

GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

March 2013

Love Does

The life transforming power of Love

Release International

The voice of persecuted Christians

Easter

The undeniable, inescapable, incredible truth, Jesus is ALIVE!



Bible verse of the month

"They saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed all in white. They were completely taken aback, astonished.

He said, "Don't be afraid. I know you're looking for Jesus the Nazarene, the One they nailed on the cross. He's been raised up; he's here no longer.

You can see for yourselves that the place is empty. Now-- on your way. Tell his disciples and Peter that he is going on ahead of you to Galilee.

You'll see him there, exactly as he said."

**Mark 16:5-7
The Message**



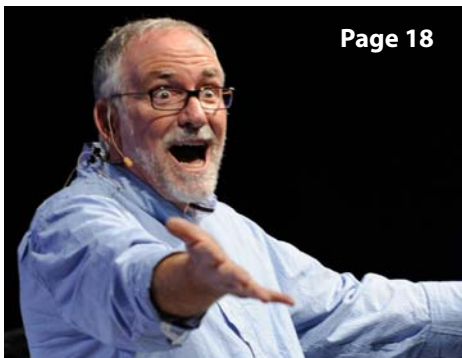
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If you would like to
share a special verse of
scripture email :

goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk

Editorial

Charles Martin Asks and answers the question Why Easter? He highlights that without the truth of the Cross of Jesus there would be no Christianity.

Dan McQuillin reviews a book which he has just read and found most helpful. It is a book that talks about Gods Love.

We of course have the usual regular features; a spot light on the wider world, Missions and Josh's Youth page, diary dates etc..

So as we come to this season of Easter, I hope we all make the time to consider anew the Love of God demonstrated on the Cross and the Power of God demonstrated in the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

“For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not be lost, but should have eternal life.”

John 3:16

Val & Anne

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Please include your contact
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Dear friends

As I write, winter still has us in its grip, but the signs of spring are beginning to appear. The mornings are getting lighter and even a few brave crocuses are pushing through the grass verges in the High Street.

No matter how dark life can seem at times, there's always light for a Christian! I much regretted the House of Commons' vote to "re-define marriage" and allow people of the same sex to marry. Contrary to what most folk think, the Christian faith doesn't condemn gay people. No one chooses their sexual orientation. The choice comes in whether or not we act it out.

Recently, Vaughan Roberts, the Rector of St. Ebbes in Oxford, admitted to homosexual feelings, but he has decided to remain celibate. A number of gay Christian friends of mine have made a different decision. They have chosen to get married and share a relationship with someone of the opposite sex. Both decisions are risky, but they have been made out of obedience to God's word and obedience is always risky. I believe God will honour them because they have sought to honour Him. It comes down to this – are my actions governed by what I want to do or by what God's word requires? And that's true for us all not just for gay people.

Society tells us we must please ourselves. To do otherwise is self-destructive, but that's the very opposite of the Gospel. "What shall it profit a man to gain the whole

world and lose his soul?" asked Jesus and putting what we want above what God's word requires results in precisely that. We lose our souls. That operates in the sphere of sexual conduct as much as in any other.

It was so from the very beginning. God created us to share a relationship with Him, but it was shattered because of our disobedience. This "re-definition of marriage" is a direct challenge to what He had in mind. The tragedy is that young men and women will waste their lives in relationships that can never work in the way God intended, because they are a distortion of what He intended. The mistake is thinking that pleasing yourself, instead of pleasing God, will bring what Jesus called "Life in all its fullness". Nothing could be further from the truth.

Like me you may be tempted to think that same-sex marriage is just one more step towards a total rejection of the Christian faith, but don't despair. Let me repeat – no matter how dark life can seem at times, there's always light for a Christian! It'll be Easter soon and Easter is the foundation of our faith. When the worst seemed to have happened and Jesus was dead, God had the last word. Through the obedience of His Son, death itself was defeated. That obedience cost Jesus the Cross and obedience will be costly for us too, but there's no alternative. We must follow Jesus all the way to Calvary, but the joy of Easter morning will be more than sufficient compensation!

