

# *Good*NEWS

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

**SUMMER 2012**

- A passion for Jesus
- Jubilee Celebrations
- Summer feasts!



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## ***Bible passage for this month.***

**Romans 8 v 16**

**“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children”.**

**The verse encourages me, and gives me assurance that I’m indeed a child of God, as his Spirit lives in me.**

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## ***inChoir* CONCERT at THE HAWTH, CRAWLEY**

**SUNDAY, 22nd JULY, @ 7pm**

Some time ago *GoodNEWS* featured an article about inChoir, a modern, relaxed choir who sing interesting arrangements of a wide range of popular music. A number of our Church Family sing with inChoir and we would really value your support at this exciting concert. The Choir will be made up of singers from ‘inChoirs’ in Haywards Heath, East Grinstead, Burgess Hill, Crawley and Tunbridge Wells, so there is likely to be over 200 of us taking part, including the children’s choir inChoon, who meet in Lindfield. And it will be our first concert with a live band!

Tickets, priced £10, are going fast and are available from The Hawth Box Office. It would be lovely to see some familiar faces in the audience, and we are sure you’ll have a truly fun evening!

Fiona Tingley, and Lindfield URC inChoir members.



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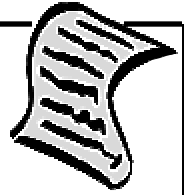
As we prepare our magazine, the Church Weekend away is just two weeks away. We are all really looking forward to Energise 2012 and praying that this may be a significant time of our lives and that we all may learn from the experience of the weekend. We are so very fortunate to have Charles our Pastor to lead our Church with all his many years of experience. Charles always manages to encourage us all in our Faith and love of Jesus.

Our magazine has been compiled, on the computer, by Tim Sanderson for the last three years and Dan McQuillin is replacing Tim on the 'Good News Team'. We do want to thank Tim for everything he has achieved in making our magazine a joy to look at and read. This will be the last Good News that he will have dealings with. We do thank Dan for taking over Tim's role on the 'Good News Team'.

I trust you will enjoy the articles submitted this month.

Anne

## **Dear Friends,**



When you read this, our church weekend-away “Energise 2012” will be over. I’ve been part of many such gatherings in the past and I’ve always enjoyed them, but afterwards it’s easy to let the spiritual momentum dissipate. We must not allow that to happen.

If you are a regular at Church Meetings, you will already know about another initiative which we are putting before the fellowship. It’s an attempt to encourage greater commitment from everyone to build God’s Kingdom and use the gifts the Holy Spirit has given to each and every one of us. We haven’t thought of a title yet – it’s still at the planning stage – but come September full details will be available. I simply mention it to you now because everyone will need to be involved. In a busy church like ours many people are already working hard and I hesitate to ask folk to make an even greater effort and give more of themselves, more of their time and money to God’s work, but you see that’s precisely what it is – God’s work.

This year I shall celebrate forty years as a minister of the Gospel. The actual anniversary of my ordination falls on a Sunday - July 22nd. It will be the first of our Summer 10.30 am services and during it I will be re-affirming my ordination vows. A fellowship lunch will follow to which everyone is invited which will give us an opportunity to welcome new-comers to the church.

Those forty years have brought so many different experiences and a whole host of wonderful people into my life. Some, it has to be said, have been more wonderful than others, but my minister’s words to me at my ordination all those years ago still ring true –

*“This is a calling like no other, with heights and moments of joy it would be difficult to express.”*

It has been a tremendous privilege for me to give the whole of my life to the work of the Ministry, but I’ve been able to do so only because folk like you have committed themselves to working alongside me.

What I am asking is that you should go on doing so, so that together we can discover new ways of service and new gifts to offer to the One who gave everything for us.

With sincere good wishes from your pastor and friend,  
*Charles S. Martin*

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## **News from Balcombe URC**

Lindfield and Balcombe URC's have had a close relationship with one another for a long time. The Lindfield minister has also served the congregation at Balcombe and it's been my privilege to go there and take the service on the third Sunday every month. Soon, however, I won't have to do that any longer because as many of you will already know, Balcombe United Reformed Church is to close.

It's natural for folk to ask why and the answer is that the two people – Philip and Leonie Wren – who have worked so hard to maintain and sustain the church, feel that God is calling them to serve in other ways and other places.

I want to pay tribute to Philip and Leonie and to the other Elder – Dr. Donald Nisbet. No one could have been more committed to Balcombe URC than Philip, Leonie and Donald, but recently it has become clear that their efforts have not brought forth the response they have hoped and prayed for. Other evangelical Christians who live in the village have chosen to worship outside it, some as far afield as Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath and regrettably the Church Meeting took the decision to close earlier in May.

