

*Good***NEWS** **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

Winter 2016/2017

Christmas 2016

Services

Celebration

Reflection

New Year 2017

Fellowship

Hope

New beginnings

"WINTER WALK"

P. L. Waller



Bible verse of the month

“Treasure
each glorious
day that God
gives you.”



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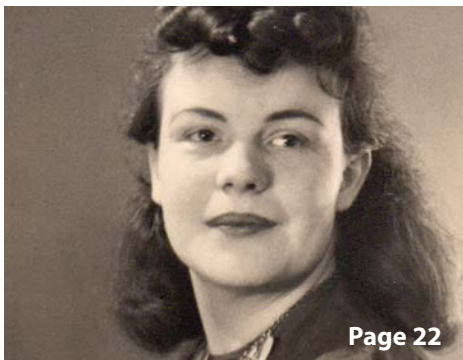


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This months verse was chosen
by Jill and Brian O'Mant.

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 are so grateful to all the members of our congregation who have spent so much time producing the articles and photographs which fill this winter double edition. The cover picture has been drawn and painted by Pat Waller. Congratulations Pat for using your gifts to help enhance our Good News Magazine.

We have our Minister Keith's letter which reminds us of everything we should be thinking about in preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus. Also read how Keith tells us of happenings, whilst on his sabbatical. Find out when all our Christmas services and concerts are, and when you can sing Carols along with The Perdido's.

There is news of a new Banner for our Church, do find out how this has been achieved. December 17th is a special date! Find out what will happen on this day. Also see which of our Church Members have been elected to be our Elders. Our Youth Pastor Danny has great news for families; find out what he is going to do! Who am I?? Were you correct in guessing who November's mystery person was?

We hope you enjoy reading this double edition of Good News. On behalf of the entire Good News Team we all hope you have a peaceful and Happy Christmas, and a New Year when we can all enjoy the joys of our Church Family.

With all good wishes and God Bless you all.

Anne

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Dear friends

Each year since Noah and Faith were very small, Emmeline and I have been doing our Christmas shopping early, very early, so early in fact that we were normally able to exchange presents with my parents and sister at the school October half-term break. This year, however, things have been different, we didn't plan a trip north this autumn and as a result haven't (at the time of writing in mid-November) done the required shopping. When we do it will all get posted.

I know some people who put up the tree at the start of December and others who wait until Christmas Eve. There are some who will have their cards all ready to go, and some who barely make the last posting date. Do you prepare early or are you more of a last minute person, and what are the things you do to prepare?

For Mary and Joseph the birth of Jesus came after an arduous journey, and I doubt they had the ability to take much with them. Their arrival in the Judean village of Bethlehem found that guest rooms were all taken, and when the infant was born he had to be laid in a manger, an animal feeding trough. It sounds like there hadn't been much preparation for the first Christmas, but perhaps that is because we too often think of preparation in wealth and worldly issues rather than the spiritual.

The Lord had got things ready well in advance. The Lord had spoken through prophets and seen that the message was recorded in the scriptures, so that all would know the messiah would come. The Lord had enabled Elizabeth and Zechariah to conceive a son, a cousin to Jesus who would prepare the way in the wilderness for the ministry, which would follow. The Lord had prepared a star to shine at the right moment, which would guide Magi from the east.

As you think of Christmas and the preparations you are making:

*Are you preparing your heart
that He may fill it anew?*

*Are you preparing to praise
God for His great gift?*

*Are you preparing your life
for His return?*

May the Lord bless you this Christmas, and may you also have a Happy New Year.

Your minister

Keith

Please Note:

*From 1st January 2017 a single
joint service for the whole
family will be held at 10:00am*

Family News

Condolences

It seems that almost every edition of 'Good News' lately, there are members of our Church Family who have been bereaved. Sadly, we have to send our sincere sympathy to three folk this month – Carol Merrett, whose mother has died unexpectedly; Sally Ross-Clark who has also lost her mother who lived in Australia; and Geoffrey Cocksedge. His very dear brother has died whilst in Thailand. So, difficult situations for each of these folk and their families. Carol, Sally and Geoffrey, please be assured of our love, thoughts and prayers at this very sad time for each of you.

Fo Tingley

Thank you

Thank you to our church family who have and continue to support us during the difficult times we have faced with Brian's illness. The love, prayers, flowers, and visits have helped us cope each day. We are so blessed to be part of a caring church family. As we continue to thank God for each day, the following verse has been my constant refuge and guide.

"Treasure each glorious day that God gives you"

With love

Jill and Brian O'Mant

Moved away

As many of you will be know, we said 'Good bye' to Val and Adrian Cookney in October. They have moved to Bradford as Adrian is now working for Christians Against Poverty, and they have the added bonus that they are moving near their son and his wife. They have both been so involved in the life of LURC for many years, and will be sadly missed. But as the saying goes, our loss will be another church's gain! We send Adrian and Val our love and prayers for God's rich blessings on their future path.

After a lifetime in Lindfield, and having been in business here for such a long time until he and his Wife retired, Colin Tremaine has moved to Kent to live with his Son and Family. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Colin, that he will know fresh blessings as he adjusts to a new area and a different way of life.

Fo Tingley

The Fellowship

December 2016 – No meeting. Our first meeting in the New Year will be on Wednesday the 25th January 2017 at 2.30 pm, when our speaker will be our own Minister, Rev Keith Morrison.

There will be the usual Bring & Buy stall and, at the end of Keith's talk, time for a chat with friends.

