

GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

April 2016

*For God so Loved
the World*

John 3:16

Alpha

www.lindfieldurc.org.uk



Bible verse of the month

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

John 8:12
NIV

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Alpha

Try Alpha

catching
the
wave.

Page 10



Our verse this month was chosen by Mike Gardiner, see page 26 for more information

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



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Editorial

We have one very special item of news. It is with gratitude that in our GoodNews Magazine we read of the dedication of one gentleman, who has given so much in service to our Lord. Our Boys Brigade has gained so much from the teaching and example of their Captain, who is held in such high esteem.

Share the experience of the Women's World Day of prayer, Pauline found this service very special. We are thankful for those members who have spent time in hospital getting healing and are now returning home.

Spring Harvest is calling our Young People, read how Danny, our Youth Pastor, is organising this! Consider the Alpha Course, there are details inside our Good News.

Let us all be thankful for the beauty of our world and hope that Spring will bring joy to so many.

Enjoy the contents of Good News, may we all praise God for everything he provides for us.

God Bless

Anne

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Dear friends

April already? Surely not! But the calendar does not lie and the sun is rising a little earlier each day, bringing light into my bedroom and awakening me before the alarm rings. I find this a strange month, traditionally one of spring showers, but also an improvement in the weather usually leading to the end of wearing my warm winter coat; I know this not because I record the actual date it gets hung up in the wardrobe, but often when I put it on again in the autumn I find a church notice sheet, or order of service from Easter and maybe a leaflet I picked up at Spring Harvest.

This sense of a transition also comes in our church life. As always, the post-Easter period becomes a time of waiting and wondering as we remember how the risen Lord spent time with His friends before ascending to the Father's side, before sending the Holy Spirit to join us as one, and equip us for mission. We tend not to mark this 50 day period in the way we consider Lent or Advent; this church season does not have a name that drops off the tongue, but it is a special time to consider that Jesus the Christ is alive and with us.

To begin with, it was glum faces all round, wanderers on the road to Emmaus, heading homeward but feeling lost. Friends in a locked room perhaps fearing a knock on it from the authorities. Thomas who has insisted he must see for himself.

Peter and the other fishermen who have gone back to their boats. Each of these had been told the Lord is risen, and by the time of a fish breakfast on the beach Peter would already have seen Jesus a number of times, but they had all struggled to accept it and think what next.

Yet this is also the time Jesus' friends started to waken up and realise who their rabbi, lord, and master really is. They had called Him Messiah but hadn't realised how the victory would be won, that is now changing. They also begin to see who He intended them to be, not just disciples who study His ways but apostles who go out and share their learning. People who are not glum, but have the joy of the Lord as their strength.

What attitude do you have? The long face of the one who has heard the story but not allowed it to sink in, or the one who (whatever our age) runs and skips and shouts for joy at what Jesus has done. He is RISEN!

May the Son's rising awaken you with joy each and every day.

Your minister

Keith

Family News

Sad News

Sheila Hallybone, a former member of our Church Family until four years ago when she moved into a Nursing Home in Essex, has died. She will be remembered for attending the 9.30am service with her sister, Joyce Gander, who still lives in Lindfield. We extend our love and sympathy to Joyce and to all of Sheila's family.

Fo Tingley

Sad News

Martin Hall's Mother, Jeanne, died peacefully in St Peter and St James Hospice, on March 17th, following a short illness. We extend to Martin, Helen, Jonathan and Alex, and her dear friend Jessie Green, our love and sincere sympathy.

Jeanne has been a member of our Church Family for several years, since she moved back to Haywards Heath. Our thoughts and prayers will be with the whole family.

Fo Tingley

The Fellowship

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 27 April at 2.30 pm. This is our charity tea and our speaker will come from Hollyrood a nearby centre which helps adults suffering from autism and other problems. There will be the usual Bring & Buy stall and, at the end of the talk, there is time for a chat and a cup of tea.

Pat Phillips

Thank You

Mies and Graham want to say a huge thank you to our House Group and members of the Church family for all the Christian love and support you showed us during Mies' recent three week stay in hospital in Brighton.

Your thoughts and prayers as well as so many kind offers of help were much appreciated and make us feel God's love and His healing hand around Mies as she slowly recovers.

Thank you!

Mies and Graham Campling

Celebration of Life

Easter to Pentecost waiting for the Spirit!

Come along to an evening of praise and testimony with a talk by Bishop Richard Jackson. Hear how Christians in the Haywards Heath area have been working in small groups to develop their faith life using the "Life Streams" material co-produced by The Bible Society.

