

GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

May 2013

A Bugs Life

Mesmerising, mini miracles

Ascension & Pentecost

What goes up, must come down



Bible *verse* of the month

**"For I know the plans I
have for you," declares the
LORD,**

**plans to prosper you and
not to harm you, plans to
give you hope and a future**

Jeremiah 29 v11



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**This month's bible verse
was sent in by Laura Sykes
more information page 13**



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Editorial

We are all waiting for the warmth of the sun to come, as we prepare this month's magazine. I hope that we can lift your spirits, to read all the interesting articles that our members have provided for us. We have the expertise of Martin who shares with us his passion for insects and how they relate to the Bible. Josh is telling us of his delight in sharing what the young people are being challenged to do. He asks that we all support him both in prayer and by attending the young people's special events.

The Boys Brigade has their very important 'presentation of awards' which they would like us all to share in their service. Congratulations to the boys who have completed their Duke of Edinburgh awards, at the highest level. They had a daunting task but they simply succeeded!

The walk of witness through Lindfield, shared by so many is recalled by Rosemary. Mike Gardiner explains so simply 'The Ascension' and how we should remember all it has to say to us. Charles has some wonderful thoughts for us read in his letter, where his final words are;

"If you ask, you will receive. If you seek, you will find."

We are so pleased that Kay McIntosh has recovered so well and we thank God for this. Enjoy and be thankful for all the good things that God has given us, as we see our countryside bursting into life once again.

God Bless,

Anne

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May 12th

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Produced for

*Lindfield United Reformed
Church,*

*50 High Street, Lindfield, West
Sussex, RH16 2HL*

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Dear friends

With Easter behind us, we could feel a sense of anti-climax. It's great to rejoice that Jesus conquered sin and death, but the celebrations have got to end sometime. Then it's back to the "same old same old" and how boring is that! If you are ever tempted to feel that life is just a repetition of the same old routine, let me remind you that the best festival of the Christian Year is just around the corner – Pentecost – the day it all began.

The Disciples had said a final "goodbye" to Jesus and He had told them to go back to Jerusalem and wait. They did as they were bid, spent most of the time worshipping in the Temple and gathering together to wait - just that. He had told them to wait and obediently they waited.

Of all the things God asks us to do, I think waiting is the hardest. We want our prayers to be answered now. We want to solve the problems now, but Jesus is quite specific. We have to wait. Why? Because what He has in store will blow our minds. The truth of Pentecost is that the power that helped the first Christians turn the world upside down is available to us too. Life for a Christian need never be boring again.

When something wonderful happens, there's always a danger of someone feeling left out and I want to say a word to Christian people who feel they've never shared in what the New Testament calls the "Baptism of the Holy Spirit" and because

of that they feel second class. Who is the Holy Spirit? He's God in our midst. He's the Spirit of Jesus, reminding us of His teaching, encouraging, challenging, strengthening and equipping us for His service. The New Testament also speaks about the gifts He gives – wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing etc: (You'll find them in 1 Corinthians 12 and there's another list in Romans 12.) The problem comes when someone wants so much to be filled or baptised with the Spirit, but they feel it's never happened for them.

No one who truly loves Jesus Christ and wants to live for Him should ever feel second class. He wants us all to be filled with His Spirit, but it's going to be a different experience for everyone. He told Nicodemus that when He reminded him that the wind (or the Spirit) blows where it wills. You hear it, but you don't know where it's come from or where it's going.

Do you want to be filled with the Spirit? Then admit your emptiness. Come with open hands and accept what God has to give. It's not about feelings. It's about facts. Don't try to copy what God is doing with other people. What He does with you will be unique because you are unique. If you ask, you will receive. If you seek, you will find.

Your Pastor and friend,

Charles S Martin

Lunch Fellowship

Having had what we hope was a good Outing to Littlehampton the Lunch Fellowship will meet again on June 12th and 14th. We would be very pleased to welcome newcomers to this Lunch which is open to all people over 60 from the Village. If you are aware of anyone who is alone and would enjoy this fellowship then please do not hesitate to give us a ring. Sue Waller for Wednesday 455047 and Anne Parker for Friday 473519. Or if you would like either of us to make the contact please let us know.

On Wednesday July 3rd there will be a further lunch for the March meal that had to be postponed. Do come along if you are a Wednesday Lunch person, if you are new then please let Sue Waller know that you would like to come for catering numbers

Sue Waller

In Touch

We meet on May 28th for a very informal but interesting Quiz Night on Sussex. Sarah Tapp will be bringing some of her materials to lead us on our way. As usual a prize will be given to the group that comes last!! Do join us. Sue Waller 455047 for info if needed.

