

GoodNEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

May 2018



Pentecost

God of Love & Fire

Bible verse of the month

“The kingdom that
God has given you will
last forever and ever.
You rule over your
people with justice;”

Psalm 45:6 NIV



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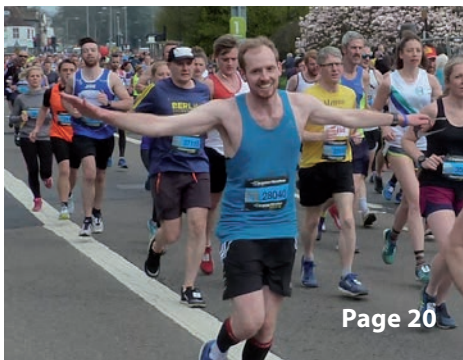
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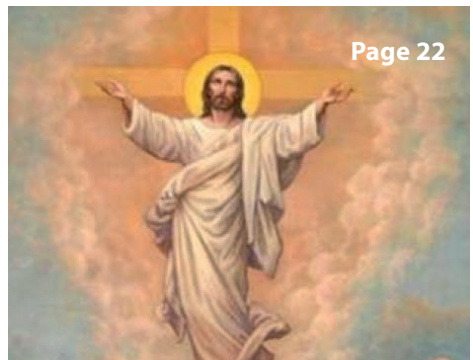
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Our verse this month
comes from Mike Gardiners
reflection on a Royal
Wedding from page 10.

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



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Editorial

I think Spring is here at last!! I am delighted to be back to normal, thanks to our Princess Royal Hospital and their Consultants. It has seemed a long time since I did the Good News. I would like to thank our Good News Team together with Helen, for ensuring that we had a Good News when I was not well.

May is a month for weddings, we have the Royal Wedding with Harry and Meghan, also the wedding of Martin and Helen's son Jonathan to Yuen-Hui. We wish both couples a long and happy life together. There is a special article which Mike Gardiner has written on what The Bible has to offer on this subject. Dorothy Brown a member of our Church, has written a delightful poem for Harry and Meghan wishing them well. We have her own memories of her own marriage.

The poem I am sending to Buckingham Palace to show how we wish Harry and Meghan a 'Full and Happy Life' together.

Our Minister has drawn a picture in words about 'The Ascension' and 'Pentecost'. It is good we can read and reread this so we can understand what this is all really about. Danny has so much going on with our young people, do read how he is helping them to both enjoy and understand all about Jesus.

I hope you find pleasure in reading our Good News.

God Bless,

Anne

June Edition Copy Date :
Sunday May 13th 2018

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

After a cold and wet winter, the sun shining last week brought a much needed warmth. This also indicated that I could make excuses no longer; the lawn of the manse needed to be mowed. This is something that I had not done for quite some months and perhaps for a first cut I should have set the blade a little higher. I just wanted to get on with it. I pressed the priming button, pulled the string and nothing really happened. I pulled again, still no engine running, and again still nothing, before Emmeline said, "Put petrol in it!" I had taken the cap off and looked in the top, I could see a little liquid in the bottom. I thought I would be alright, but humouring my wife I got the green plastic can, poured more petrol in. I pulled the cord and strangely enough this did the trick. It seemed it had needed some more petroleum spirit after all.

There was a song some years ago titled "The first cut is the deepest" well the first push across the lawn certainly left a very obvious cut path and filled the collecting bag almost straight away. I did a couple more widths the quantity of grass soon caused the blade to jam and engine to cut out, oh dear! The bag was emptied, the blade was cleared. I could continue, and also learn from my mistake in the process. Now I ensured that I emptied the bag in good time.

Like any activity, when it has been neglected for some time, it can be difficult to begin. An un-weeded garden takes time to get it under control, but then becomes more manageable. To take a different analogy, we might not forget how to ride a bicycle, but if we have not ridden one for years then our muscles are not ready to go any distance. With regular cycling we might be able to go further and faster.

I wonder, what muscles we need for our faith journey, do we need to get exercising? What do we need to weed out from our cluttered life? What do we need to keep an eye on to ensure that it does not cause a blockage. Although we may have the Holy Spirit, is it fully filling us, in a way that powers us for God's service?

As we enter May and approach Pentecost, the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit, may we each start to prepare our hearts that God may renew and equip us to be His people.

Your Minister

Keith

Family News

Thanks

A big thank you to everyone for their cards and good wishes on the occasion of our Golden Wedding Anniversary. They were all very much appreciated. We had a super weekend.

