

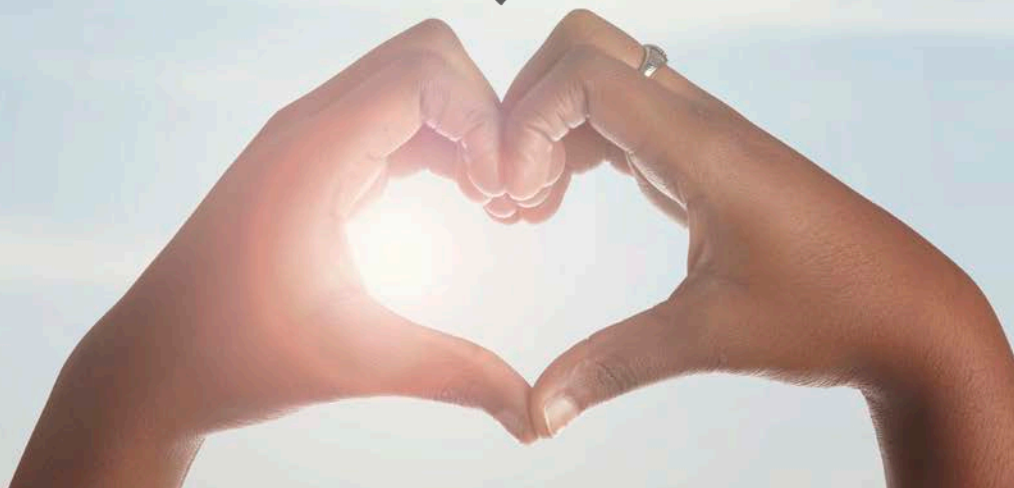
GoodNEWS MAGAZINE

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

February 2017

Out of
HIS HEART
WILL FLOW
RIVERS
OF
Living Water



Bible verse of the month

“ We can rejoice when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us. They help us learn to endure. And endurance develops strength of character in us,”

Romans 5:3-4 NIV



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Our verse this month comes from Janet Wade, for more information see page xx

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



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Editorial

We have so much information for you to find out about what is happening in our Church. There are changes with our House Groups which as we continue in a new format we are finding good ways of studying the Bible together.

We have our weekend away details, do read how you could join in this very interesting weekend. Ruth has details, if you are between 18 years and 30 years old, of a group you could join. Can you think "Who am I" is? do read the questions put to the unknown person!!

We have two new Elders who have written about their new challenge in helping lead our Church Family. There is our Church Family News where there is sad news and really wonderful news too.

There is so much for you to explore which I hope you find interesting. If you want to join any of our activities you are assured of a very warm welcome and we will be delighted if you come and join us.

With all good wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year..

Anne

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Dear friends

As I left my house the other night, to attend a meeting at the church, my heart suddenly was saddened. It was not the rain that was falling, the chill wind blowing, or something that I had overheard which had made me stop and briefly think in a glum way, but rather an absence of something I had become used to.

A light had gone out, or rather a few hundred lights had gone out.

The High Street was no longer illuminated by the string of colourful bulbs, and the trees, although still with tresses of wire and glass, were no longer sparkling white. It would seem the lights that we use at the time we celebrate the coming of God's light into the world had been extinguished, the switch thrown to the off position, not to be turned back on for another eleven months.

The impression to me was, "well Christmas is over, get on with the darkness." Darkness in the bible is often used to signify mystery, danger, and the presence of those who would do evil. It is in darkness of night that Jesus said a thief may come (Matthew 24: 43), it is in the darkness of night we stumble and trip (John 11: 10), and it is in darkness that the priests and temple guard arrested Jesus (Luke 22: 53).

However as I dwelt on this darkness some other verses also came to mind; At the very beginning of our bibles we see that God does not leave the universe a place of darkness but brings light (Genesis 1: 1-5).

In John's Gospel we find that Nicodemus a Pharisee could come from the darkness of night to discover Jesus and learn of how we may be saved from our sin (John 3: 1-21), and the apostle Paul wrote to the Colossians saying "He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves" (Col 1:13).

Whenever we open a newspaper, browse news websites, turn on the TV news, or listen on the radio we will hear of darkness, of things that will sadden our hearts, of war and violence, poverty and sickness, suffering and death, but we should be assured by our faith that this was not how God intended the world to be, and He offers light and life to all who will turn to Him.

It is our place as the church to be in the dark world, and shine His light for all to see.

May God's light fill your heart, and illuminate your path.

Your minister

Keith

Family News

Congratulations

What a pleasure it is to be able to give you some GOOD NEWS! Rather belated, perhaps, but our warm CONGRATULATIONS go to Alex Hall who gained a Masters degree in Research last Autumn. As many of you will recall, not so long ago Alex was unwell for four years and had to postpone his studies. Alex (and his parents, Martin and Helen) were very much upheld in prayer by many members of LURC during all of that difficult time. Alex is so grateful for that prayer support, and testifies how it ultimately brought him back to health and enabled him to achieve the results he has. Well done, Alex! Our prayers continue to be with you.

Yet more GOOD NEWS has reached us from Cambridge where our former Youth Pastor, Josh Thomas, is training for the Ministry. He and Hannah have recently had a baby Girl, Isla, so our love and congratulations go to them both on their new arrival.