Sue Waller

The Fellowship

Tom Cole of the Woodland Trust will be our speaker on Wednesday 22nd May. We will meet at 2.30 pm.

There will be the usual Bring & Buy stall together with a cup of tea after the talk. We extend a warm welcome to all who come.

Pat Phillips

Plant & Cake Sale

Saturday 18th May

10am-12noon in the beautiful gardens of Lindfield Christian Care Home
Compton Road, Lindfield

- Bedding Plants
- Vegetables & Herbs
- Hardy Herbaceous
- Perennials

... all at very competitive prices



FREE Admission

FREE Gardening Advice & Leaflets

Refreshments & Cakes for Sale

If wet, we have plenty of cover!

Proceeds split equally between Compton House, Tearfund and the Overseas Missionary Fellowship. We look forward to seeing you, whatever the weather.

Stuart Marsh

Bible Insects

What's in a name ? the "St Mark's fly"

Although insects are mentioned in the Bible numerous times, especially in the Old Testament, there are surprisingly few insects which have common names associated with Biblical characters or themes. Everyone is familiar with ladybird beetles, small domed, almost hemi-spherical spots of red, yellow or brown on our garden plants, usually covered themselves with spots. The name originated in Britain as "Our Lady's bird" or "Lady beetle", the "Lady" being Mary, Mother of Jesus. Mary is often depicted in paintings wearing a red cloak, similar in colour to our most common ladybird, grandly called *Coccinella septempunctata* or, less grandly, the seven-spot (= *septumpunctata*) ladybird. The seven spots on the back of this beetle were said to symbolise the seven joys and seven sorrows of Mary. In other European languages there are similar associations, e.g., the German name is "Marienkäfer", which translates to "Marybeetle". At the opposite end of the spiritual spectrum is another common insect, the "Devil's coach-horse", a black beetle that lurks under logs and stones during the day but emerges at night to hunt other insects and invertebrates, including slugs. So, despite the name and aggressive appearance when disturbed – it opens its jaws wide

and arches its tail end in a scorpion-like manner – it is actually a friend to the gardener.

Perhaps the most spiritual insects are the "praying mantids"; indeed the most common species in Europe is called *Mantis religiosa*. Unfortunately we do not find them in England, but anyone who has been to the south of France or further afield will recognise them. Their attention to a prayerful posture for long periods could teach us a thing or two with regard to prayer and they would be an appropriate symbol of the 24-hour prayer initiative. Whether or not they are actually praying for their "daily bread" I don't know, however their prayerful posture certainly does deliver their food, not so much bread as a juicy fly!

The St Mark's fly, *Bibio marci*, is probably the least well known of our British insects with a name of Biblical origin. However, if you are lucky and the weather is sunny, you should be able to spot many if you take a country walk straight after reading this article! The St Mark's fly is so called because it first appears each year on or around St Mark's day, 25th April. With the exceptionally cold and late Spring this year, I expect that the appearance of the flies will have been delayed by a few days. The hairy, black adults live for about a week, so there should still be some



active for you to find in early May. They are widespread, but a good place to spot them is along the River Ouse Valley and the accompanying photographs were taken on 27th April 2011 just downstream of the spectacular Balcombe Viaduct – so you can combine an archaeological and entomological walk, spot the WWII pill box too, just upstream of the viaduct on the north bank! The most noticeable behaviour of these flies is the mating flight of the males. They hover at and above head height and bob up and down in a dance-like flight that is all about attracting a female. The males have large eyes with which to spot females, which

they will pursue, and rival males, which they will chase away. Their long legs hang down in flight in a very distinctive manner and so, with outstretched wings, they resemble a myriad of tiny flying crosses. St Mark's symbol is a winged lion and, although not quite so impressive, these small winged crosses are an appropriate recipient of his name. The flies are around all year, but most of the time we do not see them because they are in the form of maggot-like larvae, which feed on decaying organic matter and grass roots, so very occasionally they can be a pest of lawns. The adults make up for this by pollinating fruit trees and other crops.

Many people can be somewhat disturbed by the large numbers of these flies, but they are completely harmless and it is one of the simple pleasures of a late Spring day to lie down in the fresh grass and gaze up at the mesmerising flight of so many small miracles of life, silhouetted against a blue sky, making the most of their brief adult life – try it and see!

