

GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

Winter 2014

Old Faithful

Growing old with fresh faith

Gift FM

Josh and our young presenters remember
Lindfield's Christmas radio station

Valentine

Love is... better when given away every day



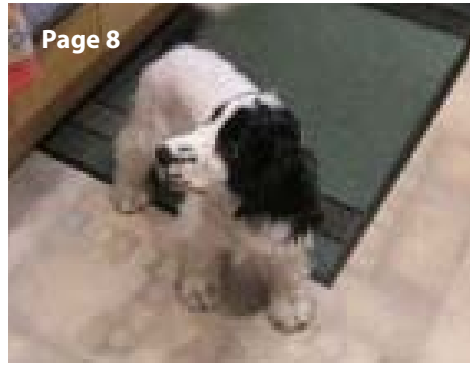
Bible *verse* of the month

**"Seek ye first
the kingdom
of God and his
righteousness"**

**Matthew 6:33
NIV**

**Verse chosen by
Rosemary McCleery
see page 27**

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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

On behalf of the Editorial Team may I wish everyone a very specially blessed New Year. I hope that everyone will be thankful for the blessings we have received and also look forward to those we hope to receive. We are delighted to have Hannah Thomas join our Editorial Team which will bring a young person's ideas to the magazine. Christmas is always a very busy time for most and the New Year is a brand new start when we can try again to renew efforts to lead a life which Jesus teaches us.

In this double edition of the Good News we have plenty of very varied articles for you to read. We remember Charles and Jenny with their new life away from Lindfield and send them our love and assurance that they are so missed and remembered in our prayers. We have an update on Jenny's book and see how well that is progressing.

Gift FM is such a wonderful way of reaching so many people in the area, do read the report, to find out what actually took place, I personally have really enjoyed hearing all our young people and all the services from our Churches. Well done, quite an achievement!

Martin Hall, Rev. Michael Davies and Stuart Dew have messages which are well worth taking note of. 'Lucy 3' has an interesting life which we can all share! To find out more please read and enjoy the variety of things that are happening in our Church Family Life.

God Bless you all, and in the March Edition of Good News we look forward to celebrating Spring!

God Bless,

Anne

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Dear friends

*"In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;"*

The new year begins with dark winter evenings and cold frosty mornings. At this time of year there are precious few signs that beneath the cold, hard earth and on barren trees and hedgerows growth and life continues, preparing to burst forth again spectacularly at springtime.

Much will change at Lindfield URC during 2014 and we have a lot to look forward to, and much to be thankful for. January begins a year long programme from the Elders aiming for spiritual growth for each of us as individuals, in unity as a fellowship and in the community as a Church. (for more information see page 28)

After all the hustle and bustle of Christmas it is important to remember that Spiritual growth is something we attain not by applying our own efforts, but happens in seasons and rhythm's of grace when we place our lives into God's hands.

It is also fitting that the project begins in the bleak midwinter months with a reminder from John 15 that it is only by abiding in Christ, the true source of all strength, growth and life that we ourselves will grow.

Only with seasons of rest, seasons of growth and times of pruning comes ultimately fruitfulness - all in its own season and all only when we abide in him.

In John 15 the word 'abide' means 'to remain.' To remain inseparably linked to Christ in all areas of our lives. Depending on Him for grace and power. Looking obediently to Him for instruction and offering Him our adoration and praise. He remains at all times and through all things the source and sustainer of our lives.

Spring will come not just in its own time, but because of the growth and preparation which occurs during the long winter months. Just as surely growth will come for us, not by our efforts but by faithfully remaining close to Jesus.

We are reminded in Christina Rossetti's great hymn that in the bleak midwinter comes a gift to us which offers life and hope even amidst the cold and the darkness of winter.

For it to be so we must remember that the hymn concludes with our response....

"yet what I can I give him: give my heart."

Dan McQuillin

Dan McQuillin - Elder

Family News

Church Family Photos

The pictures on the Church Family Photo Wall are being revised and updated to reflect the congregation as it is today. It is a helpful aid to establishing a face to a name or name to a face.

New photos are currently being taken on Sunday morning between the services. Some inside and some outside.

If you prefer another day, time or location for example when your family can be together for a new photo just let Henderson know. He is the guy behind the camera.

Henderson McEwan

Life can be so hard but.....

Everyday we have the chance to learn something. Everything in this world has a meaning and we can choose to learn something from it or ignore it.

I left for my holidays with physical and soul pain. When I arrived home, I slept on my special pillow and woke up realizing that I have a brand new day ahead of me, filled with joy and comfort.

Then I went to church and met the other ones that love God, this made me stronger and made me gaze upon God once again.

And even if I miss certain things in my life, I will forever rejoice in God.

Vera Amos

Grateful Thanks

After 20 years service as Cradle Roll Secretary, I stood down at the Church AGM last November.

I would like to thank Helen Hall for all her help and encouragement over the past two decades. I am most grateful for her wonderful assistance in so kindly and skilfully preparing all the Certificates for Baptism or Blessings and the book plates for the presentation Bibles. It has been a great privilege and joy to have worked with Helen and particularly her assistance in ensuring that the Register and the Cradle Roll board in Meeting Room 1 is maintained which lists the names of all those who have been baptised or blessed over the years.

I am delighted that Mel Campling has been appointed as my successor and I am sure that she will be greatly blessed in this role.

Sue Tester

Did you know?

Some of you will have seen the framed hand written "Cradle Roll" scroll on the wall of meeting room 1 with the names of all the children who have been dedicated, Christened or Baptised.

Children are given a certificate and bible suitable for their age, and the parents are given flowers on the occasion of the ceremony and their names then written on to the roll.

Sue Tester and Helen Hall have organised the roll for many years. We are very grateful to them and want to record a big thank you as they now take a well earned rest! Mel Campling and Jo Bloxham will be taking on the role (roll).

Free Taster Retreats

At Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre

Here is an opportunity for folk who have never stayed at the centre before to try it out free of charge. The retreats begin on a Tuesday afternoon and finish on the Thursday after lunch. There is a healing service Tuesday evening and Thursday morning both of which are open to the public.

Available dates,

Feb 4-6, 11-13, 25-27, March 11-13, 25-27, April 8-10, 15-17, 22-24.