Thank You

Sue and Dennis Waller would like to say a BIG thank you for your prayers, cards, meals and support over the last eight months. God has been great and though treatment was as bad as we were told, the prayer support upheld us both during what could have been a difficult time.

So thank God and all your prayers for what has been a successful conclusion to this last session of Hodgkin's Lymphoma .

We look forward to 2017 and all that may bring.

With our love
Sue and Dennis

Thank You

John, Carol, Simon and Helen would like to thank our Church family for all the cards, flowers, prayers and practical support that we have received over the past year.

We have felt very blessed to be surrounded by so much love and we continue to appreciate your prayers during this difficult time. Thank you.

Carol Merrett

Family News

Sad News

Sadly, two of our loved and respected Church members journeyed home to be with the Lord just before Christmas. So our sincere sympathy and condolences go to Jill O'Mant, Sue Tester and their families.

Brian O'Mant was a very practical member of our congregation with a real pastoral heart for others.

He served faithfully on the Managers until his health no longer permitted him to do so. You'd also find Brian helping Jill with catering, and for some time after joining us here he continued, where he could, to help King's Church in Burgess Hill.

Brian had a very strong faith which was very evident during his prolonged period of increasingly poor health – a tremendous example to us all!

The Service of Thanksgiving for Brian's life was very fitting for such a man of God, and it has been a real blessing to have him (and Jill) in our Fellowship in recent years.

Brian Tester had a long battle with Cancer. However, both he and Sue always stayed very positive and faced up to each surgery and treatment with great courage and fortitude, which we've so much admired.

Brian was a man of strong principles and knew his own mind, and was always willing to share his views and suggestions at Church meetings. He will also be much missed in the House Group he belonged to and in which he played a full part.

Coming into Church membership in 1985, Brian enjoyed reading and taking part in sketches during services and other events. He faced up to the sudden deterioration in his health and impending death with great courage, knowing that he was going to be with his Lord and Saviour.

Born and brought up in Lindfield, Brian belonged to many organisations and societies in the area, including the U3A and the Rotary Club, for whom he worked with zeal and enthusiasm. Approximately three hundred people packed into the Church for his Thanksgiving Service, a great testimony of the high regard and respect in which Brian was held within the Church and community.

Val Ling, who has been almost housebound for a number of years but had a connection to LURC through the Lunch Fellowship and Car Outing, has died suddenly. So we remember her family and her neighbours in Oak Lea as they come to terms with loss of a gentle Friend and Mother.

Fo Tingley

In Touch

In November Jo, Pat and Jenny led our very successful Craft evening and we thank them for all the work they put into preparing all the items for us to make.

On February 28th we welcome Janet and Ron Goodenough who are coming to tell us about their recent trip to India. We look forward to hearing about the work they support that is being carried out in that country.

As usual tea or coffee will be provided at 7.45pm ready for the start of Janet's talk at 8.00pm. Everyone is very welcome to join us.

Janet Wade

Church Meeting

Please note the Church Meeting postponed due to snow in January will now be held on the **9th February** in the Church at the usual time of 8.00pm.

Sue Waller



Thank You

Once again during Advent the Advent wreath 'appeared' in church and when the candles got low they suddenly grew taller for the next week.

Well, our thanks need to go to Gladys Porter for providing this each year, something she has been doing for a few years now. However Gladys has been providing flowers for a much longer period.

On the first weekend in January for the past 34 years she has been providing and arranging the flowers in church, never missed a year. Sadly she has indicated she is no longer able to continue to arrange these flowers for us.

Thanks Gladys for all these years of faithful service in this way. You may feel this is something you could do, perhaps not for the next 34 years!

If so Betty Billins would love to hear from you.

Christmas Concert

Have you heard the one about.....? I'm sure that you have because they all came out at the URC Christmas Concert on 22nd December last year!

There were hearty renditions of favourite Christmas Carols including Hark the Herald Angels sing, which was very appropriate as was Oh Come All Ye Faithful. The Copthorne Silver Band were on top form not only accompanying the carols, but also performing a number of items by themselves. Christmas Joy, which started the Concert, was a particular favourite of mine. We are grateful for their contribution.

The evening would not have been complete without our own singers, who entertained us with three items. Well done and thank you all.

Richard and Dawn Walters, joined by Emma Nibloe, performed Silent Night, which was enthusiastically received by the audience.

The Church was full, as was the Gallery. If you weren't there you missed an exciting evening. As one lady remarked to me, it really starts Christmas. I was gratified to see a number of people who would not normally come to the Church in attendance. An excellent way to get ourselves noticed.

The charity chosen for the evening was Off the Fence, which will be familiar to most of you. The collection of donations at the door came to £ 363 and after expenses the balance is for the charity. Thank you for being so generous.

I had a marvellous evening and I think that the same can be said for all involved, including the audience. Thank you again to everyone who made it possible, including Jenny Machell and her team of helpers who provided hot drinks and mince pies in the interval

If anyone has any jokes they would like to share, you know where to send them!

John Merrett





New Elders

At the church annual meeting two members, Lesley Sparks and Tim Sanderson were elected to serve as elders for the first time, here they reflected on their faith journey and what led them to this calling.

