

GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

October 2012



Prison Fellowship

Supporting prisoners families and
encouraging offenders to take
responsibility for their actions

URC Turns 40

Our denomination
growing old with grace

Why Me?

Healing, hope and
wholeness in Christ

Bible verse of the month

**“Love your neighbour
as yourself”**

James 1 2:8

May we all try hard to
put this into practice



Page 6



Page 8



Page 18

Editorial

I have returned from holiday to find the different format of our Magazine in production and circulated. I hope that you all like the ‘New Look’! For those who enjoy seeing our magazine on line, the entire magazine is in full colour. Obviously due to cost, it is not economically practical to have all the printed contents in colour, but the content is exactly the same.

We have so many thought provoking articles this month. Our Pastor helps us to an understanding, of a very recent happening. Jenny Martin asks for help, in bringing attention to a very disturbing state of affairs, which is happening all over the world. We do have good news of a ‘Celebration of our United Reformed Church’ and all the achievements of the last forty years.

Stewardship in our lives is brought to our attention and we hope prayerfully, we will all be able to consider our position in our ‘Church Family’. We celebrate with Iris Bingham and congratulate her in that she has achieved a ‘Degree, at the Open University’. She says ‘she would never have managed without the help of prayer and the presence of her Lord’, who helped her through, so many difficult times. She has proved that nothing is impossible, when determination and hard work is uppermost.

She is now looking and listening how the Lord wants her to use her skills to further her commitment to Him and our Church.

Our Youth Pastor Josh, gave the youth of all ages an interesting, full week of activities during the school holidays, which he tells us about. Alex Jeffs relates his experience of his 'Jump for Poverty', which was a real leap of faith! It is always good to hear of a real success story.

Dan reminds us of 'Back to Church Sunday'. We do extend a very warm welcome to all those who may want to join our fellowship and have 'the joys of knowing Jesus'. An open invitation is here for you to be with us at 10:30 on Sunday September 30th, there is also 'Harvest Festival' on Sunday 14th October, this is always a joyful service of thanks to our Lord..

Do enjoy reading all the articles.

All good wishes,

Anne

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Dear friends

Being a man of forethought, I have already told my sons which passage of Scripture I want someone to read at my funeral service. It's II. Corinthians chapter 4. There are two reasons for this choice; first, it gives whoever is preaching wonderful scope to proclaim the Gospel and second, it says something very important about the way the human body wears out while the human spirit – if it is surrendered to God – is constantly renewed.

No one could fail to have been moved, when Tony Nicklinson broke down and sobbed on hearing that his appeal, to allow his doctor to end his life had been refused. Mercifully, the end he thought had been denied him, was nearer than anyone could have guessed and we pray that his loved ones will now find some peace. All the same, the demand from some very powerful voices to change the law on assisted suicide will not go away.

The central question for me, as a Christian, is whether we can “commodify” human life. What I mean is this; when you go to Sainsbury's for a pot or two of yogurt, one of the indicators you check is the time limit within which your purchase is safe to consume. The other day I was in that very emporium and found some packets of meat which were four days out of code. Much embarrassment ensued and many apologies were offered. The offending articles were disposed of immediately. Now, can you do that with human life?

Supporters of assisted suicide would claim they are not suggesting anyone should

“commodify” someone else's life. They simply want the right to “commodify” their own and with someone else's help, (if that is required) to dispose of it as painlessly as possible. But what is the difference? Whether the decision is made for yourself or someone else, it comes to the same thing.

It is appalling to watch a loved one suffer and no one's pain should ever be needlessly prolonged. Thank God the advances in palliative medicine have ensured that, but there is an even worse scenario than chronic pain. It's the notion that many, especially older folk have, that they are a burden to those who love and care for them, and it would be better for everyone if they were no longer alive.

What a tragedy that is! It is the direct opposite of the assurance the Bible gives – II. Corinthians 4:16 & 17

“Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far out-weighs them all.”

For a Christian, death is not an escape or a bin into which to throw those who have passed their sell-by date. It's the fulfilment of life itself, the culmination of the struggle, the end of the journey. Finally, we will have come home. The way may have been hard and painful, it may even have been marked with unbearable suffering, but if we have walked it in the company of Jesus Christ, even what we have suffered will add to the joy of our home-coming.

