

# GoodNEWS

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

March 2012

**MOTHERING SUNDAY**



**18th March**



**Teach me O LORD, to follow your  
decrees;  
then I will keep them to the end.  
Give me understanding, and I will keep  
your law and obey it with all my heart.  
Direct me in the path of your commands,  
for there I find delight.  
Turn my heart towards your statues  
and not towards selfish gain.  
Turn my eyes away from worthless  
things;  
Preserve my life according to your word.  
Fulfil your promise to your servant,  
so that you may be feared.  
Take away the disgrace I dread,  
for your laws are good.  
How I long for your precepts!  
Preserve my life in righteousness.**

**Psalm 119 verses 33 - 40**



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Looking at the events that are being planned this month, there is a lot going .

As I read these articles I was reminded of the story of Mary and Martha. It is good to be busy and indeed it is right to be active in the Lord's work, like Martha, but only after we have sat at the feet of Jesus, like Mary. So, as individuals, we need to be sure that our relationship with our Lord is as close as it can be; that our eyes are fixed on Him, our ears are attuned to His voice, our minds submitted to His will and our hearts warmed by His love, and then, as a church, we can be busy and active in whatever the Lord asks of us.

Please read and pray through the magazine; that the Spirit of Jesus will be in all that we plan, in the lives of those who are working hard and in those who are yet to know the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour and friend.

We are delighted to welcome Anne Elvin to be the next Editor of the Magazine. Thank you Anne for being willing to do this, and I hope as a church we will commit to pray for Anne that in her busy-ness she will first and foremost sit at the feet of Jesus.

Val

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## **Dear Friends,**



March will be a very busy and significant month for Lindfield URC. The high point will be our mission “Gospel Gold for Lindfield” over the weekend of March 16th / 18th. Elsewhere in this magazine you will find full details of what is planned. If you were able to come to Church Meeting in February you will already know what we have in mind, but let me explain why this mission is so important.

This year, on July 22nd, I will celebrate forty years in the ministry and although it’s a long time ago, I can still remember almost every detail of the “Charge to the Minister” preached at my ordination. (In those days, two sermons were preached at ordinations, one to the Ordinand and the other to the Church he was going to serve.) The text of the charge to me was 2 Timothy 4:5 – Paul’s words to Timothy .....

“As for you always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.”

When he spoke of the work of an evangelist, the preacher said this.

“As fire exists by burning, so the Church exists by reaching out to the world. If more and more people are not drawn to Christ, just as a fire that is not replenished will go out, very soon the Church will cease to exist.”

If we don’t reach out to the world and bring men and women to Christ, the Church will die as it is dying slowly and painfully in so many parts of our nation today. Our mission is part – and only a part – of that attempt to reach out and draw people in. It’s an opportunity to share the Gospel with our neighbours and friends, but unless we invite them, the opportunity will be completely wasted.

We have tried to target different groups by age and gender, so there is something for both the young and more mature, both for women and for men. It’s up to you now to take the publicity material provided on the flyers and in “Lindfield Life” and invite as many people as possible. Apart from the events on Sunday, everything else comes with the promise of a meal, so it shouldn’t be too much to ask to invite someone to come and eat!

The other essential is to pray. Take some of the prayer book-marks which Lydia Goodchild has so kindly provided. Put one in your Bible, leave another

by the telephone, so that you can pray while you are bring put “on hold” by a call-centre. Pray every day that the Holy Spirit will give us courage and faith to persuade folk to come and share in the various meetings. Keep that thought of a dying fire in your mind and remember that unless we reach out and bring people in, very soon our church will go the same way.

Your Pastor and friend,

*Charles S. Martin*

## **Prayer Focus**

There is a very short story in 2 Kings 13 concerning prayer. King Jehoash is



terrified that Israel is going to be overrun by the Arameans. He goes to Elisha the prophet for help. He is told to “Take a bow and some arrows” – Elisha puts his hands on the Kings hands – then he is told to open the east window – the direction from which the enemy would come – and shoot. As he shot Elisha declares “The Lord’s arrow of victory over Aram – you will completely destroy the Arameans at Aphek”.

