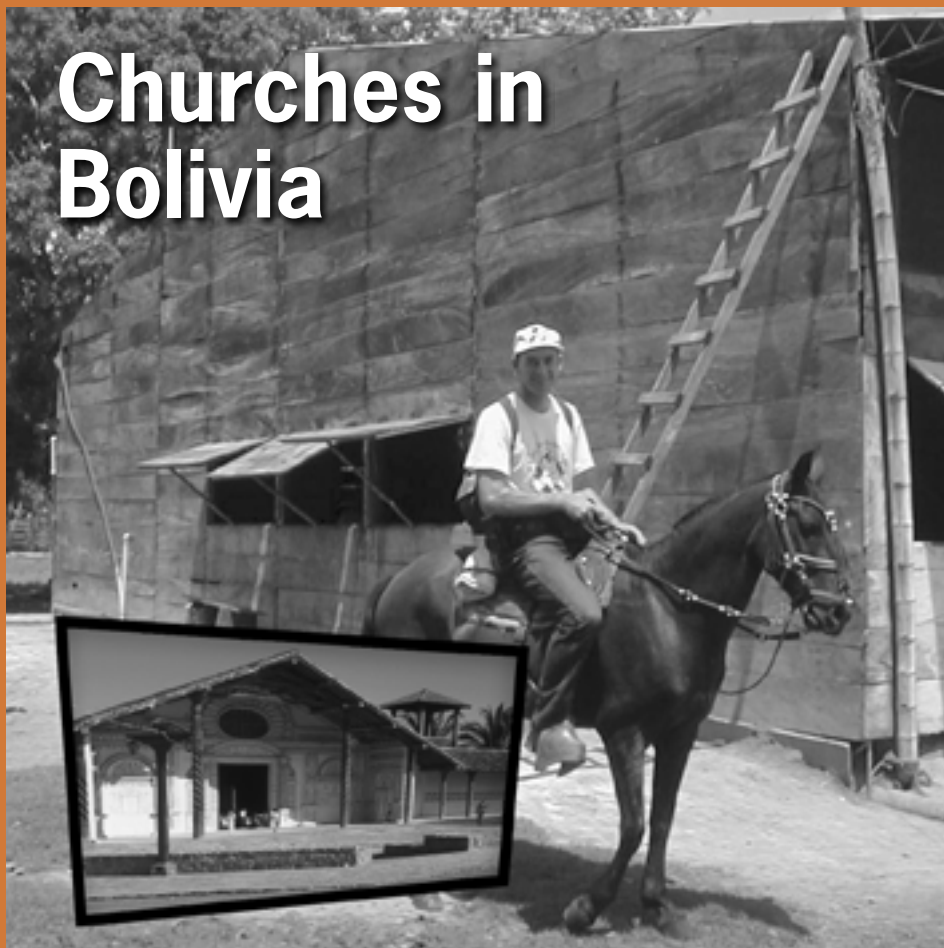


GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2007

Churches in Bolivia



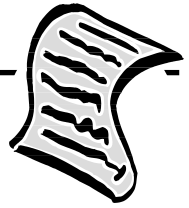
PLUS...

- God's Valentine
- Mercy Ships' Missions
- A Thank You to David

FREE
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF



Dear Friends...



Profiles & Programmes!

Welcome to another issue of GoodNEWS. We trust that you find the information and articles interesting and useful; we are always appreciative of feedback.

As a result of the questionnaires many of you completed last year and the church day together, we have now put together a pastorate profile so that a prospective new minister is able to understand what we are about as a church. The profile will be available shortly and we can then begin the process of finding the person God has to help us fulfil his purposes for the future. Please be in prayer that God will lead us in this process.

One part of our vision statement as a church is to “share the good news of Jesus”. What is this good news? What does it tell us about God’s love for us? How do we enter into it? These are some of the questions we will be exploring over the next few Sundays. If you would like to know more why not join us on Sunday mornings at either 9.30 or 11.00, we would be pleased to meet you.