As ever, your Pastor and friend,

Charles S Martin

The Fellowship

On Wednesday 24th October 2012 at 2.30pm, Mr. Reg Lanaway will give a talk. We will be taken "Through the Season's in a Sussex Woodland".

There will be the usual Bring and Buy Stall and of course, after the talk, tea and biscuits will be served.

A warm welcome is extended to all who come, and we are always pleased to greet new members and visitors.

Pat Phillips

Treasurer

This is to confirm that Michael Davies has retired as Treasurer of the Church and Terry Ward has taken over that role.

Paul Bloxham remains Assistant Treasurer and Eileen Jacques is Accountant. There has been some redistribution of responsibilities, so please address all financial matters to "The Treasurer".

Any correspondence should be placed in the pigeonhole marked "Treasurer" at the back of the Church, or you can e-mail treasurer@lindfieldurc.org.uk and your communication, will be dealt with by the appropriate member of the team.

Rev Michael Davies

Back to Church Sunday

Back to church Sunday (30th September) is a national event which encourages churches and individual christians to welcome friends and neighbours to share in a service of worship and fellowship together.

A national media campaign combines posters, TV and Radio advertising alongside local publicity produced by hundreds of individual churches.

Most importantly invitations are available to give out personally to friends and family; highlighting the loving welcome they will find coming back to church.

Dan McQuillin

Missions Group

Looking forward to what's happening in November

- Shoeboxes for Samaritans Purse
look out for more information
- Weekend with Simon & Becky Lunt
17th/18th November

Mission Supper on the Saturday: Simon & Becky plan to bring a small team with them to share about the work of OM Turning Point in London. The church has been supporting them for a number of years. So it will be good to have them with us again

They will be sharing in our Sunday morningservices. Free tickets available.

General Assembly

Assembly is the supreme decision-making body of the URC. In alternate years some 320 voting representatives and another couple of hundred ecumenical & international guests, staff, stewards, technicians, etc. meet at a conference centre or university campus over four days. There are always a good number from FURY (the Fellowship of United Reformed Youth) and the total includes the fifty youngsters attending a parallel Children's Assembly, sharing some Assembly sessions.

The packed programme consists of worship, bible study and informational input, interspersed with some heavy business sessions, determining the future direction of the mission of the church and pronouncing on important issues. This year, in Scarborough, the agenda included debates on the retirement age of ministers, the use of drones in war, the registration of civil partnerships (and the possibility of same-sex marriage), the financial situation and the need for drastic cuts in the budget of the central administration of the church.

Alongside all of this there is a real sense of fellowship, as representatives from the thirteen Synods, covering England, Scotland and Wales, get together to exchange ideas and renew friendships.

This year sees the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the URC in 1972 and the 350th anniversary of the Act of Uniformity in 1662, which saw our forebears ejected from the Church of England to set up separate, "non-conformist" churches of which we are a part today.

We celebrated with a service in the main URC in town, a walk of witness (to present a petition to the local MP, expressing concern about the disproportionate affect of budget cuts, on the most vulnerable in society) and a presentation and concert on Saturday night.

This was my fifty first consecutive General Assembly and I am still a member of the small organising team that sees it happen. Some people consider me stark staring crazy! But no, ministry and my church have been an absolutely integral part of my life and I shall continue to support it as long as the Lord gives me the health and strength to do so.

Rev Michael Davies



Tom Burford

On 23rd August many of Tom's friends attended his funeral service. The sun shone and as we gathered at Worth and we remembered our friend.

Tom was an Arsenal supporter; he loved all sorts of music and enjoyed walking his dogs. He often used to say, that getting up to take the dogs out was his motivation for the day. His other passion was drumming and for many years he played in church music groups and latterly with Mac Turner's and Peter Swann's music makers.

He was a 'back room boy' and in his service for our Church he spent many a lonely but probably happy times in the church office. He printed out the magazine, the weekly news sheet and other specials, as they were requested. When deadlines came he would work to meet them, even working late on a Saturday night. He was loyal and committed..

Tom was baptised, and whilst not outwardly ebullient about his faith it was real to him. I found a little notebook amongst his belongings that contained his hand written personal prayers, which was an assurance of his faith.

The sun shone at Worth, there was no sadness.

Tom believed.

Now, he is with his Lord and Master.

Peter Swann

A DAY FOR MEN TO GET REAL !

Saturday 6th October
9.30 – 2.30pm

- Time to get real with God
- Encouraging Fellowship
- Refreshing Worship
- Motivational Speakers
- Laughs and challenges!

