



GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

September 2016

**To every
thing there
is a season,
and a time to
every purpose
under heaven**

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Bible verse of the month

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”

Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV



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See page 12 for more information about our verse this month from Henderson McEwan.

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



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Editorial

This month we are hoping Keith our Minister is gaining so much from his sabbatical.

We have missed him and are very thankful that we have a wonderful Eldership who are coping so well in his absence. So many of our families are on holiday and we hope that both parents and children will be refreshed and ready to get back into ordinary life again!

We have a variety of articles; there are words which may help to comfort those who have lost loved ones, and also those in pain. The Mission Group tell us about the Mercy Ships. This is such a wonderful way of helping so many people with their illnesses. When healed this can enable them to have fuller lives so they can possibly work once again, and be a part of their community. Stepping Stones once again starts with enthusiasm and we all look forward to seeing the children and their carers again.

Lighthouse has new changes for the children on a Sunday morning, do read what new happenings there will be in September. As we all start a new month may we be thankful for all we have and enjoy the fellowship we all share. We pray that so many will come to know the love of Jesus and how it is so good to try to share the Good News with everyone.

God Bless from,

Anne

October Edition Copy Date :
Sun September 11th 2016

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

With our Minister Keith on Sabbatical, it falls to me to write the letter this month!

Well, with the summer almost gone (and I hope that it has been a good one for you), we come to the beginning of the academic year, and also to a fresh start in many of our Church activities. So what have we got to look forward to?

The children and young people have re-named groups, and some changes in how the ages are split up. The ever popular Stepping Stones Group for Parents and Carers with their babies and toddlers, brings mutual support among the adults, while the little ones enjoy play, Bible stories, and singing. The House Groups (who, incidentally, are always glad to welcome new members) will continue in the present format this term. However, there will be something different to look forward to after Christmas! All this, not to mention The Fellowship and In Touch, are great opportunities to build relationships.

That word, 'Relationship' has been key in much of our thinking and teaching over the past few months. When seeking God's guidance for the way forward for Lindfield URC, the Elders were led to the conclusion that for the Church to grow, we need to deepen our relationship with the living Lord Jesus, both as individuals and corporately. Joyce Meyer, a well known Christian writer, puts it like this:

"When we have a real relationship with God through Christ, life gets exciting because He stirs up a passion inside us to love people – and we don't have to struggle to do the things He calls us to do. It just happens naturally."

Wow! I quite like the sound of that, I don't know about you? So the teaching on building our relationship with God and with one another will continue, culminating in the Church Away Weekend at Pilgrim Hall next June. The speaker for that event is The Rev. David Bedford, who, we believe, will encourage us further as we grow closer to our Lord and Saviour, and seek to be the Disciples He desires us to be as we serve and follow Him. So we have plenty to look forward to and be challenged in the coming twelve months.

There will be purely fun times, too, when we can 'Let our hair down' so to speak! One of these will be over our Harvest weekend on the 1st and 2nd October, and once again we are to have a Barn Dance for all the Family on the Saturday evening. (See separate article) Hopefully, we'll also enjoy some more Family Games evenings, which are also proving increasingly popular.

St Paul says:

"I keep working towards the day when I will finally be all that Christ saved me for and wants me to be."

Phil 3:12 NLT

Wherever we are on our Christian journey, I believe that challenge is for us too. We have a God who forgives us when we let Him down, and a God who loves each one of us, His adopted sons and daughters. So we already have a relationship with God as our Heavenly Father. God desires that our relationship with Him truly comes from our hearts. The stronger that relationship becomes, the more we'll be able to trust Him, and the greater will be our desire to show that same love to each other, working together and following Christ's example. Jesus Himself called His Followers His brothers and His friends. That is a privilege for us too, because of God's amazing Grace!

May we know our Lord's blessing and direction as we continue our spiritual journey, walking hand in hand with Him, encouraged by one another.

Fiona

Fiona Tingley (Elder)



From a tiny seed planted in a little painted pot given on Mothering Sunday, to these healthy Sunflowers, which are giving me much pleasure.

Thank you Lighthouse!

Fiona Tingley

Family News

Sad News

We give thanks for the very long life of our oldest Church member, Irene Curtis, who died in July at the wonderful age of 102! Irene was a much admired and well respected friend, who coped (without complaining) with being both blind and deaf. She had remained living in her own home until just before her death, which happened just after she had moved into Compton House. We will miss her faithful attendance at Church services, and the interesting and enjoyable visits some of us will fondly remember. Irene leaves two sisters and a brother. We extend to them and to her nephew Peter and all the wider family our sincere sympathy.

