

GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

June 2014

Sun, Sand & Spirit

Reports from Bible by the Beach
and Spring Harvest 2014

House Groups

Doing small church

Sticky Faith

Growing and keeping
youth in Church



Bible verse of the month

**“Be still, and
know that I
am God”**

Psalm 46:10 NIV

This month verse chosen
by Carol Marsh
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Sticky
Faith

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If you have a verse or article
you would like to share in
GoodNEWS email:

goodnews@lindfielddurc.org.uk

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Editorial

First of all I would like to thank Val for standing in for me whilst I had my knee replacement done. Hopefully I am well on the way to getting back to normal.

Josh our Youth Pastor has been accepted to go to Cambridge this September to continue his journey in becoming a Minister. It has been a long process to get to this stage and we as a Church wish Josh and Hannah every good wish for their new way of life in Cambridge. Both Josh and Hannah will be remembered in our prayers.

Do read about the Spring Harvest from members of our Church who attended this event. Even the very young ones have written how they enjoyed their time spent there. Well done Esther! It is so good to see how our young people and their parents enjoy and respond to the teaching they received. Possibly more families will choose to join with them next year.

We all know of the 'Big Issue Magazine', Sharon gives us an insight into the Magazine through her connection with John Merrett.

We await our new minister but it is good that there are plenty of things going on in the Church in this waiting time. Do read and find out how you can enjoy all the things that are on offer. ROC Saturday afternoons seem to be having excellent sessions where there is a warm welcome awaiting those who choose to come.

How many blessings we have, do continue to pray that soon we will have the person chosen by God, to come and continue the leadership of our Church.

Every Blessing to you all

Anne

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Dear friends

It falls upon me to write to you this month and I realise it's the first time I have done so. Please bear with me; I don't know if I am any good at letter writing.

I suppose that doesn't matter too much. God has been gracious to us all, giving us each talents to use whenever we are called upon. He has a great sense of humour, but what in particular stands out to me is his servant-hood and as we continue with our discipleship theme throughout the church, it reminds me that we are all here to serve Him by serving one another, bearing with each other and loving one another.

How different the world would be if we took up the challenge to attempt all three of these things. We can see in the wider world so much conflict and aggression man to man and we must count ourselves so fortunate to live in this beautiful part of the world.

I am aware that today not everyone in our Fellowship will feel that great and that there are many struggling with all different issues in their lives. And we must continue to pray for them, it doesn't matter if you don't know names or details as God knows all that and will listen and answer.

As we wait patiently for a new Minister to lead us, I would also ask that you continue to pray for the leadership team you have here in the Elders who are serving you in this place, and for Josh too as he looks to his future plans whilst continuing work here amongst the children and young people.

When you have a moment look up song 260 in Songs of Fellowship-

'I want to serve the purpose of God in my generation' and so on. Read those words and take them to heart and perhaps then we will see the Lord come again in my generation- while I am alive.

Are we ready for that?

Your obedient servant

Sue Waller

Sue Waller
Church Secretary

Family News

In Touch

We enjoyed a fascinating meeting on the 29th April when Heather Candy and her daughter in law Sarah spoke to us about their mission work.

Heather described the work that she and her husband have carried out for many years with the Mission Aviation Fellowship, while Sarah gave an illustrated account of some of the work she does with Medair. This is an organisation that helps people who are suffering in remote and devastated communities around the world to recover with dignity and develop skills to build for a better future. Sarah applied her skills as an engineer to improve roads and water supplies with her husband who she met while working with Medair in Africa. Both Heather and Sarah were dedicated to their work and were truly inspirational to listen to. Our next meeting will be on the 24th June when we will have our annual walk followed by supper at church. We meet outside church at 6pm and everyone is welcome to join us. Please watch out for further details about the walk nearer the time.

Janet Wade

Vacancy Update

We are still at the stage of waiting for prospective ministers to respond to our Pastorate Profile. Much is being done to follow up and there have been encouraging vibes. However, as yet, we do not have anything more we can add at this time. We need to continue to pray as we wait on the Lord for Him to reveal His plan for us.

David Walters

The Fellowship

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 25 June, at 2.30 pm, when we will be entertained by our good friend Barry Turnwell.

There will be the usual Bring & Buy Stall, together with a cup of tea after the entertainment.

All who come may be sure of a warm welcome.

Pat Phillips

Plant and Cake Sale

Many thanks to all those who supported the Plant and Cake Sale held at Compton House last month. Despite the inclement weather nearly £500 was raised. This amount will be spread equally between Tear Fund, the Overseas Missionary Fellowship and Compton House.

Thank you.

Stuart Marsh

100th Birthday



Happy Birthday Irene!

Our oldest Church member, Irene Curtis was born a long time ago, in fact 100 years ago on April 28th 1914 - just before the outbreak of the first World War!

Around thirty-five people came to her special party held in the Lindfield URC lounge to celebrate the auspicious event.

After blowing out the candles on her cake (in one puff), Irene made a short speech thanking God for the fact that she was still alive, in good health and did not have to take any pills!

Irene lives alone, does her own cooking and even looks after the garden with a little help with the mowing. She swam regularly and only gave it up when she was a mere 97!

Her father fought on the Western Front and when he was reported missing and nothing was heard for a while, Irene's mother assumed he had been killed. Not so! He was alive and, on his return, could not find them for a while as they had moved!