There are times when God's people have to realise that what they want to happen is not what He wants to happen and that can be a painful discovery, but faithful Christian discipleship is about obedience. The Elders and Congregation at Balcombe feel that their resources, both human and material, could be used more effectively elsewhere. For this reason the final service to give thanks to God for all that has been achieved through the life of the church will take place at 3.30pm on Sunday July 8th and there is a welcome to all Lindfield folk who have been associated with Balcombe over the years to attend.

*Charles Martin*

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## **Village Day Procession**

We joined the Village Day procession pleased that the weather was holding! We were led by the uplifting drumming of the Boys' Brigade as we walked to the common. We gave out 60 balloons, along with an invitation to the service on the common the next day. It was fun being part of the community and the Jubilee celebrations and it seemed the numbers lining the route were greater this year which added to the sense of occasion. Thank you to BB and everyone who turned out to walk with us and those who supported us along the way!

*Lydia Goodchild.*

## **Passion Conference**

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On Saturday 21st April, Helen, Alex and I went down to the Clarendon Centre near to the Railway Station in Brighton for the one-day Passion Conference. The Clarendon Centre is a regular conference centre and also the Sunday home of the New England Site (it's on New England Street) of Brighton's Church of Christ the King. The Passion Conference was run by Avanti Ministries, a Global Ministry that seeks to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ relevantly to every person in the world. George Verwer, Founder of Operation Mobilization, said "I'm really excited about this ministry and it's a privilege to be linked with this great work". Avanti Ministries was founded in 2003 by Tony Anthony, author of "Taming the Tiger", which is an account of his journey from being a three times World Kung Fu champion, to the despair of imprisonment to finding freedom again when introduced to the life changing power of Jesus Christ.

The main objective of the Avanti Ministries is Evangelism. A key verse that inspired the founders is Mark 16 v 15, "He (Jesus) said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation...' ". That's what they try to do. The opening speaker, George Osborn (not the Chancellor!) said that the word "Avanti" is simply Italian for "go", in the sense of moving forwards – they chose the word because it does sound a bit more exciting than "go"!

The conference began and ended with a lively worship session led by the worship band of City Coast Church - music was also provided by the excellent Christian singer/songwriter Nicki Rogers. One of the main aims of the conference was to encourage Christians to share the gospel in whatever way felt most comfortable, in the knowledge that evangelism is about proclaiming the gospel, not about saving souls. Only God can save souls and we should not be anxious if we do not see an instant response to our efforts to evangelize. If we worry too much about saving souls then this can lead to feelings of failure, a bullying style and a watering down of the Christian message (e.g. to make it more acceptable). One of the examples of evangelism given was of an Australian man, Frank Jenner. When Frank was converted he was so grateful to God that he promised to witness for Jesus with 10 people a day, so he regularly handed out

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Christian tracts on George Street, a main street in Sydney. Frank never saw the results of his ministry, yet over 40 years it is estimated that more than 146,000 people came to know Jesus through his work and the work of those he touched – like the spreading of ripples on a pond, the evangelism of this man had impact far beyond his focus of action.

The speakers listed six key stages in the process of drawing a non-Christian to Christ, based on the agricultural pictures used by Jesus himself, i.e., ploughing, sowing, watering, growing, harvesting and threshing. The sowing, between ploughing and watering, is the key stage of evangelism. If you just plough and then water without sowing you end up with.....mud! **MUD** was taken here to stand for “**M**ighty **U**nbalanced **D**iscipleship”, illustrated by an amusing mocked up photograph of a person with his right side looking like the body of Charles Atlas while the left side looked like the body of someone who had never lifted a weight in their life! Going to church, giving, Bible study, worship, prayer and so forth were all represented by the perfectly developed muscles on the right side while evangelism was represented by a rather weedy bicep on the left side! A simple but effective image!

The Avanti web site (<http://www.avantiministries.com/>) says that the “*Passion Conference is a dynamic course designed to restore passion, purpose, and priority to the church. It's about one thing: deepening your walk with God so that you return home inspired to impact your family, friends and community for Christ. You will leave changed!*”. From a personal perspective I think it succeeds. The final session was a very practical guide to different forms of evangelism, from leaving tracts in the form of folded, look-a-like £20 notes with a Bible message (few can resist picking them up!), to learning to speak with strangers on the street – all very useful. I am looking forward to reading a book that is based on the conference material, but going into more detail. Called “Passion”, it is written by Tony Anthony with Angela Little. We all benefited from going to the Passion Conference and I would recommend it to anyone unsure of why or how to evangelize.