Pat Phillips

Family News

Thank you

It may seem a bit late but Barbara and Hilary Shepherd must try and say to as many as possible how much we have appreciated all the prayer and support we have received from our church over recent weeks. What a privilege it is to belong to such a loving fellowship that has been so obvious. It has confirmed our faith in a great, loving, healing and caring God as His presence has been felt so much.

Thank you, all.

Hilary and Barbara Shepherd

Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to all who supported our Operation Christmas Child Shoe box appeal this year. With the contributions from our dear friends at Evan free we sent off 82 boxes. Beautifully wrapped and filled with love and blessings to a child somewhere. Thank you!!!

Thank you to Harry for helping with the loading.

From children everywhere and Samaritans Purse, a Blessed Christmas to you all.

Jill and Brian

Lindfield URC Voices

(Sunday Morning Singers)

December is turning out to be the busiest period we have ever had.

We are singing concerts at Compton House, Summerlands and the Evangelical Free. Additionally we are taking part in a Carol concert at St John's Burgess Hill in aid of the Air Ambulance.

This all is in addition to the church events. Please remember us in all these activities and, may we all be encouraged to promote the Gospel during this festive period.

For further information, contact

Peter Swann 01444 450335

Thank You & Happy Christmas

Norna Derham wishes to thank our Church Family for the love, care, prayers and support, in so many ways, during this past year, and to wish you all, the Joy and Blessing of Christmas, and Peace, Content and Hope for the year ahead.

For those who usually receive a card, this is it!!

In Touch

In October a small group of us met and had a lively discussion about the life and works of some of the Saints.

We talked about St Columba who came from Ireland and spread Christianity in Scotland where he founded the famous monastery on Iona.

St Cuthbert of Lindisfarne, St Osmund, St Wilfred and St Hilda were among other Saints whose lives we talked about, and we acknowledged the amazing dedication of their lives to spreading the Christian faith throughout many parts of the world. Some of the prayers they composed were devout yet often simply expressed and many are still used in Church services today.

We next meet in January for our Christmas meal which this year will be held at the Red Lion in Lindfield. Please watch out for details and sign up sheet on the notice board on the slope..

Meanwhile we hope you will have a very happy Christmas and that we will see many of you at our meetings in 2017. Everyone is welcome to join us for our meal in the New Year.

Janet Wade

Elders Elections

At the church annual meeting on Sunday November 20th David Walters, Fo Tingley and Dan McQuillin were reelected to serve an additional term.

Tim Sanderson and Lesley Sparks were elected onto the Eldership for the first time.

John Merrett is not standing at the end of his term. We thank John for his service as an Elder, and for continuing to serve as pulpit supply secretary.

Very Good News!!

Adrian and Val Cookney are now proud Grandparents! Alistair Finlay was born on Wednesday 16th November, weighing 9 lbs.

Our congratulations and good wishes go to both the parents and Grand Parents.

Thank you

Iwould like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, prayers, kind thoughts and wishes on the death of my mum. I feel so blessed to have such a supportive church family to help us through this difficult time.

Thank you.
Jane Harfield

The Perdido's

Come in from the cold

For almost 30 years, some of the PERDIDO's have played carols outside the church on the Saturday before Christmas. However this year as the Saturday is Christmas Eve, we have decided to play on the Saturday before, 17th at 10-15 or thereabouts.

The church is free that morning and we will play in the church.

If you play an instrument that would fit with the band you are welcome to join us. Music will be provided.

Furthermore you are welcome to come and listen, choose your own carol and take coffee and a mince pie with the band.

We will place a notice in the Middy and will have some posters.

Any donations will be passed to St Peter and St James Hospice.

Note the date. CAROLS AND COFFEE. Saturday morning 17 December at 10:15. Come and go as you please.

For further information contact
Peter Swann 01444 450335.



Banners

A loving Ministry

Just round the corner from Bletchley Park is Whaddon Way Baptist Church, a fellowship that has over the past few years come to occupy a special place in my affections. Some 15 years ago, an Alpha Course there brought my sister Jenny to faith, and she was followed by her daughter, son-in-law and later her granddaughter. I was present at each of their baptismal services, and was privileged to take part in two of them. It is a fairly small fellowship but after much sacrificial giving and energetic fundraising, they were able three or four years ago to move into a new purpose-built church, decorated by bright banners. So when our Elders were seeking a new banner for our church, I suggested the banner group at Whaddon Way, and the ladies there were delighted to get a commission to make a banner for another fellowship.

On Remembrance Sunday, we were at Whaddon Way, and the photo shows us with the banner group in a special ceremony at the close of the service receiving on your behalf the new banner. Jean is holding a beautiful commemorative book of photos charting the making of the banner, the book being inscribed with the text our Elders gave to them for the banner: "I am the Lord your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear, I will help you."

It is hoped that some time after Christmas there will be a small ceremony at our church to formally receive this banner so lovingly made for us by another Christian community.

Mike Gardiner



Christmas 2016

Last Christmas I was given a Fitbit in the vain hope that I might walk more. Walking is not only good for your health I was told but it has a biblical imperative!

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, so says the prophet Isaiah. The truth is that the people of God did an awful lot of walking. They walked all over ancient Israel sharing the good news of God's love, offering hope to those who suffer, proclaiming freedom and liberation to all who are oppressed.

But the trouble is that often it is hard to walk well when you have a rock in your shoe! When there is a rock in your shoe, it digs into your foot and makes every step a bit painful. It can cause you to limp; it brings frustration. And so, on a long journey, when you realise that you have a rock in your shoe, what should you do?