Strictly Men Only!!!

Cost: £8.00
(includes a full Roast Lunch!)
Venue: Lancing Tab
105 North Road Lancing
BN159BB

Further details:
Steve Martin
Steve.martin@cvm.org.uk
John Woods.
LTABJW@aol.com
01903 733660

To Book: To book on line go to
www.lancingtab.com and click
on the Get Real Men now link



October mission

Prison Fellowship

We shall again be supporting Prison Fellowship (PF) through our Mission Giving in October. This year we will support two programmes run at HMP Lewes:

Angel Tree, which we have supported in the past, provides Christmas presents for prisoners' children. Local PF volunteer groups raise funds and work with churches and prison chaplains to buy and deliver the presents.

Each gift is sent as though it is from the parent in prison, who is also able to write a personal message to his/her child. The immediate effect is the delight of the child who receives the Christmas present. Angel Tree is a wonderful link between a child and their Mum or Dad in prison and helps towards family reconciliation, a key factor in reducing reoffending.

“Thank you so much for the thoughtfulness and generosity towards my family this Christmas time. It is very touching to know that others are thinking of us during these difficult times.”

The wife of a prisoner



Lewes Prison

Sycamore Tree. Sycamore Tree is a six-session programme taught in prison to a group of up to 20 offenders. They explore the effects of crime on victims, offenders, and the community, and discuss what it would mean to take responsibility for their personal actions.

For most offenders on Sycamore Tree the most powerful element of the programme is when a victim of crime comes in to talk through how crime has impacted their lives. Offenders have an opportunity in the final session to express their remorse - some write letters, poems or create works of art or craft. Each course is directed by a PF leader together with a number of PF volunteer mentors.

Periodic audits have shown that the course makes a significant improvement in prisoner attitudes towards offending.

There will be four courses run at HMP Lewes this financial year with the costs shared between the Prison and Crawley PF Group who are raising the necessary funds.

“taking responsibility for my actions, I stopped thinking about myself and started thinking of others”

A young offender

Prison Fellowship (England and Wales) has over 120 prayer groups, with around 1,600 volunteers. Many of these groups are also involved in activities within prisons including taking part in services, leading Bible studies and Alpha courses, prison visiting and implementing, locally, Sycamore Tree and Angel Tree.

More information is available at the Mission display area on the concourse.

If you would like to give towards this work please use the special mission-giving envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any of the Sunday services. Please complete a Gift Aid slip if appropriate. Cheques should be made payable to Lindfield URC.

The Missions Group



United Reformed Church 40th Anniversary



On October 5th, the United Reformed Church will be forty years old. Life, we are told begins at forty, so do we have an exciting future ahead of us? As for any faithful Christian or group of Christians, the answer depends on whether we follow our own priorities or are content to follow God's. The history of the Church is littered with the remains of groups, who were determined to do the former and steadfastly refused to do the latter.

The recent decision of General Assembly to allow local churches to register Civil Partnerships in the context of religious ceremonies doesn't bode well. The Bible clearly teaches that while gay people are just as precious to God and just as welcome in His family as anyone else, the gay life-style is not God's best for human beings. However, this is a permissive decision not a directive one. It is a matter for each local church to decide. We are still free to maintain biblical standards.

There is also much for which to be thankful. These forty years have brought us much closer to fellow Christians in other traditions, although the long cherished dream of "organic" unity has faded. (Maybe we have to accept that was one of our own priorities and not God's.) We are learning to work together without spending time and energy re-organising the structures and that must be a step in the right direction.

For me, the greatest blessing of the URC is the way former Presbyterians, Congregationalists and Churches of Christ have shared the things which made their traditions distinctive. I have never ceased to be grateful for the concept of Eldership. I grew up with Deacons, who were like coconuts at a fair propped up on a pole, until someone with enough energy and presence of mind could knock them off. Now we have Elders whose ordination makes them an asset to the church, whether they happen to be serving on the Elders' Meeting or not.

For us at Lindfield, the mention of Elders is very much to the point. This is the time of the year when folk decide whether to offer themselves for nomination as Elders. Please pray that God will direct us to the people He has in mind and if someone approaches you and asks you to consider Eldership, don't immediately

refuse because you don't think you are good enough. A sense of unworthiness is probably the most essential quality in anyone considering becoming an Elder.