Then the sting in the tail! Elisha tells the King to take the arrows and strike the ground. He struck it 3 times and stopped. The man of God was angry with him and said, You should have struck the ground 5 or 6 times then you would have had complete victory but now you will have only partial success.

Jesus makes the same point about the necessity for persistence in prayer on more than one occasion. Are we passionate for God’s kingdom?

We have a number of important events coming up in the next few months that will be successful only if they are covered with persistent prayer.

Two to highlight are the mission this month – for which prayer bookmarks and publicity are now available. If this is to be successful in bringing people to the Lord prayer is essential.

The second is the Church Weekend Away – Energise 2012 – this is the opportunity for the whole Church to spend time with the Lord together as we seek his power and vision for the future.

Other prayer items would include the newly formed housegroups, those in particular need of prayer, the recently formed food bank and other mission, national and world events.

David Jones

## ***Gospel Gold: March 16-18th 2012***

### **Winning Lindfield for Christ**

From Friday March 16th to Sunday the 18th Lindfield United Reformed Church, alongside members of All Saints Crowborough leadership training course, will be running a weekend programme of events to be held both at the church and along the High Street at the Bent Arms (in the upper room).

The theme of the weekend is 'Gospel Gold' but don't worry if you are not a sporting superstar, in the Kingdom Olympics the first shall be last and the last shall be first (reassuring if like me you were always last to be picked for school sports) but whether you run, jog or crawl like a tortoise; with perseverance anyone can win Gospel Gold!

The fresh green leaves, bright golden daffodils and abundant chocolate eggs remind us that this is the time of year to celebrate new life, new beginnings and put the dark cold winter behind us... So get on your marks for Spring, get set for Easter and go, go, go to a weekend of activities for the whole family.

As Charles Martin reminds us, there is more than just better weather to look forward to. "Gloom, economic austerity, fury over bankers' bonuses - don't you get fed up with it all? Come and hear the good news about a God who loves you no matter what you've done or how big a mess you've made of your life and who can give you a second chance (and a third and a fourth if you need them!)"

**'I don't believe it!'** - in addition to the All Saints Crowborough team, Justin Brierley from Premiere radio will join us on Friday to kick start the weekend with an evening exploring Christian apologetics at the Bent Arms. A light meal will be provided alongside a great opportunity not just to listen to a top speaker but also explore, ask and answer some of life's most challenging questions.

The team from All Saints will not just be helping, leading and speaking at the events but also available throughout the weekend to help talk to anyone looking for answers, prayer or just in need of a listening ear.

On Saturday morning the men will prepare and serve the ladies with a cooked breakfast. While the menfolk battle with the washing up, the All Saints team will distract the ladies from worrying about the carnage in the kitchen (none of which is likely to be permanent) with some 'Food for thought' and an

opportunity for fellowship together.

Saturday afternoon is a time for the whole family to get crafty and creative. Suitable for ages 2 to 102 **Messy Church** promises fun, food and the kind of mess you wouldn't want to make in your living room. So bring the whole family; get stuck in and stuck together making a creative mess. Lovingly prepared with generous amounts of glue, glitter and paint - if it's a warm summer some of these creations may be fully dry as early as October.

Messy Church finishes with a short all age celebration and a family meal together.

On Saturday evening All Saints Lindfield are hosting an **worship concert with Stuart Townend** or join us back at the Bent Arms for a **light hearted quiz and a buffet**. Bring a fully formed hand-picked team of general knowledge aficionados or join a team ad-hoc and make new friends on the night. (My tip for making new friends is to come prepared with a suitably humorous team name as this is always the toughest question of the whole night.)

