

# GoodNEWS MAGAZINE

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

March 2017



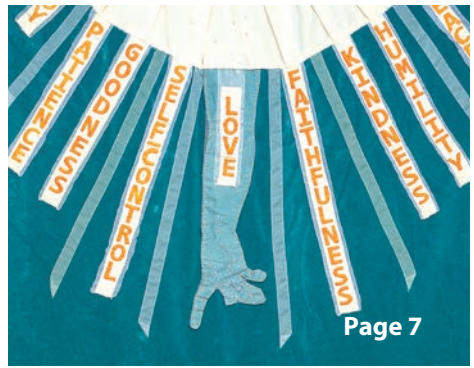
*Mothering  
Sunday*  
March 26th @ 10:00am



# Bible verse of the month

“ Beyond all question  
the mystery of godliness is  
great.  
He appeared in a body,  
was vindicated by the Spirit,  
was seen by angels,  
was preached among the  
nations,  
was believed on in the  
world,  
was taken up into glory.”

1 Timothy 3:16 NIV



Page 7



Page 8



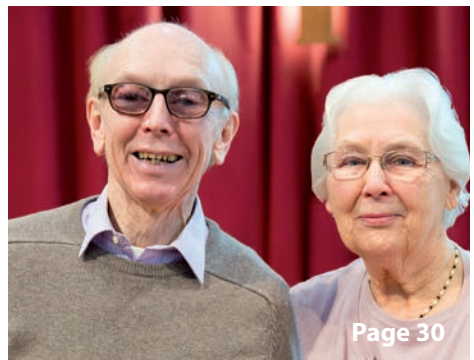
Page 14

Our verse this month comes  
from Ray Tijou, for more  
information see page 25

If you have a verse or article  
you would like to share in  
GoodNEWS email:  
[goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk](mailto:goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk)



Page 22



Page 30

# Editorial

In this month's Good News, we can learn about 'The House of Joy' which is the new name given to the 'Family House' in Peja, Kosovo. This home is bringing so much help to so many folk who are in real need of help. Do see what is happening on Sunday 19th March in connection with this project. Some different thoughts for us to consider for Mothering Sunday.

How blessed we are in having such a caring Church Family. We can all have this very special link with others who care. Keep up to date with how 'Lucy Three' is progressing!

Ray gives us food for thought with his Text for the month. There are so many different topics covered this month. Come to our Church to see the gift of our new banner, which is situated on a wall in our Church. A very dedicated group of ladies from Whaddon Way Church, generously gave this banner as a gift to us.

Our Boys Brigade has some very Good News, do read about this! We have Spring to look forward to, the Crocus and Daffodils waiting to burst out to lift all our spirits, what a wonderful world we have to thank God for.

God Bless,

*Anne*

April Edition Copy Date :  
**Sunday March 12th 2017**

## EDITOR

Anne Elvin  
01444 456840

## EDITORIAL TEAM

Martin Hall, Stuart Marsh  
Ruth Goodall

## PROOF-READING

Carol and Stuart Marsh

## SETTING/DESIGN

Dan McQuillin

## PRINTING

David Walters

*Contributions should be  
emailed to  
goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk  
or hard copy placed in the  
"GoodNEWS" pigeon hole at the  
rear of the church*

*Please include your contact  
details in case of query*

*Produced for  
Lindfield United Reformed  
Church,  
50 High Street, Lindfield, West  
Sussex, RH16 2HL  
© Lindfield URC 2016*

# Dear friends

Before writing you this letter I have been melting butter in a frying pan, pouring in a ladle of batter, moving the liquid to fill the base, leaving it a few moments then tossing the contents over to cook the other side; in case you haven't guessed it is pancake day! Those reading this March edition of our magazine before the end of February may well wonder how this may be, for in 2017 Shrove Tuesday falls on the 28th of Feb. Has Keith built himself a Tardis you may wonder, has he travelled in time? No, the answer is far easier; at Ryecroft we enjoy pancakes each Saturday, for us every Saturday is Pancake Day, it is our own little family ritual.

I think it was 4 years ago, though it may be even longer, that Emmeline and I decided our family would have pancakes every Saturday. This was inspired by a seminar run by "Care for the Family" at Spring Harvest; they had explained that by establishing good regular habits, that bring the family together, children and parents will build a stronger relationship. It has the advantage too that, if there are difficulties in teenage years or beyond, the ritual may remain a constant point of togetherness where conversation may take place.

Our lives are probably full of traditions and rituals, many of which we may have lost the story behind. We do things one way rather than another because that is how we were brought up, or have otherwise become our learned behaviour. In different denominations of churches the structure of

the morning service may vary depending on whether the focus is predominantly on word or sacrament, and even within the same national church our local expression can be very different. It is important however to think of why we do what we do, and I hope you take time to reflect on our church practice and if you have questions please do ask. I think Shrove Tuesday is a prime example. It has become a secular expression of eating pancakes, taking in an unhealthy dose of fat and cholesterol with added sugar. Adverts may encourage us to stock up on lemon juice and the ingredients for the batter, but of course the original concept was to use up those fatty substances that were already in the cupboard; it is the day to prepare for the journey through Lent and so as well as feasting on the fatty food we are to consider on this day what we need to get rid of from our life so that we may be ready to follow God's leading.

The day which follows is Ash Wednesday, a time for repentance, and the first day of Lent. Will you give up an old habit I wonder, or maybe start a new one that will have a positive impact on your family and/or your relationship with the Lord? Either way I do hope that you will heed the words that are commonly said when those of other traditions are marked with the ashes of burnt palm leaves, "Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

Your minister

*Keith*

# Family News

## *Thanksgiving*

A much loved gentle friend has gone home to Glory after many years of poor health. Those of you who have been around at LURC for more than eleven years, will remember Richard and Lyn Tucker who returned to Lindfield to retire in 1991. After leaving a sixteen year Ministry here in Lindfield, Richard's final Pastorate was in Sevenoaks in Kent.