David & Carol Walters

Thank You

Norna Derham's daughter, Morag, would like to thank everyone at the church for making Norna's 90th birthday celebrations so special. It meant so much to Norna to be able to celebrate with her friends at the church.

Sympathy

We were saddened to learn of the death of Donald McKee in April. Donald was an active member of Lindfield Untied Reformed Church for many years until recently, when he moved to Burgess Hill following the death of his wife Audrey.

We remember the family at this time.

Change of address

Audrey Saunders is now a resident in Ashton House, Bolnore Road, Haywards Heath. Please continue to uphold her and the family in your prayers, and if you've a few minutes to pop in to see Audrey,

I'm sure she'd appreciate it.

Fo Tingley

The Fellowship

The next meeting of The Fellowship will be held on Wednesday 23rd May at 2.30pm, and now for something different. Roy Plumridge will be introducing us to the 'World of Magic', (Tricks!).

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

All who come will be made most welcome.

Pat Phillips

Family News

In Touch

On 27th March Ros Black came to talk to us about "Grace Kimmins and her Chailey Heritage". This was the title of her book about a lady who pioneered for education for the severely disabled and how her dream to have a residential school was realised.

Grace worked amongst the slums of Burmondsey in the 1890s and in 1903 she founded her craft school for disabled boys in Chailey. She continued her work through two world wars until Chailey Heritage was taken over by the N HS in 1948. Grace was described as "A small woman with a big heart" and her story was inspirational.

We are very grateful to Ros for giving us such a well illustrated and interesting account of Grace's work.

Our next meeting will be on the 22nd May when Mike and Jean Gardiner will be talking about their experiences in Thailand.

Everyone is welcome to come and remember our new start time is 7.30pm with a break for refreshments at 8.30.

Janet Wade

Lunch Fellowship

On May 2nd we shall meet for the Lunch Fellowship at 12.30pm as usual.

There is a service before this at 11.30am to which anyone and everyone is invited, if you do wish to come to lunch afterwards, you would be most welcome, but please phone and book your place.

Sue Waller (455047)

Congratulations

Martin and Helen Hall are delighted to announce the wedding of their son Jonathan to Yuen-Hui on Saturday 5th May at Lindfield URC at 1pm and all are welcome to attend the Church Service.

Thy Kingdom Come

Come and explore prayer stations around Haywards Heath Methodist Church as we, together with churches around the world, join together to pray for the world, our community, our friends and family, and for God's Kingdom to be known in this world.

10th May – 20th May 2018

9:00 am – 8:00 pm Daily

www.thykingdomcome.global



Holiday Club

**Lindfield United
Reformed
Church**

**Ages
5 - 11**

**Tuesday 29th May
to Friday 1st June
1.30pm - 4.30pm**

**Book Now!
Limited spaces
available!**

**For more information
contact Danny Goodall
dgoodall@lindfieldurc.org.uk**

Norna Derham 90 years young!

Norna Derham celebrated her 90th Birthday on Saturday 24th March at an afternoon tea party in the church hall with her family and friends. Norna, who has been a staunch member of our congregation since the 1960's, read an inspiring poem, the writer of which was unknown but believed to be a Nun from the 17th Century. It captures Norna's positive attitude to the challenges of starting on her 10th decade!

Many congratulations Norna and many thanks for all that you have done for our church community over many years.



Norna blowing out candles with sister Liz



Norna being served by her daughter, Morag

17th CENTURY NUN'S PRAYER

LORD Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

AMEN

Psalm 45

- 1 Beautiful words fill my mind, as I compose this song for the king. Like the pen of a good writer, my tongue is ready with a poem.
- 2 You are the most handsome of men; you are an eloquent speaker. God has always blessed you.
- 3 Buckle on your sword, mighty king; you are glorious and majestic.
- 4 Ride on in majesty to victory for the defence of truth and justice! Your strength will win you great victories!
- 5 Your arrows are sharp, they pierce the hearts of your enemies; nations fall down at your feet.
- 6 The kingdom that God has given you will last forever and ever. You rule over your people with justice;
- 7 You love what is right and hate what is evil. That is why God, your God, has chosen you and has poured out more happiness on you than on any other king.
- 8 The perfume of myrrh and aloes is on your clothes; musicians entertain you in palaces decorated with ivory.
- 9 Among the ladies of your court are daughters of kings, and at the right of your throne stands the queen, wearing ornaments of finest gold.
- 10 Bride of the king, listen to what I say – forget your people and your relatives.
- 11 Your beauty will make the king desire you; he is your master, so you must obey him.
- 12 The people of Tyre will bring you gifts; rich people will try to win your favour.
- 13 The princess is in the palace—how beautiful she is! Her gown is made of gold thread.
- 14 In her colourful gown she is led to the king, followed by her bridesmaids, and they also are brought to him.
- 15 With joy and gladness they come and enter the king's palace.
- 16 You, my king, will have many sons to succeed your ancestors as kings, and you will make them rulers over the whole earth.
- 17 My song will keep your fame alive for ever, and everyone will praise you for all time to come.

