

GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

Winter 2014/15

“In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it”

John 1:v4,5



Bible verse of the month

**“ And surely
I am with you
always to the
very end of the
age ”**

Matt 8:20 NIV

**Our verse this month is
chosen by Alison Ward
see page 6 for more
information**



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

goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk



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Editorial

This period of time is such a busy one and I am delighted to say we have a very mixed array of subjects covered in Good News.

Christmas is getting near and we have food for thought in many of the articles. We have shortened versions of two of the sermons recently preached at our services. Both of these sermons are clear ways of helping us all to cope with the many difficult situations we find ourselves in. See how the frogs are part of the message! We sang at one of the services, a very much loved hymn, 'What a friend we have in Jesus'. This reminded me of my Sunday school days, how true this message still is!

Danny our 'Youth Pastor' is striving to reach many young people of all ages. Read about his endeavours and success in so many differing situations. Danny also gives us words to ponder over in his 'Christmas Fairytale'.

Peter McCleery shares with us a very profitable way of spending his time, well done Peter for working so hard and for the award you received.

Find out when our traditional Christmas Concert is being held. All are welcome to join in this special celebration of Christmas. Our 'Good News Team' wish you all a very Happy Peaceful Christmas and New Year, sharing the love of Jesus.

Anne

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Dear friends

'Emmanuel God with us'

Do we believe this or do we subconsciously think, as many do, that God is somewhere 'up there'? Christmas is a time when we celebrate that God came into the world as a baby to save the world. He came to be with us!

When preparing this letter in early November I find I am writing amidst so many unknowns. This edition covers December and January, so you could be reading it early December or just before Christmas but you could also be reading it when Christmas is past and gone. Also we may be excited at the prospect of a new minster coming amongst us when you read it or, we may be a bit downcast because that is not the case at this time. Whatever our situation, when we are looking through the pages we always need to remember the great Christmas message 'Emmanuel God is with us'.

Of course life is full of unknowns isn't it? We do not know what tomorrow will bring let alone the New Year but what we do know is that God has it all planned. We read in the book of the prophet Jeremiah God says,

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

For some the past year will have been a time of sadness while others will look back with rejoicing. I am sure there will be a similar mix in the year ahead but what we do know is that we can go forward in hope because we can be assured that God will be with us whatever our situation.

In his 1939 Christmas message George VI quoted words written by Minnie Louise Haskins. I leave them with you.....

"I said to the man who stood by the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known Way.'"

On behalf of the Elders I wish you a blessed and peaceful Christmas time and every blessing for the New Year.

David Walters

David Walters
Elder

Family News

Thank You!

I would like to thank everyone at Lindfield URC so very very much for their wonderful support of prayers, phone calls, visits, flowers and cards during my recent and ongoing health problems. This wonderful care has meant so much to me and I do not know how I would have coped without it.

As I will not be able to send out Christmas cards this year, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Winifred Scopes

Thank You!

I would like to thank my House Group and Church friends for their prayers, thoughts and flowers during my recent bout of Bronchitis. Val & Colin also send their good wishes to everyone for a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Val Lane

The Fellowship

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th January at 2.30pm., when Carol and Stuart Marsh will look forward 'To Spring' with us.

There will be the usual Bring and Buy Stall, and a cup of tea after the entertainment. All who come will be sure of a warm welcome.

Pat Phillips

In Touch

We held a film evening for our meeting in October and watched "Philomena", a moving and funny story about a young girl whose toddler son was removed from her because he was illegitimate. He was adopted by an American family, and the story involves her search to find him and to see if he had had a happy life after he had been adopted.

Our next meeting will be in January and we will meet together on two occasions. On the 9th January 2015 we will combine with All Saints "Cameo" group for a talk and demonstration on "Colour me beautiful", while later in the month on the 27th January we will have our "Christmas Meal". Please watch Notice boards and Notice sheets for further details nearer the time.

Meanwhile have a very happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Janet Wade

Thank You!

Thank you, belatedly, from Aubrey and Norna, We would like to thank you all for the love and care, offers of transport and shopping, food and calls and prayers over the past 'bumpy' months. May there be blessings on our Church Family.

Aubrey and Norna Derham

Christmas Post

Merry Christmas and once again a reminder once again to **POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS.**

The red and white fluffy Post Box has arrived, awaiting your Christmas cards.

As mentioned in the November 'Good News', the very last posting date will be **FRIDAY 19th DECEMBER** and we will have the cards sorted for final collection on Sunday 21st December.

The Post Box Team

Bible Verse

This month's favourite Bible verses is from Matthew 28 verse 20.

Jesus said:

“And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age”

What a blessing and comfort that Jesus is always with us whatever the circumstance we are going through. May we thank Jesus for His love and steadfastness every day.

Alison Ward

Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning with the Art Group on 24th January.

On Saturday 24th January 2015 which is before the monthly meeting of The Fellowship, why not spend a little time socialising and looking at the work of the Monday Art Group.

The coffee morning will open at 10.30am and will close about noon.

Do try to come.