Sadly, we've lost another long-standing member of the Church. Aubrey Derham died on August 8th in The Princess Royal Hospital. In the past, Aubrey was always ready for a bit of banter, either about his beloved rugby or his favourite tippie! Yet he was a true Christian gentleman, in every sense of the word. Aubrey and Norna have been part of our Church Family for about 50 years, and Aubrey has had various responsibilities in the life of the Church, mainly in connection with the finances, where he served on the Finance Group and regularly counted the collection on a Monday morning. His faithful attendance at prayer meetings,

Church meetings and Sunday services, will mean that this friendly and caring servant of the Lord will be sadly missed by us all. He had become increasingly frail in recent months, but we can rejoice that he is now safely home with his Lord and Saviour.

Our love, prayers and heart-felt sympathy go out to Norna (they had been married for 64 years), and to their Daughter and Son, Morag and Keith, and to the wider family.

And now for some...

Good News

There are two Golden Wedding Anniversaries coming up in the next few weeks - Peter and Heather Swann and Moira and Chris Kinnear.

We send our love and offer to both couples our warmest congratulations. May the Lord bless and encourage you as you each celebrate 50 years of marriage.

There is a Silver Wedding too, to celebrate! Dan and Zoe McQuillin have recently celebrated their 25th Anniversary. Well done, and keep up the good work! God bless you both and your family.

Fo Tingley

The Fellowship

On Wednesday, 28 September, at 2.30 pm, we start the new season with our short AGM. This will be followed by a talk given by Graham Wood entitled "The Jungle is Neutral".

At the end of the talk there will be a cup of tea and time for a chat.

There will be the Bring & Buy stall but it will be rather sparse unless members are able to donate some small article or book to stock it!

Pat Phillips

Thank You

It is with great sadness, yet also with thanksgiving for a life well lived and so loved, that we said farewell to Aubrey.

He has been a member of this church family for many years and valued the friendship and fellowship.

Thank you for your love and support to us.

It really is appreciated.

Norna and family

Thank You

Iwould like to thank everyone who has been praying for me, visiting me while I was in Mill View Nursing Home, sent me cards etc. since I had my heart surgery at the beginning of June.

I am now back home and recovering well (so I am told!). I am not driving again yet but do hope to be back among you all before too long.

With Christian love and blessings,
Gill Couchy

Lunch Dates

Please remember we meet for Lunches on Wednesday at 12.30pm

2016

September 7th

October 5th

November 2nd

Christmas Lunch

December 7th

(£5.00)

2017

January 4th

If you are aware of anyone who would like to come to the Lunch please call Sue on 01444 455047 or 07929081704

Sue Waller

Family News

Lindfield URC Voices

We have been busy. We have visited and sung at Compton House, Summerlands and Rookwood care home at Burgess Hill. Additionally, we had an enjoyable concert in July at the church.

We served over 75 cups of tea and the Church was decorated with bunting and flags to celebrate the Queen's Birthday. The "I was there" session about the Coronation was especially illuminating. Likewise people recalled to me that they had been to Billy Graham Crusades. The donations were over £220 and a cheque for £110 was sent to the Air Ambulance Charity. The balance went to church funds.

Our grateful thanks to our piano players and also to Richard Walters for the PA and sound effects. We are now resting until Friday 16th September at 7-30 which is the next rehearsal.

Already we are booking dates for Autumn and Christmas and if you feel that you would like to be part of this outreach challenge then come and join us.

You will be welcome.

Peter Swann

01444 450335

In Touch

In July we were able to have our walk in Blunts Wood, having been "rained off" in June when we were at least able to enjoy our meal together, slightly earlier in the evening than had been planned!! The walk through Blunts Wood was very enjoyable, the weather was fine and there was no mud, something we definitely would have encountered if we had gone in June!!

On September 27th we meet as usual in the church lounge for coffee at 7.45pm after which Jacquie Odell will be leading the evening for us. She will be talking about "Images of Christ" and we look forward to hearing her sharing her thoughts with us. Everyone, as usual, is welcome to come and join us for the evening and we hope to see some new faces as our regular members.

Janet Wade



Saturday September 17th the church will be open as part of Lindfield Arts Festival. The church will be filled with Music (including InChoir, Rok School and the Mid Sussex Sinfonia) and the Upper Room will host Authors, Story Tellers and Writing Workshops.

Harvest Supper

and Barn Dance

Once again, because of the enjoyment we've had in previous years, the Harvest Supper on **Saturday, October 1st** will be a Barn Dance and will include a Ploughman's meal.

We will start the dancing at 6.30pm and eat between 7 and 7.30pm, in order that it can be a real Family occasion. (Those with young children can then leave at whatever time is appropriate for them.).

Events like this are an excellent opportunity to which you can invite friends and neighbours too.

A number of folk from the local Folk Dance Club have eagerly requested to join us again in the fun and laughter!

All will be most welcome!

Tickets will be available early in September - £5 for adults and children free.