“How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures”

Psalm 104 verse 24

How many can you count in this image below?

Martin Hall



Ascension Day

The highlight of this month is Pentecost, but how much do we dwell on Ascension Day, celebrated just 10 days earlier, this year on Thursday, May 9th? Unlike our friends in the Anglican and Roman Catholic traditions, it's not our custom to mark the day with a special service, but we should not overlook the significance of Jesus' ascension to heaven, just 40 days after his resurrection, and recounted in Acts 1v1-11. But what does this mean for us in 2013?

1 Jesus has been "exalted to the right hand of God" proclaimed Peter at Pentecost. The Apostle Paul added that Jesus is "seated at God's right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion." This means that we have security in an insecure world, because Jesus reigns in heaven and is King and Lord in all our circumstances, so that nothing can afflict us without his permission

2 During his ministry on earth, Jesus could only be at one place and time, but ascended now to heaven, he has poured out his Holy Spirit, enabling each one of us to know his presence as we serve him on earth.

3 The ascended Christ is Head of the Church, and gives gifts of the Spirit, anointing us with power and authority to be his body on earth.

4 We have Jesus' authority to preach the Gospel. When Jesus proclaimed his authority, he added "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations."

5 We have comfort in our suffering, knowing that we have a great high priest who has experienced human life, with its joys and sorrows, and is praying for us in heaven

6 Jesus' ascension embodies the promise of his return to this earth. We have a glorious hope, as we look forward, firstly, to being taken home to be with Jesus in heaven, then to Christ's return from heaven and the establishment of God's eternal kingdom in a new heaven and new earth

So let us exult with Frances Ridley Havergal as we celebrate Ascension Day:

“*He who came to save us,
He who bled and died now is crowned
with glory
At his Father's side.
Nevermore to suffer, nevermore to die;
Jesus King of Glory
Is gone up on high.*”

Mike Gardiner

[Scripture refs: Matt 28v18-19; Acts 1v1-11 & 2v32-36; Eph 1v20-22; Heb 4v14-16 & 7v24-25; 1 Cor 15v23-26, 2 Peter 3v13]

May Mission

Throughout May we are again supporting the work of the Savannah Education Trust, a Christian Charity (Registered Charity No 1104896) registered in July 2004 by Lindfield resident Paul Ramsbottom, his brother Stephen and friend Howard Hickman and publicly launched in February 2005, to provide an education for some of the poorest children in West Africa. The work in Ghana is managed by Charles Karbo, son of the paramount chief of the Lawra area in NW Ghana and pastor of the Bagri Baptist Church who is assisted on a permanent basis by Alfred Sogsuo, deacon of the local Baptist Church, and also by others.

Savannah Education Trust

From small beginnings in 2003 when the Trustees first visited northern Ghana, the story of the Savannah Education Trust has been an inspiring and remarkable one, with the opening of the first school in Bagri in 2006, accompanied by programmes to feed the pupils each day and to train teachers. Since that time further schools have been opened in neighbouring villages of Pavuu, Gberi and most recently in Mettoh.

Without the initiative of Savannah and the accompanying support of the Government of Ghana and local elders, children were often malnourished, poorly clad and many had to work and hunt for food at an early age. It is a shocking statistic that in this part of NW Ghana one child in four died before his or her fifth birthday. In neighbouring Burkina Faso, the poverty and culture of which were reflected in the area around Bagri, just 13% of adults could read and life expectancy was 47 years.



In communities as poor as these, the purpose of education is not necessarily to improve job opportunities but (over time) to improve the quality of life. The education is focused both on traditional subjects like literacy, as well as on practical skills like hygiene and farming. Research has shown that a primary education has a direct benefit on crop yields in subsistence farming. The rate of children surviving childhood and infancy increases dramatically when the mother has received even a basic education.

The Trust's Spring 2013 Newsletter is posted up in the Missions Display Area in the church concourse and shares news from a recent visit to Ghana by the Trustees. Ouch! Scorpions invade during the construction of the school buildings at Mettoh. Good news at the arrival of Alfred and Lydia's first child, Alan, and great sadness as one of the Gberi students died after a long illness.

Why not catch up on the full Savannah story by visiting the website:

www.savannaheducationtrust.org where there are many photos and several videos of this valuable work.

Or stream the 2012 video 'Children of the Savannah' at <http://portal.sliderocket.com/BYJXM/Savannah-2012> - Why not post a comment and share your thoughts.