*Martin Hall*



**Over the Weekend of 22 - 24 June, we held our Energise 2012 event, at Pilgrim Hall. The following are a few responses from those who attended, given at the end of the weekend:**

We enjoyed a wonderful weekend of learning, sharing and fun. It went so quickly! The children really enjoyed having the company of others and they were able to enjoy the freedom to roam and play in the delightful grounds. The swimming pool and Saturday evening entertainment was a highlight. Paul reminded us of the potential of the Holy Spirit, working in each of us and the fellowship, a real blessing.

Good food, good fellowship, great worship and teaching. What more can I say. Thanks for all the hard work put in by the organising committee.

*Cliff Griffiths.*

God so loved us,

He sent His Son to die for us.

Can we love each other?

He loved us All.

Can we love each and every one?

A wonderfully refreshing weekend, in beautiful surroundings. All ages catered for and excellent cuisine. We have been spoilt and blessed. May we continue in life's dance in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Norna Derham.*



This was our first weekend away with Lindfield United Reformed Church. We found it to really inspiring, uplifting and spiritual. We have much to take away and ponder.

Thanks go to all the organisers and especially to Paul and his team. What an amazing speaker he is. Thanks also to the backroom team, the musicians and staff at Pilgrim Hall.

*Gill and Brian Couchy.*

Energise has been a real blessing. All that we do personally and in the life of our Church, needs to be 'God driven', through the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Fo Tingley.*

One verse stood out for me:-

"...his faith was made complete by what he did" [James 2 verse 22]

May God lead us all to complete our faith?

*Mike Gardiner.*

## **In Touch**

In Touch will meet on Tuesday 24th July in the Church Lounge when Fi McLachlan will give us insight and an update on the work of the Food Bank, which some of us are already involved in. On Tuesday 28th August at the earlier time of 6.30pm, assuming the summer is here by then, we will meet in Janet Wade's garden at 47 Blackthorns. Perhaps by then the weather will have improved. You are all very welcome to join us and we look forward to seeing everyone.

For more information please contact Sue on 455047.

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## **FAMILY NEWS**

### **Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Norna and Aubrey Derham**

We send our 'Love and Congratulations' to Norna and Aubrey Derham on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary which is on Thursday 5th July 2012. We pray that God will continue to bless you in your future life together.

*Jane and Tim Harfield have recently celebrated their Silver Wedding. May you and your family know God's blessing and comfort at this time of mixed emotions following the death of Jane's Father.*

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### **Thank you.**

We would like to thank everyone for all their love, prayers, support, many cards, cooked meals and flowers that we have received during my Dad's illness and following his death last month. We have felt overwhelmed by the love and support that has been given to us. Thank you so much.

Jane Harfield and family.

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### **Bereavement**

We offer our sincere sympathy to the family of Pauline Wallace (a member of our 11.15 congregation) who died recently.

Mary and Chris Comber would like to thank everybody who has supported us in any way. The prayers, cards, letters and phone calls were really appreciated during the difficult times, when Chris had the problem of Shingles in his eyes.  
Mary Comber

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### **The Fellowship**

The last meeting of this session will be on Wednesday 25th July at 2.30pm when we will have our 'Garden Tea'. We hope the sun shines so we can all be outside. We extend a very warm welcome to everyone.

Winifred Scopes

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## ***Our Queen's special day***

We were cold, very cold and we were shivering! The river Thames looked dull, grey and restless. What were we doing here we asked ourselves - four hours standing in a crowd that was cold and silent! It was Sunday, the 3rd of June and we were waiting for the Queen to arrive. We wanted to see the Royal Pageant but most of all we wanted to see the Queen. And she came at last! What an incredible moment to see our Monarch beautifully dressed in an ivory white dress and coat that was embellished with gold, silver, ivory and crystals to reflect the light dancing on the water. The crowd erupted into cheers and joyful shouts. 'Give us a wave. Lizzy,' cried out one loud voice. And she did.

Was it worth the long wait? **YES.**

We who are Christians are waiting too. We are waiting for the return of the King, the King of all Kings, King Jesus. What a glorious day that will be! We will be singing, shouting and cheering. Seeing our King at last.

But we are waiting. What do we do whilst we are waiting? It is all summed up in Titus chapter 3 and verses 11 - 13.

*'For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say 'no' to ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour. Jesus Christ.'*

Will the wait be worth it? **YES, YES, YES!**

Jean Gardiner

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## **The Art Group**

On Monday mornings sixteen members of the Art Group enjoy meeting together at Church. We share ideas with each other and enjoy painting pictures in water colour, acrylic and oils. Each member has their own style and it becomes an interesting morning.

