



GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

March 2018

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

John 12:13 NIV

Bible verse of the month

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

Galatians 5 :2-23 NIV



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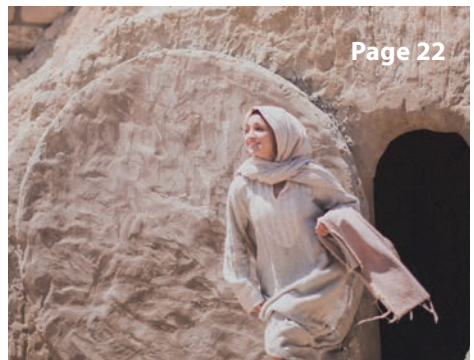
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This months bible verse comes from our article on Motherhood, by David Goodchild on page 7

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



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Editorial

Welcome to the March edition of Good News – we hope it brings a smile to your face, for what a difference a smile can make, as Fo explains. Spring is definitely in the air and Easter is at the end of the month! Keith has written an account of the background to the first Easter, which makes a great summary to share with non-Christians and Christians alike. Last month we tempted your tastebuds with pancakes – this month we tempt them again with Carol's explanation of the Easter Simnel cake.

We have news about Josh from the man himself, with a lovely photo of the Thomas family and an invitation to his induction at Petersfield URC on June 30th. Did you guess who the mystery couple were in last month's "Who are we" slot? All is revealed on pages 12-13. Danny and David (Walters) bring us up to date on activities in the Youth groups and Boys' Brigade, respectively. We are blessed to have such committed leaders with their teams to encourage our young people, sowing the seeds of faith just as Jesus wanted. David also attempts to demystify an Elders Away Day – but do we really believe that he managed to avoid picking up even just a few bits of Lego? Sue reminds us of the Health Check discussion scheduled for our Church Meeting on 8th March – do come along and join in. With Mothering Sunday being on March 11th this year, David (Goodchild) provides us with a timely male perspective on motherhood.

Just room to remind you to set your clocks forward one hour before you go to sleep on 24th March otherwise you'll be late for church on Sunday 25th, arriving for the last hymn – at least you'll get a coffee!

God Bless.

Martin

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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*

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Dear friends

Here we are in March, the third month of the year, and the one where literally the times they are a-changin'. As the length of night recedes to the equinox, and then when the presence of light is seen to be greater than the darkness, on the 25th March we will spring forward an hour from GMT to British Summer Time. In the coming days we will find it already daylight as we wake up, grey gloom being chased away by the sun, thereby having an encouragement for us too, to rise and shine each day.

However it is not simply in the level of daylight at this time of year that we might expect to see change, we should also see it in our journey of faith. March this year falls completely within the season of Lent, which is a time for reflection and considering where we each are in our relationship with God. Hopefully we will each be able to find the space to draw closer to the Lord.

The March church meeting will also enable us to contribute to a wider discussion in the Central Sussex United Area about where we are as a church and how we view our future mission. We are a church that is blessed in many ways, let us think of how we may serve God and see the growth of His King, bringing His light into people's lives.

Discussion and thinking is one thing, action is another. Our mission statement, displayed near the kitchen hatch and in the entrance to the concourse, has words that remind us individually and as a church to be people who are Encountering God, Encouraging one another and Demonstrating God's love. This is not a statement about pondering but about getting engaged and contributing to faithful spiritual and numerical growth. The words are written such that we are all to be participants in this mission, a congregation is not an audience for entertainment, but instead are to come before the Lord with an expectant heart, and go into the world at the end of an act of worship to make a difference outside of the doors, being light to the world.

Paul wrote to the Ephesians saying:

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible – and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.

Home Groups

The Kingdom of God

This is why it is said:

*'Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine
on you' ”*

Eph 5: 8-14 NIV

May we be a church who awakens in the sunshine of each new day and choose to be as "children of light." Let the words we speak to one another, and the way we display God's love, be an encouragement to the church, so that we may be a positive example, to those who do not yet know the Lord as their saviour, of what difference our faith really means.

May the Lord let His light shine upon you

Your Minister

Keith

At the start of January our church's home groups commenced a new series based on the Scripture Union Lifebuilders study booklet "The Kingdom of God".



Each of the 10 sessions in the book is based on a passage of scripture that reveals something of God's hope for the world. The readings are taken from both Old and New Testaments, and we are challenged in the questions set by Greg Jao, of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA, to think not only of the historical setting, but to try and apply God's Word into our own context. This should help us think of how we may engage more fully in mission, so that we will see growth of the Kingdom within the church and our local community.

Along with study of the Word, the seven home groups (four day time, three evening), spend their time in fellowship and prayer, seeing new friendships formed and existing ones deepened. The groups often spend more than one week looking at a single session of the study book, so we are likely to be using this new material until at least the summer.