Our **10:30 combined Sunday service** will be lead by Rupert Evans from All Saints, Crowborough. This guest service will have something for everyone and because it is Mothering Sunday there will be a special treat for Mums.

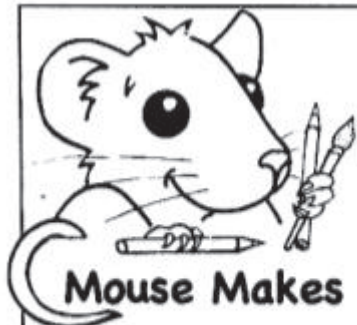
The weekend ends on a musical note, actually several musical notes as Bernard (our now infamous youth band) and guests celebrate **'NU: Worship'** a festival of new Christian music. It promises a great way to finish the weekend with exciting worship and witness.

It's a weekend of opportunities to explore, expand and share your faith. Plenty of time to meet and make new friends; and enjoy fellowship and worship together.

So mark March 16-18th now in your diary (kids don't forget to circle Mothering Sunday on March 18th while you are in there!) and remember to invite your friends, enemies, work colleagues and neighbours to come along as well - they might just say yes!

A full programme is included on the back of the magazine and more further details are available on the church website [www.lindfieldurc.org.uk](http://www.lindfieldurc.org.uk); or for more information and to book tickets call 01444 487607, 01444 482098 or 07821 904785.





Jesus was **loved** by his mother Mary...  
...she **cared** for him, **worried**  
about him and **prayed** for him,  
she washed his clothes,  
cooked his food and  
**hugged** him when he cried.

Mary cuddled Jesus when he was  
born, cried when he died and rejoiced  
when he rose from the dead.

What does your  
mother do for you?

Give thanks to  
God for her!



Glue this page  
onto thin card,  
colour in then  
carefully cut out.  
Cut along the  
slots on the base  
of the pot and the  
stand then slot  
together to make  
a stand up card to  
give to someone  
who cares for you.

Mar12

THANK YOU

A

B

STAND



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## THE FELLOWSHIP

Our meeting in March is on Wednesday 28th at 2.30pm.

We welcome back our good friend Barry Turnwell, and the title of his talk is "More Allsorts from Barry". We look forward to seeing him again and give a warm welcome to new people coming to join us.

There will be the usual Bring and Buy Stall, and as always, thanks to our tea ladies, there will be a welcome cup of tea and biscuits. Winifred Scopes

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## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

All are welcome to the Women's World Day of Prayer, which will be held this year at Lindfield Evangelical Free Church at 6.30pm on Friday 2nd March with refreshments before the service from 6.00pm.

The theme is 'Let Justice Prevail' and the Christian women of Malaysia have prepared the interdenominational service.

There will be a play area for children.

Jo Bloxham

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## Family News

### WELCOME

It is always good to see new faces amongst us. So if you are a relative newcomer to Lindfield United Reformed Church we do hope that you feel welcome and at home amongst us.

In particular we welcome back to Lindfield Anne Morgan who is now a resident at Compton House. A good many years ago Anne was an Elder here and worked on the staff at what was then Abbeyfield (now Little Compton).

### PRAYER

We have a number of folk within the Church Family who are very unwell and going through difficult times at the moment. Please remember them in your prayers.

**THANK YOU** from Barbara & Hilary Shepherd. "Now that life is getting back to normal (whatever that is!), we want to say how overwhelmed we have been both very recently and over the past 15 months with the care and concern of so many in the church. Have we really so many friends?"

It is with real love and gratitude we say THANK YOU to all who asked after us, sent cards, called on the telephone, visited in person and made us meals. It all meant so much.

What a loving, caring church we have. We thank God for you all. May the Lord bless you as He has us."

**THANK YOU** from Evelyn Lea; 'A happy and healthy 2012 , and thank you for your prayers and thank you for your visits; to all my friends at Lindfield URC'.