We enjoy friendship and fellowship together. We encourage all forms of art from stitch craft to knitting etc.. New members are made very welcome.

Doreen Fowler.

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## ***PPS – Reflections on travel***

Work has been a bit manic recently with travel to three new countries for me in the space of six weeks: **P**anama, **P**oland and **S**audi Arabia. I never thought I would get to fly as much as the flies I study! I had hoped to experience some different worship in churches in Panama and Poland but was not there on a Sunday so missed out. As I am 1 /16th Polish, a part of me (left lower leg?) felt like it was coming home when I flew to Warsaw. It was a time to reflect as I sat on a train travelling south, staring out at the endless flat fields (Poland means “land of fields”) and wondering what my distant relative had to endure when he escaped from his Russian captors and fled his home country for UK.

Panama by contrast was hilly, hot and humid, divided in two by the canal that is just approaching its 100th Birthday. Saudi Arabia was also hot but, in Riyadh, humidity is something they can only dream of. The aspect of Saudi that was a real eye-opener to me was its official treatment of women – even the European women at the conference I attended had to use a separate entrance to the hall, sit behind a screen to one side of the auditorium during the meeting and eat in a separate room in the evening, away from the men. Perhaps some women would like it, but it seemed a bit unnatural – and women don't get to drive!

However, one aspect of Saudi Arabia that we might learn from was the evidence of religion – it was not hidden away and treated as an embarrassment like it tends to be in the west. From opening prayers in the conference, to shutting shops for regular daily prayers, to the special curtained-off prayer area on the Saudi Arabian Airline Boeing (thereby losing the income from several seats) having a religion seemed a natural part of life. My Muslim colleagues on the Panama trip prayed openly in the airport at Panama City, which I thought was also quite an open demonstration of their faith – could I learn something from this in my Christian life?

*Martin Hall*

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## **BOYS' BRIGADE**



Readers of *GoodNEWS* will already have seen a report on the Youth Camp at Blackland Farm which appeared in the last issue. Unfortunately several Boys' Brigade members could not attend because of cramming for exams, but B.B. staff helped to run the camp. My most vivid impression of the weekend was of trying to be clever, and I got my car in to the camp field, by a back route, only to get stuck in the mud! I was grateful to Adrian, who rustled up a group of lads to push me out! Much of the camp's undoubted success was due to Josh, who was an absolute star he worked like a Trojan before and during, the weekend.

In contrast Village Day's lucky weather pattern held good for this year. This was all the more important because of the Jubilee. The B.B. drummers led by David Walters were part of the Church float which headed to the Common from Hickmans Lane. I do not know whether the crowd was a record, but the number of people attending was certainly very large. Our drummers have now reached a good standard, and it was satisfying to hear them praised over the public broadcasting system.

A few weeks earlier, our Company Section, 5-a-side football team took part in a tournament at Oathall School. They did very well against formidable opposition; despite a slight injury, Wesley Heyward scored a couple of magnificent goals against the 1st Southwick Company in the final game.

Please do not forget our Award Presentation Ceremony on Monday 16th July, 6.30 p.m. Some significant awards are being made this year, including Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Awards, and it would be good to see a large turnout of supporters to celebrate this achievement. The Chief Guest will be Bernie Dignum, a former Officer in our B.B. Company, who is now an Elder, and B.B. helper, at Christ Church URC, Burgess Hill.

*Geoffrey Cocksedge*



## 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 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, 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 | 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  | Boys' Brigade - Anchor Boys (5-7 years)                             |
|      | 6.15pm  | Boys' Brigade - Junior Section (8-11 years)                         |
|      | 7.15pm  | Boys' Brigade - Company Section (11+ years)                         |
| Tue  | 10.00am | Stepping Stones (Parents and toddlers - term time)                  |
|      | 7.45pm  | In Touch (4th Tues) for women of all ages                           |
| Wed  | 2.30pm  | The Fellowship (4th Wed) for mature ladies and gentlemen            |
| Thur | 10.00am | Pop-In (for coffee and a chat)                                      |
|      | 8.00pm  | Church Meeting (2nd Thur)   |
| Fri  | 7.15pm  | Zest (Years 6-9) games, craft, tuck and a bible message (term time) |
| Sun  | 8.00pm  | Youth Fellowship  |

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

## Our Flying Visit to Moldova

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When the taxi driver dropped us at Haywards Heath station he said 'have a good holiday' – if we had wanted that we would have gone to the Maldives not Moldova which is Europe's poorest nation.

Until the '90s Moldova was part of the Soviet Union and in some ways still has that feel. There is much rich agricultural land but with unfulfilled potential. There are unresolved political problems, a lack of industry and trade and the lingering effects of communism.