Wednesday Intercessions

After over 40 years, it is with sadness, that this midweek prayer 'oasis', which took place every Wednesday through the year, except Bank holidays, has come to an end. Thank you to all those who shared, led and encouraged over those years. We saw many answers to prayer and received many calls and notes of appreciation during that time. Being remembered every Wednesday meant a lot to those on the list, giving strength and peace.

To the few who shared and remain..... Thank you for being there to prove the power of prayer.

Norna Derham

Stop Press!

Pastoral Vacancy



On the weekend of 22/23 November The Revd Keith Morrison and his wife Emmeline visited the church with their two young children. The Elders had previously met with them and invited Keith to come and 'Preach with a View'. The Church met with the family over tea on the Saturday when we were able to learn more about them during a question and answer session. Keith preached at both our morning services on the Sunday.

Following that weekend the Church Meeting issued 'A call' for Keith to become our minister and we are pleased to report that he accepted. They come from Northampton and are looking to be with us late February 2015. We give thanks to God for blessing us in this way.

The Elders

Christmas Carols

Can you unscramble these well known carols?

Answers on Page 29

- 1 *Thin singlet*
- 2 *Ice home fully afloat*
- 3 *One slack dog wings*
- 4 *Me daydreaming learn clan*
- 5 *Her waspish site*
- 6 *Get skin where?*
- 7 *May I wager Anna?*
- 8 *N.B. Tithing heron*
- 9 *Let florist hewn*
- 10 *Sorry. Thee flog formal mangles*
- 11 *Noddy. Tory civilian case*
- 12 *Ian has wrist cake*
- 13 *Handy yet hovel hilt*
- 14 *Led the real hanging sharks*
- 15 *Fettle with bone helm tool*



Tunes & Tea

What an afternoon, extra seating, the hot water ran out, the band played, the augmented singers rolled back the years and we just had enough cakes. The audience generously donated £350.00 which after church expenses there will be almost £300.00 to go to the local hospice.

The event brought back happy memories as songs from the musical 'Spirit' were performed in 1978. The church performed the musical. Several original cast members shared in the singing. We did not sing the song "for the mighty moving of the Spirit" but we had an opportunity to promote the Christian message to all who attended. Let's keep moving forward.

Peter Swann



A Traditional Christmas Concert

Thursday 18th December 2014 at 7-30pm

Another opportunity to share in the joy and wonder of the Christian Faith. If we fail to connect with the many who come to the event for a good sing then it is an opportunity lost. Already we have issued 70 notices and there is another in 'Good News'.

Why not pass it to a friend. We do not sell tickets but step out in faith.

The Copthorne Silver Band will be all tuned up and the singers will be hopefully augmented with songs old new. The hot water will be sufficient to meet the need and the mince pies will be sufficient. The opportunity is afforded, how will we respond?

Let's make the audience welcome and be involved with them as we have something to offer more than music and song, but the wonder of the Gospel.

Peter Swann

LINDFIELD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

HIGH STREET, LINDFIELD



A TRADITIONAL CAROL CONCERT



LOTS OF CAROLS, A BRASS BAND AND A CHOIR
PRESENTED BY



COPTHORNE SILVER BAND
(Musical Director Brian Cox)
LINDFIELD URC SINGERS



GUEST ARTISTS



ON

THURSDAY 18th DECEMBER
@7-30

ADMISSION FREE – MINCE PIES AND COFFEE / TEA

DONATIONS IN AID OF **ST PETER & ST JAMES HOSPICE**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FROM THE CHURCH

Messy Christmas

Once upon a time, in a land far away, there was a young girl called Mary who was engaged to a young man called Joseph. Before Mary and Joseph got married, Mary found herself to be pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph decided to leave Mary, but was told not to by an angel that appeared to him in a dream.

At that time, Joseph had to travel to his home town of Bethlehem to list his name in a register, under the order of Augustus Caesar.

Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem on a donkey, but when they arrived, they could not find anywhere to stay! Finally, an innkeeper was kind enough to let them stay in a stable he had behind his inn.

That night, Mary gave birth to a son and called him Jesus. She wrapped him in cloth and laid him in a manger. Jesus lay there peaceful and quiet, as animals that surrounded them watched over the baby.

Later that night, some shepherds arrived to celebrate the birth of Jesus. They had been told about his birth by a host of angels that appeared in the sky! Soon after the shepherds, three wise men arrived to worship the baby Jesus and they gave him gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.



As you were reading the above nativity story, I wonder if there were one or two points that you queried. This is very close to the nativity story that is acted out by many children in schools all over the country at this time of year and it does give an overall picture of the birth of Christ and causes people to reflect on God sending his Son into the earth to 'Be with us'.

However, is this actually what is written about the birth of Jesus? Is this really what we read in the books of Matthew and Luke?