The home groups normally meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month. If you would like to join in, or would like to find out more, please do ask me.

Keith Morrison

Family News

The Fellowship

The next meeting of The Fellowship will be held on Wednesday, 28 March, at 2:30 pm. Our speaker will be Alan Revill.

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

All who come will be made most welcome.

Pat Phillips

In Touch

We will be meeting in the lounge on March 27th at our earlier time of 7:30pm.

We will be thinking about Easter Traditions in thought and verse in this country and abroad and we hope members will be prepared to share their thoughts and experiences during the evening.

As usual everyone is welcome to join us.

Janet Wade

Lunch Fellowship

A reminder that we shall meet for Lunch Fellowship on the 7th March at 12:30pm and that there is a service of worship in the church before, beginning at 11:30am. Do join us for both if you can.

To book your lunch, if you haven't already, ring Sue on 01444 455047.

Thank you

Sue Waller

Lent Groups

Joint Lent Groups continue up to Easter as we consider some of the moral and ethical messages of the prophets and how we can act on them today.

10.30am - 12:00pm Evangelical Free Church
7.45pm - 9:30pm All Saints Church

Wednesday February 28
Fighting Injustice

Wednesday March 7
Speaking Truth to Power

Wednesday March 14
Seeking the Good of the City

Wednesday March 21
How much is life worth?

With worship, teaching and testimony, including guest speakers from Tearfund, Redeeming our Communities, Brighton City Mission and Christian Concern.

Motherhood

I suspect that motherhood comes to many as an unexpected event. I don't mean unexpected in the 'surprise' sense. Women are often referred to as 'expecting' for many months beforehand. I mean unexpected in the sense that there is nothing anyone can say to you to fully prepare you. It seems that once you are a mother, everything changes.

I am of course writing this from a father's perspective so, along with the rest of these thoughts, if you find the above troubling please forgive me. In my experience mothers are especially good at forgiving.

Forgiveness is one of the most attractive attributes of motherhood. Who amongst us has not, at some stage in our childhood, caused a situation where our own mother was forced to call us, in public, with our friends listening, not just by our full first name, but also by our surname and even our middle name (oh, the horror!), only to offer the joy and peace of full forgiveness just minutes later. In these situations, the self-control shown to not extend the embarrassment and shame of the child, whilst knowing the shame and embarrassment the child frequently causes the parent, is a thing of beauty.

Then there is kindness and gentleness - qualities that seem all too elusive from a male perspective. Many times in church I have attempted a friendly greeting to a small child, completely unaware of how terrifying my enormous height and deep booming voice must appear to a toddler.

When they panic at the sudden terror they are often looking to their mothers as the best safe refuge until the scary giant has gone away.

It has been said that "behind every great man, there is a surprised woman", but the capacity for faithfulness and patience in many of the women I know, those who are mothers and those who are not, often inspires me. There are many mothers who have tireless patience with and faith in their challenging children.

Whether we know our mothers now, or they are no longer here we can be thankful for their goodness and love that made us who we are. To the mothers reading this, I apologise if I have set a high bar. We are all of us children of mothers. Those of us who are sons, daughters, mothers or fathers often fail, but by the grace and power of God's spirit we can reflect these qualities in our lives when we trust in Him.

For it is written:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

Galatians 5 v.22-23

David Goodchild

Origins of Simnel Cake

The Simnel cake dates back to Tudor times, or maybe even earlier. "Simnel" probably comes from the Latin 'simila', meaning fine, wheaten flour which was used to bake the original cakes and is where the word 'semolina' comes from.

Later on, the Simnel cake was often made for Mothering Sunday as a gift offering when people returned to their Mother church. Sometimes, servant girls would bake one as a present for their mothers when they returned home for their annual visit. Families would often keep them until Easter to celebrate the end of Lent.

The cake is a rich fruit cake and is baked with a layer of marzipan or almond paste in the middle and another layer on the top of the cake. There are usually eleven balls of marzipan placed around the edge which represent the apostles (the twelfth, Judas Iscariot the traitor, is left off).

Several towns up and down the country are very proud to have their own versions of the cake, notably Devizes, Bury and Shrewsbury. If you decide to make your own, I can let you have a recipe - Mary Berry of course!

So I wish you well!

Carol Marsh



What's in a Smile?

**“Smile awhile and while
you smile there will soon be
miles and miles of smiles.”**

A much loved and life-long member of this Church (Ivy Butcher, for those who've been around for a long time) wrote the above saying in my Autograph Book which I had as a child. (For the younger readers amongst us, an Autograph Book was something very special in my young days, in which friends, family and sometimes even famous people signed their name and on occasions, would write a little message.) This little saying from dear Ivy has always stayed with me.

