

*Good*NEWS **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

September 2018

**There is a time for
everything, and a season
for every activity under
the heavens**

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Bible verse of the month

**“I can do
everything through
Christ who gives me
strength,”**

Philippians 4:13 NIV

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**If you have a verse or article
you would like to share in
GoodNEWS email:**

goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk



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Editorial

I hope this month's Good News will make you smile. We had a wonderful sermon which was delivered by Mrs Kay McIntosh, retired Deaconess of the URC and member of Perrymount Road Methodist Church. We received a very important message of 'Encouragement' which is so important for us to think about. I have been encouraged this month by the way so many of our members have sent articles for inclusion in our Church Magazine 'Good News'. We as a team do thank everyone. It is so important to enjoy what others have been busy doing. Certainly so many have been very busy endeavouring to serve our Lord in so many ways.

We are delighted with the very good news that Danny and Ruth have become parents, and they have had the safe delivery of Josie Joy the most beautiful baby girl. She must be the most admired baby, with all our congregation sharing in Danny and Ruth's joy.

You will find all the details of the special weekend "Sharing one's Faith", Operation Mobilisation Weekend. Do come and share this experience.

We have so much for you to share please come and enjoy time spent with friends, you will find a very warm welcome.

God Bless,

Anne

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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

I'm sat at my desk and my study is at a goldilocks temperature, not too hot, not too cold, but just right. This is a pleasant relief as the last couple of months the top floor of the manse has, shall I say, been rather warm. Through July and early August I've been faced with the conundrum of whether to open the window to get a movement of air, or to keep it shut to exclude even hotter air from entering the room. We certainly cannot complain this year that we have not had a summer.

Statisticians will tell us it has been dry, but not the driest, and hot, but not the hottest. 1976 seems to still hold some of the records, but I imagine we will remember it in the years to come. But will it, in the future, simply be a memory of the heat, or will other things about 2018 come to mind too? I remember the summer of '76 because, as a school pupil, it was nice to have some classes taught outside in the shade of a tree. However other memories of that year include moving house, to the home my mum still lives in, and us buying our first colour television, which had three – yes count them 1, 2, 3 - channels that could be selected by pushing pre-tuned clunky buttons on the set rather than turning a tuning dial. These "new" things remain with me perhaps more than the memory of the hot weather.

For a number of the young people in our church there will be a significant new beginning this September as they move to a new school. Others within our church will see different changes in their life, perhaps college or university, maybe changes in their work place, or perhaps you will be moving house? Perhaps it will be some other life changing moment – a birth, or maybe a death. As we approach a new season, where weather is cooler and wetter, as the sun shines not so late in the evening, as the summer gives way to Autumn, let us all be people who give others a chance to have a special moment, let us be people who talk of the Love of God revealed in Christ, our saviour. May we be people of hope who remember this year because of the part we have played as individuals, and as a church, helping others on their journey of faith, and choosing to follow Jesus.

From progression, through our time with OM, to the Arts Festival and on to our Harvest weekend, may we each have the joy of the Lord, and delight in sharing his Good News. Let this month be the beginning of a season of Hope.

With every blessing,
your minister,

Keith

Family News

Thank You

Thank you to all the church family for your prayers and cards after my recent operation.

I was in the Royal Sussex County hospital in Brighton for over five weeks and I then went to the Kleinwort Centre in Haywards Heath for a week.

Special thanks to those of you who made the journey by bus or car to Brighton to visit me in such hot weather.

Thank you so much.

Pat Waller

Flowers

I hope by reading 'GOOD NEWS', you have noticed during this year that groups within the church have undertaken to provide flowers for our Sunday Church Services. It only needs to be a vase of flowers.

It would be helpful; to have more groups taking part. Once a year would be a great help. Please speak to me, if you feel your group thinks this is possible.

Betty Billins

Silver Wedding

We send our congratulations and very best wishes to Jeremy and Mel Campling. They have recently celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

Congratulations

Our warm congratulations to Danny and Ruth Goodall on the safe arrival of baby Josie Joy. Also, we wish them every blessing in their new home.

Greetings

Norina Derham sends her love and greetings to all her friends in the Church Family, and she so misses everyone. She really appreciates all the prayers and encouragement she has received over recent months.

