

GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

May 2015

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit matchstick. The matchstick is held between the thumb and index finger, with the flame at the top. The background is a textured, light-colored surface, possibly a piece of paper or a wall. The overall tone is warm and spiritual.

PENTECOST

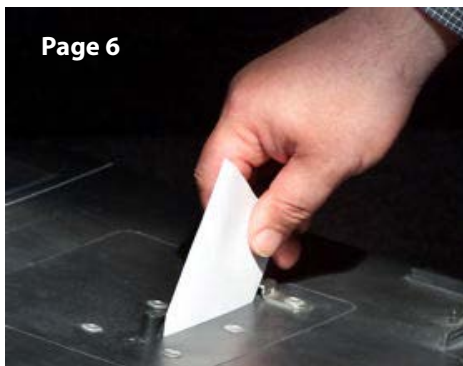
On fire for God

Bible verse of the month

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”

John 16 : 13
NIV

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Editorial

I've been let loose on the Editorial! It's a bit like that poem "The Leader" by Roger McGough which starts, "I wanna be the leader..." and ends up after his wish comes true, "Yippee, I'm the leader...Ok, what shall we do?" Well, Ok, what shall I write?!

This is another packed Good News telling you what's on, where and when, plus so much more. For example, two major events are celebrated in photos, Keith's Induction Service (March 28th) and Danny and Ruth's wedding (April 18th). The looming election prompts thoughts on voting from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity while the c. 2000th anniversary of Ascension and Pentecost prompts focus on the Good News of Jesus Christ. The youngest to the oldest of the McLeery's provide their perspective on Spring Harvest....and you'll find out what's now hanging in their toilet!

Val reviews a book entitled Paradoxology, which will help us appreciate that it's ok to have questions and doubts in our journey with Christ. All we need do is remember Pentecost and follow this month's Bible verse, "When the spirit comes, he will guide you into all truth."

Enjoy and be inspired by your reading – I've only scratched the surface of what's in this issue!

Martin Hall

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Dear friends

Spring has most definitely sprung! In March I wrote to a friend in Northampton starting with "Greetings from sunny Sussex!" but that was a little tongue in cheek as at the time things were still actually a bit damp and grey. However since then, in the post Easter period, we have seen the warmth of the sun, and perhaps this will continue into May, and even the summer? May can be a month of transition as April showers start to give way and the sun gives us hope of long warm days ahead, but it is also a transitional time in other ways; socially with community events like Village Day bringing people together, politically with the general election and, perhaps most importantly, a spiritual change for in this month we will celebrate Pentecost and the coming of God's Holy Spirit on the disciples.

In the post Easter period Jesus had told His disciples to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. They are far from their homes in Galilee, in a city where the authorities are keeping a beady eye on them, fearing arrest at any minute, and Jesus tells them just to wait. I wonder, what would you do? Remain in the city in a locked up room, head home to go back to your old job, or something else? Let's face it, they did not know how long the wait would be and the 40 days from Easter to the Ascension is a long time to only twiddle your thumbs let alone the ten days after that.

It's perhaps no wonder that we see at the end of John's Gospel that Peter and others go out fishing. However this was not what they were supposed to be doing. Jesus meets them there, and reminds them of their call by repeating the miracle where they cast their empty net in obedience to Him, and find it is again too full to manage. He also challenges Peter with a question of Love, cancelling out the disciple's previous denials of knowing Jesus. There are times that the disciples need to be reminded of who they are and given a second chance. God always gives us a second chance to come back to Him. He longs for us to turn around from what is wrong and start anew.

To help us in that new journey Jesus sends His Holy Spirit; this means that we become changed people, with God dwelling within us. The gifts the Spirit brings can be exciting and challenging but they are not a private thing, it is the intention of the Spirit that we are encouraged and equipped to be the church, and so carry on God's mission; sharing His story and seeing the growth of His kingdom of love, justice and peace.

May you have a fresh encounter with God's Holy Spirit this Pentecost, and may it lead us all forward.

Your minister

Keith

Family News

Thank You

I must thank you all yet again for the prayers, cards, flowers, telephone calls, visits and meals while I was in hospital and following my return home, as well as keeping Hilary supported through it all. It was greatly appreciated.

I really will try and keep out of hospital in future!!

Barbara Shepherd

Congratulations

To Danny and Ruth Goodall, who were married at Goring United Reformed Church on April 18th. We pray for God's rich blessings upon them for a lifetime of happiness together, and send them both our love.

