


GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

October 2015

A combine harvester is shown in the middle ground, harvesting a vast field of golden wheat. The harvester is white with red accents and the name 'ELMAS' is visible on its side. The field is filled with ripe wheat stalks, and the sky above is a clear blue with scattered white clouds. The overall scene conveys a sense of agricultural productivity and harvest.

**I tell you, open your eyes
and look at the fields!
They are ripe for harvest**

John 4:35 NIV

Bible verse of the month

“O God, who
art the author of
peace and lover of
concord...whose
service is perfect
freedom”

Collect for Peace BCP
See page 7 for more
information



If you have a verse or article
you would like to share in
GoodNEWS email:
goodnews@lindfielddurc.org.uk



Editorial

I hope that all the 'Children and Young People' are now in the routine of being back at school again and that the University Students are looking forward to the challenges of returning to University. I have just returned from a holiday in the USA where I visited my daughter.

We are all getting back into a routine once again, I hope that possibly we will all be able to pray for the Annual General Meeting, when our Church Elders are to be elected. How strong our Church will be if we all pray about what God is wanting for our Church.

Whilst away I encountered the Amish People who were out on their Sunday afternoon rides in their carts which were driven by their horses. What a sincere set of people they are. They really live in what they all believe in and their faith is the most important thing in their lives. They look so very contented and happy.

Martin has done a really interesting book review which I hope you enjoy reading. Christmas is on' Jill O'Mant's' mind and hope that many of us will manage to help her send many 'Shoe Boxes' with gifts in for those children who may have no other presents.

I hope that you all find things of interest in our magazine and that you look forward reading what will be happening at our Church. Do come and support the Barn Dance along with other things that are on offer! It is good as a family that we manage to share these things together!

Every blessing to you all.

Anne

October Edition Copy Date :
Sun October 11th 2015

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*Produced for
Lindfield United Reformed
Church,
50 High Street, Lindfield, West
Sussex, RH16 2HL
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Dear friends

I was listening to Radio 4 the other day, where the journalist Orla Guerin reported that she had been speaking with the father of a Syrian family in Jordan. The world food programme had told the refugee that he would no longer be receiving aid. The family had had little to eat for the last week and were now considering either to cross the Mediterranean Sea into Europe, or to return to their homeland.

Compared to where they were "It's better to go back to Syria to die there," he had said. To move to a war zone they had fled, to stay somewhere without food, or to risk drowning in the sea, these were the options. I cannot possibly imagine having such a difficult dilemma to face, not only for one's self, but for a family.

So many of us in this land have much to be grateful for; clean water, food, accommodation, healthcare, education, stability of government, a justice system not mired by corruption, and no armed conflict. It is right therefore that we be thankful and praise God.

We may at times have very serious ill health concerns, we may be struggling financially, we may have been a victim of crime, but we may still consider ourselves fortunate not to have to make a decision that may result in the death of our family.

Please pray for the families of those who are fleeing for their lives, and pray too for us, that we may know how to respond correctly.

In the services I led during August we heard of how God instituted various festivals, these each mark the passing of the year and caused the Israelites to remember to turn their mind to where their blessings came from, the one true God who created the heavens and the earth, and who causes the sun to shine and the rain to fall, as a blessing on all people, righteous and unrighteous.

The celebration of Harvest gives us a special time of thankfulness which relates to the time of gathering in of the crops of the field. Although it does not connect directly to those festivals ordained in Leviticus 23, and only came to our British churches in the mid nineteenth century, it bears a likeness to the festival of first fruits where a tenth of the early harvest was taken to the temple and given as an offering to the Lord.

Those gifts were used to feed the priest and his family, just as our harvest gifts are used to feed those in need, and will go to the Brighton and Hove City Mission.



There is of course another dimension to "Harvest" in the New Testament. Jesus told a parable (Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43) where a crop of wheat is harvested separately from weeds that were sown by the devil; the crop is welcomed to a barn, the rest being burned.

The crop collected by the angels on the day of Judgement reflects the people of the kingdom being gathered for entry into heaven. That gathering in can only be done because of Jesus, and that he himself has already taken the punishment we deserve, when through the cross the price of sin was paid.

In our time of harvest we should remember to give thanks too for this harvest that is yet to come; in the meantime, may we grow in maturity that we may be a crop worthy for the Lord.

Your Minister

Keith

Family News

New Homes

Our love and very best wishes go to Gladys Muir who has moved into Room 8 in 'Little Compton'. Gladys' new phone number is 487206.

Similarly, our thoughts are with Roy Munday who at this time is in Room 4 at 'St Rita's', part of the St George's complex on Ditchling Common.

Both of these dear friends would welcome visitors. Please uphold them in your prayers.

Thank You!

I would like to thank everyone for all their support and prayers for my English GCSE Examination. I am pleased to say I got a Grade C.

I would also like to say thank you, to all those who prayed for my progression within the IT course. I have managed to get a D* (A*) which is the highest grade I can obtain.

I have one more year at Crawley.

Thank you

Peter McCleery

Thank You!

Many thanks for all the good wishes I have received for my future happiness in this lovely home.

I have been overwhelmed by all the cards flowers etc which you have sent.

Everyone here is so kind and helpful. Like me their bodies are falling apart but our brains are not. So we have lots of discussions and laughs so I am sure I shall be very happy

I am very much looking forward to attending a Church Service on Sunday morning. This week I understand it will be led by the Evangelical Free Church, but hopefully it will soon be the URC's turn and I shall at last meet my new Minister.