Fo Tingley

Family News

In Touch

Since the last report we have had two meetings; the first was on the 26th June when Anne Parker arranged for us to visit Colwood Gardens in Warminglid. The weather was lovely and the gardens beautiful so thank you Anne. Everyone enjoyed the visit and we finished the evening with refreshments in the church.

On the 24th July we held our annual Take and Taste meal in the church which was much enjoyed by those who attended and the occasion gave everyone an opportunity to catch up in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

For those who are not familiar with this group; "In Touch" is a ladies group who meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the church lounge.

We have various activities throughout the year such as those already mentioned. We also have speakers who talk on a range of subjects; a craft evening usually before Christmas and a film night.

On the evenings when we meet in the church we collect food for Haywards Heath food bank and we have a book swap. We also welcome fresh ideas from members.

On the 25th September we meet after the summer break and look forward to Jeanne Bishop telling us about the history of Franklands Village.

Everyone is welcome to join us at 7.30 in the lounge and we are especially keen to have some new members to join us.

Encouragement

I had a problem regarding a lost theatre ticket I bought, to go out with friends. God caused my daughter to reason that as the ticket was bought on line, it would still be accessible once more. With expertise, this situation that was a problem to me, was resolved.

This enabled another person to use the ticket and was able to enjoy the theatre experience.

I am the beneficiary of God's encouragement by having so many prayers said for me, and also so many visits from such wonderful friends. For this I am truly grateful with thanks and blessings to you all.

Janet Drayton

Family News

Faithful Witness

When Hillary actually passed away after many ups and downs with his health, I want to share with you his last wishes.

He was longing to go to heaven and be with his God who had been his friend for years.

A few days before the end as he was waiting to be taken for surgery again, he saw a man in a white gown, who spoke to him very clearly. He actually was the anaesthetist. We just prayed that God would take him home. A few days later 'why was it taking so long?'

As a family we just sat round his bed, promising not to leave him. Gradually we just watched his poor old heart slow down and eventually stop: all so peaceful.

We all agreed and gave thanks for a perfect ending to a life well lived.

We had become very close to the lovely Sister, who supported us to the end. I was speaking to her a fortnight ago, and she asked again how our special family was getting on? Even in death we can still be a witness.

Barbara Shepherd

Help required!

LINDFIELD Arts FESTIVAL

*Lindfield Arts Festival
Saturday 22nd
September*

Between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday 22nd September we are supporting Lindfield Arts Festival by opening the kitchen hatch to serve refreshments and offering the lounge area for people to rest and for children to do activities.

A sign up sheet will go on the concourse board. Please consider giving an hour of your time to help make cakes or biscuits, to serve refreshments or offer a welcome in the lounge.

Thank you

Outreach Team

Induction of Josh Thomas

On Saturday 30th June, a sizeable contingent from our congregation joined many others at the Petersfield United Reformed Church to support Josh Thomas as he was ordained into ministry, indeed as the youngest serving minister in the United Reformed Church. The service, led by Wessex Synod Moderator the Rev. Clare Downing, also included his induction as the new Minister of the Petersfield and Liss United Reformed Church.

Josh was of course the Youth Minister at Lindfield URC and it was our church which endorsed his application to the Westminster College in Cambridge where he received his ministerial training. Many of those who guided Josh on his journey attended, including Stuart Dew who participated in the laying on of hands during prayers. The Mayor of Petersfield, Hilary Ayres, and other dignitaries were also present



Isla looks impressed by the welcome her Dad received from community groups during the induction

Following the service there was a fabulous buffet tea served in the lovely hall and gardens behind the church, where there was opportunity to chat with Josh and Hannah and see Isla again – and their new puppy! It was also great to catch up with Rev. Charles Martin who was looking in fine form. Unfortunately, Jenny was not able to attend as she was unwell.

We pray that Josh, his family and new congregation will be truly blessed as they serve the Lord in the community of Petersfield and Liss.



Jean and David congratulate Josh at the end of the service



Josh, Hannah and Isla

Smile - its good for you!

A recent study concluded that there are at least fifteen health benefits from smiling. Perhaps it is no coincidence that five of the top ten most used Emoji icons include smiling faces! Research shows that smiling calms the heart and reduces stress. In fact, a genuine smile encourages those around you. Without saying a word, it relays to others that you are pleased with them. A smile can reassure and cheer; it communicates love and friendship. We might not always feel like smiling, but we can always inspire others with a heartfelt smile.