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## **'ENERGISE'**

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### **– Church Weekend – 22nd to 24th June**

Booking forms should be returned by Sunday 4th March together with the nominal deposit. The rest of the funding for 'Energise 2012' will come from voluntary donations. We don't want anyone to feel they cannot come because of financial constraints.

There will be two specific gift days for the weekend: 25th March and 13th May. The special envelopes will also be available until the weekend for those who wish to give regularly.

Ron Goodenough.

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## **WHAT WAS THAT AMAZING BOOK YOU MENTIONED?**

Two or three people asked me what was the title of the book I recommended whilst preaching on Forgiveness a few weeks ago. If you remember, I ventured the opinion that it was the best Christian book written in the last twenty years. Well, the book is "What's So Amazing About Grace?" by Philip Yancey (Zondervan 1997), and it's nice to know that I'm not out on a limb, because ex President of World Vision, Bob Seiple, reckons it's the best Christian book he's ever read!

What's so amazing about the book, then? In my opinion, Yancey succeeds in prising the word "grace" from being a technical term in the theological textbooks and challenging us all, as individuals and churches, to exercise more of it in our walk with the Lord and with one another. He does this in his usual very readable style of drawing on examples from fact and fiction, present day and history, personal and denominational situations, with dozens of quotable quotes from Christians and non-Christians along the way. He is not afraid to criticise himself, nor to be controversial as he challenges us to think how we can contend graciously with moral issues that threaten all we hold dear.

Buy it, read it with an open mind, and ask God to help you be a more gracious Christian. Perhaps if enough of us take Yancey's message on board, we shall see a revolution of grace in our church.

Mike Gardiner

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## Celebrating 40 Pilgrimages

Since 1994 an ecumenical group of 'Pilgrims' have walked two, sometimes three, Pilgrimages a year. On 28<sup>th</sup> April we will be walking our 40<sup>th</sup> Pilgrimage beginning with worship in Lindfield URC at 9.15am. We will worship at Ardingly at midday, returning to Lindfield at about 4pm for a final act of worship, followed by tea.

If you have walked with us before we do hope you will be able to join us for this 'special' pilgrimage. If you have never been on a pilgrimage and would like to come you will also be most welcome. Make our 40<sup>th</sup> your 1<sup>st</sup>!

There are some 'Pilgrims' who can no longer manage to walk longer distances with us, so we would like to invite you to join with us for the worship and tea at 4pm.

If you would like to join the Pilgrimage for all day, part of the day or just for tea, please let Darryl or Brenda know by 15<sup>th</sup> March.

For more details please contact Brenda Stone (01273 594012) or Darryl Sinclair (01273 844139).

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## In Touch

Having not met in December, it was good to catch up with everyone again in January for our "Christmas" meal held in the church. The evening was well attended and was much enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting will be on March 27<sup>th</sup>; Please look on the notice board nearer the time to see what we have planned,

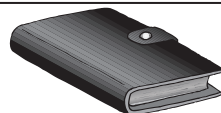
and by then we hope to be able to tell you the programme for the rest of the year.

We extend a very warm welcome to all ladies to come to our meetings whenever possible. The programme is varied and the evenings informal so there is usually something to suit everybody!