Once again thank you for being "the Caring Church"

With my love

Gladys Muir



Sad News

A much loved member and past Minister of Lindfield URC, Norman Smith, died in Compton House on Friday 18th September.

A service of thanksgiving for Normans life will be held at All Saints on October 24th.

We send our love and deepest sympathy to Clare, Debbie and all the family.

Fo Tingley

The Fellowship

The October meeting of The Fellowship will be on Wednesday 28th October, starting at 2.30pm.

Ray Tijou will be showing and talking about some of his paintings.

There will be the usual bring and buy stall and a cup of tea after Ray's talk.

A warm welcome awaits all who come.

Pat Phillips

Art Group

On Saturday 17th October the art group will be holding a coffee morning and art display.

Coffee and cakes will be served. Please come and join us in this annual event.

Doreen Fowler

Come and Sing!



St Mary's Church, Balcombe

Saturday 17th October 2015

10.00am until 4.00pm

Join us for a Workshop on

John Rutter's

Requiem

Have fun and enjoyment with expert tuition from Leslie Olive, Soloist Jane Burnell and help raise funds for the restoration of this beautiful church

Shoe Boxes



It's that time of year when we reluctantly begin planning for Autumn and Christmas activities.

We will again be supporting Operation Christmas Child shoe box appeal. Could we please count on your support again? Last year we sent 125 boxes for this wonderful charity.

Let's see if we can beat that! (With kind support from Evan Free church). The boxes are usually collected in early November. We have the ready made boxes again if you find this easier.

Please see either Brian or myself if you wish to begin filling the shoe box in advance. Leaflets will be handed out this month and collection date will be in the notice sheet nearer the time.

Any queries please call : 487809.

Jill & Brian O'Mant

Bible Verse

“O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord...whose service is perfect freedom”
Collect for Peace, BCP

Paul wrote to the Galatians: 'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.' (Gal 5:1). To a church which consisted largely of slaves, he adds 'serve one another in love'. How does Paul encourage us to use our freedom to serve others?

Free to serve unselfishly all of us would prefer to be served by others, but Paul's challenge is 'do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh'. If you want to understand the word flesh, take off the h and read backwards ie self! If we are serving one another, it's not about my needs, but looking to the concerns of others. How available are we to serve others? Do we offer the excuse of being too busy or resent the time? When stepping out of our comfort zone, be prepared to risk rejection and misunderstanding!!

Free to serve lovingly: Luis Suárez was sent home from the 2014 World Cup for biting other players! Paul warns of the danger of Christians falling into the same trap: 'If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other'. We are called to love others, rather than using or exploiting them for our own purposes.

Are we prepared to think about people's needs and put ourselves in their shoes? Paul tells us to 'live and be led by the Spirit', for it's the Holy Spirit who will enable us to see others with the eyes of Jesus. 'A Christian is the most free lord of all, and subject to none; a Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone' (Martin Luther).

Church Meeting

Oh no, not another meeting, I can hear you say! Or if you are in the younger generation your reaction may be 'Boring'! But listen up – you are missing out on something good if you are one of the many Church members who doesn't consider the monthly Church meeting is for them!

Who makes the decisions about what goes on in Lindfield URC? Are there opportunities for discussion regarding what might happen in the future? Does the well-being of the Church Family matter to us? Who pays the Minister? Have you considered who actually takes care of the practicalities and fabric of the Church buildings and the Manse? How are Elders elected? What part, if any, do we play in the wider community? May be you know little about the children's and youth work? Isn't Church for worship, not for business meetings? These and many more are all questions you would find answered by attending Church meetings, held most months on the second Thursday at 8pm.

One of the commitments we make when becoming a Church member is, whenever possible, to attend these meetings. Obviously there are some folk who are no longer able to get out and about, but for the rest of us, I would really encourage you to come and be informed and encouraged, and

to fully play your part as a member of the Church Family. EVERY SINGLE ONE of us has some role to play in the life of the Church. The challenge to us all is to take our responsibilities seriously, (and not leave it to someone else!)

The meetings are both interesting and informative; you will not want to miss them! (I would like to add here that generally speaking regular worshippers are welcome to attend, although they are not able to vote.)

The 'ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING' this year will take place on **SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER**, when we will have just one morning service at 10.30am. For those of you who don't know, the Annual meeting is when the Elders are elected and the Church Officers (Secretary and Treasurer) are appointed. As well as reflecting on the past year, it will also be an opportunity to be part of the thinking and planning for the year ahead.

So please do keep that date in your diary/on your calendar/on your mobile.

Fo Tingley

Food Bank

Haywards Heath Foodbank, part of the national Christian Charity Trussell Trust opened in April 2012. The first Trussell Trust Foodbank opened in Salisbury in 2000, but it is over the last four years that the number of foodbanks has rapidly grown to 430 across Great Britain. In Haywards Heath to date over 4,000 people have received food and almost half of them have been children.



In a typical week about ten vouchers are brought to the distribution centre at 9 Sussex Road and about 25 people are given food.

People from all walks of life:

- *A young woman's partner left her and she became a single parent with no support from wider family. She sought help from Foodbank. She was in the middle of her PhD, which she managed to complete. She returned during the summer holiday to ask how she could give back to Foodbank.*
- *A man who had been made redundant was looking for work for over a year and during that time came to Foodbank a number of times, each time staying a long time to talk. He finally got a job and called in to tell the volunteers that they had helped him at a time when he felt suicidal.*

Reasons people come to Foodbank are varied: benefit delays and changes, and low income are amongst the main causes. A growing number of people coming are in paid employment but on a basic wage they cannot make ends meet.