What a difference a smile can make! It might be the only smile the person receives that day, and it warms the heart of the one giving the smile too. It is easy to smile at someone we know, and hopefully that smile would be returned. So why is it more difficult to smile at a stranger? Perhaps because very often you get back a very blank look, almost as though you've committed a crime for invading their space. I am sure that many of you, like me, feel very sad when this happens. Sometimes folk do not give you eye contact, but I just smile at them anyway, and maybe offer up a little arrow prayer as I pass by. After all, we have no idea what that person may be feeling or is facing in their life.

In our lovely village many residents do exchange a “Good morning” or “Good afternoon”, and that's great! When we make the effort to speak to folk we don't know (and those we do), I believe we are, in a very simple way, offering the love of God to them. I'm not really one for New Year Resolutions, but I am more determined than ever in 2018, to share a greeting with others as I pass by. Have you tried it lately? A warm smile and a cheery “Hello” could make all the difference – to a stranger, a friend and to you!

So do bless others this Spring! After all, we as Christians know how God blesses us in our journey through life with Him.

Fo Tingley



News from Josh!



Hello Lindfield! It is hard to believe that it has nearly been four years since we left to move up to Cambridge, but as I'm sure you will have gathered, lots has happened!

I am in my final year of training for the ministry and I'm currently doing what is known as a living ministry placement with St Ives Free Church (URC in Cambridgeshire not Cornwall sadly!) and its sister church Fenstanton URC.

This essentially works a bit like a curacy in the Anglican church in so far as I am working with an established minister to learn for a year how to put all the theory I've learnt in the past three years into practice.

The degree aspect of my course is now over which means no more essays thankfully. Being at a Cambridge college has been a strange experience, we have very short intense periods of study with eight-week terms and then long breaks with plenty of assignments, placements and essays to be getting on with.

I have enjoyed my time at Westminster and we have made a number of very good friends who we will keep in touch with and who I hope will be good support networks as I step into this new phase of ministry.

Whilst we have been up here, Hannah and I had our first child, a daughter named Isla. She is now one and causing chaos around the house. It has been a challenge balancing being a first time Dad with all the other commitments that have come my way, but it has been an adventure and honestly, having her has been the best thing we have ever done!

Once my placement is over in May, I will be ordained and back in November I preached with a view at Petersfield and Liss URC down in Hampshire, where I received a unanimous call to become their minister. Many of you will know that I'm originally a Portsmouth boy and so this really feels like we are headed home which is really exciting. It will be great to be closer to family and it will mean that Isla gets to spend more time with Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles and her three little cousins.

Alongside the work with Petersfield and Liss (two churches who have voted to become one church over two sites) I also will have a role in a Fresh Expressions project in Bordon.

If you've not come across Fresh Expressions before, I really encourage you to head to <https://freshexpressions.org.uk> and read more about some of the things they are doing. Bordon is an ex garrison town that has been sold to developers and a brand-new town centre is coming in 2019 as well as lots of new housing, much of which is already well underway. As the town as it will be doesn't actually exist yet, it's hard to say what this role will look like, but it has been suggested that I might take on some sort of town chaplaincy role – watch this space!

We want to thank you all for your prayer support over the past four years, we have fond memories of our time with you in Lindfield and miss the church there. If you happen to be at a loose end on June 30th at 2pm we would love to welcome you to Petersfield URC for my ordination! Exciting times ahead!