David Jones, secretary

GoodNEWS

This magazine is produced by: Lindfield United Reformed Church, 50 High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex RH16 2HL.
© Lindfield URC 2007

Editorial Team: Val Cookney (editor), Jonny Dew, Steven Farley, Jacqui Adams and Martin Hall.
Editorial Oversight / Proof-reading: Hilary Shepherd
Printing: Tom Burford & Sureprint Litho

Next copydate: Monday 12th February, 5pm.

All 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 ensure that you include your contact details, in case of query. You can contact Val Cookney on 01444 440029.

Directory



Minister: Vacant at present

Church Secretaries:

Mrs Sue Waller
58 Queens Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1EE
Tel: 01444 455047
Email: susanwaller@lineone.net

Mr David Jones
13 William Allen Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2SA
Tel: 01444 483037
Email: dlandfc13wal@talktalk.net

Church Treasurer and Accountant:

Mrs. Eileen Jacques,
23 Canton House, Great Heathmead,
Haywards Heath. RH16 1FD

A list of serving Elders can be found in Who's Who?

Editorial



Editorials usually provide a little snap shot of the treats in store for you within the pages of the magazine. **This one will however start a little differently; I hope you don't mind.**

It would not be right to let David Tingley slip out from the position of Editor without a fanfare to show our appreciation of all he has done to make the Good News Magazine what it is today. So David, on behalf of the Readers of this Magazine, thank you.

The question you may now be asking is who is going to try and step into David's editorial shoes? Well that's me; Val Cookney; wife to Adrian, mother to Andrew and Katie, part time Speech and Language Therapist and I.T. dinosaur.

Now to this issue. Look out for the feature on the Jesuit churches in Bolivia. For Valentine's Day we take time to think about God's great Love and Mary Comber tells us about her special verse.

On page 19 there are details about information you could give us, so please take a look.

There is the family news, prayer and church diaries etc. so put the kettle on, make a cup of coffee, sit down, relax and enjoy.

Val Cookney, Editor

Prayer Diary



SUN

Remember All Saints and the EFC – pray for all who worship in our village week by week. Pray too, for those who don't.

MON

Pray for the local schools, especially remembering those from the churches who regularly take assemblies.

TUE

Please pray for all Elders and Lay Preachers in Sussex East District, and for the meeting of District Council on 9th February.

WED

Also remember the U R Churches at Hassocks, Balcombe, Uckfield, Lewes, Robertson Street, Ashburnham, Robertsbridge and Sedlescombe.

THUR

Uphold the work of Mercy Ships, our mission focus this month, that their ministry may bring hope, healing and health to many.

FRI

Remember the elderly and those living alone during the winter months, for their health and physical needs to be met.

SAT

Pray again for those fighting to keep the PRH. Support with your prayers the Christians who work there in their frustrations and uncertainties.

Prayer FOCUS

In addition to the above daily prayer reminders, please would you uphold in your prayers this month's other special prayer requests.

Please keep praying about the **Sexual Orientation Bill**, which could go through Parliament in April. (See notice board for more details.)

Keep praying, too, for God's guidance as we as a church begin the **search for a new Minister**. Ask for His hand to be upon that person. Pray that we will have patience to await God's timing, and to seek His Will. Meanwhile, do pray for our hard-working Elders and all those in positions of leadership, that each may receive strength, wisdom and direction as we move forward into the future.

With the help of churches and other child support organisations, the **Bible Society** in the West Indies is distributing 10,000 easy to read bibles to children living in impoverished, high crime communities in Jamaica. Pray for them and their families, that they will be able to develop a positive self-image and self-esteem as they read of God's love for them.

Jesuit Missions of Bolivia – A Pilgrimage

These days it is possible to make pilgrimages or just to go as tourists to a large number of sites of Christian significance, from those of the Holy Land, to Lourdes in southwestern France, to any of the magnificent cathedrals in our own country such as Salisbury or Canterbury. Of course the latter has been a place of pilgrimage for centuries, principally to visit the shrine of Archbishop Thomas Becket following his murder in 1170 and made famous by Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. Lourdes, Canterbury and Salisbury – all those names are familiar to most of us, but what about a pilgrimage to the Jesuit Missions of lowland Bolivia? Well I had never heard of them either until I visited Bolivia for the first time in the early 1990's to begin a project on horseflies.

