

*Good***NEWS** **MAGAZINE**

FREE MONTHLY

From Lindfield United Reformed Church

May 2019



**Forgetting what is behind me, I press
on towards the goal, to win the prize,
which is God's call to the life above.**

Philippians 3:12-14 NIV

Bible verse of the month

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what is behind me,
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God’s call to the
life above.”**

Philippians 3:12-14 NIV

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**Our verse this month is from
ccc.**

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

goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk

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Editorial

This month we have the honour of sharing a lunch in 'High Places'. Do read about that experience.

Faith has written a poem which is so inspiring about a special day in our calendar. Spring Harvest has been shared by people from our Church, resulting in so much being enjoyed but learning about so many subjects at the same time. Danny shares some of the things in his Youth Pages. Peter is looking forward to a 'Centenary Peace Dance', what can that be? I hope you can enthusiastically put the date in your diaries, when you read what it entails.

The Food Bank in our Church has a new face, there is a new storage arrangement, which looks very special, and makes it easy for contributions to be gathered ready for distribution to those in need. Prayer is uppermost in our Easter programme, do read how we can all take part. If you may be a person who worries, do read the article which could just help you to cope with things in a different way.

May God Bless everyone,

Anne

May Edition Copy Date :
Sunday May 12th 2019

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"GoodNEWS" pigeon hole at
the rear of the church*

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

While driving down the A303 to Spring Harvest I pointed out of the car window at the airfield I had worked at when I had been a physics student on a sandwich placement from university. I then thought about how I had tested some equipment for aircraft that are now no longer in military service (including Nimrod, Harrier, and Tornado) and realised that I had lived quite a few more years since that job than I had before it. Come next summer it will have been thirty years!

Back then probably few of us had a mobile phone, or a personal computer in our home, though many of us might have more than one of these under our roof today. As a family we often take for granted that with a few taps almost information we desire is instantly accessible, any programme on television can be viewed “on demand”, and any song played at any minute via a range of online music streaming services.

There are, of course, occasions when things don't work properly, and one of these situations occurred as the road outside our home was resurfaced in the February half term. Whether the problem was caused by the workers on the High Street, or that being pure coincidence, will remain a mystery but the manse lost its fibre optic internet connection, and we had to wait 3 days

for a telecoms technician to investigate where between us and the exchange it had dropped out. With no Netflix, iPlayer, or Amazon Prime to watch television reverted to being scheduled by someone else, and “forced” to watch other things we probably benefited from that brief interlude.

More recently it was a car that broke down. Emmeline had driven to the supermarket without a problem, then after shopping, it would not start. The engine made a very slight whir – the starter motor was clearly not doing its job, but what was the fault? The breakdown service were called and of course after a two hour wait, we discovered it was as simple as an 8 year old car battery that frequently did short runs, finally being exhausted.

Was I angry or upset, about this breakdown, actually no – I was a little joyful and praised God. The Lord had allowed the car to break down in a safe place at a time that didn't really matter. Emmeline had not been stuck on a busy road, or needing to urgently visit a patient, nor at some distant place miles away. When she called me and said what had occurred I had been able to go and swap cars with her so she could come home with the shopping. I grabbed a coffee, bought a newspaper and enjoyed a sunny afternoon outside, doing the crossword.

Family News

The Fellowship

I then had the opportunity to chat with the mechanic about his work and the dangers that are sometimes faced at the roadside, and also to share something of my "work" too.

We delight in the modern conveniences we may have, but when things go wrong how often do we see the positives, the opportunities, and the conversations that might take place. Be prayerful people, knowing that God loves you and is with you. When you hit a problem, perhaps like these simple, western, overdeveloped society inconveniences I've faced recently – or perhaps something far more serious to do with the likes of health, employment or relationships – consider how God may already be at work in that situation for your good, and how He may ask you to respond such that His kingdom will be seen to grow.