Irene spent her working life in the diamond trade in Hatton Garden, London, and in the 1970's moved to Backwoods Lane here in Lindfield. She has been a Church member since September 1996. She comes from a long-living family as her brother is 102, her sister is 98 and a half-sister, a mere 90. Every year she goes on holiday with her niece, and her brother and sister. This year they are all off to Wales.

Congratulations, Irene!
Stuart Marsh

Lindfield URC Proudly presents

BIG

FISH+CHIPS



Church
NIGHT

IN

FOOD

AND

FUN

SATURDAY

June

21ST

Arrive Hungry



6:00pm

LEAVE

entertained
tickets £5 from Terry Ward

Home Groups

'Doing Small Church in a Large Church'

Home Groups need to be central to our life as a church family. In a church, they are one of the primary places where we can grow together in Christ, and support, serve and encourage one another in the Christian life.

Why join a Home Group?

There are many benefits of joining a group. Not least is the opportunity it gives to get to know other members of the church family at a much deeper level than is ever possible on a Sunday.

Then, through Home Groups, our aim is for:

- ***Our lives to be transformed by God's truth (Romans 12:2)***
- ***Our community to be matured in love (Ephesians 4:15-16)***
- ***Our world to be engaged with the gospel (1 Peter 2:9-12)***

Our groups meet every other Thursday evening in homes during term time. It is a time of Bible Study and prayer. Each group arranges times to meet together over a meal or social activity. We have some groups that meet at different times and on different days, so if Thursday evenings are unsuitable for you please let us know.

Being part of a Home Group

In joining a Home group you are making a commitment to be part of a community of believers. You are committing to learn and grow with one another, and to serve, love, encourage and care for one another. On your part, this will involve:

Presence

The Home Group evening should be a top priority in your diary. We realise that business trips and emergency situations are unavoidable, but belonging to a Home Group means being there when it meets.

Participation

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul says that the church is like a human body. It only grows when every part is doing its bit. This means we have responsibilities towards each other as believers. Belonging to a Home Group means; sharing our lives with others through encouragement, care, support, service and the use of our gifts. It also means actively working to help others grow to be more like Jesus.

Prayer

One of the key ways we can serve each other is through prayer, because it's through our prayers that God does his work. Belonging to a Home Group means praying regularly for the members of the group.

Though living in community comes with all sorts of challenges (something the Bible is very realistic about!), it is where we grow best as Christians and as a church. Our prayer is that through our Home groups, we will 'in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ' (Ephesians 4:15).

Val Cookney



Spring Harvest

Spring Harvest is a Christian Festival at Easter, run at both Butlins in Minehead and Skegness. The Big Top tent in Minehead hosts 3,500 people. Four families from our Church family at Lindfield URC headed for Minehead in Somerset this year.

There follows a review of how we all got on:



In early April this year, Lydia, Joe, Freya and I packed our bags and pointed our car towards the setting sun. We were headed for Spring Harvest at Minehead. It had been two years since our last visit but as we rounded the corner and saw the 'Skyline' it felt like we had never left.

Spring Harvest (www.springharvest.org) is a charity that has been in action now since 1979 with a brief to equip the church for action. The annual conferences are held at Butlin's in Minehead and Skegness and feature bible teaching, discussion groups and worship for all ages in a relaxed fun atmosphere.

This year the theme of the conference was 'Unbelievable: confident faith in a sceptical world'. This theme was based around Romans 8 and the Apostles Creed, which unites all Christian churches as a statement of faith. Within the theme we worked through 'the unfathomable Father', 'the unbeatable Son' and 'the unstoppable Spirit'.

The morning bible studies were a great place of teaching where we worked through the theme looking at a different aspect each day. The bible teaching was run by Steve Brady, Principal of Moorlands Bible College. Steve was very knowledgeable and able to open up each of the topics for us with a good dose of practicality and scouse wit. After the morning teaching session it was time for discussion groups. The stream I followed was hosted by Justin Brierley from Premier Radio. You may remember him from our Friday night 'Apologetics' event at the Bent Arms during our 'Gospel Gold for Lindfield' mission in 2012.

We unpacked some of the big issues surrounding our faith contrasted to the sceptical world view. I found these sessions to be of greatest value to me personally. The afternoon was filled with optional seminars or sports, creative arts and general fun on or off the Butlin's site. In the evenings there were main celebrations of different styles

and sizes from the big top - loud band and 4,000 people to the 'White House' alternative creative service or you could just stay in your Chalet and watch the big top live on your TV.

It was a great time away and we are now looking into next year to see if we go back again. The three weeks will run from March 28th to April 10th 2015 and the theme will be 'Immeasurably more'- looking at how God is and can provide immeasurably more than we could ever imagine. If you'd like to know more, come and find me and ask.

David Goodchild

Robert Louis Stevenson said in 1881, 'to travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive, and the true success is to labour.' Having taken a young family to Spring Harvest in the past I have taken comfort in Stevenson's final five words. Still undaunted, and by the faith and hope I find in trusting in Jesus Christ I found myself celebrating in Christian worship in the 'Big Top' tent at Butlins in Minehead. Hallelujah! I believe in a God of 'better days.' I believe in resurrection power.