The purpose of our visit was to see some of the work that Operation Mobilisation is doing throughout the country, led by Matthew Skirton who with his wife has been there for over fifteen years – they now have five children.

Our visit took us first to the OM base on the outskirts of the capital, Chisinau to meet the staff, about 40 in all, about half being Moldovans and



the rest as many as 10 different countries. We also spent some time with about twenty young people on OM Moldova's 'Challenge into Mission' training course. Ten weeks of teaching, training and outreach. Over the years this twice-annual course has introduced many to 'full time' mission and evangelism.

### **Youth Worker's House**

OM works with the Baptist and Pentecostal denominations in evangelism, relief and development. Various outreach programmes take place throughout the year some teams trek from village to village, others cycle and some use river rafts to reach the more isolated communities. Outreach using sports is also popular.

OM supports many churches in running Day Care Centres for children, helping the very poor and vulnerable particularly after school, which is morning only. Many children live with parents who are alcoholics, some have lost parents. We actually met a girl of 12 who had been abandoned by



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her parents and was looking after a younger brother.

At the other end of the age scale there are many elderly, particularly in the villages who literally do not have sufficient income to pay for food. With meagre pensions equivalent to £25 per month and no Welfare State, in the winter many cannot afford to buy the wood to heat their primitive homes. Many die in the cold weather with temperatures last winter hitting -30°C. OM is reaching out to demonstrate Christ's love with canteen projects, practical and material help and regular visits. We visited a village where funding had been given for the digging of a well and where it is proposed to build a small church. One small shop sold bread and some basic supplies – no electronic till just an abacus for calculating the bill!!

Another aspect of the work is to encourage the start up of small businesses by offering constructive training and micro enterprise loans. We visited one young man who had started his own business under this scheme manufacturing concrete blocks, paving slabs and tiles. He was employing five workers – health and safety was not high on the agenda though!!

Through these schemes communities can be transformed through employment. Currently unemployment is estimated to be as high as 60%.

Moldova is clearly a country where physical and material needs are great but it is also a country with deep spiritual needs. The evangelical church and mission organisations like OM have to contend with the opposition and influence of the Orthodox Church. Preaching and church planting in traditionally Orthodox villages is especially opposed, frequently with violence.

However, it was great to meet a number of new Christians whose lives have been transformed by the Gospel and who in turn were reaching out with the love of Jesus.

It was a privilege to meet many wonderful people who have obeyed the call of the Lord and are making a real difference in the lives of those around them. That is a challenge to us, to share the love of Jesus where we are and to shine out for Him

*Ron & Janet Goodenough*

## The Race

I shall always remember the sight. As we started our precarious descent by car in characteristic Cumbrian driving rain down Hard Knott Pass, with its 1-in-3 twists and even steeper drop-offs into bracken clad oblivion,



a lone runner with weighted back pack faced us square on. 'Army?' I mused, or just a mad keen fitness fanatic who must have come over Wrynose Pass to even arrive there, and who would then face another long run to civilisation somewhere in the western Lake District before supper. Perhaps he was in training for a fell running race or even a Marathon.

One thing's for sure; if you're an aspiring Patrick Makau or Paula Radcliffe who respectively hold the official world records for men and women for the Marathon, you don't achieve that without years of dedication, often struggling with injury and managing the delicate balance between training, competition, family life and work. For Usain Bolt, the 25 year old Jamaican 100m and 200m World and Olympic record holder ('Lightning' and 9.58 spring to mind), the same struggle and dedication apply. When it comes to the event though, backpacks and extra weights are nowhere to be seen.

In life itself the Bible's writer to the Hebrew Christians offers good advice. *'Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.'* If you're like me, you can easily get bogged down with those 'Achilles Heel' human weaknesses and lured by distractions which take our eyes off the finishing line. As the young Usain looked to rôle models like sprinter Michael Johnson and also listened to his trainer, we Christians are encouraged to focus on Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit of God to work in us and through us in our daily 'race', being 'salt and light' in a society that has largely turned its back on God.

July will witness the biggest sporting event this country has hosted for a long time – the London Olympics – when many athletes, both track and

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field, will be going for gold. Even more inspiring for me will be the Paralympics, running from 29 August to 9 September, when athletes with physical disabilities will also compete. Amazing achievements despite handicaps at birth or through injury.