The food donated is non-perishable and the amount varies depending on whether it is for a single person or a family.

Nutritionists have selected the food to provide a healthy balance. The quantity is sufficient to last for a good three days. People can receive three lots of food for a single crisis. Food is donated from members of the public at local supermarkets, (the Co-op on South Road and Sainsbury's) from Churches, local businesses and at Harvest time from local schools.

Frontline care professionals, statutory agencies and charities are among the 45 referral agencies who issue Foodbank vouchers to people they meet during the course of their work who are struggling to put food on the table. Volunteers sort the food and make sure it is not past its best before date. It is then taken to the distribution centre to be packed as families in crisis arrive. The people exchange the vouchers for food.

The volunteers at the distribution centre offer a quiet haven, in a café setting, and take time to listen and signpost the people to further support.

Barry Prior



KEEP CALM AND BARN DANCE

Ploughman's Supper
& Barn Dance

Lindfield URC Saturday
October 10th @ 6:30pm

Adults £5 Under 16's Free

Tickets from Terry Ward HH 482986

Barn Dance

As last year, our Harvest Supper will again be a Barn Dance. This will take place on Saturday, 10th October in the Church. It will commence at 6.30pm, so even if you have younger children, you could bring them along to enjoy the fun and the Ploughman's Supper, and just stay for as long as is appropriate for you!

The tickets are £5 each for adults, but children are free! (What a bargain is that!) They should be paid for when obtaining tickets from Terry Ward, and these will be available from the 27th September.

Please feel free to invite other friends to join us. It's a good opportunity for folk to see that we Christians can 'let our hair down' just like them!

In 2014 we had tremendous fun! We have the same Caller (Heather Woodward), who, I'm sure, will make it a most enjoyable evening. Don't worry if you are not able to dance; I think those who watch probably have the biggest laughs! So please make a note of the date in your diary. Everyone will be very welcome.

Fo Tingley



Halloween

When I was a child my brother and I used to dress up in my dad's coats and grandad's flat caps on Halloween. We would go to friends' houses and neighbours who liked us. We would shout in loud voices when the door was opened, 'Anything for Halloween.' I had my mum's shopping bag to fill up with the goodies. We would have to sing a song or tell a joke. Sometimes we had to go into the house and perform in front of the whole family - Joy of Joys! At the end of the night we had a bag with about twenty five apples and endless hazelnuts that you needed a pair of pliers to open. If we met anyone really nice, or thought that the singing was particularly good, we rarely received a bar of chocolate. Sometimes if you met someone who was really really nice and deaf we received money. When you met the other kids in the street you told them the best places go and places to avoid.

So what has happen to Halloween, or All Saints Eve described as the 'time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the faithful departed believers.' As I stood in Tesco's in recent years I was faced with Halloween on my left and Christmas on my right. I wondered why parents are happy to dress infants as dead people or paint their faces with blood pouring from their mouths. On Halloween as I drive around I am genuinely horrified at the imagery I see painted on innocent little faces.



As we anaesthetise death by wearing bright colours at funerals and have life celebrations, I often wonder how happy people would be if everyone turned up dressed in damnation at the crematorium for grannie's funeral. Why do we celebrate death?

As a Christian, I have periods in my life when I am acutely aware of Satan's closeness and presence beside me. He comes to kill and destroy. He is an awesome adversary. In the name of Jesus Christ I am not in fear, I am not alone. I stand strong in the peace and love of a God who gave His son for me. I am not defeated. I live with the eternal hope and knowledge that in death and life Jesus cares, and I will never be abandoned, whatever place I find myself in this life or the life to come.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

This Halloween don't celebrate darkness, celebrate Jesus the light of the world. One last word, please wear bright colours at my funeral and celebrate eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Know Lindfield

Questions

It has changed little over the years but where is this house?

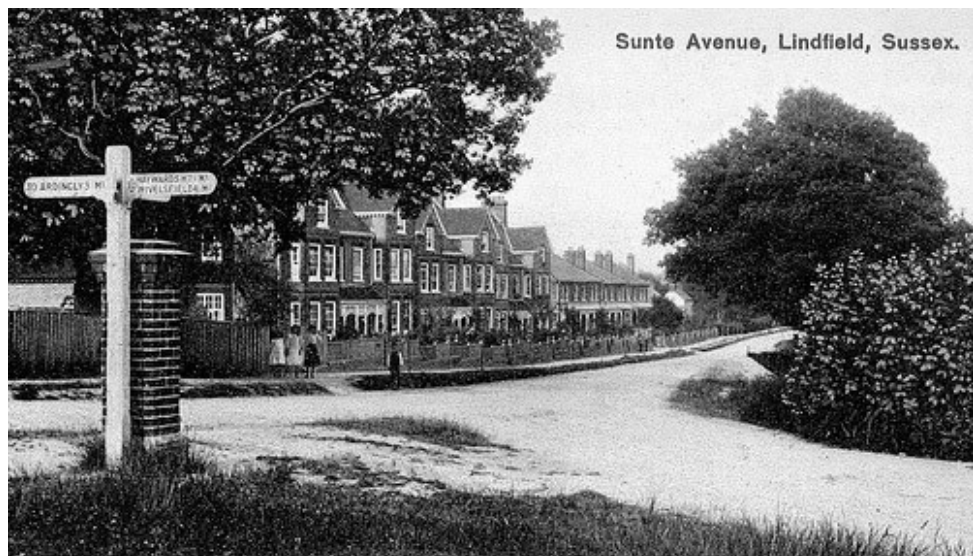
With which large house was it associated?