I have researched some common misconceptions of the Christmas story; see how many you are aware of:

1. *Mary was 15/16 years old*
2. *Joseph was in his 30's*
3. *Travelled to Bethlehem, but not on a donkey*
4. *Did not stay in a stable, a stable is not mentioned. Neither did they knock on lots of inns before finding shelter. The word inn was translated from the word Kataluma, which is closer to a guest room than an inn.*
5. *Most likely stayed with family in Bethlehem*

6. *Lots of the family were probably there, which is why they were nearby a manger.*
7. *Mary did not necessarily have Jesus the night she arrived. 'While they were there the time came for Mary to give birth.' Luke 2:6.*
8. *The shepherds arrived soon after Jesus was born as they still found him in the manger.*
9. *The wise men were not Kings – they were magi, people who studied the stars. This is why they followed the star that appeared in the sky.*
10. *The Wise men did not find Jesus until he was about 2 years old and they were in a house, not still with the manger.*

I am not writing this to say that we have the Christmas story wrong, but I am posing the question. So often, we think we know the Bible stories as we have heard them many times, but how often do we actually read them from the text in the Bible, and take in what is actually written?

Before writing this, I read the accounts of the Birth of Jesus that can be found in Matthew and Luke. One thing that struck me as I read the accounts was that the situation between Mary and Joseph seemed 'messy'. If you imagine a young girl engaged to a man, but became pregnant before they were married, the situation seems messy. If you imagine visiting family, but having to sleep in the garage during your stay, it seems messy.

To me, the story I read in the Bible about the birth of Jesus is a messy story, God did not choose a couple that were married and had everything together. He chose to work through the messiness of real life. This is something I want to remember this Christmas time. God does not wait for us to have our lives together and sorted before He works in us or through us, God works through the messiness. The birth of Jesus is a reminder of that to me.

It is possible that we have turned the retelling of the birth of Jesus into a nice story that is acted out each year. Whether that is a good or bad thing, I will leave for you to decide, but I challenge you to read the accounts of the birth of Jesus this Christmas time. Not just within a Christmas service, but on your own. Try to find something within the text that simply makes you go 'wow!'

This Christmas, try to remember; don't wait to have everything sorted before allowing God to work through you. Allow God to work through the messiness of your life.

**Youth Pastor,
Danny Goodall**



Having Hope

In the most difficult of times

What can we learn about hope – Christian hope – from the Book of Job – a book full of woeful lament from Job and his three gloomy friends, who have become icons of despair as "Job's comforters"?

Job is a God-fearing man; a man of integrity. But in the space of a few verses in the prologue to his story, he suffers a series of disasters more than any man or woman might reasonably expect to endure: the loss of all his animals, and therefore his wealth, the death of his sons and daughters, and a loathsome outbreak of boils, covering the whole of his body.

He asks God why this has happened to him, as we might in such circumstances. He becomes angry with God, as we might too, but he never doubts God's existence.

In the end, Job comes to see that God is greater than our understanding permits. Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? God asks. (38.4) And Job comes to realise there is a whole dimension to God that he cannot understand. My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you, Job says (42.5).

When we have difficult questions that our faith seems not to answer, perhaps we do well to remember that God is God and we cannot always hope to fully

understand God's ways, and we cannot expect God always to offer us neat and simple solutions.

Can we learn to cope with sometimes not knowing - with letting God be God? Many of us find that hard, because we want to be in control.

We looked at Job at the morning services on 26 October and were invited to consider six lessons we might learn from Job:

- *That God can do anything*
- *That we can be tested when we are least expecting it.*
- *That there are things we cannot understand*
- *That we need faith most, at the very moment when faith seems hardest.*
- *That we shouldn't give up on God when bad or puzzling things happen.*
- *And that, in suffering - hard though it may be - we can draw closer to God.*

And, of course, we have that one huge advantage over Job, who lived before the birth and life of Jesus. Job's hope emerges when he meets God in his pain. We meet God through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for us, and his resurrection.

A prayer by Cardinal Basil Hume:

Hope is knowing that I have been forgiven,
my guilt removed.

Hope is knowing that there is a future, a
life after death.

Hope is knowing that there is love –
That there is a God, and I am loved by him.

Whatever happens he does care.

Hope is knowing that he has plans
Even if I do not understand them.

And, on a lighter note, a poem illustrating
hope in adversity:

Two frogs fell into a bowl of cream, or so
I've heard it told.

The sides of the bowl were shiny and
steep, the cream was deep and cold.

"Oh, what's the use?" said frog number one.
"It's fate. No help's around. Goodbye my
frog friend. Goodbye sad world".

And croaking and weeping, he drowned.

But number two was of sterner stuff. He
paddled in surprise.

And while he wiped his creamy face, and
dried his creamy eyes.

"I'll swim awhile at least" he said. "And try
to keep my head".

"It wouldn't really help the world if one
more frog was dead".

An hour or more he kicked and swam. Not
once he stopped to mutter.

But kicked and swam, and swam and
kicked.

Then hopped out – via the BUTTER.

Stuart Dew



Lunch Fellowship

There is going to be a change to our Lunch Fellowship in 2015.

From January 2015 the Wednesday and Friday Lunch Fellowship will all meet together on the first Wednesday of the month.

We hope that this will make for a good time together with a bigger group. We do hope that the Friday Lunch folk will find this arrangement to their advantage. The cost will remain at £3.00 each and we look forward to serving you in the New Year.

Wednesday 7th January 2015

Wednesday 4th February

Wednesday 4th March

Wednesday 1st April

Wednesday 6th May

Wednesday 3rd June

Wednesday 1st July –
This will be the outing date.