To book ring and more information please call 01424 830033.

IN TOUCH

Our meeting in November was led by members of the Prison Fellowship who gave us a fascinating insight into the work done by volunteers within the prison system. This work is achieved by a network of volunteers across England and Wales involved in a wide range of activities. These include regular membership of prayer groups, teaching the prisoners the basic principles of Restorative Justice, helping them to gain a variety of qualifications and organising the Angel Tree which raises money to buy presents for children who have a parent in prison.

This is a valuable service carried out by a dedicated team of people who undoubtedly transform the lives of many offenders and we enjoyed listening to some of their experiences.

Our next meeting will be our meal which will be held in church on 21st January. Please look for details on the notice board nearer the time. Everybody is welcome to come.

Meanwhile I would be grateful if you can save your stamps from Christmas as we donate them to the Leprosy Mission. Thank you!

See you in the New Year

Janet Wade

Finance Committee

Due to retirements and removals your Finance Committee is in need of strengthening. We are on the lookout for people with some business acumen, plain common sense and maybe, dare I say it, some female intuitiveness.

Lindfield URC is a registered charity and the Elders are in fact the managing trustees for our local church funds. Our job is to keep an eye on the finances, to support the Elders, particularly the Treasurer, Terry Ward and Assistant Treasurer, Paul Bloxham and to monitor the accounts, which are prepared for us now by a professional accountant, Brian Cook FCA.

So, to be a Committee member you don't have to be a chartered accountant or even an expert with Excel spreadsheets – but you do need to be interested in the financial welfare of the church and the stewardship of its resources.

The Committee meets in an evening every two or three months for about an hour and a half. If you felt able to join us, you would be most welcome and we are sure you would enjoy the experience.

Surely in a church like ours there must be several people with the experience and skills which could make all the difference. If you would like to talk to one of us, please mention it to one of the Treasurers: Terry phone 482986 or Paul 483672 or by e-mail: treasurer@lindfieldurc.org.uk.

The Finance Committee

The Fellowship

The Fellowship will meet at the usual time of 2.30pm on Wednesday 22nd January 2014. At this meeting our speaker will be Jane Harding, telling us about the work of the British Legion.

We will also have a meeting on Wednesday 26th February 2014 when we will hear a talk on the subject of Re-cycling. Our speaker will be Joy Dyson, the Waste Education Officer for Mid Sussex.

At both meetings there will be the usual Bring and Buy Stall, together with a cup of tea after the talks. All who come will be assured of a warm welcome.

Pat Phillips

Dog's Life

Hello, my name's Lucy and I'm a Blue Roan Cocker Spaniel aged just eighteen weeks at the time of writing. I was born in Ferring near Worthing on the 12th July and came from a large family - I had nine brother and sisters in my litter. My mother and grandmother and also two Golden Retrievers lived with us, so there were fourteen of us for our breeder to care for! She certainly had her hands full! All ten of us puppies used to sleep on top of each other in the same bed! We had two beds in our pen but preferred to be together. When I was six weeks old Ray and Rosemary looked on the Internet and spoke to my breeder and the same day they came to visit us. There were only two puppies unsold by that time and they had a hard job choosing between my sister and I! Two weeks later I went to my forever home with them.

I knew they had had a dog before me - I could tell, and I understand they have had two other Blue Roan Cocker Spaniels over the past 25 years. My predecessor was a Pets As Therapy visiting dog and I know they would like me to do the same. I know I have big boots to fill! Already I have popped into Compton House to see the residents and I have also visited the children at Chailey Heritage Foundation. Recently I went to the Wednesday Fellowship in the church and I slept on Ray's lap all through the talk! Shows how interested I was!

I am enjoying being a puppy and there is so much to learn and to explore! I still have my puppy teeth so love to chew things and to give a playful nip from time to time. I am gradually getting better in this area but still love to give Rosemary's



Psalm 23

Challenge

ankles a nip and to tug on her dressing gown when she is preparing my breakfast! My way of asking her to hurry up with it! I also love to chase anything that's moving - even leaves blowing down Lindfield High Street - and if I could reach, I would be pulling the washing off the line! Recently I chewed up my plastic food bowl so badly after eating my meal that it had to be thrown away, and Rosemary bought me a couple of stainless steel bowls which should last my lifetime!

I am too fast for Rosemary to catch and treat everything as a game! Anything that doesn't move I chew - if I have the opportunity! Ray and Rosemary take me to a weekly Obedience Class in Cuckfield and I enjoy meeting up with the other dogs - all different sizes, mostly puppies and I am the smallest in the class! They are training Ray to train me! I am slowly learning to walk nicely on my lead instead of tearing about like a mad thing on two legs.

My favourite time of the day (apart from mealtimes) is running about in the park on my extending lead. People are drawn to us when we are out and about and strangers often come up and stroke me. Will keep you informed of my progress from time to time.

LUCY

We sent out a challenge in Good News to everyone reading our magazine. This was to try to put a personal message into the frame work of the 23rd Psalm. We have had no response to this. Mike has his own version, which for me makes our Faith so very real and most certainly applicable in the year 2014. I am sure both the original version and Mike's version can help us all to weather the storms of life and give us peace. Anne Elvin

My 23rd Psalm

- 1** The Lord is my Counsellor; He understands my deepest needs.
- 2** He opens new horizons for my mind and gives refreshing nourishment for my soul.
- 3** He walks hand-in-hand with me in situations that build me up as a person and bring out the gifts he has given me.
- 4** In stressful situations He keeps me steady, and I find that His strength becomes my strength.
- 5** He gives me peace in the midst of the storm, protection in danger, and the eye of faith to see things from His viewpoint.
- 6** I know that He will never be too busy for me, and that nothing can separate me from His loving care.

Mike Gardiner

Growing Old Faithfully

Three Sundays a month I roam Central Sussex and beyond leading worship in a great variety of local URC and Methodist churches. One thing has struck me quite forcibly as I view the faithful from the minister's elevated vantage point – and that is the average age of the worshippers. Many congregations have few if any children or young people. Those of working age, particularly men, are sparse – the vast majority are, like me, pensioners. There are, mercifully, quite a few exceptions and I like to think Lindfield URC is one – but this is the impression I have of mainline Christianity in England today.