You need to take that stone out of your shoe. And once it is gone, then you can continue on your way - then you can walk forward free from the stone that causes you pain, and slows down your progress.

The problem is, we often carry stones in our shoes, as it makes it harder to follow Jesus. We are supposed to be on a journey of faith. We are supposed to walk forward in love. We are supposed to stand on our own two feet and travel along the paths of faithfulness. But there are these stones in our shoes, and they cause us to stop.

To sit down. To give up. The stones in our shoes made it hard for us to fully follow Jesus.

And, as we approach Advent and Christmas, we are reminded that, in the Incarnation, Jesus, the Christchild, the Light of the world, came to liberate us from the stones in our shoes so that we can work for the liberation of the world. We need to be freed from the stones in shoes so that we can bring freedom and hope and love and peace into a troubled world. We need to find God's liberation, God's freedom in our lives so that we can be messengers of that liberation in God's world.

Perhaps, this year, in 2016, we need to hear that especially this Christmas after the year we have had: wars, earthquakes, elections and exits to name but a few.

This Christmas, we will once again sing with yearning hope, for we live in dark and fearful times. Nation invades nation, leaving terror and destruction in their wake. Our hearts go out to the people of Syria.

Parents run themselves ragged trying ensure that it is not them and their families who fall through the cracks into redundancy, poverty and despair. The dark, dark world is constantly divided into winners and losers

Dark and fearful times. But the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in the land of deep darkness - on them light has shined

So here we are - living in light or darkness or to use the metaphor of stones in our shoes – living where the sins and lies hold us back from walking in the light. First of all, we need to tell the truth. There is violence and pain in our world. Power is being used in abusive and terrible ways. We are living in systems of injustice and oppression. We need to acknowledge the truth.

Secondly, we need to look at ourselves. Where are the stones in our shoes? Do we have a fear of people who are different than us? Do we allow fear to control interactions with other human beings? Do we allow prejudice, racism, judgement to stop us from offering the Love which came down at Christmas?

Or is it a desire to be liked? We are so afraid of hurting people's feelings that we do not speak truth about injustice, racism and violence. We want everyone to like us, so we refuse to do the radical work of following Jesus. Or is it selfishness with money and time? We don't want to truly invest in the kingdom of God. We don't want to fully offer our time and money to changing the world. Or is it something else?

What other stones, keep you from finding the Christ-child?

The story we celebrate this Christmas is not a safe one. From the very beginning there were few who could accept it. John says he came to his own but his own people did not accept him.

Luke says that even as he was being born, no room could be found for him. Matthew says the very mention of him threw the king into a murderous fit, and the child and his family had to flee.

Perhaps we have stood still in darkness for so long that we need to move out into the light to which Isaiah attests. We need to walk towards those who are oppressed and hurting. We need to walk towards those who are excluded and shunned. We need to walk towards those who are hungry and thirsty. We need to walk towards those who are different from us. And in order to do this walking, we need to get rid of some stones.

Then we will find ourselves born anew, born of God, as children of God, full of grace and truth. And if we begin to do that, if we begin to approach the world with the same humility and the same astonishing refusal to meet violence with anything but outrageous mercy and resilient love, then the light will grow brighter and the darkness will retreat a little further. And as we continue to walk in hope on unhindered by the stones in our shoes, we will indeed be hastening the long awaited day when the child born for us will rule in endless peace, with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

Come, Lord Jesus. Be born in us this Christmas. With Advent and Christmas blessings,

Nicola Furley-Smith
Synod Moderator

Sabbatical Review

A bit of a rest?

With the chill and grey skies of winter starting to take hold, I want to take you back to the warmth of summer and to the period of my sabbatical. Back in June I told you of my plans, but how did they actually come out? Well here is a brief run through...

I had a brief visit down to Glynde to the Boys' Brigade Battalion Camp. It was a glorious day and for the young lads playing football in giant bubble zorb suits it was as if playing in their own personal greenhouse, yet they all seemed happy as did the company boys who were playing rounders where each base was a paddling pool of water. I had a chance to chat over the meal table with officers from a number of companies about how they saw the role of chaplains, the challenges facing young people, and how the church responds.

The officers were clearly committed but some were heartbroken at the declining number attending the camp. As our own company had no boys there I could feel their pain; we seek "The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys" but that requires our churches to be committed in supporting the ongoing youth work, and for us to attract young people.

The week and a half I was away in France revealed a Europe surprised by the Brexit vote and struggling to think of unity

while one of its members was seeking divorce. I was part of the UK contingent on a large international scout and guide camp. Although obviously older than the participants (aged 16-22) I was also old among the leaders – the majority of which were under 30. Many of those on the team from the UK were teachers, or nurses, and it was obvious that despite having challenging careers they choose to give up time each week, and in their holidays, to serve the young people in their local community. It was also evident that although a handful had faith, the majority did not feel it important to their lives; this prompted some interesting discussions when I revealed my own story. A number of national contingents (including Italy, Spain and Portugal) had a chaplain with them and there were times of worship and reflection in different parts of the site most days, to which all were welcome though not everyone attended.

Returning to the UK I was able to spend some time looking at the results of surveymonkey questionnaires that I had asked brigade officers and scout leaders to undertake. Interestingly, among other things it showed bribery was a popular concept to attract young people to parades – some with camps the night before, perhaps distributing chocolate and sweets, and trips in the afternoon to swimming, or bowling all considered good incentives.

