



As a number of you know, I spent my working life after university as a civil engineer with British Railways.

The work covered construction and maintenance of earthworks, tracks and, for a period, even included being the 'owner' of a stone quarry.

It was vital to keep abreast with the condition of each by a system of regular inspections, and to plan for maintenance and renewal in the short and long term, using the resources of money, materials, equipment and manpower available. Success was measured in meeting the planned work within budget, keeping trains running as planned and the safety of passengers, neighbours, staff and infrastructure. I survived, and the scars have healed!

Perhaps you can imagine my feelings over the happenings of recent times?

I enjoyed the diversity of my chosen profession, and seeing plans come to successful fruition, and on reflection have no doubt that the most difficult area was in dealings with people. I believe that God is the Supreme Master Planner having a plan for the world and a plan for everyone in it. From what I can see of our world I would believe that He has the most difficulties with His "people plan".

How can we determine what

plans He has for each of us?

For a start we can get to know what kind of person he yearns for us to be by reading and following His guidelines in the Bible. Then, of course, putting into practice what we learn! Not so easy!!

To learn the details of His plan for ourselves we can keep in touch with Him at any time in prayer and by spending time to listen and test what we believe He is saying to us. What a gift and blessing! Do we use it as often as we should?

Two of the most wonderful gifts in our lives are God's complete love for each one of us and His everlasting grace, which should be etched on our hearts by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. We need, so much, to continue our practice of sharing our faith in worship, prayer and bible study, together with caring for one another, to help us in our christian growth together.

I conclude with a few lines on the grace of God, from a hymn which touched my heart and mind in a recent copy of Every Day with Jesus.

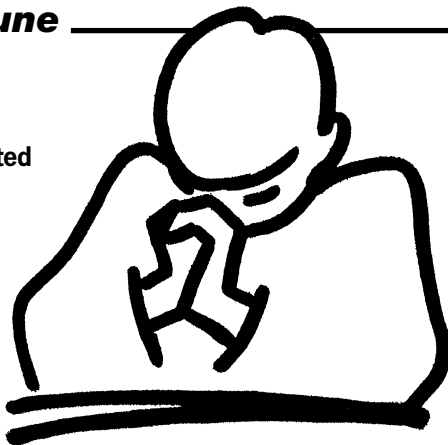
"Its streams the whole creation reach;
So plenteous is its store;
Enough for all, enough for each;
Enough for evermore".

May you know the completeness of God's love and grace through His Spirit.

Dennis Rowell, Elder

Prayer suggestions for June

Throughout the month would all church members pray daily for their Elder (listed in Who's Who), that God will grant them wisdom and that there will be a common accord. Please pray especially for Ron Goodenough, Charles Martin, Michael Davies and the Provincial Moderator as we seek God's will for a new Minister.



1st – 8th

- Please continue to pray for those on the Alpha Course, those who lead and the House Groups providing the meals.
- Pray for the monthly changes in Junior Church which have just begun.
- Remember to be committed to pray daily for the future ministry of LURC.
- Pray that our witness over the Jubilee weekend in the village may be effective and add a real joy to the celebrations.
- Sussex East – Pray for the Hastings Area Group, Robertsbridge and Sedlescombe.

9th – 15th

- Give thanks for all who work in our Girls' Brigade Company. Please continue to pray that more helpers will offer their services to this dedicated work.
- Remember the Luncheon Clubs as they meet on Wednesday and Friday this week.
- Pray for our two music groups and Richard Walters and David Nibloe as they lead these. They need our encouragement and on-going support in their non-stop commitment.
- Remember members of the 14+ Group who will be taking important exams in the coming months. (Details available soon from their Leaders.)
- Pray that our future Minister may be a good communicator, in preaching, teaching, leading worship and at a one-to-one level.
- Sussex East – Please remember Christ Church at Lewes, and Uckfield.