What happened to the big house?

Answer in the next issue of Good News



Answer to the September photo:



The triangle of grass is on the western boundary of the village at the end of Sunte Avenue at the junction with Portsmouth Lane. Whilst it is sometimes called Crossways now, it is properly called Smallsgreen Cross.

This old photo shows the same place when there was a postbox on the green. Would be a dangerous place to post a letter now that traffic has increased!

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.

October Church diary

1st Thursday		House Groups	17th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, URC
2nd Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, URC	18th Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship
				11:15am	Morning Worship Rev Keith Morrison
				6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison
4th Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship			
	11:15am	Morning Worship Rev Keith Morrison			
	6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison	22nd Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
7th Wednesday	12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship			
			24th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, URC
8th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Meeting			
			25th Sunday	9:30am	Communion
				11:15am	Communion Rev Keith Morrison
				6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Mike Gardiner
10th Saturday		Harvest Weekend 3 Churches Prayer Meeting, URC			
	8:45am				
	6:30pm	Barn Dance and Ploughman's Supper	27th Tuesday	7:45pm	In Touch
11th Sunday		Harvest Weekend			
	10:30am	Family Service Rev Keith Morrison			
	6:30pm	Communion Rev Keith Morrison	28th Wednesday	2:30pm	The Fellowship
				7:45pm	Elders' Meeting
12th Monday	6:30pm	Boys Brigade enrolment Service	31st Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, URC
15th Thursday		House Groups			

YOUTH

Hello

It has been great to hit the ground running this month with so many plans and ideas for the year ahead.

Lighthouse and the youth groups all began recently. A few Sundays ago was progression Sunday and it was great to see the stage full of young people! A big thank you goes out to those who were involved in running the children's groups over the summer period!

Boys' Brigade had a very good first evening, seeing a total of 13 boys over the three sections. I plan to hand out flyers into the local schools with the aim to get a few more boys along on a Monday evening.

Stepping-stones has begun as well and is seeing between 20 and 30 babies and toddlers come through the doors.

Please pray that these groups would see more and more people come through our doors – and that we are able to make a connection between the groups and our services on Sunday mornings.

At the beginning of September Pulse Plus attended the evening service as part of their evening group. Eight of the youth came to the service and my hope is that they continue to come along each week.



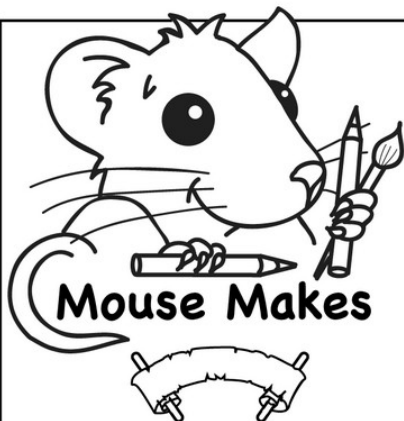
Coming up this year – there will be an all age games evening on October 31st. This will be an evening where everyone young and old can come together and play all kinds of different games around the church.

Pulse is also heading off to Spring Harvest and Big Church Day Out next year. The youth had a great time this year at Big Church Day Out that they asked to go to even more events!

Thank you for your prayer and support over the past year. Please continue to pray for the youth and children's work within the church, that God would work through it to reach more people and bring them to him.

Danny

PAGES



The Lord's teachings
are perfect.

*They give **strength**
to his people.*

The Lord's rules can
be **trusted**.

*They help even the
foolish become **wise**.*

The Lord's laws are **right**.
*They make people **happy**.*

The Lord's commands
are **good**.

*They show people the
right way to live.*



from Psalm 119:7-8

Do you have a favourite
bible verse? *Write it here:*

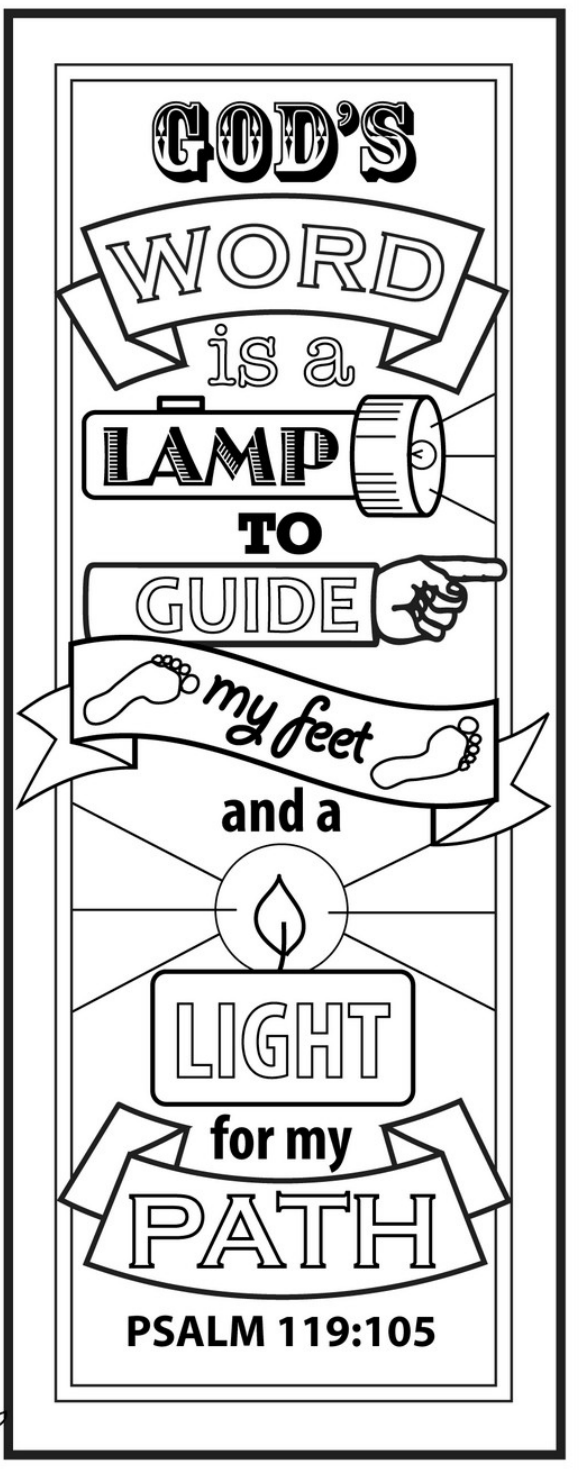
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Colour in the illustrated bible verse,
cut out and use as a
bookmark in your bible.