Whether or not you are able to take part in the dancing, you will be sure of a lot of laughs, and it will be a great opportunity to enjoy one another's company!

Fiona Tingley



Mission Group

Mercy Ships



Some years ago, my husband Ted and I went to London docks to look around the Mercy Ships' 'Anastasis', which was here for an overhaul. We were astonished to see how this ship had been transformed into a floating hospital, and from that day on Ted devoted a lot of his giving and prayer time to this worthy cause.

When Paul Hellyer came to speak to us he told us that he had been a dentist for 30 years and on retirement had volunteered on the Anastasis and also on their present ship, African Mercy. This independent hospital unit is manned by volunteers, from the captain, to deck hands, surgeons, cooks, teachers, people who clear tables etc.

There is a school, library, general store. In fact it is a floating village. There can be as many as 35 different nationalities on board at one time, and it has just completed its second 18 month tour of Madagascar. It is now in South Africa being refitted, and soon it is going to Benin in West Africa.

It is advertised when the ship is coming, and on its arrival, there are thousands of people queuing for 'screening'. One father was bringing his seriously ill little boy, and he said "I knew God came with the ship". Mercy Ships attract crowds. JESUS attracted crowds who gathered, collected around him and followed him.

People were amazed at what He did. Jesus taught them, healed them, spoke in parables and had compassion on them. MERCY SHIPS USES THE JESUS MODEL. They teach people about health care, heal them, hire interpreters so that they can communicate and also get the Good News message across.

There are little or no medical facilities in these areas, and often dental and eye clinic patients have operations on the dockside as there is not enough room on the ship. The work performed is life changing for these people.

In Africa if you're blind you cannot get work, women cannot marry. A routine cataract operation changes this. Babies born with a cleft lip and palate were abandoned and starved to death because they think they're from the devil.

The ship operates a 'Walk in blood bank' - the crew is the blood bank! A Palliative Care Team and a Prayer Team go to villages where there are people who can't be helped.

Gary Parker who is a Maxillofacial surgeon, has dedicated his life to the organisation and brought up his family on board. Paul says he is top in the world and if he'd worked in America he could have earned millions.

Paul concluded his talk to us with a quote from St. Teresa of Avila.

"Christ has no body now but yours.

No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Ours are the hands through which he blesses the entire world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, and you are his body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours".

Lesley Sparks

Bible Verse

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men;

yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”

Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV

Sometimes it is hard to see the good in people, or in the outcome of situations that cause distress.

Where is the good in that? It can be difficult to define what beauty is when it is regarded as in the eye of the beholder. It's frustrating to see a pile of dead flowers or rotting vegetables when we visit a garden expecting to enjoy colour and form and may be take home tasty fruits to savour.

Could it be we were in the wrong place at the wrong time? King Solomon is attributed to be the author of Ecclesiastes a man who through time had ignored God with his sensual and selfish life.

His writing oozes frustration with life, later recognising earthly pleasures and pursuits can never completely satisfy. Like me you would have seen the view of God's creation, earth from the International Space Station and may be marvelled at its beauty for it is beautiful.

The more we see and begin to understand about our own life on earth, the more we realise how little we know, as it dawns on us that we don't know, what we do not know.

We do know God has made everything for his pleasure and glory but we 'cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end'.

Our world is huge, tantalisingly big, however its pleasures and pursuits are never enough to permanently satisfy. King Solomon, 'The Preacher' in Ecclesiastes realised his limitations to fathom all of life was not failure, rather it is as ordained by God.

Henderson McEwan

Why Me?

Following my recent diagnosis of Bowel Cancer, I remember the article which I put in the Good News in January 2002, two years after my very serious aneurism.

"Why me?" That seems to be the most-often heard question after someone has suffered a loss, tragedy or affliction.

"Why Me?"

I know it is easy for someone else to say it but how often do you hear what, perhaps, should be the question:

"Why not me?"

Do we, when hit by suffering, really think someone else deserves it or should experience it, but not us?

Over the last two to three weeks, I have thought, so often, how my circumstances, health and outlook are so different from the situation twelve months ago. I shall never forget the amazing amount of prayer, which uplifted me, in this and other Churches, as well as privately, by friends, that occurred over those days.

I move forward putting my trust in God and know that I am being supported by Him. I want to thank all who are praying for me again with love.

Hilary Shepherd

Emerald Isle Limerick

This is a poem reflecting our holiday together in Ireland.

*To Ireland we went, expecting the wet,
But to our surprise, what did we get?
Sunshine and cloud, very little rain;
How blessed we were by our God once again!*

*Beautiful scenery, an interesting place.
An enormous bedroom with masses of space!
The coach driver was brilliant, our fellow travellers, like mates..
And Christians we found, God blessings were great!*

*To a show we went of Irish dance and song,
We were so glad we went along.
The Churches were lovely, the people were kind.
God restored us again, in body and mind.*

*So thank you, Lord, for our time together,
The joys of our holiday couldn't have been better!
Whether or not you've been away,*

We pray God will bless you from day to day.