Now this is by no means the rule – there are many churches, mostly of an evangelical or charismatic bent or conversely very “high church” in their liturgy which abound in younger generations. Also my experience with the World Council of Churches took me to many places, particularly in Asia and southern Africa, where churches are bursting at the seams and recent growth in China and the resurgence of Orthodox faith in Russia are amazing.

So what has happened to us?

Younger generations go where Christianity seems more activist and they get what appeals to them. For those at the evangelical end of the spectrum they espouse a gospel of strong, personal commitment to a Christ who sacrificed himself on the Cross for our salvation. Those of a more liberal, radical stance busy themselves in justice and peace issues, seeking to bring in the Kingdom that way. Both, of course, are fully valid responses to Christ's call to follow him and be his body at work in the world – they are complementary (and I sometimes wish they could see that and work together instead of constantly denigrating each other!).

But when the years roll by and one is a little less energetic, where lies our faith and calling? Sometimes I sit in church meetings of one sort or another and wish I were twenty years younger and could

have a crack at changing a few things – but that is wishful thinking. In his own good time God will sort these things out. The history of the church has always been of highs & lows – of retreat and then revival – it's just that I shall not be around to see the renaissance of the traditional denominations in the UK.

I think there are three things which sustain me in my faith meantime.

First, there is an overwhelming sense of thanksgiving to God. I was always taught that private prayers and public worship should start with praise – but as I look back on a long life and ministry, I realise just how great have been his love and his gifts to me and how privileged I have been to be part of Jesus' family and to be called to ministry in his church. I really do praise God for all he has so generously provided.

So secondly, it has made me deeply aware of my inadequacies and failures to live up to my Christian faith and to be worthy of God's love and care. I guess I have not committed any major criminal felonies nor cardinal sins, but looking back I sense just how much I have been selfish, chosen wrong priorities and failed to live up to my professed discipleship. So confession becomes more than just a nominal part of my prayer-time – I am deeply sorry that I have not been a more faithful follower of him who lived and died so entirely selflessly for others.



But thirdly, those two factors have led me to a new and intense understanding of God's grace – of his utter love, so freely poured out on me and all his people - his creation. In the busyness of one's earlier working life one accepts these theological concepts intellectually, I am sure, but it is not till one has lived one's life and looked back that one really takes on board the magnitude – the magnificence of what God has done for us in coming incarnate in Jesus.

Hopefully in this knowledge I will grow old faithfully!

Michael Davies

Jan/Feb Mission

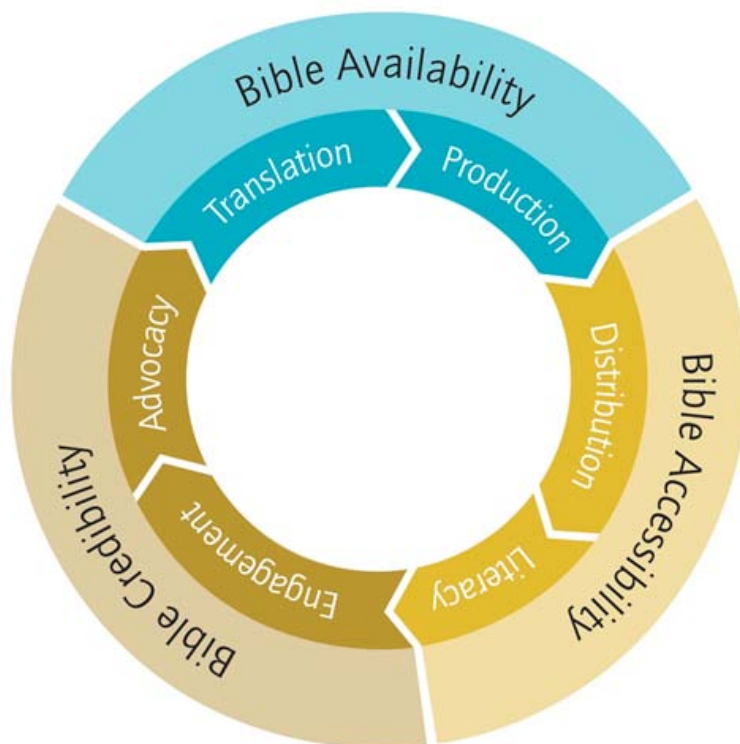


The Bible Society is working to circulate the Scriptures across the world, in the church and through the culture just like air conditioning circulates air through a building.

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.

We believe this work can be transformative.

The lifecycle of the Bible



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 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
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.

Help provide Bibles for Chinese Christians
Millions of people in China are coming to faith, but many cannot afford their own Bible. Will you help provide Bibles for Christians in China?

In the last 12 months, a million* people have come to faith in China. Incredible! That's equivalent to three people making a commitment to Christ before you finish reading this.

These new Christians are mostly from rural areas and many are desperately poor. In some places up to ten Christians have to share a single copy of the Bible between them.

You could provide Bibles to 20 Chinese believers with a gift of just £16.

Here's how: Earlier this year, the Chinese government gave permission, through the registered Church, for the printing of 3.5 million Bibles. They'll be printed at Amity Printing Company Nanjing (which is part owned by Bible Society).

Just 80p could buy the paper for one Chinese Bible.

The printing presses are ready to roll – with the capacity to print almost 50 Bibles every minute. It's only the paper that's missing. This is why we are asking for your help.

More information can be found on the missions display. If you would like to give please use the special envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any Sunday service. Please complete a Gift Aid Slip if appropriate.

Thank you

The Missions Group

*Estimated figure based on average growth between 2005 and 2010.

Christ's Light

It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.

It was the message on a poster displayed in the church hall for many years, and the theme for the morning services on the first Sunday of Advent.

We can't, individually, solve all the problems of loneliness and despair. We can't feed all the hungry people. We can't end all the wars.

But we can have an encouraging word for those who cross our path. We can buy a copy of the Big Issue from the seller in Haywards Heath. We can give a tin of beans to the food bank. And in all our relationships, we can try to be conciliators rather than conflict-mongers.