Horseflies are important pests of livestock especially on the smallholder farms of the region. The flies also attack the cattle on the larger, wealthier farms, but the owners of those farms are more likely to be able to afford insecticides to treat their animals. In fact, some of the farmers are very well off. As an example, one invited me to visit his farm to assess the fly problem and when I asked how I would get there - it was very remote - he said that he would send his airplane to pick me up from the nearest airstrip to the

farm I was working on! I went to the airstrip somewhat dubious, but sure enough, bang on time a dot in the sky grew into a small Cessna and my farmer flew in to collect me. It was quite an experience flying to his farm as, after landing, we taxied right up to his front door, parked the plane and I exchanged my seat for a saddle, because on horseback was the best way to get around the farm. I was really impressed by the work he was doing to control flies using his own ideas and with the tremendous hospitality I was



shown. On the flight back I sat by the pilot and he obligingly flew right over “my” farm so that I could take some aerial photos.

The smallholder farm I worked on was known as Chocolatal, due to the chocolate trees grown there. It was a wonderful spot on the edge of the Amazon rainforest. We used to bathe in a river at the edge of the fields – a lovely site after dark when you could drift along in the slow current under the light of the stars and thousands of glow-worms. I slept in a small tent under a thatched shelter, home also to many aggressive wasps that nested in the roofing straw. One night, while brushing my teeth, I felt something crawling up my leg and I was just a bit too slow in pulling off my jeans as very quickly I felt a sharp stab in my backside! However, that wasp should have known not to mess with an entomologist – it ended up being pinned in my collection!

In addition to camping on one particular farm, I spent many days driving around the region collecting flies from many sites. Bolivia is a beautiful but very poor country and it was a great surprise to me to come

across several wonderfully restored churches as I travelled the country on my surveys. The churches are found in a region known as Chiquitania, named after the original South American Indian inhabitants, the Chiquitos or Chiquitanos, who are generally quite small (chiquito is the Spanish adjective for tiny). With the modern emphasis on evangelism in our UK churches we can think that it is a recent development, but of course it is nothing new and was how the early church grew. The Jesuit Missions of Bolivia are a good example of 16th and 17th Century Evangelism. St. Ignatius of Loyola, a pilgrim who crisscrossed Europe and the Holy Land on his travels, founded the Jesuit movement (Society of Jesus) over 460 years ago. His origins were as a proud and ambitious courtier with the Spanish nobility, but injuries to his legs by a French cannonball imposed on him a lengthy convalescence and led to an inner conversion to serve Jesus. He asked of himself and his companions three questions that remain at the core of the Jesuit mission today: “What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for

Feature – Churches in Bolivia

Christ? What will I do for Christ?.”

It was difficult enough for me at times getting around Chiquitania, so what must it have been like for those missionaries over 400 years ago? At times we forded rivers by ox cart and I imagine they must have done the same as they transported all the materials to build their churches, bringing a Christian voice into what was then a much more savage world. I have nothing but admiration for them. The first arrived in Bolivia in 1572 with the first mission being founded at San Xavier in Chiquitania in 1691. The Churches in Bolivia had fallen into neglect for over two centuries until interest in them was awoken by the release of the movie, “The Mission” (1986), starring Jeremy Irons as a Spanish Jesuit who travelled to the interior of South America to build a mission in what is now a part of Brazil. He was successful until the Spanish sold the lands to the Portuguese who allowed slavers back in to hunt the native Indians and ruin what had been created.