Your Pastor and friend,

Charles S Martin

In Touch

The In Touch meeting in March will be a Hat Evening when ladies are asked to bring a statement or question that they would like discussed by the group, the question etc will be entered into a hat and drawn out as time permits, no one will have to acknowledge their inclusion _ so no embarrassing moments!! Do come along at 7.45pm for what in the past has been a good fun evening! speak to Sue Waller or Janet Wade if more information needed 455047 or 452270

Sue Waller

Lindfield URC Online

Up to date information about church events is available on our website www.lindfieldurc.org.uk and you can also keep up to date with changes, cancellations and announcements by following our twitter feed @lindfieldurc

Sermon audio is available to listen to directly on the website or you can subscribe to our podcast on iTunes - just search for : Lindfield United Reformed Church

Dan McQuillin

Dinner for Six

It would be greatly appreciated if more people felt that they could host a meal. If you feel able to do this please let Val Cookney know 01444 440029

Val Cookney

The Fellowship

On Wednesday 27th February at 2:30 pm we welcome the return of our old friend Stuart Dew. Stuart will be talking to us about 'Coping with Disappointment'.

There will be the usual Bring and Buy Stall, a cup of tea after the talk and a warm welcome to all who come

Pat Phillips

House Groups

House Groups will continue to meet during Lent, commencing 21st February for five consecutive Thursdays. The Lent Study is entitled 'From the Ram to the Lamb'. If anyone who is not in a house group would like to join one for this period please speak to Ron Goodenough

If there are people who have not been able to join a house group because they all meet on Thursdays and would be interested in meeting on a different day please speak to Ron Goodenough.

We will give this consideration depending on numbers.

Ron Goodenough

Why Easter?

Why is Easter so important?

Why is Easter so important? The short answer to that question is that without it, there would be no Christian Faith.

Why? Because on the cross, Jesus Christ tried to defeat evil and sin and it looked as though He had failed in the attempt. He went on loving to the end. Even as the Roman soldiers hammered the nails into His hands and feet, He prayed for their forgiveness, but they went on hammering. When His friends took Him down from the cross, it must have seemed that the hatred of His enemies had succeeded in draining Him of life itself. They had won and He had lost. Christians believe in a different scenario.

We believe that between Friday evening, the beginning of the Sabbath, and early Sunday morning, the first day of the week, Jesus Christ came back to life. We know that He was dead when He was put into the tomb. There is anatomical evidence for that. St. John records that instead of breaking His legs (a way of hastening the death of crucified criminals) His side was pierced with a spear and immediately blood and water gushed out. This is nothing unusual, because after death the blood and serum separate, but of course His friends didn't know that at the time. They merely reported it. However, it proves conclusively that He was indeed dead.

Do dead people come back to life? Not usually. Some claim to have had what is often called "a near death experience". In other words they appear to exhibit all the signs of someone who has died and a little while later, for some inexplicable reason, their bodies start working again. However, in every case those people go on to die naturally at the end of their lives. Jesus came back to life, never to die again.

The crucial question is "Is it true?" Did Jesus physically rise from the dead and come back to life? Of course, it's a matter of faith. You either believe it or you don't. However, there is some pretty conclusive evidence, so let me summarise what appear to me to be the three main points.

● The tomb was empty. If Jesus had not come back to life, someone must have come and taken His body, but who? The Disciples? They certainly had a motive, but not only were they in terror for their own safety, most of them went on to give their lives for believing in the Resurrection. Is it likely they would have done that for what they knew to be a lie?

The authorities might have disposed of the body, but very soon they were trying to stamp out the claim that Jesus was



alive and the easiest way to do that would have been to produce His body. Signally, they failed to do so.

If some third person, or set of persons had removed the body, it would have been a secret nigh impossible to conceal. In any case, what motive would they have had? And how would they have moved the huge stone which had been rolled down a sloping groove to seal the tomb? And what about the detail of armed guards who had been put there to make sure there was no attempt to steal the body in the first place?

● The eye-witness statements. The Gospels speak with remarkable clarity of both the content of the witness statements and the way they were made. They don't all agree in detail, but eye-witness statements rarely do. They differ because one person notices one thing, while another remembers something else. In no substantial point of fact do these statements contradict one another. If they had been concocted, surely care would have been taken to get the details right.

● The effect on the Disciples and the growth of the Church. What is undeniable is that between Friday evening and later on Sunday, something happened. There was a dramatic and unaccountable change in Jesus' friends. They stopped believing He was dead and began to believe He was alive. Was it mass self-induced hallucination? It could have been at first, but as time went on, is it likely they would have gone on believing in a fantasy? And would a fantasy have been enough to inspire them to risk liberty and life itself, as the first chapters of Acts tell us they did?

Archbishop Ramsey (famous for his bushy eye-brows and for being incapable of walking in a straight line while processing down the aisle of Canterbury Cathedral) in his book "The Christian Priest Today" writes:

“Something happened to change those men from frightened cowards into courageous pioneers. I believe that what happened was the Resurrection.”