Janet Wade



# March Church Diary



<b>1st</b> Thursday	House Groups	<b>17th</b> Saturday (cont)	<b>4.00pm</b> Mission - Messy Church at LURC <b>8.00pm</b> Pub Quiz at Bent Arms
<b>3rd</b> Saturday	8.45 — Prayer Meeting 9.30am at All Saints	<b>18th</b> Sunday	<b>10.30am</b> Mothering Sunday Mission - Rupert Evans 6.30pm Youth Festival
<b>4th</b> Sunday	9.30am The Pastor - Communion 11.15am The Pastor 6.30pm The Pastor	<b>22nd</b> Thursday	8.00pm Church prayer meeting
<b>8th</b> Thursday	8.00pm Church Meeting	<b>24th</b> Saturday	8.45 — Prayer Meeting 9.30am at All Saints
<b>10th</b> Saturday	8.45 — Prayer Meeting 9.30am at All Saints	<b>25th</b> Sunday	<b>Palm Sunday</b> - 9.30am Dan McQuillin 11.15am Dan McQuillin - Communion 6.30pm The Pastor -
<b>11th</b> Sunday	9.30am The Pastor - Communion 11.15am The Pastor 6.30pm The Pastor - Communion and Healing	<b>27th</b> Tuesday	7.45pm In Touch
<b>14th</b> Wednesday	12.30pm Lunch Fellowship	<b>28th</b> Wednesday	2.30pm The Fellowship 7.30pm Elders
<b>15th</b> Thursday	House Groups	<b>29th</b> Thursday	House Groups Training
<b>16th</b> Friday	12.30pm Lunch Fellowship <b>8.00pm</b> Mission - 'I don't believe it!' at Bent Arms.	<b>31st</b> Saturday	8.45 — Prayer Meeting 9.30am at All Saints
<b>17th</b> Saturday	<b>9.00am</b> Mission - Ladies' Breakfast and Testimony at LURC  8.45 — Prayer Meeting 9.30am at All Saints		



## Sunday Services explained...

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 meeting 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, 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	Art Group 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 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

## **Youth Assembly Report**

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Well where do I begin?

A fantastic weekend in Staffordshire, where Christians from all around the UK came together to discuss motions, worship God, and enjoy each other's company. Different denominations, cultures, nationalities and beliefs all under one building for 3 days, with passion to bring change. No doubt, this was a brilliant start to the year, and I certainly hope this continues long into 2012.

But don't worry, it wasn't all hard work, we did have some relaxing times as well! I for one am still surprised we managed to fit 46 young people into a fireplace, no easy feat, I assure you! I guess it was fortunate then we were blessed with a gruelling quiz show, with questions ranging from general knowledge to sport. It was great to receive a prize for our team for third place, it's just a pity it was chocolate, not the best prize when you've recently visited the dentists.

The motions this year certainly caused a number of heated debates; we had to have a cooling down period during one of them. The main motion discussed were about introducing a Welfare Officer during FURY Forum and Youth Assembly, which was passed, but will be re-assessed in 2 years time, to see whether it will be necessary to keep the post. We also had a motion, which was about having a Christian Aid Delegate for each synod. Unfortunately, this fell through, but I won't explain too much why this was the case, otherwise this report will turn into a thesis!

From Youth Assembly, our Youth Exec has learnt that we must keep in contact with other synods, if we are to grow. I was rather amazed at the effort Wessex synod put in each year. For example, they have a summer camp each year, which would be very good if our synod could run in the future.

However, individually, I want to make sure I am as inclusive as possible. What I mean is I am welcoming and friendly to everyone, and am willing to help, no matter what problems they are facing. Some of you reading are probably thinking "This is the lovely young boy from the Co-op, how can he say he's not friendly?", but I know sometimes I am not friendly, so that's why I will strive to be friendly all the time, so I can show Christ's love to everyone I meet.

As I am typing this, I realise there is so much more I could say, however there are only so many pages in the Good News. I'm sure I will talk about FURY in the coming weeks, but if you are interested in finding out more about what my role is in the Youth Exec is, or anything about FURY, give me a shout.

Many thanks for reading this,

Alex Jeffs

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## THE WIDER WORLD

### Iran

I have written before about Youcef Nadarkhani, a Pastor from Iran, who has been held in prison since October 2009 for attempting to evangelise among Muslims. He was sentenced to death by Iran's Supreme Court and the case was then passed to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei for review.

Although Khamenei's verdict was due by the end of 2011, a statement was released in mid-December postponing the verdict for at least four months - maybe even a year.