16th – 22nd

- Please pray for the work of Tearfund whom we are supporting this month.
- Please pray that our new Minister may be committed to prayer.
- Pray for Carpe Diem and their involvement in the 'Jigsaw' sessions on the 2nd Sunday of each month with Junior Church.
- Pray for the Boys' Brigade that a new Captain may be found for January 2003. Also give thanks for Terry Ward and the 30 years' service he has given to the Company.
- Sussex East – Pray for the Annual Council Meeting on 21st June (to be held at LURC).

Also for Balcombe and our own church at this time, and our Interim Moderators, Charles Martin and Michael Davies.

23rd – 30th

- Thank God for Chris Comber and Priscilla Walden (and others) who play the organ at our 11am services. Also for our pianists whose help is invaluable.
- Ask God that our new Minister may be a 'risk-taker', endowed with a sense of humour.
- Pray for the visiting speakers in the coming weeks as some of our own folk are on holiday.
- The ladies who went to the 'In Touch' away day last month give thanks for a truly Quiet Day which proved helpful to many.
- Sussex East – St Luke's, St Leonards-on-Sea. All retired Ministers in the District. Also pray for the Moderator of General Assembly, URC Officers and Mission Council in the run up to the Assembly on 4th – 8th July.

S&T

During June please pray for those members and friends whose surnames begin with S and T.

Balcombe United Reformed Church

Bramble Hill, Balcombe, RH17 6HR
Contact: Mrs S Billings (01444 400283)

Services for this month are as follows:-

June 2nd UNITED JUBILEE SERVICE
 10 am. (at St. Mary's, Balcombe)

June 16th Family service 11 am.
 Speaker – Godfrey Armitage



Friendship Lunch

This is held on the second Sunday of the month at 1pm and is preceded by an informal family service at 12 midday. Do come and join us for either or both events. Please bring a small contribution if staying to the lunch.

The Queen's Jubilee message

“Prince Philip and I have been deeply touched by the many kind messages about the Golden Jubilee.

This anniversary is for us an occasion to acknowledge with gratitude the loyalty and support which we have received from so many people since I came to the Throne in 1952. It is especially an opportunity to thank all those of you who help others in your own local communities through public or voluntary service. I would like to think that your work will be particularly recognised during this Jubilee year.

I hope also that this time of celebration in the United Kingdom and across the Commonwealth will not simply be an occasion to be nostalgic about the past. I believe that, young or old, we have as much to look forward to with confidence and hope as we have to look back on with pride.

I send my warmest good wishes to you all.”
ELIZABETH R. 6th February, 2002.



Just 5 Jubilee facts!

1. Tony Blair is the first Prime Minister to have been born during The Queen's reign. He was born in early May, 1953 – a month before the Coronation.

2. The Queen has owned more than 30 corgis during her reign, starting with Susan who was a present for her 18th birthday in 1944. A good proportion of these have been direct descendants from Susan.

Her Majesty currently has four corgis – Pharos, Swift, Emma and Linnet.

3. The Queen has made a Christmas Broadcast to the Commonwealth every year of her reign except 1969, when a repeat of the film 'Royal Family' was shown and a written message from The Queen issued.

4. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh have sent about 37,500 Christmas cards during The Queen's reign.

5. The Queen has sent almost 100,000 telegrams to centenarians in the UK and the Commonwealth.



**THE THREE CHURCHES TEA TENT
is being called
“The Common & Garden”
this year!**

But we still really need your help! If you can provide a **‘batch’ of scones**, or **help out for an hour** on the day, please sign up on the rotas which are in each church in the village.

It will be open between **1-5pm**, and then again in the evening, from **7-10pm!** Longer opening hours!

If there is still space on the rotas in your church, please sign up to help – this year’s longer event will need **all who can** to get **involved**.

For further details or to ask any questions speak to Suzy Jacques or David Tingley (01444 451024).

See you all there, thanks!



“Don’t baptise Brooklyn”

A Bradford priest has sent a letter addressed to David Beckham to his 15,000 parishioners urging the England football star not to baptise his baby.

Responding to the news that Brooklyn Beckham is going to be christened, the Rev John Hartley has asked the Manchester United player to think twice before having him baptised, warning that it could be a “terrible” mistake.

