chapter headed “Religion saves” nor is there much balance elsewhere. Christopher Hitchens picks out the worst excesses of violence in the Old Testament, which I also struggle to understand, to paint a picture of a man-made God. However, he then talks about the evil of the New Testament and dismisses the “innocuous” sayings and deeds of Jesus, for whose life he says there was little or no evidence. He does not seem to consider why humans should have made up Christianity as a religion, because it brought no earthly profit to the early evangelists. It is only later that humans began to profit from the abuse of scripture. While written generally in a flowing, accessible and eloquent style, it is a pity that the author frequently uses a sarcastic and condescending manner to belittle people who express faith (e.g. Malcolm Muggeridge is described as a “rather silly British evangelist”). In summary, this is a challenging book and worth reading, firstly to know what ideas lead the secular world’s “rage against God” and, secondly, for discussion, for example in the newly reformed house groups. Christopher Hitchens’ conclusion is that we are in need of a renewed Enlightenment – I agree but in a different direction, with Christianity stripping away the human add-ons and going back to its roots.

Martin Hall.

Contributions to GoodNEWS

We would really welcome contributions; articles, snippets and testimonies, for inclusion into the Good News.

If you are considering writing something, or are a regular contributor, may we remind you that the copy date is the 10th of every month. Could we also mentioned that during this period we are without an Editor we will have to keep to the cut-off date fairly tightly, and we may not be able to chase up late articles.

If you have a hand written piece, please would it be in the Good News pigeon hole at the rear of the church by Mid-day of the 10th.

One other plea - Please only use the Good News email goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk. If you wish to check whether contributions have been received, you may send a plain email (no attachments please) to: elmgatethatcham@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you for your support, The Editorial Team

Family News

“Roddy and I would like to thank all our friends in the fellowship, and in the church, who have supported us during the past year; by their prayers, gifts of flowers, letters, words of encouragement, in our looking after Mary.

A very Happy New Year to you all.

Mac and Roddy Turner”

Brenda Johnson would like to thank everyone who gave so much prayer and practical support following her recent operation. ‘It is wonderful to live amongst so many friends. God bless you all’.

SAD NEWS

Lucy Thom, who has been a member of our Church since the late '60s, died recently in Walstead Place, aged 94. She had a most interesting and full life, her earlier years spent in other parts of the world. Although Lucy has not been well enough to worship with us in recent years, she will be fondly remembered with gratitude for her faithful service to the Lord here amongst us at Lindfield. We send our love and sympathy to her family. Her Thanksgiving service was held on Wednesday 14th December.

What is Jesus looking for?

Summarised below is Michael Green's commentary on Matthew chapter 18. Michael Green describes this chapter as a collection of Jesus' teaching about personal relationships between members of His Kingdom. So what are these characteristics that the King is looking for in His people?

Humility (18: 1-4) The Disciples' question, 'Who is the Greatest?'

People have always been obsessed with status and greatness, and the church has been no exception. But through his life and his teaching Jesus emphasised that what he was looking for in His disciples was humility, that is the willingness and desire to serve others, especially those who have no rights. '(Humble people) claim no right from others, or from their Master. They follow where Jesus calls and stay where Jesus puts them.'*

Welcome (18:5-6) 'Causing a 'little one to sin'

'Little Ones' may mean both little children, but may also refer to those who feel insignificant - 'little' in terms of what they feel they can do and contribute, those who find themselves on the edge of society. In these verses Jesus' teaching demonstrates His emphasis on how important children and those supposedly 'unimportant' people are to Him. 'The church should be the place, above all others, where they 'can be sure of an un-judging and unpretentious welcome.'* The way we treat these groups reflects how we respond to Jesus Himself.

Wholeheartedness (18: 7 -9) 'Stumbling-blocks'

In this teaching about 'stumbling-blocks' Jesus is challenging us that we can be a stumbling block, or put a stumbling-block in the way of others, if we are not wholehearted in our discipleship to him. But if we are wholehearted, even if we don't think we have many gifts or great understanding, 'we can instead be stepping stones, leading others to God rather than hindering them.'*

The challenge of these verses is to deal absolutely with whatever is in our lives that may cause us to stumble in our walk with God, or to be a hindrance for others in their walk with God within the body of Christ his church.