In Aaron's blessing (Numbers 6: 24-26) we find that God "smiles" (or "makes his face shine" in many translations): "May the LORD bless you and protect you. May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. May the LORD show you his favour and give you his peace"

God loves his people. He blesses and protects us by exercising great care and attention, guarding us as only He can. Accepting the blessing and seeing God's face smiling upon us as it did on Aaron gives us the opportunity of mirroring every part of the divine blessing of Aaron to a troubled world.

Martin Hall

(Based on a Tecarta Daily Bible Devotional)



OM Weekend

15/16th September 2018

For the weekend of the 15th and 16th of September the Missions Group and Operation Mobilisation (OM) have organized a programme of events at the Church from 2.30pm on the Saturday through to mid-day on the Sunday (See below).

OM describes itself thus: "At its heart, OM is a movement of God, made up of people who are completely sold out to Jesus Christ and His commands." It will be a great privilege to have nine of these people with us during the course of the weekend, with experience in sharing the Good News, varying from many decades to assignments of a few months.

As Keith says: "In Mark 3, when Jesus appoints the disciples, it is so that they would be with him, and that they may be sent out. Sharing our faith in word and deed is part of us being his disciples. I look forward to OM's visit, and hope each of us will be encouraged in how we may share the good news of Christ's Kingdom."

If you, and your family, plan to come to the Saturday events: the programme of teaching, examples and practice in "Sharing One's Faith", (with parallel children's event) and/or the Reception and Supper, please sign-up on the sheets on the Concourse, or advise a member of the Missions Group, not later than 9th September.

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)



Afternoon Tea

at Betty Billin's garden

Thank you so much for supporting my 'Afternoon Tea' at Number 72. There was a real 'buzz' going on in the garden and also indoors too. People had time to talk with new friends and old. What would I have done without my team of helpers? They kept going through the heat!

A Big Thank You

We Raised £320.00 for our Lindfield United Reformed Church Funds. Perhaps a seed has been sewn and others might think of a way to raise some money for our Church.

Betty Billins



Harvest Weekend

This year the Harvest Weekend will include :

Messy Church

Friday September 28th

4pm-6pm :

With a strong harvest theme including making Tractor Tubes, a Harvest Basket and Corn Craft. Free tickets will be available for the second harvest event on Saturday 29th the 'All Age Games Night'. For more information call Danny Goodall 07443 438970.

Harvest Festival

Sunday September 30th

10am :

The all age service is a time to celebrate and thank God for the gifts of the harvest. There will be opportunity to bring your Gift to add to the display inside the church. All gifts will later be distributed to the Brighton and Hove City Mission, along with those from the Evangelical Free Church who will be joining us on Sunday evening at 6.30pm for a service of Harvest Praise and Worship, to which you are all invited.

Hope to see you at one or all the events.

Sue Waller

Harvest Supper & All Age Games Night

Saturday September 29th

from 5pm :

Harvest Supper will be served for which a free ticket is required to assist in planning. For tickets call Sue Waller 01444 455047 email : waller.s@sky.com

#SomethingDifferent

6:30pm Sundays

Since Easter last year the #SomethingDifferent, the Sunday evening service, has met in the Church and brought a range of different elements to our worship, with increased interaction, questions and challenges, prayer spaces, craft, an agape supper, and a virtual prayer walk. This September we are moving into the comfort of the lounge, and will continue to have a mix of praise and worship, interactive exploration of the Word, and occasionally getting our hands a little dirty. Please enter through the concourse and enjoy a time of refreshment and fellowship before the service.

The 2nd of September will have a familiar, yet different feel, as we gather again after our August holiday, the week marks a new beginning for many of our younger people changing school, older folk perhaps facing other changes in their life, a new job, or new opportunities. We will think of our God offering all a new start, and accompanying us through change.

The morning of the 9th September will have seen the lighthouse progression. Seated at tables we will explore the question of our own progress as pilgrims on a journey, seeking the right path in life.

The evening of the second week in the month also includes the Lord's Supper.

16th September: We will have been engaging with OM over the course of the weekend, this Sunday evening we will have a prayerful focus on local and world mission.

We are, because He is: The Genesis account of creation speaks of a humanity moulded from clay. On the weekend of the Lindfield Arts Festival, 23rd September, we will use our hands as well as our voices to think of the Creator God, and the people he made us to be.