On Tuesday 5th April at 7.30pm at The Chapel, Great Walstead School, Lindfield, RH16 2QL.

RSVP stephenargent421@btinternet.com

Thank you

Aubrey and Norna yet again would like to thank our lovely Church Family for the provisions, care, love and prayers. We are so blessed. Thank you.

Aubrey and Norna

In Touch

In February we met to watch a film recommended by Rosita, called "The Cross, the Arthur Blessitt Story" The story told of travelling Christian preacher Arthur Blessitt who decided to carry a cross through every nation of the world. He began in 1969 in Northern Ireland and continued to carry the cross to many regions including war torn countries such as Lebanon and remote areas such as Antarctica. As well as meeting everyday people, he also met and spoke to a number of world leaders including George W Bush, Billy Graham and the Pope.

During his walk he was arrested 24 times and completed over 41,000 miles through 323 countries. He finished his walk in 2008 but continues walking and evangelising as he goes.

On April 26th Emmeline Morrison will be speaking to us and we will be giving more details about our Quiet Day on Saturday May 14th. Everyone is very welcome to join us for any of our meetings.

Janet Wade

Alpha Course

Of all the characters and emoji's on our Alpha poster and invitations the most important is the punctuation. 8 full stops and a Question mark.

Because we want you to know:

You are loved. Full Stop.

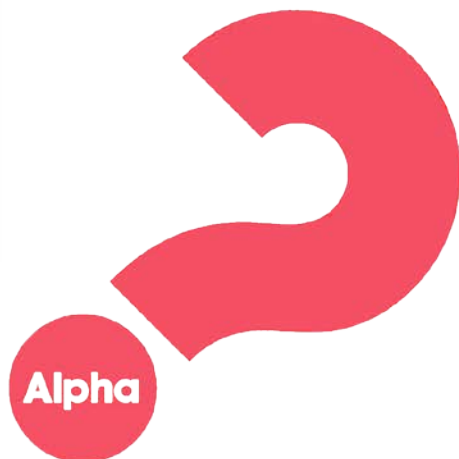
Yes. You. Are.

The Alpha question mark challenges all of us to answer. Loved?
Full stop or question mark?

Lindfield URC is running an Alpha course
Starting on Tuesday 12th April for five weeks.

Each evening will begin at 7:30pm Tea,
Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

For more information email
alpha@lindfieldurc.org.uk or see David
Goodchild or **Dan McQuillin**



Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 4th March 2016



On Friday 4th March we were welcomed in to All Saints Church, with Cuban music playing and a cup of coffee. This year it was the Christian Women of Cuba who had prepared the service, with the theme

“*Receive Children. Receive Me*”

Mark 10:13-16

It was interesting to learn more of their lives and country, and encouraging to know that from women being discriminated against, women now play an active part in their society. They are now working as medical doctors, teachers and engineers, at the same time as caring for their families.

It came over very clearly how the older women had managed to keep their faith alive against all the odds, sharing it with their families. They took their grandchildren to Church with them, teaching them of Jesus' love and now those grandchildren realising how much they had been helped and are wanting to share their faith too.

A real challenge to each of us.

I met up with two ladies I had not met before and we said "how we looked forward to meeting each other again at the Women's World Day of Prayer next year." There is something so special about this service to think that all over the world for 24 hours, women are praying and praising together.

There is great power in prayer, prayer changes things and unites us.

"We can learn a great deal from children. Small children are honest and straight forward and accepting other. They do not discriminate or judge"

That is how we should be in our response to God and His Love, in our attitudes to other people.

Pauline Scales

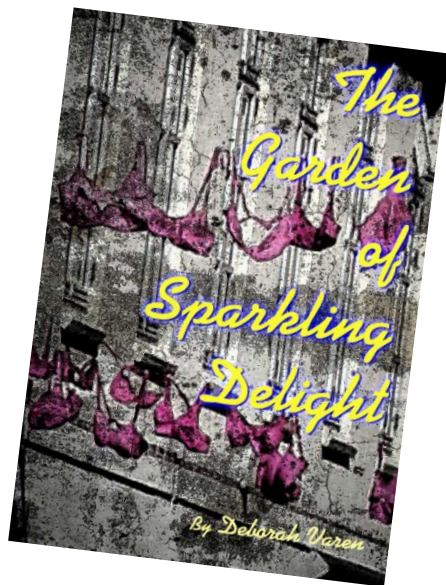
Action & Advocacy

'The Garden of Sparkling Delight', an enthralling and shocking novel about sexual slavery is calling the world to action. Published in 2013 after 10 years in preparation, the novel tells the story of a vulnerable young Brazilian girl who finds herself unwittingly embroiled in the underground world of sexual trafficking. Deborah Varen the author says, "The world of sexual trafficking is fifty shades of black. What are you going to do about it?"