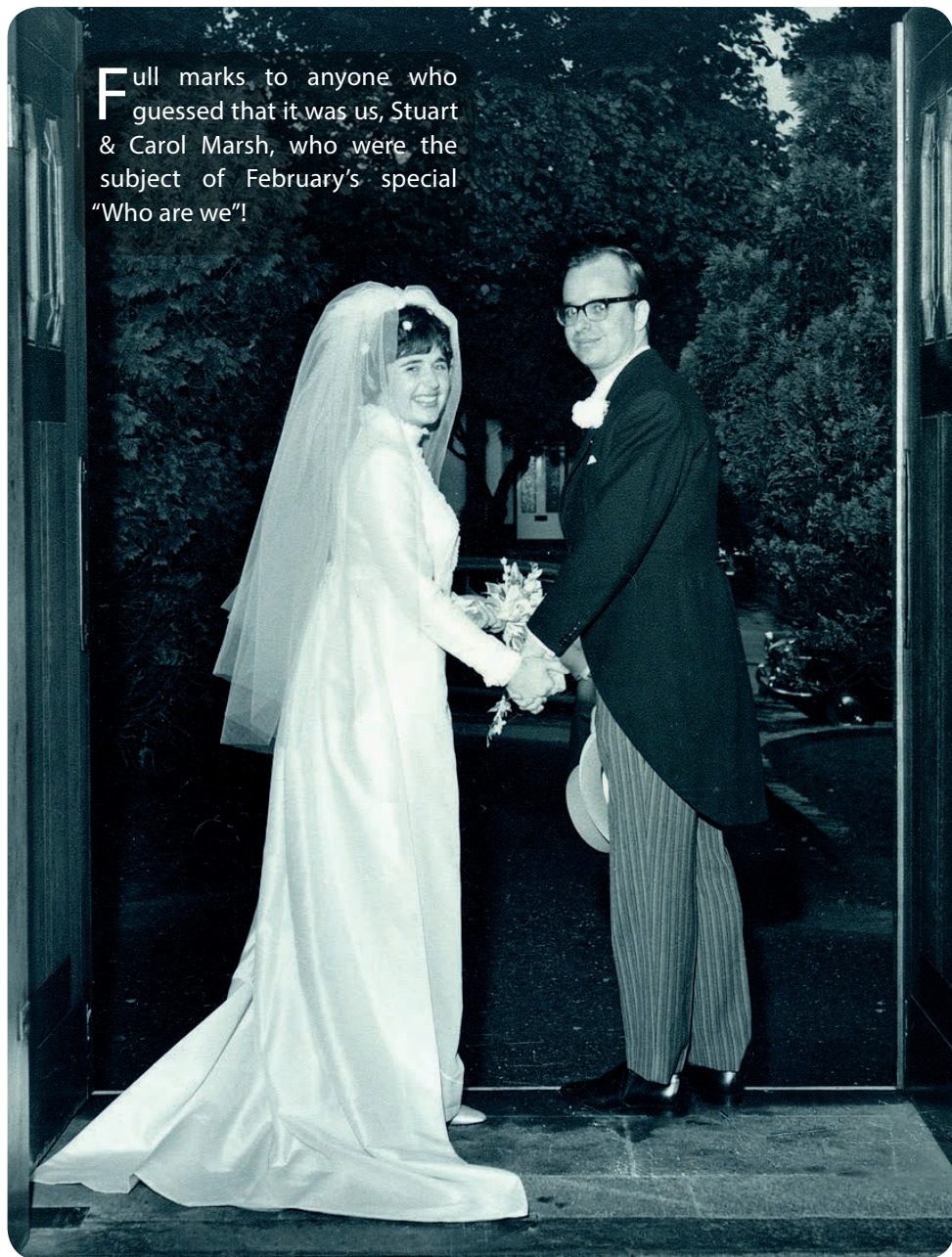
With all our love and every blessing to you all.


Josh, Hannah and Isla Thomas

Who are we?

Revealed

Full marks to anyone who guessed that it was us, Stuart & Carol Marsh, who were the subject of February's special "Who are we!"





We were married in 1969 at Sanderstead Congregational Church, and our first house was finished just in time for us to move into after our honeymoon. It was on The Welkin - very pretty but rather small after our two children arrived, so we moved all the way to Finches Gardens.

We started attending Lindfield Congregational Church (as it was then) straight away, where we were given such a warm welcome by the congregation and Richard Tucker that we felt at home immediately. We feel so fortunate to be part of such a caring church and living in such beautiful surroundings.

Stuart & Carol Marsh

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.

Coffee is served after the morning service.

Holy Communion (4th Sunday)

At **6:30pm** Something Different. 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. <small>Venue rotates between the three churches</small>

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

Regular Activities

Mon	10:00am	Art Group
	6:00pm	Boys' Brigade - Anchor Boys (5-7 years)
	6:30pm	Boys' Brigade - Junior Section (8-11 years)
	7:30pm	Boys' Brigade - Company Section (11+ years)
Tue	10:00am	Stepping Stones (Parents and toddlers - term time)
	7:30pm	In Touch (4th Tues) for women of all ages
Wed	2:30pm	The Fellowship (4th Wed) for men and women of all ages
Thur	8:00pm	Church Meeting (2nd Thursday, Alternate Months)
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)
10:00am - Noon.