“You have to be certain enough about which church is the one you’re going to take Brooklyn week by week,” says Rev Hartley, vicar of St Luke’s, Eccleshill.

“If your son is baptised you, as parents, have to say (i) we are committed followers of Jesus ourselves, (ii) we will bring up our child as a Christian to come to church with us regularly, and teach him about Jesus, and pray with him, and (iii) he will be an active disciple of Jesus when he is an adult.”

In the letter, circulated to his parish, and addressed ‘Dear David’ Rev Hartley suggests that Mr Beckham would be in danger of breaking his word if he uttered these words, but could not commit to their meaning.

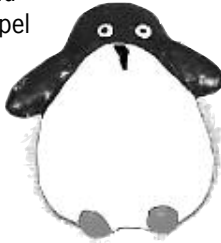
SOURCE: CNS June 2002

Where praise is due

A fridge magnet made from dust has won an international award for a Tearfund partner. Gospel House Handicrafts, Sri Lanka, who supply wooden puzzles for Tearcraft, scooped the award for best recycled product: just one of the several Asian partners receiving acclaim recently.

www.peoplink.org/gospelhouse

SOURCE: TearTimes Spring 2002



Traidcraft breaks barrier

Sales at Traidcraft, Britain’s largest fair trade organisation, have topped £10 million.

Chief executive Paul Chandler pointed to the benefits for people like Waranrat Kaewmong, a former construction industry worker trained to make jewellery and now able to look after her two children at home.

“In a year which has seen a dramatic rise in international tensions and economic uncertainty, our increased sales are eloquent testimony to the desire and determination of ordinary people to contribute to a fairer, more caring world” said Chandler.

SOURCE: CNS June 2002

Moving Home.

Mrs Edith Davison has moved to Crossways Residential Home, 2 Sunte Avenue, Lindfield

Chris & Mary Comber would like to let you know how much they appreciated all the support they received, in many ways, on the occasion of the marriage of No.3 son Rob to Tracy. It was a really happy time.

Pam Boyling wishes to thank everyone for your cards and support following her short spell in hospital.

Our Boys drill for victory

Jim Johnson and his drill squad came first in the Battalion Medal Competitions for Squad Drill, which took place in Brighton earlier this year.

The Company section also did extremely well in the Scripture Competition, at the Battalion headquarters, where they took 2nd place – narrowly missing out

on a win by just one point! Particularly gawling when our team has won the competition for the two previous years!

Still, well done all the guys who were involved!



Anniversary.

Congratulations to Audrey and Donald McKee who celebrate their Golden Wedding on 28th June.

Rita Cooper

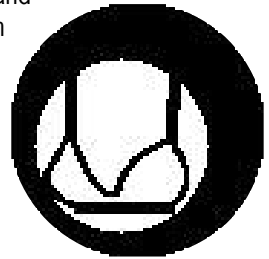
writes – “My sincere thanks to all those friends who have visited me, both at home and during my recent stay in hospital. Also for all your prayers, cards and flowers – I feel truly blessed. God bless you all”



Half marathon – under the stars

Helen Hall has been doing everything her mother told her not to! Out after midnight, and blatantly parading around in her bra! Thankfully, it was all for a good cause, as she took part in this year’s “Playtex Moonwalk 2002” which took place at midnight on Saturday 11th May in central London.

Raising money for various breast cancer charities, the walk featured 10,000 power-walkers, who all boasted decorated bras as part of the fun (men & women!). Helen said some of those out in London that night had “eyes popping out of their heads” as they saw them pass. Well done Helen, who has raised over £200.



www.walkthemoonwalk.org

The Word for Today is a quarterly Bible devotional written by Bob Gass, and is published by United Christian Broadcasters Ltd, Freepost ST1135, Stoke on Trent. Copies are available **free-of-charge** from UCB.



**“Stand firm then...
with your feet fitted with the readiness that
comes from the gospel of peace.”**

Ephesians 6:15

Roman soldiers wore shoes called caligas, which were wrapped tightly around their ankles, and studded on the bottom with nails. This provided them with three things needed to win: (1) stability (2) balance (3) forward momentum. Can you imagine being in battle without those?