I have been asked to write an article on my spiritual journey, which has led me to recently being elected as a Church Elder.

As far back as I can remember I have known the presence of God in my life. My first crisis point came when I was 18 and diagnosed with TB. Until then there had been no guaranteed cure, and I accepted that my life could be cut short, but I prayed that if that was not God's will for me, I wanted Him to take my life and use it in His service.

My life took many twists and turns and it got very 'messy' at times. It is only now that I realise that what God says in Genesis 28:15 is true---

"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go".

He has gently guided me, and with the help of good friends in the church, I am experiencing a closer walk with the Lord which has seen me through the most difficult times in my life.

The Psalmist (Psalm 37:4,5) says:

*"Delight yourself in the Lord...
Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him"*

We have not been promised an easy life, but if we believe, we know that He is walking beside us through it all, giving us the strength that we need day by day, always ready to listen when we talk to Him, and giving us that deep peace which the world cannot give.

I've learnt that He forgives our mistakes, He uses our wrong choices and He turns it all around to His praise and glory.

I am deeply humbled and honoured that people have seen something in me which has led them to ask me to be their Elder-- a role which I have never considered to be one for me.

I have such faith and trust in God, that however steep the road ahead may be, when I ask Him, He will give me the wisdom and words to complete each task.

I will endeavour to do what St Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

"Be joyful always; Pray continually; Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"

Lesley Sparks

Our Editor has asked that I introduce myself, as one of the Elders recently newly elected. When I was asked if I my name could be put forward, I considered it a privilege and am humbled that Lindfield URC Members voted for me.

I have been a believer in our Lord Jesus Christ for some 45 years, since my mid teens, and in that time, I have seen God's faithfulness to me, and to those close to me, despite my faithlessness and unfaithfulness.



As a church, we believe that God wants to do a new thing in and through his church, not least here in Lindfield. In taking forward my role as elder, I wholeheartedly support this initiative, and look forward to the challenges, warnings and encouragements from the Lord.

To pick up on a few issues on my heart, I desire to see us move from Ritual to Relationship – not just our relationships with each other, but crucially to deepen my, and our, love and closeness to God, day by day. As we grow in relationship with each other, we should also look to serve the wider community.

Secondly to grow and change in our transition from Music to Worship, building on the strengths of our worship teams, and enjoying more freedom as we express our love for the Lord. And we need to extend from Church to Kingdom, bringing to life the words of the prayer Jesus taught us “your kingdom come”, and his instruction to “..seek first God’s Kingdom and righteousness..”. In all this we rely on the presence of God’s Holy Spirit, given so that the church universal, as Christ’s body, will grow and bear much fruit.

As I endeavour to serve and encourage members, I hope we will learn and grow together.

Tim Sanderson

Do you believe in Angels?

asks Hilary Shepherd

Many years ago I read a book on Angels by Dr Billy Graham. It was fascinating and thought provoking, but left me unsure as to my belief.

Then, when I was working for Kingdom Faith we travelled all over the country and used to say the Angels jumped off when we exceeded the speed limit! So, what are my thoughts now?



What is an angel? Is it just a spiritual experience or something? Does it just appear and disappear? Can it only be seen and heard by the one to whom it is sent or also to others around? If the latter, do they realise the significance? When does the recipient realise? You can probably think of other alternatives.

Let me recount my recent experience. I was at the Brighton Hospital waiting to be taken to the theatre when, what to me, seemed initially like an apparition "floated" into our area. He had a flowing consultant's gown floating behind him and also long, white hair. He came up to me and said he was an anaesthetist, but although he was not on my case they had been discussing my problems. He was fascinated and wanted to see me for himself. He then felt my chest area and listened on his stethoscope before thanking me and floating back from where he had appeared. "What a lovely man" commented my wife and daughters, but to me he was more than that.

It did not finish there, as next morning when I was lying in bed in the High Dependency Ward this same vision appeared in the ward, came past three other beds and straight up to me.

He did not say a word to me or anyone else but he leant over, shook my hand with a very strong grip, turned and went back the same way. This seemed amazing, but, the next morning, the very same thing happened again. To me, there was no doubt this was "my angel" who had come to reassure me and convey God's healing love. Amazing, or what?

I would love to read your thoughts about something I will never forget. Have you experienced anything similar? Do you believe in angels? What, also, did the anointing and laying-on of hands mean to you? Did my earlier article "Why Me" get you thinking as there were many comments from inside and outside the church?

Why not do a 'letter to the editor and share them?' I am sure the Editor would be pleased to have some ongoing discussion, so please put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard.

I now strongly say "Yes, I believe in Angels".

Hilary Shepherd

Journeying with Jesus

It is nearly two years since I came to the church, and during my settling in time one of the first meetings I had was with Val Cookney who was the co-ordinator of our home groups. Among the many different items we explored was the fact it had been quite some time since the membership of the home groups had been shuffled. Home groups have a dual role in the church of allowing time to explore God's word but also to enable people to develop trusting friendships.

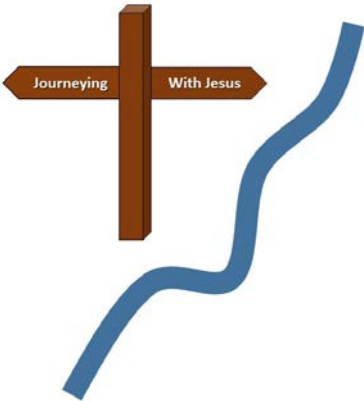
We want long term relationships to build so that members may pastorally support and encourage each other in their faith.