A third of those answering my Scouting survey felt parades “engage our young people to think about the world” and another 13% felt parades “encourage young people to develop spiritually”. It should be noted however that 46% felt the typical involvement of the young people in a parade was “none.” Not surprising then that, of those who claimed they had a faith, 41% felt parades “could be an encouragement but rarely are.” Those of us who plan and lead church services clearly need to be doing better.

I did have a bit of a rest, I also return refreshed, and with my eyes opened on a number of issues, asking questions about how we engage young people, and also older people without faith, in a dynamic way that speaks to where they are rather than where the church is.

Rev Keith Morrison

Christmas Concert



7:30pm

22nd December 2016

**COPTHORNE SILVER BAND WITH
SPECIAL GUESTS**

**CAROLS, FREE MINCE PIES
AND MORE!**

**ALL WELCOME AND A GOOD START
TO CHRISTMAS GUARANTEED!**

Christmas Post

Post early for Christmas!

At the beginning of Advent the Post Box will be on the Concourse ready for you to post your Christmas cards to members and regular worshippers at Lindfield URC. We hope that you will use this facility and instead of having to buy stamps we ask that you give a donation instead.

This year all the money collected will go to The Worthing Churches Homeless Projects.

The latest posting date will be Friday, 16th December, and we will have the cards ready for you to collect in church on Sunday, 18th December.



Tips for successful delivery

- Please put the full surname of the person you are sending to as we have several Jennys, Janets, Davids etc!
- Please put the first full line of the address in case we have to deliver some by hand.
- Please put your cards in alphabetical order and use an elastic band as this cuts down the collating time considerably.
- Please confine addresses to Lindfield and Haywards Heath areas.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation and may we be the first to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas!

The Post Box Team

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)

From 1st January 2017 a single joint service for the whole family will be held at 10:00am

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.

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. <small>Venue rotates between the three churches</small>

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.

December Church diary

1st Thursday	House Groups		17th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints
3rd Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints	18th Sunday	9:30am	Communion
4th Sunday	9:30am	Family Service		11:15am	Communion Rev Keith Morrison
	11:15am	Morning Worship Rev Keith Morrison		6:30pm	Carols by Candlelight
	6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison	22nd Thursday	7:30pm	Traditional Christmas Concert
6th Tuesday	8:00pm	Village Night	24th Christmas Eve	4:00pm	Crib Service
7th Wednesday	12:30pm	Christmas Lunch Fellowship		10:00am	Christmas Day Celebration Rev Keith Morrison
10th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints	31st Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints
11th Sunday	9:30am	Family Service Lighthouse Nativity			
	11:15am	Morning Worship Rev Keith Morrison			
	6:30pm	Communion Rev Keith Morrison			

Time and date information correct at time of going to press, for the latest updates and further information please check our website :

www.lindfieldurc.org.uk

January Church diary

1st Sunday	10:00am	Family Service	21st Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, URC
4th Wednesday	12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship	22nd Sunday	10:00am	Communion Rev Keith Morrison
				6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison
7th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, URC			
8th Sunday	10:00am	Family Service Rev Keith Morrison	24th Tuesday	6:30pm	In Touch Meal
	6:30pm	Communion Rev Keith Morrison			
			25th Wednesday	2:30pm	The Fellowship
				7:45pm	Elders Meeting
12th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Meeting	26th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
14th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, URC	28th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, URC
15th Sunday	10:00am	Morning Worship Rev Keith Morrison	29th Sunday	10:00am	Family Worship Rev Keith Morrison
	6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison		6:30pm	United Evening Worship with EFC Lindfield URC
19th Thursday		House Group Week			

YOUTH

Hello!

Messy Church is coming! In the new year, on Friday 20th January we will be launching Messy Church at Lindfield United Reformed Church!



We will then be running Messy Church every third Friday of each month, starting at 4pm and ending at 6pm.

I thought it would be beneficial to say a little bit about what Messy Church is and what it isn't, so below is an outline of Messy Church.

Messy Church is:

- Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality.
- It's primarily for people who don't already belong to another form of church.
- It meets at a time (and sometimes in a place) that suits people who don't already belong to church.
- It typically includes a welcome, a long creative time to explore the biblical theme through getting messy; a short celebration time involving story, prayer, song, games and similar; and a sit-down meal together at tables. All elements are for, and should include, people of all ages, adults and children.
- It's all-age.
- It's fun.
- It's a church for people at all stages of their faith journey and of any age.
- It models and promotes good ways of growing as a family: a nuclear family, an extended family, and a global and local church family.
- Its aim is to introduce Jesus, to give an opportunity to encounter him and to grow closer to him.
- Messy Church is resourced, supported and enabled by BRF, The Bible Reading Fellowship.
- Most Messy Churches meet once a month, although a few meet more frequently or only occasionally.

Messy Church is not:

- Just for children
- A club - The whole of Messy Church is about worshipping God, having fellowship, exploring faith matters. It welcomes everyone, involves everyone, values everyone, is always there for the outsider. It's a church.
- A way of getting people to come to church on Sunday - There are examples of people starting in Messy Church and deciding to join Sunday church as well but these are the exception rather than the rule. If people wanted to go to established church, they would be going by now. Messy Church is interdependent with established church, but will usually operate as a separate congregation or church.
- Just for church families - Anyone already belonging to church should be thinking about serving on the leadership team of Messy Church, however old or young they are, and helping others come to know Jesus.
- Just for families - All are welcome: single, widowed, childless, divorced. Church is inclusive, not exclusive.
- A quick fix - Growing disciples takes time. Messy Church has only been going a few years anywhere. It usually only meets once a month. Growth will probably be slow.
- An easy option - It takes money, time, prayer, commitment and energy from the church and leadership team.
- A drain on church resources - Yes, it will take money and time, effort and gifted people to run it, but it will give back in return a group of people who are fired up for mission, empowered by using their God-given gifts. It will spark off ideas and inspiration about what church is all about and will renew vision. It will grow goodwill in the neighbourhood towards the church and, most importantly, provide the opportunity to do effective mission in your own community.
- Set in stone - We're learning all the time. As the network of Messy Churches grows and develops, so the best ways of delivering Messy Church will develop and grow.