Over the years, even some Christian leaders have tried to make sense of what happened by questioning whether Jesus' physical body did actually come back to life. They claim not to be undermining the truth of the Resurrection. They merely want to make it believable by reducing it to an inspirational memory or thought. What lived on, they claim, is the effect of

what Jesus did and taught, but His bones are still somewhere in the soil of Palestine. If that is true, Jesus did not rise from the dead.

No one claims that Chairman Mao, great Helmsman of the Chinese People's Republic rose from the dead, but he had a much greater chance to stamp his indelible mark on the Chinese people. For decades he had them at his mercy. Millions died because of the mistakes he made. Millions more chanted his praises, frantically waving his little red book "The Thoughts of Chairman Mao", but no one has ever suggested that after he died he came back to life.

All the same, even after the savage and brutal oppression of the Cultural Revolution, when the practise of religion was all but extinguished, the Christian Church in China today is growing exponentially. Mankind has had many great leaders, religious teachers and statesmen and women, but while sometimes their influence remains, the claim to resurrection is made about only one – Jesus Christ.

The great New Testament scholar T. W. Manson says this in his book "the Servant Messiah" –

“The ministry of the Church has gone on for nineteen (now twenty) centuries and it still goes on. What is the secret of its

staying power? It is that the Risen Christ Himself is carrying it out. His followers are not the inheritors of His task. They are His companions in its performance.”

Let me give the penultimate word to St. Paul. This is part of his defence of the truth of the Resurrection in I. Corinthians 15: vv17ff

“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ will all be made alive.”

That's the centre of our faith and if you take it away, there's nothing left. The fact is, however, that no one can take it away, because it is wonderfully and undeniably true.

Take it from me...
Jesus is alive.

I meet Him every day!

Charles Martin

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday March 28th

8.00.pm

United Holy Communion at the URC

Good Friday March 29th

9.30.am

Walk of Witness – gather at Hickmans Recreation Ground

10.15.am

United Service at All Saints

12.00 noon

Meditation on the Cross at All Saints

7.30.pm

Good Friday Sacred Concert at All Saints with the New Sussex Singers

Easter Sunday March 31st

10.30.am

Easter Family Communion

6.00.pm

A Cornerstone Easter – United Service at All Saints

Wider World

Iran

For some time now we have been following the fate of Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani, a Christian in Iran, who was arrested in 2009, imprisoned and sentenced to death for apostasy (becoming a Christian). After an international outcry, a judge lessened the charges to evangelism and sentenced him to three years imprisonment.

He was released last September and re-united with his wife and three sons, but, as they were preparing for their first Christmas together for several years, he was suddenly re-arrested on charges of not completing his sentence.

This was on Christmas Eve and probably served as a warning to him and other evangelists. After fourteen days in prison the authorities released him once more.

Pastor Youcef's release is a direct result of people across the world standing up and demanding his freedom, although Christians are still very much in danger and while we rejoice for him and his family and pray that he stays safe, there is concern about another Christian family in Iran.

Saeed Abedini is a convert to Christianity and has a dual American and Iranian nationality.

He was arrested in September 2012 while on a family visit to Iran and detained in the notoriously harsh Evin prison on charges going back to 2000 when he converted to Christianity and became involved in a house church network. He was sentenced to eight years in prison on January 27th this year for "actions against the national security of Iran".

After being taken to Evin prison last year he was reportedly subjected to physical assaults, not granted bail and was given little access to his legal representatives who only received the official court file a short time before the hearing in Tehran. This hearing was closed to the public.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide is calling upon the Iranian authorities to review the sentence and respect the principle of freedom of religion and belief, as outlined in the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is signatory.

Mali

World Vision is calling for the urgent protection of children who are at risk of being forced to fight for rebel groups in Mali.

Family News

The Christian development agency says that child protection must be at the heart of training given by EU troops to the Malian armed forces.

The United Nations reports that child soldiers have been recruited by all rebel groups. Children as young as ten have been seen manning check points and conducting joint patrols in the name of "Islamic Police". Some parents are reportedly giving their children to the rebels for religious reasons, while others have been promised money.

Rebel groups have actively recruited children in religious schools where the youngsters are trapped without adult protection because many teachers have fled.

Carol Marsh

We sing a hymn to our Lord that includes these words: "You give and take away". That has been true in the life of our church family over the past couple of months.