Betty and Fo

Ever changing

Scenes of life

There is so much in life we humans take for granted - 'We're in control of our lives' - until one comes up against it. The prevailing nature of today's world impacts upon peoples' lives with such force; yet, notwithstanding this, there's an air of illusory thinking 'I'm impervious to such things; it can't possibly touch my life!' But life can suddenly be turned upside down by the unexpected – as mine has been!!!

I was overcome by severe osteoarthritis that hit me like a 'ton of bricks', reducing me to a helpless confusion of chronic pain that essentially, left me powerless to do the things I'd always been able to do, & yes, taken it for granted!

Having been so capable & self-sufficient - despite various medical problems I've had most of my adult life, I thought I could overcome anything - in my self-delusion. Finally, however, following risky cervical neck surgery, I found myself in a vulnerable position; I implored God with every fibre of my being, to release me from this ordeal of hopeless despair. God heard my plea, and has blessed me with His providence, and I now, know more fully that, He is the only true source of my strength, joy and peace. Indeed, I still stumble and get things wrong, but it's so assuring to be gift-wrapped in the Lords' forgiveness and ever-loving arms.

He has led me to do voluntary work with the Chaplaincy team at the P. R. H. from which, I gain so much pleasure meeting, talking, and sometimes – if they wish it, praying with vulnerable patients and their relatives. I count it a privilege and a blessing to do this for God.

I find the words in the following poem, so amazing and profound, and I hope you are inspired by them, as am I.

'The Gate of the Year' is the popular name given to the poem, written by Minnie Louise Haskins. She was a remarkable lady, born and educated near Bristol where she studied informally at University College, Bristol while undertaking voluntary work for the local Congregational Church. By 1903 she was working in Lambeth for the Springfield Hall Wesleyan Methodist mission and in 1907 she departed for Madras with the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society to work in the Zenana mission to women.

The title given to it by the author was 'God Knows'. She studied and then taught at the London School of Economics in the first half of the twentieth century.

God knows

*And I said to the man who stood
at the gate of the year: "Give me a
light that I may tread safely into the
unknown."*

*And he replied: "Go out into the
darkness and put your hand into
the Hand of God. That shall be to
you better than light and safer
than a known way." So I went forth,
and finding the Hand of God, trod
gladly into the night. And He led me
towards the hills and the breaking of
day in the lone East.*

*So heart be still: What need our
little life Our human life to know, If
God hath comprehension? In all the
dizzy strife of things both high and
low, God hideth His intention*

God knows. His will is best.

*The stretch of years which wind
ahead, so dim to our imperfect
vision, Are clear to God.*

Our fears are premature;

In Him, all time hath full provision.

*Then rest: until God moves to lift the
veil from our impatient eyes, When,
as the sweeter features of life's stern
face we hail, fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around His creatures
Our mind shall fill.*

Background

The poem, written in 1908 and privately published in 1912, was part of a collection titled *The Desert*. It caught the public attention and the popular imagination when King George VI quoted it in his 1939 Christmas broadcast to the British Empire. The poem was brought to his attention by his wife, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Consort.

The book "The Servant Queen and the King She Serves" published for Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday, and with a Foreword by Queen Elizabeth, says that it was the young Elizabeth herself, aged 13, who handed the poem to her father.

The poem was widely acclaimed as inspirational, reaching its first mass audience in the early days of WW2. Its words remained a source of comfort to the Queen for the rest of her life, and she had its words engraved on stone plaques and fixed to the gates of the King George VI Memorial Chapel at Windsor Castle, where the King was interred. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was also buried here in 2002, and the words of "The Gate of the Year" were included in a reflection in her funeral order of service.

Iris Bingham

(background material from wikipedia)

Service Times

Please take careful note:

From the **26th June up to and including the 9th October** the Sunday Service times will be :

10.00am & 6.30pm

Refreshments will be served following that 10.00am service when it is hoped there will a time for fellowship to be had together.

As usual Holy Communion will be on the 4th Sunday at 10.00am and 2nd Sunday at 6.30pm . When there is a 5th Sunday the evening service will combine with the Evangelical Free Church.

If you have any queries about these arrangements please do not hesitate to speak with an Elder who will be pleased to help.