Meanwhile, if you are going to a party at any time near October 5th, raise a glass to the URC. We will certainly be celebrating in a quiet way on the first Sunday in October. With all its faults, the United Reformed Church is still the lane in which we have been entered in the great race of faith, so let's run with perseverance and gratitude, keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom faith depends from beginning to end.

Rev Charles Martin

Moving House

We are sad that Margaret and Chris Luscombe have moved away to Norfolk and they will be very much missed in the life of our Church Family.

Their new address is:

3, Heisker Gardens,
Attleborough.
NR7 FG

We wish them both well for the future.

Family News

Congratulations

Grandchildren seem to be arriving all the time at the moment! Congratulations to Jane and Tim Harfield on the birth of their first - a Grandson.

We also send our congratulations to Heather and Peter Swann. They now have a Granddaughter to add to their Grandsons! Lovely news for both of these families.

Congratulations, too, to Iris Bingham who has recently gained a degree with the Open University. Her Graduation Ceremony will take place in Paris in the near future. Very well done, Iris!

Thank You

Having successfully graduated from Exeter University in French and German, Helen Merrett is now winging her way to Paris to work in a small firm of Loss Adjustors as a trainee. Thank you all for your support and prayers whilst she was at university, which were much appreciated. We would be grateful for your thoughts and prayers as she moves to Paris in early September.

Prayer

Simon Merrett, who has been working at All Souls' Church in London for a year has now come to the end of his contract. After much soul-searching he has decided to undertake a Law Conversion Course for two years. He would appreciate your prayers as he returns to study and a different way of life. Thank you.

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

October Church diary

4th
Thursday

House Groups

18th
Thursday

House Groups

6th
Saturday

8:45am Three Churches
Prayer Meeting
LURC lounge

20th
Saturday

8:45am Three Churches
Prayer Meeting
LURC lounge

7th
Sunday

9:30am Family Communion
11:15am Morning Worship
The Pastor
6:30pm Evening Worship
The Pastor

21st
Sunday

9:30am Morning Worship-
Jigsaw
11:15am Morning Worship
Ron Goodenough
6:30pm Evening Worship
Ron Goodenough

9th
Tuesday

7:30pm Pastoral Group
Meeting

25th
Thursday

8:00pm Monthly Prayer
Meeting

10th
Wednesday

12:30pm Lunch Fellowship

27th
Saturday

8:45am Three Churches
Prayer Meeting

11th
Thursday

8:00pm Church Meeting

28th
Sunday

Summer Time Ends
9:30am Morning Worship
11:15am Communion
David Sproue
6:30pm Evening Worship
The Pastor

12th
Friday

12:30pm Lunch Fellowship

29th
Monday

Half Term
Drama Week

13th
Saturday

8:45am Three Churches
Prayer Meeting
LURC lounge
9:00am Church Decoration

30th
Tuesday

Drama Week

14th
Sunday

Harvest Festival
9:30am Morning Worship
11:15am Morning Worship
The Pastor
6:30pm Healing Service
with Communion
The Pastor

31st
Wednesday

Drama Week

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

www.lindfieldurc.org.uk

Hello, in the October Good News we take a look back over our summer Holiday Club and look forward, to a very exciting week of drama next month.

**Josh
Thomas
Writes...**



For more details email jthomas@lindfieldurc.org.uk

Holiday Club August 2012

Back during the week of the 13th -17th August, the church was transformed into a very special auditorium for the week.

It became the 'Showstoppers Theatre'! We spent the week thinking about Gods love for us and even when we get it wrong, he still loves and cares for us!

On the Monday we spent some time looking at creation. We thought about all the wonderful things God put on this earth and how, because as humans we wanted more, we did things God told us not to. This ruined his wonderful creation but God forgave us! We started work on a piece of Creation Artwork, that we came back to each morning before Holiday Club started.

On Tuesday we thought about David and Goliath and how it does not matter how little or small we are, God can use us. On Wednesday we learnt about Daniel in the

lions den. We thought about the courage Daniel had and that together with his faith in God, he knew that he would be protected. We made lion masks on this day, to remind us of the story.

On Thursday we celebrated 'Christmas day' (yes that is right Christmas day!) we thought about how God sent his Son to the earth to save us from all we do wrong. Charles and 'Arnold' told us all about the Christmas story and God's wonderful plan for our world!