We also need strong relationship building across the whole church rather than the development of isolated groups, or even cliques, and so to encourage the growth of a healthy church it is a good thing to mix people around the groups every few years.

The reshuffle was considered overdue when I came, and this has grown greater still as we looked for the right time. We chose to do something new in 2017, which fits with our year's theme of relationships, however it was felt that perhaps the groups have been too long established to switch straight from old to new.



So the concept of a brief time in a different format where the church gathers as one (or rather one at 11am and another at 8pm) for a bible reading, an address and then splitting into small groups, would provide a suitable segue, or bridge.



The timing of the series from Epiphany through Lent, was able to provide us with a theme for the series, looking at episodes in the life of Jesus. I do hope you will be able to continue with us on our Journey, even if you were not with us in Bethlehem, or by the river Jordan Maybe you can catch up as we move into the Wilderness, or on towards Capernaum. We will continue to meet in the first and third weeks of the month, until Easter. Membership of the new home Groups will be announced before the end of this series, and the new groups will commence in the first week of May. If you would like a set of bible study questions from the earlier weeks then please do ask for a copy.

Keith Morrison

Jan 5	Matt 2:1-12	Rev Keith Morrison	Bethlehem Kingship
Jan 19	Matt 3:13-17	Rev Mike Gardiner	River Jordan Baptism/Unity in Christ
Feb 2	Luke 4:1-13	David Walters	Wilderness Power of Scripture
Feb 16	John 6:16-24	Rev Keith Morrison David Goodchild	Towards Capernaum Encouragement
Mar 2	Mark 5:1-15	Dan McQuillin	Gerasenes Changing Lives
Mar 16	Mark 8:14-26	Rev Mike Gardiner	Boat to Bethsaida Speaker of Wisdom, Worker of Miracles
Apr 6	Matt 26:6-16	Rev Keith Morrison	Bethany Choosing the right path

Sunday Services

The **10.00am** 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 after the morning service.

Holy Communion (4th Sunday)

At **6:30pm** Held in the lounge this is sometimes a celebration, sometimes a quieter ministry time and sometimes an open communion service or something quite different!

Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)

Personal prayer is available after every service. We can also offer personal prayer ministry at home or in hospital.

We do not take up an offering during the services, those wishing to give are invited to place a gift in one of the bowls at the doors before or after the service.

Recordings of services can be borrowed free from the church.

Prayer Meetings

Mon	9.30am	An Hour of Prayer
Thur	8.00pm	Church Prayer Evening 'Engine Room' (4th Thursday)
Sat	8.45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting. Venue rotates between the three churches

Prayer requests and brief statements of praise for answered prayer can be put in the blue book on the concourse table.

Regular Activities

Mon	10.00am	Art Group
	6.00pm	Boys' Brigade - Anchor Boys (5-7 years)
	6.30pm	Boys' Brigade - Junior Section (8-11 years)
	7.30pm	Boys' Brigade - Company Section (11+ years)
Tue	10.00am	Stepping Stones (Parents and toddlers - term time)
	7.45pm	In Touch (4th Tues) for women of all ages
Wed	2.30pm	The Fellowship (4th Wed) for men and women of all ages
Thur	10.00am	Pop-In Coffee and a chat
	8.00pm	Church Meeting (2nd Thur)
Fri	5:00pm	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.

February Church diary

1st Wednesday	12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship	19th Sunday	10:00am	Family Service Rev Keith Morrison
2nd Thursday	11:00am & 8:00pm	House Groups: Journeying with Jesus		6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison
4th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free	22nd Wednesday	2:30pm 7:45pm	The Fellowship Elders' Meeting
5th Sunday	10:00am 6:30pm	Family Service Rev Keith Morrison Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison	23rd Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
9th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Meeting	25th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free
11th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free	26th Sunday	10:00am 6:30pm	Communion David Walters Evening Worship TBC
12th Sunday	10:00am 6:30pm	Family Service Rev Keith Morrison Communion Rev Keith Morrison	28th Tuesday	7:45pm	In Touch
16th Thursday	11:00am & 8:00pm	House Groups: Journeying with Jesus	<p>Time and date information correct at time of going to press, for the latest updates and further information please check our website :</p> <p>www.lindfieldurc.org.uk</p>		
18th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free			

YOUTH

Hello!

Amazingly, we are already in February of 2017 and Christmas seems like a distant memory! At the beginning of December, the Southern Synod Youth Executive organised and ran a challenge afternoon for the young people of the local Southern Synod URC churches. They held the event at Reigate Park URC on Saturday 3rd December and were successful in getting a total of ten young people come along. Two of which were from our own church!

The afternoon was great fun with many different challenges to complete, and finished at the end by eating together and getting to know each other. The Southern Synod Youth Executive plan to go to other churches around the Synod and do the event again so that other young people can come along without needing to travel too far.