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	Rooted
	7.30pm	Pulse (Years 6-9) games, craft, tuck and a bible message (term time)
Sun	7.30pm	18-25 Group

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

September Church diary

3rd Saturday	8:45am	Prayer Meeting, All Saints, Tiger	18th Sunday	10:00am	Family Service Jeremy Heath
				6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Robert Bushby
4th Sunday	10:00am	Family Service Samuel Mahamuza	22nd Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
	6:30pm	Evening Worship Tom Warburton			
7th Wednesday	12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship	24th Saturday	8:45am	Prayer Meeting, All Saints, Tiger
8th Thursday	8.00pm	Church Meeting	25th Sunday	10.00am	Communion Dan McQuillin
				6:30pm	Evening Worship TBA
10th Saturday	8:45am	Prayer Meeting, All Saints, Tiger			
11th Sunday	10:00am	Family Service Stuart Dew	27th Tuesday	7:45pm	In Touch Ladies Group
	6:30pm	Evening Worship and Communion			
15th Thursday		House Groups	28th Wednesday	2:30pm	The Fellowship
				7:45pm	Elders' Meeting
17th Saturday		Lindfield Arts Festival			
	8:45am	Prayer Meeting, All Saints, Tiger			

Information on the Church Diary is subject to change. Check the weekly notice sheet and the church website (www.lindfieldurc.org.uk) for up to date information about all Church events.



YOUTH

Hello!

A new academic year, cooler temperatures and vibrant autumn colours remind us that change is in the air. You will read from Dawn that about some alterations of our own to a few of our Junior Church groups.

Its is also the time celebrate progression (Sunday September 11th) as some youngsters move up to new groups and a time when others move away to study at university.

Please keep them all, and their leaders and teachers in your prayers.

Danny

Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones our Toddler Club for Parents/Carers and their Under 3's will re-commence on Tuesday 13th September at 10am in the Church Hall. Our session starts at 10am and finishes after a sing-song at 11.30am.

Last term we introduced a messy play area, so you could find us outside with a tray of ice cubes, playdough, foam or moon sand (a combination of flour and baby oil). More ideas are planned for this term and hopefully the weather will be kind as the youngsters love to go out in the small garden at the back.

We would like to further our provision of the outside play area. So there may be more developments to come.

This term we also have plans to acknowledge the MacMillan Biggest Coffee morning in September and Children in Need in November. We plan to sell cakes and biscuits to raise money for each of these two great charities.

If you would like to join us on Tuesday mornings, please give Zoe a call on 01444 484364.

Zoe McQuillin



PAGES

Boys' Brigade

When the new session starts in September, a complete change will have taken place in the leadership arrangements. There will be no captain as such, although Keith as our Chaplain will (on return) be the contact point for the Company: his role, though, will continue to be largely pastoral rather than administrative. The section heads will be: Terry Heyward for the Company Section, David Walters for the Juniors, and Danny Goodall for Anchors; all excellent people, who will do a fine job with the boys, together with the two Janets, Wade and Drayton, and Terisa Tuffin.

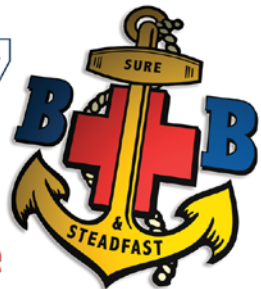
National Brigade Headquarters has devised a comprehensive new online system of administration, so that what required reams of paper in the past should now only require the touch of a button! We are most grateful to Emmeline Morrison for making her IT skills available to us to operate this Online Brigade Manager (OBM).

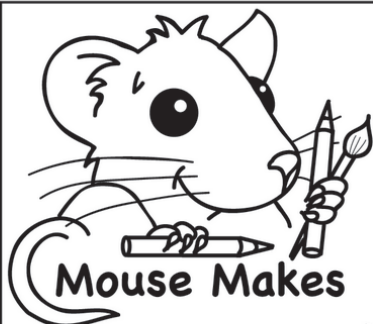
I will play a support role with the title 'Company Secretary' and do whatever odd jobs need to be done in the background, and help out with the activities for the boys if required.

We aim now to be primed and ready for the work that really matters: recruiting and retaining the boys, and building Christ's Kingdom in their lives. As is often the case, many of the lads who will be joining us in the coming months will be from a non-churchgoing background, but we also ask all church families with boys of 5 and above to bring them along to our meetings on Monday evenings, and get the benefits of BB membership. The life of the Church does not begin and end on Sunday mornings, important as they are, but continues through the week, and boys benefit from as full an involvement as possible.

Geoffrey Cocksedge

THE BOYS'
BRIGADE
> the adventure begins here





Thank you
God for...





See how many words can you
make using the letters from
HARVEST THANKSGIVING

HARVEST THANKSGIVING



Lord God, you made the world;
You made the land we live on,
the air we breathe,
the water we drink,
the food we eat.



Thank you Lord for the harvest.



Lord God, you give us all that
we need each day to live.



Thank you Lord for the harvest.

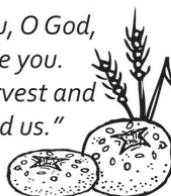
Lord God, help us to share all that you give us.

