

Dear Friends...



The best medicine

After counselling a melancholic patient for many months with no sign of recovery, an eminent psychiatrist decided upon a changed therapeutic approach. He began the next consultation with a humorous observation. A faint smile visited the furrowed brow. The professor tried another waggish remark, with warmer reaction. The patient ventured a witty response and soon both men were chortling empathically. Twenty minutes later, when the psychiatrist indicated that they should draw the session to a close, the man expressed concern that he had received no treatment. "But you feel better, don't you?" asked the psychiatrist. The patient admitted he did.

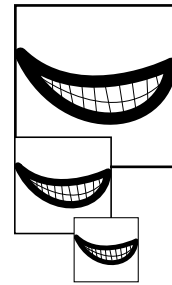
I was heartened that the editor ventured into humour therapy in the May GoodNEWS. Laughter is a precious medicine for me, and I would like to prescribe it for you. Ask the Sunday morning singers, and they will tell you how much they value a good joke at their Friday rehearsals. ("We are still waiting to hear a good joke" I hear them cry). And that is the therapy – the stress relieving merriment, the out-of-this-world moment, the togetherness forged from shared experience.

Of course, humour should not be hurtful or lewd. The Bible warns us against obscenity and "coarse joking" in Ephesians 5 v.4. It also tells us, in Ecclesiastes 3 v.4, that there is a time both to laugh and to weep. If you are downcast, struggling with tragedy, or facing great uncertainty, it may be hard to smile. But laughter, and tears, are both God-given channels of expression.

At the funeral of our dear friend, Zena Campling, on 6th May, Jeremy described how precious laughter had been to his mother, even when she was desperately ill.

Elsewhere in this edition you will find much written in anticipation of the arrival of our new minister, Colin Bones. The editor was quite taken by the notion that I might introduce this, by mentioning the fact that I share my home with a cat called Colin. So, in the most contrived link you are likely to read in this GoodNEWS, Colin the cat, like me (and I am sure all of you), eagerly awaits the coming of Colin the minister, and his family! We hope and pray that their time here will be happy and blessed, and that Colin's ministry among us will be fruitful.

Stuart Dew, elder



GoodNEWS

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Copydate for the July/August 2003 edition is noon, Sunday 15th June 2003. All contributions should be given to the editor by this time via email, or paper copy can be placed in the "GoodNEWS" pigeon hole at the rear of the church. Please ensure that you include contact details in case of query.

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Editorial



Even if you are only remotely interested in village life – we should have something that interests you this month!

With Village Day in the air, our feature focuses on Lindfield Common. Alan Gomme has kindly put together a piece on the past events (p. 4), we have dug out the day the common was landed upon by an Airship (p. 6) and I remind myself of what playtimes were like at the old Lindfield Junior School (p. 7).

What's more we can exclusively introduce our new minister and his family to you. Meet Colin and the gang in their personal profiles on page 17. We will be hearing much more of them around, as they start to settle in to life here.

All the usuals are covered this month, with Nikki Taylor (our resident missionary) penning her penultimate column report (p. 21), Twenty Questions (p. 20) and the diary of what's on at page 14.

As a special treat we hear about a local hard of hearing organisation on page 24 and Chris Saunders shares his testimony of what opportunities he has for talking about his faith with colleagues in the Fire Service (p. 26).

As ever: read, enjoy, pray and contribute. Thanks.

David Tingley, editor

Prayer Diary



SUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for Colin, Catherine and family preparing to move to Lindfield. • Remember their last services at Canford Heath and the farewells. • Pray that they will all soon feel welcome and at home here.
MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uphold those who go into our local schools to take assemblies. • Pray for all known to us who are taking exams locally and at University. • Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart to change and challenge.
TUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank God for all who are busy working in "Ryecroft". • Pray for them, and that the work may be completed on time. • Remember the traders in our village and the service they give.
WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for all persecuted Christians. • Uphold the fellowship at the Church of the Good Shepherd (soon to close its doors for the last time). • Pray for the new councillors recently elected.
THUR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayers for the URC:- • The prayer and outreach initiatives in Sussex. • District meeting on 27th (Induction of new President). • United Reformed Churches at Balcombe, St Lukes, Alfriston, Seaford & Upperton.
FRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember the bereaved in your prayers. • May God continue to work amongst and bless our children and young people. • Particularly ask for new regular helpers for Girls' Brigade.
SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for the work of Tearfund (our mission support this month). • Pray for the establishment of a stable government in Iraq. • Thank God for the new library in Haywards Heath. • Pray for all members/worshippers whose surnames begin with O, P & R. (Use the photographs in the Concourse to put names to faces.)