We rejoice with Natalie and Will Porter on the safe arrival of their son, Aaron. Congratulations to you both.

The Lord has taken home to be with Him our dear friend, Marjorie Mulligan. She died peacefully in Compton House on January 29th. To her daughter, Pam, and her son, David, we offer our love and sympathy, and assure them of our thoughts and prayers.

Marjorie has been part of Lindfield URC for over thirty years. She was a much loved and greatly respected member of our church family, whose faith and courage were a tremendous example to us all. Her care and concern for others was very evident. Marjorie's many friends will miss her greatly, especially those to whom she had become very close over the years, and to whom she had lovingly given a lot of support and encouragement. Our loss is Heaven's gain!

Those of you who have been in the Church here for a few years will remember the Goody family who left Lindfield to live in Devon. Annabel and James have just had another happy event in their family with the arrival of a fourth Son, William. We send them our love and congratulations.

Fo Tingley

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. <small>Venue rotates between the three churches</small>

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
	6.00pm	Brigade - Anchor Boys (5-7 years)
	6.30pm	Boys' Brigade - Junior Section (8-11 years)
	7.30pm	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	7.30pm	Youth Fellowship

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

March Church diary

2nd Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting at All Saints	17th Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship
				11:15am	Morning Worship The Pastor
				6:30pm	Evening Worship The Pastor
				7:30pm	Youth Fellowship
3rd Sunday	9:30am	Communion			
	11:15am	Morning Worship The Pastor	21st Thursday		Lent Home Groups
	6:30pm	Evening Worship The Pastor			
	7:30pm	Youth Fellowship			
7th Thursday		Lent Home Groups	23rd Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting at All Saints
9th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting at All Saints	24th Sunday		Palm Sunday
				9:30am	Family Worship
				11:15am	Morning Worship David Jones
				6:30pm	Evening Worship David Walters
				7:30pm	Youth Fellowship
10th Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship	28th Thursday		Maundy Thursday
	11:15am	Morning Worship The Pastor		8:00pm	Maundy Thursday United Commu- nion Service
	6:30pm	Healing Service with Communion The Pastor			
	7:30pm	Youth Fellowship			
13th Wednesday	12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship	29th Friday	9:30am	Good Friday
				10:15am	March of Witness United Good Friday Service
14th Thursday		Lent Home Groups	30th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting
15th Friday	12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship	31st Sunday	9:00am	Easter Sunday
					Fellowship Breakfast
16th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting at All Saints		10:30am	Communion The Pastor
	7:30pm	Release Interna- tional Roadshow		6:00pm	Cornerstone Easter United Service at All Saints

So 2013 is upon us and, as well as lots of things on the horizon that will change various aspects of Church life this year, we also have many exciting things to look forward to, in fact exciting things are already happening!

Here is just a taster of some of the things that are already happening and an exciting venture on the cards for the summer!

Thank you for all your prayers for the life of our youth work; we really do appreciate them!

Josh

**Josh
Thomas
Writes...**



The group are developing their understanding and are asking questions, which I find very encouraging. Continued prayer is very much appreciated.

UR chURch

At the end of January 'UR Church' was launched with our Sunday night group; a course which explores and explains different aspects of church. We began the course with a trip to St. Peter's Church in Brighton, engaging in vibrant worship and teaching. So far, we have looked at church as a whole and baptism, and in the following weeks we will cover communion, membership, worship and leadership. Each week involves a guest speaker, and Mike Gardiner gave the group food for thought in our week exploring baptism. Other speakers include David Goodchild, Charles Martin, and Michael Davies.

Romania 2013

In August, we will be running a trip to Romania for those aged 16 and over. We will be participating in a camp run by the charity 'Cascade' with the title of 'The Ambiguity of Democracy' and our young people will be able to bring a British, Christian perspective to the week. We hope that the trip will help the young people to develop in their faith and indeed help to share their Christian viewpoints with others. Fundraising for the trip will begin soon so please support the young people in any way you can.

Again, we would appreciate prayer for everyone involved in the run up to this event

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

>the adventure begins here



You are invited to join the adventure

Promoting habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian character. Welcoming boys of all faiths and none.