The Fellowship

We meet next on Wednesday 27th May at 2:30 p.m. Fo Tingley and friends will be telling us about their visit to the Holy Land in 2013. There will be the usual Bring and Buy Stall and a cup of tea at the end of the talk.

All who come may be sure of a warm welcome.

Pat Phillips

In Touch

In March Rosieta Burton talked to us about her "Life as Ministry". This proved to be a fascinating insight into how God led her to work in many parts of the world including The Caribbean, New York, Antigua and Essex. We are grateful to Rosieta for sharing part of her story with us and we hope she will come again and tell us some more in the future.

A further reminder to keep Saturday 18th July free for our "Quiet Day" which is being led by Naomi McBain and on 26th May John Barling is coming to talk to us about his work with "Open Doors". We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and in the evenings we always begin with Tea/Coffee at 7.45pm in the lounge before we start at 8.00pm.

Janet Wade

Recovering

As I write, a number of our Fellowship are in hospital; several are recovering from surgery in hospital or at home. For others, 24/7 caring is becoming a great strain, and some are really struggling with their own health or are very concerned about someone they love. We uphold all these dear friends in prayer, together with those who have been bereaved in recent months.

Fo Tingley

Belief in Politics

Tuesday, 20 January, marked the 750th anniversary of the first English Parliament, held by Simon de Montfort in the Palace of Westminster. As we gear up for a General Election in May, it seems appropriate to recognise the long, albeit somewhat checkered, history of democracy we have enjoyed in this country.



At the very least, elections provide an opportunity for us to reflect on priorities and concerns, for ourselves and for the society in which we live: health, education, transport, housing, welfare, tax, crime, environment, immigration. Not for the first time will we notice how many of these play to our fears as well as our hopes.

In all of this, we recognise that politics is an inevitable feature of life for the 'whole-life' disciple. We recognise, too, that Scripture allows us to be neither overly cynical nor overly confident about the potential of politics to make a difference.

As Romans 13:1-7 reminds us, we acknowledge that 'the authorities... have been established by God for... our good' – words written in the context of an imperial power holding sway. In the UK where we have a voice in deciding who the 'authorities' should be, where it's possible to encourage the values by which society operates, we accept the responsibility that comes with the privilege, and vote wisely.

More specifically, a perspective nourished by Scripture helps to reframe how and why we vote. We vote not simply for what will benefit ourselves, but for what will benefit others, for that which serves the wider community.

Scripture places high premium on right treatment of the vulnerable and marginalised. What do manifestos say about the poor, the elderly, the disabled, the asylum seeker? Since the gospel reframes aspirations, we vote less for what might bring material gain than for what might bring moral gain. What will be the effect of policies on marriage, family life, poverty? Given the centrality of relationship at the heart of the gospel, we vote for what will build and nurture relationships – personally, nationally, internationally. On issues related to religion, not least the freedom to practise our faith in the public square, we vote for that which is more likely to promote the way of the gospel.

Who we vote for, and why, arguably says as much about us as it does about candidates and parties.

Who will you vote for?
What will you vote for?

Antony Billington



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Ascension & Pentecost

Over the past few months many of us have had the opportunity to focus on different historical events which changed the world. During Lent we spent time considering the facts and the consequence of the death of Jesus Christ on a cross 2000 years ago.

We then celebrated on Easter Sunday, the amazing fact that Jesus was raised to life again.

At the beginning of his second book, Luke tells that there was a period of time of about 40 days between the resurrection of Jesus and his ascension into heaven. It was a time that Jesus spent with his disciples as he readied them for their task of telling everyone about what they had seen and heard concerning himself.

At the end of this time Luke wrote that Jesus blessed his disciples and then left them being taken up into heaven. Some people have ridiculed the account of the ascension as being myth and legend. But let us just go back to the beginning of Luke's account of what Jesus had done and taught.

Luke stated that he had carefully investigated everything from the beginning, in order that his reader, Theophilus and latterly us, may be confident in what we have been taught.

Luke was therefore careful to write his account of Jesus ascension into heaven, to enable us to be able to be confident that this was no made up happy ending to a story.





He clearly states that there were eye witnesses to Jesus' ascension, the disciples watched as he left them. Jesus leaving did not leave the disciples bereft as at his crucifixion when they thought all was at an end, but rather his leaving led them to be excited and joyful.