**Join in the URC
Week of Prayer -
see page 22**

Feature - Lindfield common

The great outdoors

Alan Gomme, church member and secretary of The Society for the Preservation of Lindfield, explores some history of Lindfield's common ground.

The Common, which technically includes the Pond, was originally much larger and has been reduced in size through the centuries but it has always been a centre for village activities.

Like most ancient country fairs, the two granted to Lindfield by Royal Charter in 1344 were mainly for the sale of livestock. The one in April soon passed into history, but the August fair with its attendant fun fair was a regular and popular feature of village life. Until 1906 up to 20,000 head of sheep would be penned in along the High Street but subsequently traffic conditions forced this to be held on the Common. The annual St. James fair was always a great attraction and brought crowds of visitors from far around and even the arrival of the trailers behind the powerful steam traction engines was a sight to behold. Between the wars, when the fair was one of the really big events of Sussex, the Southdown Bus Company would run charabancs from far and wide bringing hundreds of

visitors. Mr Tommy Smith and his family would be on the Common with their three abreast gallopers of 36 alternating horses and ostriches dancing up and down to the music of the giant organ.

Tennis on Lindfield Common was played long before the founding of the Tennis Club in 1930. Before the First World War the courts were near to where the present Bowling Club car park is now situated. The spacious green of Lindfield Common makes this an ideal location for recreation and leisure with football matches played regularly, a Bowling Club founded in 1903 and a Cricket Club that can trace its history back to 1747. In recent years the Common is often used as a take-off for hot air balloons which, although spectacular, pale into insignificance with the event recorded on Saturday 22nd April 1922, when Captain P. Broke-Smith landed H.M. Airship Gamma on the Common in order that he could visit his father-in-law, Admiral Twiss at Lindfield House for breakfast.



Illustration by Brian Tuppen

Another visitor to the Common was General Bernard Montgomery who paid a morale boosting visit to troops in Lindfield on Leap Day, 29th February 1944. Monty, standing in his Jeep was driven along the High Street acknowledging the children and adults lining the route waving Union Jacks. On arrival on the Common, where the soldiers were formed up, he gave the signal to break ranks, and gather round his vehicle and spoke to them on the importance of their mission and the dangers they would undoubtedly be required to face.

In June 1953 at the Coronation celebrations, the children from the Junior School were one of the highlights of the grand parade and carnival to the Common, which included 60

entrants in the fancy dress, and decorated bikes, prams and even a bath chair. Messrs C. & R. Anscombe had "recreated" the old village steam fire engine, and later that day toured the clapped out replica around the village offering, to "light fires for anyone who had not got one to be put out".

The Lindfield bonfire in November is a tradition on the Common but in 1959 the Bonfire Society had to build three bonfires, the first two vandals set ablaze. A third bonfire was built from hastily scrounged combustibles, and placed under guard. Third time lucky, and the parade got off to a good start wending its way through the village led by the Horsham Royal

continued on Page 6

Feature – Lindfield common

continued from Page 5

Legion Band accompanied by over 600 torches and a procession of parents and children in fancy dress. Once on the Common the ritual Bonfire Prayer was recited before match was put to touch paper and in a spectacular display of fire crackers, Mr. Fawkes disintegrated and the pyrotechnic show, lasting for a full half an hour of Oohs and Arrhs took place.