I listened to a minister tell of how his bishop had asked him which church he wanted to go to next. He said, 'I want to go to a church that's dying.' He sent him to a church with a congregation of seven and a local population of 60% Bengali muslims. One night a drunk muslim turned up on his doorstep. He had looked up 'christianity' on wikipedia and wanted to know more. He subsequently came to faith in Jesus.

His mother told him he should come and discuss Christianity with the imam. He told his mum he would do so if she came to church with him on Easter Sunday!

Jesus said, "Whatever you ask in my name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

God works where we work. We just have to ask Him where He wants us to work.

At a time when I think there may have been an EEC quota introduced on Christian fish carstickers, due to overfishing, you may feel a bit isolated in your faith in day to day life. Spring Harvest is a huge encouragement to be with other Christians, have fun, and communally celebrate Christ living in us.

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, 'We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;' Now that's travelling hopefully!

Harry McCleery (age tbc)

I love spring harvest becoss the Fun Fere (fair) was Graet (great) becoss the rids (rides) made me Feel sic (sick) when I went to the swimign (swimming) Pool I endj (enjoyed) the slids (slides)

Esther McCleery age 7

SH14 was a great experience. It gives you a faith boost and Freya and I made some new Scottish friends. The worship was incredible.

Lydia McCleery age 13

The theme of spring harvest this year was "Unbelievable". The theme explored how God can do such amazing things, in such amazing ways, that we simply cannot describe God in any other way.

It was 'unbelievable' when we checked in and were given a free upgrade from Standard to Silver+ accomodation!

I thought that we had an 'unbelievable' experience as we got to encounter God and put him at the centre of all things.

I went to my group called Iscape which was for young people aged 15-18 years and I did the conga with my group in the skyline, Butlin's main concourse!

We all got a chance to meet with God and to meet with others who would seek God and worship with him. We made some new friends at our youth groups and enjoyed singing, reading, worshipping, praying, playing games and encountering the Holy Spirit.

We also went to the Big Start in the morning at 9:00am which was fun as we got to see drama sketches from Mr Undependable, who changed his name to Mr Underground, and then to Mr Underwear!

He also had his perfect partner named Mrs Unflappable. It was really fun because Pete James and other people lead the worship and the prayer, as well as the drama perfectly.

Another highlight was the splash water world where we enjoyed all the rides and the wave machine. Esther particularly enjoyed the black hole ride, because she's old enough.

In my group there were incredible healings. One night someone with an ear infection they had for the last 4 years had been healed by the Holy Spirit.

On the fourth day we also got to enjoy a lovely meal at the Firehouse Restaurant with the Goodchilds and the Camplings.

Our last highlight, of course, was going to the Funfair which was good and we also got to go down to the beach, which has an absolutely magnificent landscape.

We all enjoyed the unbelievable experience at Spring Harvest. We would certainly recommend it and we will hopefully go next year!

The things that Spring Harvest gave us were hope, peace, encouragement, fun, worship, healing and most of all an unbelievable God.

God Bless you, and if you have any questions about Spring Harvest do ask us, or The Goodchilds, The Camplings or The Tingleys.

Love from
Peter McCleery aged 17

I think we have been five times to Spring Harvest now, and I enjoyed this one the most. That was partly due to that fact that two of our offspring are now teenagers- which meant that there was no longer any need for registering, dropping off, or collecting. It also gave Harry and myself the freedom to attend whatever talks or seminars we wished, between 10am and 1pm daily. In the evenings, the two of us took it in turns to go out to the many different events on offer (while the other one stayed in to get Esther to bed!)

In the mornings we chose the Big Top Bible Reading with Paul Brady an excellent speaker: incisive, challenging and funny, but also Godly and reverent. In the evening I tried the Big Top Celebration, but it was not for me- I found it difficult to sing along to Pete James (the worship leader and lead guitarist).

Peter and Lydia loved their groups, and couldn't wait to get there each day! They were very impressed with the bands and worship, and Peter felt comfortable and welcomed, even though there was no one from our Church in his group. Esther also enjoyed her sessions, and the 'Messy Church' session to which Harry took her (and joined in himself!)

On the final morning, there was a rousing service to conclude Spring Harvest. We sang 'He gave everything for me', and somehow, it sank in.

Overall Spring Harvest was a very positive experience for us all, and yes, we do hope to return next year!

Rosemary McCleery



Big Issue

In all weathers, as I cross London Bridge on my way to work, Sharon is there with a friendly smile and a wave. When I buy a magazine we usually have time for a chat. One day Sharon told me that she was embarking on a journalism course. “Would I be willing to have an article she had written in our magazine?” Of course! So here is the article. I hope that it gives you an insight into the life of a Big Issue Seller and that you get to know and like Sharon as much as I do.

John Merrett



Selling the Big Issue at London Bridge

My name is Sharon and I sell the Big Issue at London Bridge – the south end, near to the station. I recently completed a journalism course and then produced the following article at the request of a church in Crawley, West Sussex. I then offered the writing to another of my regular customers, John Merrett, for his church. Read on, I hope you enjoy it!

I thought I would explain a little about the Big Issue and how it helps people who are homeless or vulnerably housed to get back on their feet. Three years ago, after being made redundant from my job, my landlord informed me that he would not accept rent in the form of Housing Benefit which basically left me homeless. I applied for Job Seekers Allowance and therefore had to actively seek work, but whenever prospective employers became aware that I was homeless, I was told in no uncertain terms that I was unemployable.