Moving slightly further through December, Pulse attended Christmas United on Friday 16th. Christmas United was an event run for the youth within and around Haywards Heath and was organised by five different churches. On the night, we had 130 young people come along and join in worshipping God together. After a short talk and an invitation to come to know Jesus, nine young people raised their hands to show that they wanted to commit their lives to Christ and begin their Christian journey!

It was great to work alongside the other churches, and I love seeing young people, some linked to churches and others not, get to know each other in a relaxed and safe setting.

Many other fun events happened over the Christmas period including village night, a trip to Wintershall and a few Christmas services, which brings us into the new year.

All the youth groups are in full swing within the church, and they are beginning to grow. Boys' Brigade Anchors has now got 5 boys coming along regularly, the waiting list at Stepping Stones continues to grow and Rooted sees new people coming along nearly every week! I am also focusing on planning the Messy Church evenings, one of which has now come and gone!

It is always amazing to look around and see all the work God is doing within the church. Please continue to pray for the young people as they navigate their way through exams, and the ever growing pressures that they face.

God bless,

Danny

PAGES

Come join us for



**All ages welcome! Under 14's must bring an adult.
Fun for the whole family!**

On these Fridays:

**January 20th
February 17th
March 17th
May 19th
July 21st**

4pm until 6pm

**Including games, craft,
Bible stories and dinner!**

Boys' Brigade

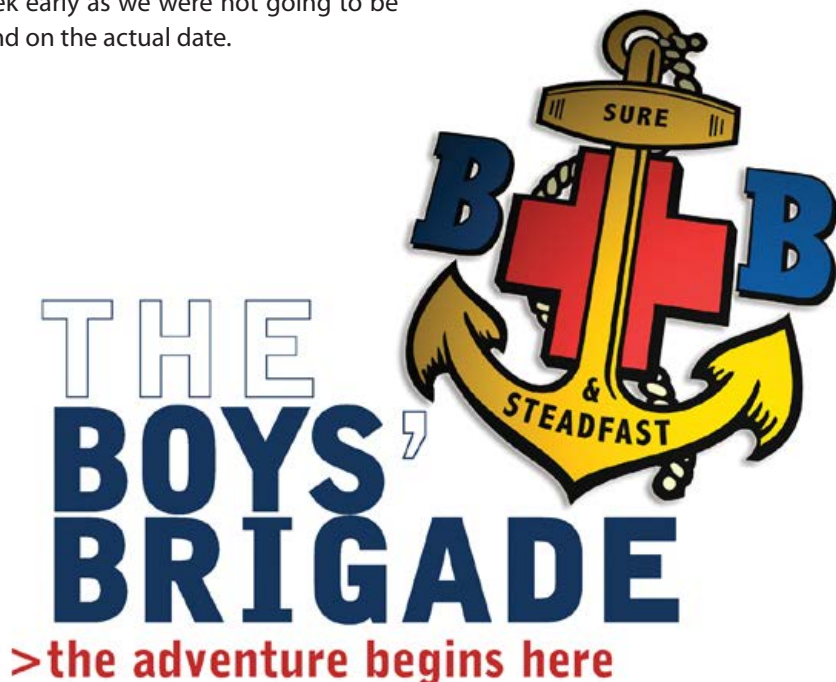
We have been encouraged by the growth in numbers in the Anchor Section over the past month. This is the result of the boys encouraging their friends from school to come along. This is the best form of recruiting.

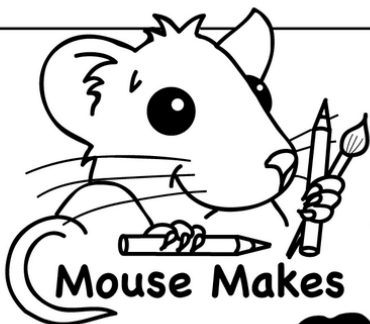
During Advent we were able to make good use of the giant Advent calendar in the church. The Juniors Section went into the church for their devotions period each week and sat around this working through all the windows that had been opened during the previous week. This gave a good foundation for discussion. I must admit we did open the BB window a week early as we were not going to be around on the actual date.

We are now setting out on the second half of the session which will see many of the boys working towards awards and badges. We have received the registration information for the Battalion Junior Section weekend away in April and this year the majority of our boys have booked to go on this.