The Jesuit missions in Bolivia, called reducciones, were successful due to the Jesuits’ insistence that they

be run not only as centres of spiritual welfare but social welfare as well. In addition, great emphasis was placed on three elements: communal self-reliance and self-sufficiency; cooperation with, rather than coercion of, native inhabitants; and complete autonomy from the Spanish government whenever possible. The Jesuits made great efforts to adapt to native cultures and rarely denigrated them. The result was a successful mix of two cultures with a unifying spiritual theme. The native inhabitants became phenomenally good craftsmen, with precious metals, in woodcarving and also with music. So much so that each reduccion, with only about 1,000 inhabitants, usually included a world-class church, an orchestra (with cellos, violins and harps created from local wood), several artisans shops and schools of music and painting – all this hundreds of miles from the nearest other settlement of any size!

The Churches themselves were amazing when you think of the period. For that at Concepción more than 2,000 hardwood trees were felled. Each



Wooden angels in the “Mestizo-Baroque” style: after those from the cathedral of Concepción



beam in the church required a single tree trunk about 12 m long weighing 9 tons. These were balanced on up to 18 vertical trunks, each of about 20 tons! The roof was built of over 100,000 bricks and tiles with another 150,000 for the walls – all done by hand with just crude tools, resulting in a church with a floor area of up to 1,500 m² that could hold 3,000 people!

Despite or perhaps because of their success, the reducciones eventually became caught up in a political struggle between Spain and Portugal and the Jesuits were expelled by King Carlos III of Spain on 27 February 1767 – 240 years ago this month. There were scarcely two-dozen missionaries in Chiquitania at that time, but they watched over some 37,000 local people in ten

missions. With the expulsion of the Jesuits the missions and their churches spiralled downwards into a state of near terminal decline. However, in 1957 a Jesuit missionary, Fr. Felix Plattner, travelled to the region and was amazed to find seven of the 10 churches still standing, if decaying day by day. He vowed to save at least one before they disappeared for ever and arranged for a Swiss architect to visit for six months. Hans Roth arrived in 1972 and never left. Working mostly with native craftsmen, Roth spent 27 years of his life restoring the seven churches and numerous other mission buildings in addition to constructing over 100 new buildings, including churches, schools and houses. The churches are now considered

Feature – Churches in Bolivia

so important that they were placed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site register in 1990. Roth died in 1999 having made a huge impact on the Christian heritage of Chiquitania, as well as its social, cultural and pastoral development, as great as that of his former compatriot, the Swiss Jesuit Fr. Martin Schmid, who oversaw the original building of at least three of the Churches. Perhaps one of the most impressive aspects of the restoration of these churches is that they are not just Museums, a glimpse into the past, but they are functioning and vibrant centres for worship today. I was fortunate to attend one service at San Xavier and, despite my rudimentary Spanish, enjoyed good fellowship with the congregation, led by a group on guitars just like Lindfield!

I was lucky enough to see three of the churches, at

San Xavier, Concepción and San José de Chiquitos, while “working”, but everyone now has the opportunity to visit these churches on tours of 5-6 days from the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra. You, too, can experience the natural and human wonders of La Gran Chiquitania, “The Great Chiquitania”, considered by some to be South America’s last undiscovered paradise. It has been described as, “a vast land of quiet, pristine natural beauty, largely forgotten by the outside world”. I would love to go back again sometime with my family to experience together a really wonderful country and people and to see together the work of those truly inspiring early Jesuit evangelists, who certainly lived up to their motto and codicil: Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam, “For the glory of God....and salvation of one’s neighbour”.

Martin Hall

Web sites:

<http://bolivia.gotolatin.com/eng/Attr/htm/Bolivia-Misiones.asp>

<http://www.colonialvoyage.com/boliviamissions.html>

<http://www.chiquitania.com/>

Thank you

GOOD NEWS

Dedicated

Applied

Vision

Implemented

Detailed

Thoughtful

Ideas

News

Giving

Logical

Encouraging

Yield.

THANKYOU.