But why did Jesus leave? There are many reasons. One reason was that it marked the fact that Jesus had utterly and completely finished the task that he had set out to do whilst on earth. There was nothing more that he need do and neither was there anything that anyone else could add or subtract. He had come to offer himself as our substitute by taking our guilty verdict and punishment, so that we might have a restored relationship with God.

Jesus left in order that he might send his Spirit to be with his followers, and it would be because his Spirit was with them that Jesus would then send them to go out to those around them and those far away and it is no different today.

Jesus who is Lord of all sends his Spirit to his church so that we, his church, are then able and ready to go and be witnesses to what we have been taught and know to be true.

Jesus is also waiting. He will come again, not secretly but in full kingly splendour. He is waiting so that we, his church, may take every opportunity to tell people all about what Jesus has done for them and to share with them the difference that he makes so that each may make a reasoned choice whether or not to be a follower of Jesus.

It is good therefore to have these opportunities to spend time focusing our thoughts on Jesus' ascension and giving of his Spirit so that we confirm again the truth of the good News of Jesus Christ and can recommit ourselves as his church to carry out the task that he has given us to do.

Val Cookney

May/June Mission

During May and June we shall again be supporting Operation Mobilisation (OM) in their work in South-Eastern Europe. Last year (2014): the money raised by Mission Giving in May and June went to supporting OM Romania, which is actively involved in church planting by helping local churches where there is very little support.



In 2014 Lindfield URC money allowed this Church to be opened in Bucsani, Romania



The Lindfield URC financial contribution went towards the purchase of land, with an old building, in the village of Bucsani. With help from volunteers from the UK and Romania, the building has now been thoroughly renovated and is in regular use for worship by about 70 adults and youngsters. Many have come to Christ and been baptised and there is an active Sunday school.

This year (2015): following discussion with OM International, it was agreed that the greatest need was for us to support OM Kosovo with the running of a "Family House" in the city of Peja.

Kosovo is one of the newest nations in the world, established after the breakup of the former Yugoslavia. The country has some alarming social issues, two of which are domestic violence and the trafficking of women.



Mission Giving this year (2015) is to support this "Family House" in Peja, Kosovo



Both claim victims at all levels of society and women of all ages suffer from them.

In Peja, OM Kosovo has been empowering and assisting the female victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, along with their children, in the long term process of rehabilitation and social reintegration.

The 'Family House' is a residential home where, in safety, women and children can receive psychological and emotional help, social therapies (e.g. art, music), vocational training (e.g. dressmaking, hairdressing, cooking) while they build a new life away from abusive situations.

The ministry is highly respected by social services (who refer cases), local government and other agencies.

It costs £1500 per month to run this project and Lindfield URC has been invited to help sponsor this work this year.

More information will be available at the Mission display area.

If you would like to give towards this work please use the special mission-giving envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any of the Sunday services. Please complete a Gift Aid slip if appropriate. Cheques should be made payable to Lindfield URC.

Induction Service



On the afternoon of March 28th a near capacity congregation packed into the Church to celebrate and formally induct our new Minister, the Rev. Keith Morrison.

It was great to welcome a number of folk who had travelled down from Keith's previous Churches in Northampton, and to have the support of friends from the other Churches in the village and folk from Churches in the wider area, together with members of Lindfield Parish Council.



Various people formally gave the right hand of fellowship to Keith, including:

Canon James Clarke
(All Saints)

Pastor Mervyn Weeks
(Evangelical Free Church)

Hilary Shepherd
(LURC)

Toby Saunders
(young people's representative)

William Blunden
(Parish Council)



The service, conducted by the Southern Synod Moderator, the Rev. Nicola Furley-Smith included modern worship songs, traditional hymns, prayers, and an encouraging address.

Sue Waller reported the procedure that had led to Keith's call to the Pastorate here. Keith then spoke of his response. Later in the service Keith was presented with a wooden Cross for his desk, and Emmeline received a bouquet of flowers.



The ladies of LURC kept up their reputation for good food, putting on an amazing 'Afternoon Tea' for everyone to enjoy. Stirling work was put in by Jenny Machell and her team of helpers, for which a huge 'Thank you'. Towards the end of the tea the Rev'd. Robert Bushby was presented with Theatre Vouchers in appreciation of his help and support as our Interim Moderator. Several of our visitors brought greetings, which made a lovely end to what had been a very memorable and happy time.