I hope that helps to explain a little about Messy Church. Please pray for the planning of Messy Church, and start inviting everyone you know!

Danny

PAGES

Boys' Brigade

The 2016/17 session is now well underway with a good spirit in the Company. The Junior Section is still our largest group, but numbers in the Anchor Section are now increasing. The low numbers in the Company Section however are still a concern, but this does mean we can concentrate on more one-to-one activities. Chess is very popular.

Our Annual Enrolment Service took place in October when staff and boys renewed the commitment to the Company. Parents and some friends from the church attended this service and we thank them for their support.

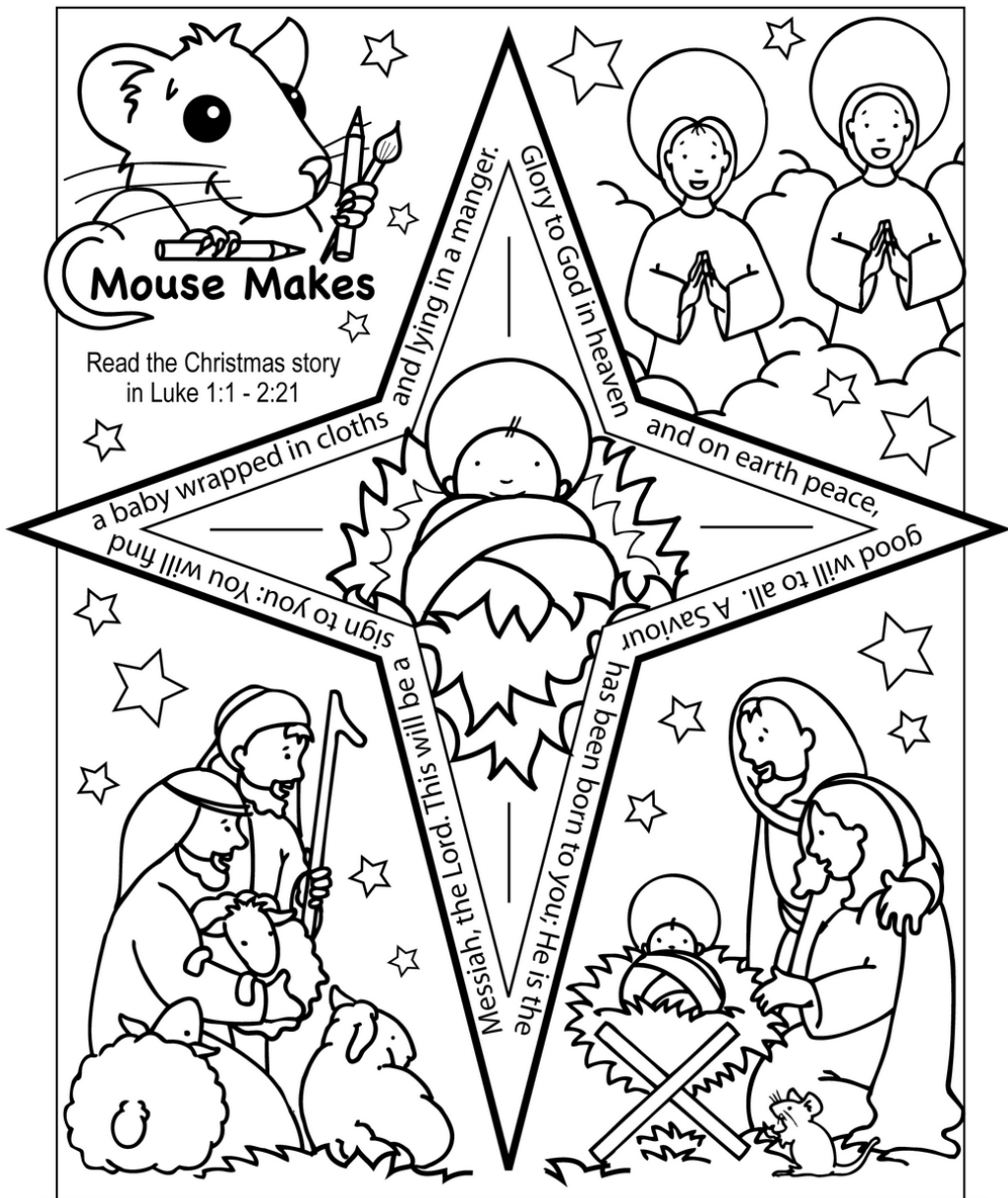
It has been a very busy period especially for the Junior Section. The Boys' Brigade are producing a calendar and we entered a competition, providing a picture for each month of the year. We haven't had the result of our entry yet.

We also supplied our picture, based on the word promise, for the Church Advent Window. As part of the church nativity service the Anchors and Juniors formed a choir to sing Little Donkey which was filmed. The boys really rose to the occasion putting everything into this and a good video resulted.

We entered our first competition for the session taking part in the Battalion, Junior Section, Potted Sports. We moved up the table this year finishing 4th out of the 8 teams close behind the winners.