Editor - JUNE 2002 - JAN 2007

A thank you - Norna Derham

February GoodNEWS - 9

February church diary

1st

Thursday House Groups

3rd

Saturday 8.45 – Sat. Morning Prayer
9.30am Meeting at EFC

4th

Sunday 9.30am Communion
– Cavan Wood
11.00am Cavan Wood
6.30pm Tim Griffiths

8th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting
- Church

10th

Saturday 8.45 – Sat. Morning Prayer
9.30am Meeting at EFC

11th

Sunday 9.30am Derek Heath
11.00am Derek Heath
6.30pm Communion in the
round

14th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

16th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

17th

Saturday 8.45 – Sat. Morning Prayer
9.30am Meeting at EFC

18th

Sunday 9.30am Stuart Dew
11.00am Stuart Dew

FAIR TRADE STALL BETWEEN SERVICES

6.30pm Mike Gardiner

22nd

Thursday 8.00pm Church Prayer
Meeting

24th

Saturday 8.45 – Sat. Morning Prayer
9.30am Meeting at EFC

25th

Sunday 9.30am David Jones
11.00am Communion –
David Jones
6.30pm Praise & Share

27th

Tuesday 7.45pm In Touch – Lounge

28th

Wednesday 2.45pm Afternoon
Fellowship
8.00pm Elders' Meeting

**OTHER LOCAL EVENTS
LISTED ON BACK COVER**

Sunday services explained...

The **9.30am service** is an opportunity for all age groups to join in a relaxed informal time. There is a crèche, and after about 20 minutes children and young people up to age 14 go out to their own groups on most Sundays.

Coffee is normally served between the morning services and after the evening one.

The **11.00am service** is usually more set and formal.

At **6.30pm** it is sometimes a celebration, sometimes a quieter ministry time and sometimes an open communion service or something quite different!

Personal prayer is available after every service. Prayer requests and brief statements of praise for answered prayer can be put in the red book on the concourse table. We can also offer personal prayer ministry at home or in hospital.

We **do not take up an offering** during the services, but all those wishing to give are invited to place a gift in one of the bowls at the doors before or after the service. Thank you.

Cassette **recordings of services** can be borrowed free from the church.



Flower Rota

Arranging

Distributing

February

| | | |
|----|-----------------|------------------|
| 4 | Chris Caswell | Jacqueline Wood |
| 11 | Vera Dorton | Barbara Shepherd |
| 18 | Jessie Green | Iris Bingham |
| 25 | Dorothy Forster | Heather Swann |

March

| | | |
|----|---------------|-----------------|
| 4 | Betty Billins | Fiona Tingley |
| 11 | Carol Marsh | Sue Tester |
| 18 | Audrey McKee | Dorothy Forster |
| 25 | Zoe McQuillin | Jacqueline Wood |

Family News

BIRTH CONGRATULATIONS!

Our warmest congratulations go to **Charles and Marion Tingley** who had a daughter on January 7th. and to **Harry and Rosemary McCleery** who had a baby girl on January 8th. We'll have to be careful not to muddle their names: **Grace Evelyn Margaret Tingley** and **Esther Grace McCleery**. Please pray for these two families as they adjust to the changes a baby makes in their family life. May God bless them all.

THANK YOU!!

Rosemary, Harry, Peter, Lydia and Esther would like to say thank you to all of you for your support, prayers and gifts on the birth of their precious little girl in January.

Charlie and Marion say thanks to all our friends for their prayers, gifts and cards on the birth of their beautiful little girl, **Grace**.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **John Merrett** on his appearance on BBC television last month!

The Fellowship

This month 'The Fellowship' will be meeting on Wednesday 28th February at 2.45pm. It is a 'Members Afternoon', under the heading 'What Job Did You Do?'

We hope to hear of interesting things that were done in former years.

There will be the usual Bring and Buy Stall, and as always a very warm welcome to all.

Balcombe United Reformed Church

Bramble Hill, Balcombe, RH17 6HR.

Contact: Mrs Leonie Wren (01444 811253)

Our services are held weekly at 10.30am.

Visitors are welcome to join us.

Speakers for this month are as follows:-

| | |
|------|----------------|
| 4th | Dan McQuillin |
| 11th | Ron Goodenough |
| 18th | Philip Wren |
| 25th | Philip Wren |



Gay rights laws challenge fails

New rules outlawing businesses from discriminating against homosexuals have been upheld in the House of Lords.

A challenge led by Lord Morrow of the Democratic Unionist Party failed by a margin of three to one.