Such was their love of this village and the Church Family where they had faithfully served the Lord, that they enjoyed their retirement years until Richard's sudden death in 2006. Because of ill health, Lyn then went to Marlborough to live with their middle daughter, Ruth. Spending her last seven years in Residential care, Lyn died peacefully in January.

It wouldn't be right not to pay tribute to Lyn, both as a Minister's Wife and as a very committed Church member. She was a very gifted musician, playing and teaching the piano, singing and conducting (the choir and Christian Musicals) during her time here.

Lyn loved to work with children and taught in the Junior Church for many years, in addition to teaching at St. Wilfred's School. Her support and encouragement to Richard in his Ministry was very evident to see, and together they brought up three lovely daughters, Jo, Ruth and Madeline.

It was because of the whole family's ties and happy memories of Lindfield that the Service of Thanksgiving for Lyn's life was held here on February 8th. It was a very fitting celebration of Lyn's life, well spent as a caring Wife, Mother and Grandmother, Daughter and Sister, a trusted and faithful friend, with a servant heart for others and especially for her Lord and Saviour.

We thank God for a life well lived, and that many of us were blessed to be a part of it. We send our love and heartfelt sympathy to all of Lyn's Family.

**Fo Tingley**

## *Thank You*

Sue, Alison, Jonathan and families thank our church family for all the cards, flowers and offers of help since Brian sadly died in December.

We appreciated and were comforted by many friends praying and supporting us at the Thanksgiving Service for Brian. We are privileged to belong to a caring and loving fellowship and have been sustained by the love, care and Prayers of the church family.

**Sue Tester**



# Family News

## *Sunday Morning Singers*

**W**e commence our rehearsals on Friday 10th March at 7-30. Our music will include music for worship and secular. We anticipate singing at various other venues during the year including several of local care homes.

New voices always welcome., there is no audition required other than boundless enthusiasm to sing.

**Peter Swann**

## *Spring, Tunes and Tea*

*Saturday 25 th March at 3-00 pm*

**T**he Perdido Players Swing Band will present a concert of 30's and 40's music at the church .

Dawn Walters, our vocalist, will sing the songs of that era plus a special tribute to our local loved singer Vera Lynn who will be 100 on 20th March.

Tea and cake provided and there will be an opportunity to support the Air Ambulance with a donation, otherwise admission is free.

For more information contact:

**Peter Swann**

## *The Fellowship*

**T**he next meeting of The Fellowship will be held on Wednesday, 22 March, at 2.30 pm.

Our speaker will be John Jesson of the Lindfield Preservation Society.

There will be the usual Bring & Buy stall and, at the end of the meeting, a cup of tea and time for a chat with friends.

**Pat Phillips**

## *In Touch*

**I**n January we had our " Christmas " meal in the Red Lion. Eighteen members of our group attended and everyone enjoyed the meal in a relaxed atmosphere. A lot of catching up took place!!

On March 28th we meet as usual in the lounge at 7.45pm for coffee. We are going to focus on Easter and how it is celebrated in other countries. We would also, however, like to have everybody's ideas on the future of the In Touch group. Would you like any changes in its organisation, timing etc? Please come with some ideas as it would be much appreciated.

Everyone, as usual is welcome to come and join us for the evening.

**Janet Wade**

# Our New Banner

You will remember the short article I wrote for the November Good News, telling the story behind the new banner that our church has acquired. You will have seen that it is now in place, and the picture was taken at the Sunday morning when it was officially received. The banner bears the Bible reference: "I am the Lord your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear, I will help you." (Isaiah 41v13) A wonderful encouragement for all of us, but especially for those passing through difficult times. We have thanked the Banner Group at Whaddon Way Baptist for all the love they put into the making of the banner, and we have sent a contribution to their Building Fund, which will go towards repaying the loans on their attractive new building.

The ladies of Whaddon Way prepared an attractive illustrated book showing photos of the different stages in the making of the banner – please ask to see it if you haven't already done so.

**Mike Gardiner**



# Lucy Writes....

**H**ello, my name's Lucy and I'm a Blue Roan Cocker Spaniel aged three and a half years now.

How time flies. I was reminiscing recently and thinking of all the naughty things I used to do when I was a puppy. I heard Ray and Rosemary saying only last week how much I have grown up and how much easier I am now to look after as I am much more obedient!?



A few months ago Rosemary was changing the bed and I came into the bedroom and looked through Ray's trouser pockets. I ran off quickly and Rosemary immediately knew I had something I shouldn't have! I was sitting on the stairs with a five pound note hanging out of my mouth! I've never seen Ray move so fast! I swapped it for a biscuit!

I understand they now have plastic fivers! I seem to have Ray and Rosemary well trained too! When I bark they know it means I was to go out in the garden to the toilet and immediately they open the door for me! When it snowed recently I kept asking to go out to play in it!

I used to bark at Ray doing his daily violin practice and sit with Rosemary in the kitchen with the radio turned up loud! He must have improved because I don't bark at him now and even stay in the room when they are playing duets!

I still take Ray for a walk after breakfast, even when it's raining we have our constitutional.

Rosemary doesn't come as she walks too slowly for me! This last summer Ray and Rosemary used to take me with them to various garden centres when they had a coffee and a snack at lunchtime. We all enjoyed sitting outside in the sunshine.