Please pray for the children of the savannah of NW Ghana, their teachers and Christian leaders. There is much more to be done as God leads, inspires and provides through His people. If you would like to give towards this vital work please use the special envelopes provided and place your gift in the offertory at any Sunday service at Lindfield URC. Please complete a Gift Aid Slip if appropriate. Thank you!

The Missions Group



Prayer Focus

This month will be special because Pentecost Sunday is May 19th and we are using that weekend for our twenty-four hour prayer event. The vision is to connect the prayer time with the worship on Sunday as closely as we can. We want to use the twenty-four hours beginning on Saturday morning, to pray and prepare ourselves to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit in the worship on Sunday.

24 hours of Prayer Waiting on the Lord

Saturday May 18th
08:30am - 08:30am
Sunday May 19th



The plan is to put up a chart for people to sign for each hour from 8.30.am on Saturday May 18th to 8.30.am on the following day. We will be using the vestry as a prayer room equipped with Bibles, books about prayer, along with a CD player and CDs of Christian songs and music to form a background for prayer and meditation. There will also be information about things to pray for, such as the need of the persecuted Church.

No one should feel obliged to put their names down. On the other hand, if you wish to join someone whose name is

already down for a particular hour, please feel free to do so.

At the Ascension, Jesus told His Disciples to go back to Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father. In a small way, that's what we are doing. We believe God is faithful and as His people pray, He will honour their commitment. Come and join us if you can. As we face a new stage in the life of our fellowship, we are looking to God to supply everything we need. Jesus said "Ask and you will receive." Let's take Him at His word.

Charles Martin

Have / get?

To look at it another way.... In a talk I heard quite recently, the following thought had a real impact on me:

How often in our lives we use the phrase :

'I have to do the washing up, the shopping, clean the car, go to work, take the children here, there and everywhere!'

These things, and indeed many other tasks that demand our energy and our time, can, and often do, seem like a real chore! However, have you ever thought about the fact that there are many, many people out there who would just love to be able to do these everyday tasks, but are unable to do them because of disability, illness, old age or unemployment?

Simply substituting the word *have* for the word *get* makes you feel a whole lot better about the doing some of the jobs that you'd prefer not to do. 'I get to go to Sainsburys this morning' almost sounds like a privilege! How many people throughout the world have the luxury of the tremendous choices we have in our shops and supermarkets? (Many have only a bowl of rice to last them the whole day.)

At times, life can be a struggle, and pressures are very real. However, it helps to remember that our God has blessed us beyond measure in so many ways. So next time you find yourself saying 'Oh dear, I have to.....' just turn it around and say 'I'm fortunate, I get to....'

Perhaps, like me, it will help you to count your blessings!

Fo Tingley

Bible Verse

My favourite and most useful bible verse is which in normal bible speak is as follows:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”

Jeremiah 29 vs 11

but I quite like The Message version which goes like this (I try not to adopt an American twang but it's tricky)

“This is GOD’s Word on the subject: “As soon as Babylon’s seventy years are up and not a day before, I’ll show up and take care of you as I promised and bring you back home. I know what I’m doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for”

This verse, when I feel as though everything is hopeless, bleak or just plain difficult, clearly reminds me that whatever happens is part of God's personal plan for MY life, just as this verse applies to the Israelites exiled in Babylon. It tells me that sometimes I have to wait, (they had to wait 70 years). It tells me that God knows exactly what he's doing, (although I might sometimes doubt it). Most importantly it tells me that God is in charge and his plans for me are better than I could ever cobble together; so in his hands is the best place for them, and me, to be.

Laura Sykes

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
	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

May Church diary

2nd Thursday	8:00pm	House Groups	16th Thursday	8:00pm	House Groups
4th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting EFC	18th Saturday	8:45am	Weekend of Prayer 3 Churches Prayer Meeting EFC
	12:00pm	Youth Fundraising		10:00am	Compton House Plant & Cake Sale
	4:00pm	Cafe			
	6:00pm	Youth Fundraising Quiz and Buffet			
5th Sunday	9:30am	Communion	19th Sunday		Weekend of Prayer Pentecost Sunday
	11:15am	Morning Worship The Pastor		9:30am	Morning Worship
	6:30pm	Evening Worship T.B.C		11:15am	Morning Worship Dan McQuillin
				6:30pm	Evening Worship David Jones
6th Monday		Bank Holiday Monday	22nd Wednesday	2:30pm	The Fellowship
				7:00pm	Elders' Meeting
8th Wednesday		Lunch Fellowship Outing Haskins Garden Centre at Rustington	23rd Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
9th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Meeting	25th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting EFC
10th Friday		Village Arts Festival	26th Sunday	9:30am	Morning Worship
				11:15am	Communion Josh Thomas
				6:30pm	Evening Worship The Pastor
11th Saturday		Village Arts Festival	27th Monday		Bank Holiday Monday
12th Sunday		Arts Festival	28th Tuesday	7:45pm	In Touch
	9:30am	Family Worship			
	11:15am	Morning Worship The Pastor			
	6:30pm	Youth Service Shackleton & Bekah Legg			