Now we look forward to all the Lord has in store for us as we move forward into a new chapter of the Church's life.

Fiona Tingley



Who am I?

Revealed

Hopefully some of you managed to work out who last month's "Who am I" was, while others remained frustrated until reading this page!

Yes, we can reveal that last month's pizza loving, half-full kind of insurance underwriter was Adrian Sykes.

Adrian attended church in Northampton as a child, but moved away to university in London. He met Laura when she was studying in Northampton and they lived in Sussex for 10 years before moving to Bermuda, a group of volcanic islands in the North Atlantic miles from anywhere, for five years.

The present Bishop of Bermuda, Rev. Nicholas Dill, installed on 29th May 2013, previously served as Curate and then Associate Vicar at All Saints Lindfield from 1998-2005. He met Adrian when he moved back to Bermuda, his birthplace, and so when Adrian and Laura returned to the UK in 2011 and settled in Haywards Heath, they first worshipped at All Saints.

They have since moved to Cuckfield and also to Lindfield URC. They have

three children whose birth places reflect Adrian's and Laura's travels. Joel (10) was born in Worthing, Euan (6) in Bermuda and Eleanor (4) in the somewhat less exotic PRH.

If this is all you now know about Adrian, go and introduce yourself to him and find out more about him, Laura and the children and why he wants to holiday in Queensland.



Spring along to our

PLANT & CAKE SALE

Saturday 16th May

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

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

... all at very competitive prices

plus...

FREE Admission

FREE Gardening Advice & Leaflets

Refreshments & Cakes for Sale

If wet, we have plenty of cover!

*Proceeds split equally between Compton House,
and St. Peter and St. James Hospice*



We look forward to seeing you, whatever the weather

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 +

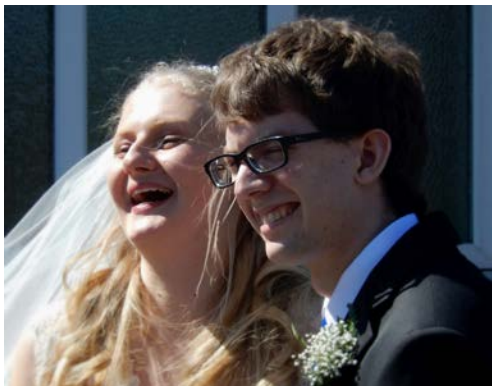
The church is open on Tuesday (Concourse) and Thursday (Pop-In) 10.00am - Noon.

May Church diary

2nd Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free	17th Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship
				11:15am	Morning Worship Rev Mike Gardiner
3rd Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship		6:30pm	Evening Worship John Goodway
	11:15am	Morning Worship Rev Keith Morrison	21st Thursday		House Groups
	6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison			
4th Monday		May Bank Holiday	23rd Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free
6th Wednesday	12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship	24th Sunday	9:30am	Communion
				11:15am	Communion Rev Keith Morrison
7th Thursday		No Pop-In Premises in use as Polling Station House Groups		6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison
			25th Monday		Bank Holiday
9th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free	26th Tuesday	7:45pm	In Touch
	3:00pm	ROC on Saturday Village VE Celebrations	27th Wednesday	2:30pm	Afternoon Fellowship
				7:45pm	Elders' Meeting
10th Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship	28th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
	11:15am	Morning Worship Nick Fletcher			
	6:30pm	Evening Worship Communion Rev Keith Morrison	30th Saturday		Village Day
14th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Meeting	31st Sunday	9:30am	Communion
				11:15am	Communion Rev Keith Morrison
16th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free		6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison

The Wedding of **Danny** Goodall and **Ruth** Cooper Sat April 18th 2015





Boys Brigade

Our annual Awards Evening on 23rd March was well supported by parents and church members.

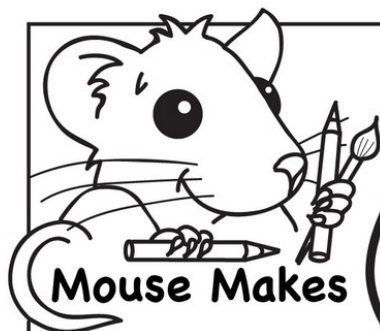
We also had close to a full turnout of boys. The Chief Guest was Jeff Cackett, a retired BB Officer who now lives in Lindfield. Jeff and his wife Val presented the awards.