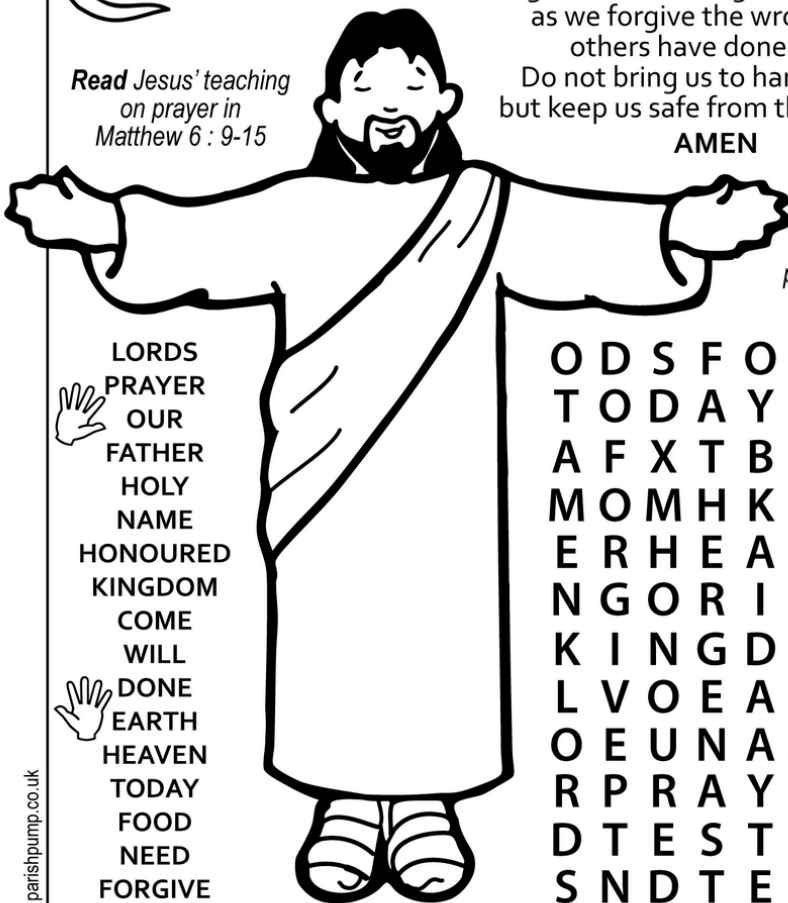
Although numbers are still very low in the Company Section we manage to do various activities, drumming still being part of the evenings programme.

David Walters





Read Jesus' teaching
on prayer in
Matthew 6 : 9-15



LORDS
PRAYER
OUR
FATHER
HOLY
NAME
HONOURED
KINGDOM
COME
WILL
DONE
EARTH
HEAVEN
TODAY
FOOD
NEED
FORGIVE
WRONGS
TESTING
SAFE
EVIL
AMEN

Can you find all
the words from
the list in the
wordsearch?



THE LORD'S PRAYER



Our Father in heaven:

May your holy name be honoured;
may your Kingdom come;
may your will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.



Give us today the food we need.
Forgive us the wrongs we have done,
as we forgive the wrongs that
others have done to us.

Do not bring us to hard testing,
but keep us safe from the Evil One.

AMEN



Write a
prayer of
praise to God



ODSFOODH
TODAYGCW
AFXTBPOR
MOMHKVMO
ERHEAVEN
NGORISBG
KINGDOMS
LVOEARTH
OEUNAMEO
RPRAYERS
DTESTING
SNDTEHLF
AEOTVOUR
FENWILLD
EDEHLYGR



Synapse

Synapse is a group that meets on Sunday evenings for 18-30 year olds. We are a fairly new group, first meeting together in early September in the pub, conversation soon turned to what to name the group. After much discussion and a few interesting suggestions, we settled on the name 'Synapse'. In the nervous system, a synapse is a gap between neurones in the brain, where links between neurones are made. The thinking was that 18-30 is an under-represented age group in our church, and we hope this group (like the synapse) can be the bridge that joins the two.

Currently there are eight of us, each taking it in turns to plan an evening. Most weeks we keep it simple, meeting to chat and relax or have a games night. We have had a few trips out, bowling, ice skating, and journeying down to Brighton for the St Peter's Church Carol service. As many of us are in full time work, or are students, it is nice to have time every week to relax with friends and recharge before the next busy week begins.

Anyone aged 18-30 is welcome to join us! As time and place vary every week please get in touch so you know where we will be. Call Danny Goodall on 07443438970.

For those of you too young or slightly too old to join us, please remember the group in your prayers as we continue to have fun and navigate life together!

Ruth Goodall

Weekend Away

"ABBA: Knowing Me, Knowing You"

It is now only four months until our church weekend away at Pilgrim Hall near Uckfield on the 16th to the 18th June, but don't worry if you have not already put your name down, you can still join with us – either staying overnight, or coming as a day visitor.

There will be teaching sessions, and times to relax, activities for the children and the young at heart.

David and Lorna Bedford will lead our programme. David says, Jesus used the word 'Abba' (Aramaic), a very intimate title best translated 'Daddy' to speak to God: come and renew your intimacy with Him, with your brothers and sisters, and in the light of such a dynamic relationship share the hope in your heart with others.

We are not setting a specific price and want all who are able to attend to feel they can come, and finance should not be a barrier. There will be gift days on Sunday February 12th and on May 14th, on which we ask you to give as you are able, please consider prayerfully what your contribution may be. If you would like to give over a number of weeks or months please do speak with Paul Bloxham.

Keith Morrison



ABBA

Knowing Me
Knowing You

Church Family
Away Weekend
at Pilgrim Hall

**16th ~ 18th
June 2017**

Led by
David & Lorna Bedford

**Gift Days
Sunday 12th Feb
&
Sunday 14th May**



Its not too late!

Speak to one of the committee
if you would like to join us!

Digital or Analogue?

Is it a digital or analogue watch that give the most accurate time?



As we approached the year change from three digits (1999) to four digits (2000) there was a lot of talk about the risk of computer failure and the adverse effects on us all if this were to happen. In the event the technical transition into the 2000's went without a major hitch.

Over the same period and with little public awareness, major changes in the infrastructure that deliver our phone and data services was underway. The transition has been described as the equivalent of changing all four engines on a airliner in mid-flight. This success in which I played no part but of which I did have detailed knowledge resulted in an invitation for me to live and work outside the UK.