As always if you are unable to come please phone Sue on 455047- likewise if you are able to come and have not let us know please phone the same number to book your place.

Thank you, **Sue Waller**



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 (4th 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
Thur	8.00pm	Church Prayer Evening 'Engine Room' (4th Thursday)
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 blue book on the concourse table.

Regular Activities

Mon	10.00am	Art Group
	6.00pm	Boys' 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	5:00pm	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 on Tuesday (Concourse) and Thursday (Pop-In) 10.00am - Noon.

December Church diary

2nd Tuesday	6:15pm	Village Night	18th Thursday	7:30pm	Christmas Concert Peter Swann
4th Thursday		House Groups	20th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, The Tiger
6th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, The Tiger All Saints	21st Sunday	10:30am	Family Worship Michael Davies
				6:30pm	Carols by Candlelight David Walters
7th Sunday	9:30am 11:15am 6:30pm	Family Worship Morning Service Darryl Sinclair Evening Worship John Goodway	Christmas Eve		
			24th Wednesday	4:00pm	Crib Service
			Christmas Day		
10th Wednesday	12:30pm	Christmas Lunch - Fellowship	25th Thursday	10:00am	Family Service for Christmas Richard Walters
13th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, The Tiger All Saints	27th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, The Tiger All Saints
14th Sunday	9:30am 11:15am 6:30pm	Family Worship- Morning Worship Mike Gardiner Evening Worship Communion David Walters	28th Sunday	10:30am 6:30pm	Communion Graham Campling Evening Service at All Saints
			31st Wednesday	11:30pm	Watch Night Service at Evangelical Free Church

January 2015

1st Thursday	10:00am	New Years Day Prayers	17th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, URC First Aid Training Day
4th Sunday	9:30am 11:15am 6:30pm	Family Worship Morning Service David Walters No evening service	18th Sunday	9:30am 11:15am 6:30pm	Family Worship Morning Service Heather Clements Bible Society Evening Worship TBC
7th Wednesday	12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship	22nd Thursday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, URC
8th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Meeting	24th Saturday	8:45am 3:00pm	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, URC ROC on Saturday
9th Friday		In Touch meeting with Cameo All Saints	25th Sunday	9:30am 11:15am 6:30pm	Communion Communion Rev Robert Bushby Interim Moderator Evening Worship TBC
10th Saturday	8:45am 3:00pm	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, URC ROC on Saturday	27th Tuesday	6:30pm	In Touch Meal at URC
11th Sunday	9:30am 11:15am 6:30pm	Family Worship Morning Worship Alex Jeffs Evening Worship Communion David Walters	28th Wednesday	2:30pm 7:45pm	The Fellowship Elders' Meeting
14th Wednesday	1:00pm	Tiger Arts Lunchtime Concert	15th Thursday		House Groups



YOUTH

The autumn term is coming to an end and Christmas is just around the corner. The youth groups are all running smoothly, and they are beginning to pick up numbers!

This term, LED's have been making their way through the whole of the bible, and they are due to finish by the end of January. They are currently reaching the New Testament, and will be focusing on Jesus, as Christmas gets closer. LED's are encouraged to pray in many different ways, and we recently used post-it notes to write down our prayers.

On November 30th we had the LED's volunteer Sunday. LED leaders have encouraged the youth to choose an area

within the Sunday service that they could get involved with. It is great to see them using their gifts within the church they attend.

Since the half term at the end of October, I have been working alongside two of the boys from Boys' Brigade, within Company Section. Each week I have sat with them for half an hour, teaching them about the Christian lifestyle and beliefs. More importantly, it has been an opportunity for them to ask any questions they may have about Christianity, or life in general. The two boys seem to be enjoying the sessions, and it is amazing for me to see a change in their behaviour when they come and sit down for that half an hour.

PAGES

Since September, I have slowly been getting more involved with school assemblies in Lindfield Primary and Blackthorns Primary. I have been going in with Val Upton, who organizes the rota, as well as one or two of the interns from All Saints. Just before half term, one of the interns and I led our first assembly on our own, focusing on the Parable of the Talents. We worked well together, and we are now on the rota as a duo!

The Christian Union at Oathall Community College, Refuel, is going great, and we are getting 20-25 pupils each week. The theme from half term until Christmas is about the Church in the New Testament, and the struggles it faced, linking it to the struggles we face today. We are building up to a planned event near Christmas where, once again, they will be able to invite their friends to come and learn about the true meaning of the season.

I have also begun to get involved in the Christian Union, Engage, at Warden Park School on Thursdays. Engage meet after school, so it shows commitment to want to attend each week. There are about 12-15 pupils who attend each week, which makes a good size for discussion. Engage are also planning an event towards Christmas that they can invite their friends too.

P.U.L.S.E. Jr. is getting about five regulars now, advertising the groups is a slower process than I had hoped, but it is still high on my priorities.

We have been learning about Moses and his journey with the Israelites. The time of the group has changed, and it is now running from 5pm until 6:30pm, as I had a few comments from parents that it was difficult to get the children home from school and to P.U.L.S.E. Jr. in time for 4:30. I am hoping this change with help the numbers pick up over the next few months.