# Do I believe in Angels?

I became quite used to being admired. One garden centre we used to visit at the foot of the Downs is very dog friendly and when the waitress takes the order she returns with three dog biscuits I soon latched on to this, and one day some people asked if I was cold because I was trembling. Rosemary replied that I was trembling with excitement as I was watching the cupboard where they keep the dog biscuits!

Another day I was talking to the waitress through the window with my eyes asking for some more biscuits! She was laughing and said no more! Roll on those lazy, hazy days of summer when I can visit this garden centre again and have some more dog biscuits! I am still doing my visiting at Compton House and St. Peter & St. James's Hospice and at Christmas I wore my Santa coat which seemed to please the people. I have met some lovely people who seem pleased to see me. I am always very quiet and gentle when visiting sick and elderly people.

The Spring isn't many weeks away now and then it will be summer again!

Love

**Lucy**

**I**t was early in July 1984 and the previous evening I had received a late night phone call to say my brother had been rushed to hospital in Reading, Berkshire with a cerebral haemorrhage. I had only been engaged to Ray for a few days but we both took the day off work and he came with me to visit John in hospital, picking up my elderly parents on the way.

As we drove them home after the visit we experienced a puncture in a dangerous place during the afternoon rush hour. We were on the approach to the fly over at Junction 11 of the M4 near Reading. We sat my parents on the barrier by the side of the road and Ray started to change the wheel.

Suddenly, as he crouched down in the road with the traffic driving past him a young man dressed in white trousers and a white pullover walked up to us. We had definitely not passed him before we stopped.

He offered to help by directing the traffic round Ray and he continue to do so until the wheel was changed. Then he bid us goodbye and walked off round the roundabout. My father gave me a pound note to give him as a thank you and I had to run to catch up with him, he was walking so fast! Needless to say, he declined to take the money.

Later that evening as we drove back to London we reflected on the incident and we both thought an angel had helped and protected us.

So, yes, I do believe in angels.

**Rosemary Tijou**

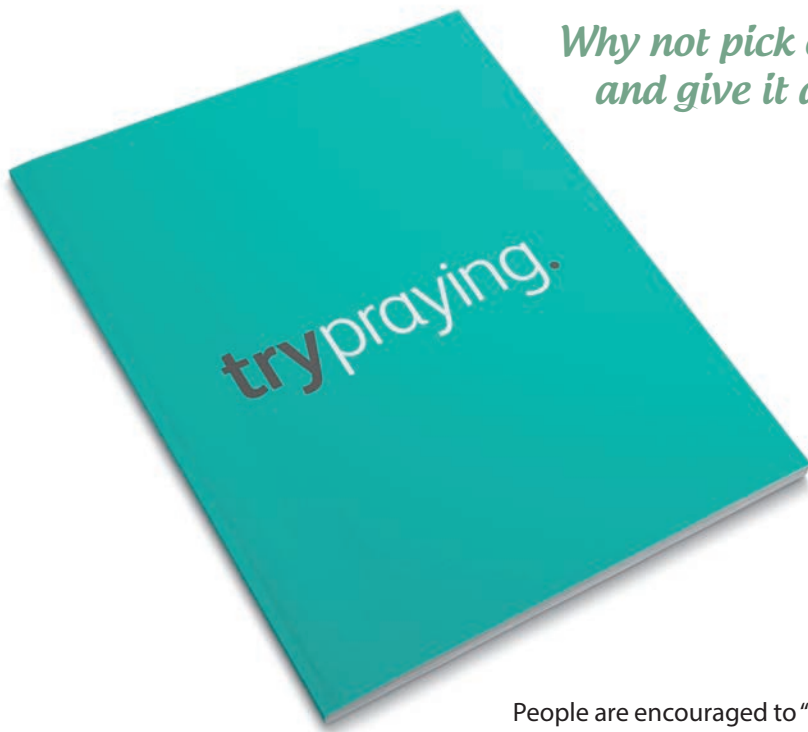
# Engine Room

Just a reminder that we meet from 9.30 am to 10.30 am every Monday morning (except Bank holidays) to pray for many issues that are in the news and for different needs within the Church.

We also meet for prayer on the 4th Thursday of every month at 8.00 pm.

We seek to meet with God in a very relaxed atmosphere, but maybe you feel that prayer is not for you. We have some booklets called "try praying" in the concourse which might help you.

*Why not pick one up  
and give it a go?*



People are encouraged to "try praying" for seven days and see where it leads them.

**Carol Walters**



**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 3-00 pm**  
**Lindfield United Reformed Church**

**Perdido Players Swing Band**

**Leader: Peter Swann      Vocalist: Dawn Walters**

**A variety of Music from the 30's and 40's**

**Admission free**

**Donations in aid of Air Ambulance**

**Tea and cake provided**

**Further information: [www.perdidoplayers.co.uk](http://www.perdidoplayers.co.uk)**

# Am I being unfair to you?



**T**his question, 'Am I being unfair to you?' is asked by the Christian women of the Philippines in the service that they have prepared for the Women's World Day of Prayer. **The local service this year is to be held at Lindfield United Reformed Church on Friday, 3rd March, at 10 am.**

The Bible passage that they have chosen to support the theme is from Matthew's Gospel, chapter 20 from verse 1 to 16.

In this passage Jesus told a story about those at the back of the queue getting a surprise by finding themselves at the front. It is the story of a farmer who hired workers for the regular daily wage to work in his vineyard, but he added more workers to their number as the day went along.

The workers who had worked for less time were paid first and given the rate for a day's work so the workers who had spent longer in the vineyard, when it came to their turn, expected to be paid a bonus as well as the agreed daily rate, but they were disappointed as all the workers received the same amount. What are your thoughts about this story?