"I was inspired to write the novel after attending a lecture given by ECPAT" - (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking) – an NGO Campaigning against child trafficking and transnational child exploitation.

Deborah continues, "I was so angry and desperately frustrated at my inability to help these children apart from donating money, that I was determined to act in a practical way. From that day the novel was born within me."

The book also tells the story of a young British couple which serves both to provide a positive storyline and shows the stark contrast between the normal expectations of the average family and those in all societies who are enticed or sold into sexual slavery often because they are poor or deprived in some way.



Since publication as a paperback and on the Kindle e-reader, work on the project continues with a fortnightly blog and soon to be released series of half hour audio episodes. You can obtain your advanced copy of the first two episode of 'Tis' by sending an email request to debvaren@gmail.com

All royalties from the sale of the book go to four charities working with vulnerable young people worldwide: ECPAT, Meninadanca, the A21 Campaign, and Stop the Traffik. It, however, is not about money rather it is about a call to action and advocacy.

More information can be found on line at www.debvaren.org

Thank you to the many local folk who have and continue to give of their time and skill that enables the message of the novel to continue to reach a growing audience. You are Deborah Varen.

The Cross

Some years ago I was given a small cross and a poem to accompany it. Many of you may have read the poem. I am only going to quote part of it.

“I carry a small cross in my pocket, a simple reminder to me of the fact that I am a Christian no matter where I may be.

When I put my hand in my pocket to bring out a coin or a key. The cross is there to remind me of the price Jesus paid for me.”

Recently as I re-read this poem I began to think of my persecuted brothers and sisters around the world who hold high the Cross.

A court in the Eastern Zhejiang province of China has sentenced Pastor Bao Guohua to 14 years imprisonment and his wife Xing Wenxian to 12 years. What was their crime?

The pastor and his wife had opposed a Government campaign to remove all crosses that are atop the Churches. Local authorities have removed hundreds of crosses from Churches saying that they violate building codes. Some Churches have been demolished.

The pastor and his wife have been sentenced to prison for illegally organising Churchgoers to petition the government and for disturbing social order.

They have been accused of other crimes too. This couple need our prayers.

The poem that I started with ends with these words:

“The cross is a daily reminder of the peace and comfort I share with ALL who know the Master and give themselves to His care.”

Over Easter we in Lindfield lift high the Cross of Jesus. Pray for those who long to do the same.

Jean Gardiner



Faith *Catching the Wave*

As part of the 'Catching the Wave' prayer and study guide that we have been following through Lent we have recently considered the subject of faith in our house group. This prompted good discussions as we considered what faith was, how we would define it and how we could recognise it in our own or other people's lives. We all accept that we have faith and are people of faith but maybe some of the following aspects might act as a reminder or challenge on what exactly 'faith' means to you?

To begin with the study material was quite clear on what faith was not. It is not working yourself up to believing something or a feeling. Faith is founded on something or someone – and our faith as Christians is founded on the best foundation that there is – God himself. He is more amazing and powerful than we can possibly imagine but He is also our heavenly Father. He is the one who can do everything but astonishingly cares about everything – even the tiny details of our lives that no one else knows about. Psalm 146 verse 3 - 6 says;

“Don't put your confidence in powerful people; there is no help for you there. When they breathe their last they return to the earth, and all their plans die with them. But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the Lord their God. He made heaven and earth, the seas and everything in them. He keeps every promise forever.”

So the basis of Christian faith is putting our trust in this God. But our study guide offered other definitions.

Faith is... Necessary

Hebrews 11 verse 6 says,

“And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek Him.”

Asking

James 4 verse 2 – 3 says,

“Yet you do not have because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong – you want only what will give you pleasure.”

In our daily comments from the study guide it commented, 'There are some things that God will do if we ask that He will not do if we do not ask Him.'

Blind

Is faith blind? Hebrews 11 verse 1 says

“*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*”

This certainly sounds like blind faith but the story of the healing of the blind man in Luke 18 shows us quite clearly that spiritual sight and physical sight are not at all the same thing. The blind man from Luke may not have had his physical sight but his identification of Jesus as ‘Son of David’ showed that he understood exactly who he was calling to and his spiritual eyes were perfectly in order. We are certainly called to trust in our amazing God no matter the circumstances but this is based on our spiritual eyes knowing who God is and what he has done for us in Jesus and in our own past experience.