The first Advent candle was lit, pointing to the coming of Jesus, who shows the way from darkness into light.

We read from Isaiah's prophecy, looking to a time when we will walk in the light of the Lord (Isaiah 2.5). And from John's gospel, of the light that shines in the darkness, the coming of the true light that gives light to every man. (John 1.5&9). We noted that John uses the present tense "shines" not "shone" reminding us that action is still required today.

Light is one of John's favourite words; it appears at least 20 times in John's gospel.

Throughout, there is a contrast between light and darkness. Jesus is portrayed as light and his enemies as darkness.

As his gospel progresses, John develops this struggle. And, lest anyone misunderstand, if we read on, we find Jesus expressing it very clearly: "I am the light of the World. Whoever follows me, will never walk in darkness" (John 8.12).

Some don't want their lives to be exposed to God's light; perhaps because of apathy, perhaps because of what will be revealed, or because it will mean changing their ways.

The challenge given to us, during Advent, was:

- To profess afresh, our desire to walk in the light of the Lord
- To be witnesses who testify to the light
- To allow the light to shine into our lives.
- And to reflect that light in our interaction with others.

Martin Luther King was a great Christian warrior for peace, a campaigner for equality and civil rights. He famously observed that you cannot fight darkness with darkness. You get only double darkness. Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that, he said.

We may not be able to do all we might like, but instead of cursing the darkness, we can light a single candle.

Sunday Services

The **9.30am** service is an opportunity for all age groups to join in a relaxed informal time. Most weeks, children leave after 20 minutes for their own activities (including crèche). Lighthouse (Junior church) is for children and young people up to age 14. Holy Communion (1st Sunday)

Coffee is served between the morning services.

The **11:15am** service is a more traditional service than at 9:30. Holy Communion (4th Sunday) Where there is a fifth Sunday in the month, normally a joint service is held at 10:30am

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

Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)

Healing services as announced

Personal prayer is available after every service. We can also offer personal prayer ministry at home or in hospital.

We do not take up an offering during the services, those wishing to give are invited to place a gift in one of the bowls at the doors before or after the service.

Recordings of services can be borrowed free from the church.

Prayer Meetings

Mon	9.30am	An Hour of Prayer
Wed	9.45am	Short Service of Intercession
Thur	8.00pm	Church Prayer Evening (As announced)
Sat	8.45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting.

Venue rotates between the three churches

Prayer requests and brief statements of praise for answered prayer can be put in the red book on the concourse table.

Regular Activities

Mon	10.00am	Art Group
	6.00pm	Brigade - Anchor Boys (5-7 years)
	6.30pm	Boys' Brigade - Junior Section (8-11 years)
	7.30pm	Boys' Brigade - Company Section (11+ years)
Tue	10.00am	Stepping Stones (Parents and toddlers - term time)
	7.45pm	In Touch (4th Tues) for women of all ages
Wed	2.30pm	The Fellowship (4th Wed) for men and women of all ages
Thur	10.00am	Pop-In Coffee and a chat
	8.00pm	Church Meeting (2nd Thur)
Fri	7.15pm	Zest (Years 6-9) games, craft, tuck and a bible message (term time)
Sun	7.30pm	Youth Fellowship

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

January Church diary

5th Sunday	9:30am	Communion	18th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting URC
	11:15am	Morning Worship Mike Gardiner	19th Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship
	6:30pm	Evening Worship Jean Gardiner		11:15am	Morning Worship David Walters
8th Wednesday	12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship		6:30pm	Evening Worship Mike Gardiner
9th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Meeting	21st Tuesday	7:45pm	In Touch
10th Friday	12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship	22nd Wednesday	2:45pm	Afternoon Fellowship
				7:45pm	Elders Meeting
11th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting URC	23rd Thursday	8:00pm	Engine Room Prayer Meeting Lounge
12th Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship	25th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting URC
	11:15am	Morning Worship Maria Grainger	26th Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship
	6:30pm	Communion David Walters		11:15am	Communion David Goodenough
16th Thursday		House Groups		6:30pm	Evening Worship TBC
			28th Tuesday		Elders meeting with Nicola Furley-Smith

February

1st Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting Evangelical Free Church	15th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting Evangelical Free Church
2nd Sunday	9:30am 11:15am 6:30pm	Communion Morning Worship Mike Stanbrook Evening Worship John Goodway	16th Sunday	9:30am 11:15am 6:30pm	Family Worship Morning Worship Michael Davies Communion Graham Campling
6th Thursday		House Groups	20th Thursday		House Groups
8th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting Evangelical Free Church	22nd Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting Evangelical Free Church
9th Sunday	9:30am 11:15am 6:30pm	Family Worship Morning Worship Josh Thomas Evening Worship Mike Gardiner	23rd Sunday	9:30am 11:15am 6:30pm	Family Worship Communion David Jones Evening Worship Robert Bushby
12th Wednesday	12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship	25th Tuesday	7:45pm	In Touch
13th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Meeting	26th Wednesday	2:45pm 7:45pm	Afternoon Fellowship Elders Meeting
14th Friday	12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship	27th Thursday	8:00pm	Engine Room Prayer Meeting Lounge



The Gift FM 2013

If you have been living under a rock for the past month you could be excused for not knowing about the return of The Gift FM, if not, you have probably been listening to and enjoying it and thank you for doing so! It has once again been a fantastic project for all those who have been involved and we have worked with children aged as young as five through the work we have done in schools, and adults as old as ninety through various interviews and features during the week.

This time around we had a hugely successful partnership with Oathall Community College which we established over the months leading up to the project. We were able to provide them with the opportunity of offering work experience placements to a number of students from year nine. In total, we worked with eleven young people in this way and they got to experience everything from news writing to on-air presenting.

We have been so impressed by every single young person who has been involved over the ten days and each one of them should feel incredibly proud of their achievements.

We were also very pleased to be able to broadcast and put on several events during our time on air – special mention goes to those who performed on our music night including; David Goodchild, Millie McQuillin, Sister Sister and Haywards Heath Rock Choir. Also, who could forget our brilliant evening of comedy with Steve Legg and Tony Vino and the impromptu pantomime that was a part of this which included Brian and Jill O'Mant and Henderson McEwan.