ROC on Saturday

ROC on Saturday has been running for just under a year, giving an opportunity for people passing the church, to pop in and meet together for tea, cake and a chat in the lounge.

Some join around the piano in the hall for a sing while others play board games in another room.

Those, from the three churches in the village, running 'ROC on Saturday' have reviewed the past few months and have come to the conclusion that this activity has reached a natural conclusion in its present form. The footfall in the village on a Saturday afternoon is very small and although there is a small core of regular attendees it is not really fulfilling a need in the wider community.

What will follow? We don't know but for the present there will be no more 'ROC on Saturday'.

Obviously the wider mission of ROC (Redeeming Our Community) continues and is growing fast.

For those who came along on a Saturday afternoon - thank you for your support and if you can think of other ways we might move forward in this area, please let us know.

Flower Arrangements

Do you ever wonder how it is that there are always flowers in the Church?

Well here is your answer.

There is a flower rota of friends from the Church that arrange them on a regular basis or people who request in advance a date during the year often as a memorial. You do not necessarily have to do an arrangement; a vase of flowers would be lovely. They are always paid for by the person who puts their name on the rota.

On a Monday morning they are delivered to the sick or a friend of the Church who needs a bit of cheering up, they really are appreciated.

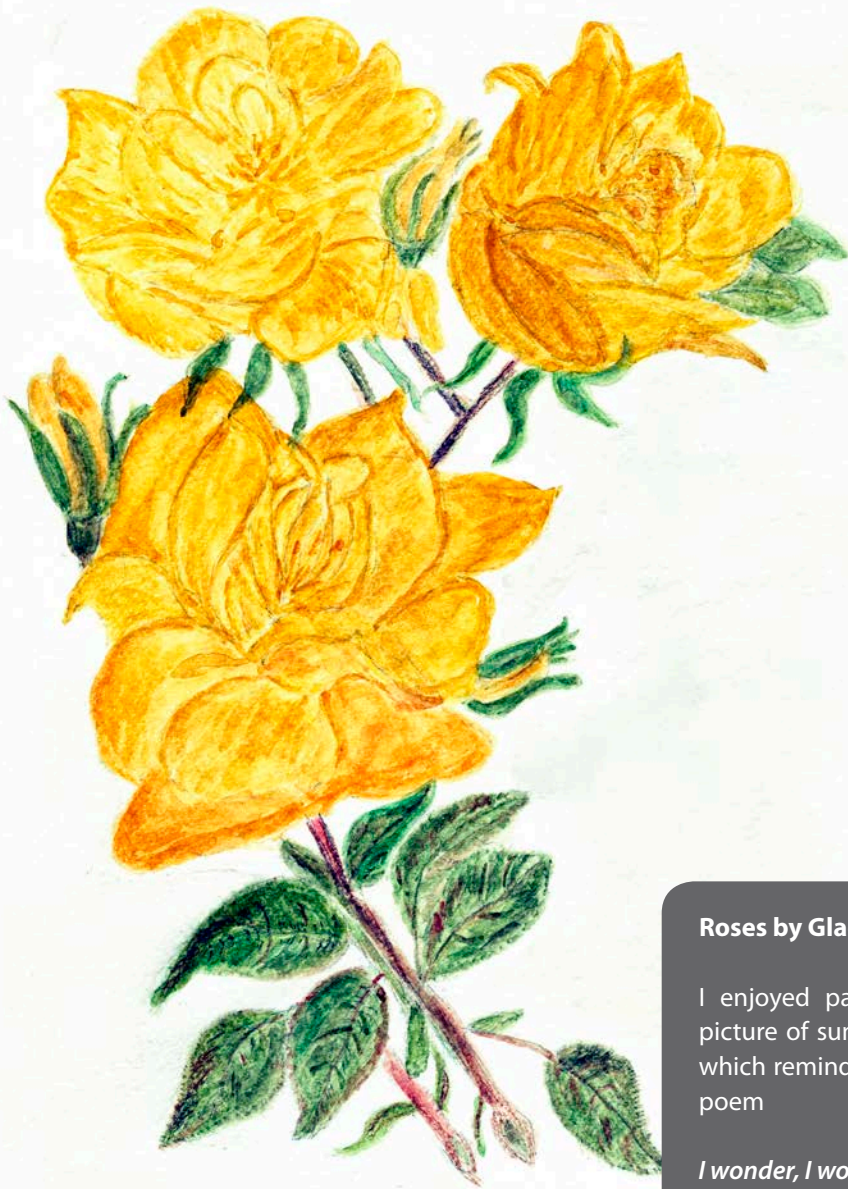
Our rota is diminishing and we could do with some more volunteers. I am sure there are many of you interested in flowers.