In the Philippines a large part of their economy is driven by agriculture. Formerly on the large sugarcane and banana plantations the workers were paid on a daily basis. Now the landowners engage the labourers in pakyaw. Pakyaw is a contract between the worker and the owner to finish a piece of work within the required time, and they are paid a fixed amount.

The landowner prefers this method because the worker is motivated to finish the work quickly and with minimum supervision. The workers like this arrangement because they can schedule their work hours. However, the workers have no permanent tenure. The fixed payment is a challenge.

In areas in the Philippines where people cultivate rice on small farms, neighbours are called to help with the planting. This process is called *dagyaw*, and is intense work because the planting must be finished within the day. The neighbours are only fed and not paid for the planting. However, the rice that they harvested together is shared among them. This process of sharing the work and the harvest continues until all the farms are planted or harvested. *Dagyaw* is a good way of building and sustaining a community, demonstrating compassion and care for others.

Work is not only the means of providing for the basic needs of a family; it contributes towards a just economy. It dignifies both the worker and the community and can be a source of social equality where basic rights are accessible to all.

God the creator provided the creation with the materials, earth, sea, sky, rain, sun, moon, air necessary to live a productive life. The provisions are for everybody to enjoy. No one is excluded.

God gave humankind the life, strength, intelligence, emotion and discernment to make sense of, and use, God's gift to the utmost.

An Oxfam report in 2015 stated that 1% of the world's population holds 99% of the world's wealth. In the Philippines, 20% of the population owns 80% of the nation's wealth. In order to overcome the gap between the 'haves' and the 'have nots', we must plant the seeds of justice, so we can share the harvest.

In the Bible story, Jesus uses the landowner's generosity in paying all the workers equally, however long they have worked, as a way to understand what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. For us today the challenge is to work together to spread a local and global culture of economic and social justice, friendship, care and compassion.

We look forward to welcoming you all to the service at LURC on Friday, 3rd March at 10 o'clock for an opportunity to reflect on the questions posed by the Christian women of the Philippines and to respond to the call to plant seeds of justice and share the harvest. Envelopes will be provided to make monetary contributions. You are warmly invited to share fellowship after the service over tea or coffee and cakes.

**Jo Bloxham**



# Mission Update

## March-April 2017

### Operation Mobilisation

House of Joy – Peja, Kosovo

Operation Mobilisation (OM) which seeks to help plant and strengthen churches, especially in areas of the world where Christ is least known, has been active in Kosovo since the end of the war in 1999. OM currently serves in two of the largest cities, with outreaches to surrounding villages.

Lindfield URC Mission Giving in 2015 and 2016 went to support a Family House in Peja, Kosovo (now known as the House of Joy) where refuge and rehabilitation is available for those women, and their children, subject to domestic violence and human trafficking. Mission Giving in March and April this year will enable us to continue this support.



*"She has experienced something in the House of Joy that is different from the shelters and other places that she has lived: God's love."*

An OM worker about one of the girls in their care





The house started as a stable place for women to begin a long-term process of social re-integration after they have left government emergency shelters, or to provide support, training and counselling to those who are still able to live at home. The programme works with each woman individually to develop a unique three-year plan in order for her to achieve social, psychological, and financial stability. The work was then been extended to vulnerable teenagers. A vocational skills centre now helps equip adults and teenagers to become self-supporting.

Donated funds go towards: basic household needs; paying local caregivers, programme administrators, trainers, teachers and psychologists and providing for other unique needs of participants. Workers include two young couples from churches in Southern England. We receive regular reports from one of these. If you would like to be included on the distribution list please speak to a member of the Mission Group.

The Information available, at the Mission Board, includes copies of a report prepared, by OM, for Lindfield URC which gives more detail on some of the work being carried out. There is a Mission Sunday to support OM on Sunday 19th March. Mike Wheate of OM Partner Development will talk briefly at the morning service and then, after coffee, give an update on the work OM are doing in Kosovo and also the work that Simon and Becky Lunt, who the Church also supports, are doing in London. This will be followed by a two course Mission Lunch. There will be no charge for the lunch but donations will be welcome.

As always, if you would like to give to the work in Kosovo please use the special envelopes and place your donation in the offertory at any Sunday Service, completing a Gift Aid form if appropriate.

### **Missions Group**

# 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.

# March Church diary

1st Wednesday	12:30pm	Lunch Fellowship	18th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints
2nd Thursday	11:00am & 8:00pm	House Groups: Journeying with Jesus	19th Sunday	10:00am	Mission Sunday Family Worship Followed by Lunch Mike Wheate
3rd Friday	10:00am	Women's World Day of Prayer		6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison
4th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints			
5th Sunday	10:00am 6:30pm	Family Service Rev Keith Morrison Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison	22nd Wednesday	2:30pm 7:45pm	The Fellowship Elders' Meeting
9th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Meeting	23rd Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
11th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints Elders Away Day	25th Saturday	8:45am 3:00pm	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints Tunes and Tea
12th Sunday	10:00am 6:30pm	Family Service Rev Keith Morrison Communion Rev Keith Morrison	26th Sunday	10:00am 6:30pm	Communion Rev Keith Morrison Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison
16th Thursday	11:00am & 8:00pm	House Groups: Journeying with Jesus	28th Tuesday	7:45pm	In Touch

For the latest updates and further  
information please check our website:  
[www.lindfieldurc.org.uk](http://www.lindfieldurc.org.uk)

# YOUTH PAGES

*Hello!*

As I write this, we have had our first Messy Church in January with 14 children and 10 adults attending. And the next one is a week away! However, when you read this, the second Messy Church would have come and gone!