Once again I feel an odd mixture of relief and sadness as we approach the end of the project- it is hugely tiring so a rest is something I am looking forward to, however, I feel such an attachment to the project and those involved that it is with sadness that we approach the end!

We will, however, be running a special weekend away for all those involved on the weekend of the 31st January – 2nd February so it will be great to get everyone back together and reminisce on what has truly been a unforgettable journey and experience.

I cannot conclude this article without thanking all those who gave their time to

make the project what it was. A huge thank you goes to anyone who came in to take part in an interview, our church leaders for their contributions to our Thought For The Day segment, all those young people and slightly older people who presented shows and wrote news reports etc, to our brilliant team of producers; Hannah Thomas, Jon Clark, Tom McQuillin, Tim Harfield, Zoe Clark, Rosie Fruin, Kieran Sprouse and Dan McQuillin. A special thanks, however, must be reserved for both Jon Clark and Dan McQuillin for making the project possible. They were both here ensuring the station was working to the highest standards so much of the time and invested a huge amount of time and effort into doing this – without the two of them we wouldn't even be making a noise!

All that is left for me to say is, through the project this year, I believe we have really been able to connect with the community and unwrap together the true meaning of Christmas: Christ's arrival into the world as a human and the salvation that is ours because of this. Well done to all of you who were involved, you did yourselves and me proud and – we did it, we made a radio station!

Thank you to all of you for listening and being so supportive.

Josh

I leave you with some quotes from young people involved during our ten days entertaining the nation!

"Thank you so so so so so so much for letting me take part for The Gift FM and it was a privilege for me. It has helped me with a confidence boost and that was thing I was most worried about so thank you."

"The only downside to this experience was it went so quickly :(it was in the top 5 things I've enjoyed most!"

Sophie – Oathall

"I just wanted to say that it has been special to have worked with you last week. Merry Christmas"

Rachel – Oathall

"I enjoyed doing the radio because it was great to have listeners input and to hear the best Christmas music all day every day! :D"

Millie McQuillin

"I really enjoyed learning to produce a show, and all of the staff were very helpful when I forgot how to do something."

Zoe Clark - All Saints

"TheGiftfm has been yet again an amazing experience! Last time I got to do the news and back room, doing a live show has been great fun and I loved every moment of it!"

Luke Smith - All Saints

"I have really enjoyed experience at the gift I will miss it a lot and if you do it again you have your first volunteer!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

Jacob Neller - All Saints

"I've really enjoyed getting to know new people and having a go at something I have never done before!"

Rachel Nibloe - All Saints

Boys Brigade

The British Legion again invited us to join the Remembrance Day Service and Parade. There was a good turnout of boys from all three sections of the Company, and our drummers led the parade down the High Street.

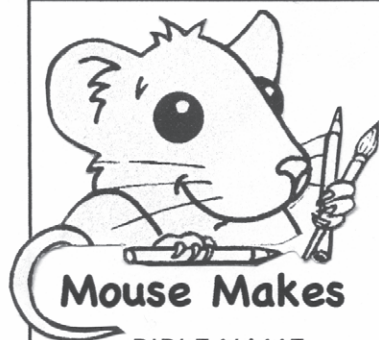
We had mixed fortunes in Battalion competitions: a team of Company Section Boys, tutored by Josh, competed in the Battalion Scripture Competition, but alas, despite best efforts only managed 4th place - 3rd Burgess Hill were the winners; in the Badminton competition, our Boys (Wesley, Tom and Hayden) gave a very good account of themselves, but came equal first with the 2nd Burgess Hill.

We have a lively bunch of Anchor Boys: quite a handful, but a growing group of children of this age is the sort of problem we like to have! To break the routine, we took them for a meal at KFC, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

I have been asked for an update on progress in the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, and the Queens Badge, but at this stage there is little to report. The boys concerned are working steadily away at the requirements of the awards, and we hope it will all come to fruition next summer.

Geoffrey Cocksedge





Mouse Makes

BIBLE NAME WORDSEARCH

ABRAHAM =father of many
 ADAM =man
 ANDREW =strong man
 AMOS =burden bearer
 ANNA =gracious
 BENJAMIN =son of the
 right hand
 EVE =to breathe
 ELIZABETH =fullness of God
 ESAU =hairy
 DEBORAH =bee
 DANIEL =God my judge
 DAVID =beloved
 GABRIEL = man of God
 GAD =fortune
 HANNAH =gracious
 ISAAC =laughter
 JESUS = God is saviour
 JOSEPH = increase
 JOSHUA = saviour
 MATTHEW =gift of God
 MOSES =deliverer
 NAOMI =beautiful
 NATHANIEL =gift of God
 PAUL =small, humble
 PETER =a rock
 PHOEBE =bright, pure
 JOHN =God is gracious
 PRICILLA =ancient
 RUTH =friend
 SARAH =princess
 SHEM =name
 STEPHEN =crowned
 TAMAR =palm tree
 THOMAS =twin
 TIMOTHY =valued of God

Eight days after he was born,
 Mary and Joseph named their
 baby with the name the angel
 Gabriel had given them.

It was a special name
 for a very special baby..
 the name **JESUS**
 which means
GOD IS SAVIOUR

Read: *Matthew 1:21*
 and *Luke 2:25-38*



G	E	S	T	D	I	H	T	S	H	E	M
A	S	A	N	A	O	M	I	A	I	A	R
D	A	R	E	V	E	D	M	P	N	I	E
O	U	J	N	I	S	G	O	H	P	D	V
A	O	O	T	D	M	A	T	T	H	E	W
M	O	S	E	S	A	B	H	A	O	B	J
J	O	H	N	T	S	R	Y	M	E	O	E
O	T	U	H	T	A	I	N	A	B	R	S
S	H	A	N	D	R	E	W	R	E	A	U
E	S	E	B	R	A	L	R	U	T	H	S
P	E	T	E	R	H	I	T	S	B	E	E
H	A	N	N	A	H	Z	M	T	H	I	P
P	P	A	J	B	P	A	A	E	H	P	V
R	H	H	A	R	L	B	T	P	A	U	L
I	R	I	M	A	O	E	I	H	S	R	H
C	E	J	I	H	E	T	S	E	E	N	E
I	A	N	N	A	T	H	A	N	I	E	L
L	A	D	A	M	H	O	A	M	O	E	M
L	A	S	E	J	H	M	C	I	R	W	E
A	M	O	S	W	D	A	N	I	E	L	A
A	H	A	E	A	U	S	M	N	S	E	S

Can you find all these
 bible names in the grid?