For a Royal Wedding

v1 The joy of the writer. Is he the Royal Chaplain? A court musician? Poet Laureate? He has certainly been given a prestigious commission – a hymn for the wedding of his king (nobody knows which one), to be sung to the tune “Lilies”.

v2-7 The glories of the King Remember this is ancient Israel and the king is no ordinary mortal – he is God’s Anointed One. The instrument of God’s blessing on the nation. Son of David, inheritor of God’s promise that David would never lack a son to occupy the throne. In these verses, the king is handsome, eloquent, courageous. And (v6-7) his ethical stance is beyond reproach.

v8-9 The Ceremony The King is all dressed up, the band is playing and the VIP Guests arrive! Foreign princesses are there in attendance, then suddenly ...

v9b Here She Comes! It’s as though there is a fanfare of trumpets, and the bridal march starts to play. All attention is now on the royal bride. A privileged girl indeed. She is to be united to a man who is God’s representative here on earth, God’s Anointed. No wonder she’s dressed in dazzling gold.

v10-15 The Blushing Bride It is obvious that she is a foreigner (v10). An outsider. Not a party to all the glorious promises made to the people of God.

She is to forget her people, pagan idol-worshippers, and cleave to her husband, and, by inference, to her husband’s God. Our Court Composer may well have had in mind the shining example of Ruth, the girl from Moab, who embraced a Hebrew husband and whose words were “Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.”

This bride may look like something straight from Hollywood (v11) but she still has to promise to obey the king, her lord and master. However beautiful the queen may be, she is one of the King’s subjects. She, like the people, receives God’s grace through him. v12 tells of the international influence that she will have, while v13-15 continues the theme of the Queen’s beauty (how many bridesmaids, we wonder. And who designed that wedding dress?), and of the splendour of the wedding ceremony. In v15, we can almost hear the bells pealing and the crowds who line the streets shouting their praises.

16-17 “May All Your Troubles Be Little Ones!” The composer’s devout wish that the queen will present Israel’s king with sons (daughters were less important) to continue David’s line. So that God’s universal praise might be continued for ever.

Mike Gardiner

Wedding Memories

as we think of the big day

All marriages have a personal story. Arthur and I married just after the end of the last war. Everything was severely rationed including food and clothes. My dress and veil were borrowed from relations. My Mother worked miracles in managing to provide what seemed to us, a lavish reception in the Church Hall (a little bit of extra ration was allowed for a wedding), and friends chipped in too.

We travelled on Honeymoon in a train so crowded, we could not even sit together. We then went across the solent to the Isle of Wight, on a small ferry with little shelter, in the pouring rain! The small hotel was just setting up again and was still being decorated. There were no facilities or amusements at all, on the front – still recovering from P.L.U.T.O – 'Pipe Line Under The Ocean',

which had supplied all the fuel for the invasion of Europe. We spent a week there and to us it was magic! We were happily married for 62years- Thanks be to God.

God Bless Them

'Harry and Meghan' a cause to rejoice
A popular Prince and the bride of his choice
Making their vows, in a public display
May they be blessed, on their own special day.

Lives in the public eye, right from the start
Privilege, duties, all playing their part
May they be guided, may they be led
Draw strength from each other for what lies ahead.

Let faith be their watchword and prayer be their guide
Safe be their steps on the path they will ride
Blessings abound. All the days of their life
'Harry and Meghan'-new Husband and Wife.

Dorothy Brown 2018



Going – Going – Gone!

Have you noticed? Many haven't. The tree at the front of Ryecroft is no more. It has always struggled mainly because of its location and it had not been looking at its best for a few years. Small sections had fallen off and we were concerned that it could be dangerous as branches might come down. So after getting agreement from all the required authorities it was taken away on 6th April. Because of the confined space it had to be cut into a lot of small sections to remove it. KPS who carried out the work are very keen on conservation and ensure that all the timber is reused in some way mainly for soil improvement/mulch etc.