March Church diary

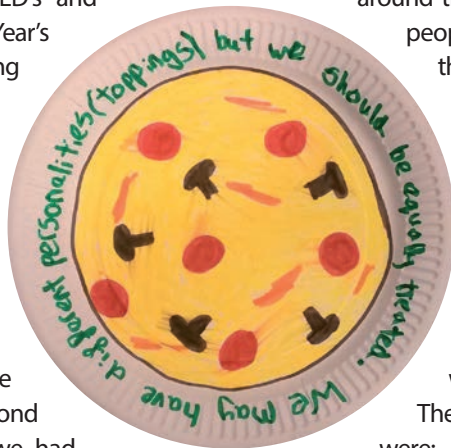
1st Thursday	8:00pm	Our Welcome Seminar Andy Twilley	18th Sunday	10:00am	Family Worship Jeremy Heath
				6:30pm	Something Different Rev Keith Morrison
2nd Friday	2:00pm	Women's World Day of Prayer (Evan Free)			
3rd Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints	22nd Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
4th Sunday	10:00am	Family Service	24th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints
	6:30pm	Something Different Rev Keith Morrison			
7th Wednesday	12:30am 12:00am	Wednesday Worship Lunch Fellowship	25th Sunday	10:00am	Communion
				6:30pm	Something Different Rev Keith Morrison
8th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Meeting	27th Tuesday	7:30pm	In Touch
10th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints	28th Wednesday	2:30pm 7:45pm	The Fellowship Elders' Meeting
11th Sunday	10:00am	Family Worship	29th Maundy Thursday		Agape Supper at All Saints Time TBC
	6:30pm	Something Different (Communion) Rev Keith Morrison			
15th Thursday		Home Group Week	30th Good Friday	10:00am	Good Friday Service URC
16th Friday	4:00pm	Messy Church	31st Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints
17th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints	Apr 1st EASTER Sunday	10:00am	Easter Sunday
				6:30pm	Easter Praise Rev Keith Morrison

YOUTH



Hello!

As I write this, I cannot believe it is for the March magazine! Surely, we only entered the New Year a couple of weeks ago!? Speaking of the New Year, on February 10th, the LED's and Neons had their New Year's celebration, playing skittles at the Royal Oak in Barcombe. Twelve of us came together, LED's, Neons and their families and had a couple of games of skittles. We split ourselves up into three teams and in the second game, decided that we had to bowl backwards, rolling the balls through our legs! The highest score of the day was 15, held by one of the LED's!



The other area I would like to write about this month is the recent Prayer Spaces evening we had at Pulse. On Friday 2nd February, we had eight different prayer spaces set up around the church that the young people could interact with in their own time throughout the evening.

We had a fantastic evening with all of the young people exploring different ways to pray and praying for many different areas of the world and for themselves.

The prayer spaces we had were:

Person Tree – For this, there was a picture of many people all over a tree. Some were playing, others helping each other, others falling, some with friends and some on their own. It was an opportunity to pick a person who you felt most like and pray about why you felt that way at the time.

Thankful Box – This one is self-explanatory, it encouraged the young people to write prayers of thanks to God and put them in the box. The box was full by the end of the evening!

Magnet Prayers – Here, I had put magnetic letters and words all over one of the hall radiators and encouraged the young people to use them to write prayers. You can see a few in the photos.

Finger Prints – This prayer space focused on how we are unique. The young people could add their finger print to the giant hand and thank God for making them who they are!

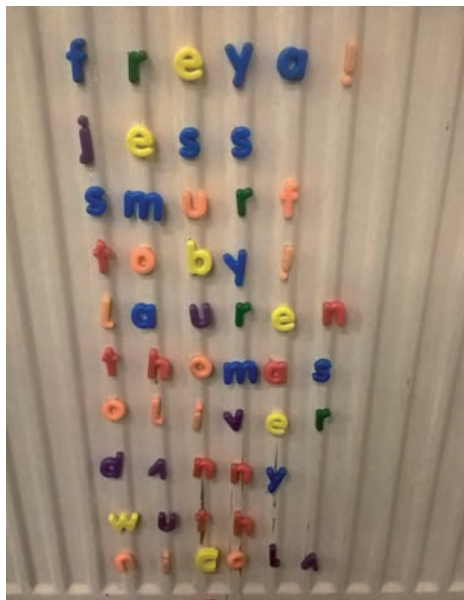
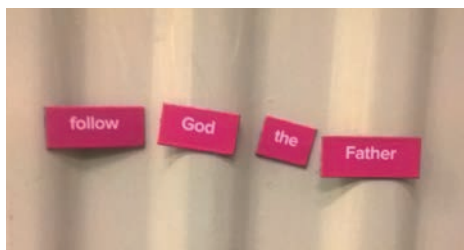
Big Questions – This prayer space allowed the young people to put to God the 'Big Questions' on their mind. They were then encouraged to wait and listen to see if God wanted to answer their prayers and questions.

Empty Plates – This prayer space gave each person a paper plate. They had to think about the food they had each day and compare it to someone who doesn't get much food at all. They were encouraged to write a prayer about this, and they could also draw a plate of food if they wished.

I have taken a couple of pictures to show some of the prayer spaces. You are more than welcome to use these in your own prayer lives if you wish!

Until next time!