It is also a tradition that Royal and certain other events on the common should include an Open Air Service conducted by clergy from the three village churches. Services have been conducted from a variety of improvised

platforms, including the Rev. Swann leading the Prayers at the Coronation celebrations of 1937 from a cart, Richard Tucker on stage at the Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1977 and in more recent years our own Rev Norman Smith has led the service from the roundabout.

And a wedding on the gallopers! While researching this piece I took a call concerning a speaker for one of our meetings in 2004 and when I told her what I was working on today she told me a story about a couple getting married on the gallopers at a recent Village Day on the Common.

What a Common!
Alan Gomme

Sources: Lindfield Within Living Memory 1995, The Millennium Lindfield Times 1999 & Lindfield Remembered 2002.



Those magnificent men in their flying machines came to Lindfield on 22nd April 1922. A training flight of HM Airship Gamma made a scheduled landing on the common, out stepped Capt P. Broke-Smith who led his fellow officers on a walk up to Lindfield House to take breakfast with his father-in-law, Admiral Twiss at Lindfield House.

6 – June GoodNEWS

Source: Extract from Lindfield Remembered 2002, (S.B. Publications)

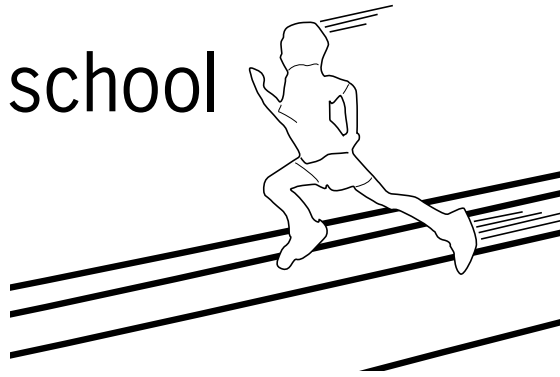
Feature – Lindfield common

Playtime at school

Before Lindfield Junior School turned into exclusive homes I cannot afford, I can think back to many memories of being on the Common as a local school boy.

The school, standing back to the Common, has so much amazing history. I can remember, as a pupil, seeing photographs of it about one hundred years ago. With its awesome Victorian high ceilings in the classrooms, giving it a fearfully institutional look to me as a youngster only used to artificially lowered-height rooms. I wondered at the school's history, never really considering that one day I would be part of it, and reminiscing.

School in summer always brought new and wonderful opportunities to lunchtimes, with the Common being used as our super-size playground for the warmer months. Of course it was still 'patrolled' by the teachers seeking to spoil all our fun, but the large grass space felt like a well-deserved freedom from the constraints of the playground's surrounding walls. Daisy chains, swapping sweets and generally trying to find a place in the most unused part of grass was my game I seem to remember –



well, you know what it is like for us shy, retiring types!

Then there was Sports Days – where the Common became our outdoor arena. Mums and Dads lined the 100m track painted onto the grass. They sat on our little school chairs that we had had to carry out and arrange that morning – well, I couldn't complain, it was better than lessons! Mr Jarvis reminded us of our house teams' progress with assistance from a loud-hailer of some sort, his voice echoing round the houses surrounding the Common as the warm sun beat down on us all.

So that is it, just my part of history on Lindfield Common. But something I feel strangely grateful for now, a memory that seems to typify an education at a rural school in this country – but one that seems so far away from what schools would be able to do today.

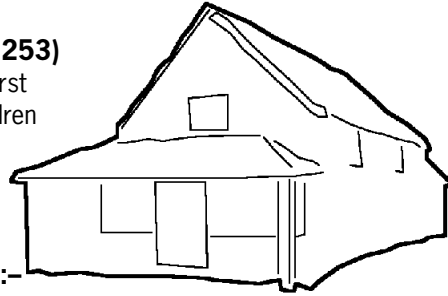
David Tingley

Balcombe United Reformed Church

Bramble Hill, Balcombe, RH17 6HR

Contact: Mrs Leonie Wren (01444 811253)

Our main services are held at 11am on the first and third Sunday of each month and the children usually go out to Sunday School during the second part of the service. Visitors are always welcome.