Danny Goodall took opening devotions, and the final prayer and blessing were given by Rev. Keith Morrison.

Our Anchor Section has done especially well this session, and we are not taking any more boys into this section until the autumn. A number of boys have been promoted between sections.

Geoffrey Cocksedge





Mouse Makes

What happened when the Holy Spirit came at PENTECOST?

READ Acts 2:1-41



HOLY SPIRIT
is with us
and in us

John 14:16-17

HOLY SPIRIT
teaches us
about God

John 14:26

HOLY SPIRIT
helps us
to pray

Romans 8:26-27

HOLY SPIRIT
helps us
to speak
about God

Acts 1:8

**BE
FILLED
WITH THE
SPIRIT**

EPHESIANS 5:18


How many
believers were
baptised that day?

There was a sound like a
blowing of a violent wind...
and what seemed to be
tongues of fire that
separated and came
to rest on each
one of them.

All of them
were filled
with
the
Holy
Spirit.

Colour the
flames, cut out
and tie together to
make a Pentecost mobile.

Safeguarding Day



Lindfield United Reformed Church will be holding a safeguarding training day on Saturday 16th May. The day will cover Child Protection, Code of Conduct and Social Media Safety.

The day is open to everyone, but is specifically for those who work with children or the elderly within the Church. The day will run from 10am to 4pm at the Church - please bring your own lunch.

If you plan on coming please email :

Danny Goodall
dgoodall@lindfieldurc.org.uk



Wider World

As many of us are planning or, actually going on our annual holidays, I thought that it would be useful if we thought of some of the countries that we might be going to where Christians are having a hard time.

Turkey

The general opinion in Turkey is that every Turk is born a Muslim. Turkey lies on two continents, Europe and Asia, and, as a result, the country has many connections to both the Western world and the Middle East. Turkey sees itself as the leading nation of the Turkic world (Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan etc) and wants to play a prominent role on the diplomatic scene in the Arab world.

Europe has severely criticized Turkey on the restrictions it imposes on the media, human rights and freedom of religion. This has led to a very negative reaction from the Turkish government. Four churches were attacked and damaged over the past year.

Mexico

With Mexico's main religion as Christian (120 million out of a population of 125 million) one wouldn't expect there to be persecution. But Mexico's inclusion on the World Watch List of the 50 most persecuted countries is due mainly to the progression of organised crime and increasing violence in the country. Criminal organisations and drug cartels tend to target churches as they are easy to extort money from and the churches support rehabilitation programmes for drug abusers and alcoholics.

Many people in Mexico live in poverty and often poor parishes and villages receive offers of large gifts of money from local drug barons. Although the head of the Church in Mexico, Cardinal Rivera Carrera, declares that the churches should never accept such dirty money, many priests have succumbed, taken the money and rebuilt churches and launched social welfare projects. This concession obviously then compromises their ability to speak out against crime and terrorism. Those priests and bishops who do criticize are often severely punished by the gangs.

Maldives

The Maldivian government continues to see itself as the protector of Islam, instituting a set of laws that basically prohibits a Maldivian to convert to any other religion on the penalty of facing harsh consequences including losing citizenship. To be Maldivian is equated with being a Muslim leaving no room at all for any deviation. Officially there are no Maldivian Christians, only ex-pat Christians.

The few Maldivian Christians have to keep their faith a secret and take all precautionary measures to avoid being discovered. Even their families and neighbours would report them if they found out. Some foreign tourists have reported getting into trouble for having a Bible.

1 Corinthians 12 : 26 - "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it."

Carol Marsh

Spring Harvest

Spring Harvest (SH) is a Christian event held at Easter at both Butlins in Minehead and Skegness. The McCleery family from our church visited the Minehead event in Somerset this year and our newly joined minister's family, The Morrison's, attended Skegness. Below is a summary of the McCleery's experience at the Minehead event:



Aaaaargh! It's 8.15pm on a cold spring night and we have just arrived at a caravan in Minehead. We have tired offspring and the prospect of beds yet to be made up.

The journey has been long (8.5 hours on the road due to an accident on the M25) and we are starting to ask ourselves if it will be worth the effort of getting here! Twenty four hours later I am in no doubt why we have come to Spring Harvest.

Our teens are keen to get to their groups and the 'little one' wants to go to the pool again!