Danny



PAGES

Boys' Brigade

There has been plenty of activity in the Anchors over the last month. The two teams have great fun during all the team games. The Anchors had a cooking session which proved to be a challenge and our thanks go to Jenny Pilling who, in addition to keeping the boys in order, actually managed to get results. Jenny also had a session with the boys in the Junior Section, making pancakes. The boys enjoyed every part of the evening, cooking, eating the pancakes and having a pancake race. Fortunately we planned that the pancakes used for the race were not going to be the ones eaten, especially when one boy managed to toss his very high and it came down straight into the waste paper bin!

The Juniors entered the Battalion Swimming Sports competition and came joint second, only one point behind the winners. This is a team event and all the boys did really well, each coming first in at least one of their races. 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 for the second year running. Even though numbers are very small in the Company Section we still manage to run a limited programme.

David Walters

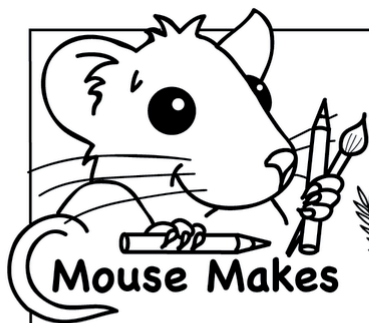
THE BOYS' BRIGADE
>the adventure begins here

Ages 5-18

Monday
6pm Anchor Boys, ages 5-8
6.30pm Junior Section, ages 8-11
7.30pm Company Section, ages 11-18

Danny Goodall 07743 438970
dgoodall@lindfieldurc.org.uk lindfieldurc.org.uk/youth

Lindfield
United Reformed Church



Journey to the Cross

Read the Bible - find the answers



READ Matthew 21:1-11

Where did Jesus stop on his journey? vs 1

What did Jesus send his disciples to get? vs 2

What did the crowd spread on the road in front of Jesus? vs 8

What did the people shout? vs 9

What city was Jesus going to? vs 10

READ Matthew 26:17-75

What festival did the disciples celebrate? vs 17

Which disciple denied Jesus? vs 34

Which disciple betrayed Jesus? vs 47

READ Matthew 27

When Jesus was taken to be crucified, what did the soldiers put on him? vs 28-29

What time did Jesus die? vs 45

Whose tomb was Jesus buried in? vs 57

READ Matthew 28

On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb? vs 2

What had happened to Jesus? vs 6,7



Back to School



On 3rd February Keith, Danny and the Elders returned to school for their Elders Quiet Day. The Head teacher of West Hoathly Primary School, Adam Earle, offered hospitality and shared the day with us. We had a very interesting and thought provoking time through worship, discussions and times of quiet reflection.

We started the day in the very bright main school hall, surrounded by the usual climbing apparatus and equipment for keeping active. We didn't actually use any as we sat in some very nice comfortable armchairs for our opening worship 'Refiner' Fire' and the first session 'Lindfield URC- Here and Now'.

We had our vision statement and before us on the wall the words:

Encountering God

Encouraging One Another

Demonstrating God's Love

Each of us chose three areas/activities of our church life, wrote them on Post-it notes and stuck them on the wall (we did have permission). We then tried to 'agree' where they aligned with the statement, but it did prove a little more challenging than we first thought. Still, that was the purpose and it did cause us to think about what we say and what we actually do as a church. It was then 'play time' and we had our drink (coffee) and biscuit. Unfortunately it was raining so we couldn't go out to play.

We had full use of all the class rooms so that each of us could spend time on our own for our 'Time to "be"' a time of reflection, "Listening to God". (I chose a class room where there was a lot of Lego, but I didn't play with any – Honest) Afterwards we met together to share our thoughts. This was followed by lunch of soup, sandwiches and fruit provided by Gilly and Adam.

Invitation

We turned to the Handbook 'Healthy Churches' by Robert Warren for the afternoon session, in which he lists the 'Seven Marks of a Healthy Church'. As planned we focussed on just three:

- **Energised by Faith?**
Rather than just keeping things going or trying to survive.
- **Doing a Few things well?**
Focussed rather than frenetic.
- **Seek to find out what God wants?**
Discerning the Spirit's leading rather than trying to please everyone.

It is difficult to express in a short article all the positives that were shared during this time. However, if the day is to be successful the results should become evident as we go forward in our theme 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

It was then afternoon play time and we had a drink before we gathered our thoughts together from the day and spent time in fellowship, worship, and sharing bread and wine together.

It was good to be able to be together for a day and have time to reflect.

The bell rang, the doors opened and we all ran out to our cars to go home – the school day was over.

David Walters

St Margaret's Church in West Hoathly (just up the road from Lindfield) are holding several special events over the next few months, and they are looking to welcome folks from the area.