Join us Monday night at Lindfield United Reformed Church:

Anchor Boys

(Years 1-3)

6 - 7 p.m

Juniors

(Years 4-6)

6.30 - 7.30 p.m

Company Section

(Years 7-13)

7.30 - 9.30 p.m



For more information:

Geoffrey Cocksedge

01444 474007

bb@lindfieldurc.org.uk

Boys Brigade



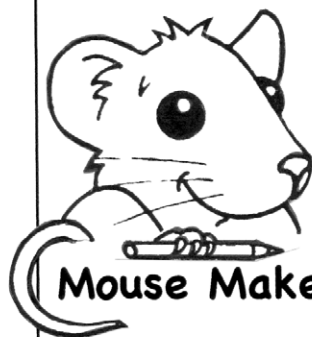
For the third year running our Boys played their drums at the head of the parade following the Remembrance Day service at the Parish Church.

Just before the start of proceedings, I was informed by the British Legion that this year a piper would actually head the parade. Consternation! A bagpiper playing with Boys who had been taught bugle band drumming? It was unheard of! What would David Walters say? When I informed David, with some trepidation, of the news, he took it all in his stride, and – it worked! By some miracle the piper and the drummers made a success of the joint operation, and everyone was pleased and happy: I have never had my hand pumped at King Edward Hall by so many people!

There was a record turnout of BB members for the annual Badminton Competitions afternoon at Oathall Community College. Although they had to work very hard for it, our Senior (14-18) team, Wesley, Tom and Danny, won the Senior trophy, repeating their success of last session, although this time against even stiffer opposition. They won all their games, except for one singles match – lost by around one point. The 1st Southwick Company won the 11-14 trophy.

We are participating in a national Boys' Brigade campaign to increase our numbers by 10%, and would appreciate any support and help church folk can give in reaching this target. We want to draw more Boys into the life of the Church.

Geoffrey Cocksedge



Mouse Makes

JESUS IS ALIVE!



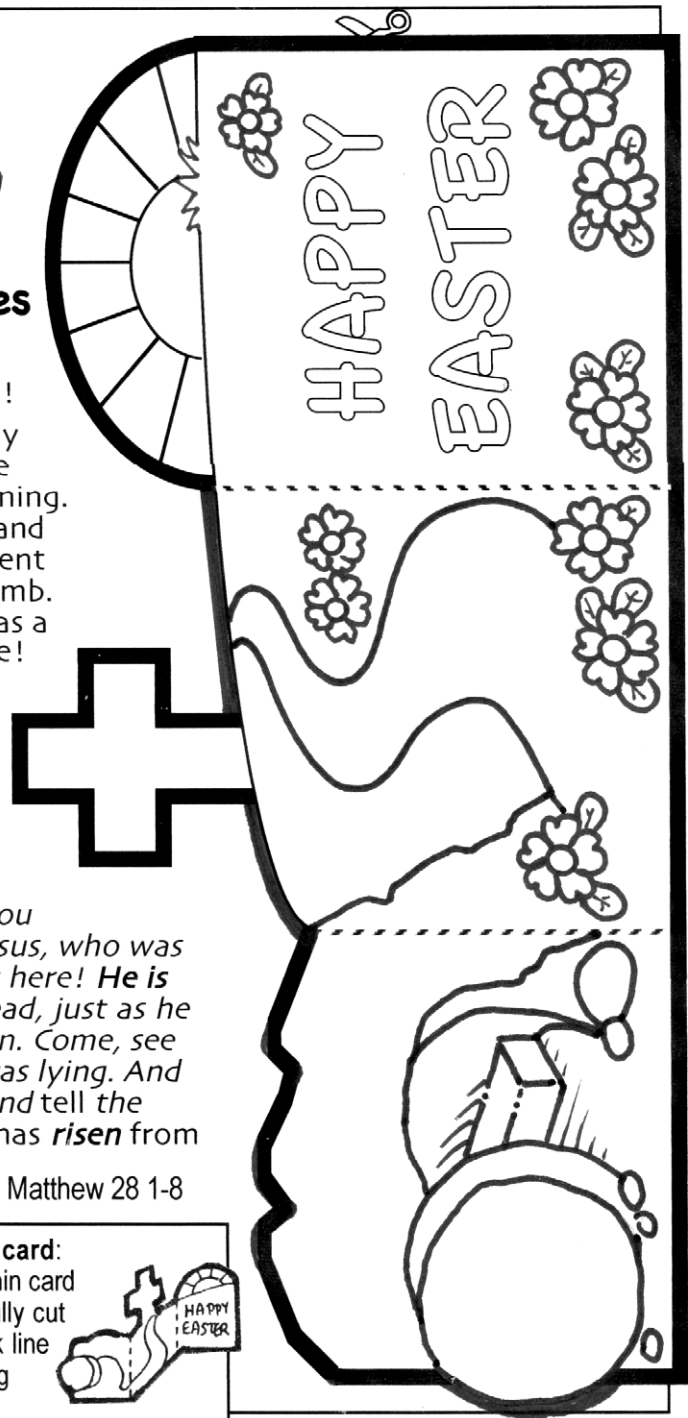
Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an **angel** of the Lord came down from **heaven**, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it....