Acting

We are called to demonstrate our faith in our daily lives. There are many examples in the Bible of people taking radical action as a result of faith, from the men who damaged the roof of a house to lower their friend to Jesus to the woman who was ceremonially unclean but made her way through the crowds to try and get to Jesus. James is very clear that the two are linked (James 2 verses 14 – 17). It is important to recognise that our deeds do not create faith; they are the fruit and evidence of our faith existing in the first place..

Testing

There are many examples of people of faith being tested in the Bible; two of them are Abraham and Job.

Although Abraham’s faith is most famously tested at Mount Moriah when he is called to sacrifice his precious son this is just part of an incredible journey of faith that Abraham went on with God and he found his God was faithful in all things. The same is true for Job who went through tremendous trials and testing, losing all that he had yet who was able to say,

“*Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him; I will surely defend my ways to His face*” Job 13:15

So the journey of faith includes times of testing which may well be hard but do serve a specific purpose in God’s plan. (1 Peter 1 verse 6 – 7)

Waiting & trusting

There are many promises of God which are recorded for us in the Bible and in those times when we are struggling or doubting or when life does not seem to make sense we have these to hold onto. (Romans 8 verses 24/25 and 28).

The Christian life and the journey of faith is not always straightforward but we can have confidence in the God who promises, who is eternally faithful, and the value that He puts in us because of the price that He paid for us on the cross. His promises to us, whether those from the Bible or those that we have received personally will come to pass because of who He is.

Dawn Walters

Community of disciples

In his article “Down Under”, in March 2016 GoodNEWS, Michael Davies asks several questions around his experience of two different church meetings he attended in Australia. He ends with a direct question – “What do you think?” On the assumption that he hopes for a reply, here are some of my thoughts.

As you may know, before Janet and I came to Lindfield URC, we were part of a “charismatic” church, where church services were similar to that described at Edge Church. We have therefore experienced something of the style of worship and large gatherings described. Sure, there are dangers of getting into “experience” style worship, rather than biblical nourishment and prayer.

However, I believe a key to the growth of this type of church is the Community spirit shown. In the latest GEAR magazine, Brian Harley writes of the “Missional Discipleship” initiative which “...could change the culture of the URC over the next decade to become more focussed on discipleship and outreach with every congregation discovering what it is to be a **community of disciples rather than people who just come to church.**” (My emphasis.) As Brian says – this should be normal! At Lindfield, we already see this as important, as shown in our Vision statement:

Lindfield United Reformed Church

Worshipping God, sharing the good news of Jesus and seeing lives changed by His love.

We are committed to:

- *encountering God through daily praise, prayer and bible reading*
- *encouraging one another to discover and fulfil God’s plan for our lives.*
- *demonstrating God’s love by meeting physical and spiritual needs, local and worldwide.*

However, we need to address Michael’s question – How do we combine a graphic, emotionally challenging way of worship with true biblical nourishment? I believe that this will come as each of us are baptised by the Holy Spirit, and allow Him to blow through our lives (individually and as a family of believers) to ‘leave us breathless’.

Too often our worship times are a case of keeping the Spirit in a bottle, and allowing only a whiff of his perfume to escape. Yes, we have open times of prayer, but do all participate?

Can we exercise the gifts of the Spirit in our worship and prayer meetings – or are we afraid of offending?

Who am I?

Revealed

Can we be spontaneous in bringing a verse from the Bible, or a testimony of God's grace to us? It seems that I am asking questions of my own, but I hope you realise that I believe the answers should be "YES". These issues (and others) are fundamental in forming that community of disciples mentioned above. With the Holy Spirit in control, we need have no fear that any aspect of our 'daily praise, prayer and bible reading' will be either over or under emphasised.

For some time now, I have felt in my spirit that we at Lindfield need to decide which flavour of meeting we choose – the 9.30 or 11.15. I certainly want to go beyond the style of the 9.30 meeting, both at our Sunday morning and evening meetings, and in the various prayer and house group meetings during the week. However, I respect that others may wish to take up a more traditional theme.

So, for all of the above, change starts with "me"; as I become part of that community, committed to the three key aims. Then, I trust, others will come along together. I pray that we all will be ready for whatever God wants for us in the coming days.

Tim Sanderson



Congratulations to those of you who guessed that the subject of the March "Who am I?" was Sandra Manchester.

As usual, the answers to the questions only gave a brief introduction to Sandra - so, if you want to find out more then do please seek out Sandra over tea/coffee on a Sunday and enjoy a chat with her.