Organ Recital

The first is on Sunday 18th March at 3pm when there will be an Organ Recital given by a highly renowned organist, Michael Highway, who has played at many Cathedrals in this country and beyond. His programme will be made up of a variety of organ favourites. Following the concert there will be a High Tea, all included in the ticket price of £10. These are available from Derek Shurvell on 01342 810780 or at derekshurvell@gmail.com

Developing a Historic Garden

On April 11th at 7:30pm there will be a talk by Tom Coward who is Head Gardener at Gravetye Manor, entitled "Developing an Historic Garden". Again tickets, priced £10 which includes wine and nibbles, are available from Derek Shurwell on 01342 810780 or at derekshurwell@gmail.com

What is Easter?

Each year as we enter March we know that Easter will not be far away. But what is Easter? Popular culture now would tell us it is a weekend to be filled with eating chocolate eggs and bunnies but there must be more to it than that, else why would it be the only Sunday of the year where the largest shops are unable to trade, that there is a bank holiday on both sides of the weekend, and the Christian church sees it as its greatest festival.

To begin I think I really have to start at the beginning, not the beginning of us marking Easter, but the beginning of the Bible, and the beginning of humanity's relationship with God. In Genesis we hear an account of how the first humans when tempted by the serpent choose to satisfy themselves rather than live according to God's plan. The outcome of this sin is separation and pain; God says there will be hard work for humanity, and there will be pain in child birth. What we don't see so clearly described is the pain experienced by God, the pain to Him of seeing his wonderful creation, that he had looked on with love and all being good, not being as it could be.

Years, and indeed centuries, pass and we see that humanity fails to learn to seek God's way.

In Love he keeps Noah and his family safe from the great flood, but no sooner are they out of the ark do we see one of the sons mocking his father. A man is chosen to be faithful and have a family that sets an example to the world, but the children of Abraham struggle to live with faithful and obedient hearts. God keeps trying; rescuing the children from Egypt when they have fallen on hard times, but even on the journey to a place of hopeful promise the Israelites make false gods. Ten commandments are given, but they are not obeyed; instructions for worship are shared, but they become ritualistic rather than held dearly in the heart. Sacrifice becomes less sacrificial and more a matter of going through instructions, at the altar they are a people saying sorry, but not really meaning it.

Yet, despite humanity being wayward, God continues to love us and longs for us to come back to him recognising the pain, repenting and starting again reconciled with our Creator.

Throughout the years, in the events we have recorded in the Old Testament, the prophets who tried to steer the people back onto the right path also promised a Messiah, which means anointed one; someone chosen not by people but by God. The Messiah would rescue the people from the oppression of sin.

Many misunderstood what this rescuer would look like, thinking of an earthly warrior, a general or a great hero - few would imagine he would first appear to humankind as a baby, wrapped in swaddling bands and laid in a manger. This precious, helpless infant, Jesus, was God made flesh; Christians understand him to be the Son of the Heavenly Father, and that he had been present with Father and Spirit at the dawning of time.

Jesus grew to manhood and, aged 30, began his ministry. His teaching was with authority, and his miracles changed lives. The crowds loved him, but those with earthly power questioned what was happening and could see that they were losing their supremacy, which had been exerted through wrongful interpretation of the scriptures and abusive control of the people. Jesus knew what was coming, and hoped there was another way, but there was not, and he would be obedient to the Father.

Betrayed, and arrested, Jesus was put before a kangaroo court; crowds cried out for him to be crucified and so he was whipped and led out of the Holy City, staggering under the weight of a wooden cross to a hill called Calvary.

Many in the city, perhaps even his friends, thought this agonising death was an end to it all. But the darkening sky and the mysterious ripping of the temple curtain from top to bottom, revealing the holiest of places to all, was an indication all was not as it appeared.

Jesus was dead, but in dying he had opened the way to come into a new relationship with the Heavenly Father.

Jesus life had been lived perfectly, like no other. In his death he had become the ultimate sacrifice, blameless and purer than any lamb, he paid the price for our sins. We remember that day as Good Friday; it is Good because of what Jesus' loving and life giving sacrifice has achieved, the forgiveness of sins for those who put their trust in Him. He reconciles his people with God, undoing the damage of Eden.

The story doesn't end there. It doesn't end with a final breath, or the spear being thrust into the side, nor does it end with a rapid burial before the sun sets, marking the arrival of the Sabbath. Instead as the sun rises not the following morning, but on a third day, Easter Day, we discover that there is something that can't be seen – there is a missing body.



Jesus who once was dead has triumphantly risen from death, Jesus appears to friends in the garden by the tomb, and then in various places, including the road to Emmaus, in a locked upper room in Jerusalem, and by the shore of Galilee; being touched, eating fish, challenging with words of teaching and warming their hearts he proves he truly is alive. His risen life shows that for us there can be resurrection too, in Christ there is a new, eternal life that is not confined by a tomb stone.