After the first Messy Church, I had great feedback from those who came, and two mums who go to Stepping Stones spread the word and told me to expect an increase in numbers for the next one! It had a fantastic relaxed atmosphere and those who volunteered to help did a brilliant job – I cannot thank them enough!

Please continue flood messy church in prayer. Pray that God would speak to all those who come into the church through the activities and conversations when they are here.

In other news, Kieron and I recently went to Youth Assembly. There were about 90 young people there from URC churches throughout the UK. I was there as a workshop leader and to support a small bible study group; and it was Kieron's first time representing the Southern Synod Youth Executive.

The title I was given for my workshop was 'Jesus was a fat man'. This title came from the fact that Jesus often used food to illustrate points as well as often going to people's

houses for dinner. In fact, have you ever noticed just how much Jesus used food in the Gospels? If we take Luke's gospel alone, there are ten meals mentioned. Then on top of that, food appears in the following places: the temptation of Jesus, a question about fasting, the disciples eating grain on the Sabbath, the Lord's prayer, the parable of the prodigal son... the list goes on. Food is mentioned everywhere!

It is very unlikely that Jesus was fat. Firstly, the type of food people ate then was not the same as the fatty foods we might have today.

Secondly, Jesus walked everywhere, they didn't have any other way to move around, and so they were probably quite fit!

Finally, the type of people who might have been fat were the rich. Those who had the money to buy lots of food and pay people to do things for them. Jesus spent his time with the poor, the hungry and the lost, not the rich, and so Jesus probably ate very little.

Looking at it at a different angle, in John 6, Jesus says 'I am the bread of life'. We pray in the Lord's prayer, 'give us this day our daily bread'. Jesus spent time with God every day. He was spiritually fat. It might not be our aim to be fat, but if our aim is to be Christ-like, then let's become 'spiritually fat'. Let's spend time with God to get our 'daily bread'.

*Danny*



**Come join us for**



*Lindfield*  
United Reformed Church



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

**On these Fridays:**

**January 20<sup>th</sup>  
February 17<sup>th</sup>  
March 17<sup>th</sup>  
May 19<sup>th</sup>  
July 21<sup>st</sup>**

**4pm until 6pm**

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

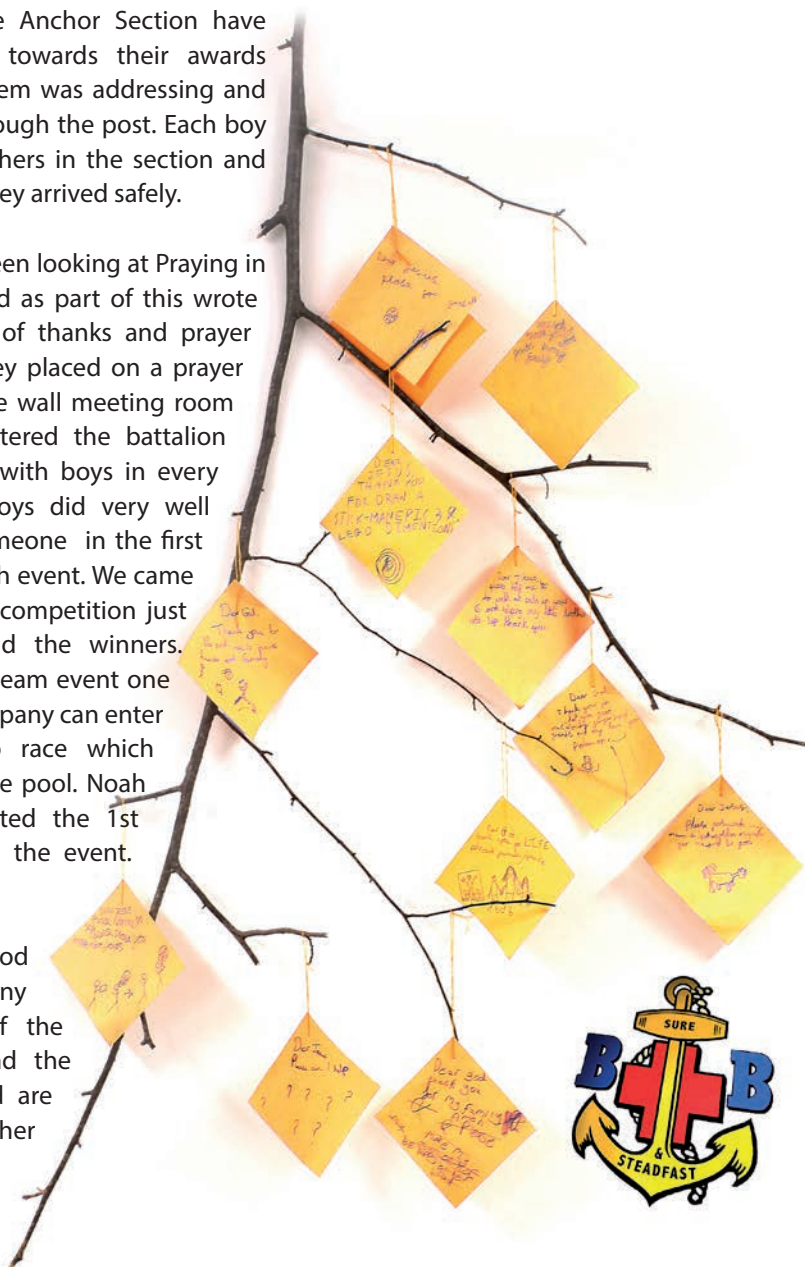
# Boys' Brigade

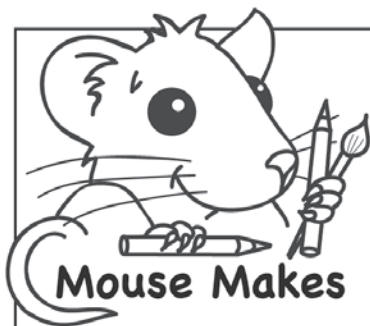
The boys in the Anchor Section have been working towards their awards this month. One item was addressing and sending a card through the post. Each boy wrote a card to others in the section and checked to see if they arrived safely.