In the late 90's I was offered a job with Spring Harvest to oversee their conference technologies including the proposals to extend the reach of Spring Harvest into Europe.

As this was not the right time for me to make this move I later became a consultant in a global company specifically to support their bid for business into the then new world of broadband technology. On joining the corporation some time later it was then not long before I was flying about (in planes) for meetings in other countries and speaking at conferences and exhibitions.

The invitation to move to HQ came following one such conference where I had been the keynote speaker. Asked by a senior director why I was not working for him I replied that he had not asked me. He soon arranged that I moved to Sweden to lead a multinational team working across Western Europe.

I caught up with the team in the French Alps, on ski's. Not being used to skiing I skipped the imminent night ski run and took my time as I was short of breath en route to the sanctuary of a small cafe where we all met up. This proved to be the first of many team building events.

Back to the watch, which I am sure you know, is not dependent on the outward display but on the inward resources for its accuracy.

Like the watch, the pressure is to look at the outside rather than accessing the inward resources which are available to all through Jesus for all time.

Henderson McEwan

First Aid Training Day!

Lindfield United Reformed Church will be holding a First Aid training day on Saturday 18th February. The day will cover basic first aid suitable for volunteers/ staff who are helping with events etc.

The day is open for everyone, but especially for those who work with children or the elderly within the Church.

The day will run from 9.30am to 4pm at the Church - please bring your own lunch!

There are limited spaces that are given on a first come first served basis, so please sign up quickly!

If you plan on coming please email Danny Goodall dgoodall@lindfieldurc.org.uk

GEAR

Renewal movement serving the United Reformed Church

Growing closer
to Jesus
Enthusiastic about
the Bible
Alive in the power
of the Spirit
Reaching out with
the Good News

It is easy to assume everyone knows about organisations we support. Our Church supports GEAR and some of our Congregation are individual members but it may be a number are not clear what GEAR stands for.

GEAR was formed in 1974, shortly after the creation of the URC. Our previous minister Charles Martin was involved with those who had the original vision and became one of the founder members. Today there are more than 400 members of this voluntary network and the national magazine 'In GEAR' is distributed free of charge to over 3,000 people. We have copies available on the Concourse for anyone to take and read. We have also had a number of GEAR members come and speak, the most recent being Paul Stokes who spoke at our last Church Away Weekend. The Romans One Eleven Trust is also linked with GEAR.

GEAR is wholly dependent on the prayers, giving and participation of individuals who share their aims, but all the events, ministries and resources are available for everyone within the URC.

GEAR aims:

To emphasise that the heart of all Christian life and work is a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ;

- *To promote growth in Christian faith and life that is rooted in the Bible;*
- *To pray for and to foster renewal by the Holy Spirit in the personal life of members and the corporate life of congregations and councils;*
- *To explore ways of evangelism, and to encourage participation in forms of outreach relevant to today.*

GEAR is convinced that effective ministry and fruitful mission can happen only under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Therefore we work and pray for personal and corporate renewal, looking to see individuals and churches move into a deeper intimacy with Jesus Christ.

GEAR invests personnel and resources, actively participating in the life of the Church through:

Bible Verse

- *Mobilising Prayer - prayer guides in print and online, and a network of intercessors.*
- *Conferences - several inspirational annual retreats for adults and youths.*
- *ERAs (Evangelism and Renewal Advocates) - three field-workers funded by GEAR as a resource for local churches exploring evangelism and renewal.*
- *Ignite & Dunamis - one-day introductory event, and in-depth training retreats, equipping people for Spirit-empowered ministry.*
- *Publications - booklets, a national 'In GEAR' magazine and a resource for ministers in training. Booklets include:*
 - Let us Pray*
 - Mission Enabled*
 - Eldership*
 - Renewal in the Local Church*
 - Over the Horizon*
 - A Refreshing Stream*

So if you didn't know much about GEAR I hope you now have a better understanding of the group we are part of and support. If you want any more information or would like to obtain any booklets please have a word with me.

David Walters

We have all just completed a year and are now possibly contemplating what the new year ahead has in store for us!

We know that there will be a number of ups and downs during 2017 and only God knows what they will be and when they occur. What we do know is that whatever lies ahead God will be with us, encouraging, comforting and helping us through, and this led me to think of the verses in Romans 5 Verses 3&4

"We can rejoice when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us. They help us learn to endure. And endurance develops strength of character in us....."

As our characters develop and become stronger, then we will be better able to use this strength to cope with future challenges.

I find this a very encouraging thought to carry me through 2017.

Janet Wade

Who am I?

This month we have asked another member or regular worshipper some probing personal questions. As we get to know one another after the morning service try to figure out who it might be...

Where were you born?

In the east end of London.

What was your favourite subject at school?

English.

What was your first Church?

Haggerston Methodist Church, which I attended with my parents.

What is your job?

My main job and the one I enjoyed most was in a supermarket, as I love meeting people.

What's your favourite sport?

It has to be football.

What is your favourite hymn/worship song?

'It has to be 'All my Days'.

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

That's interesting, I would say half-full but my mum might say half-empty - she knows me better than I know myself at times.

What's your favourite food?