Further details and a full updated Church Calendar is available on our website:
www.lindfieldurc.org.uk

As I write this we are preparing to start our summer term.

It is sure to be full of fun activities and outings. Some of the highlights will be the summer camp, our youth trip to Romania and also a youth service that will be happening coinciding with this year's Lindfield Arts Festival.

**Josh
Thomas
Writes...**



Josh

On the 12th May at 6.30pm we will be holding a very special youth service to round off the village's annual Arts Festival. We see this as a great outreach opportunity and have the band Shackleton coming to lead worship as well as a special guest speaker - Bekah Legg.

Bekah is Editor of Liberti magazine, a dynamic Christian magazine for women. She is also a part-time teacher and is passionate about opening people's eyes to the promise they have in God, whether that be through the pages of a magazine, in the classroom or from a pulpit in a church. At home she is kept on her toes by five fabulous girls and a husband, who occasionally dices with death by singing 'The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow' when he thinks she looks like she is at the end of her tether.

We hope this will be a really great outreach opportunity for the church so please help by promoting it to any young people you come into contact with, publicity will be available very soon.

Looking back over the last term we have had some great moments across our youth organisations. Zest have seen a steady number coming weekly and we are looking forward to joining with the Boy's Brigade for our annual summer camp. We have many bookings so it should be a fantastic weekend, look out for a report in next month's magazine.

We have had some great evenings including bowling, a comic relief evening; which raised £34.00 for the charity, a Victorian club evening and a movie night. We are looking forward to next term's activities.



Our Sunday evening group has been a great highlight from the past term. We have been going through a course that I designed to look at various aspects of Church. On week one we looked at the Church as a whole, what it was, who is it for etc..

The second week looked at baptism and Mike Gardiner was kind enough to come and talk to the group about the different types of baptism and the meaning behind it. Week three we looked at communion and we were joined by Charles. We shared communion together and thought about why communion is so important to the Church.

On the fourth Sunday we looked at Church Membership, Michael Davies came to talk to us about this and we were able to think

about our denomination and this aspect of the Church. The penultimate week looked at worship. Our thanks to David Goodchild who gave us food for thought on this topic. We spoke about worship, not just being about singing but using our gifts to God's glory.

Finally we thought about leadership and how we all have a part to play in the leadership of the Church. David Walters came and spoke to us about Eldership.

Our thanks go out to all those who came to share their expertise with the group. We were able to have a lot of discussion and were really helped in our understanding! We will be starting a new series on 'The Fruits of the Spirit' after the Easter break, so please pray for these sessions!



Cafe *Saturday 4th May 12 Noon till 4pm*

We are having a 'Cafe' at the United Reformed Church which is a Fundraising Event to help our young people go to Romania

Tea, coffee and cake will be on sale. Along with entertainment

Quiz and Buffet *Saturday 4th May 6.00pm to 10pm.*

Come to enjoy the Quiz, Buffet and Entertainment It will be great fun, so do come and share it with us.

Tickets are available at a cost of £5.00 per person or £15.00 per family.



Youth Service *Sunday 12th May 6:30pm*

Our Special Lindfield Arts Festival Youth Service featuring worship lead by Shackleton and guest speaker Rebekah Legg... A celebration not to be missed!

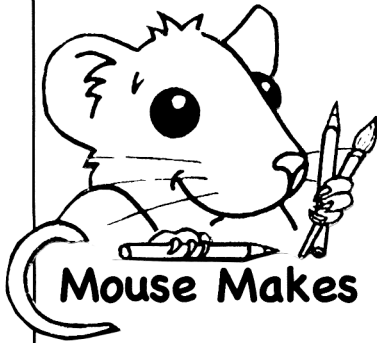
BBQ *Saturday 15th June 6.00pm to 10pm*

There will be a presentation from both 'The Guys going to Romania' and 'The Cascade Organisation'.