Finally just to confuse you even more, Friday saw 'Easter Sunday' come round again. We learnt all about how Jesus made a huge sacrifice for us, by dying on the cross and we learnt how he rose again, so that we can know his love and forgiveness for us!

We had a brilliant time at Showstoppers Holiday Club with lots of games, stories and craft work.

YOUTH PAGES



Showstoppers

Summer 2012

We would especially like to thank those, who gave up their time to be help us this summer with Showstoppers...

Our special thanks to:

Gina Balicki, Betty Billins, Janet Drayton, Hannah Durrant, Cliff Griffiths, Helen Hall, Alex Harfield, Jo Harfield, Alex Jeffs, David Walters, Dawn Walters, Richard Walters, and Sue Waller.

Drama Week

Half Term Holiday
29th October - 2nd November 2012

Ever fancied trying your hand at acting?
How about directing?
Finally how about writing a hit play?

During the half term holiday, we will be doing just that! We will be writing, directing and starring in our very own play with the help of professional actors and writers. The week promises to be a hugely fun week. If you are of Secondary School Age, this could be just the thing for you! The week will culminate with our final performance, on the Friday evening. Do look out for more information and posters which will be coming soon!

Leap of Faith



Is it a plane? Is it a rocket? Is it a meteor?
No! It's Alex Jeffs!

Firstly, thank you to everyone who has supported me. Without you it would have made my task much more difficult. I had a thrilling time and it's certainly something that will live long in my memory. As you know my aim was to raise money for "Commitment for Life" and I am really pleased to say that the total promised and received so far exceeds a thousand pounds.

One point four billion people live in extreme poverty – not just the problems faced by people in the UK because of the recession. It was great to come hurtling down from the plane at 180km an hour, but even better to know that because I did it, people in need will benefit through your generosity, so THANK YOU!

Alex Jeffs

Prayer Focus

If you were at the Church Meeting in September, you will have heard that one of the groups which report to the Elders – the Prayer Focus Group – has handed its responsibility to the Pastor and decided not to meet any more for the time being.

As I explained at the Church Meeting, this is not the result of a disagreement. It was a carefully thought out decision to give him maximum scope to co-ordinate the prayer life of the church and try to refresh and invigorate it.

From now on, all our monthly prayer meetings on the fourth Thursday will be given over to prayer for revival. In August, the Pastor challenged us all to "pray revival down" rather than try to "work it up" and so many people came to the Prayer Meeting, we had to put out extra chairs.

So watch this space for challenges to come

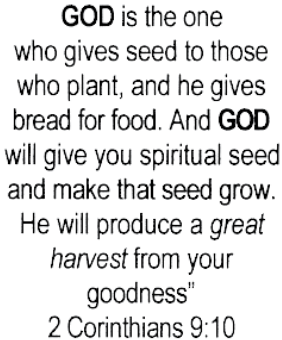
Rev Charles Martin

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Bartholomew, 9, Evil one, 10, Adore, 11, Ran, 13, Oreb, 16, Zinc, 17, Entail, 18, Hung, 20, Lehi, 21, Joshua, 22, Pity, 23, Wide, 25, Age, 28, Alarm, 29, Partake, 30, Sennacherib.
DOWN: 2, Alive, 3, Took, 4, Over, 5, Onan, 6, Emotive, 7, Jehoshaphat, 8, Melchizedek, 12, A light, 14, Beg, 15, Strong, 19, Not have, 20, Law, 24, Iraq, 25, Amen, 26, Epic, 27, Free.



Mouse Makes

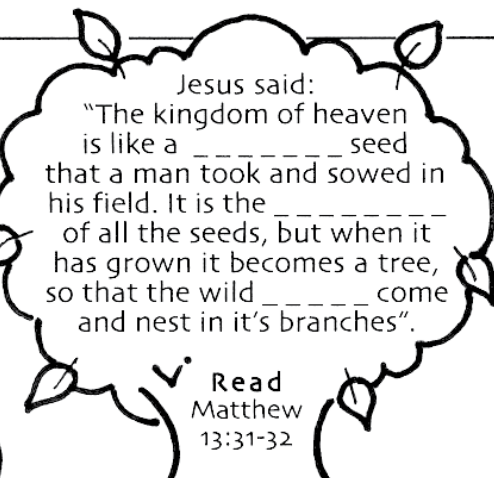


GOD is the one who gives seed to those who plant, and he gives bread for food. And **GOD** will give you spiritual seed and make that seed grow. He will produce a *great harvest* from your goodness”
2 Corinthians 9:10



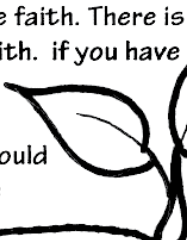
Look out for seeds in the garden and the park and in the kitchen store cupboard.