Pastoral Care (18:10-14) 'The Lost Sheep'

The parable of the Lost Sheep in the Matthew context highlights Jesus' teaching about relationships within his church. He is encouraging his disciples to care for those who are lonely, lost, afraid, sick, outcast and discouraged. As a church we need to provide the means whereby each person can have a sense of belonging, of being known and to feel able to contribute and to ask for help when it is needed.

Openness (18:15-20) 'A Brother who sins against you'

Jesus is a realist, He knows that there are going to be disagreements between Christians in church. He gives guide lines on how to deal with disagreements, expecting us to deal with the situations rather than let them fester and create disharmony. We need to talk with each other and to listen.

Forgiveness (18:21-22) 'How many times must I forgive my brother?'

If we keep in mind that we are forgiven people then we can have the power to forgive, and keep on forgiving. 'To say 'I forgive you' is not enough. It needs to be repeated whenever we feel the sense of grievance rising up afresh.....until we are at last able to say 'It is finished.'*

Freedom from resentment (18:23-35) 'The Unforgiving Servant'

The parable of the unforgiving servant illustrates what happens when we do not forgive. Brooding over a perceived sense of wrong by another is destructive to relationships and to those who are resentful. Jesus' story shows us how much we are forgiven from a debt we are totally unable to pay and therefore how much we should be able to forgive others we think have wronged us in any way. The warning in the story is; 'How can God forgive you if you are unwilling to forgive?''* We cannot direct another's reaction but we can and must deal with our own reactions and feelings of resentment and lay them at the foot of the cross.

Val Cookney

*Quote from Michael Green's Commentary on Matthew in The Bible Speaks Today Series IVP.



You are invited...

You! *Yes, you!* That's right, come on over here, pull up a chair and let me talk to you for a minute... Are you settled in your chair comfortably? That's good... Because I need to ask you a few questions. Nothing taxing, you understand – in fact, I think the answer to

all these questions is going to be “yes!” but shall we try it and see? Okay, here we go...

Would you like a relaxing break in a top seaside location – in fact one of the sunniest in England?

Are you feeling in need of some spiritual refreshment and encouragement – something that will really help you grow in your faith?

How would you feel about the opportunity to hear some of Britain's best Christian speakers and hear some of Britain's best Christian musicians?

Wow! That's great! I told you that you would say “yes!” to all my questions. But I bet you're thinking, “Hang on a moment – what's the catch?!” Well, let me be honest with you. I can't think of one. Okay, we can't 100% guarantee the sunshine – but, then again, all the events are indoors, so that's fine; on the other hand, they're also in easy access of the beach, so if it does warm up you've only got a very short walk to get there.

And the cost? Ah yes, we understand. These are straitened times – we all have to use our money wisely. Fortunately, this event definitely *doesn't* come as a package – you can pick your own accommodation to suit your own particular tastes and budget.

So what am I talking about? *You mean you don't yet know?* I'm talking *Bible By The Beach!* That's right – Bible By The Beach 2012 – the annual flagship event in the south of England for excellent, accessible Bible teaching, a weekend which is perfect for individuals, families and church group parties who want a refreshing, inspirational weekend by the sea at Eastbourne.

Acclaimed speaker Stephen Gaukroger from the Clarion Trust will be leading the 2012 Bible Readings on the theme of “Christ in All the Scriptures,” and other key-note speakers include Alec Motyer, Mike Ovey, David Jackman, Andy Hawthorne and Rico Tice. Sung worship will again be led by Stuart

Townend and his folk band, and they will be giving a late night concert as well. A free Sunday evening celebration will be open to all local churches to invite friends and neighbours to join in. A lively children's programme with fun activities, Bible teaching and worship will keep the young amused all weekend.

Hey! Where are you going? Oh I see... Off to make your booking! Well done! Wait for me!...

BIBLE BY THE BEACH 2012

The flagship event for lively Bible teaching in the south-east.