Please put this date into your diaries as we would like you to share this with us.



PLEASE TRY TO COME, WE REALLY NEED YOUR SUPPORT!



It was the festival of PENTECOST and the Apostles and other believers were all together when they heard a sound like a strong **wind** and saw what looked like tongues of **fire** which spread out and touched every person. All of them were filled with the **Holy Spirit** and began to talk in other languages as the Spirit enabled them. A crowd had gathered outside and each of them heard the believers speaking in their own language about the great things God had done.



Read Acts 2:1-11
Which countries had the crowd come from?

The Holy Spirit



John 14:26

Reveals

John 16
14-15



GUIDES

John 16:7-11



Helps

Romans 8:26

Comforts

John 14:16-17



Transforms

2 Corinthians 3:18



The work of God's Holy Spirit in us brings:

LOVE
JOY
PEACE
PATIENCE
KINDNESS
GOODNESS
FAITHFULNESS
HUMILITY
SELF CONTROL

Galatians 5:22-23

To make your bookmark:

Carefully cut around the outside, fold in half along the dotted line and glue together. Add a tassel to the bottom with a length of wool or ribbon. You can make it stronger by gluing onto card before folding.



Boys Brigade



There is nothing young people seem to like more than staying up, as much of the night as possible, and sleeping during the day. In order to cater for this taste, our Company Section had a sponsored all night stay in the Church in early February. We played active games the first half of the night and quiet games the second half. This was all rounded off with a fried breakfast before departing. A useful contribution, we hope, to charitable causes.

We were not so fortunate in the Drill Competitions this year, although we ran with our friends and neighbours, 3rd Burgess Hill, [All Saints URC], a close second in the Squad Medal and Colour Party competitions.

We are looking forward to our camp with Zest at Blackland Farm at the end of April.

Some juniors are going with Terry Ward to the Battalion Holiday at Carroty Wood on the same weekend. Please remember these two events in your prayers: as always, our ultimate aim is that they provide spiritual nourishment for youngsters.

Please can I ask Church folk to come and support the Boys at our Annual Award Presentation evening on Monday 13 May, 6.30 p.m. We have some major awards to present this year, including the President's Badges which, is the Brigade's second highest award, and the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze and Silver Awards. Two Boys, Wesley Heyward and Tom Hewitt, are training for the Gold Award, the target date is middle of next year. If achieved this will be the first of this very high value Award to be gained by Lindfield BB members for many years.

Geoffrey Cocksedge

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Sound Seminar

Can you hear me at the back?

Welcome to this, the second in a short series of articles looking at the work of the technical team in the church. Last month we looked at what the sound operator does to prepare for the 9.30 service and got as far as the start of the service itself. This month, we'll look at the role of the sound operator in the service.

During the service, the sound system doesn't only drive the PA speakers in the church. It also feeds the recorder from which we produce CDs of the services and upload the sermon to the Internet, and the loop system which is used by hearing aid wearers.

The loop is literally a loop of wire laid around the church at floor level. This produces a magnetic signal which is picked up by a small coil of wire in the wearer's hearing aid. This enables wearers to hear a much clearer output from the PA system than they otherwise would. The system is set up so that the music group are much louder than those speaking in the church itself, so that they can still be heard over the congregation singing. This would be annoying for loop users and CD listeners, so the levels there are much closer. Also, these signals contain the sound of the congregation so that it is the sound of the congregation singing rather than just the group which is heard on the CD. The system has been designed so that if the levels in church are correct, then the levels fed to the recorder and loop should also be correct.

So, we're ready for the service to start, and watching for the nod from the worship leader to indicate he's ready. We then fade out the music that's playing before the service; reduce the level of the congregation mics; start the recorder; check that the leader has turned on their radio mic, and fade it up.

Throughout the service, the sound operator will then have two main focuses:

Firstly, the practical.

The operator will be watching what is happening at the front of the church, ensuring that they are ready to bring up the microphones as needed, for what is going to happen next. This generally means thinking half a step ahead of where the service is at because you need to ensure the microphone is on for the start of the person speaking rather than half way through the first sentence. The operator will also be checking the various indicators on the sound equipment to ensure everything is running ok and marking off the different parts of the service on the recorder ready to be converted into tracks on the CD. They will

also be listening, to ensure that levels are ok, and that there isn't any feedback or other gremlins creeping into the sound, and when the group is playing continually checking that the balance of the group is correct.