My partner and I ended up living in a summer house in someone's garden and I completed four training sessions in order to be able to sell the Big Issue.

As a Big Issue vendor you are an ambassador for the brand and are expected to uphold the reputation of the magazine. You wear a tabard and a vendor badge with your vendor number on it at all times whilst selling and good standards of customer service are expected.

Every Monday the new version of the Big Issue is available for vendors to buy – we pay £1.25 for each copy and sell it for £2.50, thereby earning half the cover price as profit. Selling is hard – it is affected by a lot of factors that I had never considered before. The weather has a big part to play in how successful you are: sunshine always puts people in a good mood, making them more likely to buy, just as rain makes people huddle under their umbrellas and only look at the floor!

Very cold conditions are likely to make people feel sorry for you standing out in the freezing wind. The school holidays are always hard – lots of my customers go away at these times because of the rules governing when you can take your kids out of school and the period between Christmas and New Year is normally very quiet.

Most of my income comes from wonderful “regulars”, people who buy every week and I am also given food and clothes. I have a white board that I place by my pitch and I put sales figures on it and also requests for any items that I need, such as when my rucksack fell apart and I needed a better one. People are always glad to find that there is something they can help me with.

As I mentioned, I recently completed a short journalism course run by the Big Issue for people who have been affected by homelessness and along with lessons on writing an interesting article, we also learned how to take professional-looking photographs on a digital camera. I really enjoyed the course and felt that I took away some useful new skills. The Big Issue now has a new website called Answers From The Big Issue which gives details of some amazing charities and some very interesting social enterprises that all deserve support, and it is hoped that in the future, people who completed the course will be paid to write about these sort of groups for the website.

The tutors on the journalism course advised us all to get a blog to get our names out there and seen on the web – the address of mine is londonbridgesharon.wordpress.com, and it has examples of my work from the course as well as my thoughts, and examples of my photography.

I hope you have enjoyed a look at the life of a Big Issue seller – please feel free to leave comments on my blog!

Sharon

londonbridgesharon.wordpress.com

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)

At **6:30pm** Held in the lounge this is sometimes a celebration, sometimes a quieter ministry time and sometimes an open communion service or something quite different!

Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)

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 'Engine Room' (4th Thursday)
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 blue book on the concourse table.

Regular Activities

Mon	10.00am	Art Group
	6.00pm	Boy's 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	4:30pm	P.U.L.S.E Junior (1st and 3rd week, term time)
	7.30pm	P.U.L.S.E (Years 6-9) games, craft, tuck and a bible message (term time)
Sun	7.30pm	P.U.L.S.E +

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

June Church diary

1st Sunday	9:30am	Communion	19th Thursday	House Groups	
	11:15am	Morning worship Rev David Sprouse Cuckfield Baptist Church	21st Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints
	6:30pm	Evening Worship Simon Brickall All Saints Lindfield		6:00pm	Fish and Chip Supper & Cabaret
5th Thursday	House Groups		22nd Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship
7th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints		11:15am	Communion Rev David Bedford Pastor St Andrews & Littlebourne URC
	3:00pm	ROC on Saturday		6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Mike Gardiner
8th Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship	24th Tuesday	7:45pm	In Touch Walk and Supper
	11:15am	Morning worship Rev Mike Gardiner	25th Wednesday	2:45pm	Afternoon Fellowship
	6:30pm	Communion Stuart Dew		7:45pm	Elders Meeting
11th Wednesday	No Lunch Fellowship		26th Thursday	8:00pm	Engine Room Church Prayer Meeting
12th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Meeting	28th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints
13th Friday	Lunch Fellowship Outing to Snowhill			3:00pm	ROC on Saturday
17th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints	29th Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship
15th Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship		11:15am	Communion Rev Darryl Sinclair Families & Childrens' Minister Hassocks URC
	11:15am	Morning worship Dan McQuillin		6:30pm	Combined Service with Evan Free Church
	6:30pm	Evening Worship Cavan Wood All Saints Lindfield			

**Josh
Thomas
Writes...**



Hello, in this month's magazine I tell you all about an exciting training event I went to last month called "Sticky Faith". This was a research project undertaken by churches in America aiming to understand why there has been a significant drop in those between 11 - 21 years old attending church. There was some brilliant advice to help combat this problem that I am keen to share with you all! I also have news about a new DVD resource produced by the Southern Synod Youth Executive aimed to educate churches and ministers about the aspects of church life children and young people enjoy and the bits perhaps they do not enjoy as much!

I would love to chat through anything you take away from this article so feel free to see me on a Sunday morning or send me an email!

Josh

Sticky Faith

Back in March this year I attended a training event at Swanley URC on this topic of sticky faith. This is to show how we can instil in our children and young people the desire for a faith that sticks with them, throughout their lives, not just whilst they are living in the area and worshipping with us. There was a team of people from various different

UK youth organisations who presented the American research to us and we had an opportunity to delve deeper through participating in workshops on either parenting, schools work or using the findings on a Sunday morning. I went along to the schools work session which also focused on children and young people who may not have come from a Christian home.