Mission Update

Crawley Prison Fellowship - Angel Tree - Christmas 2015

Lindfield URC has been providing financial support, for some years, to Crawley Prison Fellowship in their work amongst prisoners and their families. Part of this financial support has been for the Angel Tree Programme, providing presents to the children of prisoners at Christmas. Here is the report on this work for last Christmas.

Again all our supporters and volunteers have just been amazing. Through all your generosity and efforts in raising funds, wrapping and buying presents, we have been able to send out 125 presents to the children of prisoners: 75 presents from HMP Lewes and 50 from HMP Huntercombe (Oxfordshire). We also sent presents to Brazil and Spain. Unfortunately a further 30 requests by fathers' for presents for their children were rejected by the Prison Authorities for security reasons.

The funds raised for this year were £2,556 and the expenses £2,175, which leaves us with a balance to carry forward for next year £380.

Due to everyone's generosity, and with many grateful thanks to Mrs Martell of the East Grinstead store of Martells of Sutton Ltd, who gave us over £2,000 worth of toys for a payment of £1,000, we have been able to be very generous with the presents.

Thank you once again, you have made many children's Christmastime a very happy and exciting time. Many fathers have been given an opportunity to keep and maintain contact with their children.

Valerie Maynard MBE

(Volunteer Chaplain HMP Lewes, Crawley Prison Fellowship)



Here is some of the feedback that we have received from the fathers:

- 1 *"The children were surprised that people cared that much to do this for them."*
- 2 *"My daughter is only eight months old but her mother was so surprised at the effort that was made."*
- 3 *"They thought I had got the presents, but when I told them, they said it was very nice of Angel Tree to do that."*
- 4 *"She was so pleased she got upset so "Thank You Angel Tree" you volunteers are the real angels."*
- 5 *"They were over the moon, as my presents were the only ones sent by Royal Mail."*
- 6 *"My son is too young to speak, but my partner said he never leaves the present alone."*
- 7 *"She was extremely excited over the gift and she said "Thank you Daddy""*
- 8 *"Thank you for thinking of my children, when I was not there."*
- 9 *"Thank you so much, as I could not be there for my son. Your service was excellent, it gave me a chance to give my son a little something. I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart. God Bless You All."*
- 10 *"I would like to say thank you, as it was virtually impossible for me to send a present."*

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.

April Church diary

2nd Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, URC	21st Thursday		House Groups
3rd Sunday	9:30am	Family Service	23rd Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, URC
	11:15am	Morning Worship David Walters	24th Sunday	9:30am	Communion
	6:30pm	Evening Worship David Goodenough		11:15am	Communion Keith Morrison
6th Wednesday	12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship		6:30pm	Evening Worship Keith Morrison
7th Thursday		House Groups	26th Tuesday	7:45pm	In Touch
9th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, URC	27th Wednesday	2:30pm 7:45pm	The Fellowship Elders' Meeting
10th Sunday	9:30am	Family Service	28th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
	11:15am	Morning Worship Rev Keith Morrison	30th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, URC
	6:30pm	Evening Worship Including Baptism of Izzy McQuillin	May 1st Sunday	9:30am	Family Service
14th Thursday		Church Meeting		11:15am	Morning Worship Keith Morrison
16th Saturday	8:45am	3 Churches Prayer Meeting, URC		6:30pm	Evening Worship Keith Morrison
17th Sunday	9:30am	Family Service			
	11:15am	Morning Worship Keith Morrison			
	6:30pm	Communion Keith Morrison			



YOUTH

Hello

Last month I wrote about Pulse Plus. This month I thought I would focus on Pulse Junior.

Pulse Junior meet every Friday evening from 5pm until 6.30pm for those aged 7-11.

There have been a few changes to Pulse Junior since Christmas including a small increase in numbers! We now are getting about ten each week and I hope that this will continue to grow.

Pulse Junior is now running every Friday instead of fortnightly as it was before Christmas.

This is because I realised that there was not a weekly youth group for girls of this age. Any boys of this age are able to join Boys' Brigade if they chose to, but this option was not available for girls. Now that Pulse Junior is running each week, it gives a group for girls aged 7-11 to attend each week.

The other benefit of running Pulse Junior each week is that a group that runs weekly is easier to remember than fortnightly! And this might be a contribution to the number increase.

One other new thing that has been introduced this term is to encourage the children who come along to clear their own tables after dinner.

Spring Harvest Trip

This has been a great success and they often fight over who will clear the plates and who will wipe down the tables! (take note for when they are at home!) We even have one little boy who loves to wipe the tables so much, he has the biggest grin on his face every time he does it!