Now that Peter and Lydia are older they take themselves to their groups. They love the vibrant Christian music and relate well to their group leaders. Esther is excited by the music and games in her group too.

The week flies by with teaching (some inspirational) and worship (some uplifting).

There is fun in the Funfair and even one long walk along the wild Exmoor coast. By Friday afternoon I'm sitting in a petrol powered go-kart racing round the track with my son. I know why we came: 'Fun with Family; Time with God'

Rosemary McCleery
(Ageing gracefully!)

I love Christian holidays. I love meeting Christians on Christian holidays I've met on previous Christian holidays. I just love being in one place where everyone is assumed to be on this life journey, believing in salvation through Jesus Christ, carrying their life baggage, dumping it at the cross, and saying, 'Father God, please help me along the way.' My wife Rosemary and I still sit in the 'Parents Area'. As you ascend the stairs there is one woman with her hands stretched heavenwards in praise. The rest of the parents look exhausted in their Millets anoraks. They have come to drink from the fountain of life, to make contact with a Saviour who loves them, to give them peace and hope to face another day.

The main bible teaching this year was from Ephesians 3 v 14-21, wonderful words of life which were examined backwards, forwards, grammatically, in English and in Greek. We had seminars about how our teenagers' brains develop. This helped me understand why my teenager could take the dog for a walk and forget the dog. Little useful tips on how to get your head round normal teenage family life. I was taught how to sustain a healthy marriage which will bring great joy to my wife in the future.

I heard Malcolm Duncan, the Chair of Spring Harvest explain that in the last year his sister-in-law had doused herself

in petrol and set fire to herself in the garden, his nephew had hung himself because of a £200 debt he had become overwhelmed with. Malcolm Duncan said that his mother was dying at present. I watched a man cling onto his faith despite his circumstances. As I watched him explain his personal pain to 3,000 people, I understood that sometimes we don't have all the answers, but do know the love of a God who cares, and sometimes we just have to hold on to the fact that His grace will be sufficient to carry us through.

What is Spring Harvest? It is a chance to spend time with God's people, sometimes in celebration with music, fun, and dance, sometimes in the raw reality of following a Saviour in an increasingly hostile world. It is an opportunity for some people to engage with Christ for the first time. Praise The Lord!

Whatever you experience at Spring Harvest your Christian walk will be blessed through God's power at work, as seen in the lives of His people. God's not dead. He's alive and well and living in Christ, through people who accept Him as Lord of their lives. People like you and me. God Bless you.

Harry McCleery

(Barely alive @ 55)

We had a great time at Spring Harvest where we got to do lots of different activities, centred towards Jesus. Each morning we had inspirational Bible teaching that taught us more about the 'Immeasurably More' theme.

We had five themes which were; Higher, Deeper, Closer, Wider and Further. All were explained very well and captivated us at our different groups.

My youth group was iScape for 15-18's and I thoroughly enjoyed spending time together, learning more about God with games, worship, Bible teaching, comedy, music and miracles of people being healed from all different types of injuries- from headaches to physical injuries- God healed everyone of us!

We also got to encounter the Holy Spirit and participate in Communion together which was truly inspirational. We got to take time out of the Butlins resort in Minehead. We got to do lots of walks on the beach, taking in the fresh air of the Somerset countryside.

We stayed in an 8 berth Caravan which was right by the lake and had beautiful panoramic views all around.

We also got to explore lots of exhibits, go swimming in the Butlins swimming pool and we even got to go on the Funfair, which was fantastic.

We all got to raise money for 'Open Doors' through fund raising and worship and prayer. We raised a remarkable £289 which is incredible.

If someone was to ask me whether I recommend Spring Harvest I would certainly say, 'yes. It's certainly worth it!

Peter McCleery

Age 18



SH15 was an entirely new experience. This year I was placed in Distinctive- at the top end. It was quite a shock to see around 400 young people who were part of 'church'.

I have a love of music. The amplified songs could probably be heard from a 40 mile radius- much to my mother's disapproval. Big up the loud music!

Annually a charity is chosen that we fund raise for within our groups. This year it was Open Doors. Open Doors helps persecuted Christians in Iraq and Syria.

My friends and I went busking within the Butlins campus for two hours and raised £125!!!

SH always has a big effect on me, however sometimes we all can get 'festival fever' and commit our lives for the five day duration and then when we get home we 'just forget' about the whole Jesus thing until next year. I have realised that like the 'Dog Trust' advert; Jesus is not just for SH. He is for life.