He had argued that the rules forced people to choose between obedience to God and obedience to the state.

Lord Morrow's call to annul the regulations, which have applied in Northern Ireland since 1 January and are due to be implemented across the UK by April, was defeated by 199 votes to 68.

The Sexual Orientation Regulations have been criticised by some religious groups who say people will not be allowed to act according to faith.

Critics say the new rules mean hotels cannot refuse to provide rooms for gay couples, and religious groups would be obliged to rent out halls for "gay wedding" receptions.

They also argue a Christian, Jewish or Muslim printer could be forced to print a flyer for a gay night club, or a teacher would have to break the law to promote heterosexual marriage over homosexual civil partnership.

Source: www.bbc.co.uk January 2007

Bible Brain Teaser

In the following paragraph you should find 16 names of books off the Bible

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts ...and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. The truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others will require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph. (Answers on page 18)

God's Valentine

Valentine's Day: An opportunity to say, "I love you" or crass commercialism? Both schools of thought seem to carry some merit! Our American cousins seem to have struck the right note when it comes to Valentine's Day; they correctly recognise that love is not an exclusive thing reserved for couples, but rather an opportunity for parents, family members and friends to express appreciation and love to one another.

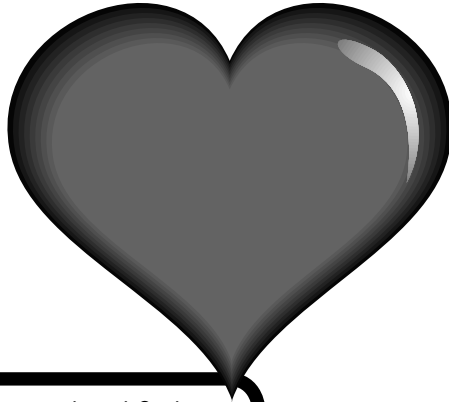
Before my American friend Bruce died he used to receive some spectacular Valentine cards from his father and sister. You see, Bruce worked in Scotland and then Uzbekistan, and was understandably missed by those he had left behind. I always think how glad his dad and sister must have been that they were able to so freely express their love for him whilst he was still with them, because their time together on earth was all too short.

It turns out that God is rather good at sending some spectacular Valentine Cards too! The great thing about God's valentines is that they are not

restricted to one day of the year. Sometimes I think His valentines to us come disguised. For example; a call from a friend, a breathtaking sun- or moon-rise, an unexpected visit or gift, a hug, someone holding your hand when you cry, letting you drive out first at a busy junction, or helping you pick up the change you have just scattered all over the shop floor.

I believe Jesus is God's ultimate gift of love to us. Unconditional love. Irresistible. Free. For you.

So here it is! Your very own ""cut out and keep Valentine""! You might like to pop it into your wallet or purse. Pop it up on the



1 John 4: 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 3: 16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

1 John 4: 19 We love because he first loved us.

Romans 8: 31 - 32 If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?



fridge at home. Blu tac it to your dash. Anything you like. Then when you find yourself waiting to pick up the kids, catch the train, pull out at that impossible junction or brushing your teeth, I hope this will encourage you to know that you are loved.

Jacqui Adams

Mercy Ships

Imagine ships crewed by doctors, nurses, water engineers and agriculturalists visiting some of the world's poorest countries. Now imagine their life-changing services offered free of charge... Right now dedicated volunteers from around the world are bringing hope and healing to thousands of people who could never have believed it possible. Welcome to **Mercy Ships**, a compassionate response to a world where many have lost hope. **Mercy Ships uses hospital ships and land-based programmes with multi-national crew and staff to bring world-class medical assistance and long-term sustainable development to some of the world's poorest regions.**

Since 1978, various ships in the Mercy Ships fleet have served in more than 220 port visits in over 50 developing nations around the world. Into an ocean of need, dedicated volunteers representing over 40 nations bring together their wide-ranging skills to make a lasting difference. Currently there are 3 ships in the fleet; Africa Mercy, Anastasis and Caribbean Mercy.