4 – 7th May 2012. www.biblebythebeach.org

Contact Adrian and Val Cookney, before 25th January 2012 to be part of a group booking (and get there more cheaply!! £65 per person for the whole weekend. (01444 440029)

Visit of Jonathan Berry, Director of True Freedom Trust January 21st / 22nd

Christian men and women continue to need teaching and support to deal with the pressures of their sexuality. The impact of these pressures affects not only the individual and their partners, relatives and friends, but the whole church. Scripture shows us that although many people may be aware of same-sex attraction, homosexual or lesbian conduct is clearly wrong in God's eyes. Christians with such feelings can often be afraid to admit them to others within the Church (or even to themselves) for fear of rejection and condemnation.

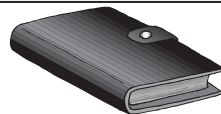
True Freedom Trust has existed for nearly forty years and takes its stand on the truth of God's word. We believe it is possible for Christians who are attracted to members of their own sex to live faithful, godly lives either in a married relationship with someone of the opposite sex, or through a celibate lifestyle and we exist to offer love and support to those who struggle in this area.

Jonathan Berry, a former Baptist Minister, is the Director of True Freedom Trust and he is coming to Lindfield on January 21st and 22nd to speak at a Breakfast (for everyone) on the Saturday morning and share his own testimony. This will be followed by a seminar at which Jonathan will be able to answer questions and explain the Bible's teaching more fully. He will also be preaching at our church at both services on the Sunday morning and at the evening service at All Saints.

Free tickets for the Breakfast are available from the Pastor and the office at All Saints.

Charles Martin

January Church Diary



1st
Sunday

10.30am The Pastor -
Communion

6.30pm The Pastor

7th

Saturday

8.45 — Prayer Meeting
9.30am at LURC

8th

Sunday

9.30am The Pastor

11.15am The Pastor

6.30pm Communion/
Healing - The
Pastor

11th

Wednesday

12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

12th

Thursday

8.00pm Church Meeting

13th

Friday

12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

14th

Saturday

8.45 — Prayer Meeting
9.30am at LURC

15th

Sunday

9.30am Ron Goodenough -
Jigsaw

Fair Trade

11.15am Ron Goodenough

6.30pm The Pastor

19th

Thursday

House Groups restart

21st

Saturday

8.45 — Prayer Meeting
9.30am at LURC

22nd
Sunday

9.30am Jonathan Berry -
True Freedom Trust

11.15am Jonathan Berry -
Communion

**6.30pm Joint Service at
All Saints -
Jonathan Berry**

24th

Tuesday

6.30pm In Touch Meal @
LURC

25th

Wednesday

2.30pm The Fellowship

7.30pm Elders

26th

Thursday

8.00pm Church prayer
meeting

28th

Saturday

8.45 — Prayer Meeting
9.30am at LURC

10.30am Fellowship/Art
Group Coffee
Morning

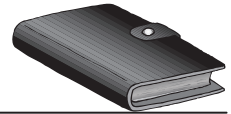
29th
Sunday

**10.30am Joint Meeting -
Mike Gardiner**

6.30pm David Jones

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

February Church Diary



2nd Thursday	House Groups	19th Sunday	9.30am Family Worship - Jigsaw Fair Trade
4th Saturday	8.45 — Prayer Meeting 9.30am at Evangelical Free		11.15am Morning Worship 6.30pm Evening worship
5th Sunday	9.30am Family Worship and Communion 11.15am Morning Worship 6.30pm Evening worship	22nd Wednesday	2.30pm The Fellowship 7.30pm Elders
8th Wednesday	12.30pm Lunch Fellowship	23rd Thursday	8.00pm Church prayer meeting
9th Thursday	8.00pm Church Meeting	25th Saturday	8.45 — Prayer Meeting 9.30am at Evangelical Free
10th Friday	12.30pm Lunch Fellowship	26th Sunday	9.30am Family Worship 11.15am Morning Worship - Communion 6.30pm Evening worship
11th Saturday	8.45 — Prayer Meeting 9.30am at Evangelical Free	28th Tuesday	7.45pm In Touch
12th Sunday	9.30am Family Worship 11.15am Morning Worship 6.30pm Communion/ Healing		
13th Monday to	9.30am Kids Holiday Club		
17th Friday			
16th Thursday	House Groups		
18th Saturday	8.45 — Prayer Meeting 9.30am at Evangelical Free		

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

Sunday Services explained...