Your minister

Keith

At the last meeting of 'The Fellowship' Rosemary and Ray Tijou told us about some of their respective interests and hobbies. Lucy their dog, was part of their team and was very interested in all that was going on! It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

At our May meeting we will be going to the opera with Mike Gardiner! This will be held on Wednesday 22nd May at 2.30 pm. There will be the usual Bring and Buy stall, and a cup of tea and time for a chat at the end of the meeting. All who come will be made very welcome.

Pat Phillips

Congratulations

Natalie and Will Porter are delighted to share this photograph of Aaron meeting his new sister Samantha. What a wonderful addition to the family!



Family News

Fun, Food And Fellowship

On Sunday, 9th June, as we celebrate Pentecost, we have the opportunity of sharing a meal together as a Church Family. We will have a Bring and Share Lunch, when everyone is invited to join us. For those of you unfamiliar with such events, folk bring along buffet type food that can be shared with everyone else. It never ceases to amaze me that there always turns out to be a good variety of goodies, both savoury and sweet, despite the fact that it is quite random what people decide to bring! It's a great opportunity to spend quality time together over food, and it is fun, and a chance to deepen relationships within the fellowship of Lindfield URC. So please don't miss out – put the date in your diary now.

Everyone will be welcome whatever your age, from the youngest to the oldest. And for the more able amongst us, there may be an opportunity to serve one another. What better way to celebrate the birth of the Church, by sharing our love and food!

For more information, contact:

Fiona Tingley

01444 483419

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ray and Rosemary Tijou as they move into their new home in Lindfield. May God bless you in your new surroundings.

Lunch Fellowship

A reminder that we meet for the Lunch Fellowship on the 1st May at the usual time of 12.30pm.

It was great to see and welcome new folk last month, so do feel free to bring along a friend if you wish. Please just ring me on 01444 455047 before Wednesday 1st to book your place if you have not signed up already.

Look forward to seeing you all.

Sue

Wednesday Worship

The Wednesday Worship this month will be on the 1st May at 11:30am, all are very welcome to this short service led by our Minister Keith Morrison.

In Touch

We met in February for an "In House" evening when members shared about past events which had changed or influenced the course of their lives. This proved to be a very informal occasion with a number of people describing a variety of events which subsequently led to questions and discussion afterwards.

In March we enjoyed a very interesting talk by Rosemary Hands about her life when she worked at Lambeth Palace for several past Archbishops of Canterbury. Her talk was amusing and informative and led to a lot of questions and discussion afterwards.

Our next meeting will be on 28th May when Pauline Bethall will be talking about Myanmar(Burma).

As usual everybody is welcome and we meet in the lounge at 7.30pm. Please don't forget our book swap and contributions to the food bank.

Janet Wade

Village Day Saturday 1st June

If you are able to help on the URC lemonade stall on Village Day please remember to sign up for a one hour slot on the notice board on the concourse. It is a fun day and all help would be appreciated.

Preliminary Announcement

Centenary Peace Dance

On 19th July 1919 by Government decree, a day was set apart to celebrate the victory and peace being restored. Lindfield responded and had a full day of celebrations culminating in a dance at the King Edward Hall.

Last year we remembered the sacrifice of all the fallen and the end of the First World War, I felt that after the solemnity of last year that we should remember those who returned.

To that end the Perdido Players Swing Band and others are playing a dance at the King Edward Hall at 7-30 on Saturday 20th July in commemoration and thanks for those who returned.

The opening item will be a military march "Sons of the Brave" which was played by the Ardingly Silver Band led by Chris Comber's grandad.

Further information will follow but if you have any stories relating to relatives or friends who returned from duty, please let me know.

Any monies raised will be passed to the Royal British Legion to help armed forces personnel suffering the effects of war.

For more information contact :

Peter Swann

Ascension

Those in and outside of the church in western society are probably familiar with the period of Lent which lasts 40 days from Ash Wednesday (not counting Sundays, which you may remember I told you in March Good News are Feast Days). During Lent people try to come close to God, perhaps through fasting, or living differently in some way. With the sunrise of Easter, and the celebration of our Lord Jesus resurrected, Lent comes to a close but a new season begins Eastertide.