Thank you Lord for the harvest.



*"May the peoples praise you, O God,
may all the peoples praise you.*

*The land has yielded it's harvest and
God, our God, has blessed us."*



Psalm 67:6

What foods can you think of to finish this acrostic?

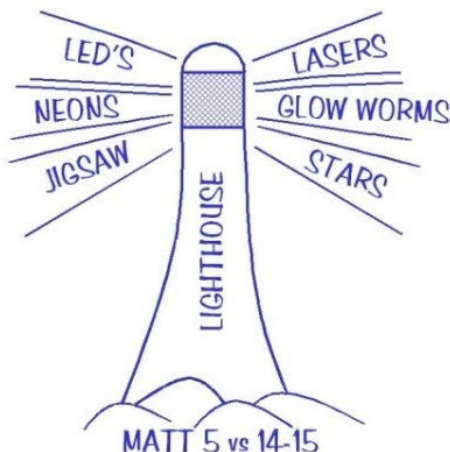
H
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Raspberries..
V
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S
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F
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VVegetables..
A
L



Spot the difference

As we start a new academic year for 2016, can you spot the difference in our Lighthouse logo?



From September we are delighted to be introducing a new group for older teenagers. Our current LED's group currently includes the full age range from 11 – 16 years but from Progression this year LED's will be for years 7 – 9 while our new groups – Neons – will be for years 10 – 13. We hope that this will allow the young people to have more relevant and age appropriate discussions and teaching. Both groups will continue to meet on a Sunday morning as part of our family worship.

Our Sunday morning children and youth activities are called Lighthouse after Matthew 5 vs 14 and 15 where Jesus calls us to be a light to the world and that is our vision for both the teachers and the

children that are part of Lighthouse, 'to give light to everyone' and share the amazing love and power of God.

The remaining Lighthouse groups will remain the same; Glowworms is for children aged 3 years – Reception, Stars is for children for school years Reception – year 2, and Lasers caters for children in school years 3 – 6. Glowworms, Stars and Lasers use Scripture Union material so that each group is considering the same story or theme but the material is targeted at different age ranges and the LEDs and Neons will follow their own syllabus which is determined by the leaders.

Each group obviously seeks to engage with the children with activities appropriate for their age so that these vary slightly from group to group but it would be fair to say that they include lots of exciting crafts, games, stories, songs and discussion. If you like the sound of this but are over 16 while I regret we cannot cater within the groups for older 'kids' there is always a welcome for new helpers. If this is something you would like to consider then please speak to Danny or myself.

Once a month we have Jigsaw, this is a totally different session when the older groups all meet together. Then we have lights and music, worship, puppets and a lot of fun! We are drawing to the close of our current series which has been Gods Big Top (you may have noticed some suspicious looking clowns in services on Jigsaw Sundays!). We have learned about different Bible characters and their similarity to people that you might find in the circus and have thought about what they can teach us about following Jesus and being his disciples. If you want to know more then please ask one of the children! We are starting a new series in September so watch the Jigsaw board in the hall for clues on our new theme!

We have had a good year in Lighthouse and the children and young people in our congregation are always a blessing. It is a source of great encouragement that they are always so keen to get out to their groups and activities.

As well as our Sunday morning activities we have also enjoyed a 'make a pizza party' at Pizza Express for our Christmas outing and the staff at the restaurant were very impressed with the childrens' involvement and good behaviour.

Over the month of August the children have enjoyed being led by a number of different people and our grateful thanks go to all who generously give of their time so that the regular teachers can have time off over the summer. From September the launch of the new group means that we now have some additional resourcing requirements but this is a good problem to have and we trust that God will faithfully provide as He has always done in the past.

We would always love to welcome new children and young people but are also very aware that God has blessed us already with a fantastic group of young people and we seek to honour God and them week by week as we spend time together. Please keep the teachers and children in your prayers, that both teachers and children will deepen their relationship with God and that we will see growth, both spiritually and numerically in the next year.

Dawn Walters

Lighthouse Coordinator

Release International



Release International serves the persecuted church around the world in five key ways:

Showing God's compassion

Providing for the needs of the families of Christians who are being persecuted or have been imprisoned or killed

Every year thousands of Christians are detained and imprisoned for their faith in Jesus Christ. Some are even martyred. Where families have lost the breadwinner, Release gives pastoral care and practical support



Serving God's Church

Enabling believers to survive persecution and its effects

Release stands with churches and church leaders around the world who are being persecuted because of their faith in Jesus Christ: by directly supporting persecuted pastors and their families; and by providing leadership and theological training.



Sharing God's Love

Helping persecuted Christians bring to Christ those who are opposed to the gospel

The Bible tells us that the apostle Paul was once a persecutor of the early church – until God turned his life around – transforming him into a mighty preacher and church-planter. Release helps persecuted churches bring the good news of the gospel – even to those who persecute them.