Does your name have a meaning?

Valentine's Day

I was asked to look into Valentine's Day for this latest edition of the Magazine. In our house, Dan and I always give each other cards, and we often try and go out for a nice meal in the evening. We do this, because that is what "you do" on Valentine's day. But I thought there must be a more Christian perspective to the celebration. In my research I came across this blog online, by Bible or not.

'In February it is Valentine's Day, the day when couples celebrate their love for each other, the day when children exchange "Valentines" with each other in school and everyone talks about love. Expressing your love for another is wonderful, yet in the world we live in it seems that the expression of love can be a bit backwards. How often is love described by what a person does for us, how they make us feel, how they make our lives better?



Biblical love is not about getting, it's about giving, and it's about giving without the need of getting in return.

The Bible tells us that:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

1 Corinthians 13:4-7+ NIV

Love here is described by what love does when you give it away to another. If you truly want to express your love to someone, then don't just give them a card, or candy, or roses, or a ring, or some other romantic gift. Yes, make the day special, but more importantly, make your relationship special throughout your lives together. Express your love by being patient with each other, treating each other with genuine respect and honour. If you have two people, and each one is dedicated to the happiness of the other, then there is no need to look after what you should be getting. Focus on giving, focus on truly loving from a Biblical perspective, and the love and fulfilment you will get will far exceed anything you could hope for.

The Bible tells us that if you give without looking to receive, that you will receive in abundance:

"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 6:38 NIV

Furthermore, we know of the ultimate act of love – greater love has no man than that he lay down his life for his friends. And Jesus did that for us. So, as you celebrate Valentine's Day with the ones you love, try to keep the Biblical perspective on love, and don't stop when Valentine's Day is over. Give of your love, of yourself, each and every day of your life.'

As our thoughts turn to 'Discipleship' over the next year, this is a wonderful reminder to remember this celebration is not only once a year....

but should happen each and every day.

Zoe McQuillin

Keeping the Faith

The Bible is full of dramatic stories that we can relate to. Luke describes the time when the disciples were being tossed around in a boat on the Sea of Galilee during a sudden violent storm. They began to panic as the boat was being swamped with water and woke Jesus saying, "...we're going to drown!". Anyone who has ever been on a small boat far from land in rough seas can imagine their fear. However, Jesus, after rebuking and stilling the storm by command, turned to his disciples and asked them, "Where is your faith?" (Luke 8: 25). If he was to ask us the same question today, how would we reply? The question of our faith is something that "Good News" is addressing in a number of ways this issue.

Dan McQuillin writes about our Elders vision for spiritual growth for the membership of LURC this New Year, with a strengthening of our faith. Michael Davies writes about, "Growing old faithfully", a wonderful target to aim for. The difficulties of staying and growing in faith are increasingly recognised through initiatives such as "Don't let your faith unravel", developed by "threads", a collective of Christians in their 20's and 30's from all walks of life (threadsuk.com). Threads recognise that faith is tough, especially in your 20's, and that many don't stay the course but leave church when life gets difficult. Threads have an army of twitter followers and the following are examples of their top tips on how to "keep the faith":

- "Know that faith isn't fixed. It shifts and changes in time as we discover new things about God and ourselves."
- "Hang out with older, wiser people who have journeyed life well. Ask them how they journey with God through the hard times."
- "Through the ups and downs just remember, '...for this I have Jesus.'"

Threads say about themselves: "We are scratching our heads about faith and life and what they have to say about each other. We are curious. We are wrestling with questions where there used to be answers, and are passionate about working it out together. We know our lives can be broken and dislocated and we also know Jesus is the ultimate fixer. We are humble, because we are not worthy. So we're not judges, and we don't do platitudes. Life can be full of knots, but we're living it to the full. We're inspired, and we're hopeful. We are threads".

Their website is full of electronic threads of conversation – you will not agree with everything that is written, but it will certainly make you think.

The latest research report of the Evangelical Alliance, published in Autumn 2013, is entitled "Working faithfully?". It is a snapshot of the beliefs and habits of evangelical Christians at work in the UK, following a May 2013 survey answered by 1,511 evangelicals. It is a challenge to us in many ways, for example how we should support those in our congregation who are currently unemployed. Some quotes relating to this were eye-opening, ranging

from "Throughout my unemployment, I had brilliant prayer support from my church, and knew that God was in charge", to, "It was absolutely horrendous when I lost my job. Not helped by church teaching, 'God will bring a job along in His perfect timing'". What about faith in the workplace? Some 85% of those surveyed said that most work colleagues know they are a Christian. More than half say they often have opportunities to speak about their faith to non-Christians while at work. The comments also indicate that evangelicals' attitudes and behaviour at work and their sense of vocation are strongly influenced by their faith. You can download the full report from www.eauk.org.

When we go through periods of struggling with our faith, we can always return to Jesus' question, "Where is your faith?", and take comfort in the fact that he used the word 'faith' rather than, say, 'knowledge'. In his book, "Faith & Doubt" (2008) John Ortberg said that, "Faith is required only when we have doubts, when we do not know for sure. When knowledge comes faith is no more. Doubt

can motivate us to study and learn. It can purify false beliefs that have crept into our faith". John Young wrote in "The case against Christ" (1986), "A robust faith does not worry too much about dotting i's and crossing t's. Men and women with this kind of faith can live with uncertainties, because their faith is built on solid foundations". Evidence of those solid foundations was provided by John Young and, more recently, added to by Nicky Gumbel, who explored the question, "is faith irrational?", providing evidence of God the Creator, Liberator and Transformer ("Is God a delusion? What is the evidence?", 2008).

I pray that my and your faith has increasingly solid foundations and will grow day by day through the coming year. I am already looking forward to the first house group meeting of 2014 when we will tackle the subject "Faith under fire"! Perhaps it is best to end with the words of Jesus himself: "Have faith in God" (Mark 11: 22) and, "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing." (Luke 14: 12).