Let's not also forget that other great endurance race, running from Saturday June 30th to Sunday July 22nd 2012, the 99th Tour de France which over 20 stages and 1 prologue time trial will cover a total distance of 3,479 kilometres. The all time greats, Merckx, Anquetil, Bobet, Hinault, Indurain and, of course, Lance Armstrong (7 times winner despite having come through life threatening cancer) – will be remembered for their athleticism and dedication. But even the victors will tell you that they could not have won without the support of a good team. Hmm...a lesson there, too.

I know nowadays if you're a parent with young children, life can feel like a race of a different kind (more of a 'dash' really), with nursery and school runs, shopping, running a home, after-school activities and weekend sport, leaving little time for leisure and friends, not to mention all the extra costs involved. For the elderly the challenge can be equally demanding – shopping, getting to those doctor or hospital appointments, or simply getting about. And for the 'in-betweeners', caring for elderly parents and supporting offspring with growing families, life is no less demanding.

So, with all that's happening, I hope you get the opportunity to recharge life's batteries this summer. Enjoy the sport of whatever kind, whether you're an aspiring athlete or interested spectator, and if sport doesn't inspire then I hope you have opportunity to enjoy your favourite pastime. In the great race of life, don't forget to take time for yourself, family and friends, and leave some over for others too, wherever you find yourself. Above all, keep your heart and life open to the one who gave himself for us and not only showed us how to run the race of life, but now lives forever to offer forgiveness and a new start and a new life.

Whatever life throws our way, we can be sure that Jesus will be there, because He has promised to be.

*John Barling*

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## **UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS IN INDIA**

On our recent trip to see our son and daughter-in-law in Bangkok, Jean and I broke our outward journey in Delhi so that we could fit in a seven-day tour of North India, and some of you have already heard about our adventures. It wasn't a specifically Christian tour – our itinerary was arranged by a tour company. However, we both had a real sense of God being involved, which may have been because praying friends were remembering us.

God's touch upon my holiday started the day before we travelled when I looked for a good Christian book in the church bookcase and found "Virtue Reborn" a recent book by Tom Wright, which I gratefully borrowed. (Thank you, whoever left this new book for others to share – I've now returned it to the lounge having read it twice. It was a stimulating read).

In Delhi, the highlight was visiting the place of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination, now a museum set in a beautiful garden. Among the masses of memorabilia were many sayings of Gandhi, and I was struck by how much of the teaching of Jesus this revered Indian leader had absorbed, and how sad it was to think that had the Christians around him lived more closely to their Lord, this powerfully influential man might have become a follower of Jesus.

These thoughts prepared the way for several open talks with our guides, drivers and fellow-passengers, mainly Hindu, but including one Christian and (near the Tibetan border) one Buddhist. It was refreshing to be in a country where people listened to our testimony with interest and were happy to talk about religion without embarrassment. We listened too, and gained a respect for the religions that have shaped this vast country: Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism and, yes, Christianity. It is true that there is growing intimidation of Christians in India, especially in rural areas, and our persecuted fellow-believers need our prayers. However, as in any large country, the picture is not uniform, and our very limited experiences confirmed our impression of India as a land where Christianity is still respected by ordinary people and is in many places still influential.

Besides the happy family memories, I returned home with a renewed appreciation of the joy of following Jesus, and a resolve to live more closely to him and speak more openly of him.

*Mike Gardiner*

## ***Youth Page***

Hi all, this summer we will be running a week long holiday club called Showstoppers. It will be for all children who are in reception to year 6 at school and will run from the 13th -17th August from 9.30am – 12.30pm.

We will be having fun with drama, playing games, doing crafty bits, singing songs and learning about Jesus in a week guaranteed to be a lot of fun!

We will also be sharing what we have learnt throughout the week in the church service on Sunday 19th August so please also put that in your diary!

If you have children, grandchildren, neighbours or anybody else in that age range please let them know about this, I will have flyers available if anybody would like one please come and find me!

Also if you would be interested in helping out during the week please let me know by email – [jthomas@lindfieldurc.org.uk](mailto:jthomas@lindfieldurc.org.uk) or by phone – 07598 779553.

We include a poster for the event on the back page, so please show this to your friends and family!

***Josh***

## **Tunes and Tea Café - Saturday 21 July @ 3.00 pm, Lindfield URC**

Last year we had a spring and a winter café; I was going to call this a summer one but as I write this I wonder if summer will ever come. However whatever the situation a cup of tea is most welcome and it is for a good cause.

In addition to the music we hope we will have some audience participation as the event is post Jubilee and pre Olympics. Many of us were about at the Coronation, some serving their country others attending school and getting their coronation mugs. We would like to hear from you and if you have any pictures so much the better. The Olympics in 1948, I am sure we have some tales to share. Please let me know if you have a story to tell and let us hear from you very soon.