You may also have seen that we have a new bench alongside the concourse. I would like to pretend we made this from the oak tree but as this is made of pine it's a bit difficult.

The other area where work has been carried out recently is the kitchen. The doors, worktops etc. were in poor condition and it was getting difficult to ensure everything was clean and hygienic. So after 20 years' service these have all been replaced. New lever operated taps, which are easier to use have also been fitted. The Annual MSDC Health and Hygiene inspection has also been carried out and we maintained the highest level (Five).

There is much to do around the premises so if you think you could assist in any way please let me know.

David Walters
Managers



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.

May Church diary

2nd Wednesday	11:30am 12:30pm	Wednesday Worship Lunch Fellowship	PENTECOST 20th Sunday	10:00am	All Age Worship
					No evening Service but all are invited to Kings Church Burgess Hill
5th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan. Free Church			
6th Sunday	10:00am	Family Worship Graham Campling and House Group	22nd Tuesday	7:30pm	In Touch
	6:30pm	Something Different Adam Earle			
			23rd Wednesday	2:30pm 7:30pm	The Fellowship Elders' Meeting
10th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Meeting			
			24th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
12th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan. Free Church			
13th Sunday	10:00am	Family Worship Rev Keith Morrison	26th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan. Free Church
	6:30pm	Evening Worship Rev Keith Morrison			
			27th Sunday	10:00am	Communion John Goodway
				6:30pm	Evening Worship David Walters
17th Thursday		House Groups meet this week	28th Monday		Bank Holiday
19th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan. Free Church	29th Tuesday		Start of Holiday Club

YOUTH



Hello!

This year about 29 people from Lindfield URC travelled the 200 miles across country to attend Spring Harvest in Minehead.

Spring Harvest is a Christian event that runs every Easter in Minehead, Skegness and Harrogate, packed full of activities and filled with bible teaching.

This year's theme was 'Only the Brave' and focused on the book of James.

The description for the event was:

The everyday life of a disciple is an adventure. We face hundreds of decisions daily and the right choices are often the most difficult. God calls us to choose the costly life of following Christ. It takes sacrifice and courage. It takes perseverance. We will need robust minds, passionate hearts and active hands as we inch towards our great reward. We do none of this alone.

Using the book of James, we'll explore what it is to live a life of determined discipleship and give a rallying cry to join the everyday adventure that lies ahead. We are disciplined to make disciples. We get one chance at this life – let's live it.

The main teaching throughout the week was led by Lucy Peppiatt, the principal at Westminster Theological Centre. Each morning Lucy focused on a chapter of James and opened up the teaching in a clear way.

But don't just hear it from me, here is what some others have to say about it.

Danny

Spring Harvest 2018 was like any other year of Spring Harvest, with the available activities on the Butlins site as well as the activities and Events provided by Spring Harvest. This year we learnt about the book of James and many other aspects to do with this year's theme 'Only the Brave'. I look forward to next Year.

Alex Harfield

Spring harvest 2018 was a great refresh during a very different year, it has made me feel more secure with my friends from the church and my faith. Seeing so many of us there made me happy and found it a more enjoyable experience whether it be enjoying the great worship sessions and seminars or the Butlins facilities like the pool or fair. In all it was a great experience and really do hope i get another chance to go again.

Kieron Harfield



PAGES

Spring Harvest has been an incredible experience for all of us.

This year the theme was all about discipleship and the study of the book of James and how to implement discipleship in a practical way, in particular we got to look at the 6 main themes, face it, tame it, live it, lose it, finish it and only the brave.

I got the opportunity to go the main sessions this year and the speakers in both the Morning Bible Study and Evening worship sessions were inspirational, dedicated and faithful.

The worship was very broad but truly focused and suited to theme, we got hear a mixture of hymns and modern pop songs. We also got to hear an amazing testimony, through a Question and Answer Session of a Christian called "Hae Wou" (which was in partnership with the charity known as Open Doors) who managed to survive the terrors and the uphill struggles of living as a Christian in North Korea.

In particular we got to focus on how to maintain the faith and also how to sustain, as well as implement the faith across the generations in our communities etc.

We got the opportunity to socialise and know each other in a series of games, go for a meal out, fairground rides, swimming and much more.

It was overall a great experience and I certainly hope to go next year.