Spreading God's Word

Supplying Bibles and literature to meet the need for growth and evangelism

Release provides Bibles and Christian literature in local languages to build up the church, to encourage evangelism and disciple new believers in Christ.



Speaking as God's Advocates

Being the voice of the oppressed and persecuted

Release helps to bring the voice of the persecuted church to fellowships in the UK and Ireland, and also to governments. We regularly ask supporters to campaign on behalf of persecuted Christians by writing letters and using petitions.

Words of Comfort

For those who have lost loved ones

Whilst clearing papers I found this prayer which my Mother sent to me when I was living in Buenos Aires. My Father had died shortly after we left the UK. Only now with the loss of my husband, can I appreciate how she was feeling. What a strong comfort it is to know that help is on hand, we only have to ask for it. Thankfully my mother did ask and coped so well she knew and believed that,

"God will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away"

Revelation 21 verse 4

Anne Elvin

Bereft

It's happened to me, Master,
that heaviest blow to Marriage,
the death of a beloved partner.
When we made our life long vows we knew it was
"Till death do us part,"
but that moment seemed long away in a misty future.

Now my turn has come to walk alone.
I'm glad that my loved one went first,
glad that I could tend and serve him to his last day.
Thank you Lord for that.

Now I'm one of the great host of those who face single life,
After years of intimate comradeship.
I accept my lot without complaint,
for I am but one among many.
I have loved and have been loved,
now I must meet life's challenges alone.
Master it is not easy there is a painful shrinking from assuming burdens.
A desperate need to confide in someone to share with another.

For a time it seems half a life, a mechanical doing of duties, a painful remembering,
but your presence relieves some of the sting and gives hope for the days ahead.
One day there will be a reunion in that beyond which you have prepared.
So help me Lord, to live worthily, making of each day something of value.

Wider World

The Maldives

What do you think of when you hear of the Maldives? Probably a tropical island paradise with warm seas and beautiful beaches.

While these things are true, it is not the easiest place to live if you are not a Muslim. All citizens and holders of Public Office are required to be Muslims and stricter forms of Islam are now entering public life. Recently, a woman was sentenced to death by stoning for committing adultery, though this verdict was eventually overturned.

Foreign workers are under increasing pressure to wear more modest dress. There are restrictions on Bibles entering the country. Christians have to meet in secret and they do not have a full Bible translated into the Dhivehi language. The Maldives is actually thirteenth on the Open Doors watch list for Christian persecution, which is higher than Saudi Arabia.

Laos

Laos has a repressive communist government, though the population is mostly Buddhist.

The Religious Freedom report states that local authorities are often intolerant towards non-Buddhist religions, particularly Protestantism. Church leaders have been threatened if they continue to preach and some have been arrested and killed. Numerous Christians have been pressured to recant their faith under threats from local authorities.

Freedom of expression is not highly valued in Laos, so deviation from the norm is often treated with suspicion according to Open Doors. When churches grow, tensions can develop between Christians and the local tribes over local resources. If Christians refuse to participate in Buddhist religious services it can cause friction in local areas leading to more threats and persecution.

Carol Marsh



The story behind...

The Hymn; Jesus Thy Blood and Righteousness

*Jesus, Thy blood and
righteousness*

*My beauty are, my glorious
dress;*

*Midst flaming worlds, in these
arrayed,*

With joy shall I lift up my head.

*Bold shall I stand in that great
day,*

*Cleansed and redeemed, no
debt to pay;*

*Fully absolved through these
I am*

*From sin and fear, from guilt
and shame...*

*Jesus, be endless praise to
Thee,*

*Whose boundless mercy hath
for me,*

*For me, and all Thy hands
have made,*

An everlasting ransom paid.

Some of the most unlikely people become Christians, never mind go on to write much loved hymns. People like Count Nicholas Ludvig Von Zinzendorf, for example. He was born 1700 into a fabulously wealthy family in Saxony, and after law studies at the University of Wittenberg, had set out to travel in great style. But Zinzendorf got only as far as an art gallery in Dusseldorf before he had a Damascus Road experience.

For here Zinzendorf encountered a painting of Christ. His head was bowed and the inscription read: 'This have I done for thee, and what hast thou done for me?'