The United States of America, the EU, Gt. Britain, France, Germany and Mexico have all condemned Iran's continuing imprisonment of Nadarkhani, arguing that the country is in direct violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Although Iran signed the Declaration in 1948, their present Judiciary Chief claims that this was a mistake and that Iran would continue to impose Sharia Law.

This does not bode well for Youcef Nadarkhani who remains in prison with the threat of a death sentence hanging over him. Despite all this, he still holds true to his profound belief in Jesus.

### Burma

The release of 651 prisoners has been hailed by Christians as a "positive and significant sign of progress" in Burma. The prisoners include political dissidents involved in the student movement in 1988 and monks who took part in the 2007 demonstrations against the military regime. Those released included Min Ko Naing, a prominent leader of the failed 1988 uprising, who spent more than twenty years in prison.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide urged the Burmese Government to release all remaining political prisoners, and called for an end to other human rights violations in the country including forced labour, torture, religious persecution and the use of human minesweepers.

We pray that President Thein Sein will continue to establish genuine peace and freedom in Burma.

Carol Marsh.



## **March Mission Giving – Project Ruth - Romania**

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We will be devoting our mission giving this month to Project Ruth in Romania. The Project was started some years ago by Oti Bunaciu, a Baptist Minister and many will still remember his visit to us a few years ago with a mandolin band.

Project Ruth gives life-changing educational opportunities to poor children, especially from Roma (Gypsy) communities.

For hundreds of years Gypsies have been living on the margins of society and are still the victims of persecution and suffering. Project Ruth was started in Bucharest, Romania, following the collapse of communism as a response to the desperate situation of the poorest of the poor in Eastern Europe.

Gypsies are almost always outsiders wherever they live. Their distinct culture, traditional clothing and itinerant lifestyle have made them the object of suspicion and discrimination in many countries. Gypsy communities are almost invariably subject to all of the problems associated with acute poverty – illiteracy, unemployment, lack of access to health care, high crime rates and low life expectancy.

Project Ruth is working to transform Roma communities and the lives of Roma children by providing:

- \* Education
- \* School meals
- \* Vocational training
- \* The Good News of hope
- \* Literacy programmes
- \* Medical and hygiene support
- \* Humanitarian aid

### **Ruth School**

The main focus of the work is the Ruth School in the poor Bucharest suburb of Ferentari. This is where Project Ruth began as an outreach to Roma children through a Sunday school and day centre in 1992. This initiative was undertaken by Providence Baptist Church.

What began as a Sunday School programme was extended to a day centre and soon evolved into a literacy class when it was realized that most of the children could neither read or write and had never been to school before. Since many of these children were already approaching their early teens, they had no chance whatsoever of enrolling in a regular school programme. At that time, the education system simply didn't recognize that an illiteracy problem existed. Anybody who failed to make it to school at the right age (7 years old back then, subsequently changed to 6) had nowhere to go: no special projects, no adult

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literacy classes, and no educational recovery programmes. After a few years, the literacy class was registered as a primary school and, soon, Fundatia Providenta provided the institutional form which now is the Ruth School. The Ruth School has Ministry of Education approval and is now an accredited private day school for poor and disadvantaged children with around 200 on its roll.

Building on the success of the Ruth School, the work is expanding through day centres and literacy classes in other parts of Romania. These centres are helping dozens of children to stay in school or to find a way back into the education system.

### **Humanitarian concern**

This is the first initiative of Project Ruth's involvement to answer the needs of children from Roma (Gypsy) community. Project Ruth began by feeding children from the neighbourhood. Starting with just a sandwich, a soup kitchen soon developed to offer a hot meal every day to the children who were enrolled in the programme. It has now developed into a charity programme, which offers clothes and footwear. All these achievements have been made possible because of the constant support offered by our sponsors and partners.

### **Wellness**

The wellness program aims to improve the well-being of children in need through hygiene & medical programmes that teach and provide basic medical care. Tooth brushing, hand washing, parasite control and vaccination are among the ongoing efforts of the wellness programme.