Peter McCleery

This year Spring Harvest was a little different! I helped with the 8-11's group for both weeks. Week 1 with Firestarters Xstream (Woop! Woop!) and Week 2 with Go Academy. The theme was 'Only the Brave' with daily themes like 'Face it', 'Live it', 'Tame it', 'Lose it' and 'Finish it' all looking in to the book of James in the Bible.

Week 1 was amazing! I had a group of kids who weren't that into being in the 8-11's because they were all 10/11. They also had no interest in God. I had a lot of trouble with my back towards the end that meant I had to sit out back instead of being with my group. This was during the last evening session. The kids sent a floater to come out back and tell me that they wanted me to come out so that they could pray for me. That alone is amazing. Unfortunately, nothing worked but I still sat out in the main venue with them debating with myself how I would eventually stand up at the end. It came to small group time and they asked that instead of doing what we had to that they prayed for me instead. After more praying, with the most adorable things said, I was able to stand up and dance around with them.

Week 2 was equally amazing! I had a group of all girls aged 9-11. One of them told me that she was an atheist and was dragged to Spring Harvest by her Nan. She sat there and listened intently to the talks and on the last day she asked me to pray for her and with her so that she could commit her life to God.

Two powerful boom stories!

Johanna Harfield



Boys' Brigade

We arrived in Minehead Tuesday morning. We were a bit early to get onto the Butlins site so we decamped to a supermarket café. The kids were very excited, not about the café, but the fact we were nearly at Spring Harvest. Were we ready for six days of bible teaching mixed with some relaxing? Perhaps the more important question was, 'How was I going to cope without my bike for nearly a week'?

Well the Bible teachings were solid and thought provoking. I especially got a lot from the 'Care for the Family' run seminars on parenting.

It is always great to worship with so many other like minded people. Although some parts weren't to my taste, I appreciate they are to others, so everyone benefits from something.

The other part of Springy I like is being with friends from church. The chance to spend quality time together.

I would encourage everyone to go to Spring Harvest.

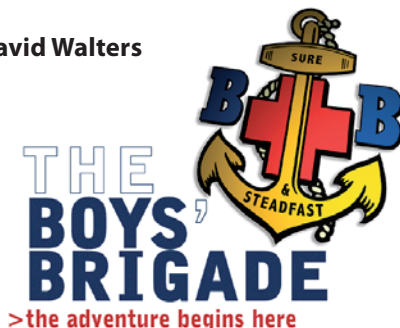
Charlie Tingley

A lot going on in all sections although the Company Section has missed a few weeks due to college work. Anchors succeed in reaching the maximum noise level each week in everything they do. Juniors had a varied programme from making Palm Crosses to shoe cleaning. It is surprising how difficult it is to make Palm Crosses properly but we generally succeeded. We also generally succeeded in getting most of the black shoe polish on the shoes. Preparation and practice is underway for the International Team Games competition.

This is a potted sports event covering six activities. Three boys (and Danny) are off to the Battalion weekend away at Carrotty Wood. We have attended this for a number of years and boys are always keen to return.

All sections of the Company are preparing for our Awards Evening, which takes place on Monday 21st May at 6.30pm. Please come along to support the Company if you are free.

David Walters



What links eagles' wings with blistered feet?

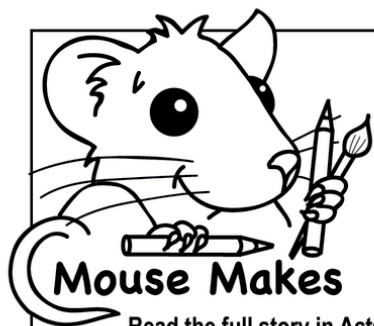
Last month we highlighted the sporting events coming up in April and this month we're checking up to see how they went. While the Commonwealth Games marathon on the 15th April was held in hot conditions of around 28 to 30°C, causing the race leader to collapse with exhaustion only two miles from the finish, runners in the Brighton marathon held on the same day endured much cooler conditions which helped many, especially those running it for the first time. One of those was Alex Hall who successfully completed the course with his brother Jonathan, despite cramping up towards the end.