David Walters





☆ Eastern star, white and bright, ☆ Shepherds hear the Angels sing;
 In the darkness a shining light, ☆ "Glory to the heavenly King,
 ☆ Points to Jesus, God's precious Son, ☆ Peace on earth, good will to all."
 ☆ Our Lord and King, our Saviour has come! ☆ Come to Jesus the Saviour of all. ☆

Who am I?

Revealed

The subject of “Who am I?” in the November Good News was Dorothy Brown, who can generally be found on the concourse for the 11:15 Sunday Morning Service. I know that several of you guessed it was Dorothy, because she told me that a number of people had come up to her and said “it must be you”! However, the clues Dorothy gave cannot have been that easy because, once again, none of the Good News team were correct! There was a clue in the November issue because Dorothy said that her best round of questions in a pub quiz would be “people, literature, words” and on page 11 of the same issue was a lovely Advent poem written by Dorothy. Dorothy’s home in Harvest Close is full of scraps of paper with ideas for poems, scribbled down as they come to her. Her Advent poem was written soon after waking one morning recently.

Dorothy is a stalwart of the 11:15 Service and enjoys Dan’s light-hearted designation of her as, “one of the troublemakers on the concourse”! She has been worshipping regularly at Lindfield URC since 25th March 2003, a date imprinted on her memory because it was her first LURC Service yet she arrived an hour late as, in the upheaval of moving, she had forgotten about the clocks going forwards that day! However, Fo Tingley gave her a warm welcoming hug and prayer on the bench outside the LURC porch. In the strange way that life brings us together, Dorothy and her family

had met Fo and her family at a guest house in Paignton several years previously.

Dorothy came into the world in 1923, the second of two sisters. Her elder sister was 10 years older and went out to work at the age of 14, so for Dorothy growing up it was almost like being an only child. Her childhood memories are full of a life revolving around a large and happy extended family and the nearby Congregational Church, Christ Church, in Friern Barnet, North London. Dorothy was baptised there when just a few weeks old and can still remember attending Sunday School at the age of four.



Dorothy was a 16-year old Sunday School teacher at Christ Church when war broke out and she had to abandon her plans for further education taking, instead, an interim job as a clerk at a local firm where she met her future husband, Arthur. Within a short time she joined the Civil Nursing Reserve (CNR) and, after an intensive training course, took on a nursing job at the Stanmore National Orthopaedic Hospital caring for injured servicemen and civilians. Dorothy left the CNR at the end of the war and, in 1946, she and Arthur married. Within a year they had their first child, a daughter, followed later by two sons. Dorothy settled very happily into the role of wife, mother and home-maker, but on Arthur's salary of just £6 a week, they had to live with their parents for seven years. However, by then Arthur was being paid the princely sum of £10 per week and they were able to put down the deposit on their first house which they bought for £2,200!

Both Arthur and Dorothy were active in their London church - Dorothy found great fulfilment in church life and was an Elder there for nearly 30 years in addition to leading their weekly Friendship Club for women and being a Sunday School teacher. So it was quite a change moving to Lindfield in 2003 to be nearer to family. Much of Dorothy's time was spent caring for her beloved Arthur as his health declined, but they were both grateful to God that they had moved from one very caring church to another. Dorothy is grateful for the kindness, love and support shown to her by the church family during Arthur's long illness and her own spells of ill health.



You might recall from her answers in last month's Good News that Dorothy has a keen interest in cricket, a result mainly of Arthur's love of the sport – he was a member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) and his ashes were scattered at Lord's, the "Home of Cricket", following his death in 2009.

Dorothy will probably be embarrassed at this lengthy summary of her life, but she is a wonderful 93-year old witness to God and I felt privileged to learn more about her as we chatted in her home. I hope you too will be encouraged to learn more of Dorothy and the many others in our congregation who you might not yet know - our church family - as we meet in our weekly services, our house groups, other regular activities and at one-off events like the upcoming "ABBA – knowing me, knowing you" weekend.

Martin Hall

Home Groups

While I was away on sabbatical, and you were exploring the first letter of Paul to the church in Corinth, you will have come across those familiar words declaring the church is a body of many parts, and pointing out that no part has a greater or lesser part to play.

Home groups bring together different parts and help us grow as one, encouraging and supporting each other as we seek to understand the scriptures. It is wonderful that we can build tight bonds in these groups, but it is important that as a church we will develop strong connections with many more people than can be in one group. For this reason it is right that every few years we have a rearrangement of who is in each group, this allows old friendships to remain but also new ones to be created. One of the last things Val Cookney did before heading off to Yorkshire was to initiate the mechanism we will use to reorganise the groups.

This reorganisation will be a three stage process, firstly you may have had a letter which explained what we were going to do and asking if you would like to be in a group and your preference for morning or evening. Thank you so much to the many who have returned the tear off slips. Our current home groups will close on their last meeting of 2016, this will probably be on Thursday the 15th December.

The second step will be meeting at the church on the 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings, or evenings. We will be looking at the Life of Jesus from Bethlehem to Jerusalem. The format will be similar to the 2015 Lent groups with a talk followed by small group time, but we will try to mix the groups up a little each week, so that we get to sit with different people. These meetings begin on the 5th January, and there will be 7 sessions running up to April the 6th. Even if you are not planning on continuing into a home group please consider coming to this short series.

By Easter we will have allocated new groups, probably introducing multiple groups in the morning as well as evening. As new home groups, from Thursday the 4th of May we will start a "Cover to Cover" bible study series on Luke's gospel.