Mercy Ships programmes promote health and well being by serving the urgent surgical needs of the forgotten poor and empowering developing communities.

They provide free, specialised operations that save lives, improve quality of life and restore hope in the following areas.

Blindness

Cataracts
Corneal Growths

Injuries

Childbirth Injuries
War Injuries
Work Injuries

Deformities

Tumours
Congenital Abnormalities
Cleft Lip/Palate
Burns
Leprosy
Oral Disease

Dental

Extractions & Procedures
Oral Hygiene Education



Mercy Ships®

Bringing Hope and Healing...

Mercy Ships partners with locals to rebuild and improve the health of their communities through an holistic range of programmes.

Disabled/Displaced/Orphaned

Reintegration
Small Business

Churches & Schools

HIV/AIDS Intervention
Training
Networking

Neighbourhoods

Community Health
Education
Clean Water & Sanitation
Agriculture
Construction
Skills Training
Women's Projects

Health Care Professionals

Extractions & Procedures
Oral Hygiene Education

Around the world lives are changed through hope and healing.

For more information please see the missions board or visit their website **www.mercyships.co.uk**

If you would like to give to the work of the Mercy Ships please use the mission envelopes and place in the offertory at any Sunday service. Please complete a Gift Aid Slip if appropriate.



The very first Valentine card – a legend

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison waiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

Source: Parish Pump



Read-a-verse

In this new regular feature someone from our fellowship will share their best-loved or most precious verse from the Bible and tell us why.

If you would like to contribute please email a paragraph of explanation together with the verse to goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk

John 11v.4

When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

Mary Comber explains why this is a special verse for her.

About 10 years ago Chris had VERY high blood pressure and had had a heart attack. So when he had to undergo major surgery, the 'heart team' rated his chances of surviving pretty low. "Knowing this, when I left him before his operation, I didn't know if I would ever

see him alive again....

At the time I was listening to the tape 'Faith comes by Hearing' and when I got home from the Princess Royal, in floods of tears, I automatically turned on the tape and John 11v4 was actually spoken to me and it was true!!"

Chris survived the operation.

More Information Please!

Family Histories...

Following Stuart Dew's sermon when he mentioned family histories a number of you told him about your interesting family connections. Would you like to pass on some of these fascinating facts to us and we'll see if we can use them in a future magazine.

Every Cross has a Story....

Easter will be with us soon and we would like to know if you have a special cross, which you wear, or have in the house, or that you saw on your travels. If so would you tell us why it is special to you.

P.S. please keep the contributions brief and send them to goodnews@lindfieldurc.org.uk or place a copy in the Good News pigeonhole at the back of the church. Thank you



Runner's blog (3)

Hebrews 12 1a – 2b

"...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus..."

Off The Fence Trust

Just to remind us all that the above registered charity, which was founded on a Christian vision and driven by Christian values, provides vital services to the most vulnerable and marginalised, and aims to make a difference by working in the four areas of homelessness, women at risk, education, and accommodation for young people at risk.

Well, here we are in the season of grey skies, rain and 'coughs & colds', and guess what, at the time of writing (10th January) I've picked up a chest infection. Hopefully anti-biotics plus lots of 'lemon & honey' drinks will rectify this – meantime, apologies for all the unhealthy noises coming from my direction during the last couple of Church services.

The number of people now running for Off The Fence in the Brighton ½ Marathon on 18th

February has reduced a little to 35, so Off The Fence have arranged a practice run at 8am on Sunday 21st January along Brighton seafront of either 4, 6 or 10 mile durations, with a view to us encouraging each other onwards.

I am pleased to report that Adrian Cookney returned from his skiing holiday at the beginning of the year with no injuries and therefore intends to 'push-on' in his training, but his Church commitments mean he is unable to attend the above practice run – Brighton seafront on a January early morning can be a pretty uninviting place, so Adrian could be somewhat fortunate!

Please be aware that a sponsorship form has been on the notice board by the lounge since the beginning of the year, and any and all pledges thereon would be heartily welcomed for Off The Fence which, as most people know, plays an important practical role in the lives of a number of less fortunate men and women in the Brighton and Hove area, as well as spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to them and many children in the local schools.