Considering Alex struggled to walk 100m only a few years ago, this was a massive achievement and testimony to the powers of faith and prayer. A recurring Bible passage which encouraged Alex throughout his journey to the finish line was Isaiah 40: 30-31:

"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Martin Hall





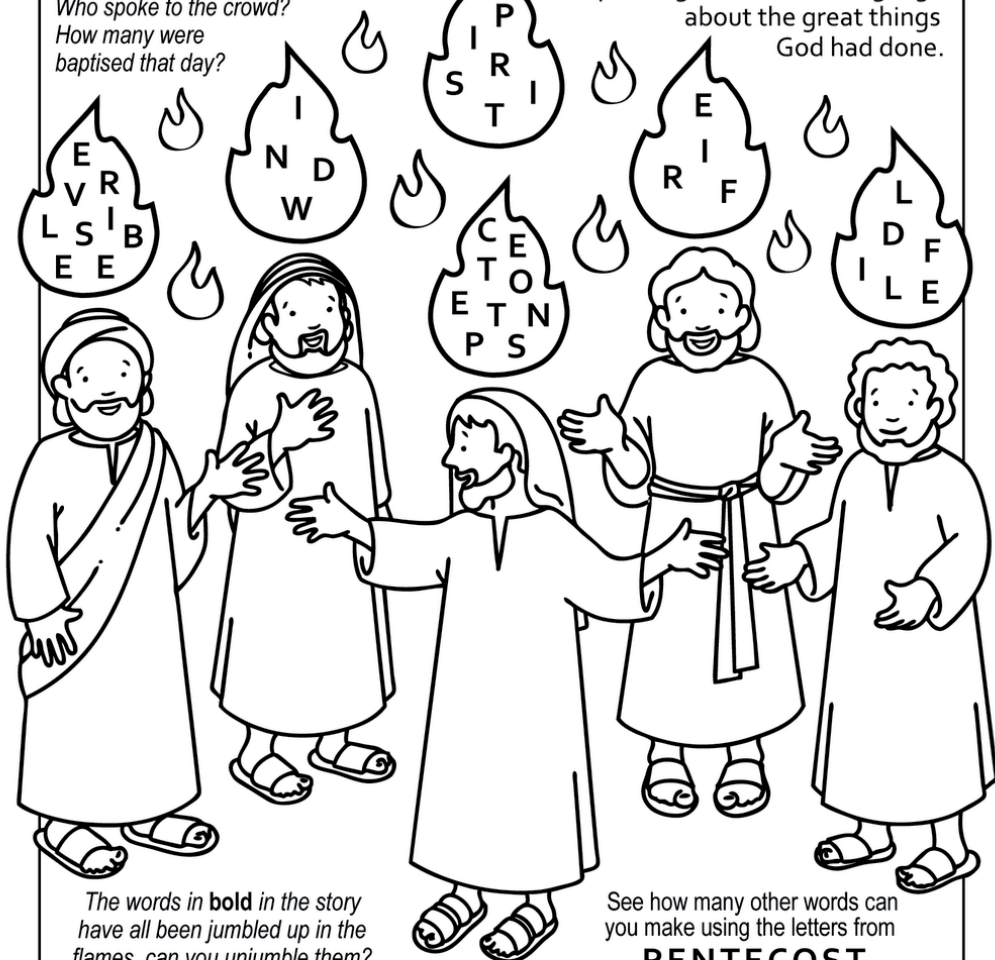
Mouse Makes

Read the full story in Acts 2

Which city were they in?
Which countries had people come from?
Who spoke to the crowd?
How many were
baptised that day?

It was the festival of **Pentecost** and the Apostles and other believers were all together in one place, when they heard a sound like a strong **wind** and saw what looked like flames of **fire** which spread out and touched each person. They were all **filled** with the Holy **Spirit** and began to talk in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.

A crowd gathered outside, they were excited and confused because each of them heard the **believers** speaking in their own language about the great things God had done.



The words in **bold** in the story have all been jumbled up in the flames, can you unjumble them?

See how many other words can you make using the letters from

PENTECOST

Ascension

Through the year there are various festivals that we use to think of our relationship with God. At Christmas we think of how our Almighty God gives us the most precious gift; he humbled himself coming among us as the Christ, the son of God, that we might come to the Father. He was born a human yet fully divine, all powerful yet fragile, all knowing yet growing. In the spring we come to Easter, where we think first of God's sacrificial love seen in the passion upon the cross, taking the full weight of our sin upon his sinless self, and then rejoice at our Lord's rising triumphant over the grave revealing that he has beaten death, and that there is a sure and certain hope of eternal life for the believer.