The day started with a brilliant analogy. There was an inventor, who had the aim to invent the world's strongest adhesive. This is something so sticky it could stick together any two items and never come unstuck! In short, he failed quite spectacularly as well! He threw his test strip away and gave up.

A few days later a colleague of his was looking for something to act as a bookmark for his hymn book when he came across the test strip in the bin, he used it and to his amazement it stuck brilliantly to the page without leaving a single mark when peeled off.

This was the start of something big; this was the start of 'The post-it note', a church youth workers best friend!

The inventor had failed in his initial brief but had still created something of great worth even if he had not initially seen it! We do not want to give our young people a post-it note faith, however, that just peels away, we want to give them a gaffer tape faith that will withhold even the toughest situations.

So how can we do this? Well it really is not rocket science you will be pleased to hear!

I mentioned in my introduction the DVD resource that has been created by the Synod Youth Executive, they spoke to young people from a variety of churches about what helps them to feel included

in church life and also the things that can hinder this. There was nothing revolutionary in the findings but the final product can serve as an excellent reminder to us of the areas we do well in but also the areas we may struggle in. There are some familiar faces in the DVD as aspects were recorded here on a Friday evening, so what you get is honest but well thought out opinions from young people you may even know.

Their findings are incredibly similar to the findings of the sticky faith team themselves and can be summed up under four sub headings.




It sounds obvious but young people just like the rest of us want to feel included, if they feel they are walking into a private members club where they are not welcome, they are not going to want to return! We are good in this area as a church and many visitors have commented what a welcoming congregation we are, keep up the good work!



Responsibility


Many of the young people expressed a desire to be given responsibility and to feel like they are trusted. One of the boys in the DVD said "I like it when people know me for me and not as the son of my parents". Young people amaze me at times with the things they achieve we just need to keep on finding them jobs and responsibilities they can cope with along with everything else they have going on!



Accessibility

This one is no surprise but of the young people surveyed nearly all said that when they did not understand words or more generally what was going on in the service they switched off and became disengaged. I imagine this is true of many adults as well! Ensuring we keep our services accessible will mean they are not lost and might even help the adults!

Finally the most important sub heading...



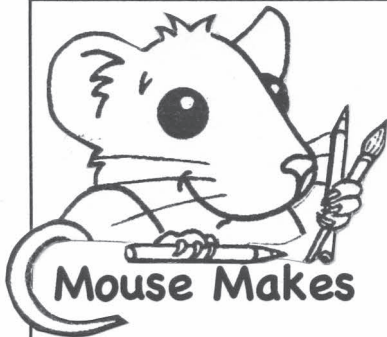
Pastoral Concern

Many young people will go off to university or will move away from the area and may not hear from anyone at church during their first term. They will come back at Christmas and things will have changed in their lives and the life of the church and they will feel out of the loop and a bit on the outside.

By Easter it will have changed even more and by the summer term they may not feel welcomed in their own church. We have a responsibility to let them know we are thinking of them and praying for them and to welcome them back with open arms at the end of term.

None of this is rocket science but the course was a wonderful chance to be reminded of these things and I hope it will benefit you as well.

Josh Thomas



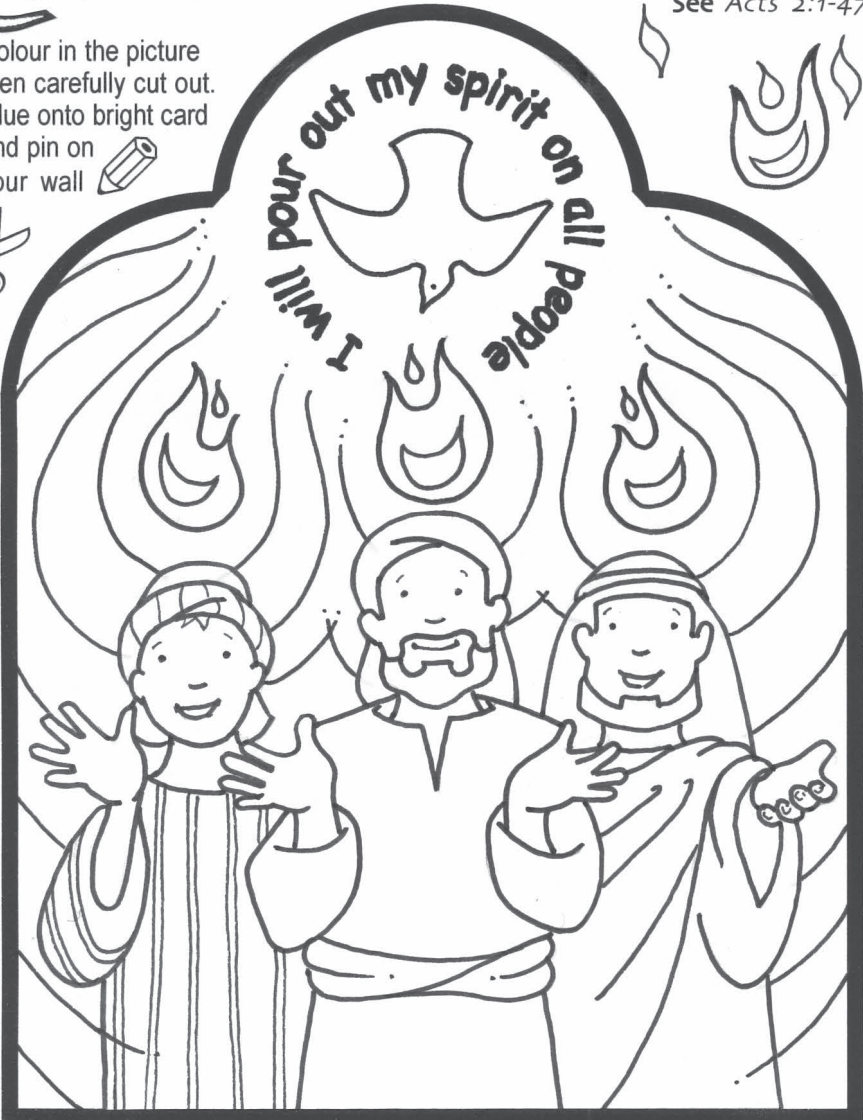
THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Now when the day of **Pentecost** had come the disciples were all together in one place.