P.U.L.S.E. is in full swing now, and we recently had a trip to Horsham Superbowl to go bowling. Every Friday evening is different, but the youth are always engaged in the activities. and the other leaders are great at thinking of new ideas and games that we haven't played before.

Some of the youth went to Synod Together on November 8th. The youth programme was run by those involved in the Youth Executive, with the help of a few others. We explored the theme of Lost and Found, focusing on Jesus' parables of the lost sheep, coin and prodigal son.

We also were able to encourage young people to attend Youth Assembly, which is held in January.

I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas!

Youth Pastor,

Danny

Shoe Boxes

Samaritan's Purse

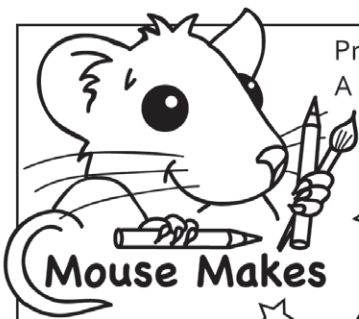
Thank you to everyone for the shoe boxes donated for Samaritan's Purse.

We sent off 125 which is an amazing take up. You can track your box online in the New Year if you kept your bar code from the donation. This will tell you where your box ended up.

Thank you again to you all, plus our friends at Evangelical Free Church for this wonderful demonstration of Jesus's love in a broken world.

Jill & Brian O'Mant





Presents at Christmas under the tree,
A red Christmas stocking waiting for me.

But what is Christmas? What is it about?
Just look in the Bible and you will find out!

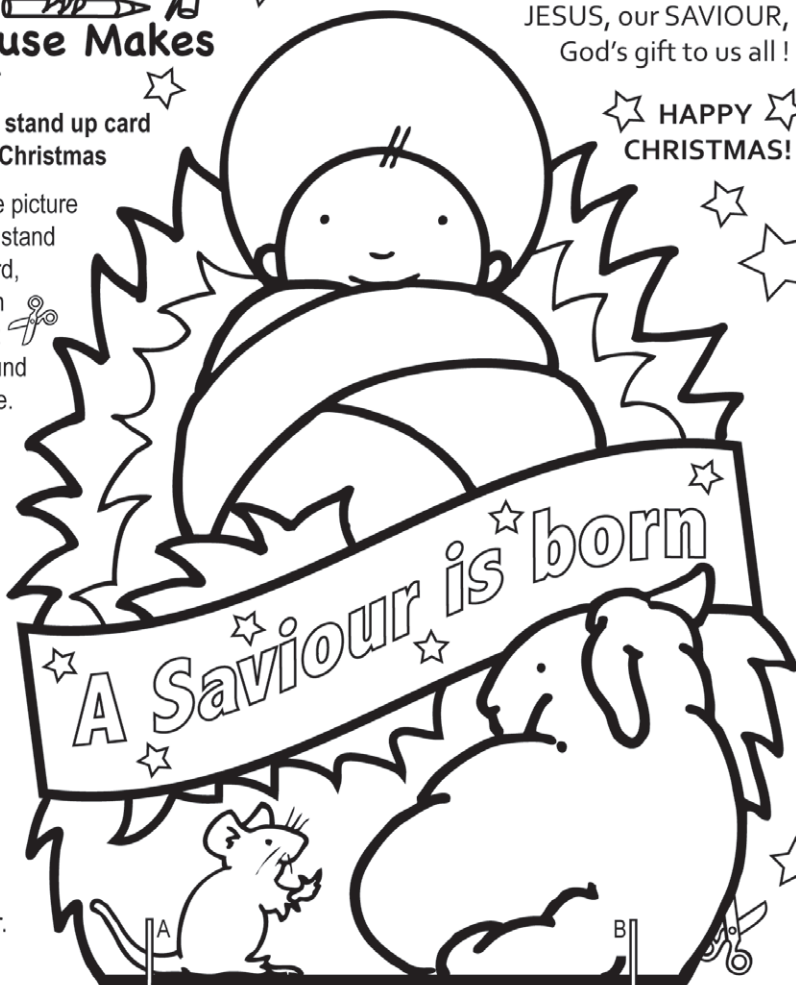
It's about JESUS, the best present of all,
JESUS, our SAVIOUR,
God's gift to us all!

Make a stand up card for Christmas

Glue the picture
and the stand
onto card,
colour in 
then cut
out around
the edge.

Cut
along
the
slots
marked
A and B
on the
picture
and the
stand,
then
slot
together.

HAPPY
CHRISTMAS!



STAND

Happy Christmas

NCS Experience

I am Peter McCleery. I am 18 years old and one of the youth here. I am studying BTEC level 3 in IT at Central Sussex College Crawley for two years.

Now I did a programme which was set up by the Government called "NCS" which stands for National Citizen Service. NCS is a Government funded scheme which is for 16-17 years old and operates throughout the year.

I went on the summer scheme and had a few induction days to get me started, these were based at the Bridge Community centre in Brighton. We chatted about global issues e.g. poverty and talked about the NCS experience and what this would mean for us.

A few weeks later it was the first residential and we went to a residential centre in Somerset.