*Peter Swann.*

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## ***Mission Barbecue and Monthly Giving***

We are delighted that Chris Binstead from Arab World Ministries will be speaking at our barbecue on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July. Some will remember Chris from some time back when he was with FEBA – he is an excellent speaker. He has written to following for this edition of GoodNews:

### **A Brief Introduction to Arab World Ministries**

The Arab world is rarely out of the news! And in the last 18 months we have probably heard more about the countries of the Arab world than ever before; due in no small part to the Arab Spring, which started in December 2010 when Mohammad Bouazizi set fire to himself in Tunisia, and has affected every region of the Arab world to varying degrees, and now the worsening crisis in Syria.

But where is the Arab world?

In simple terms, you could say that it covers the regions of North Africa, Middle East and the Arabian Peninsula - those countries connected by Arab culture and the Arabic language. The population of the Arab world is around 340 million, more than half of whom are under 25 years of age.

It's true to say that faith lies at the centre of community life in the Arab nations, with Islam, Christianity, and Judaism all being founded in or near areas that are now Arab League countries. But the majority of the population – perhaps 95% - are Muslims.

This is where Arab World Ministries have been seeking to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the people of the Arab world and initiate church planting movements in partnership with local churches, since their founding more than 130 years ago.

Historically, the Arab world has been resistant to the gospel of Christ. Over the last 1400 years, believers from a Muslim background have sometimes been sent to jail or put to death to deter other seekers and in many of the nations it is illegal to convert from Islam to Christianity (or any other faith).

Muslims who have come to faith in Christ often live in areas where there are no fellowships or in countries that do not have an indigenous church. In many places, it is illegal to hold Christian meetings or even own a copy of the Bible. New believers are reluctant to attend a church or visit a known Christian home

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due to fear of persecution.

But, encouragingly there are a growing number of small house groups of believers meeting and studying the Word of God in secret. Indeed the church in parts of North Africa has seen significant growth in the past thirty years.

Arab World Ministries have something like 300 adults ministering long term across 20 different countries, from 35 different countries of origin, doing all sorts of activities. And there's also a media team, which produces television and radio programmes, discipleship material and evangelistic websites, together with a significant response ministry - personally replying to enquiries from those who want to know more about the Christian faith.

And it is significant that there are so many young people, for these young Arabs have grown up in the digital age, thinking nothing of going online, using their computers to find their information and entertainment from websites. It is second nature to them, and the web has become one of the most effective tools for evangelism and discipleship among Muslims in the Arab world, because it is accessible and anonymous. Indeed, one of the websites was last year visited by 1.1 million visitors.

Two young men visited one of the websites and responded, saying:  
*We are two young men from the Gulf, studying in Algeria. We both come from traditional Muslim families. We have studied other religions looking for the truth and have found that Christianity teaches kindness, forgiveness and peace. It is a religion of light and truth that forbids killing and bloodshed. We have both decided to become Christians and are counting on your help. In our home country, those who leave Islam face the death sentence. It's difficult for us to learn about your faith, so please help us.*

Only a small amount of the whole Church's resources is focussed on leading Muslims to a new life in Christ. Some estimate that there is only one Christian worker to every one million Muslims

More information can be found on the mission display area. If you would like to give please use the special envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any Sunday service

**Tickets for the barbecue are available from the Missions Group: John Barling, Val Cookney, Jean Gardiner, Ron & Janet Goodenough.**

**See separate notice for more details.**

# **Mission Barbecue**

**At Lindfield URC**



**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July  
6.30 pm**

**Speaker: Chris Binstead  
From: AWM (Arab World Ministries)**

**Tickets are available from The Missions Group:  
John Barling, Val Cookney, Jean Gardiner,  
Ron & Janet Goodenough**

*If you have any dietary needs please  
speak to Ron or Janet*

## **Jubilee Service at Compton House**

On Sunday June 3rd members of a former house group joined with the residents of Compton House for their morning service. Some twenty of the residents and six of us took part in the service on what was a very special weekend of celebration for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth.

Enid one of the residents, remembered making, with help of her husband who was also at the service, a crepe paper and card royal crown, placing it outside on their porch roof, only for the coronation rain, in 1953, to render the work of art down to a pulp!

Peter, also a resident, recalled that at the same time of the coronation he was making reconnaissance flights in Korea and later received the Coronation Medal. Don took the opportunity to say a special prayer of thanksgiving for all the residents and staff at Compton House.



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The reading was from Luke chapter 4 verses 16 to 21. Jesus was in the Synagogue in Nazareth that day as he read from Isaiah. Isaiah's prophecies would have been known to the listeners in the Synagogue. But they would not have realised some of his prophecy was at that time still to be fulfilled. The listeners would know about the periods of captivity their nation had suffered. They would in part have known what "freedom for the prisoners" was about.