### **Community development – Gipsy Smith School**

Since its initial start in 1997 over 120 Gypsy pastors, missionaries, and community leaders have been trained while over 60 students have "graduated with honours" and continue to serve faithfully in their churches and communities.

More information and photos can be found at the Mission Display Area. If you would like to give to the work, please use the special envelopes and place your donation in the offertory at any Sunday service. Please complete a Gift Aid Slip if appropriate.

Thank you,  
Ron Goodenough.

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## Redeeming Our Communities

Redeeming Our Communities (ROC) is a National Charity founded in 2004 with outlets and partnerships across the UK. The aim of Redeeming Our Communities is to be a **catalyst for community transformation** by promoting partnerships which open up more opportunities for crime and disorder reduction, and enhanced community cohesion.

ROC brings together community groups, churches, the police, the fire service, local authorities and voluntary agencies to encourage them to work together in **positive partnerships for practical change**. As a result, statutory agencies have improved access to the support of community/church groups, and thousands of volunteers are enabled to better serve the needs of their community. This idea is proving to be even more valuable in the light of the current economic climate and the Big Society.

ROC is:

- A catalyst for community transformation.
- A broker of strategic partnerships.
- An initiator of creative new projects.
- A resourcer of local activists.
- Nationally recognised by statutory agencies.
- Credible, trusted and valued.
- Bridging the communication gap between different sectors.
- Known for its strong reputation and proven track record.

Paul Wilson, who was a Chief Inspector in the British Transport Police and is member at All Saints Church, is a ROC Ambassador and the London Coordinator. He said:

“I am a ROC Ambassador because I am passionate about ROC. I really believe that ROC offers something unique in bringing together churches to work in partnership with the police and public sector. As the church seeks to remain relevant in today’s world and the government has thrown down its ‘Big Society’ challenge, ROC provides the opportunity for the church to mobilise and unite with

This approach has seen crime fall and fresh hope brought to some of the bleakest parts of the UK.

The launch in Mid Sussex which took place at the Triangle Centre, Burgess Hill, is initially based around the Burgess Hill area but many from Churches in Lindfield are supporters of this vision. For more information contact David or Carol Walters.

## **CHURCH MEETINGS – Why do we have them?**

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Unless you are one of the fifty or so people who attend, you may well ask the question “What happens at a Church Meeting and what is its purpose?” I'll try to tell you as I see it.

It is a meeting of the Church family. It begins with a short devotional time. Then follows news of church family members, and a time to pray for one another. Perhaps the main purpose of the Church Meeting is to discuss matters of Church business. This includes things going on here in Lindfield URC (either currently or in the future), and in the wider Church. We hear about the activities among our Children and Young People; the work being done on our behalf by the Managers who look after the Church premises and information about Mission and Outreach activities, and, of course, the Church's finances. On the agenda at every meeting is 'Members Time' – an opportunity for anyone to bring to our notice concerns or events in which they are involved. From time to time we have 'Buzz groups' when we break into small groups to discuss a specific topic. (This is intended to be a time for encouragement rather than a time to moan!).

Another vital function of Church Meeting is to make decisions, such as the election of Elders and to appoint the Secretary and Treasurer, and this is usually done at the Annual General Meeting in November. Of course attendance at these meetings is even more important during a pastoral vacancy. It is the Church meeting that is responsible for the calling of a new Minister.

Anyone connected with the church is welcome to attend Church Meetings, but of course, only members are eligible to vote. That brings me to another point. If you have been worshipping with us for some time and feel that LURC is your spiritual home, have you considered becoming a member? Our Pastor, Charles Martin, would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to find out more.

For me as a member, attending church meeting has always been important and very much part of my responsibility. (I've been to a good few since joining the church back in the early '60s). Currently only around a third of our membership come regularly on the second Thursday of the month. I realise that some are unable to come because of advancing years, poor health or family commitments. But here is the challenge: that in 2012 more folk will come along to the monthly meetings. You will be sure of a warm welcome!