We did dragon boating, frisbee, nature trails, bush craft and all sorts of fun things. We stayed in tents which were cold but we had lovely meals to look forward to including homemade chicken curry etc.

We got to do a hike and that was exhausting but we got to the top of the hill and the scenery was breathtaking. The week for many was an emotional but positive one and friendships among the whole group were born! Our group was called "The Summer Snowmen". The staff were really friendly and caring. They understood our needs and abilities. When it was over I got some sweets and Fanta. I then went home. It was amazing that God protected me throughout this breathtaking time.

The 2nd week was good and featured us staying at the halls of residence in the University of Brighton. The accommodation was clean and we got to cook different foods on different nights e.g. Wednesday was Italian. During the week, we got to go and do different workshops about our society, culture and background. We even got to meet a rollerblader who was the 4th top rollerblader in the world; he even showed us some of his tricks! He taught us about aspirations and what we should aim for in life. We also got to do some gardening and got to find out some information about different charities. We even got to

climb some trees! The experience for this week was amazing and we got to learn about each other and the world around us.

The third week was the planning week for our Social Action Project, where we got to plan what we would do for it. We decided to make a mural and a sensory garden for the Yews Community Centre Haywards Heath. The activity was all voluntary and over the two weeks we spent 60 hours on the planning and the actual project. We asked for local donations of paint, plants, wood and other things for the social action project. We overall managed to get loads of donations and a journalist from the Mid Sussex Times interviewed us.

Once the planning was over we set to work. We did the weeds, planted seeds and plants, added a birdhouse, fencing, pebbles and painted the fencing and other furniture. It was hard work, but it was well worth it in the end! On the final day we had a fundraising event which was a BBQ at the Yews. The event was a huge success and we raised £154 for The Yews.

NCS was a great experience and I would certainly recommend it!

Peter McCleery

December Mission

Worthing Churches Homeless Projects

If you want to see the heartfelt joy of knowing Jesus, there's no better place to start than the face of someone who has been raised from the abyss. I recently had a conversation with such a person (a recovering drug addict) who described how he had tried to take his own life on many occasions and the times he had spent in 'mental wards' (his words, not mine). He told me how he had turned his back on cars and material wealth and described how his faith alone could keep him whole.

The goal of offering hope and a future to the lost has been the purpose of WCHP since 1991. It was founded by four Christians who took soup, blankets, and sleeping bags to the seafront, to offer them to local homeless people. From such humble, sacrificial beginnings the charity now has 54 staff members and over 200 volunteers engaged in helping the homeless make the necessary changes towards a sustainable, independent life.

The charity now offers five properties facilitating specialised opportunities to make the change from homelessness to independent living. There is a day centre for clients to have a shower and do laundry. There are three properties providing long and short term sanctuaries away from the chaos and destruction of living on the streets.

One property receives people who are still dependent on drugs and alcohol to help them to make a start on the path into a life free from these things.

They also have shops – this year WCHP opened its third shop in Littlehampton.



One shop in Goring specialises in repairing donated bicycles giving clients the opportunity to gain a Bike Mechanic qualification. Now you have found a good home to take those old bikes!

At Lindfield URC we have posters and further information on the missions display table regarding WCHP (as all mission donations in November and December will be given to the charity).

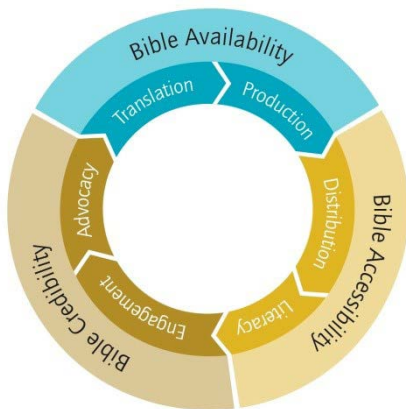
Please feel free to browse and take home the newsletters and other materials as you wish.

Harry McCleery

Jan/Feb Mission

For January and February 2015 as a church we are focusing our support on; the Bible Society which is working to circulate the Scriptures across the world, in the church and through the culture just like air conditioning circulates air through a building.

'The strategy of Bible Society (how we achieve our mission) centres on Bible availability, accessibility and credibility. It's what we call the 'lifecycle' of the Bible. These strategic approaches encompass all of our activity: translation, production, distribution, literacy, engagement and advocacy.'



forms of the Scriptures in order to meet the demands of the millions around the world who want a Bible of their own

Distribution:

taking the Bible to places it might otherwise be hard to come by, in formats that people can use

Literacy:

helping people to read and to read well, using the Bible as a resource

Translation:

making the Bible available in new spoken and signed languages, and revising existing Bibles to bring the language up to date, so that everyone can experience the Scriptures in their 'heart language'

Production:

printing physical copies of the Bible and producing visual, audio and digital

Engagement:

helping people grapple with the Bible, read and respond to it wisely

Advocacy:

giving the wider culture a reason and opportunity to encounter the joys of the Bible

Missions Group

Whoops!

Firstly, I must start with an apology! Those of you who are astute and have a good memory may have noticed that my letter in the November 'Good News' was a repeat of my letter of November 2013. Yes, my fault entirely, I had sent the wrong copy to the Editor! So what follows is a month late, but I hope you will still find it relevant. May I wish you a very Happy Christmas and every blessing in 2015 to you all. (maybe next year I will start deleting documents that I've finished with!)