The juniors have been looking at Praying in their devotions and as part of this wrote out short prayers of thanks and prayer requests which they placed on a prayer tree. This is on the wall meeting room one. We also entered the battalion swimming sports, with boys in every event. All our boys did very well with us having someone in the first three places of each event. We came 2nd in the overall competition just four points behind the winners. Although this is a team event one boy from each company can enter the championship race which is one length of the pool. Noah Morrison represented the 1st Lindfield and won the event. Well done Noah.

The drumming period in the Company Section is one of the main activities and the two boys involved are now playing together very well.

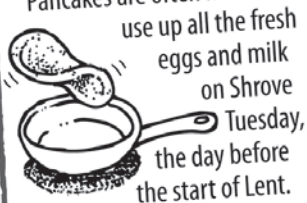
**David Walters**





## SHROVE TUESDAY

During **Lent** some Christians eat simple food or go without food for a while like Jesus did. Pancakes are often made to



use up all the fresh eggs and milk on Shrove Tuesday, the day before the start of Lent.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

The first day of **Lent** is called **Ash Wednesday**, it is a day for saying **sorry** to God for any wrong things you have **said or thought or done** and to ask for God's help to live in the right way.

In bible times people would cover themselves with ashes as a sign of repentance.

In some churches today on Ash Wednesday the minister will draw a cross shape on our foreheads with ash.



## WHAT IS LENT?

When Jesus was 30 years old he was baptised by John in the River Jordan. Before Jesus began to preach and teach and heal he went out into the wilderness alone.

For 40 days he did not eat but spent time praying and talking to God, preparing himself for what God had sent him to do.



Remembering those days Jesus spent in the wilderness, the Christian Church set aside the 40 days before Easter as a time to pray, read the bible and learn more about God.

This time is called **LENT**



While Jesus was out in the wilderness he was tempted by the Devil *three* times.

Look up the bible verses to see how Jesus replied.



- 1 The devil said, "If you are God's Son order this stone to turn to bread."

Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 4** and **Deuteronomy 8: 3**

- 2 The devil said, "I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 7** and **Deuteronomy 6: 13**

- 3 The devil said, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, the Scriptures say God will take care of you."

Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 12** and **Deuteronomy 6: 1**



Dear Lord,  
Please forgive me for

Amen

# Wintershall Nativity

On a cold and foggy afternoon in December 2016 a group of twenty six children and adults from Lighthouse trudged their way up a hill near Guildford lit by flickering torches to see the Wintershall Nativity which takes place on the Wintershall Estate annually. We gathered by the barn and actors from the play wandered among the waiting crowd including Roman soldiers and shepherds with real lambs whose loud bleats made the children laugh.

Through the mist and fog over the field, shapes gradually emerged, a man leading a donkey carrying a woman who was hurrying him on as she puffed in labour. They came through the crowd and made their way to a door in the side of the barn to seek shelter and the story of Jesus birth had begun.

Once Mary and Joseph had negotiated with the innkeeper and been admitted to the barn the action returned to the field where shepherds were gathered around fires as they watched their flocks. They sang and talked about the plight of their nation under Roman occupation and their longing for a promised Messiah.





Up in a tree a bright light shone and an angel told them that their prayers had been answered and that they were the first to know. In response they hurried to see the evidence of the angel's words and led the gathered crowd of people into the barn.

There was much frenzied shuffling for seats as we all made our way onto the tiered seating but as the clamour died down we could all see the tableau on the stage of Mary with her little baby and Joseph watching over them while the donkey shuffled around at the feeding box on the wall. There was a wooden pen with lambs in to one side of the family.

We remained in the barn as the story then unfolded. Under Gabriel's direction Mary and Joseph recalled all the events from the first visit of the angel, the shepherds came and saw the evidence that they were seeking, wise men arrived on real horses with their tale of a bright new star, the family visited the temple and saw Simeon and Anna, and then Herod and his soldiers came and scared the children at the front as they tried to kill the new king that Herod was afraid of and Mary and Joseph took Jesus to safety in Egypt. Throughout the story the angels, Gabriel and Michael, clearly reminded us of the real spiritual battle that was going on behind the human story as God's plan was put into motion and the devil tried everything to stop it going ahead.

It was a very different performance of the nativity in many ways, particularly the real atmosphere of the barn and the live animals plus the genuine vulnerability of the baby, although our baby 'Jesus' was in fact twins! For me it made the story very real on both the human and spiritual levels.

I have asked others who were part of the group what struck them from the performance. One child said that her favourite bit was seeing Mary and Joseph coming up the hill through the mist and the baby lamb, 'which was really noisy', one child enjoyed the angel speeches although one child was a little put off by the soldiers with their spears. One of our children loved the angel appearing in the tree and her sister said that she thought that it was very realistic, especially the soldiers and the real baby Jesus while they both enjoyed the chocolate coins that we were given on our way out! Others said...

“When someone first described Wintershall to me, it was hard to imagine something to get excited about. The Nativity play in a field and barn – cold, wet and smelly, I thought! But I love to be proven wrong! Wintershall was a fantastic experience that I would recommend to everyone. The actors were true to the people they played, and the shepherds' scene even went into a bit of history to put the whole thing into context.