Martin Hall



Book Update

An update on how Jenny Martin's book is proceeding.

The novel 'The Garden of Sparkling Delight' is intended as a tool to raise awareness of the problem of sexual slavery. It is an effective means of starting a conversation to communicate about the whole subject of sexual slavery with people who may not normally be moved by the factual accounts or grim statistics. It seems to be doing a good job of both these things. This is not the sort of subject as a conversation opener you chat to even your friends and

acquaintances about. However if you are talking about the characters in a book then it is very much easier to discuss the whole subject freely.

One Saturday last October at the Tiger during the coffee break of the Rhema Productions presentation 'It's Not Fair!' folk came to 'The Garden of Sparkling Delight' book table. They chatted quite naturally about this difficult subject. Somehow, the very fact that a novel was being discussed gives an easy pathway to raise this difficult topic.

THE STORY OF A YOUNG GIRL UNWITTINGLY SOLD INTO SEXUAL SLAVERY BY HER LOVING PARENTS.



So what garden is it? Why does it sparkle? You will have to read the book to find out! Here are a few crumbs about the story which contains, adventure, romance, drama and many of the big themes beloved by today's media and of course the ant.

- 10 years preparation
- 4 Charities
- 2 Editions
- 1 Story
- Please
- Read the book
- Review on Amazon
- View the blog
- Add your comments

“The initial inspiration for the book came from a lecture given by a Non Governmental Organization ECPAT (End child prostitution and trafficking)”

This book which is not publisher led is dependent on your support and network of friends to reach a larger readership. 'The Garden of Sparkling Delight,' is intended to be a tool to make it easier for us all to discuss this slavery and be a pathway of empathy down which many can travel.



Available now in paperback and on
Kindle from the Amazon book store.



Debvaren.blogspot.co.uk

debvaren@gmail.com

Bible Verse

There are four excellent reviews of the book on the Amazon web site and with the current run rate we expect to reach 100 sales by the end of the year. It is, after all, an exciting and compelling story apart from its primary purpose so why not give the book as a present during 2014? When you have read the novel you can at any time write your own review on Amazon.

The 'Debvaren' Blog has already exceeded 1100 hits from people all over the world, including USA, Vietnam, Croatia, Malaysia, Russia, Netherlands, Germany, Ukraine, UK & China. To find the blog just type <http://debvaren.blogspot.co.uk> into any web browser. You can also add your comments on the blog for the world to see.

The audio recording of the novel has now started and is going well. If you would like to get involved drop an email to debvaren@gmail.com. The project will take one to two years to complete although a release of the initial chapters will be possible in a shorter time frame. The purpose of the project is to reach with the same aims as the book, those who enjoy listening to a novel. So if you are interested in audio recording or editing, drama, sound effects, music loops etc and feel a little creative drop an email to the address above. Some of the tasks could be done independently others not. Training is available if your skill needs developing. We want to immerse the listener in the novel, so to find out how we will do that get in touch.

Your friend
Deborah Varen

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
and His righteousness..."
Matthew 6 v 33

This verse, which is Jesus' own words, means a great deal to me, as it helps me to remember our primary focus in life. We are surrounded by distractions, and if like me, you have so many things to do, you hardly know where to start! This verse puts everything into perspective. Interestingly, I was thinking about this recently, when I happened to drive past Turners Hill Free Church. Their poster outside simply had the word 'Jesus' on top of a Christmas tree. I felt that this summed it all up, and I wondered -was He on the top of my Christmas tree?

As we move on from Christmas into the New Year, it is a good time to take stock, and ask ourselves "What is our main purpose in living?" Can we sincerely echo the words of the ancient catechism: "the chief end of man is to glorify God, and enjoy Him forever"?

If we have responded to Jesus' call "follow me" then He turns our hearts towards Him

"we love Him because He first loved us". As we love Him, we try to listen to His voice above the clamour that surrounds us: "SEEK ME FIRST."

Rosemary McCleery

Alive 2014

After working through the mission criteria and scoping exercise the Elders have a vision that they will be sharing with the Church during 2014.

Our central work as a Church is not to recruit members, but to make and equip disciples. To help each other to grow closer to God, to develop unity as a fellowship and to share our faith with the community

You will see this reflected in the teaching programme and throughout the life of the Church in 2014 in a project we are calling Alive 2014. Alive will be broken down into three sections, the first starting in January and running up to Easter. The second will run from Easter to the Summer and the third and final stage will start in Autumn 2014

Living Faith - A faith growing deeper, stronger and closer to God day by day

Living Body - Transforming the Church from a building to a living body

Living Expression - To love Lindfield as a living expression of the reign of God

Alive 2014 is not a separate project or additional work which members need to commit to. Rather it is a fresh intention and clear direction which we hope will infuse all that we do as a Church.

Dan McQuillin

Giving Envelopes

As I said in the Good News last month, I would write a few words on Giving by Weekly Free Will Envelopes. If you are one of our friends who put your cash contribution to the church, in one of the bowls each Sunday, you may wish to use the weekly envelopes instead. The envelopes are supplied by the church and each one has a date on, which means you never miss a week, even if you are away on holiday. Only about fourteen friends give this way using the weekly envelopes. If you would like to join this way of giving, please speak to me or Paul Bloxham. We will order some envelopes for you if you require us to do so. Most friends give by Standing Order from their bank, this of course is the safe and secure way of giving. Which ever way you give, we are extremely grateful.

If you pay income tax please think about filling in a Gift Aid form as it means we can claim back your tax that you have paid on your donation to the Church, through Gift Aid. For every £1.00 you give we can claim back 25p. However please remember that if you want us to claim back tax through Gift Aid you must pay enough tax equal to or more than that which we are claiming.

If you have any questions about anything financial, one of the financial team will be able to help you.

Yours in His Service,
Terry Ward (Treasurer)

New Elder

John Merrett

Who am I? Why was I willing to be nominated as an elder?