Please speak to me and I will give you any more information you may need. Thank you.

Betty Billins

If anyone else would like to be involved with distributing the church flowers on Monday mornings at 10.30am please contact

Heather Swann Tel. 450335



Roses by Gladys Porter

I enjoyed painting this picture of summer roses, which reminded me of a poem

*I wonder, I wonder
if anyone knows*

*Who lives in the heart
of this velvety rose*

Elders Elections

It has come round to that time again when, as a community of God's people, we consider who the Lord may be enabling to take on the specific responsibility of serving Him, and His church, as an Elder here in Lindfield.

There are a number of passages about leadership in the Bible. In his first letter Peter wrote specifically to and about Elders 1 Peter 5 (J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)).

“Now may I who am myself an elder say a word to you my fellow-elders? I speak as one who actually saw Christ suffer, and as one who will share with you the glories that are to be unfolded to us. I urge you then to see that your “flock of God” is properly fed and cared for. Accept the responsibility of looking after them willingly and not because you feel you can’t get out of it, doing your work not for what you can make, but because you are really concerned for their well-being. You should aim not at being “little tin gods” but as examples of Christian living in the eyes of the flock committed to your charge. And then, when the chief shepherd reveals himself, you will receive that crown of glory which cannot fade.

You younger members must also submit to the elders. Indeed all of you should defer to one another and wear the “overall” of humility in serving each other. ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’

So, humble yourselves under God’s strong hand, and in his own good time he will lift you up. You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon him, for you are his personal concern.”

Peter mentions six characteristics about leadership:

- It is corporate and not individual
- It is for others and not for self glory
- It is by example and not imposition
- It is done to please God and not to receive human praise
- It is carried out in humility not in pride
- It is done in God’s strength and not self reliance

So when it comes to electing new Elders what should we do?

1 We can all pray; pray specifically for the process of choosing Elders and for the current Eldership as they continue to serve.

2 Consider people for the role of Elder; but before speaking with them, spend some time praying for that person, what they do outside of and inside church, their family etc.

September/ October Mission

Also perhaps chat with one or two others. If you then feel that it is the right thing to do, speak with them and explain that you would like to nominate them for the role of Eldership.

Each nomination has to be seconded. (Nomination forms are available from Sue Waller - Church Secretary. Nominations have to with Sue by the church meeting on November 12th)

3 If you have been asked to consider being an Elder; before making your decisions, please do pray, and come and chat with an Elder or two, who will be happy to discuss the role and responsibilities, and to pray with you as you work through what God may be asking you to do. He may be asking you to be an Elder or this maybe a prompting to consider other forms of service within the church locally or beyond.

The Annual meeting of the church when Elders are to be elected is going to be held on Sunday 29th November after a 10:30 service.

At this meeting there will also be a review of the past year but most importantly we will be a looking forward to plans for the coming year.

Val Cookney

Mission Giving in September and October this year is to support our local Prison Fellowship (PF) Group – Crawley Prison Fellowship which shows God's Love by working amongst the prisoners at HMP Lewes.

At our morning services on the 6th September, John Gloster, a Prison Fellowship Trustee told us about the work and gave examples of:

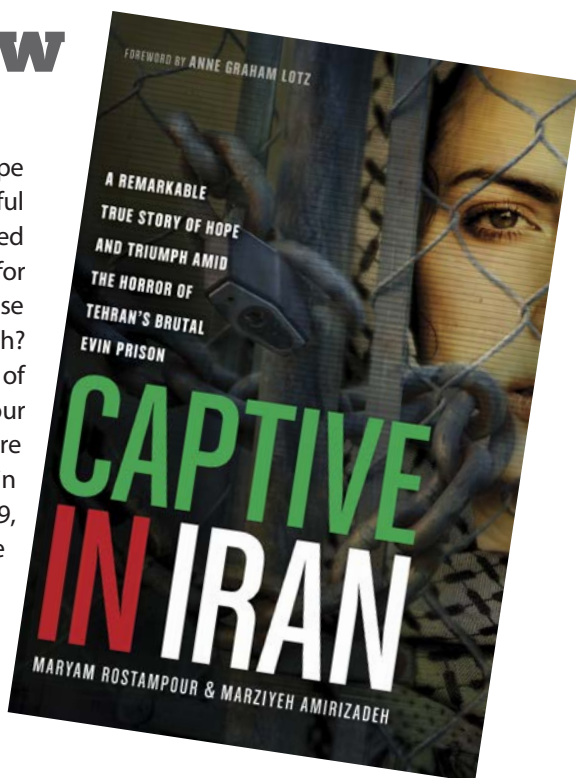
- The way in which the Sycamore Tree victim awareness course, run at Lewes and many other prisons, generates hope, for the future, in prisoners for whom it has been entirely lacking
- How relationships built up during the course can be developed further by regular mission work with prisoners on the prison wings, and
- How Angel Tree Christmas presents, provided by PF, not only bring joy to the prisoners' children but also change the lives of both the prisoners and their partners and their relationships with each other.

He pointed out that the PF mission field, in England and Wales, is a prison population that would fill Wembley Stadium.

Book Review

Captive in Iran

How would our Christian faith cope if we were seized from our peaceful Sussex homes one evening and locked away to suffer brutal interrogation for months on end in a squalid, disease ridden prison, just for sharing our faith? "Captive in Iran" is the inspiring story of two young women, Maryam Rostampour and Marziyeh Amirizadeh, who were subjected to a lengthy incarceration in Tehran's notorious Evin Prison in 2009, for promoting Christianity. Inside the prison they could have lost their faith but, instead, it grew and they became a wonderful reflection of the Jesus they love, the Jesus who didn't just carry them through their ordeal somehow, but carried them through triumphantly!