This term we have been looking at Joseph and how God was watching over his life and guiding him through the highs and lows. Each week we look at a little bit more of the story and discover another way that God provided for him.

We have been doing many different crafts to go along with the story including Joseph's colourful coat, pyramids and the pharaoh's head garment!

Our aim in Pulse Junior is to provide a fun, relaxing and engaging place for young people to learn about the love of God and have freedom in asking any questions they may have.

Please pray that more young people will come along to Pulse Junior and that the leaders are able to make it a fun place for young people to learn about Christ.

In April, from 2nd to 6th, Ruth and I are taking six youths from Pulse to Spring Harvest. The theme for 2016 is 'Game Changers'. Looking at what it would mean to change the landscape of this nation in the name of Jesus. Looking at what it means to have an encounter with God that then inspires confidence in us to transform our communities and change the world in His name.

Please pray that as a group, we can learn to be game changers within Lindfield and the surrounding communities. Returning with confidence in Christ that if we step out in faith, He won't let us down!

Danny

PAGES

Danny

Boys' Brigade

The Awards Evening is still in the future as I write this, and a report on that event will appear in a future issue of Good News, so I hope I may be forgiven for some personal reflections on my BB service.

The American evangelist Lyman Beecher (father of Harriet Beecher Stowe) said towards the end of his long ministry "If God should tell me that I might choose to begin my life over again and work once more, I would enlist for him again in a minute!". My sentiments exactly: if I was 18 again, I would, without hesitation, choose to do what I have done with my life, and spend it working with boys and young men in The Boys' Brigade.

I would never claim the qualities of a great leader, but I have felt a serene confidence that in witnessing to the Gospel among youngsters, I was doing what I was meant to do. If there was an opportunity for a repeat performance, I would hope to avoid some mistakes, but if there have been errors, they have often lain in the direction of too little, not too much, zeal. A Christian cannot be too committed to the service of the Lord.

Boys today suffer severely from a deeply dysfunctional society, and a political leadership which either sits on the fence, or has developed a barely concealed hostility to the values Christians hold dear. In a secular society, young people may be taught things which run contrary to what we believe to be the truth. Although there are no statistics as such, there is an estimate that 90% of white working class males have no religious belief, or simply do not go to church. In these circumstances, the work of a BB Company is all the more precious and vital: its witness may be the only time in his young life that a boy is brought into contact with the Gospel message.

Now, as I retire from the post of BB Captain, which age and health do not enable me realistically to do justice to, I commend the continued work of the BB to the congregation. Please continue to support the Company with your prayers, and your encouragement, cherish it, nurture it, and send your sons to join it. Be its friend in difficult as well as flourishing times – it is disappointing to hear of church congregations who have only supported their BB Companies when they were successful, and ditched them when they were perceived to be failing.

The BB doesn't need fair weather friends, but persevering supporters, who will have a vision for the potential of their local Company.

I am not doing a disappearing act: although the wish of the staff is

that I should be the administrator of the Company from next session, I hope to be involved in its work in a more modest role for as long as God shall be pleased to give me the strength to sustain it.

Geoffrey Cocksedge



Know Lindfield



Questions

How many tollgates were there in Lindfield and where were they?

When were they removed?

Why was there a perceived need for more than one?

Answer in the next issue of Good News.

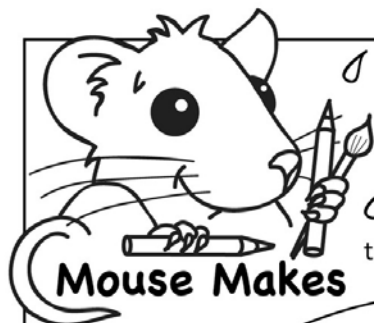
Answer to March photo

There were 5 public houses in the High Street in 1900.

They were The White Horse, The Stand Up Inn, The Red Lion, The Bent Arms and The Tiger.

The Tiger was bought by All Saints Church in 1916 and it became known as Church House.

The URC had a public house connection as Ryecroft was previously the site of The Red Lion. However The Red Lion moved to Porters in 1804 and its present site in 1833, that is before our Church was built.



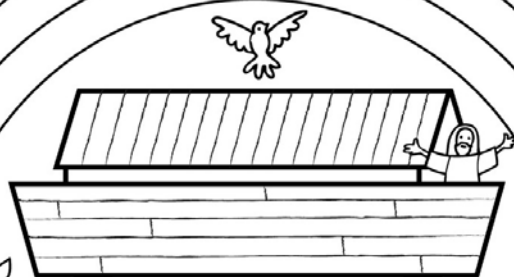
It rained and it rained, for forty days it rained until a great flood covered the earth. Only Noah and his family and two of every living creature were still alive, safe in the great ark that God had instructed Noah to build.