The **9.30am service** is for all the family, including crèche and Lighthouse (Junior church) for children and young people up to age 14 (Most weeks, children leave after 20 minutes for their own activities).

An opportunity for all age groups to join in a relaxed informal time.

Holy Communion (1st Sunday)

Coffee is served between the morning services.

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

Holy Communion (4th Sunday)
(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!

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, 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.

The Church Week....

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
9.30am | 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
5.45pm
6.15pm
7.15pm | Art Group
Boys' Brigade - Anchor Boys (5-7 years)
Boys' Brigade - Junior Section (8-11 years)
Boys' Brigade - Company Section (11+ years) |
| Tue | 10.00am
7.45pm | Stepping Stones (Parents and toddlers - term time)
In Touch (4th Tues) for women of all ages |
| Wed | 2.30pm | The Fellowship (4th Wed) for mature ladies and gentlemen |
| Thur | 10.00am
8.00pm | Pop-In (for coffee and a chat)
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

In the News

Back to Church Sunday

It may seem a while ago now but, according to statistics from organisers, attendance increased by nearly 25% for more than 4,200 churches taking part in Back to Church Sunday on 25 September 2011.

This idea was first launched in Manchester in 2004 by the Church of England and, as it has proved so successful, it has been adopted by other denominations. It is a very simple idea of just inviting someone you know - neighbour, relative or friend to a special church service.

This coming year the service will be on 30 September but it's never too early to start thinking and praying about it and, of course, you don't have to wait until September!

A Story from Tearfund

Uma and her daughter Puspa live in a small village in Nepal. They, along with many other inhabitants there, had been slaves who gained their freedom when bonded labour was abolished in the country ten years ago. This may sound as if this was a good thing but it left people with no money or education so they had no way out of poverty.

Three years ago, before Christmas, Uma was seriously ill with a fever which made her so weak she could not rise from her bed. There were no medical facilities in her village of Shivanagar and there was no money for her to have treatment at the nearest centre in Tikapur. Uma just lay on her bed hoping she would be better soon. Some carol singers passed by her house and Uma's daughter Puspa begged her mother to let them pray for her as she had heard that Christians could heal people. Uma agreed, telling the singers, "If this works, I will follow Jesus."

Led by Pastor Madan, the carol singers from the nearby church came in and prayed for Uma. When they left she rose from her bed completely healed.

She kept her promise and celebrated her first Christmas in the local church in Tikapur.

Tearfund is working with the church in Tikapur through its Nepal-based partner organisation Sagaol.

Carol Marsh

January Mission - Interserve

This month's Mission focus is Interserve, a Christian mission agency which aims to see "Lives and communities transformed through encounter with Jesus Christ". They are involved in Christian missions across Asia, the Middle East and the UK, seeking to bring God's love in word and deed to those who need it most.

This article will highlight 'TEE', which is just one way that Interserve is supporting and helping Christians in different countries to grow in their faith and to share their faith with others. In January the Missions notice board will give more information about the work of Interserve.

What is T E E?

'Theological Education by Extension' is often misunderstood as 'distance learning' or 'correspondence courses' – but it is not really either of those things! So, how can it best be explained? In some contexts it may be put simply as 'discipleship and leadership training, based in the local church'. In others, where higher-level courses are on offer, it is described as 'a seminary in every place'.

Those who study a TEE course do not need to be uprooted from community, family or work situations. They can study where they are, in the time they have available, and apply what they learn to their everyday lives straight away. It is local church-based. Learning takes place from the course book, and from other members of a local learning group, facilitated by a trained local tutor.

There are three components in the TEE model: home study; weekly group meetings and practical application. Each one of these elements is vital if the method is to work well. Of course, none of these elements is distinctive on its own, but the combination of the three is a distinctive of the TEE approach.

TEE began in Guatemala in the 1960s. A training college in the capital found that students coming from the countryside to be trained as pastors rarely returned. Life in the city was too attractive! 'Theological Education by Extension' was an attempt at taking the training to the students,

allowing people to study without leaving their context. Since that time, TEE has been used successfully in many different countries. Courses first used in South America have been taken, translated and contextualised for use in different cultures. And new courses have been developed to meet the needs of different situations.