The young women had met at a Christian theology training centre in Turkey in 2005 and realised that they had both become Christians some six years before. Born into Muslim families, they had grown up with a longing to know God in a personal way that had not been satisfied by the teachings of Islam. The story they relate of their finding Jesus and their conversions is a miracle itself when you consider the circumstances of their environment in Iran. Following their training in Turkey they returned to Iran and set up two home churches from their apartment, one for young people another for prostitutes. They also handed out some 20,000 New Testaments in Tehran and other cities.

The story of their arrest started with completing a seemingly innocent form for car registration, on which Marziyeh had ticked "Christian" as her religion. The clerk demanded, "How is this possible? You have an Islamic name. Your parents are Muslims. How can you be a Christian?" Marziyeh's reply was, "With the Lord, anything is possible". A few days later their apartment was raided by the Revolutionary Guard and they were taken away for questioning, eventually ending up in Evin Prison without any access to family, legal aid, official explanations or the other aspects of a fair legal system which we take for granted.

Much later they learned that the official charges were apostasy (conversion from Islam), anti-government activity and blasphemy – all crimes for which the penalty was execution by hanging.

When questioned during one interrogation session as to why she didn't just compromise her faith and tell the Iranian authorities what they wanted to hear so that she would be released, Marziyeh replied, "It's pure love.....I love God so much that denying Him would be denying my own existence. How could I ever deny something that is in every cell of my body? I would rather spend the rest of my life in prison if that's what it takes to stay close to Him. They have imprisoned only our bodies; they can't imprison our souls. My faith and beliefs are still mine. As long as I have God I am free."

The women described how before imprisonment they had been evangelising in the way they thought God wanted, but it was a slow process due to the need to avoid the scrutiny of the Iranian regime. However, once in prison they could talk openly about their faith. Whereas before they searched for people to speak to, now the broken, desperate and lonely came looking for them having been told to, "Go see the Christian girls!"

The very prison system that had tried to silence them became a megaphone: their arrest, story and message of faith were news around the world – their interrogators were helping them share the Gospel! Evin Prison, the dreaded hell-hole of Tehran and a symbol of radical Islamic repression had become their church! In addition to the impact their faith was having on those in Evin Prison, their evangelical message spread well beyond the prison walls. When people learned that they were willing to die rather than deny their faith, they wanted to know what it was that was worth that sort of sacrifice, so news of their arrest and defiance led many to Christ.

Despite the hardships of their imprisonment, they had moments that helped strengthen their resolve. Clearing out a box of junk under a bed, Marziyeh found a pocket-sized Gospel of Luke signed on the inside cover by none other than Archbishop Ramsey, who had evidently gifted it to someone before his death some 20 years before. How it came to be in Evin Prison is unknown, but it was passed around and read by dozens of inmates, for many their first sight of a true Biblical scripture.

Having endured a horrendous 259 days in Evin prison, Maryam and Marziyeh were eventually released on bail on



November 18th 2009. Many around the world had prayed for their freedom and the Iranian Government had come under significant pressure from organisations such as Amnesty International, the United Nations and even the Vatican. They still had to return to court for a final hearing concerning their apostasy charge on 13th April 2010, but they were acquitted, the indescribable burden of the last year was lifted and they were truly free!

Despite their “freedom”, they would never be able to live a normal life if they had stayed in Iran. They were under constant surveillance and those who

contacted them were endangered. In truth, all Iranians were “Captive in Iran”, even outside of prison. Therefore they made the decision to leave Iran and on 22nd May 2010 they flew to Turkey and, eventually, USA where they now live and where, in 2013, they published their story.

The story of Maryam and Marziyeh is profoundly inspirational - the impact the gentle sharing of their faith had on fellow prisoners and even prison staff was life changing. I pray that none of us ever has to endure such hardships, but we can be assured that God will be with us whenever we need Him, as He was with “the Christian girls”.

Steam Power



Recently Ray and I were driving towards Horsted Keynes from Lindfield when an unusual thing happened. As we rounded a bend on a hill we pulled up quickly. In front of us was a vehicle we had never seen in our lives before. From the back view we didn't know if it was horse drawn or had an engine! It had a hood with a little window and one big brass lamp on the back, and was sitting in a dangerous position on the narrow winding road coughing and spluttering, and turned out to be a 113 year old steam powered car!

No windscreen, no steering wheel, no indicators, just an engine, some brakes and the basics. We overtook the vehicle and Ray stopped and went back to ask the driver if he could help him. Ray quickly proceeded to attach his new tow rope to our car and to this heavy ancient vehicle and slowly we towed him up the hill.

'What's that strange smell?' I said to Ray. Next minute I said 'Ray there's smoke coming from under our bonnet!' He pulled up and lifted up the bonnet. Sure enough our engine was smoking and so Ray went back to tell our new friend that he could not take him any further as it was causing a problem with our engine.

The steam car was about three quarters of the way up the hill and after a few minutes it burst into life and clattered off up the hill overtaking me as I walked the last bit. Ray prayed over our engine and we slowly made our way to our destination. Later in the day he rang our mechanic for advice and so far all seems to be working well.

We felt God brought us along at that precise moment to help out as several vans and a bus passed us as we were towing this ancient vehicle up the hill. Something could easily have swept round the bend and gone into the back of us. His wife seemed very relieved that we helped them out of the danger zone, but we are still wondering how or if this amazing vehicle had an MOT!