This year September has a fifth Sunday in the month. The #SomethingDifferent on the 30th September will bring our Harvest weekend to a close. Our friends from Lindfield Evangelical Free Church will join with us in the church, where our speaker will be Mervyn Weeks. On this week the refreshments will be after the service.

Rev Keith Morrison

Royal Poem



Dorothy Brown shared her fantastic Royal Wedding Poem with readers in our May issue. A copy was also sent to the couple and Dorothy received a wonderful reply.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex have been overwhelmed by all the incredibly kind cards and letters they have received on the occasion of their Wedding, and are so touched that you took the trouble to write as you did.

It really was most thoughtful of you and greatly appreciated by Their Royal Highnesses who send you their very best wishes.

Congratulations to Dorothy and to the happy couple.



© Alexi Lubomirski

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. 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)
	7:30pm	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 (Years 2-5)
	7:00pm	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.

September Church diary

1st Saturday	8:45am Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints	21st Thursday	House Groups meet this week
2nd Sunday	10:00am Family Worship Rev Keith Morrison 6:30pm Something Different Rev Keith Morrison	22nd Saturday	8:45am Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints
5th Wednesday	11:30am Wednesday Worship Rev Michael Davies 2:30pm Lunch Fellowship	23rd Sunday	10:00am Communion Rev Keith Morrison 6:30pm Something Different Rev Keith Morrison
6th Thursday	House Groups meet this week	25th Tuesday	7:30pm In Touch
8th Saturday	8:45am Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints	26th Wednesday	2:30pm The Fellowship 7:30pm Elders' Meeting
9th Sunday	10:00am Family Worship Rev Keith Morrison Communion 6:30pm Rev Keith Morrison	27th Thursday	8:00pm Church Prayer Meeting
13th Thursday	8:00pm Church Meeting	28th Friday	4:00pm Messy Church
15th Saturday	OM Mission Weekend 8:45am Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints	29th Saturday	8:45am Three Churches Prayer Meeting, All Saints 5:00pm Harvest Supper & Games Night
16th Sunday	10:00am Family Worship Rev Keith Morrison 6:30pm Something Different Rev Keith Morrison	30th Sunday	10:00am Harvest Rev Keith Morrison 6:30pm United Service (URC) Mervyn Weeks

YOUTH



Hello!

Well, what a summer we have had! The summer not only brought the hot weather, but it also brings changes to the youth groups at Lindfield United Reformed Church!

As we start our new session this September, the age ranges for Rooted and Pulse are slightly different to how they were.

Rooted continues to run from 5pm to 6.30pm term time Friday evenings. However, the age ranges are now years 2-5! If you know of anyone in these years, let them know about Rooted!

This year in Rooted, we will be playing games both big and small, learning about the overview story of the bible, creating crafts that go along with the stories (as well as making a bible timeline, so that we can see how everything connects together), and of course, we will still be having dinner together! All this and more for only £1.50 per week... what more could you ask for?

There are a couple of changes happening in Pulse this year, starting with the ages. Pulse is now for those in years 6 to 9 and will now be running from 7pm and finishing at 8.30pm.

Although the times may be earlier, this will not take away from the activities that will be running throughout the year. Each week we will be having a 10-minute focus time, looking at a bible verse or story with a reflection for the week ahead, and then move onto one of the 39 activities that have been suggested to me by those about to come up to the group!

Once a term, we will also be having a social – going bowling, climbing or something similar, which will likely be held on a Saturday.

Pulse and Rooted will launch on Friday 14th September at Lindfield United Reformed Church – keep an eye out for the signs and flyers!

Pulse will also be having a sleep over at church sometime before October half term – date and times to be confirmed, so watch this space!

Some of you may now be asking what will be running for those who are in year 10 and up. Well, there will be a new group for those who have reached year 10, until they turn 18. This will be held at the church on Sunday evenings running after the evening service until 9pm. Of course, everyone is more than welcome to join us at the evening service before-hand! (staring at 6.30pm held in the lounge at Lindfield United Reformed Church).

Some of you may know that the summer has been an eventful one for me this year – starting the summer off with a baby, and also moving flats!

But I am thankful to God for being with us, protecting us, and giving us strength; and I am excited to see what plans God has for us and the church in the year to come!

Happy New (Academic) Year!