Steps

Lots of different ones feature in happy memories of a recent holiday.

There were very steep and narrow stairs in our quaint old cottage, leading to the bedrooms – a place of rest. As Christians, we can 'Rest in the Lord'. He is always there with us, granting us strength to climb the steep steps of life. And at the top He is just waiting for us to accept the rest and peace that He offers.

There were winding steps in a ruined castle that took me round corners, wondering what would be at the top. Amazing views of the surrounding countryside greeted me, and the realisation that this building had been there for hundreds and hundreds of years. Countless generations had lived there and visited; so many changes in the life of these ancient buildings. It reminded me that our God does not change. He does not fall into ruins like the castle had. He is the same yesterday, today and forever, faithful and dependable.

Then there were the shallower natural steps in a beautiful garden – God's creation!

A magnificent reflection greeted us as we looked at the clear turquoise coloured pool. The early signs of autumn colour were exactly the same in the water as they were in the foliage on the bank. This gave me a challenge. How nearly do I reflect the love, goodness and compassion of our Father God? Because this is what He wants us to show to the world around us.

We found yet more of God's beautiful creation on the coast. The sea with all its changes in mood, the very calm that we saw that day, then the tremendous storms that batter our coastlines. Storms are a reminder to me of the sheer power of God, displayed to us in the nature we witness around us in our everyday lives. It was a salutary lesson that God is definitely 'In Control'! So the climb down to the shore line, then up the steps to the cliff side were breath-taking in every sense of the word!

Holidays can be a time of adventure, and as I mentioned in a recent "Good News", boat trips are always a highlight for me. This year was no exception. Steps to get on to a small boat can be hazardous but it was worth the risk, just to be transported to a place of natural wonder and beauty.

Hot Chocolate

A place where God's presence was almost tangible, watching the fun and frolics of the red squirrels and listening to the chorus of bird song. Those of you who know Brownsea Island will be able to relate to this very special day of our holiday.

As I walked down a few steps to paddle in the sea another thought came to mind. (The old brain has been quite busy really, considering it was on holiday!!) Our Lord Jesus said that He would give us Living Water and whoever drinks it would never be thirsty again. (However, I don't advise drinking sea water!) If we want to continue to grow deeper in our walk with Him (Discipleship), we need to tap into that living water that Christ offers in the person of the Holy Spirit. It is a free gift He wants to give us through His Grace, available to each one of us if we believe and trust in Him.

So as we head for the darker and colder days of the winter months, let us reflect on the fact that God walks each step of the way with us. He is there in the highs and the lows of life. Personally, I do not really like the winter, but this year I want to try to see God's hand in every season, and I hope and pray you will too. I know it is not always easy to be positive when the going is tough, but as we love, support and encourage one another, let's together enjoy every blessing God sends.

Fiona Tingley

Bonfire night 2014 went with a bang as a huge crowd gathered in the village for a spectacular procession and firework display organised by the bonfire society.

Jo and Freya Goodchild along with Izzy McQuillin served a record 8 to 900 cups aided by a team of volunteers who whisked, ran, poured and lidded at quite a pace. Such a warm welcome was gratefully received by all.

Dan McQuillin



Peace

Philippians 4.4-9

What is it that enables Paul in prison, soon to be executed, to tell a small struggling church to rejoice?

What makes him be so upbeat in such dire circumstances?

He doesn't just say "rejoice", he says, "Rejoice in your union with the Lord".

It is the close relationship he has with Jesus, the risen Christ that gives him peace. Awful things can be going on inside or around us, but nothing can take away that supportive relationship. That's what makes the difference to having peace or not having peace. "I am with you always" said Jesus. That can give us peace.

It's like two people in love. Whatever is going on, they have each other. So Paul tells the church, enjoy that living relationship. Let others see it is enjoyable.

A relationship with God is not there to drag us down but to lift us up. Enjoy that union, no matter what. Secondly, to find peace in your heart, says Paul, have a "gentle attitude" towards other people. Stop getting agitated by them, criticising them, pointing the finger, judging, and blaming them. God knows them better than we do. It's us who are

robbed of peace by carrying resentment or unforgiveness inside.

Our "gentle attitude" towards others that will attract them to what we believe. The way we are will speak louder than what we say. God's peace comes when we have "gentle attitude" to others within us. Thirdly, to know God's peace, we need to stop carrying burdens about which we can do nothing. Worrying about someone, or a situation, or yourself, simply robs us of peace and does nothing for them.

Handing over to Him whatever troubles us with a prayer restores God's peace. "Jesus you care more for that person or situation than even I do. I give them to you with trust and thanksgiving. You can do more than my anxiety can ever do" We are not God. Hand over the people, situations, events, to Him, says Paul, and know His peace.

Lastly he writes; fill your minds with good things, not negative depressing things. Yes, there is evil, injustice, inhumanity, cruelty, in the world. Yes, there are things which are not right, but there is also goodness, kindness, care, compassion, reconciliation, and people of faith. We have a choice.