Fiona Tingley.

# Sudoku

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	2	4	3	8				
					6			7
	5	8				4		
4				1				
			7		5			
				2				8
		1				6	7	
3			5					
				4	9	2	1	

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## CALLING ALL SENIOR CITIZENS

### Lindfield URC Lunch Club

We hold a Lunch Club on the second Wednesday and Friday of each month for the elderly and we have spaces for new members. If you wish to come along or know of anyone else who might like to join us, you would be very welcome.

We provide a hot lunch with delicious home-made puddings followed by tea or coffee and a short talk by one of our church members.

If you are interested in coming on a Wednesday or Friday, please let Sue Waller - 455047 or Anne Parker - 473519 know, and they will give you further details.

# Don't let the

## enemy sow weeds in your life!

Sin is like weeds planted by an enemy in a field, aiming to destroy God's good crops. When harvest comes, those who are faithfully following Jesus will come into his Kingdom barn. Those who have let the sin-seeds take root will not...

Read more in  
Matthew 13: 24-30



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## Sudoku Solution

3	1	2	9	4	6	5	7	8
4	8	9	1	7	5	2	6	3
5	7	6	8	3	2	1	4	9
8	6	3	4	2	9	7	1	5
9	4	1	5	6	7	3	8	2
2	5	7	3	1	8	6	9	4
6	3	4	2	9	1	8	5	7
7	2	8	6	5	4	9	3	1
1	9	5	7	8	3	4	2	6

### Village Autumn Club

Some of you may not know that there is an Autumn Club in our Village which meets on the first Monday of each month in the Jubilee Room of the King Edward Hall at 2.30pm. They would welcome new members so again, if you or anyone else is interested, please let Sally Dew know - 414456.

There is always a talk or entertainment of some kind followed by a cup of tea with home-made cakes and a raffle. Everyone is very friendly and there is good fellowship to be had.

Carol Marsh.



<b>FLOWER ROTA</b>	
<b>Arranging</b>	<b>Distributing</b>
	
<b>March 2012</b>	
4th Audrey Saunders	Heather Swann
11th Betty Billins	Janet Sanderson
18th Barbara Shepherd	Sue Tester
25th Heather Swann	Barbara Shepherd
<b>April 2012</b>	
1st Anne Parker	Jo Bloxham
8th Easter Flowers	Iris Bingham
15th Janet Wade	Heather Swann
22nd Carol Walters	Janet Sanderson
29th Jean Baxter	Sue Tester

**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:**

Anne Elvin 01444 456840

**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

**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 March 2012 are as follows:*

March 4th Steve Haggar

March 11th Philip Wren

March 18th Matthew Wren

March 25th Charles Martin



## Programme Of Events March 16th-18th 2012

**Friday March 16th**

**8pm**

"I don't believe it!

Has faith been overtaken by science?"

Justin Brierley from Premier Radio explains how Christianity is fact not fiction.

*At The Bent Arms with a light supper included  
Free Tickets*

**Sunday March 18th**

**10.30am**

"Crossing the finish line"  
Mothering Sunday family service at Lindfield URC.

Preacher: Rupert Evans from All Saints Crowborough

**6.30pm**

Nu: Worship  
A festival of new Christian music at Lindfield URC.  
All Welcome

**Saturday March 17th**

**9am**

An invitation to all ladies to join us for Breakfast at Lindfield URC  
*Free tickets*

**4pm**

"Messy Church"  
Fun for everyone aged 2-102, Craft, messing with media, celebration and a meal for all the family at Lindfield URC

**8pm**

"Questions, Questions!"  
Pub quiz and light buffet at The Bent Arms. Bring a team or join another.  
*No tickets required*

*Lindfield United Reformed Church*

*01444 487607 or 482098  
www.lindfieldurc.org.uk*