“But what does ‘having my feet shod with the gospel of peace,’ mean to me?” you ask. Two things: (a) God’s peace will keep you standing when others fall. It’ll keep your priorities in place, as you move towards your God-given goals (b) You’ll refuse to go anywhere, do anything, or think any thought, unless it maintains the peace of God in your life.

Listen to these scriptures: “Ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace ...” (Isaiah 55:12). “Let the peace of God rule [decide] in your hearts ...” (Colossians 3:15). God’s peace is your compass! When the enemy tries to take you down the wrong road, it’ll keep you on the right one. When you’re not sure what to do, your inner peace will make a ruling on it! When you’re walking in these shoes, you’ll measure every decision and every relationship by one standard – how will it affect my peace?

Listen: “Write the vision ... that he may run that readeth it” (Habakkuk 2:2). Whatever God has told you to do – write it, read it, and run with it! Don’t get into situations where God’s not honoured, or tangled up in things that are not His will. Go only where He is glorified, and stay only where your heart is “at peace”.

Contributed by Mary Comber



Emma Tingley looks at some current issues and challenges us to make a difference in practical ways, as our response to take care of God's earth and his people. One in a series of three.

Give a fair deal

When you sit down with your cup of coffee, do you ever stop to consider that you could be changing someone's life? If you buy fairly traded products, it really is as simple as that. The contents of your shopping trolley can change lives across the world.

The Fair Trade Foundation was set up by CAFOD, Christian Aid, New Consumer, Oxfam, Traidcraft and the World Development Movement and arose through Christian concern for fairer trading. Many workers in third world countries are exploited in order to provide us with food and drink, working long hours for a pitiful wage, in less than adequate conditions. The Fair Trade scheme, however, challenges the conventional model of trade and instead offers an alternative for a sustainable future. Its aim is simple – a fair return for skills, which in turn leads to better working conditions and improved standards of living. The scheme works under socially and environmentally responsible criteria, reducing pollution and

damage to the fragile land. Fair Trade products empower consumers to take responsibility for the role they play when they buy products from the third world.

Over 5 million workers are supported by the Fair Trade scheme. And it's not just coffee! A growing range of food products is available, including bananas, mangoes, chocolate, cocoa, fruit juices, honey, rice, pasta, snacks, biscuits, sugar and tea. The banana overtook the apple as the most popular fruit in 1998 and its business is estimated to be worth £5 billion each year, with around £700 million of that being from the UK market. Imagine the difference buying only fairtrade bananas would make! Traidcraft and Oxfam also sell clothing and household accessories, as well as handicrafts that make great gifts. Fair Trade labelling organisations exist in 18 countries and all use the same international standards, so you can buy with confidence.

So next time you buy coffee – look for the Fair Trade mark and drink it knowing that you are changing lives.

This article was written with information from the FAIRTRADE & TRADCRAFT websites – you can visit them at www.fairtrade.org.uk and www.traidcraft.co.uk.



June diary

2nd

Sunday

9.30am* Communion

Richard Walters,
Duncan & Helen

Warmington

(Staplehurst URC)

11.00am* Duncan

& Helen Warmington

3.30pm*

United Open-Air Service on

the Common followed by a

picnic (NO EVENING

SERVICE AT LURC)

3rd

Monday

9.30am Jubilee

Celebrations, Bell ringing
and Village Crier to start...

2.30pm Procession

10pm Firework display

NOTE: The Three

Churches Tea tent will be

here again this year – as

“The Common & Garden”

see page 5

6th

Thursday

Church House Group week

6-9th June

South of England Show at

Ardingly Showground



VILLAGE DAY TEA TENT NEWS
See page 5

9th

Sunday

9.30am* Richard Walters

& Stuart Silk (All Saints)

11.00am*

Graham Campling

6.30pm* Communion –

David Nibloe &

Steve Fisher

(Minister, Tonbridge URC)