Lydia McCleery

Aged 14

When we were there, we took part in Toilet Twinning (www.toilettwinning.org) which is where you pay for a toilet, which provides someone in another country with one. We chose one in Afghanistan.

We also went to the Funfair nearly every day and in my group we sung and praised God.

The swimming pool was really fun. The slides were awesome but not to


everyone's taste – my sister preferred the jacuzzi. My dad and I enjoyed the yellow boat ride, although the queue was long.

God doesn't make mistakes. Jesus was sent for a reason, which we should all accept.

Esther McCleery


Aged 8

This toilet has been
Twinned




with a latrine at

Latitude: 37.84541300 Longitude: 71.33351200
Sheykhu, Shignan district, Afghanistan, Asia
Latrine No. 25061



toilet
twinning.org

from Cord and Tearfund



2.5 billion people don't have a loo. By supporting Toilet Twinning you are helping to flush away poverty.
Cord is a Registered Charity in the UK Number 1070684
www.toilettwinning.org

Book Review

Paradoxology by Krish Kandiah

Now I know this may sound as if it is all a bit 'heavy' especially when the title is hard to understand!

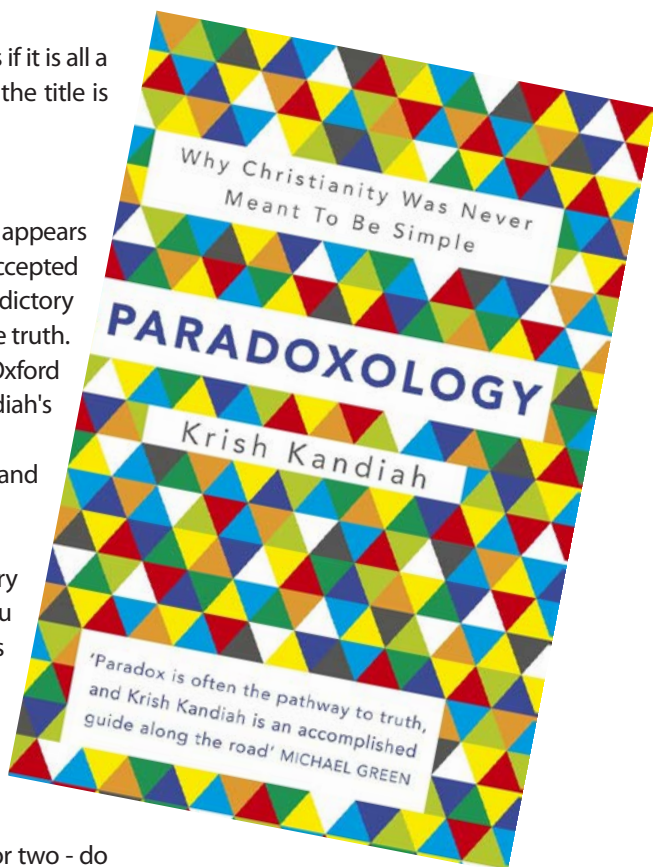
So let's first sort out the title -

A paradox is a statement which appears to be contrary to commonly accepted opinion or that seems self-contradictory but in reality expresses a possible truth. (Abridged from the shorter Oxford Dictionary). To copy Krish Kandiah's example;

The boy has had three birthdays and he is thirteen years old

These seem to be contradictory statements but when you know the fact that the boy's birthday is on 29th February the two statements actually complement one another, both being true.

Next let me ask you a question or two - do you struggle to understand God? Are there passages in the Bible you would really rather not be there let alone be questioned about by a friend who doesn't believe in God? Krish Kandiah mentions questions like; God promises to be always with us then why does he often feel so far away? or God commands us to love our enemies but had ordained that a whole generation or a whole nation be wiped out or why aren't all our prayers answered with a yes?



Tough uncomfortable questions you would agree. This book is about facing these difficult seemingly contradictory statements and questions. It doesn't claim to have all the answers but rather it is a process of working through the contradictions in a considered Biblically orientated way.