Suddenly a sound like a violent wind blowing came from heaven and filled the entire house where they were sitting. And tongues spreading out like fire came to rest on each one of them.

See Acts 2:1-47

Colour in the picture then carefully cut out. Glue onto bright card and pin on your wall



Bible by the Beach

Eastbourne, 2nd-5th May 2014



BIBLE BY THE BEACH

“An inspiration to the whole family”

With Jonathan living in Eastbourne for a year it was a great opportunity to go to Bible by the Beach as a family for the first time this May. With other commitments we only attended on the Saturday and Sunday, but what a blessing those two days were!

The theme was “True Humanity” and the events were all held in and around the Congress Theatre, a short walk from the seafront. That meant we could enjoy sitting on the beach at lunchtime and have a stroll along the promenade or around the car show that was also happening over the weekend. The sea air was great to blow away the cobwebs after a busy week in London and to help re-energise between sessions!

In addition to the Bible Study sessions I went to seminars on “Being a man of God” by the excellent Ian Coffey from Moorlands College and an insightful talk by David Burrowes MP on life as a Christian politician. For me though, as a scientist with two medically oriented sons, the most interesting talk was a thought provoking presentation on “Medical Ethics” by John Wyatt, a Professor of Ethics and Perinatology at University College London. He chairs the Medical Study Group of the Christian Medical fellowship and

Jonathan attended a lecture he gave on ethics while studying in Leicester. Some of the statistics he shared were astonishing. While there were about 700,000 live births in UK in 2011, the same year there were 196,000 abortions (only 1.2% of which were due to disability) and yet only 70 adoptions of babies! I am looking forward to reading Professor Wyatt’s book on Matters of Life and Death – human dilemmas in the light of the Christian faith. I bought it from the fantastic book stall, one among many great exhibition stands...and managed to get it signed by the author!

On the Saturday evening there was a concert by Lou Fellingham, the singer from the Christian band Phatfish. She was backed up by a band including her husband Nathan, who wrote the beautiful song that was last on their playlist, “There is a day”. Lou had a lovely voice and was equally lovely when we met her for a chat after the concert.

On Sunday morning we worshipped at Jonathan’s church, Kings Centro, in another theatre, the smaller but more atmospheric Royal Hippodrome. The worship was lively and followed by a really stimulating sermon on Luke 24 by Wallace Benn,

the former Bishop of Lewes. He reminded us of the facts of Jesus' resurrection and how the whole Bible, Old and New Testaments, is about Jesus. To make the point he played a short video clip from YouTube of an 11-year old American boy revealing the role of Jesus in every book of the Bible – very impressive! (see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxwYnQyMhTY>).

We met up with Sue, Fo and Janet at the Church and enjoyed coffee and cakes with them afterwards. We also bumped into David and Fay in various sessions, so there was a good LURC attendance, but plenty of space for more next year! Our final Sunday session before the late night

drive home was one of praise and worship around good, sound teaching by Andrew Wilson, of Kings Church Eastbourne, on the Scroll and the Lamb in Revelation 5.

Although we were only there for two days, Bible by the Beach was an inspiration to the whole family, a time to be together, learn together and worship together. We would thoroughly recommend it to anyone who is looking for good Bible based teaching next year. Val and Adrian have always sung its praises and I can now see why!

Martin Hall



“Great teaching”

Bible by the Beach was a beneficial time for me, for which I am grateful. The main Bible study sessions were based around the early chapters of Genesis. I felt I learnt new things when comparing the first Adam (in Genesis) and the second Adam (our Lord Jesus Christ). Also that at the beginning of the Bible there's the description of a beautiful garden (Eden), and the Bible concludes in the book of Revelation with John's description of the beautiful celestial city. The comparisons between the Old and New Testaments never cease to amaze me! We certainly had some great teaching.

I attended two seminars on Emotions, a fascinating subject when looked at from a Christian perspective. We were reminded of the strong emotions Jesus showed – Compassion (for the lost and the sick), Sadness (over the death of Lazarus), Joy (when His Disciples returned from their first preaching assignment), Anger (at the Pharisees) and Distress (in the Garden of Gethsemane before His impending death). It was encouraging to know that it is ok for us to experience strong emotions, too; we just need to handle them in a Godly way!