Danny

PAGES

Boys' Brigade

Following the summer break we are now preparing for the new session which starts on 10th September. There is always concern that some boys may not return after the break but we have contacted them all to make sure they are aware we are looking forward to seeing all of them.

At the end of the last session a number of boys moved from the Anchor Section to the Junior Section and with one boy also moving up to the Company Section we will have a better spread of boys across the whole Company. This will help with team games and group activities etc. especially within Juniors.

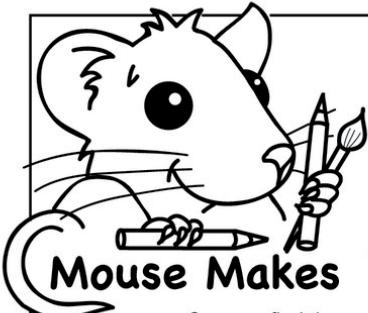
We mentioned last month that the Company Section working on a new bench for the garden area. Two have actually been produced and are now in place in the garden outside room 1. You might like to view them to see what has been achieved.

It is always easier to recruit into the Anchor Section then build the Company up from this section so we will be encouraging boys to bring a friend. If you know of any boys who might want to join any section of the Company please let Danny know and we will follow up.

David Walters

THE
BOYS
BRIGADE
>the adventure begins here





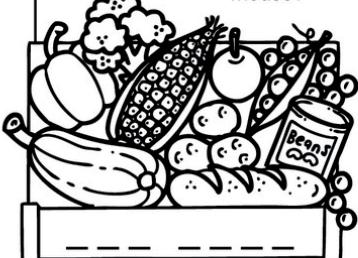
Can you find the mouse?

A HARVEST PUZZLE

Change each letter to the letter **before** it in the alphabet to see how QSPWFSC 3:9 says we can give thanks to God.



IPOPVS



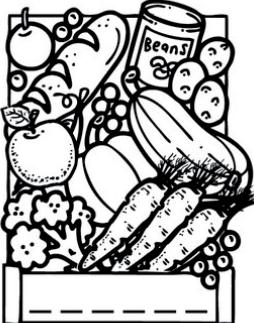
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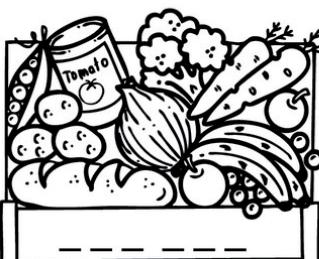
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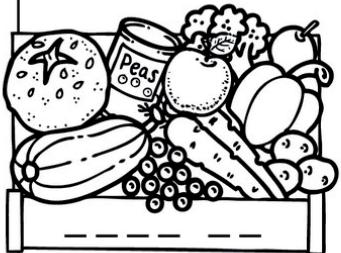
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ZPVS



IBSWFTU

Mission Update

September/October



Operation Mobilisation House of Joy Peja, Kosovo

Operation Mobilisation (OM) helps plant and strengthen churches, especially in areas of the world where Christ is least known. OM has been active in Kosovo, including the city of Peja, since the end of the Balkans conflicts in 1999. One of the two poorest countries in Europe, Kosovo manufactures almost nothing and the economy is based on aid and nationals working abroad and sending money back. Almost every family has someone working abroad and often struggle if they don't. Youth unemployment hovers around the 60% mark.

95% of the people are Muslims with a less tolerant attitude becoming more common, especially amongst the youth, as a result of Islamist preaching. Many in Peja are still traumatised by the war, when 80% of the houses were burnt. Many lives have been destroyed by domestic violence and human trafficking

The OM team in Peja shows the Love of Jesus through a number of community projects. This includes a family house, the House of Joy, for women and children survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. A Vocational Skills Training Centre now helps equip vulnerable teenagers to gain practical skills for employment and a new ethical business team is trying to provide employment for women at risk of violence, or who have escaped it.

There is support and teaching for the small local Christian Churches to help them spread the Good News and the development of a network for people to pray about how to engage with an unreached people group in Kosovo (The Gorani). This summer, the team contributed as teenagers, from across the Balkans, came together to worship Jesus at the "TeenStreet Balkans" festival.

The Peja team includes two young couples from churches in Southern England.

Elders Elections

If you would like to be included on the distribution list of the regular prayer letters we receive from them please speak to a member of the Missions Group. One team member will be with us during the Lindfield URC/OM weekend: 15th/16th September.