Through this book Krish Kandiah wants to help us consider certain things;

- It's Ok to have questions. There are examples in the Bible of people of great faith putting questions directly to God. - 'If our faith is true - the truth - then our God must be big enough to face our questions'.
- That the Christian faith was never meant to be simple, so rather than avoiding the paradoxes within it, we grapple with the hard question so that our understanding and knowledge of and faith in God grows, '
- That 'worry and worship, doubt and devotion frequently go hand in hand in scripture'
- There are 13 chapters in the book which include; the Abraham Paradox - the God who needs nothing but asks for everything.

Why does God sometimes ask so much of those who follow him even when in the Bible it says that we can give him nothing that he needs. This looks at Abraham's faith in God not as something blind and irrational but rather as an informed, evidenced based and reasoned through decision. But why did God ask Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, in the first place, because 'our desires should lead us to God but instead we take as objects of our affections the gifts that God offers us, rather than God himself.' Sometimes God may need to re- orientate our affections.

The Jesus Paradox - The God who is divinely human. Jesus the man is someone that many claim to on their side be it politics or ideologies. He may be regarded as a great teacher or role model.



The sticking point comes when the claim is that he is God-Man. Krish Kandiah lists the difficulties that ensue; if Jesus is 100% God then there is no room for him to be 100% man too? If Jesus couldn't have sinned, then were the temptations real? Does he really understand what it is like to be human? etc.

Krish Kandiah uses the gospel of John to work through the different paradoxes of Jesus- God-man showing how John uses language that his readers would have picked up on stating clearly that Jesus is infinite, divine and fully human. He gives a fascinating illustration to help explain the paradox using the state of light to demonstrate his point. You'll have to read the chapter to find out what he wrote! 'Jesus he writes is a paradox - 'he cannot be reduced to fit our thinking. Knowing him means having our assumptions, misconceptions reinstalled, revised and redeemed'

The other chapters include; dealing with times when God seems so distant and yet he has promised to never leave us (Moses), the question of suffering (Job), the terrible compassion of God (Joshua), when God does things that seem unpredictable (Habakkuk), or when God seems to be on silent (Esther) and then the further chapters are on Jonah, Hosea, Judas, the cross, Romans, and Corinthians. Intrigued - do read the book!

Having gone through 13 paradoxes, Krish Kandiah draws his book to a conclusion reminding us that we are actually living in the 'in between times' and that the paradoxes that have been investigated will only be fully revealed and explained when Christ Jesus returns and then all will be made plain in him.

It is good to study, to ask questions, to 'peer through the dark glass to get clues and comfort from a God who is loving but who's ways are at present inscrutable to us.'

This may sound to you like a heavy book and in one sense you would be right it is 300 pages - so literally a weighty tome! But it has been written with such a light touch and with humour that it is a good read. Each chapter is self continued so it doesn't have to be read in one go, but in bite size chunks, although you may well find yourself going on to the next chapter!

Finally Krish Kandiah finishes by returning to his statement that Christianity is never meant to be simple, after all it's all about relationship, and what true relationship is ever simple! So there will be hard and difficult questions and challenges throughout our lives as we live, following faithfully Jesus Christ, but as we face them we will discover more about our great, almighty, awesome, compassionate, holy, loving Father God, and that has to be worth doing, doesn't it?

Val Cookney

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Co-ordinator
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Flower Rota

Arranging Distributing

May

3rd	Fiona Tingley	Barbara Shepherd
10th	Boys Brigade	Jo Bloxham
17th	Barbara Shepherd	Iris Bingham
24th	Winifred Scopes	Heather Swann
31st	Audrey Saunders	Janet Sanderson

June

7th	Jean Baxter	Fo Tingley
14th	Brian Tuppen	Nick Bingham
21st	Janet Wade	Sue Tester
28th	Carol Walters	Barbara Shepherd

Around Lindfield

Saturday 9th May

- 10.00am Horticultural Society in KEH :
Coffee Morning and Plant Sale
3.00pm ROC on Saturday - Lindfield URC

Wednesday 13th May

- 12.15pm Tiger Arts - Lunch in Lindfield URC
1.00pm Concert : Rachel Floyd, Soprano and Claire Taylor, Mezzo Soprano
8.00pm Horticultural Society in KEH :
"The Natural Year in Focus" (Jul-Dec)

Saturday 16th May

- 10.00am Compton House Plant and Cake Sale

Saturday 23rd May

- 3.00pm ROC on Saturday - Lindfield URC

Thursday 28th May

- 7.30pm Village Film Night in KEH
"The Theory of Everything" Cert 12A

Saturday 30th May

Village Day including Three Churches Tea Tent