When the flood went down Noah came out of the ark, praised God and built an altar to the Lord.

READ Genesis 6 - 9

Why did
God save
Noah?

What did God
promise
Noah?



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

GOD • NOAH • SHEM • HAM • JAPHETH • DESTROY • ARK • BUILD • TAR • WOOD • ROOF
DOOR • ANIMALS • BIRDS • SEVEN • TWO • FOOD • SKY • WIND • RAIN • EARTH
FORTY DAYS • WATER • FLOOD • WORLD • MOUNTAINS • ARARAT • DRY • GROUND
RAVEN • DOVE • OLIVE LEAF • ALTAR • SACRIFICE • LORD • COVENANT • RAINBOW



Flowers Bring Cheer

The sudden and unexpected passing of Jessie Green's husband in 1982 triggered a response from friends and family that resulted in her garage becoming a de facto florist shop. Folk were re-arranging the floral tributes, cutting the flowers and making new flower arrangements to distribute in the local community.

One recipient living in Franklands Village having had her garden wrecked the night before the flowers were delivered was very pleased to receive the gift as Jessie later learned in a note.

"Flowers bring cheer" says Jessie.

Jessie and others continue to bring the cheer of flowers to others with their flower arrangements in the Church each week.

We all benefit from their commitment that reminds us of the beauty in God's creation.

Speaking with Jessie she said "Monday morning the flowers go to people who are for example unwell or on their own and the flowers cheer them up".

Flower arranging can also be very personal and for Jessie it is. She contributes to the arrangement in the church each February in memory of her husband and in October which was the month of their wedding.

Thank you to all our flower arrangers.

Henderson McEwan



Wider World

Colombia

Warring factions in Colombia, South America, are targeting Christians for extortion and forced military service, according to a new report from Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW).

The report, "Colombia : Freedom of Religion or Belief and Freedom of Conscience" is based on a fact-finding visit during which CSW interviewed church leaders from five areas where there is a strong presence of illegal armed groups.

Peace talks between the government and the main rebel opposition group are expected to end a five decades long conflict that has seen atrocities on both sides. However, church leaders say that restrictions on religion imposed by left-leaning rebel groups remain. Paramilitary groups continue to threaten church leaders who refuse to co-operate with them and many of them face violence. The leaders say they expect to see little improvement in this situation whether or not a peace agreement is signed.

Young people, including Christian youths continue to be forced into illegal armed groups or the military even when they declare themselves conscientious objectors based on their deeply held religious beliefs. Christian converts attempting to leave such groups are forced into hiding or killed.

CSW welcome the steps taken by the Colombian government, but remain deeply concerned at the situation in many parts of the country.

Iran

Christianity is spreading inside Iran despite a government crackdown against house churches.

According to the Christian Post, a source affiliated with the Pars Theological Centre said that many new Christians (formerly Muslims) are worshipping secretly in a rapidly accelerating house-church movement inside the Islamic Republic. The source says, "It is not an anti-Iranian movement. It's a great number of Muslims turning to Christ".

The President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinajad has launched a massive crackdown on these house churches and, sadly, many new Christians suffer the threat of being arrested and imprisoned or even face death.

We are asked to pray for these people who remain faithful to Christ and to "Pray that their testimony would go forth for the glory of God".

Carol Marsh

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

John 8:12 NIV

Our news media bombard us with stories of hatred and violence, and it is easy to feel overwhelmed with the darkness of evil. We need constantly to turn to John's Gospel, where one of the themes is Light, the light that “shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

Ever since that evening many years ago when the preacher took as his text Matthew 16v24 and I responded to the Gospel appeal, the Christian life has for me been all about following Jesus. He has given me purpose in life, courage to take on new challenges, and the companionship of one who, although He was the Son of God, was known as the friend of sinners.

John 8v12 is very special to me because of its wonderful promise, from the lips of Jesus himself, that if we keep our eyes on Him, we shall never stumble in the darkness, but have the living light. Light speaks to me of guidance: many of us can testify that, as we look back on a long life, we see clear evidence of God's guiding hand. And it speaks of inner illumination as God's Spirit shines in our hearts to make the Scriptures come alive. And light speaks of forgiveness, the refreshing cleansing we have as we walk in the light.

What a wonderful life this verse promises us. As the old chorus says: “All I have to do is follow.”