12th

Wednesday

12.30pm

Lunch Fellowship

13th

Thursday

8.00pm Church Meeting

14th

Friday

12.30pm

Lunch Fellowship

16th

Sunday

9.30am* Richard Walters

& Daryl Sinclair

11.00am* Daryl Sinclair

12noon Copy Date

for JULY & AUGUST

'Good News' Magazine

6.30pm* David Nibloe

& Alan Wharton

(Minister, Sevenoaks URC)

20th

Thursday

Church House Group week

21st

Friday

7.30pm

Sussex East District

Meeting at LURC

cont... (Coffee/Tea served
from 7 o'clock)

22nd

Saturday **7.30pm** Tearfund Supper

23rd

9.30am *Richard Walters
& Tim Griffiths

11.00am *Communion –
Mike Gardiner

6.30pm *Haywards
Heath & District Churches
Joint Celebration Dolphin
Leisure Centre
(NO EVENING SERVICE
AT LURC)

25th

Tuesday **7.45pm**
Ladies 'In Touch'

26th

Wednesday **7.45pm** Elders' Meeting

27th

Thursday **8.00pm**
Monthly Prayer Meeting

Bike Week

15-23 JUNE

**What about cycling to church
on Sunday 16th June?**

www.bikeweek.org.uk

What about our Sunday Services* then?

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

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.

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.

fun page



In this magazine we want to try to provide all ages with something of interest. Younger ones take note: here is something to do when the grown-ups get boring!

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | N | P | E | T | E | R | U | Q |
| J | B | E | I | E | K | U | L | J |
| N | O | T | N | R | A | R | Z | E |
| I | U | N | A | A | E | D | K | R |
| S | J | M | A | P | H | L | C | E |
| T | J | O | B | H | T | U | G | M |
| C | R | Z | H | E | U | S | M | I |
| A | C | J | S | N | R | X | P | A |
| J | U | D | E | A | E | S | O | H |

can you find these 15 books
of the bible?...

Jeremiah

Job

Luke

Numbers

Titus

John

Hosea

Ezra

Nahum

Jude

Mark

Jonah

Ruth

Peter

Acts



competition quiz!

This month's quiz is all about our church – just look around the building or ask a friendly face to help you find out the answers! Anyone can enter the quiz, and help from grown-ups is allowed if you're young (you never know, they may learn a thing or two as well!) Write your answers clearly on a piece of paper, remembering to include your name and address. When you've finished pop it into the 'Good News' box at the back of church. The last date for entries is 16th June. **There will be a prize for the winner who will be announced in next month's magazine!**

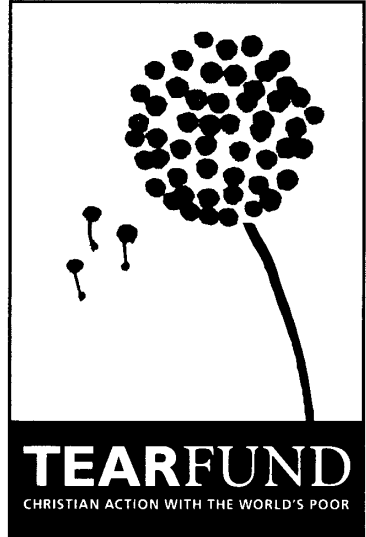
1. What is the name of the new monthly Sunday session for all children?
2. How many stairs are there to the upper room?
3. What is the church's phone number?
4. What is the name of the manse (house where the minister lives, next door to the church)?
5. Who is the church secretary?
6. When was the new building extension officially opened?
7. What mission are we supporting this month (June)?
8. Which group meets every Tuesday evening?
9. Who is the Junior Church co-ordinator?
10. How many serving 'Elders' are there?
11. Who presented the Junior Section of the Boys' Brigade with the Arthur Peake Memorial shield?
12. What is the name of the 11–14s group that meets on Sunday mornings?
13. What is the church's website address?
14. How many doors (not including the cupboard doors) are leading off the sloping hallway?

Don't forget to put your entry in the 'Good News' box (postal address on inside front cover) by Sunday 16th June!!