Fifty days after the stone was rolled away, after empty grave clothes were found, after an encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus and another with the Lord appearing in a locked upper room, we can celebrate Pentecost and the Holy Spirit alighting on each follower, becoming a constant presence, binding all Christian believers as one church, placing a mark of belonging to Jesus on their heart and equipping them to the body of Christ. These are the Church's three key festivals, but there is another marking God's greatness and Jesus presence, no not Harvest, one that we often forget to consider, particularly those of us in the protestant tradition; Ascension!



Forty days after his resurrection and ten before he gifted the Holy Spirit, Jesus ascended from the earth to his Father's side. This is recorded briefly at the end of the gospels of both Mark and Luke with a more full account given in the book of Acts. The ascension marks the physical end of Christ's presence on earth in bodily form until he returns bringing the completeness of the kingdom, in which there will be no more sorrow and sickness, no darkness of night, and every knee will bow with true humility. That does not mean that Jesus is missing from the earth, as the Spirit speaks and moves among us Jesus is present in the Church, and people will still have encounters with him, as happens in the conversion of Saul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9) when Jesus speaks to the persecutor.

At the ascension Jesus had gone with his friends to the Mount of Olives, a short walk from Jerusalem, and instructed them, that once equipped with the Spirit they are to be his witnesses in the world. This is the setting of the Great Commission in Mark, though Matthew's gospel stops at the end of the teaching rather than continuing with the vision of Jesus rising into the clouds.

The sight must have been amazing and it is clearly not a dream due to the number of disciples stood looking up mouths wide open and for a moment unable to move. In Acts it results in a prompt from a pair of sharp dressed men in white, telling the disciples to get on with things; perhaps these are the same angels as stood at the tomb of the risen Lord telling the followers not to waste their time looking for the living among the dead. The writers of the epistles allow us to take the empty tomb analogy further, just as the Father raised the son from the dead to be among the living, at the ascension the Father raises the son from the earth to the heavens to be with the heavenly beings. Paul hints at this as he speaks of Jesus in Philippians 2: 6-11, which jumps over the resurrection to get to the ascension, and in Romans 8: 34 where he includes the resurrection and that places Jesus in the heavenly realm but jumps the ascension.

That the visual experience of the disciples is not like the birth of an infant or the death of a friend might make it harder for us to understand than the other festivals, at Pentecost we talk of a sound like a rushing wind and something like tongues of fire touching the disciples as the Spirit comes, but the ascension Jesus rising before their eyes is literally out of this world; how far would they have seen him go were it not for the cloud that enveloped him? Our twenty first century view of cosmology may also make things more complicated than for those who witnessed this in the first century. We may not now put heaven just above the stratosphere, among the solar system, or even beyond the stars we can see, and we must think instead in some new metaphorical dimension that is difficult to comprehend but yet is present.

We can only try to get our head round what has happened in the language we are comfortable with, that of the three geographical dimensions – up/down, left/right, and forwards/backwards – but yet we know Jesus has taken a new place. The ascended Lord now “sits at the Father's side” bringing our prayers to the ear of the Holy One, and interceding in the world in ways that we don't always know, or perhaps even notice. He will return, he told his followers, in the same way as he left though we do not know when that will be. It may be some time yet, but let us look forward to that day.

Keith Morrison

Mission Update

Crawley Prison Fellowship

“*The work of Prison Fellowship is deeply important and a clear response to Jesus’ call.*”

Archbishop Justin Welby

During May and June we shall once again be supporting Crawley Prison Fellowship (PF). On the 10 th June, Peter Holloway, Chief Executive Officer of Prison Fellowship (England and Wales) will preach at the morning service and will stay, after the service, to answer questions during coffee.

The Group meets monthly to pray for prisoners, their families, and prison staff. Each week requests for prayers from prisoners are collected after the Sunday Morning Chapel service at HMP Lewes and distributed by email to those who pray regularly for the prisoners.

The HMP Lewes Chaplaincy is supported, by the Group, in many ways such as participating in Sunday Chapel Services, having fellowship with the prisoners during coffee after the service, and praying with those who request it.

“Give thanks that the Easter Services held in the prison, has had a deep effect on the prisoners who attended, continue to pray for them, especially those who have chosen to make their journey to Faith.”

One member serves as a volunteer chaplain and, in addition to contributing to the pastoral care of the prisoners, acts as the Chaplaincy Restorative Justice Lead and Victim Awareness Co-ordinator.