But 'TEE' is not an international organisation, or a particular set of courses. It is an approach to discipleship and theological training which has given rise to many distinct, independent, national movements around the world. One such, is the bringing together of different national movements in Asia, to encourage mutual learning and encouragement, co-operation where possible, and cross-fertilisation of ideas and practices.

This method of 'training in context' is equipping many believers to grow in their Christian faith and to demonstrate it by practical service and gospel outreach in their communities.

For more information on Interserve see the Missions board at church or visit their website at <http://www.interserve.org/>

February Mission – The Bible Society

Last year was the 400th anniversary of The King James Bible and it was our privilege to be invited to the Service of Celebration in Westminster Abbey in November. This was attended by The Queen, Prince Philip and Prince Charles and many other dignitaries with the address being given by The Archbishop of Canterbury.

The King James Bible began life at a conference convened by James I at Hampton Court Palace in 1604. It was the culmination of over two centuries of struggle to create a Bible in English, going back to John Wycliffe in the 1380s.

William Tyndale was the first to translate the New Testament into English but in 1536 he was burned at the stake in Flanders. There then followed the Geneva Bible, the Bishop's Bible, the Douai Version of the Old Testament and it was against this backdrop that the King James Bible was produced. It was the work of fifty-four scholars working in six translation

committees based in Oxford, Cambridge and Westminster, two in each centre. The final editing took place at Westminster Abbey where the translators read their new version aloud from start to finish.

Since then, of course, many translations and paraphrases have been produced but it was the King James Bible that opened up the scriptures for the 'common person'. Today the Bible remains the world's best seller, FIFTY BIBLES ARE SOLD EVERY MINUTE.

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

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

The big picture is that there are 6,912 languages in the world. Of these – 451 languages have a translation of the whole Bible. 2,479 languages have part of the Bible. This leaves 4,421 languages still waiting for even one book of the Bible.

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

Bibles for children

Across the world there are dark corners where children suffer. Where hungry boys and girls beg for scraps. Where paedophiles prey. Where bombs rain down. As well as physical help and protection these children also need to hear the Bible's good news and to discover their part in it.



Bible Society works with Christian agencies committed to making life

better for these children. They engage in social action and come alongside to offer children comfort and hope that only the Bible can bring.

In Uganda, Bible Society supporters have helped deliver more than 1,000 Bibles to an organisation called Jenga, which uses Youth Alpha in its Bible clubs.

These Bibles are now in the hands of 12 to 18-year-olds and organisers say it's caused a 'spiritual revolution'. The focus is on providing colourful Scripture Portions or a full Children's Bible.

Responding to HIV/AIDS

The Bible is proving to be a powerful weapon in the war against HIV/AIDS and its impact on lives across Africa. Bible Society's unique project, called The Good Samaritan, trains communities to behave and think differently, using the parable Jesus told about the Good Samaritan.



Workshops are run by church leaders, particularly in rural areas where people are most affected by the pandemic.

If you would like to make a donation please use the special envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any Sunday service during February

Thank You

Ron & Janet Goodenough

The Fellowship

Wednesday 25th January at 2.30pm

We welcome back a very good friend of the Fellowship – Stuart Dew. The title of his talk is: 'Milestones'.

There will be the usual Bring and Buy Stall

Saturday 28th January at 10.30am

Coffee Morning; with our friends of the Art Group, when we have the pleasure of seeing some of their work. A warm welcome is given to all at both these events.

TEN NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

A few personal thoughts which, honestly, I'll try very hard to achieve - that's why they're not too difficult! Some are serious and others quite lighthearted.

Here goes:

1. Read my Bible **every** day, as well as "Word for Today" rather than try to catch-up after some days of missing out.
2. Achieve at least one act of kindness every day - even if it's just opening a door with a smile for someone even older than me!
3. Whistle or hum a Christian hymn or song in an appropriate place (it worked well in the Garden Centre where I was employed) to identify myself to fellow Christians - it's a subtle way of sending out a signal and it doesn't upset anybody.
4. Keep an eye out for elderly neighbours particularly if we have bad weather.
5. Always have some event to look forward to in the coming weeks - life needs a focal point, Christian or secular.
6. Keep my "little heaps" of papers, magazine articles, bills etc. tidier in the kitchen, corner of the stairs, dining room table and particularly, on the floor by my side of the bed! That should keep Carol happier!
7. Keep my hands out of the biscuit barrel and fridge just before bedtime.
8. Stop swearing (even mildly) at the computer when it doesn't do what I want it to.. I know, it's probably my fault!
9. Try to smile at motorists who cut me up at roundabouts or pinch the parking place that I'd been waiting ten minutes for.
10. And finally, keep close to the earth and nature so that I can continue to never doubt what a wonderful world that our Lord has created for us.