Tearfund

This month we will be supporting Tearfund and learning about some of the water related issues of today.

In a report by Global Action News we read:-
“The Human Waste – 20 million children will die in the developing world over the next 10 years if governments do not take the urgent action to combat the growing crisis of preventable disease caused by lack of sanitation. This is the conclusion of a new Tearfund and Water Aid report entitled The Human Waste. The report goes on to explain that nearly 6000 children are dying every day from conditions like diarrhoea because they have nowhere safe to go to the toilet and they lack clean water. World governments have virtually ignored the provision of sanitation for the world’s poorest people when setting goals for poverty reduction. But if they agree to spend £11 billion a year – the same that Europeans and Americans spend on dog food – water related disease around the globe could be halved.”



Come along to the Supper on **22nd June at 7.30pm** to see the video “Swept Away” and to hear more about Tearfund.

See the **Missions Notice board** for more information and please pick up an envelope for your donation. Tearfund’s web site address is **www.tearfund.org**

Shorts... _____

“Coming out as a Christian – particularly CofE which is so naff – is probably worse than coming out as a gay”

Sally Phillips,
co-star of
comedy show
‘Smack the Pony’
& BBC series
‘Rescue Me’

Welcome relief

To enable us to get a broad picture of this month's supported mission organisation, we feature this article from **TearTimes**, Tearfund's quarterly newsletter, which highlights just how valuable their resources are to those in need.

Devastated refugee communities in Sierra Leone and Serbia have received welcome aid from Tearfund's Disaster Response Teams.

Dragan Piljevic fled from Pristina, Kosovo, during the recent conflict and since then has been living with his family in cold and cramped conditions in Serbia. Materials from Tearfund are now enabling Dragan to renovate a room, creating comfortable living space for him and his family.

In a country plunged into poverty by the Balkans war, refugees and displaced people have crammed into cold, damp and exposed shelters and other people's houses. But with materials provided by Tearfund, people in Serbia are restoring their accommodation – as well as their hope and motivation.

'Even if I had no other costs, it would take me over three years to earn enough to buy the materials,' says Dragan. 'Without Tearfund's assistance, we would just stay as we are.'

Meanwhile, after ten years of

conflict in Sierra Leone, many refugees are returning home to find their villages ruined and lacking basic water and sanitation. Working with local people, Tearfund has renovated wells, dug toilets and made use of natural springs. They've also trained community-based educators in public health issues.

Much of Tearfund's Disaster Response Team's work in Kosovo and Serbia has been made possible by Tearfund's disaster appeal. Teams in Serbia, Sierra Leone and Burundi have boosted their projects by securing funds from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office.

Ppsst

**Want to hear more
about Tearfund?
see page 19**



The right place, at the right time

The book of Esther tells how the exiled Jewish people withstood an attempt to destroy them. It also demonstrates God's unseen work in the world, highlighted by the fact that God is never mentioned specifically by name.

The Plot

Esther, a young Jewish girl, is chosen as the new queen to King Xerxes of Persia. However, Haman plans the destruction of all the Jewish exiles when Esther's uncle Mordecai refuses to pay homage to him. Esther plays her part in exposing Haman's plot with humility, prayerfulness and boldness, while Haman's plans are foiled by his own greed and ambition, so enabling the Jews to survive.

* In what ways can seemingly insignificant events be part of God's greater plan for your life and those you care for?

The Purpose

Haman's plot is uncovered through a series of banquets and seemingly unrelated 'co-incidences'. However, they

show us God's hand at work behind the scenes. For us there is no such thing as fate, since God works his greater purpose through everything that happens to us.

* Are there things which feel out of control in your life? How might God want to work through them?

The Party

This story still occupies an important place in Jewish life as the focus of the festival of Purim, with its fancy dress, parties and special food. Christians can celebrate God's victory in Christ over sin, death and evil, as well as His faithfulness in our lives.

* In what ways are you rejoicing at what God has done for you?

The story is well summed-up by Mordecai's words to Esther, 'And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?' (4:14); so why not read it for yourself?