"Don't be afraid" he said. *"I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! **He is risen** from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell the disciples that he has **risen** from the dead."*

See: Matthew 28 1-8

To make the Easter card:

Glue this page onto thin card then colour in. Carefully cut around the thick black line then zig-zag fold along the dotted lines.



Book Review

Love Does

by Bob Goff

Thomas Neilson Publishing, 2012

A book of anecdotes and inspiration, reading 'Love Does' is never a passive experience, it gently prods and provokes you into wanting to join Bob on his next extraordinary caper; to conspire to live a life less ordinary, a life given over to love. The way God designed you to.

One way to commend it to you is an anecdote about Bob that didn't even make it into the book, recounted by Blue like Jazz author, Donald Miller.

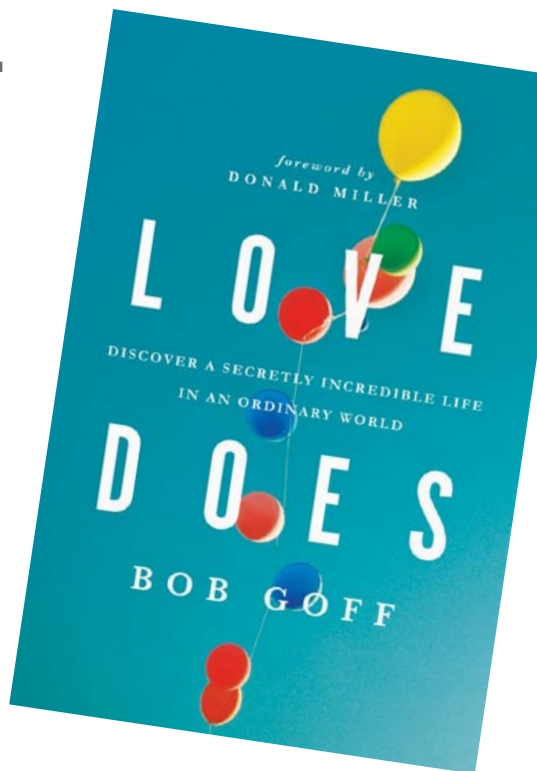
“Bob lives in San Diego, and when his three children were young they were sitting around on New Years Day, bored. Bob thought it was a crime anybody should be bored on New Years Day.

Bob asked the kids what they could do to honour the fact God gave them a day. And eventually Bob and his wife Maria, and their children, came up with the idea of a parade. So they set out to have a parade on their street. They went house to house telling their neighbours they were going to have a parade. And the neighbours must have indulged the children by saying they would watch. But the Goff's had a better idea than just a parade people would watch.

They decided nobody could watch the parade. They could only be in the parade.

And so a few neighbours joined in. The small parade marched from the end of the street to the Goff house, where they had a small cookout.

Now, more than ten years later, the New Years' Day Parade is a tradition. Hundreds of people join in (nobody watches, everybody marches) and the day has not been boring since. Not only has it not been boring for the Goff family, it hasn't been boring for hundreds of neighbours as well.



Each year the parade selects a Grand Marshal. The year Bob told me about the parade, the Grand Marshal was the mailman, who marched in front of the crowd throwing letters into the air. And each year a New-Years Day Queen is selected, sometimes from the local retirement centre and the Queen gives a speech, and there is an annual Queen's brunch at the San Diego Yacht Club.

People on Bob's street know each other better because of the parade. The women in the Queen's court feel honored and the children grow up thinking New Years Day is a special celebration honouring a day, the miracle of a day.

It strikes me as I retell the story how wonderful it is God gave us time. By that I mean He has made us characters in a grand epic. The epic is meaningful, but there are dark forces trying to convince us it is meaningless, worth nothing, and therefore boring. What I like about Bob's story is that he and his family decided to fight back.

Bob's story is one of the more delightful, inspiring stories I've heard. He and his family were bored, but they didn't complain, they spoke something into nothing, created unity where there was separation, created fun where there was boredom.”