*It is hard to imagine Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem, not finding anywhere to stay, baby on its way. The struggles they must have faced fade away when we act out our nativity plays at Christmas time. But being in a field, seeing Mary on a donkey and finding the stable brought a little more meaning to the story for me. It brought a well-known story to life just that little bit more. I'm sure Mary and Joseph faced more struggles than even Wintershall could portray, but the experience brought me a little closer to what might have happened and how they must have felt.*

*And it wasn't that cold, wet or smelly!..””*

**Danny**

““In December, several members of the church family went to watch the Wintershall nativity in Guildford. When we got there, we enjoyed a hot chocolate before the play started. As we all gathered round at the top of a field, Mary and Joseph arrived through the mist. We then watched as they searched for a place to stay the night, and were eventually taken into the stable. Meanwhile, large fires were being set in the fields, and we turned to see a group of shepherds tending to their sheep. Suddenly, an angel appeared high up in the trees, and began to tell the shepherds where they needed to go to find the new king.

*We then moved inside, welcomed by carols, and watched the new mother, father and the shepherds huddling around the baby Jesus.*

*It was really special and there was a great sense of unity as we all moved together and watched the story play out. The whole experience was very immersive and entertaining and really emphasised the humbleness of our Saviour's beginnings.””*

**Lydia**

““It was a splendid nativity - wonderful costumes, great acting, spectacular to watch. It was so atmospherically done, with live animals and action outdoors and indoors in a beautiful setting. The children said they had a great time.””

**Emmeline**

““I liked the angel in the tree. I also liked that they had real animals. We had a surprise when Herod came in on a real live horse!..””

**Esther**

““I myself found it very atmospheric with the lamps and the singing.””

**Laura**

““A great experience, everyone had a fun afternoon..””

**Mel**

# Bible Verse

“*Beyond all question the mystery  
of godliness is great  
He appeared in a body,  
was vindicated by the Spirit.  
was seen by angels.  
was preached among the nations,  
was believed on in the world,  
was taken up into glory.*”

1 Timothy 3.16

NIV

The incredible appearance of Jesus coming down to earth as a part of the Trinity, Holy Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Saviour to the world, the same yesterday, today and forever. Jesus came to do His Father's will and gave His life for us on the cross to pay for the sins of the world, and gave forgiveness to anyone who believes and repents. They will receive eternal life in Heaven one day.

Godliness is a mystery. Some people latch on to God's grace and really grow in the Christian faith as they are obedient to God. Some grow quicker than others according to the surrender they have made to God.

Jesus appeared as a little baby in Bethlehem and Mary bore Jesus by the Holy Spirit. As Jesus was growing up He lost his mum and dad for a short while. He was talking to the learned men in the temple that day. His mum and dad had been looking everywhere for Him.

"Where have you been?" they asked. He replied "I have to be about my Heavenly Father's business, He has called me to do my Father's work." They knew Jesus was very special and no more was said.

Later, after being a carpenter for some years when He was about 30 His main ministry began until he was 33. He was wrongfully charged and crucified but God's Spirit vindicated Him and He was seen by angels at various times, when He left the tomb where His body had been lying.

He was resurrected and met with people on the road to Emmaus and ate again with His disciples. He was preached on in the world and believed on in the world to this day, and at the right time He was taken up to glory and God sent the Holy Spirit to the people on earth at Pentecost when the time was right. People have been becoming Christians ever since. Praise the Lord! Also read 1 Timothy 1.12-20...the Lord's grace to Paul.

**Raymond Tijou**

# Did you know?

**Y**ou probably realise there are many Children and Youth activities in the Church. But there are also several areas to which you, the not Youth and Children are invited. All of these are monthly meetings and all are welcome to each, though In Touch is mostly aimed at the ladies in the Church.

**The Fellowship** takes place on the 4th Wednesday of each month and offers you a speaker a Bring and Buy table, a cup of tea/or coffee and a warm welcome. This begins at 2.30pm and is held in the Church Lounge. There is a small charge which goes towards the cost of a speaker or flowers for same, whichever is appropriate. Both Ladies and Gentlemen are most welcome.

**The Lunch Fellowship** takes place in the Church Hall, at the back of the Church on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 12.30pm. The cost is £4 which covers the cost of a two course home cooked lunch with tea/coffee to follow. There is usually a short talk of some sort or even children from the local school who entertain us (this year on June 7th). There is plenty of opportunity to meet new people, or even to buy from the Bring and Buy table. All that is asked is that you book your lunch before-hand in order to ensure the catering is sufficient and if you can let us know if you have booked and are unable to attend, that would be most helpful. Lifts can be arranged if requested. Again open to all Ladies and Gentlemen.



**The In Touch group** is for ladies and is held on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Church Lounge at 7.45pm for 8.00pm start. The evenings are varied with food being fairly high on the agenda! We have a meal usually in January – either in-house or locally elsewhere, a Bring and Share Supper, a Quiet Day, most recently held in the Church – to keep the cost down, but we do have an outside caterer for that event, who prepares a hot meal for us. This usually held on a Saturday (September 16th this year) and is well supported and enjoyed.

# Mothering Sunday

During the other dates we include a craft evening various speakers - some in-house and some outside and also a film night. We too make a charge of 50p on the night, unless we are having an outside speaker, when we would ask for £1.50 to cover the cost of travelling for that person.

All of these groups do need your support to continue and if you would like more information on any of them please do not hesitate to contact us :

## *The Fellowship*

*Pat Phillips 01444 484507*

## *Lunch Fellowship*

*Sue Waller 01444 455047*

## *In Touch*

*Sue Waller – as above or*

*Janet Wade 01444 452270*

We all look forward to you swelling the numbers of these groups and enjoying fellowship together.