Fiona Tingley



“A heady mix”

It was a privilege to attend the “True Humanity” weekend in Eastbourne. What a heady mix we experienced of worship; interesting talks; insightful Bible study linked by gossiping-the-gospel over coffee! The Bible studies attributed true humanity to Jesus, who was God incarnate. Liam Goligher passionately traced Him from creation through to the biblical end times in the book of Revelation. Interesting seminars entitled “Secret Diary of a Christian MP Aged 44 + $\frac{3}{4}$ ” by David Burrowes or “Being a Woman of God” by Rachel Browning were informative and compelling listening. Please consider attending next year, and let God engulf you with Himself! Go on. I dare you!

Janet Drayton

Wider World

Iraq

The village of Zanan Bchuck in Iraq suffered repeated attacks by the Ba'ath regime's genocidal campaign against the country's Kurds. For years the population lived with the ever-present threat of violence.

The villagers refused to be defeated, however, and Christian Aid's partner in Iraq - Rehabilitation, Education, and Community Health (REACH) has worked with the community to rebuild the village. REACH has reconstructed a reservoir to harvest rainwater, built new greenhouses and helped families to grow vegetables and to raise sheep, cows and poultry.

REACH has also supported the community to lobby their regional government for essential services, and, as a result, the village is now full of confidence and spirit. They now have their own well in the village and a tarmac road nearby so that they can easily take their crops to be sold in the market. It is hoped to connect the village to an electricity supply soon.

How encouraging to hear some good news from a very troubled country.

Carol Marsh

Bible Verse

“Be still, and know
that I am God”

Psalms 46:10

About twenty-six years ago I needed a big operation and, being somewhat of a coward when it comes to these things, I was really very apprehensive. Not long before I was due to go down to theatre, a nurse came in and handed me a card that had just arrived for me. It was from Norman and Hazel Smith and on the front it said “Be still, and know that I am God”.

The words were a great comfort to me and the card was the last thing I saw before the pre-med took over and the first thing when I woke up. All my fears ceased and I know that it was God's timing that the card arrived at the exact time that I needed it.

I still have the card and often draw strength from these words. They help me to “let go and let God”.

Carol Marsh

Welcome Rosieta

Who do they Say that I Am?

Curious! Maybe or!!!

Hello! What is your name? Where are you from? Why have you come to Lindfield?

What do you do? Do you work? Do you work in the local hospital? Which Care Home do you work?

You are not old enough to retire! I have heard about you! Which African country do you come from?

These are just some of the many questions I get asked since arriving in Lindfield. In attempting to provide some answers to some of the many questions I will give a brief resume of my journey. I will do this not because I get tired of the questions, but to remove some of barriers we build that can limit the possibilities of God's plan.

I was born in the Caribbean and named Rosieta (I prefer it not to be shortened because my Grand-dad named me) I like it to be correctly spelt because the emails will not get to me (smile) so remember the rule: the i comes before the e, except after c (another smile). I came to the UK almost sixty years ago and worked in a variety of jobs while gaining one undergraduate degree and three post graduate degrees.

The majority of my working career was spent in local authority, especially in education. I worked in all sectors up to Assistant Chief Education Officer level. I assisted in various aspects of community liaison and development, including women's groups and on issues of equality and welfare.

For many years my parents and I began house groups when the welcome in many established churches was not conducive to non-whites and I am happy to say that many congregations became integrated because of our efforts and are still thriving as a result of God's plan and persistence in the faith. This faith journey took on a different emphasis when I decided to listen to a number of ordained ministers who kept asking if I had not heard "the call".

This call led to an instantaneous acceptance from Oxford University as a candidate for ministerial training. However, God had a different plan. I had to give up my Oxford place and go to America to study and work. I did both in Pennsylvania, Israel (country), North Carolina, the Caribbean, New York, New Jersey, South Korea and New Jersey. On the way I was ordained into the Moravian Church and gained three more postgraduate degrees plus a plethora of experience in various aspects of ministry.

ROC Update

The men in the Homeless shelter knew me before I had even arrived to be a Counsellor, the Drug Rehab centre was an education never to be forgotten as was the work with middle school children and their parents. Two of my favourite areas were working with Seniors and with individuals and families in hospitals. No I am not and was never a nurse, but I became very good as a healer of wounds in many other ways.

Now that I have retired, I miss the little children and the older folks. Both groups gave me as much and even more pleasure than I could give. I have come to Lindfield because I believe this is where God wants me to be. Each day I wait to hear what God wants me to do. As I listen and wait I know that "God Knows What God is Doing", so I am patient and can deal with most of the questions, even though I may not give the answers you hoped for. So who do they say I am? I pray that I am and can be recognised as a child of God, who intends to follow the command to 'go out and do' to the ends of the earth.

Grace and peace to all.
Rev. Rosieta Burtron

Christians from the three churches in Lindfield have recently joined together under the capable leadership of Peter Diack ably assisted by his wife Jennifer and a team of volunteers to commence ROC on Saturdays. This is not as the name first suggests but is part of the nationwide initiative called Redeeming our Communities. Whatever the need in a particular locality then ROC endeavours to meet it. In Lindfield there is very little happening on a Saturday afternoon for those in the 55+ age bracket who maybe live alone or have little to do and would welcome somewhere to go.