Paul Hardingham

SOURCE: CNS June 2002



remember exam stressed? remember the stressed!

Our 14+ Youth Group are heading into a time of mock and final exams, please remember the group in your prayers over the next couple of months.

Flower Rota

| | Arranging | Distributing |
|-------------|---|--|
| June | 2nd John Gage 9th Lyn Tucker 16th Janet Wade 23rd Hilda Donegan 30th Audrey McKee | Fiona Tingley Heather Swann Sue Tester Dorothy Forster Betty Peter |
| July | 7th Carol Walters 14th Jean Baxter 21st Anne Blake 28th Fiona Tingley | Jacqueline Wood Iris Bingham Fiona Tingley Heather Swann |

Betty Billins

“I’m truly blessed. I’ve been a Christian for six years and in all that time I haven’t had a single hangover, whereas I regularly used to wake up with no idea where I was. It’s no coincidence that since giving my life to the Lord, I’ve only missed four games through injury because I’m fitter and healthier than I’ve ever been.”

England Rugby Union player, Jason Robinson, quoted in the Sunday Telegraph.

What can I do?

As a church, we want this magazine to continue to be a good resource and enjoyable read for both those within the church and outside it. Anybody is free to submit items to the Editor (copyrighted material must have permission to reprint agreed), here are a few ideas to get you thinking...

Be one of a team who could read the magazine, record it on tape, and enable those who have impaired vision – so they can still get 'GoodNEWS'

Found a good Christian website? Tell us!

Write a review of a CD by a Christian musician/band.



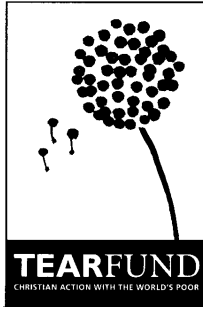
Tell us about your House Group meeting, or simply share the Bible study.

Inform the whole church of any special family news.

What's the Christian life like for you? Great, bad, indifferent – we can all learn and be encouraged as we share our experiences.

Give details of a local event that you know is going on, get it in the 'diary' section.

Share your passion, if you have a cause dear to your heart, tell us!



Tearfund Supper

Saturday 22nd June

7.30pm for 7.45pm

*“An opportunity to meet
socially and be informed”*

This will be an ‘in-house’ evening with video and up-to-date information about the work of Tearfund and in particular the desperate need that there is worldwide for clean water.

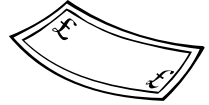


**Free tickets are available from the Missions Group;
Bill & Iris Green, Trudy Biersteker,
John Barling and Ron Goodenough.**

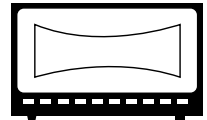
NB. During the month of June we will be devoting our Mission Giving to Tearfund and there will be opportunity during this evening to give towards the work.

Funny

Funny how a £10 note looks so big when you take it to church
But so small when you take it to the market.



*Funny how long it takes to serve God for an hour
But how quickly a team plays 60 minutes of football.*



Funny how long a couple of hours are spent at church
But how short they are when watching a movie.

*Funny how we can't think of anything to say when we pray
But don't have difficulty thinking of things to say to a friend.*



Funny how we get thrilled when a football match goes into extra time
But we complain when a sermon is longer.

*Funny how hard it is to read a chapter in the Bible
But how easy it is to read 100 pages of a best selling novel.*



Funny how it is that people want a front seat at any game or concert
But scramble to get a back seat at church services.

*Funny how we need 2 or 3 weeks notice to fit a church event
into our schedule
But can adjust our schedule for other events at the last minute.*

Funny how much difficulty some people have learning a simple
gospel well enough to tell others
But how simple it is for those same people to understand and
repeat gossip about someone.



*Funny how we believe what the newspapers say
But question what the Bible says.*

Funny how everyone wants to go to heaven, provided they don't
have to believe, or to think, or to pray, or to do anything.



Funny, isn't it?

*Contributed by Barry Piper – from: 'Steadfast' magazine
(produced by Boys' Brigade Old Boy Association, Brighton)*