Secondly, the spiritual.

As we gather together on a Sunday, in the words of the Matt Redman song: 'it's all about You, Jesus'. In the same way that the music group has a responsibility for the worship of the whole congregation, so too does the sound operator. As the service progresses, therefore, they need to be aware of where God's Spirit is leading, to ensure that anything they do will enhance the worship for the congregation, not cut across it. It can be a simple thing like not dropping the level of the music group when the congregation wants to crescendo, or vice versa, or leaving a

mic up and getting feedback just as the congregation are moving into a time of quiet. Worst of all is to do something which results in 50 heads craned round and 50 pairs of eyes looking up at you in the balcony. Not 'the worst' because of the embarrassment, but because if everyone is looking at the sound operator at that point the congregation's focus is on you and not on Jesus, so you have got in the way of worship not enhanced it.

So, hopefully, we get to the end of the service without any obvious mistakes and it is now time to quickly pack away any equipment not required for the second service, and ensure everything is reset, and then hand over the reins to whoever is on duty for that service. Next month we'll look at what happens during the week, including how the sermon gets on the Web.

Richard Walters



Walk of Witness

Good Friday 29th March 2013 was a bitterly cold day with a strong wind and snow flurries in the air, but this did not stop the Christians of Lindfield and the surrounding area from attending the Walk of Witness.

At 9.20 am there were a small group of people gathered at the Hickmans Lane Recreation Ground in Lindfield but numbers swelled in the next few minutes. At 9.30 am Canon James Clarke from All Saints Lindfield welcomed those assembled and a short service was held - a reading, a hymn, and a prayer.

The procession then headed up Hickmans Lane to Compton Road and the High Street led by a representative from one of the local churches carrying a plain wooden cross. On arrival at the United Reformed Church the crowd had grown even more, and a representative from the local Roman Catholic Church led the short service. Adrian Cookney accompanied the singing with his guitar and Alex Jeffs read the Bible reading.

We then proceeded up the High Street to All Saints Church and it was good to share fellowship with local Christians as well as newcomers to the village as we walked. Surely this annual Walk of Witness must make an impression on local people as an orderly procession of several hundred people of all ages wends its way up to All Saints Church.

Somehow everybody managed to squeeze into the church for an excellent All-Age Service.

The illustrated talk by Adam Pymble entitled The Big Swap had the full attention of both young and old. The children sat round and watched as he made a concoction which to all intents and purposes was an undrinkable bitter cup. He tried to persuade Emma Hastings to drink this mixture because she said she liked milk shakes! However, she declined, even under pressure to do so.

Her father then came up and offered to drink the disgusting mixture through a straw in her place which he did, all because he loved his daughter. This simple act illustrated very clearly how God allowed His only Son Jesus to drink the bitter cup to the dregs out of love for each one of us.

The church was very warm after the cold walk, as was the Tiger where we enjoyed hot cross buns and coffee after the service, sharing fellowship with so many Christians from the area.

Rosemary Tijou

Family News

Congratulations!

Sincere congratulations to Jonathan Hall who has passed his final medical exams and is now a qualified Doctor. Very well done, Jonathan!

Thank You

Thank you very much for the prayer, love and concern shown to us, over the past few weeks. It has been greatly appreciated.

From Val, Adrian and family

Settling In

Sheila Hallybone has been a regular attendee at the 9.30 service until failing health prevented her from attending Church. Sheila has settled really well into her new home in Essex, which is near to her family. I have spoken to her and she said, "How good it is to be looked after so well." She sends her warmest good wishes to all her friends at Lindfield URC. Sheila said she often thinks about everyone and she does miss Charles our Pastor, as when he visited her he always helped her spiritually and always made her smile.

Anne Elvin

Thank You

I wanted to write to say a very big sincere thank you for all your prayers. Thanks to for the beautiful flowers that have arrived from time to time and the lovely cards. It is uplifting and encouraging knowing that on Monday and Wednesday morning a group of people are upholding Peter and me in prayer. I know that many individual folk pray.

We experience the power of those prayers as God honours the faith of his people. We know to that peace, which Christ promised and which He alone can give. I continue my journey of healing knowing that nothing can ever separate me from His love. Our prayers are with you as you face the challenge of change later in the year.