ROC is an opportunity to welcome people into the relaxed atmosphere of the lounge at the URC Church where tea, coffee and homemade cakes are available for free on the second and fourth Saturday of each month from 3pm - 4.30 pm. At the first meeting 50 people including helpers came, the next time around 30. Big numbers aren't everything, but to welcome people and to make them feel loved and wanted is more important. Already we have had expressions of gratitude that there is such a gathering on a Saturday afternoon.

There will be a varied programme over the coming months including community singing, table games, talks on living healthily and safety in the home by the police, ambulance and fire services. No one is under obligation to do anything and if people would rather sit and chat and share, then there is the opportunity to do just that.

Most importantly we want to show the love of Jesus to those who come along on a Saturday afternoon.

Ray & Rosemary Tijou

June Mission

During May and June the church is supporting the work of Operation Mobilisation, an evangelical Christian organisation working all over the globe. As I was reminded recently, it is an organisation that many from our own congregation have worked with, including Dave and Pam White, Wayne and Hilary Thomas, Joanne Walters, Simon Lunt, Jonathan Wren and Ron Goodenough.

After the introduction to the work of OM in last month's Good News, I would like to tell you more about the specific project we are currently supporting – the construction of a church in Bucșani, Romania. OM Romania have recently planted a church in a Roma community, but at the moment they have no building to meet in. Pastor Marian Bălan said in a recent prayer letter:

“Twelve years ago I was in Italy and saw huge cathedrals with many statues, but hardly any people. In contrast, the Christians in the village of Bucșani often pray in the rain. Our church services of adults and children take place in the open air.”

We don't even have benches. In winter we squeezed into a small 9 sq.m. room, which was so small that the children couldn't fit in, which made them very sad. At the moment we meet each week in the yard outside. We would like to buy a piece of land and build a church where both we and our children can enjoy God's presence.”

A group of South Africans from a church in Norwich have already committed to sending a team of skilled workers to construct the building in August. They are in the process of buying a small piece of land (12m x 25m) and are now just seeking funds for the materials.

Please can we urge you to pray for the ongoing work of OM in Romania. The team there have been really encouraged by the news that we can support this project. Remember that more information on the work of OM can be found on the missions stand on the church concourse or online at www.uk.om.org.

Alex Hall



ROMANS ONE ELEVEN TRUST (R1:11)

You are warmly invited to the

MISSIONS LUNCH

being held at 12.00 noon

on Sunday, 13 July 2014

at Lindfield United Reformed Church

*Speaker: Rev Chris Vivian – Administrator of
Romans One Eleven Trust and Minister of
Lymington United Reformed Church*

All Welcome!

The event will take place after the 10.30am Morning Service.

Lunch will be provided – more details to follow.

For further details please contact a member of the LURC Missions Group

– Val Cookney, Jean Gardiner, Alex Hall, Helen Hall and Terry Oliver.

For more background information please see:

www.romansoneeleventrust.org.uk and www.lymurc.org.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you on 13 July!

Crowhurst Retreat

To go on a Retreat was a 'first' for me; something I'd never really considered until recently. (This was not a Silent Retreat, I hasten to add. That could have been rather more of a challenge!)

Two of us set off for Crowhurst Healing Centre, near Battle, on a beautiful Spring day in Holy Week. Having some time out just leading up to Easter was in itself an added bonus, giving opportunity to prayerfully consider the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Crowhurst is a lovely old house which has been extended in more recent years, set in beautiful grounds with trees, shrubs and a 'Prayer walk'. Almost all of the bedrooms are en-suite and are comfortably furnished, and the food was delicious!

During our two day stay two Healing Services were held (to which non residents are welcomed). These took place in the beautiful circular chapel where there is such a real sense of God's presence, as indeed there is throughout the house and garden. We were able to enjoy coffee and chat in the large and comfortable lounge, which includes a small book and gift shop, and there was also a quiet library. The staff and prayer team were all so caring and helpful.

There was opportunity for one-to-one prayer ministry if desired, which I found very helpful. Crowhurst is a place where one encounters God in a personal way. I can strongly recommend it. Just to have time set apart for 48 hours was a real blessing.

Fiona Tingley



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Chris Comber 01444 482641

Stepping Stones

Jo Bloxham 01444 483672

Transport

Janet Drayton 01444 483621

P.U.L.S.E. Co-ordinator

Josh Thomas 07598 779553

Lighthouse (Junior Church)

Co-ordinator

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Flower Rota

Arranging

Distributing

June

1st	Jean Baxter	Heather Swann
8th	Audrey Saunders	Janet Sanderson
15th	Brian Tuppen	Fo Tingley
22nd	Mies Campling	Nick Bingham
29th	Zoe McQuillin	Sue Tester

July

6th	Betty Billins	Barbara Shepherd
13th	Gladys Porter	Jo Bloxham
20th	Carol Marsh	Iris Bingham
27nd	Fiona Tingley	Heather Swann

Around Lindfield

Thursday 5th to Saturday 7th June

The South of England Show
at Ardingly Showground



Wednesday 11th June

12.15pm Tiger Arts : Lunch in the Tiger

1.00pm Tiger Concert : Five Voice Female Group

Saturday 14th June

3.00pm ROC on Saturday - Lindfield URC

Saturday 28th June

3.00pm ROC on Saturday - Lindfield URC