Mike Gardiner

Good Neighbours



In support of the Community

Please be a volunteer with CARE and
'Catch the Wave' as you serve!

- | | | |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| C | are for each other | Luke 6:31 |
| A | sk for help.... | Phone 01444 455955 |
| T | alk to the Duty Officer | 9am until 5.00pm |
| C | hat to clients | whilst visiting a "Shut-in" |
| H | elp folks | with shopping or transport |

The

W hat time per month are you able to offer?

A nd maybe, "man the phone for a day or pm?"

V olunteer the time you offer to God to use.

E njoy the obedience of God's Prompting



Spring Wonder



I have lived in this lovely village for nearly fifty years. Every year I look out on my garden and see the Oak Tree burst into leaf and the shrubs and flowers in bloom.

Spring is such a wonderful time, one of God's many miracles. I have always loved gardening and painting all the beautiful flowers we see in the garden.

I think it started when I was quite young helping my father to grow our own vegetables during the war. What a thrill to dig up our own potatoes. When I am in the garden I feel relaxed and it is so peaceful watching so much nature, birds nesting and squirrels trying to get at the feeders! When I pray I thank God that I am fit and able to enjoy my garden and I hope to continue for many more years.

Pat Davies

All Age Games Night!

Who: Everyone!

Where: Lindfield URC

When: Saturday 9th April
5.30pm to 9pm

Snacks and drinks will be available during the evening.

Feel free to bring a friend or two!

Come and have fun!



Phonebook

Keith Morrison (Minister)

Telephone 01444 484791
Email kmorrison@lindfielddurc.org.uk

Danny Goodall (Youth Pastor)

Youth Office 01444 487607
Mobile 07443 438970
Email dgoodall@lindfielddurc.org.uk

Church Secretary

Sue Waller 01444 455047
Email waller.s@sky.com

Treasurer

Terry Ward 01444 482986

Boys' Brigade:

Geoffrey Cocksedge 01444 474007

Flowers

Betty Billins 01444 484494

Hall Booking Secretary

Shirley Anton 01444 482819

In Touch

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Lunch Fellowship

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Pastoral Group

Fiona Tingley 01444 483419

The Fellowship

Pat Philips 01444 484507

Stepping Stones

Zoe McQuillin 01444 484364

Transport

Janet Drayton 01444 483621

Lighthouse (Junior Church)

Co-ordinator

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Flower Rota

	Arranging	Distributing
April		
3rd	Anne Parker	Liz Cantwell
10th	Mies Campling	Sue Tester
17th	Carol Marsh	Jo Bloxham
24th	Zoe McQuillin	Iris Bingham
May		
1st	Fo Tingley	Heather Swann
8th	Boys Brigade	Fo Tingley
15th	Serena Nathan	Nick Bingham
22nd	Winifred Scopes	Liz Cantwell
29th	Audrey Saunders	

If anyone would like to be involved with distributing the church flowers on Monday morning at 10.30am please contact Heather Swann

Around Lindfield

Saturday 2nd April

2.00pm Horticultural Society in King Edward Hall
Spring Show of Flowers and Produce.

Sunday 10th April

7.30pm Ardingly Choral Society with Mid-Sussex Sinfonia
The Creation By Joseph Haydn, Conductor: Robert Hammersley
Soprano Eloise Irvine, Alto Jane Haughton
Tenor Adrian Thompson, Bass Mark Stone
Tickets £14 (conc. £12.00) from Carousel Music 01444 417654
M. Kershaw 01825 791241

Wednesday 13th April

12.15pm Tiger Arts : Lunch in Lindfield URC
1.00pm Concert : Mark Jennings - Classical guitar
8.00pm Horticultural Society in King Edward Hall
"The National Gardens Scheme"

Saturday 16th April

7.45pm Haywards Heath music society, St Wilfrid's Church
Quintet Prince Bishops Brass will present a programme of music
'From Bach to Boogie'. Tickets £12 (non members)
Information : Christine HH 456227
or www.haywardsheathmusicsociety.org.uk

Wednesday 20th April

2.30pm Lindfield Preservation Society in King Edward Hall
Talk - "Life on the Canals"

Thursday 21st April

7.30pm Lindfield Film Night in King Edward Hall
"Brooklyn" cert A
Tickets available from Tufnells

You are Loved.

Yes. **You.** Are.

John 3:16



Like



Love



Wow

Alpha, is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith and the meaning of life.

No pressure and no charge
Lindfield United Reformed Church
From Tuesday April 12th @ 7:30pm

More Information :
www.lindfieldurc.org.uk
alpha@lindfieldurc.org.uk