The Sycamore Tree victim awareness course continues to absorb much volunteer time. Each course, a morning a week for six weeks, requires a minimum of five and usually more volunteers. In the financial year 2017/2018, four courses were run, with a total of 80 prisoners, 64 of whom graduated. The external validation of the prisoners’ work takes up most of the £16,000 contributed by the Group to the cost of the courses. For some prisoners the certificate, for successful completion of the course, may be the first ever received for educational achievement! A similar number of courses are expected to be run in 2018/19. Nationally over 30,000 prisoners have now attended Sycamore Tree courses.

For Christmas 2017 the Group provided, wrapped and distributed 140 Christmas presents (the Angel Tree programme), to the children of prisoners at HMP Lewes and at HMP Huntercombe (Oxfordshire). With the aim of engaging prisoners further in the programme, a national competition, open to all prisoners, to design a card used to let prisoners know what presents have been sent to their children, received over 90 entries.

"It was wonderful to see the creativity and the care that had gone into the entries." The winning entry, selected by patron Jonathan Aitken, depicts a robin sitting on the barbed wire of a prison fence.

The Missions Group hope that, for next Christmas, some Lindfield URC volunteers will help with the very busy "wrapping and packing day", at East Grinstead. More information nearer the time.

“*I was in prison and you came to visit me*”

Matthew 25:35

If you feel called to participate in any aspect of this work, write letters to prisoners, or join those who respond to the weekly HMP Lewes prayer letter, please speak to a member of the Missions Group.

More information is available at the Mission display area.

If you would like to give towards this work please use the special mission-giving envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any of the Sunday services.

Missions Group

Lindfield URC & Operation Mobilisation

Saturday – Sunday 15th/16th September

Learning – Fellowship – Praise – Sharing

Saturday Afternoon and Evening

2.30 pm – OM "Sharing One's Faith" (Parallel activity for children)

5.00 pm – Reception followed by family-friendly two-course supper

After Supper – OM Vision and sharing of mission work experience by young people

Sunday Morning

10.00am Service: Preacher Simon Lunt from OM (London)

During Service and after coffee: Updates on OM missions supported by Lindfield URC: OM (London) and OM (Kosovo)



Around the World

Colombia

Colombia is a deeply scarred country following half a century of conflict between the government and the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). The wounds are still deep after 220,000 people have been killed, six million displaced and tens of thousands have been 'forcibly disappeared'. The FARC guerillas have officially demobilised but remnants, along with other criminal gangs continue to kidnap and terrorise. Drug trafficking and illicit crop-growing have risen and there is widespread poverty and corruption. Recently, desperate Venezuelans have flocked in over Colombia's Eastern border fleeing the economic and political crises in their country, to find food and work.

Despite all these problems, one woman, Viviane Morales, wants to become Colombia's next President. Viviane is an evangelistic Protestant who has served as attorney general and a senator and has spent thirty years fighting for more rights for Protestants in the Catholic-dominated society. She believes that the time is ripe for evangelical leaders with real family values to help to heal society's struggles throughout Latin America.

Ms. Morales second Senate term ended in January this year when she resigned to switch parties and run for President. She believes that the Colombian Protestant church needs to shift its focus from criminal justice to its real expertise – forgiveness and reconciliation. Recently, in an interview she said that Colombia is almost in chaos, in a moral state of emergency and needs to get its values in order. Corruption is woven into the political class and deep reform is needed.

The first round of voting is on May 27th. Viviane says that she needs our prayers and she believes in God's purposes and the mission that He has given her. She is a very brave lady and we wish her well

Carol Marsh



Viviane Morales

Photo : David Schwarz / Christianity Today

Phonebook

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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

May

6th	Wedding Flowers	Meta Orchin
13th	Fiona Tingley	Jo Bloxham
20th	Janet Wade	Iris Bingham
27th	Zoe McQuillin	Heather Swann

June

3rd	Lunch Club	Fiona Tingley
10th	Brian Tuppen	Sue Tester
17th	Carol Walters	Carol Marsh
24th	Carol Marsh	Meta Orchin

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 9th May

- 12:15pm Tiger Arts - Lunch at Lindfield URC
1:00pm Concert at Lindfield URC :
David Jaggs – Classical Guitar
8:00pm Lindfield Horticultural Society in King Edward Hall
Talk "Organic Growing" by Sandy Wansbury

Saturday 12th May

- 10:00am Lindfield Horticultural Society in King Edward Hall
Coffee Morning and plant sale

Thursday 24th May

- 7:30pm Village Film Night in King Edward Hall
"The Greatest Showman" U starring Hugh Jackman
Tickets available from Tufnells



Lindfield

United Reformed Church

www.lindfieldurc.org.uk