How many different seeds can you find?



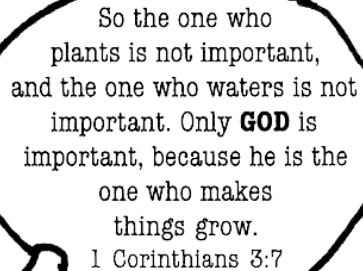
Jesus said:
“The kingdom of heaven is like a _____ seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the _____ of all the seeds, but when it has grown it becomes a tree, so that the wild _____ come and nest in it’s branches”.

Read
Matthew
13:31-32

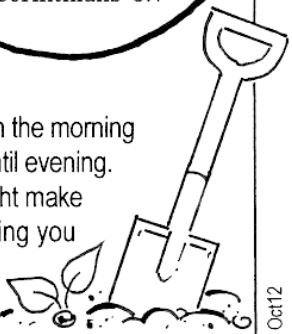


“You do not need more faith. There is no ‘more’ or ‘less’ in faith. if you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a poppy seed, you could say to this sycamore tree “Go jump

into the lake”, and it would do it”
Luke
17:6



So the one who plants is not important, and the one who waters is not important. Only **GOD** is important, because he is the one who makes things grow.
1 Corinthians 3:7



“So begin planting early in the morning and don’t stop working until evening. You don’t know what might make you rich. Maybe everything you do will be successful”
Ecclesiastes 11:6

'Rubbish of the world'

No! This is not an article about waste disposal! Rather, it's a novel about sexual slavery.

About ten years ago I went to a lecture by ECPAT, End Child Prostitution and Trafficking. ECPAT was one of the first charities to get involved in this problem and I came away from the lecture, incandescently angry that women and boys could be treated in this appalling way. I very much wanted to do something practical to help.

Over the ensuing days it was brought home to me that one of the reasons people were not much interested in this subject, was because they did not relate with compassion to cold statistics.

What the problem needed was a human face, so that we could all actually enter into the experience a little and so be motivated to act. Over the following months God gave me, bit by bit, an imaginary story about one young girl. The plot was too intricate

for me to have thought up on my own and the details just kept coming into my head and would not go away. I resisted writing the story down, as I know from personal experience having had one book published, how hard the road to publication is, but, in the end when I retired, I sat down and wrote 'The Rubbish of The World.'

Since coming to Lindfield four years ago, the book was firstly completed and then the search for a book agent began. Eventually I found one who was interested enough to read the complete manuscript. Their verdict was that it needed the help of a professional editor. This was sought and the improvements suggested implemented.

On re-reading the manuscript the agents wrote back saying that story was now 'a well written story with commercial potential.' However they felt that 'the manuscript was about a subject, that some people would find upsetting and disturbing.'



Brief Synopsis of the Story of 'Rubbish of the World'

They went on to say that the publishers that they deal with would therefore be unlikely to be interested in it.

The purpose in writing this article is to ask you to pray with me, on to the next step. I have to find a book agent who specializes in serious works of fiction, and there is no information readily available, that I have yet discovered on this topic. I also need to explore other avenues of publication. It may be that I need to approach Christian Publishers although the book is aimed at the secular market.

If there is anybody reading this article, who has expert advice or help to offer on this topic I would be glad to hear from you. All proceeds from the book's sale will go to charities working with the problems of sexual slavery in the UK and abroad. Please pray. A copy of the book is available for anyone who cares to borrow it. I can be reached on 01444 482098. Be warned, it is a sad read and will, I hope, make you very angry.

I have been much encouraged to keep going in this project, by the words of Robert Kennedy, who once said. 'Each time a man stands up for an idea, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centres of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.'

Rev Jenny Martin

The story is set in Brazil and concerns a young girl, 'Tis' of about 13-14 years of age who is tricked by the promise of nonexistent domestic work into going to the nearest big city to work in a brothel.

Once there her life is described and her gradual decline in health until she eventually dies of Aids. Interwoven into this tragic and violent storyline is the story of a young man, Aidan, who eventually becomes a doctor and goes to Brazil for a two month elective, as part of his medical training.