That's difficult, but assuming that we are talking a main course it's got to be fish, but I love tomatoes.

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

I'd probably go to Jamaica.

What makes you laugh?

'Some mothers do 'ave 'em'.

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

Probably Sport or pre-noughties pop rock music, but probably sport!

The answer will be revealed in the March edition of GoodNEWS.

Good Samaritan

On Sunday morning, New Year's Day, I took the car to the small car park by the mini roundabout, parked and walked very slowly to my seat at the end of the path across the top of the common, then sat on a plastic bag while I got my breath back. As I sat there a man walked slowly past looking at me and went on a few steps before turning and coming back to me. "My name is Mark" he said "and I am not happy seeing you there. Are you alright?" 'Yes' I said, 'I'm fine, just getting my breath'. "Are you sure?" he asked, and on confirmation he walked on.

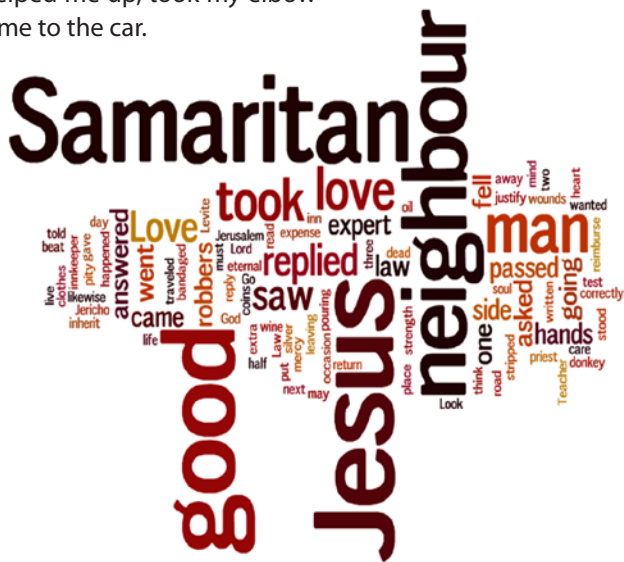
After crossing the road he turned back and came to me. "I am very concerned about you" he said, "and don't think you should be here like that on a day like today." "No, I am fine" I said. "Well, I do not like it. I am very concerned about you. Where is your car?" I pointed it out to him and he said "Right, I am going to help you back to it," helped me up, took my elbow and walked me to the car.

As I was strapping up he said "I am not happy about you. Are you sure you can drive? Where do you live?" Upon being told first turning on the right, Linden Grove, he said "Right. You drive off then and I will watch you go", so off I went. A few minutes later I was standing in my hallway, taken off my bobble hat and my coat was half off when there was a knock at the door, and there was Mark.

He had followed me to ensure I had got home and that there was someone else in the house.

If you are reading this, Mark, I want to thank you profusely for your consideration, concern and care. This is not behaviour you see these days, and you were a true GOOD SAMARITAN. Thank you so much.

Hilary Shepherd



Missions



www.romans111.org.uk

The mission focus for February 2017 continues with 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

The Trust's main aim is to provide mutual encouragement for churches in the UK and in African countries.

A trip to Uganda is being planned for July this year. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in joining that trip (for all or part of the two and a half weeks), or if you are interested in finding out more information, please speak to Helen Hall of the LURC Missions Committee as soon as possible – or contact The Trust directly. Please pray for the trip.



Assembly at Ssanje Modern Primary School, run by Samuel Muhumuza – who was recently in the UK



www.uk.om.org

Date for your diary: We are looking forward to a visit from Operation Mobilisation on Sunday 19 March with particular emphasis on its work in Kosovo and London. More details to follow, including in the next edition of Good News.

Missions Group

Phonebook

Keith Morrison (Minister)

Telephone 01444 484791
Email kmorrison@lindfielddurc.org.uk

Danny Goodall (Youth Pastor)

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Mobile 07443 438970
Email dgoodall@lindfielddurc.org.uk

Church Secretary

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

Treasurer

Terry Ward 01444 482986

Boys' Brigade:

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

February

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

March

5th	Betty Billins	Sue Tester
12th	Winifred Scopes	Janet Sanderson
19th	Fiona Tingley	Meta Orchin
26th	Heather Swann	Lesley Sparks

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

Around Lindfield

Saturday 4th February

10.00am Horticultural Society in Jubilee Room, King Edward Hall
Coffee Morning, Plant Sale and Seed Swap

Wednesday 8th February

12.00 noon Tiger Arts - Lunch in The Tiger
1.00pm Concert in All Saints : Duo Illumina
8.00pm Lindfield Horticultural Society in King Edward Hall
Talk : "Garden Sage Garden Centre" with plants
by Ed Nugent

Tuesday 14th February

2.30pm Lindfield Preservation Society in King Edward Hall
Talk : "River Ouse - Source to the Sea" by Geoffrey Mead

Saturday 18th February

7.00pm Haywards Heath Music Society 75th Season
Methodist Church, Haywards Heath
Ensemble Reza play works by Mozart, Ravel and Korngold
Further information : haywardsheathmusicsociety.org.uk

Thursday 23rd February

7.30pm Village Film Night in King Edward Hall
"Sully", starring Tom Hanks and category 12A
Tickets available from Tufnells



www.lindfieldurc.org.uk