Eastertide is a 50 day celebration of Jesus overcoming sin's hold on our life, death is defeated and the believer is able to have the sure and certain hope of an eternity with God. During the first few weeks following His resurrection Jesus is seen by hundreds of people. He is not some ghostly vision but is seen to eat food, and offers himself to be touched by the disciples that they may be reassured of his physicality.

Yet during this time as resurrected Lord the earthly limitation of humanity being in but one place at one time still rests with Him, and so it was right that the Son of God returns to the heavenly Father's side, which he did on the fortieth day, here he intercedes on our behalf when we bring our prayers to God.



His Ascension is recorded in Acts 1, where he on a hillside he instructs the disciples to await the coming of the Holy Spirit, then engage in mission, to the ends of the earth. He is “taken up before their very eyes”, which in much art work depicts Jesus floating upwards into the clouds, though that is not the only way of interpreting the description that is given. This traditional image is based upon the classical concept of fiery hell in the centre of the earth, and heaven being above the clouds, with humanity living on the surface of the earth, midway between the two and so experiencing elements of each.

Thy Kingdom Come

If we instead read the “up” as a spiritual dimension rather than physical direction, we can still imagine Jesus being surrounded by cloud and disappearing before the disciples as he returns to the Father but are not left with the difficult thought of how far beyond the stratosphere did Jesus remain in human form. This removes from us what some scholars refer to as the “embarrassing question” of what physically happened at Ascension and allows us instead to delight in the spirituality of the occasion. That our earthly friend, is King of the heavens.

Christ, the risen and ascended Lord, has encountered fully the reality of life on earth. Jesus was born in humility, grew into manhood, tempted by the evil one, developed friendships and knew grief. He suffered mistreatment and an agonising death. He knows our joys and sorrows because he has been there and experienced our human emotions. As we pray, he adds that human experience, rejoicing and groaning with us, presenting our prayers to the Father.

One day Jesus will return to the earth, appearing again from the cloud. Then his kingdom will be seen in fullness and only prayers of praise will be needed as all suffering will have come to an end.

Keith Morrison

A global prayer initiative, taking place between 30th May (Ascension) & 9th June (Pentecost).

“*In 2016 the Archbishops of York and Canterbury called for Anglicans to pray for the renewing power of the Holy Spirit to empower us for evangelism. What happened next was absolutely extraordinary – clearly a work of God! In less than three years,*

Thy Kingdom Come has captured the imagination of millions of Christians in more than 114 countries who have joined in the chorus ‘Come Holy Spirit, Thy Kingdom Come!’”

Archbishop Justin Welby
UCB Word for Today

Do join with us as we take part in this prayer initiative. More information later.



Why Worry?

What is worry? In some translations of the Bible the word 'worry' is usually translated 'anxiety' or 'care'. The Greek word in the New Testament means to divide, part or tear apart. The word describes the effect of worry and what worry can do to us. Worry is often an anxious concern over the future, something we cannot do anything about and this is why it can tear us apart.

Worry can show us that we have no confidence in the sovereignty of God or in His word and worry can affect us personally. Listen to the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:31. So do not worry saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" And in verse 34. 'Therefore do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'

Worry is like a rocking chair you can spend a lot of energy rocking it but it will not get you anywhere. Freedom from anxiety is possible. The answer lies in Scripture where Jesus said simply and directly, 'stop worrying'. With your mind apply these words of Jesus and say, from this moment on, 'I am going to stop worrying in obedience to the command of Jesus. I am going to release the situation I am worried about to Him'. Then have a time of thanksgiving which is another antidote to worry.

Here is a simple plan you may find useful. Sit down and write out the following.

What is my problem?

What does God want me to do about it?

When, where or how shall I begin?

Look for the solution in the Bible.

Many years ago we used to sing a song:

Said the robin to the sparrow. 'I should really like to know

Why these anxious human beings rush about and worry so.'