Keith Morrison



ABBA

Knowing Me Knowing You

**Lindfield URC Away Weekend
16-18 June 2017**

Next June we will be having our Residential Away Weekend at Pilgrim Hall, near Uckfield.

The theme will be Relationships, and will be an opportunity for everyone of all ages to share time together exploring their relationship with God through worship and learning, as well as their relationships with each other while sharing in Fellowship events or just spending time together.

There will be a programme of formal sessions, informal sessions and free time to enjoy the facilities and surroundings at Pilgrim Hall. Perhaps a swim in the pool, a walk in the woods, or just a relaxing cup of tea on the terrace.

The weekend will be led by guest speaker Rev David Bedford and is a super opportunity for us all to spend some time together. The children and young people will have their own programme of sessions and activities.

The weekend begins on Friday evening through to tea on Sunday. Accommodation is mostly en suite and all meals are included giving lots of opportunity to spend time together, and perhaps get to know each other better,

while enjoying fellowship, teaching and worship.

Please pray for the weekend as we work on the organisation and the teaching programme in the coming weeks.

We do hope that everyone will feel able to join in with the weekend. So please return your slip in one of the boxes in Church as soon as possible. If you haven't received one of the invitations please pick up a leaflet around the Church; and please pass on leaflets to anyone you would like to invite!

Please return completed slips as soon as possible by 11th December. After this time, or if you have any queries, please speak to one of the team:

Keith Morrison, Danny Goodall, Jeremy Campling, Paul Bloxham, Zoe McQuillin, Laura Sykes or Mike O'Dell.

We invite gifts to cover the cost of the weekend, and there will be two gift days in the New Year. Please look out for more information about these; but if you have any financial queries in the meantime, or would like to consider regular giving towards the event, please do speak with Paul Bloxham.

The Away Weekend Team

Mission Update



Romans 1:11 Trust

For January and February 2017 the mission focus will be the Romans One Eleven Trust.

"I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you, that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith" Romans 1:11-12

This is the biblical passage which inspired and has continued to undergird the work of the Romans One Eleven Trust since its start in 1992. Its main aim is to provide mutual encouragement for churches in the UK and in African countries.

Pastor Samuel Muhumuza, an ordained Minister in the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Uganda, visited UK earlier this year. The Trust supports the work of the Ssanje Modern School that Samuel established in the Kibaale District, including coordination of sponsorship of several children and young people. The main aim of Samuel's trip this year was to raise funds for the school dining hall, toilets, kitchen and plumbing system.

The September 2016 edition of the Trust's magazine "Mutually Encouraged" is available from the missions display table and includes reports on visits to Uganda in June. A full report on Samuel's visit to the UK will be in the next issue of "Mutually Encouraged".



Worthing Churches Homeless Projects

"Our vision for the Worthing and surrounding area is a community where no local person needs to sleep out and everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential"

In November/December our mission focus is on Worthing Churches Homeless Projects.

Today WCHP helps over 1,100 people each year providing a range of services including a Day Centre and four Accommodation Projects. The people who live in WCHP accommodation receive the specialist support they need to ensure their recovery. The Projects empower homeless or insecurely housed individuals to achieve sustainable independent living.





Thank You from Mercy Ships

LURC was able to forward a donation of £2,256.56 to Mercy Ships earlier this year. Here is a quote from the thank you letter received from Mercy Ships: "Please pass on thanks to all who contributed. Your kindness is very much appreciated, and will make a real difference to those without access to the medical treatments they need...During two field services in Madagascar over 2,500 patients have been given surgery and follow-up care, and over 12,600 treated for dental disease...Africa Mercy has now arrived for its next service in Benin, West Africa, and we thank you for your support for many patients who have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of the hospital to bring the medical services which they need."

Please see the mission display for more details or contact one of the Missions Group team – Jean Gardiner, Terry Oliver, Lesley Sparks, Alex Hall and Helen Hall.

As always, if you would like to give please use the special envelopes and place your donation in the offertory at any Sunday Service.

Thank you for your wonderful support of mission as always.

Missions Group

Lunch Fellowship

Following the Christmas Lunch on 7 December to which you are most welcome, but we do need to know numbers if you have not already booked your place.

The Lunch Fellowship will begin again in January, the first Wednesday being the 4th.

Do please join this group of around 45 people if you wish to enjoy fellowship with a meal. There is always a Bring and Buy table that you are welcome to bring something to and buy from if you wish. We have a good mix of Ladies and Gentlemen, some from the Fellowship and others from the Village, so if you know someone who would like to come along please do not hesitate to ring me on 01444 455047 with the contact details. If you wish to bring them along on the day just let us know for the sake of catering numbers.

The cost is still £4.00 and includes a two course home cooked meal and homemade sweets followed by tea or coffee. A warm welcome awaits you.

If you have booked your place and are unable to come on the day please phone the Church Telephone Number (01444 484620)

Sue Waller

A Swiss Episode

In October I enjoyed a nostalgic weekend returning to old haunts and seeing old friends on the shores of Lac Léman in Switzerland.

Just after WWII American philanthropist Rockefeller gifted the Swiss Château de Bossey, just outside Geneva, to the embryonic World Council of Churches (WCC) to set up an "Ecumenical Institute". In those hard, divided times W.A. Visser't Hooft, the first general secretary of the WCC, said in 1946 at its inauguration: "The Institute's programme has three main subjects: the Bible, the world, the church universal."