His story interweaves with Tis's story on three different occasions prior to this, and it also contains details of his courtship and marriage to a young English girl.

I felt it important to include these details as this is firstly in stark contrast to Tis's bleak state in life, and it secondly describes what the average person in an affluent society sees as their right in terms of love and marriage.

Aidan's story also helps to lighten what would be otherwise a totally dark tale. The book is intended to help us enter into just a little of the agony suffered by such young women and boys.

Balcombe Free Church



Balcombe Free Church was founded in the 1850's as the village Congregational Chapel. In 1896 the former Tintern Abbey tearooms building, was bought by one Thomas Wells of Lindfield and some other gentlemen. Mr Wells was a staunch nonconformist and not much is known about him, except that he was the first chairman of Lindfield Parish Council.

The building was transported all the way to Balcombe and re-erected on the present central village site, which had also been purchased by Mr Wells. This flimsy building with its corrugated iron roof remained in existence for about one hundred years.

It must at least have had firm foundations, and it survived the 1987 hurricane unscathed (not to mention the 7-11 year-olds charging back and forth with their riotous games). A brick front was added in 1968, which may have helped to hold the building together and certainly gave

the then Congregational church a facelift.

Eventually, however the old building was demolished, and the present new building was officially opened in September 1996. As well as being a place of worship, the building has been used regularly by village organisations.

In 1972 the church became a congregation of the URC. Over the years it has been linked with various congregations: Christ Church, Pound Hill (now Crawley URC) in the 1960-80's, then Moat, East Grinstead, and finally Lindfield URC from 2001 (so in a way we renewed the earlier Lindfield connection).

More recently the congregation had become small numerically, and after much prayerful consideration it was concluded, that the work and witness of Balcombe Free Church as currently constituted was complete. A closing service of thanksgiving was held on 8 July 2012.

Rev Charles Martin

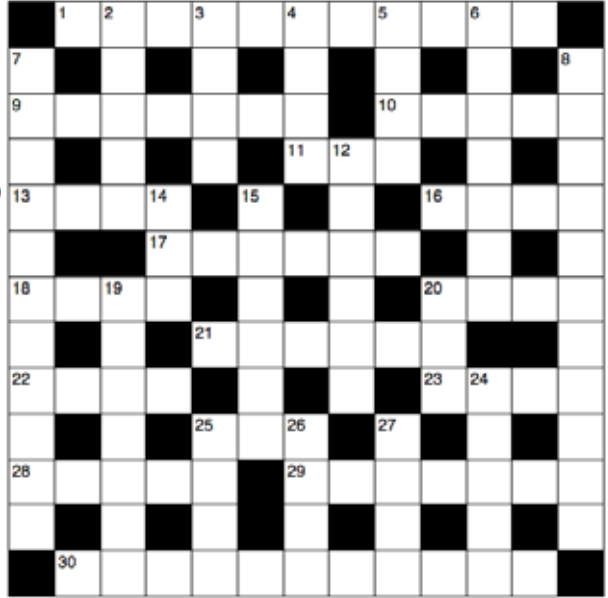
Crossword

Across

- 1 The sixth disciple (Matthew 10:3) (11)
- 9 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the — — '(Matthew 6:13) (4,3)
- 10 Love intensely (Song of Songs 1:4) (5)
- 11 From Mt Carmel to Jezreel, Elijah — all the way (1 Kings 18:46) (3)
- 13 One of the Midianite leaders who was captured and killed after Gideon's victory in the valley near Moreh (Judges 7:25) (4)
- 16 Metallic element (4)
- 17 At line (anag.) (6)
- 18 'Cursed is everyone who is — on a tree' (Galatians 3:13) (4)
- 20 Where Samson killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey's jawbone (Judges 15:14) (4)
- 21 He succeeded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 22 'When he saw him, he took — on him' (Luke 10:33) (4)
- 23 'For — is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction' (Matthew 7:13) (4)
- 25 'The god of this — has blinded the minds of unbelievers' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (3)
- 28 Fear or terror (Psalm 31:22) (5)
- 29 'We, who are many, are one body, for we all — of the one loaf' (1 Corinthians 10:17) (7)
- 30 Assyrian ruler assassinated by his sons while worshipping his god Nisroch (2 Kings 19:37) (11)