After their nation's escape from captivity in Egypt and while in the Promised Land, God had ruled that every 50 years there would be 'The year of Jubilee'. All debts are cancelled, all slaves are freed, and ancestral property was returned to the original family. (Lev 25). Jubilee existed because the land was the possession of Yahweh, and its current occupiers were merely tenants, and therefore the land shouldn't be sold forever.

The reading by Jesus of this passage from Isaiah, recorded for us by Luke, helps our understanding of the significance of debts being cancelled, and freedom for all people everywhere, and not just those people who were slaves in Egypt, or in Canaan, at the time of Jubilee.

Jesus read "The Spirit of the Lord is on me," and ends "to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour," His commentary, unlike most sermons, is brief, declaring simply, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

For us, we can look back to that time and see how events unfolded in the life of Jesus. For the listeners in the Synagogue that day, it was a lot to understand, delivered in so few words, but with such significant meaning.

Jesus claimed the basis of his authority to speak as "The Spirit of the Lord". The year of the Lord's Favour which concluded his reading, although not a calendar year, it is still now. The time when the gospel message is still open to be received. This message is about Jesus, bringing freedom for every individual. It is about good news, release for all who are trapped, who are prisoners to evil thoughts, words & deeds. Sight to those who cannot see that Satan is controlling their life. Cancelled debt before God, and being enabled to fulfil the potential, of God's plan for each one of us.

During the service, Compton House residents looked back with some personal recollections helping us all to recognise we have much to celebrate for the Queen's Jubilee. We can also look forward as there is even more to celebrate because of Jesus.

Thank you to all who joined with us, for the Compton House service, on that special Jubilee weekend.

*Henderson McEwan*

## **Balcombe United Reformed Church**

**Bramble Hill, Balcombe RH17 6HR**



Sadly, Balcombe Free Church (URC) is closing this month. Speakers for our last services are as follows:-

July 1st      10.30 am   Philip Wren

July 8th      3.30 pm   Charles Martin

We would like to thank those members of LURC who have supported and prayed for the work at Balcombe, which has enabled us to keep the church open for so long. Following the last service there will be a meal together in the church. Anyone who has given support over the years is invited to join us if they would like to. Please let us know beforehand by email:- [leoniewren@aol.com](mailto:leoniewren@aol.com) or tel. 01444 811253 for catering purposes.

### **WHAT CAN WE DO?**

It is most distressing for us to keep learning about the persecution of Christians in some other countries. Christian communities the world over treat minority faiths with respect, so is it too much to ask that the same respect is shown to our brothers and sisters in Christ, in these well documented overseas places?

In addition to praying for these poor folk, is there any practical action open to us? Can the Church not petition the Prime Minister to take this matter up with his opposite numbers? North Korea is, of course, an especially difficult area but, at least, we have dialogue with the other countries concerned. Can the PM not get other Christian countries with some real clout on board? I imagine President Obama must share our horror at what is going on. Are we satisfied that the leadership in the affected regions are doing everything they possibly can to neutralise extremism?

In the meantime, we, as individuals, must continue our prayers for the victims and also write to our MP's to urge that they must play their part in applying pressure in the appropriate quarters.

The Anglican community in the UK is about to get a new Archbishop of Canterbury. I believe his intervention could mitigate the worst excesses suffered by Christians overseas.

*John Cribb.*

**FLOWER ROTA**



<b>Arranging</b>	<b>Distributing</b>
<b>July 2012</b>	
1st Barbara Shepherd	Iris Bingham
8th Audrey Saunders	Heather Swann
15th Winifred Scopes	Janet Sanderson
22nd Fiona Tingley	Fiona Tingley
29th Heather Swann	Sue Tester
<b>August 2012</b>	
5th Ann Parker	Barbara Shepherd
12th Gladys Porter	Jo Bloxham
19th Janet Wade	Iris Bingham
26th Wedding	Heather Swann
<b>September 2012</b>	
2nd Wedding	Janet Sanderson
9th Joan Durrant	Fo Tingley
16th Jean Baxter	Sue tester
23rd Carol Walters	Barbara Shepherd
30th Mies Campling	Jo Bloxham

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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:**

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



# SHOWSTOPPERS

## HOLIDAY CLUB

open to all children from reception to  
year 6

13th-17th August at Lindfield URC  
9.30-12.30

for more details contact Josh  
[jthomas@lindfieldurc.org.uk](mailto:jthomas@lindfieldurc.org.uk)  
or 07598779553