Donald Miller

www.donmilleris.com

Through extraordinary generosity and an unquenchable love of life Bob and his children have met world leaders, fought injustice, freed captives, touched and transformed countless lives.

Bob reminds us that love is not about sentimental greetings cards, but rather the most powerful force on earth.

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance ... love will last forever!”

1 Corinthians 13

Gods Love is not a secret we can keep to ourselves. Love cannot be stored or saved, like manna with each passing day opportunities to express and share Love fade unless we play our part.

Love needs to be lived and experienced and the unbelievable and unforgettable stories in this book remind us that God invites us to join him in his conspiracy of love.

Love is not an emotion or a state of mind: it's an action. Love is not passive, Love Does.

Dan McQuillin

March Mission



This month's Missionary focus is on Release international.

Serving the persecuted Church

Release International serves the persecuted church around the world in five key ways:

1 Showing God's compassion; providing for the needs of the families of martyrs and prisoners.

Every year thousands of Christians are detained and imprisoned for their faith in Jesus Christ. Some are even martyred. Where families have lost the breadwinner, Release gives pastoral care and practical support, such as medical assistance.

2 Serving God's church; enabling them to survive persecution and its effects. Release stands with churches and church leaders around the world who are being persecuted because of their faith in Jesus Christ: by directly supporting persecuted pastors and their families; and by providing leadership and theological training.

3 Sharing God's love; by helping the persecuted church win to Christ

those who are opposed to the gospel.

The Bible tells us that the apostle Paul was once a persecutor of the early church - until God turned his life around - transforming him into a mighty preacher and church-planter. Release helps persecuted churches bring the good news of the gospel - even to those who persecute them.

4 Spreading God's Word; by supplying Bibles and literature to meet the need for growth and evangelism.

Release provides Bibles and Christian literature in local languages to build up the church, to encourage evangelism and disciple new believers in Christ.

5 Speaking as God's advocates; being the voice of the martyrs and the oppressed.

Release helps to bring the voice of the persecuted church to fellowships in the UK and Ireland, and also to governments. We regularly ask supporters to campaign on behalf of persecuted Christians by writing letters and using petitions.

What we can do

Release International provides a great deal of information about different current situations around the world where individuals or groups of Christians who are experiencing opposition/ persecution. The main and most practical way that we can help directly and immediately is to use this information and pray. Below are some pointers from Release international to help us pray;

Individuals - Pray that they:

- Remain strong in faith and trust despite physical and psychological abuse
- Will be able to forgive those who persecute them or who fail to support them
- Will experience and know love, joy and peace from God (Romans 8:28-39)
- Will walk humbly in their identification with Christ's sufferings will be fruitful witnesses to others
- Will be able to balance standing up for their rights, yet responding in grace and love

Spouses - Pray that they:

- Cope with the sense of loss and isolation
- Cope with caring and providing for children alone
- Remain full of faith and hope
- Overcome any intimidation from police or other aggressors

Children - Pray that they:

- Are protected from long term psychological/emotional harm and bitterness
- Are protected from abduction or the "corrective teaching" some States try to impose
- Might know and experience the love of God

Converts - Pray that they:

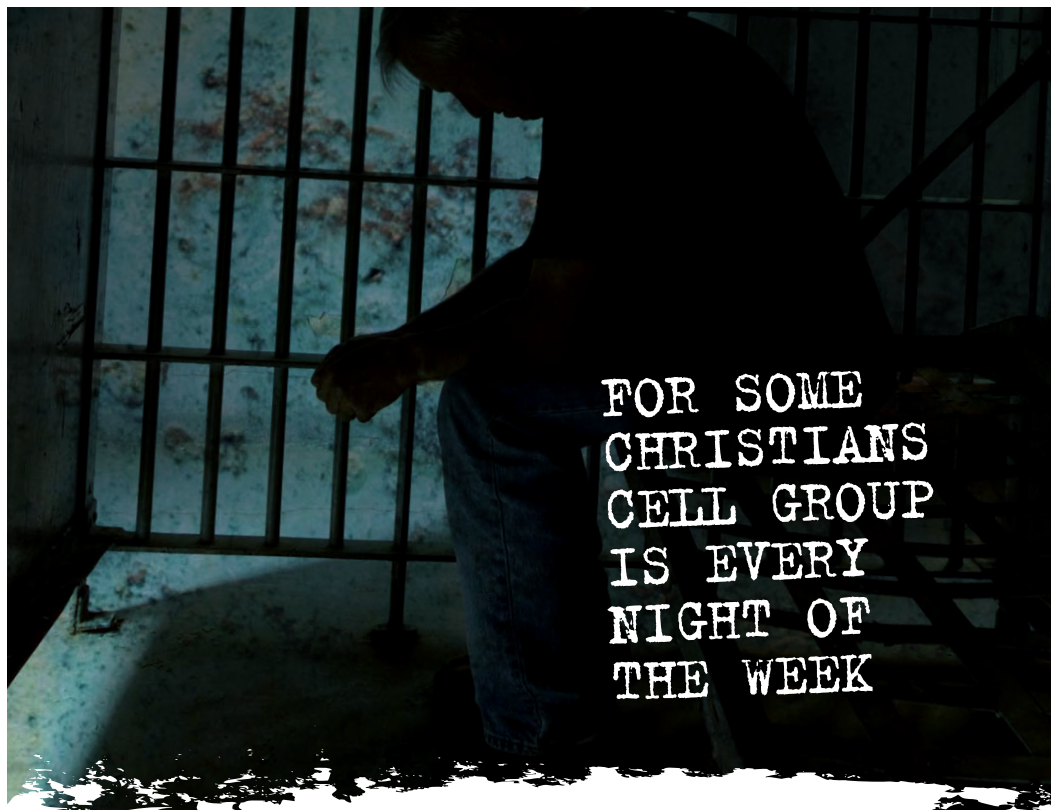
- Receive help to grow spiritually
- Are protected and provided for should their family or community turn against them
- Will have the courage to lead others to know Christ.

If you would like to give please use the special envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any Sunday service. Please complete a Gift Aid Slip if appropriate. Thank you.

For more information see the Missions Board, go online to www.releaseinternational.org. or sign up for the RI magazine.

All information provided by Release international.

Missions Group



FOR SOME
CHRISTIANS
CELL GROUP
IS EVERY
NIGHT OF
THE WEEK

“If the world hates you....” **Christians under fire**

Join us for an event highlighting the ministry of release international and some of the issues facing Christians around the world in 2013.

Saturday 16th March, 7:30pm

Lindfield United Reformed Church, High Street, Lindfield

Speakers:

Colin King (UK Director)

Andrew Wilson (Development Manager – South & London)

Free admission (offering will be taken for Release International)

For more details

Contact Ron & Janet Goodenough (01444 417002)

www.releaseinternational.org

Registered Charity 280577

release
international
voice of persecuted christians

Phonebook

Charles Martin (Pastor)

Mobile 07821 904785
Email cmartin@lindfieldurc.org.uk

Josh Thomas (Youth Pastor)

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

Church Secretary

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

Treasurer

Terry Ward 01444 482986

Boys' Brigade:

Geoffrey Cocksedge 01444 474007

Cradle Roll

Sue Tester 01444 482810

Flowers

Betty Billins 01444 484494

Hall Booking Secretary

Carol Walters 01444 457938

In Touch

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Lunch Fellowship

Wednesday:
Sue Waller 01444 455047
Friday:
Anne Parker 01444 473519

Pastoral Group

Fiona Tingley 01444 483419

The Fellowship

Chris Comber 01444 482641

Stepping Stones

Janet Goodenough 01444 417002

Transport

Janet Drayton 01444 483621

Zest Co-ordinator

Josh Thomas 07598 779553

Lighthouse (Junior Church)

Co-ordinator

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Flower Rota

Arranging

Distributing

March

3rd	Janet Wade	Janet Sanderson
10th	Betty Billins	Sue Tester
17th	Carol Walters	Jane Foreman
24th	Mies Campling	Barbara Shepherd
31st	Easter	Jo Bloxham

April

7th	Anne Parker
14th	Audrey McKee
21st	Zoe McQuillin
28th	Carol Marsh

Around Lindfield

Tuesday 12th March

2.30pm: Preservation Society in KEH: Bhutan - the story of a trek

Wednesday 13th March

12.15pm: Tiger Arts - Lunch in the Tiger: Piano recital

8.00pm: Horticultural Society in KEH: Floral Art Demonstration
by Robert Tunks

Saturday 16th March

2.30pm: Haywards Heath Music Society

Young Musicians' Showcase at St Wilfred's Church

Further info from Christine Colbourne : HH 456227

Thursday 21st March

7.30pm: Film in KEH: Les Miserables - doors open 7.15pm

Tickets available from Tufnells in the High Street.

Saturday 30th March

2.30pm: Horticultural Society in KEH: Spring Show of Flowers and Produce