Down

- 2 'For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made — '(1 Corinthians 15:22) (5)
- 3 'After supper he — the cup' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (4)
- 4 The request of a man of Macedonia in Paul's vision: 'Come — to Macedonia and help us' (Acts 16:9) (4)



- 5 He disobeyed his father Judah by refusing to impregnate his dead brother's wife (Genesis 38:9) (4)
- 6 I veto me (anag.) (7)
- 7 Fourth king of Judah (1 Kings 15:24) (11)
- 8 Priest of God Most High, who blessed Abram (Genesis 14:18) (11)
- 12 'I have made you — — for the Gentiles' (Acts 13:47) (1,5)
- 14 Implore (1 Samuel 15:25) (3)
- 15 'Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the — , something sweet' (Judges 14:14) (6)
- 19 'I am the most ignorant of men; I do — — a man's understanding' (Proverbs 30:2) (3,4)
- 20 'Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under — , but under grace' (Romans 6:14) (3)
- 24 Native of, say, Baghdad (5)
- 25 The last word in the Bible (Revelation 22:21) (4)
- 26 Heroic tale (4)
- 27 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you — '(John 8:32) (4)

Why Me?

"You've got significant prostate cancer and dangerous bladder cancer!"

As some of you know, these were the words given to me by an oncologist last year, following a series of tests I had undergone. The good news was, I did not feel the need to say "Why me?" I knew we did not live in a perfect world, and accident, harm and disease can befall anyone. Illness is not a punishment. Cancer is a fact of life and it might just as well have been me as anyone else.

"What happens now?" I asked.

"Chemotherapy and radiotherapy", was the reply. (And a lot of prayer, I thought to myself!)

The prescribed treatment took seven months, but during that time friends, groups and churches, including many at Lindfield U.R.C, were praying for us, for which we were more than grateful. Indeed we asked for it and soon became aware of its healing effect. My lifelong and absolute fear of needles and injections completely disappeared. I learned to stop being proudly self sufficient so that when people kindly asked if they could do anything, from driving to grass cutting, I was able to say "yes"! There was a peace surrounding the treatment, even in the hard days of chemo. When grumpiness and frustration arose it never had the last word and the resentful and anxious "Why me?" never surfaced.

Never has belonging to the Body of

Christ felt such a privilege and support. Always there was someone there. My circumstances were used to compile a short film, for use by Macmillan Nurses, to demonstrate the importance of home and community care for people with cancer. I found a fresh desire and longing to receive Communion at every opportunity. I had always taught and preached that the Eucharist was a healing sacrament and now I sensed it for myself. I could not get enough of "Jesus Chemo" as someone once called it. Anointing, prayer with laying on hands, healing services at Crowhurst and elsewhere, all became even more significant and sought after on a regular basis, as much as any medical treatment.

Eventually the time came when that treatment was completed. By then the prostate cancer was under control however I was still required to go for an internal investigation of the bladder. The oncologist had spoken about the possibility of major surgery and only a 50% chance of success with the treatment.

I was admitted; they anaesthetised me, went inside, and found nothing! The cancer had gone!

"Why me?" when others don't have such good result? The answers are the same as "why me?" when something bad happens to us. We don't live in a perfect world, but neither do we live in a world without Christ's miracle, presence and hope. 'Medical expertise or prayer?' I like to think both are needed for healing and wholeness. Thank you for your care and thanks be to God in Jesus name.

Rev Peter McIntosh

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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

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

October

7th	Wedding	Iris Bingham
14th	Harvest	Harvest
21st	Jessie Green	Heather Swann
28th	Wedding	Janet Sanderson

November

4th	Carol Marsh	Fo Tingley
11th	Betty Billings	Sue Tester
18th	Sue Waller	Barbara Shepherd
25th	Audrey Mckee	Jo Bloxham

Around Lindfield

Saturday 6th October

8pm: Tiger Arts in All Saints Church: King's Chamber Orchestra

Wednesday 10th October

10-12: Horticultural Society in KEH: Coffee Morning and Plant Sale

12.15pm: Tiger Arts: Lunch in the Tiger - Soprano and Piano

8pm: Horticultural Society in KEH: "A Lavender Collection"

Wednesday 17th October

8pm: Preservation Society in KEH: "Crystal Palace" presentation

Saturday 20th October

7.45pm: HH Music Society, St Wilfreds Church: Jong-Gyung Park (piano)

Further information from Christine Colbourne 456227

Thursday 25th October

Film in KEH: Film and time TBA