Since 2015 Lindfield URC, has been supporting the House of Joy project, financially, through Mission Giving and is doing so again in September and October this year.

The house is a stable place for women to begin a long-term process of social re-integration after leaving government emergency shelters, or, from which, support, training and counselling can be provided to those 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. It is the only such project in Kosovo: "...the need just grows and grows.....".

Donated funds go towards: basic household needs; paying local caregivers, programme administrators, trainers, teachers and psychologists and providing for other unique needs of participants.

More information is available at the Missions Board. 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

In November Jeremy Campling and myself (Sue Waller) will have come to the end of their three year term of Eldership.

Elders need to be over 18 years of age and have been members for a year.

Please consider carefully and prayerfully who you think has eldership qualities and commitment to serve God in this way in our church.

Please remember that all have to be asked and agreed to be nominated and seconded by two other people. (Jeremy and Sue included).

Nomination forms will be available from Sue Waller by October and completed and returned to Sue Waller by the November Church Meeting on November 8th.

Thank you

Sue Waller

Trees

Autumnal Leaves and Berries

"And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground – trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food"

Genesis 2:9

Every year, as Summer fades into Autumn, we can look forward to a new 'Season of Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness' as eulogised by the poet Keats.

Is your garden full of Autumn splendour? Many shrubs, trees and plants display spectacular coloured berries and leaves that can linger into Winter. Every garden will benefit by having a few. Here are some notable ones:

Leaves

Acers (Maples) : red, orange and yellow leaves – trees and shrubs.

Hamamelis : (Witch Hazel) – golden leaves.

Mahonias : leaves flushed red/purple dependent on growing conditions.

Nandina Domestica ('Flowerpower') – ideal in a patio pot.

Viburnum Bodnantese : purplish leaves from Summer into Autumn.

Virginia Creeper : well-known self-clinger with spectacular leaves.



Encouragement

Berries

Berries are Autumn's "Flowers" and come in all different shades. Here are some notable ones:

Callicarpa : a fairly unknown shrub with metallic violet coloured berries.

Cotoneaster : red, orange or yellow berries.

Ilex (Holly) : red, orange or yellow berries according to variety.

Pyracantha ("Firethorn") : a climber with, again, red, orange or yellow berries.

Rosa Rugosa : grown principally for its decorative large hips.

The list is endless and garden centres should have good displays. If you don't have room in your garden, why not visit a National Trust garden – Nymans, Sheffield Park and Wakehurst Place all have wonderfully coloured shrubs and trees at this time of the year, and all are nearby.

Barnabas was the great encourager. His name meant 'one who encourages'. He encouraged the young church, Paul the apostle, and all who came in contact with him. He was described as a 'spirit filled man'. Encouragement is a gift of the Spirit to be used for the well being of others.

I am sure we could all name people who have encouraged us and made a difference in our lives. We can probably also remember times when we've not been encouraged and the effect that had on us. We all need encouragement. Encouraged we blossom and flourish like flowers, we persevere, we do our best, we know we are appreciated. Encouragement makes for happiness. Discouraged, put down, rejected, we wither like trees in the desert starved of water. A child who is never encouraged suffers in later life through lack of confidence or over achieving, always trying to earn favour. When we encourage each other we help each other grow.

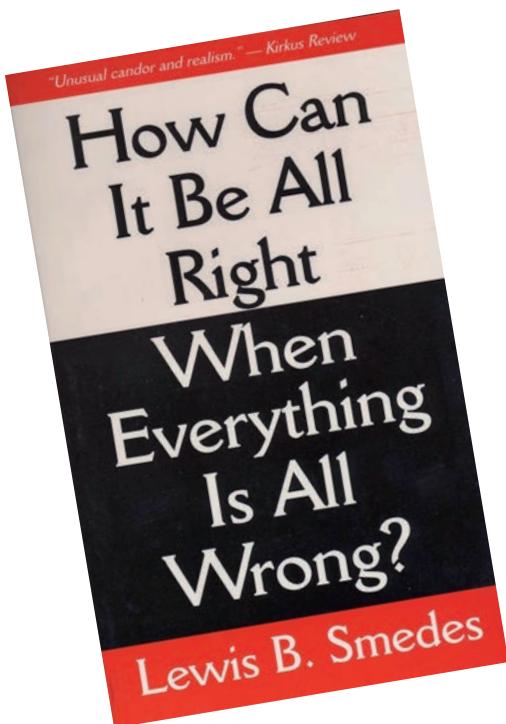
God, THE great encourager, encourages us through His Word, in times of prayer, and in worship. He encourages us through friends and family, a letter, or a card received. He wants His people to be a people of confidence, faith and trust in Him

Let us not be silent when we can speak a word of encouragement, and may it be genuine and sincere.