Ray Smith

Church activities

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

- 9.30am Service for all the family, including crèche and Junior Church (Most weeks, children leave after 20 minutes for their own activities) Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
- 11.0am Morning Worship Holy Communion (4th Sunday)
- 6.30pm Evening Service Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)

Healing services as announced

PRAYER MEETINGS:

- Mon 9.30am An Hour of Prayer
- Wed 9.45am Short Service of Intercession
- Thur 8.00pm Church Prayer Evening (As announced)
- Sat 8.45 – 9.30am Three Churches Prayer Meeting. Venue rotates between the three churches.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

- Mon 6.30pm Boys' Brigade – Junior Section (8–11 years)
- 7.45pm Boys' Brigade – Company Section (11+ years)
- Tue 10.00am Stepping Stones (Parents and toddlers)
- 7.45pm In Touch (4th Tuesday)
- Wed 2.45pm The Fellowship (4th Wed.)
- 5.30pm Zest 1:2, 3:4
- 6.45pm Zest 5:6:7
- Thur 10.00am Pop-In (for coffee and a chat)
- 8.00pm Church Meeting (2nd Thur.)
- Fri 5.30pm Boys' Brigade – Anchor Boys (5–7 years)
- 7.30pm Zest plus (8+)

House Groups normally meet 1st and 3rd Thursday

The church is open Monday to Saturday
from 10.00am to 12.30pm

Phonebook

Church (payphone):

01444 484620

Boys' Brigade:

Geoffrey Cocksedge
01444 474007

Cradle Roll:

Sue Tester 01444 482810

Flowers:

Betty Billins 01444 484494

Hall Booking Secretary:

Carol Walters 01444 457938

In Touch:

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Lunch Fellowship:

Wednesday:
Janet Drayton 01444 483621

Friday:

Gwen Hillman 01444 456963
Anne Parker 01444 473519

Magazine: Editor:

Val Cookney 01444 440029

The Fellowship:

Jessie Green 01444 452708
Roy Billins 01444 484494

Stepping Stones:

Janet Goodenough
01444 417002

Transport:

Tina Elphick 01444 484440

Youth and Children's Work

Co-ordinator:

Adrian Cookney 01444 440029

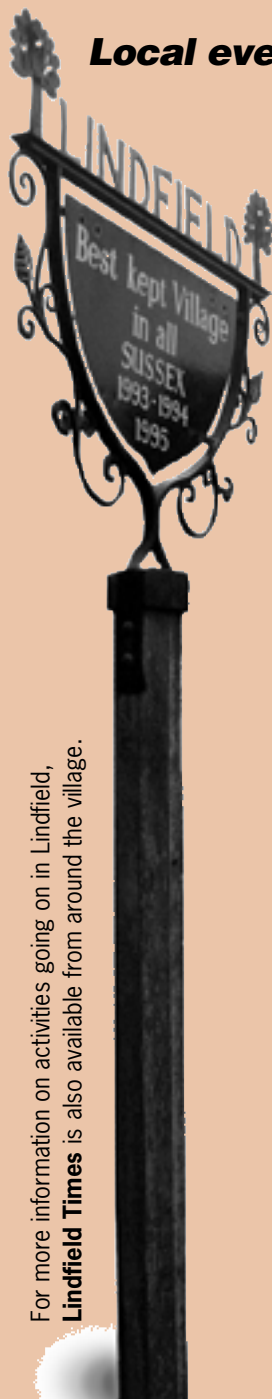
Zest Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683

Powersource Co-ordinator:

Dawn Walters 01444 441601

Local events



For more information on activities going on in Lindfield, **Lindfield Times** is also available from around the village.

The Preservation Society has an
Illustrated talk about Brighton

by Mike Smith

Tuesday 20th February
King Edward Hall, 2.30pm

Admission £1 including refreshments.
All welcome.



To publicise your community event here see contact details on page 2. Diary entries included at the editor's discretion.