With love and thanks,
Kay McIntosh

Thank You

My grateful thanks go to everyone who has upheld Sid and I through difficult times over the past years and also through the recent sadness of his death; I have been so comforted by everyone's care and, as we said to each other every night, "God Bless You".

Daphne Collins

Uncover

At a Christians in Sport 'Club House' event, I was given a copy of Luke's gospel in the form of an 'Uncover' book, with the challenge of giving it to a non-Christian friend.

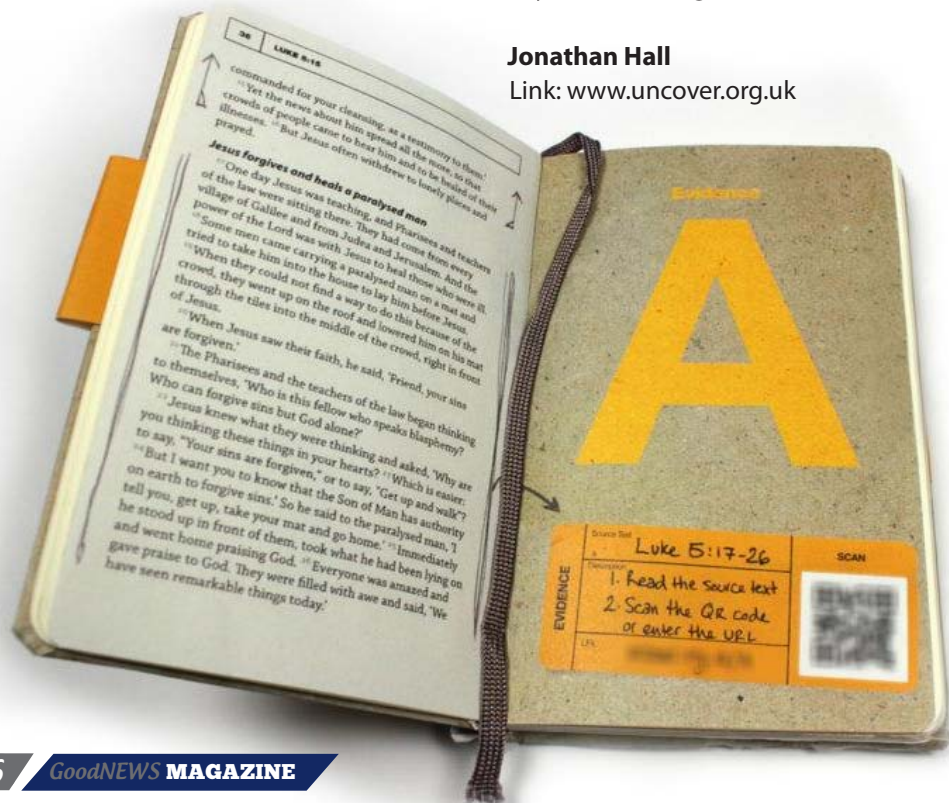
These books are designed primarily for people new to the Bible and contain a number of QR code links to short videos on the Uncover website. These videos are great. They cover a range of important and common questions/issues people may have in relation to the Christian faith in an accessible yet satisfying way.

For example, "How can an all-powerful and loving God allow people to suffer?" and "Doesn't science rule out miracles?"

I gave it to a friend and to my pleasant surprise he took it, read it and watched the videos... so my non-Christian friend has now read a whole book of the Bible witnessing the life of Jesus! This has been a great way for him to gain a greater understanding about my faith and has provided a useful tool for discussions about Christianity. I have also found the website enjoyable and interesting to browse and would recommend it to anyone, at all stages of faith.

Jonathan Hall

Link: www.uncover.org.uk



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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

May

5th	Fo Tingley	Sue Tester
12th	Boys Brigade	Jan Foreman
19th	Jean Baxter	Barbara Shepherd
26th	Serena Nathan	Jo Bloxham

June

2nd	Carol Walters	Iris Bingham
9th	Barbara Shepherd	Heather Swann
16th	Brian Tuppen	Janet Sanderson
23rd	Audrey Saunders	Fo Tingley
30th	Heather Swann	Sue Tester

Around Lindfield

Saturday 4th May

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

Wednesday 8th May

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

8.00pm : Horticultural Society in KEH : "Autumn Planting".

Friday 10th - Sunday 12th May

Lindfield Arts Festival - see www.lindfieldartsfestival.com for information

Thursday 16th May

7.45pm Film in KEH : "Life of PI"

Saturday 18th May

10-12 noon: Compton House - Plant and Cake Sale