Kay McIntosh

Book Review

*How can it all be all right
when everything is all wrong?
Lewis B. Smedes*



This book is described by Rob Parsons (a renowned Christian author and speaker) as 'The book that changed my life.' So a 'must read', as my daughter-in-law, Marion, said to me when she kindly gave me a copy. It isn't a bedtime read! Thought and concentration are definitely required!

To whet your appetite, it's probably best to list the titles of each section, each of them giving insights into so many of life's experiences. They are as follows:-

*When everything is really bad
there's only one word for it THE
GIFT OF GRACE.*

*You don't have to live in your
doghouse THE GIFT OF JOY.*

*You can gamble on new a beginning
and win THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS.*

*All the world's a critic, and you're
tired of reading the reviews THE
GIFT OF FREEDOM.*

*You can still be wonder-full in a
wonder-killing world THE GIFT OF
WONDER.*

*When you hurt with hurting people
you are dancing to the rhythm of
God THE GIFT OF SUFFERING.*

*You are only an earthen vessel, but
God has a market for cracked pots
THE GIFT OF BEING ORDINARY.*

*If you just can't cope, you are ripe
for God's opening move THE GIFT
OF AN OPEN HEART.*

When you see the angels, you'll know why you believe THE GIFT OF FAITH.

God takes His time, so why not take yours? THE GIFT OF PATIENCE.

If you fall into hell, you may land in the hand of God THE GIFT OF BEING HELD.

Everything is going to be alright! THE GIFT OF HOPE.

Several chapters were especially poignant for me. On the subject of 'Joy' the author is passionate, and instructs the reader not to worry about understanding joy or writing about it. What we think about it isn't important. It's there for us to take for ourselves. (See John 15:11)

I'd not heard the phrase 'Wonder-Killer' before! Smedes uses it effectively. When we stifle the sense of 'Surprise' we lose out on the wonder and awe that can enhance our lives. At Pentecost when the Holy Spirit fell on Christ's Disciples, we're told that many in the crowd were full of awe at what they saw and heard. It's all too easy to be a 'Stick in the mud' – to have everything so planned out in our lives – not wanting to experience something unexpected or different!

If we feel that way, we can be a 'Wonder-Killer' ourselves. I liked the analogy of us being 'Earthen Vessels'. We are all cracked and broken pots at some time in our lives, but God is in the business of restoration. However 'Ordinary' we may feel, God can and will use us. The author says that God doesn't invest in bookshelf ornaments; earthen vessels are fragile and fallible, but fillable (with the Holy Spirit) and functional. So I figure 'Ordinary' is OK!

In the final chapter 'Hope' in a worldly sense is contrasted with 'Christian Hope'. When we hope in a secular way, there is always some doubt, because we can't be sure what we are hoping for will happen. I quote: "Christian hoping is a gift of certainty that what God promises He will most assuredly give." St Paul (in Romans 5:5) calls it "Hope that never disappoints." Christian hope is also referred to in Scripture as a "Sure and steadfast anchor for the soul." I know which I'd rather go with!

So this book is not to be trifled with, but it is an inspirational read. To get the real benefit of reading it, I think I'll need to read it more than once!

Fo Tingley

General Assembly

On 1st July I was invited to preach at Lindfield URC and told everyone I was off to Nottingham that week – not on holiday, but to attend the bi-ennial Assembly of our church in the Albert Hall there, along with 400 or so other Elders and Ministers from all round the country. On this occasion Peter & Kay McIntosh and I were the three representatives from the Central Sussex United Area and we all have to report back.

What to report?

The presiding Moderators were our old friend Nigel Uden (our previous Synod Moderator) and Derek Estill, church secretary and elder of Westbury Gardens URC, Blackburn.