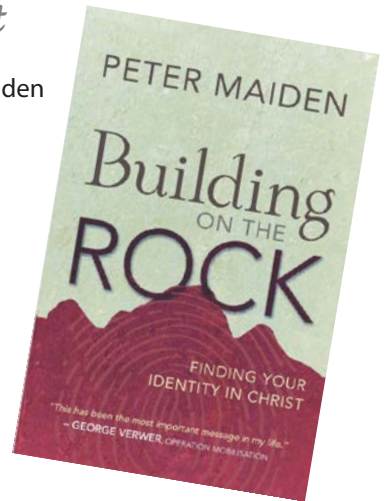
Zinzendorf was stopped in his tracks. He could not give any answer to the question. Like Paul, the encounter with the living Christ left him awed, shaken and confused. He returned to his large estate in Berthelsdorf in inner turmoil. It was a spiritual crisis that would change the course of his life. For, at 22, on his wedding day, he and his bride put aside their rank of nobility in order to follow Jesus.

Shortly after this Zinzendorf met a member of the Moravian Brothers, an Order which had been founded 300 years earlier by John Hess of Bohemia. He welcomed the brotherhood to live on his estate, and within ten years 600 Moravians had arrived.

Book Review

Building on the Rock - finding your identity in Christ

Peter Maiden



Zinzendorf divided them into little missionary groups, and sent them off across the world.

Thus the Moravian Brothers went to Greenland, Holland, India, America and the Indies. In all, they had 165 missions scattered around the world. They accepted disease, poverty, loneliness and persecution in their determination to follow their Master.

Zinzendorf was not only a leader and visionary, he was also a poet – he wrote 2,000 hymns. This one was penned while he was on board a ship set for the West Indies in 1739.

In late 1741 Zinzendorf himself began a mission to the Indians of Pennsylvania. As it was only four days to Christmas, he named the little colony Bethlehem. Today it is a great steel centre, and the Moravian capital of the USA.

The former Count spent his vast wealth on missions, and when he died at 60 there was not even enough money left to pay for his grave. He had laid up his true treasure in Heaven, instead.

Parish Pump

How should we define our identity, as Christians? And how do we actually define ourselves, usually? In this short but powerful book, Peter Maiden (former International leader for OM) shows how we must find our identity in Christ if we are to have any stability.

So many Christians struggle because they find their identity and self worth in fleeting and vulnerable places – leadership positions, professions and achievements. Even family roles change, and mutate. But our place in Christ is eternal, unshakeable. Anything less leads to disappointment, disillusionment, legalism and even the abuse of others, as we relentlessly seek to prove and assert ourselves rather than relaxing in the security and certainty of family.

Parish Pump

Who am I?

Can you figure out which URC member or regular worshiper has answered this month's 'Who am I' questions?

Where were you born?

Dibrugarh, Assam, India

What was your favourite subject at school?

History

What was your first Church?

The Welsh Presbyterian Mission, Shillong, Assam, India

What is your job?

Retired - was a Civil Servant in the Departments of the Environment and Transport

What's your favourite sport?

Non sporting, but enjoy walking and rambling

What is your favourite hymn/worship song?

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the works Thy hand hath made

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

A half-full person: a Christian has to be an optimist to believe that God is in charge, and can sort out the mess that humans have made.

What's your favourite food?

Curry

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

Kenya/Tanzania - to see the wildlife

What makes you laugh?

Dad's Army

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

Questions on music and place names

The person behind this month's answers will be revealed in next month's Good News magazine.

We encourage you to discover more about all our fellow worshipers and members over coffee after the 10:00 service. Maybe you will even discover...

Who am I?

Phonebook

Keith Morrison (Minister)

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Church Secretary

Sue Waller 01444 455047
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Treasurer

Terry Ward 01444 482986

Boys' Brigade:

Keith Morrison (Chaplain) 01444 484791

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 Phillips 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

September

4th	Zoe McQuillin	Nick Bingham
11th	Mac Turner	Liz Cantwell
18th	Meta Orchin	Sue Tester
25th	Audrey Saunders	Jo Bloxham

October

2nd	Harvest Festival	Meta Orchin
9th	Harvest Flowers	Janet Sanderson
16th	Jessie Green	Lesley Sparks
23rd	Heather Swann	Iris Bingham
30th	Winifred Scopes	Heather Swann

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

Around Lindfield

Wednesday 7th September

8.00pm Lindfield Preservation Society in King Edward Hall
"The Women's Land Army" - A Sussex Connection

Saturday 10th September

2.00pm Horticultural Society Autumn Show in King Edward Hall
Flowers and Produce

Wednesday 14th September

12.15 pm Tiger Arts - Lunch in Lindfield URC
1.00pm Concert : Ali Steynor - Piano

Weekend 17-18th September



Lindfield Arts Festival
More Information www.lindfieldartsfestival.com

Thursday 22nd September

7.45pm Village Film Night in King Edward Hall
Film to be advised

Saturday 24th September

7.45pm HH Music Society, 75th Season Opening Concert
Alexei Grynyuk (piano), St Wilfrids Church, HH
Info Christine: HH 456227 or www.haywardsheathmusicsociety.org.uk



www.lindfieldurc.org.uk