Said the sparrow to the robin, 'friend I think that it must be.

That they have no Heavenly Father such as cares for you and me.

In John 14: 1: Jesus said to them. 'Do not let your heart be troubled. You believe in and adhere to and trust and rely on God; believe in and adhere to and trust and rely on me' [Amplified Bible].

Jesus has every detail worked out perfectly for each one of us. Just rest on His promises and experience His peace and love of your life.

Origin unknown

No Body - But Yours

Recently I accompanied a lady from our Church to hospital for a 'procedure'. She was very anxious and feeling uncertain about whether it would be painful.

She has a very strong faith and speaks easily about the faithfulness of God.

However, sitting in the hospital corridor, in fear and trepidation, she turned to me and said, "We know that God is with us always..." and there she hesitated. I added, "but sometimes we need a physical presence, and that is why He is using me today, to give you a hand to hold".

It reminded me of that lovely poem by Teresa of Avila.

Christ Has No Body

*Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which He looks
Compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which He looks
compassion on this world.*

Lent 2019

This year's Joint Lent Course, in 5 sessions, encouraged us to remember people who were background characters in the Bible, yet quietly and steadily played an important part in God's overall plans.

Sarai, wife of Abraham and mother of a nation.

Josiah – Old Testament Israel's last good king, being young, godly and obedient.

Mary Magdalene – loyal follower of Jesus, and the first but very unlikely, witness to Jesus' resurrection.

Epaphras – the faithful minister, founder of the Colossian church.

Barnabas – the voice of support and encouragement. Known as the "Son of Encouragement"

Each session was led by one of the ministers from each of the three Lindfield churches and we were a united "congregation of friends", praying and praising God together. In our discussions groups we looked at how we could witness for Christ in this present day – remembering, whoever we are we all have a part to play.

Our thanks to our friends at the Evangelical Free Church family for their warm welcome and for hosting the useful and interesting series. Thanks also to all who took part from the three churches.

Can't Sleep?

Recently I was ill! Very ill! On one particular night I tossed and turned and became more and more dismal. So did I count sheep?

No!

I named them!

I prayed for all the beloved 'sheep' in our Church. I started at A and continued to Z. Thank God for Zoe! (I did have problems with U and X though).

It is 2am and I am still awake, what a long night. I start repeating all the hymns that I know and continue from A to Z – with the same problems! Wish I could sing but I may disturb Mike.

Oh dear, it is now 3am. I recall my Sunday School days. Our devoted teachers taught us memory verses every week starting with A and continuing through to Z. (Same problems occur with the difficult letters!).

However, an amazing thing began to happen, peace flooded my soul, I smiled in the darkness as I recalled all the promises that God has made in His Word.

It was wonderful. I recalled, too, that in Ephesians chapter 6 and verse 17, the apostle Paul reminds us to use the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Eventually I fell asleep with God's promises ringing in my ears. Just one to remind you is found in 1. Peter chapter 5 and verse 7, 'Cast all your anxiety upon Him because He cares for you.'

Two things that I would like to share with you: One, do pray for our faithful teachers in Junior Church, they do a wonderful job caring, loving and teaching our young people. Secondly, your prayers, flowers and visits meant a great deal to me, thank you, thank you, thank you!

Jean Gardiner



Bible verse of the month

“*Forgetting what is behind me, I press on towards the goal, to win the prize, which is God's call to the life above.*”

Philippians 3 : 12-14

This is my favourite, when I became a Christian it was given to me by my dear parents because of my passion for football. As we are just passing through Easter, it is quite appropriate. It also talks about God's sacrifice in sending Jesus to die for us, so that we may be forgiven for the mess we keep making of our lives, so we can have 'Everlasting Life'.

Your Brother in Christ

Cliff Griffiths

Prison FELLOWSHIP

• I was in prison and you came to visit me

• Matthew 25:35



This Month's Mission: Crawley Prison Fellowship

Volunteers from Churches across Central Sussex, show Christ's love to prisoners at HMP Lewes, by **praying** for, and with, them and their families, supporting **Chaplains**, and providing fellowship, at **Chapel** services. Christmas presents are provided for prisoners' children (**Angel Tree**) and **Sycamore Tree** Victim Awareness courses run.