This Easter as you dine on roast lamb, munch your hot cross bun, or gobble your chocolate egg, remember to rejoice in new life, not that of chicks and bunnies, but the new life gained through Jesus the son of God, who loved us so much that he has painfully paid the price.

Keith Morrison

Health Check

The CSUA Mission and Church Health Check will be a topic for discussion at the March Church meeting. In particular, "Why do we do it?" and "Where are we going?".

Do join us at the Church meeting in order to be part of this discussion. Non-members are of course welcome to this meeting which starts at 8:00pm on the 8th March.

Look forward to seeing you.

Sue Waller

The CSUA Mission and Church Health Check (MACH)

Please prayerfully consider the questions below and use as a guide to contribute to your own church's MACH as part of seeking a strategy for the Area.



What is our context?

What community does our church serve? (rural village, small town etc)

How does our church reach out to the community? (ecumenical involvement, community presence etc.)

Who are we?

Who makes up our membership and what are we like? (age range, style of worship, leadership etc)

What do we do?

What goes on within the church? (fellowship groups, discipleship courses etc)

What happens outside of the church? (social support, evangelism, outreach)

Why do we do it?

Are we fulfilling our agreed Mission Statement? Is it still relevant?

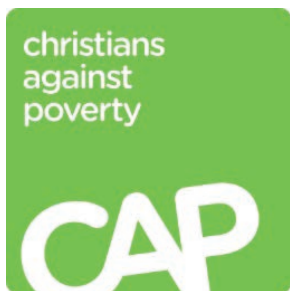
Where are we going?

In what areas of mission do we think our church could/should be engaged?

What resources do we need to do it (including lay/ordained ministries, finances etc.)

What changes will we make to fulfil God's plan in the next year?
.....and for the next five or ten years?

Mission Focus



Our mission focus for March and April 2018 is on Christians Against Poverty www.capuk.org (CAP).

CAP exists because it believes nobody should be held hostage by debt and poverty. It is passionate about releasing people in our nation from a life sentence of debt, poverty and their causes. Through its services, which are all run through local churches, it is tackling poverty head on. CAP's vision is to bring freedom and good news to people in every community through 1,000 CAP projects by 2021.

CAP was started in 1996 by John Kirkby, with a small donation and much faith. As a new Christian he began CAP from his spare room in Great Horton, Bradford, after both working for the finance industry and having his own financial crisis. John considers himself CAP's first client. The organisation has been on an amazing journey of growth and currently helps around 25,000 people a year with tackling debt and the causes of poverty.

Earlier this year John was awarded the Langton Cross for Community Service for 'service to the poor by equipping the local church to be at the forefront of social change'. The award was presented to him by the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby.

As well as CAP Debt Help, the organisation now helps people to step into employment through CAP Job Clubs, helps people get control of their addictions through CAP Release Groups, and also uses CAP Life Skills, aimed to equip people to live well on a low income. CAP does not charge for any of its services as it believes everybody deserves the same chance to get out of the poverty trap. It is funded by thousands of individuals and churches.

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

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

Finally, a big THANK YOU for your faithful support of missions whether through prayer, giving in time and/or financial support.

Missions Group

Phonebook

Keith Morrison (Minister)

Telephone 01444 484791
Email kmorrison@lindfielddurc.org.uk
Normal day off Friday

Danny Goodall (Youth Pastor)

Youth Office 01444 487607
Mobile 07443 438970
Email dgoodall@lindfielddurc.org.uk
Normal day off Saturday

Church Secretary

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

Treasurer

Paul Bloxham 01444 483672

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

4th	Fo Tingley	Fo Tingley
11th	Betty Billins	Sue Tester
18th	Heather Swann	Meta Orchin
25th	Jenny Machell	Jo Bloxham

April

1st	Easter Sunday	Heather Swann
8th	Anne Parker	Iris Bingham
15th	Carol Walters	Fiona Tingley
22nd	House Group - Graham Campling	Sue Tester
29th	Boys Brigade	Carol Marsh

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

Around Lindfield

Tuesday 13th March

2:30pm Lindfield Preservation Society in King Edward Hall
"Sussex Literary Landscapes" - Talk by Geoffrey Mead

Wednesday 14th March

12:15pm Tiger Arts - Lunch in The Tiger

1:00pm Concert in All Saints Church :
Blackthorns School Choir

8:00pm Lindfield Horticultural Society in King Edward Hall
Talk: "Fuchsias" by Derek Dexter

Thursday 22nd March

7:30pm Village Film Night in King Edward Hall
"Goodbye Christopher Robin" PG
Tickets from Tufnells



Lindfield

United Reformed Church

www.lindfieldurc.org.uk