As I said some resolutions more serious than others. So, what, if any, are your New Year Resolutions for 2012?

Stuart Marsh.

BOYS' BRIGADE

Highlights of our autumn term have included the annual Enrolment Service in September, when we had 100% attendance, the very enjoyable alternative Halloween Party, shared with Zest, and participation in the Remembrance Day Service and Parade, led by our drummers. Our badminton team (Wesley Heyward, Tom Hewitt, and Danny Lucas) capped it all by winning the Senior trophy at Oathall School – they made a clean sweep, winning every single match they played: a brilliant effort!



A word from 15 year old Tom Hewitt, whose family comes from Northern Ireland – Tom's grandfather was a BB Captain in Belfast. Tom, a passionate sportsman, has just qualified for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and is now working for the Silver Award. He will in addition receive the Brigade's second highest award, the Presidents Badge, at the Display next April. Tom is also keen to win the Battalion Squad Medal, a competition next year in which young men drill a squad of Boys in pre-set movements. Tom writes "every Monday evening, we begin with a parade, at which the attendance roll is marked, and we are given a mark for our uniform – which should be perfect! Then we go straight into drill, taken by Mr Walters: with his expert advice and guidance we will be sure to beat the competition, and bring home the Drill Shield" (*a major trophy annually competed for by BB Companies in Brighton and West Sussex*).

In January, we will be holding a party for our members to celebrate the Company's 40th anniversary. Every current member will receive a special new badge just issued by the Brigade to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee – something to treasure in future years, as it will be only the second Diamond Jubilee ever, and not something that can happen again in the lifetime of anyone in this country. We can also, I believe, take some justifiable pride in being the longest serving youth organisation in the Church.

Geoffrey Cocksedge



What Else is Happening in the Village?

Tiger Arts - All Saints

Wed 11 Jan: 12.15pm

Organ Recital

Wed 8 Feb: 12.15pm

Classic Folk Group

Horticultural Society in King Edward Hall

Sat 4 Feb:

Coffee Morning and Plant Sale

Wed 8 Feb 8pm

"An Impression of Wakehurst Place" - talk by Chris

Clennet

Lindfield Preservation Society in King Edward Hall

Tue 14 Feb 2.30pm: Meeting and talk.

Every Monday in King Edward Hall 5.30 - 6.30pm -

'inChoon'

Children's choir, aged 7 upwards.

Every Friday in King Edward Hall 1.45 - 3.15pm - Line

Dancing Class.

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 January and February 2012 are as follows:

January 1st	Philip Wren	February 5th	Stuart Dew
January 8th	Mike Gardiner	February 12th	Philip Wren
January 15th	Charles Martin - Communion	February 19th	Charles Martin
		February 26th	Philip Wren
January 22nd	Philip Wren		
January 29th	Matthew Wren		



FLOWER ROTA



Arranging	Distributing
January 2012	
1st Christmas Decorations	No Distribution
8th Gladys Porter	Jo Bloxham
15th Serena Nathan	Iris Bingham
22nd Lesley Sparks	Heather Swann
29th Mary Comber	Janet Sanderson
February 2012	
5th Zoe McQuillin	Sue Tester
12th Audrey McKee	Barbara Shepherd
19th Jessie Green	Joe Bloxham
26th Winifred Scopes	Iris Bingham
March 2012	
4th Audrey Saunders	Heather Swann
11th Betty Billins	Janet Sanderson
18th Barbara Shepherd	Sue Tester
25th Heather Swann	Barbara Shepherd



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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

March 16th-18th 2012



**GOSPEL GOLD
FOR
LINDFIELD**

**Get Ready, Get Set, Go!
Events coming to Lindfield
Look out for more details in
the March Good News**