For those who wish to **pray** there is a monthly prayer meeting and weekly prayer requests from prisoners. Volunteers can **engage** with the work of the group, in prison and through writing letters to prisoners. **Mission giving** goes towards Angel Tree presents and funding Sycamore Tree courses.

(To give, use special mission-giving envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any of the Sunday services. Complete a Gift Aid slip if appropriate. Cheques should be made payable to Lindfield URC)

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>

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	11:30am	Wednesday Worship (1st Wed) a midweek service
	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)

The church regularly opens midweek on
 Monday Afternoon 2:00-3:00pm
 Tuesday 10:00am - Noon
 Friday Afternoon 2:00-3:00pm

May Church diary

1st Wednesday	11:30am 12:30pm	Wednesday Worship Lunch Fellowship	18th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free
2nd Thursday		Home Group Week	19th	10:00am	Family Worship Dan McQuillin
3rd Friday	4:00pm	Messy Church		6:30pm	Something Different Adam Earle
4th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free	22nd Wednesday	2:30pm 7:30pm	The Fellowship Elders' Meeting
5th Sunday	10:00am 6:30pm	Family Worship Simon Franklin Something Different Rev Keith Morrison	23rd Thursday	8:00pm	Church Prayer Meeting
6th Monday		May Bank Holiday	24th Friday	4:00pm	Messy Church
9th Thursday	8:00pm	Church Meeting	25th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free
13th Saturday	8:45am	Three Churches Prayer Meeting, Evan Free	26th Sunday	10:00am 6:30pm	Communion Something Different Rev Keith Morrison
12th Sunday	10:00am 6:30pm	Family Worship Communion Rev Keith Morrison	27th Monday		Bank Holiday
16th Thursday		Home Groups Week	28th Tuesday	1:30pm -4:30pm 7:30pm	Holiday Club (thru 31st) In Touch

YOUTH



Hello!

Last month, a few of us from church attended Spring Harvest in Minehead. This year's theme was 'Unlimited #WhenYouPray'.

On the Spring Harvest website, the theme was summarised as follows:

Jesus encouraged and taught us to pray as part of his family. We have unlimited access to an unlimited God. Prayer connects us with him, his people and his world.

In 2019 we will explore the exciting power and potential of prayer. Delving deep into the Bible, hearing testimonies and getting extremely practical, we'll engage with something that is simultaneously beyond our comprehension and also simple.

Prayer is being with God, alone, with others and for others. It is different motivations, different times, places and personalities. It is turning hearts and ears and faces. No right or wrong way to pray. Prayer is peace and warfare. Prayer is being present, listening, waiting, persisting. Prayer is uninhibited but inhabited. Prayer is unpredictable. Prayer is UNLIMITED.

Pete Greig came and spoke to us each morning, talking on Matthew 6:5-24.

Reading back on the few notes I made, Pete gave us three things to remember when we pray.

Keep it simple
Keep it real
Keep it up

Keep it simple

God knows our hearts. He is not interested in big words; He just wants to be in conversation with us.

Keep it real

God loves us and wants us to talk to Him from the heart.

Keep it up

Just keep praying! God answers prayers in two ways: suddenly and slowly. And when God answers prayers suddenly, He has usually been working on it slowly for years!

This year, there was a prayer trail around the Butlins site. Nine prayer stops around the site with instructions to help pray in a different way.

There was also 24 hours of prayer from day 3-4. One venue was dedicated to 24 hours of prayer where people can come and go and pray for what God puts on their hearts. There were also focused topics to pray for each hour. E.g. Thanksgiving, Unity and Family.

Though only 4 nights, it was a great time away. I left feeling refreshed and keen to continue finding out the unlimited power of prayer!