The answer to the first question is that, by the time you read this, I will be a 58 year old male, married to Carol with two children, Simon (27 and Helen (24). I was born in the old Cuckfield Hospital. I grew up in Lindfield living in Sunte Avenue. I attended Lindfield Primary School followed by Haywards Heath Grammar School. I work within the Lloyd's insurance Market in the City of London.

I enjoy acting and singing, being a member of the Ditchling Players and the Ditchling Singers.

However, the thing that really defines me is that I am a Christian. I have been from a very early age when my Grandmother, Emily Snell, introduced me to Jesus. Whilst our parents were at Church on a Sunday evening she came to our house. She would tell me, my brother and sister the stories of Jesus. It brings to mind the hymn "Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear". I loved hearing them then and I love hearing them now.

I have never had a "Damascus Road" experience and I don't feel the need of one. I can't remember a time when Jesus has not been very real to me and been my rock and Saviour.

I believe that I have a heart knowledge of Jesus as well as a head knowledge.

Why Eldership?

What a challenge! I was a little taken aback to be asked, but here I am.

I am here to serve. There are a number of ways in which I believe that I can do that.

I care about people. Jesus does and, therefore, so do I. I am always content to listen in a non judgmental and an impartial way. That is just part of an Elder's role.

I am used to making hard and far reaching decisions. I'm not a procrastinator. I don't have time for that.

I am well aware that this is a time of change and development for our church and I am willing to meet that challenge head on.

The most important thing that I offer is the love of Jesus. Without his love and support from my own, and your, prayer I can do nothing.

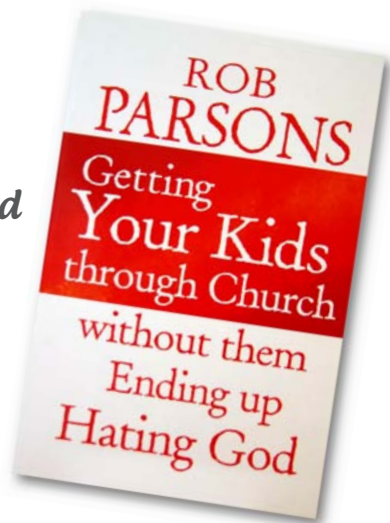
I am conscious of the fact that this is a team effort. Firstly, I need the support of God. Secondly, I will need the support of Carol. I will also need your support as we move on together as a Team.

I will also ensure that, along the way, there will be a little humour!

John Merrett

Parenting

Getting your kids through Church without them ending up Hating God



This rather striking sentence is the title of a book by Rob Parsons. As the Chair of 'Care for the Family', he has also devised a 'roadshow' with the same name.

I recently attended the Roadshow (I haven't read the book) and thought that possibly others at Lindfield URC might like to know what happened that night!

The evening was held at Victoria Baptist Church in Eastbourne, and included two short talks by Rob Parsons, interspersed with several sketches by 'Saltmine' Drama Group and a couple of worship songs. It was an inspiring evening, which included both humorous and thought provoking moments.

Here are the most memorable points:-

- 1 We must make our children/young people feel accepted, valued and included. In practice, this means that even if we are not comfortable with their outward appearance / behaviour (eg 'inappropriate' clothing, tattoos, smoking etc.) we should never make them feel unwanted.
- 2 Children/ young people should participate in our services as much as possible. This will help them feel that they belong.

- 3 We should tell our children how proud and happy we are to have them in church with us- before it's too late and they decide to spend their time elsewhere!
- 4 Our children /young people will be watching our own behaviour closely. We must be especially wary of our own hypocrisy. For instance, one of the Saltmine sketches involved a church leader who had no time for his teenage son, as he was constantly going out to church meetings. The best one yet was a 'meeting about reducing the number of meetings'!

Finally, Rob struck exactly the right note at end of the evening.

"Pray for them. For we all know that even if we achieve it, the title of this initiative is not enough, not nearly enough. We have a much greater goal for our children: We want them to love Him."

Rosemary McCleery

Phonebook

Church Secretary

Sue Waller 01444 455047
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Mobile 07598 779553
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Treasurer

Terry Ward 01444 482986

Boys' Brigade:

Geoffrey Cocksedge 01444 474007

Cradle Roll

Mel Campling 01444 484140

Flowers

Betty Billins 01444 484494

Hall Booking Secretary

Carol Walters 01444 457938

In Touch

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Lunch Fellowship

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

Pastoral Group

Fiona Tingley 01444 483419

The Fellowship

Chris Comber 01444 482641

Stepping Stones

Janet Goodenough 01444 417002

Transport

Janet Drayton 01444 483621

Zest Co-ordinator

Josh Thomas 07598 779553

Lighthouse (Junior Church)

Co-ordinator

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Flower Rota

Arranging

Distributing

January

5th	Gladys Porter	Fo Tingley
12th	Mies Campling	Sue Tester
19th	Lesley Sparks	Heather Swann
26th	Mary Comber	Barbara Shepherd

February

2nd	Carol Marsh	Jo Bloxham
9th	Zoe McQuillin	Iris Bingham
16th	Jesse Green	Heather Swann
23rd	Audry McKee	Janet Sanderson

March

2nd	Betty Billins	Fo Tingley
9th	Serena Nathan	Sue Tester
16th	Winifred Scopes	Barbara Shepherd
23rd	Audrey Saunders	Jo Bloxham
30th	Barbara Shepherd	Iris Bingham

Around Lindfield

Wednesday 8th January

12.15pm : Tiger Arts. Lunch in the Tiger

1.00pm : Concert : Organ Recital by Max Preston-Bell

8.00pm : Horticultural Society in KEH : "The Year in Focus"

Thursday 23rd January

7.30pm : Village Film Night in KEH - to be announced

Saturday 1st February

10.00am : Horticultural Society in KEH : Coffee Morning & Plant Sale.

Tuesday 11th February

2.30pm : Lindfield Preservation Society : "Halfway to the Stars"

Talk about San Francisco Cable Cars

Wednesday 12th February

12.15pm : Tiger Arts : Lunch in the Tiger

1.00pm : Concert : Anne Hodgson on Flute & Sally Course on Harp.

8.00pm : Horticultural Society in KEH : "Camellia Botnar Foundation".

Thursday 20th February

7.30pm : Village Film Night in KEH : to be announced