As I mentioned in my sermon, the background theme currently is "Walking the way; Living the life of Jesus today". This was the subject of a number of very helpful bible studies by Revd Dr Kathy White, a tutor at our Northern College (and formerly minister at East Grinstead). The Education & Learning Committee have published study materials "Holy Habits" to help individuals and churches to develop mission orientated discipleship, enabling us all to live out the life and ministry of Jesus in our own lives today.

A serious matter of concern was the recent revelation of the government's "hostile environment" policy towards the Windrush generation and indeed many other people who have come to this country and who staff our hospitals and railways, pick our fruit and do a lot of the jobs local people don't want to do.

We were urged to challenge such attitudes which are at complete variance with our Christian heritage as a nation.

An encouraging aspect of Assembly is the major part young people play. Hannah Jones, the Youth Moderator, made an impassioned plea to Assembly to re-evaluate its "Charter for Children". They led a moving (if somewhat unusual) worship on the theme pilgrimage to close Assembly on Saturday night. At one point the air was thick with paper aeroplane darts as we were told to cast away things we were sorry about.

Derek, the lay Moderator, chaired an engaging interfaith conversation with three faith guests Mrs Anjum Anwar (Islam), Rabbi Ephraim Guttentag (Jewish) and the Revd Canon Dr Arun John (Anglican) on the Sunday. The conversation focussed on the Assembly theme and they were asked to unpack how they saw discipleship in their faith and tradition. It was actually very revealing and we realised that, whilst we obviously had major differences, we also had a lot in common as the three great mono-theistic faiths.

On the domestic front the Assembly thanked our churches and members very warmly for their continuing financial support for the Ministry & Mission Fund, which again managed to balance the budget in 2017.

Major changes are to take place in General Assemblies after 2020. They will revert to being held annually, probably at one central place rather than travelling round the UK. The conference centre at the Hayes, Swanwick in Derbyshire, where I have spent many a night in my youth work days, has been suggested

as a suitable venue. There will be a reduction in size anyway. However, in 2020 Assembly will be held at Aston University, Birmingham on the present basis and the Moderators elected were the Revd Claire Downing, Moderator of the Wessex Synod and Peter Pay, a URC Trustee and formerly Synod Clerk.

It is important for the church corporately to get together, review its work, determine its priorities in the context of worship and fellowship, led by the Holy Spirit. I detected the Spirit's presence and there was a real positive feel about my 58th consecutive General Assembly. I wonder if I shall reach the 60th?

Michael Davies



Who am I?

This month we have again asked a familiar face some simple questions. The hard part is to see if you can guess from just these answers, who am I?

Where were you born?

Bexley Borough

What was your favourite subject at school?

Singing/Music

What was your first Church?

Methodist

What is/was your job?

Nursery Nurse, later dealing with accounts etc..

What is your favourite sport?

Tennis

What is your favourite hymn/worship song?

"Make me a channel of your peace"

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

Half-Full

What is your favourite food?

Curry

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

Canada

What makes you laugh?

Silly ~~ugly~~ things

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

Medical (but I am rubbish anyway)



Phonebook

Keith Morrison (Minister)

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

Danny Goodall (Youth Pastor)

Youth Office 01444 487607
Mobile 07443 438970
Email dgoodall@lindfieldurc.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
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September

2nd	Wedding Flowers	Iris Bingham
9th	Wedding Flowers	Fiona Tingley
16th	Mac Turner	Sue Tester
23rd	Meta Orchin	Carol Marsh
30th	Harvest	Meta Orchin

October

7th	Harvest	Jo Bloxham
14th	Jessie Green	Iris Bingham
21st	Janet Wade	Heather Swann
28th		

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 5th September

- 8:00pm Lindfield Preservation Society in King Edward Hall:
“What to see in a Sussex Church” – talk by Keith Gordon

Saturday 8th September

- 2:00pm Lindfield Horticultural Society in King Edward Hall
Autumn Show of Flowers and Produce

Wednesday 12th September

- 12:15pm Tiger Arts - Lunch at Lindfield URC
1:00pm Concert at Lindfield URC :
“Stepping Out” – Barbershop Quartet

Friday 21st / Sunday 23rd September

Lindfield Arts Festival

Thursday 27th September

- 7:30pm Village Film Night in King Edward Hall
“Mamma Mia, Here we go again” - PG
Tickets available from Tufnells from August 29th



www.lindfieldurc.org.uk