Danny

PAGES

Good Friday Poem

In mid-April some of the older children in Junior Church were asked to consider writing a poem about Good Friday. We are very pleased to publish below the Acrostic Poem that Faith Morrison wrote while she was away at Spring Harvest.

Good Friday is about

Original sin,

Optimistic Marys, a

Dreadful day yet

Fantastic day

Really sad

Important story

Determined Lord

Awesome King

Young death





You may have read the Bible story of Daniel in the **lions'** den, but have you ever read the whole book of Daniel?

Take your time and read a little each day and find out about the **vegetables**, the **statue**, the **gold idol**, the **furnace**, the **tree**, the **writing** on the wall, the **lions**, the **four animals**, the **ram** and the **goat**, and the **man**.



W A L L O M I S H A E L A W
D S T A T U E T R E E O L U
A H A Z A R I A H W D R L P
N P N K D R E A M G O D I R
I E I D O L D A R I U S O A
E N W R I T I N G K F D N Y
L A B C Y F U R N A C E S E
A Z M H A N A N I A H N E R
N E B U C H A D N E Z Z E R
G R E S C U E
E T R U S T
L K I N G



Ashpenaz changed Daniel and his friends names. Look up **Daniel 1:7** to see what he changed them to.

Can you find these words from the book of Daniel in the wordsearch?
KING • NEBUCHADNEZZER • DANIEL • DARIUS • ASPHENAZ
HANANIAH • MISHAEL • AZARIAH • DREAM • STATUE
IDOL • FURNACE • TREE • WRITING • WALL • LAW • LIONS
DEN • PRAYER • LORD • GOD • TRUST • RESCUE • ANGEL

Boys' Brigade

We have been quite busy over the last couple of months. The Company Section has been working on a video based on a scripture passage which was required for the Battalion Scripture competition. This has now been sent in and we await the result.

The Juniors entered the Battalion Spring Competition. This was based on Creation and teams had to create various things with items supplied. Craft is not one of our best activities but we came joint third. The next competition is the International Team Games where we compete with teams from all over the world.

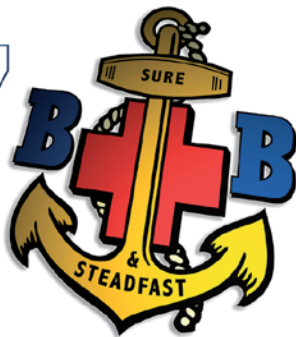
Three boys attended the Junior Section Weekend at Carrotty Wood. This is an activity packed weekend and boys returned very tired. Danny was responsible for the devotional periods and general pastoral matters over the weekend. He also returned home very tired.

Anchors are still very noisy in all they do. This group continues to grow with another boy joining just before Easter.. We are now preparing for our Awards Evening which takes place on Monday 20th May at 6.30pm. If you are free that evening we would value your support.

David Walters

THE BOYS'
 BRIGADE

>the adventure begins here



Interior Design Charity Fundraiser Workshop – BOOK NOW



An interior design workshop run by local interior designer Jacqui Smith of HomeSmiths, covering:

- **Basic design principles**
- **How to create your own scheme**

When and where?

We are offering two different dates for the workshop - **8th** or **15th May**. The workshop will run from 9.30am to 1pm, including a coffee break and be held in the lounge of the Lindfield United Reformed Church.

How to book?

Tickets (to include materials and refreshments) are £100 and can be booked via Jacqui Smith at jacqui@homesmiths.co.uk

ALL PROCEEDS will go directly to the Romans 1:11 charity to facilitate the building of a dining hall for the children at the Ssanje Modern School in Kibaale, Uganda.

For more information visit the Romans 1:11 website at www.romans111.org.uk.



Lunch in High Places

Today, 1st April, had lunch in the House of Lords (I kid you not). How's that for a bit of name-dropping, but two days after what was supposed to be Brexit day, I felt someone needed to go and sort them out!

Joking aside, let me tell you a story. Fifty years ago, an organisation was set up, the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe (EYCE), to try and encourage young Christians to work together for peace and a better world.