I looked on the Internet and yes, they had steam powered cars back in 1902 and also electric cars! You live and learn!

Rosemary Tijou

Who am I?

Where were you born?

Glasgow, Scotland

What was your favourite subject at school?

A long time ago, but I think it would have been Science as I have always been interested in our World and what makes it tick.

What was your first Church?

From an early age my sister and I were encouraged to attend church by our parents, an aunt and uncle - who were full time evangelists - and another uncle who was an elder in the Church of Scotland! I went first to a boys club at the Methodist Church close to home, meeting on Sundays and during the week. Occasionally I went with my father to the Salvation Army on a Sunday evening, mainly because of the brass band! However, my first Church would be Brethren, where for many years there was an amazing youth leader/ elder who introduced us to scripture and taught us about the love of Jesus. It was there I became a Christian, and met and married my wife in a ceremony where he officiated.

What is your job?

My profession was in UK telecommunications technical sales followed by a Global role in strategic thinking and communications. Great fun meeting and working with folk from cultures around the world. Alas, I still only really speak a form of English.

What's your favourite sport?

Tennis - which I have not played for years. You have to be involved, no sitting on the side lines or waiting for a ball to come your way. If you do not make it happen - it won't.

What is your favourite hymn/worship song?

Has to be the 23rd Psalm - makes me really think.

Are you a half-full or half-empty sort of person?

I am of course an optimist and may be a little over the top!

What's your favourite food?

For me food is only fuel unless you are sharing it with people you love.

If you could go anywhere on holiday where would it be?

China would be my first choice as the people are friendly and the culture fascinating. Closer to home Lithuania, with its people with a great sense of humour.

What makes you laugh?

Situations can often be funny and they can make me laugh.

What would be your best round of questions in a pub quiz?!

Not a pub quiz person but have been to a few to make up the number. My best round of questions is the final round as we can proceed to tea and cucumber sandwiches. I forget we are in a pub so after the final round of questions a final round and a lift home!



PRAYERMATE™

Praying can often be difficult – perhaps we don't know what to pray for, or even where to start. PrayerMate is a brilliant free mobile app for encouraging you to pray and prompting you during prayer times.

At its core it is an app for arranging topics you want to pray for into categories, and then organising these categories into prayer sessions that allow you over time to pray through all of the things important to you. But further to this it has some really interesting features that can help expand your experience of prayer, and give you fresh ideas for how to spend quiet times. This includes downloading content from an online prayer library which contains categories such as prayers from the Bible, prayers for your church and prayers for family life. It also allows you to subscribe to online prayer feeds from organisations such as Operation World, Open Doors and Tearfund, and to devotional prayer resources such as 'Praying the Promises' by Stephen Altrogge.

If you want, it can even give you reminders to pray, integrate contacts into your prayer lists and help you construct prayers of your own using guidance from 'Take Words With You', a manual for Biblical intercession written by Tim Kerr.

More information is on website www.geero.net/prayermate or find the app on the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Alex Hall

Mission Update

*Missions Prayer Meeting
Thursday 22nd October*

The Church Prayer Meeting at 8pm on Thursday 22nd October will be devoted to the Missions the church supports during the year.

Members of the Mission Group will introduce each of the Missions, and its prayer needs, and then there will be a period of prayer for each.



Mission Service and Lunch Sunday 1st November

On Sunday 1st November there will be a 10.30am joint service at which Andrew Wilson of Release International will preach. This will be followed by a Mission Hunger Lunch in the main hall. There will be no charge but Mission Group members will be issuing tickets, nearer the event, so that those coming can be catered for.

There will be collecting baskets available, after the lunch, for those who would like to contribute. After covering costs, any surplus will go to Release International. Andrew Wilson will say more about the work of the mission during coffee after the lunch.



Release International serves persecuted Christians world-wide with a vision to see a world in which the whole Body of Christ understands persecution and responds prayerfully, pastorally and practically every time a Christian is persecuted.

Over £5000 was raised by Lindfield URC for Release International during March-April Mission Giving this year.

Missions Group

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In Touch

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Lunch Fellowship

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Stepping Stones

Jo Bloxham 01444 483672

Transport

Janet Drayton 01444 483621

Lighthouse (Junior Church)

Co-ordinator
Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Flower Rota

	Arranging	Distributing
October		
4th	Mies Campling	Sue Tester
11th	Harvest Festival	Nick Bingham
18th	Jessie Green	Jo Bloxham
25th	Janet Wade	Iris Bingham
November		
1st	Carol Walters	Heather Swann
8th	Betty Billins	Janet Sanderson
15th	Sue Waller	Fo Tingley
22nd	Carol Marsh	Nick Bingham
29th	Zoe McQuillin	Sue Tester

Around Lindfield

Wednesday 7th October

7.00pm Lindfield Preservation Society in KEH:
"What Makes a Fraudster Tick"

Saturday 10th October

6:30pm Harvest Barn Dance & Ploughmans Supper : Lindfield URC
Tickets : Terry Ward 01444 482986
Adults £5 Under 16 Free

10-12.00pm Lindfield Horticultural Society in KEH Jubilee Room:
Coffee Morning and Plant Sale

Wednesday 14th October

12.15pm Tiger Arts - Lunch in Lindfield URC
1.00pm Concert: Bill McEwen, Jazz Pianist
8.00pm Lindfield Horticultural Society in KEH
"New Plants : the Future of Your Garden"



www.lindfieldurc.org.uk