We can look at a rose bed and focus on the sharp painful thorns or we can concentrate on its fragrant blossoming beautiful flowers.

Don't be robbed of God's peace by saying how terrible the world is and passing on gloom and doom to others in conversation. God loves this world and will never leave it bereft of His presence or power. Evil will not have the last word ever. Be careful with what we fill our minds by what he listens to, read, or converse about.

Paul gave the four instructions to enable us know the peace of God which passes understanding,

- 1 *Enjoy His friendship,*
- 2 *Be gently disposed to every other human being and to yourself,*
- 3 *Hand over the burdens to Him, and*
- 4 *Fill our minds with good things.*

Rev Peter McIntosh

Nativity Poem

Light on the hillside, filling the skies,
Terror and wonder and questioning eyes.

Is it the world ending? What can it be?
I am so frightened, stay close to me.

Voices, instructions "Follow the star!"
Where are we going? Will it be far?
Cares for the sheep, someone must stay.
Most of us leaving, well on our way.

Freezing night, starlight, wonders untold.
Family, huddled, away from the cold.
Birthing and magic! Miraculous dawn,
wonders and blessing, a Saviour is born.

Dorothy Brown

Carol Quiz

The Answers

15. O Little Town of Bethlehem
14. Hark the Herald Angels
13. The Holly and the Ivy
12. Christians awake
11. Once in Royal David's City
10. Angels from the realms of glory
9. The first Nowell
8. Born in the night

1. Silent Night
2. O come all ye faithful
3. Good King Wenceslas
4. Cradled in a manger meanly
5. I saw three ships
6. We three kings
7. Away in a manger

Wider World

As Christmas approaches we give thanks that we live in a country where we can joyfully celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ freely and without fear. This is not the case, of course, for so many of our fellow Christians throughout the world at this present time.

The Centre for the Study of Global Christianity in the USA estimates that 100,000 Christians die every year, targeted for their faith - that is eleven every hour.

Christians are in jail for blasphemy in Pakistan; churches are burned and worshippers are regularly slaughtered in Nigeria; Egypt has recently seen its worst anti-Christian violence for several centuries; in Burma Christians are routinely subjected to imprisonment, torture, forced labour and murder; persecution is increasing in China; in North Korea a quarter of the country's Christians live in forced labour camps after refusing to join the national cult of Kim Il-Sung. Somalia, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, the Yemen and the Maldives all feature in the worst ten places to be a Christian.

We have only touched the surface of the terrible persecution of so many Christians throughout the world, so as we get caught up in the hustle and bustle of our preparations for Christmas, let us never forget those less fortunate than ourselves.



We praise them for their steadfastness and courage in their love for the Lord. We pray that they may all be given the strength to continue in their struggles.

It Was Christmas Eve, By Tim Carter

It was Christmas Eve
And the world stood still
Just for a moment

Waiting
Wondering
Hoping

Might it be that this time
This time of all times
The promise would be fulfilled
And the wars would end
And the crying cease
And the people join hands in unity?

Waiting
Wondering
Hoping

Might it be this time
This time of all times?

Carol Marsh

Phonebook

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Terry Ward 01444 482986

Boys’ Brigade:

Geoffrey Cocksedge 01444 474007

Cradle Roll

Mel Campling 01444 484140

Flowers

Betty Billins 01444 484494

Hall Booking Secretary

Shirley Anton 01444 482819

In Touch

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Lunch Fellowship

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Sue Waller 01444 455047

Pastoral Group

Fiona Tingley 01444 483419

The Fellowship

Chris Comber 01444 482641

Stepping Stones

Jo Bloxham 01444 483672

Transport

Janet Drayton 01444 483621

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

Danny Goodall 07443 438970

Lighthouse (Junior Church)

Co-ordinator

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Flower Rota

Arranging

Distributing

December

7th	Serena Nathan	Fo Tingley
14th	Christmas	No Delivery
21st	Christmas	No Delivery
28th	Christmas	No Delivery

January

4th	Gladys Porter	Sue Tester
11th	Audrey Saunders	Barbara Shepherd
18th	Lesley Sparks	Jo Bloxham
25th	Mary Comber	Iris Bingham

February

1st	Barbara Shepherd	Heather Swann
8th	Heather Swann	Janet Sanderson
15th	Jessie Green	Fo Tingley
22nd	Winifred Scopes	Nick Bingham

Around Lindfield

Tuesday 2nd December

6.15 pm Lindfield Christmas Festival

Wednesday 3rd December

7.45 pm Book Launch Event - KEH

"A woman Living in the shadow of the Second World War"

By Helena Hall

Wednesday 10th December

12.15pm Tiger Arts - Lunch in the Tiger

1.00pm Concert – Jonathan Summers - Baritone

Saturday 13th December

3.00pm ROC on Saturday - Lindfield URC

2015

Saturday 10th January

3.00pm ROC on Saturday - Lindfield URC

Wednesday 14th January

12.15pm Tiger Arts - Lunch at URC

1.00pm Concert at URC - Perdido Players

8.00pm Horticultural Society at KEH - "Unfurling the Gardens of Firle"

Saturday 24th January

3.00pm ROC on Saturday - Lindfield URC