In 1973, as freshly appointed Youth Secretary for the new URC, I found myself driving a minibus full of British Council of Churches (BCC) & denominational youth officers across Europe to Berlin. We weathered Checkpoint Charlie (remember those were still very much cold war days) and journeyed on to Hirschluch, a conference centre in Storkow, not far from the Polish border, where EYCE was holding its annual General Meeting.



. The EYCE Executive entertained to tea at Lambeth Palace by Archbishop Donald Coggan (right in the middle of the picture)



EYCE Executive members outside the Baptist Chapel in Rome after leading worship (I had to preach!)

That was a fascinating and to an extent life-changing experience. I spent six years involved with EYCE, including a spell on its Executive and attended meetings from Odessa in USSR to Joensuu in Finland, from Pinner (yes Middlesex) to Rome. I could bore you for hours with tales of all that – but I won't.

But what I want to share is something of the underlying concern felt in the luncheon party we had – nine of my elderly contemporaries, who had been involved in that scene in the 1970s – and one young German lady, Lisa, recently chair of EYCE. John, Lord Alderdice, former leader of the Alliance Party in Northern Ireland and Speaker at Stormont, when it functioned, was one – hence the invitation to meet at the House of Lords.

In our years involved in church youth work, the former BCC Youth Department and EYCE, there was still a sense that the Ecumenical movement was “The great new fact of our era”, as Archbishop Wm Temple described it - Christ’s challenge to his disciples that “you all may be one, that the world may believe”. We were working for a physical, structural unity of the church. It was hard going, but we believed it was God’s will and we were striving towards it. EYCE bridged the Iron Curtain. We brought much support and encouragement to young Christians in Eastern Europe – and remember it was they who made a mighty contribution to the movement which eventually led to the fall of Marxism and the wall.

Lisa shared the present fragility of EYCE. The European churches don't seem interested any more in working with neighbours or funding youth work. Sadly, the same seems true in the UK – no one now goes from Britain to EYCE General Meetings and work camps – we contribute nothing to the budget, whereas I remember the time when our young people and youth leaders were leading lights.

As we expanded the discussion we wondered how much more widely this tendency prevails. In my youth the churches were deeply into overseas mission, Christian Aid and world development. When the World Council had an Assembly, everyone knew the theme. Now we seem to have withdrawn into our local shells.

And it did not escape our attention, meeting as we were in the hallowed portals of Westminster, that Brexit is probably just a further manifestation of an insularity, which has crept into life more generally – look at President Trump “making America great again!”

The EU has prevented war between habitual combatants for three quarters of a century. EYCE was one small contributor to the end of a divided Europe.

Yet we seem to be retreating into our shells nationally in what was supposed to be a great new global paradise and I fear the churches are retreating into introversion and parochialism.

By the time you read this something may have happened to sort out our ongoing relationship with our neighbours across the Channel. Let us hope and pray that that process may begin to lead us back towards a wider love for our neighbour, which is a critical ingredient of our faith and calling.

And let us also pray that EYCE, which has had such a formative effect on many lives (witness our gathering of alumni on 1st April), is enabled to find the support and resources to continue its ministry of encouraging young Christians to worship and serve together and break down the walls, which we humans seem so intent on building between us.

Michael Davies

Mission Visit



Sunday 30th June visit to Simon and Becky in North West London.

You may remember that at the Operation Mobilisation (OM) weekend last September Simon was the preacher on the Sunday morning and, after the service, spoke to us about the work of Becky and himself with middle-eastern communities in North West London, including his very recent participation in baptism at the OASIS Church in St John's Wood.

We have been invited to visit Simon and Becky on the Sunday 30th June. The plan is:

- Leave Haywards Heath Station at around 09.30am. Travel to Victoria then on to the OM Centre in North London.