**Sue Waller**

**M**othering Sunday is often portrayed in the media as a happy time celebrating mothers - with social media full of photos of hand written cards and breakfast in bed. However it can be a very difficult time for some of us, and I know it's a day many find hard to smile through for different reasons. Our identities are based on our relationship with the Lord Jesus – we are all beloved children of God, whatever worldly relationships we also have. So we should love and cherish one another on this earth.

In the Bible we are given the story of Jesus welcoming children to him, and of the instruction to care for the weak, and to nurture our children and teach them about our faith. We are told to defend those who cannot speak for themselves.

Whatever our situation, it is a privilege to be part of our church family, and we should all take a part in caring for the children we have in our midst. So please consider how you can help nurture, teach and protect the children in our church, and also continue to support and bless those who work with them.

Also consider those families both nearby and far away, torn apart by war and violence, family breakdown, mental health and addiction problems, and those fleeing conflict, neglect or abuse either in their home or their community, and pray and ask the Lord to show what action you can take to help children who are with or without their own mothers in difficult situations at this time.

**Emmeline Morrison**

# Advent Adventures

We were surprised when Jacquie produced a piece of paper for Sunday Morning Singers to prepare a window for the Church Advent Calendar which I thought was a super concept.

We considered our topic ANNOUNCEMENT and came up with an initial thought of telegraph poles and wires. The wires would be in the form of the music stave with a line of a Carol written on the stave. The wire started at Bethlehem and ended with us.

However, we dismissed that idea because the Christmas message does not end with us, it is ongoing and if we do not tell the world then we are failing in our mission.

Hence the picture that Pat Waller painted. The concept was of the host of people who have gone before, passing the Good News from person to person whatever their situation. Not everybody has the Damascus road experience and whilst our culture now is instant information there is no substitute for personal contact.

Hence at the end of our column of Christians from the manger to today, we praised the Lord and asked the question would you like to know more?

Yes there was a response, but the question is, how does the Christian church respond to the instant materialistic world we live in?



Many challenges have been faced by the Christian community and by God's good grace those challenges have been met. The challenge is stronger than ever as the world order is changing; information is king, robots, driverless cars and many more issues. People need something to hold onto therefore do people see Christ in those who believe. I hope you enjoy the picture and are challenged to keep the column going and bridge the gap.

## Peter Swann

Sunday Morning Singers start rehearsals in March.



HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING  
GLORY TO THE NEW BORN KING.



"JESUS IS BORN PASS IT ON"



WANT TO  
KNOW MORE?

JESUS IS  
BORN  
WANT TO KNOW  
MORE?

NOT INTERESTED!!  
GOING TO A  
PARTY





# Who am I?

## *Revealed*

Congratulations to those of you who worked out that February's "Who am I?" was Cliff Griffiths.

Cliff has been a member of the Lindfield URC congregation for some 20 years and is a great ambassador for our church. You can find him regularly welcoming us to the Morning Service with a warm smile and handshake. He is also often on concourse duty, is a valued member of the Pastoral Group and, until recently, was a member of the sound team. On Friday evenings he helps out with the 'Rooted' youth group for 7-11 year-olds and Danny says he is "...brilliant..." in that role.

His mother and father, Shirley and Leslie, are also members of the LURC congregation and to them he is a "...very thoughtful, kind and helpful..." son. Cliff is one of three children, having a sister and brother. Many of us will be familiar with his brother, Tim, who until recently also worshipped at LURC and who still attends occasionally as a visiting preacher. Outside the church Cliff's great passion is following the high-flying 'Seagulls', Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club, as a season ticket holder. However, he sacrificed a mid-week home game last month to attend the Pastoral Group meeting, dedication indeed during such a dramatic season!



# Phonebook

## Keith Morrison (Minister)

Telephone 01444 484791  
Email [kmorrison@lindfieldurc.org.uk](mailto:kmorrison@lindfieldurc.org.uk)

## Danny Goodall (Youth Pastor)

Youth Office 01444 487607  
Mobile 07443 438970  
Email [dgoodall@lindfieldurc.org.uk](mailto:dgoodall@lindfieldurc.org.uk)

## Church Secretary

Sue Waller 01444 455047  
Email [waller.s@sky.com](mailto: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

## March

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

## April

2nd	Betty Billins	Jo Bloxham
9th	Anne Parker	Iris Bingham
16th	Easter Flowers	Heather Swann
23rd	Easter Flowers	Fo Tingley
30th	Janet Wade	Liz Cantwell

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

# Around Lindfield

## Wednesday 8th March

- 12.00 noon Tiger Arts - Lunch in The Tiger  
1.00pm Concert in All Saints : Juan Pablo Hinojoza - Piano  
8.00pm Lindfield Horticultural Society in King Edward Hall  
Talk : "The Revival of an Arts and Craft Garden at Standen"

## Tuesday 14th March

- 2.30pm Lindfield Preservation Society in King Edward Hall  
Talk : "Bonsai Trees" - Ken & Ann Norman

## Saturday 18th March

- 7.00pm Haywards Heath Music Society 75th Season  
St Wilfred's Church, Haywards Heath  
International concert pianist Riyad Nicolas plays  
Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt and Ravel  
Further information : [haywardsheathmusicsociety.org.uk](http://haywardsheathmusicsociety.org.uk)

## Thursday 23rd March

- 7.30pm Village Film Night in King Edward Hall  
"La La Land" (12A) - starring Ryan Gosling & Emma Stone  
Tickets available from Tufnells



[www.lindfieldurc.org.uk](http://www.lindfieldurc.org.uk)