So we gathered – alumni, staff, supporters and church leaders literally from all over the world - to thank God for 70 years of Gospel witness through worship, study and community. A principal programme has been an annual five months' graduate school for 30-40 mostly young pastors, priests & ordinands, who live together at Bossey undertaking intensive study on a biblical theme.

Recently this has come under the auspices of the University of Geneva and students can move on to masters or doctorate study in theology.



Alongside these longer term students there are hosts of short conferences and courses for ministers & laity and Bossey is also well used for WCC meetings, local gatherings and church groups coming to enjoy the beautiful setting, the château's excellent facilities and the skills of the faculty staff.

Bossey is an incredible meeting place for Christians of every sort from every country. Evangelicals are sometimes sceptical about things "ecumenical" – but the very basis of the WCC and its Ecumenical Institute is Jesus's own prayer "that they all may be one, that the world may believe". Suspicion evaporates when believers come to study and worship together (in a myriad of different ways) and really to experience their oneness in Christ – Methodists from US, Pentecostals from Brazil, Orthodox from Russia, Presbyterians from Cuba, Roman Catholics from Poland, Baptists from Zambia and even the odd Anglican and URC from UK.

When I worked for the WCC in the 1990s I was responsible for overseeing the finances and buildings at Bossey. The château was a bit tired and inadequate for the numbers using it, so we began a "makeover" process and it was wonderful to see it now, extended and fully upgraded for its role in the 21st century.

There was much to celebrate and a lot has been achieved. Thousands have passed through and many Christians, ordained and lay, have experienced a great spiritual awakening and deepening there enriching their and their church's faith. But times and emphases change. In my younger years and the earlier experience of the WCC the thrust of the ecumenical movement was for "organic union" – the coming together of different churches & traditions (in which our URC was something of a trailblazer in 1972). But I think there is a realisation dawning that the unity Christ desires for his church is not necessarily a dull, structural uniformity, but a realisation and acceptance that we are all different and complementary in the skills and experiences we bring to the mission to which we are called.

So I sense theologians and Bossey students are not spending so much time arguing whether we need bishops or should practise infant or believers baptism (I am sure Jesus is not in the slightest concerned about that), but rather how we work together to bring healing and salvation to a divided, hurting world.

An interesting development recently has been the inclusion of an interfaith perspective. For example recently there was a six week course "Building an Interfaith Community" bringing together equal numbers of students from the three great Abrahamic religions,

Uganda

Christianity, Islam and Judaism to forge links of understanding and co-operation in a world often broken by the clash of religions and cultures.

So I was intrigued, at our celebration weekend, to hear Hans Küng, the eminent Christian theologian being quoted, along with references to both Old & New Testaments as well as the Qur'an, by one of the keynote speakers Ahmed al-Tayyeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, the senior Islamic religious leader in Egypt. He reminded us that God/Allah/Jehovah has "sent all the messengers and prophets with a message of peace, love and fraternity". A bit of a contrast from the perceived message of ISIS!

One can get somewhat restricted and parochial in one's faith at times and I was glad of the opportunity to be reminded of the rich variety of Christ's church, its worship, witness and service and even to be faced with the fact that all the genuine theocratic religions recognise the call of the Almighty to live together in peace for the sake of His creation.

Rev Michael J. Davies

Former Assistant General Secretary, World Council of Churches

Two teenage boys who converted from Islam to Christianity have been forced to go on the run in fear of their lives.

Already Muslims in their village in Uganda's Kibuku district have set fire to the home of a Christian adult who had given them refuge. This man's house has been completely gutted and he has lost everything. The two boys, aged 16 and 17, fled from their home after their own parents threatened to kill them when they learned of their conversion to Christianity seven months earlier.

Apostasy is a capital crime in Islamic law and the Christian adult who sheltered the boys told an area pastor that he now believed that his own family is at risk. He received threats from the arsonists who fired his house and he has also fled the district. Prayers are needed for them and the local Christians who are trying to help them.

Although the Christian church is growing in Uganda, so is a hardline Muslim sect who have positioned themselves strategically in key political posts as well as in finance, and sharia-compliant banking favours Muslims over Christians. According to Open Doors, pressure is especially put on converts to Christianity from a Muslim background and there are many spontaneous violent attacks on Christians.

Carol Marsh

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Lighthouse (Junior Church)

Co-ordinator

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Flower Rota

Arranging

Distributing

December

4th	Mies Campling	Janet Sanderson
11th	Christmas	No further
18th	Christmas	Deliveries before
25th	Christmas Decorations	Christmas

January

1st	Christmas	No Delivery
8th	Gladys Porter	Meta Orchin
15th	Doreen Fowler	Lesley Sparks
22nd	Lesley Sparks	Jo Bloxham
29th	Mary Comber	Iris Bingham

February

5th	Carol Marsh	Heather Swann
12th	Zoe McQuillin	Fo Tingley
19th	Jessie Green	Nick Bingham
26th	Serena Nathan	Liz Cantwell

Around Lindfield

Tuesday 6th December

6.00pm Lindfield Christmas Festival

Saturday 10th December

Tiger Arts - Evening Concert

Springs Dance Company at Great Walstead School

Wednesday 14th December

12.15 pm Tiger Arts - Lunch in Lindfield URC

1.00pm Illustrated Talk by Paul Green from the Argos Newspaper

Wednesday 11th January

12.15 pm Tiger Arts - Lunch in Tiger

1.00pm Concert : Robinwood Band

8.00pm Horticultural Society in King Edward Hall

Talk "Heritage Gardening"

Thursday 19th January

7.30pm Village Film Night in King Edward Hall

TBA



www.lindfieldurc.org.uk