- On arrival there we will have a tour and meet some of those baptised last September (Coffee and tea will be provided)
- Travel by bus to a local Syrian restaurant for lunch
- Travel by tube to the Oasis Church plant.
- Attend the Oasis service 16:00 - 18:00, with a fellowship time afterwards over coffee / tea and light food, finishing at 18:45 or so.
- Return by tube to Victoria, and then back to Haywards Heath for around 20.30. (Assuming no engineering works!)

This is a really good opportunity to see at first hand OM's work in London which Lindfield URC supports through the mission tithe. Friends from All Saints may join us. If you would like to join this visit please speak to a member of the Missions Group:

Jean Gardiner, Lesley Sparks, Helen Hall or Terry Oliver.

Who am I ?

Well done to those of you who guessed that the answers to last month's Good News "Who am I?" questions were from Carol Walters. As Carol revealed, she was born in Leeds, but she moved at the age of two to Scarborough as her Father found it difficult to adapt to Leeds city life after returning to UK from India. Carol's love of cricket came from watching Yorkshire play at the County Grounds in Scarborough. However, she moved south after school to enrol on a teacher training course at Furzedown College in Streatham, a typical concrete building of the 1960's that featured in a 1965 edition of the journal Architect & Building News. I suspect that Carol was less interested in the design of the building than in the fact that it overlooked the house where a young man lived, David Walters! Carol and David met at the local Baptist Church and Carol stayed on in the area to teach at a primary school on the Brixton/Streatham border, a challenging role in a diverse community with 85-95% immigrant families. Carol and David married in 1968 and moved to Lindfield in 1977 when David's job brought him here. By then they had two children, Richard and Joanne, so Carol left full time teaching and had a variety of jobs, including at "Durrant's", the village café which was situated where Mansell McTaggart now is. With no established Baptist church nearby at that time, Carol and David joined LURC in the Richard Tucker era, where the children were happy and David volunteered with the Boys Brigade. So they have been part

of our congregation for over 40 years! Carol's passion for our church is to see more people recognize the need for prayer and, she is the driving force behind our prayer "Engine Room", so named because of Charles Spurgeon's belief that prayer is the engine room of the church. The Engine Room meet every Monday at 9:30 a.m. and on the 4th Thursday evening of each month at 8:00 p.m. – some 6-10 meet at present and if you would like to join them there will be a warm welcome to engage in this important aspect of our church life. There is also the opportunity to pray with 16-20 others from All Saints and the Evangelical Free Churches each Saturday at 8:45 a.m. – the venue moves between the churches on a monthly basis and will be back at LURC in July. Do have a chat with Carol over a coffee after a service, about Engine Room or anything else – perhaps you can even persuade her to try watching Sussex play cricket down at Hove!

Martin Hall



Phonebook

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Church Secretary

Sue Gooch 01444 455047
Email spgooch48@gmail.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 Gooch 01444 455047

Lunch Fellowship

Sue Gooch 01444 455047

Pastoral Group

Fiona Tingley 01444 483419

The Fellowship

Pat Phillips 01444 484507

Stepping Stones

Zoe McQuillin 01444 484364

Lighthouse (Junior Church)

Co-ordinator
Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Flower Rota

	Arranging	Distributing
May		
5th	Boys' Brigade	Jo Bloxham
12th	Fo Tingley	Meta Orchin
19th	Carol Marsh	Iris Bingham
26th	Betty Billins	Heather Swann
June		
2nd	Jenny Machel	Fo Tingley
9th	Brian Tuppen	Carol Marsh
16th	Zoe McQuillin	Jo Bloxham
23rd	Zoe McQuillin	Meta Orchin
30th	Lunch Fellowship	Iris Bingham

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

Around Lindfield

Wednesday 8th May

- 12:15pm Tiger Arts – Lunch in the Tiger
1:00pm Concert in All Saints
Judith Miller – Organist
8:00pm Lindfield Horticultural Society Talk : King Edward Hall
Garden Forum - Bring your questions

Thursday 23rd May

- 7:30pm Village Film Night in King Edward Hall
"Fishermans Friends" (12A) Tickets available from Tufnells



Lindfield

United Reformed Church

www.lindfieldurc.org.uk