Speakers for this month are as follows:-

1st June Philip Wren

15th June CHURCH ANNIVERSARY: Michael Davies

TEARFUND SUPPER

on Saturday 6th JULY at 7.30pm

"In House" evening with two videos. 'Bright Sparks' about education in Ethiopia and another video concerning the disaster looming in Ethiopia and Eritrea due to drought and famine.

Tickets available from John Barling, Ron Goodenough, Trudy Biersteker, Iris and Bill Green.



How to Drug Proof Your Kids **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

Care for the Family
PO Box 488
Cardiff CF15 7YY

Tel: 029 2081 0800

www.care-for-the-family.org.uk

'How to Drug Proof Your Kids' is an innovative, new programme being launched by Care for the Family. It is specially designed for parents and aims to help them:

- * Become better informed about current drug use and related harm
- * Develop strategies to help their children make informed choices about drug use
- * Spend time examining their own beliefs and attitudes about drug use
- * Gain community information and access to support

They are running training courses to be 'presenters' to help run courses, giving you an opportunity to contribute to health and wellbeing of families in your community. 28-29 June 2003 at Waverley Abbey House in Surrey. More info from Care for the Family.

News

'Stand up for life' says Alton

Pressure groups are stepping up their campaigns against a Bill to legalise euthanasia. The first debate on Lord Joffe's Assisted Dying Bill will take place in the House of Lords on 6th June, but opponents to the Dutch-style legislation met back in May to stand against this "act of violence". Campaigners heard that a survey – commissioned by Right to Life – revealed that almost three out of four doctors (74%) would refuse to perform assisted suicide if it were legalised. Lord David Alton leads the cross-party group of parliamentarians saying no to the Bill.

Source: Christian Herald – the UK's only inter-church weekly. Subscribe on 01903 602100

Back to school

Speaker and author J John has got a new initiative off the ground to give a free copy of his latest book to all UK secondary school religious education teachers. The Philo Trust which supports J John, said it was now working with local education authorities, school networks and charities to distribute "The Life – A Portrait of Jesus" to more than 7,600 secondary schools.

Source: Christian Herald – the UK's only inter-church weekly. Subscribe on 01903 602100

Hundreds of churches to be wiped off the map

In an act of cartographic deconsecration, the Ordnance Survey is to remove from its maps symbols of churches that are no longer used as places of worship.

About 1,600 Church of England churches and 300 Methodist chapels have been declared redundant in recent years and these will all be removed from Explorer maps unless they have a landmark tower or spire. The new maps will also delete redundant mosques and synagogues — but there are unlikely to be many of them. "If it has no navigational purpose, and is no longer used as a place of worship, it will be removed," Scott Sinclair, head of press at Ordnance Survey, said. He compared it to the removal of former railway stations.

However, heritage groups are outraged. Richard Morris, a church historian and a commissioner for English Heritage, said: "Deleting them from the way we represent landscape is deleting one layer of our cultural habitat, for no good reason. It's crazy. It's crackers. Maps are not just about getting from A to B, they're about understanding where we live."

Alex Hunt, of the Council of British Archaeology, said: "There goes a millennium of history. Churches are part of the history of the landscape."

A spokesman for the Methodist Church said: "There has to be some recognition of it being a site of historic interest." And Constance Barrett, of the Church Conservation Trust, said the move would set back the rising popularity of visiting old church buildings: "The timing is so counter to the whole interest in listing churches, which is growing rapidly."

A spokesman for Tony McNulty, the minister responsible for the Ordnance Survey, said: "This is a matter for Ordnance Survey, and the Government won't get involved."

Source: The Times: by Anthony Browne

Family News

Bereavement

It is with sadness that we record the death of **Zena Campling**. After battling with illness for a long time she has journeyed on to be with her Lord. Zena has been a member of this church for many years. The thanksgiving service was held on 6th May. We extend our love and sympathy to Graham, Noel, Jeremy and Mel and all the family.

Birth's

Congratulations to **Emma and David Tingley** on the arrival of Georgina Katy on the 23rd April

And also to **Janet and Ron Goodenough** who have another grandson, Henry, born to Nigel and Sarah.

Moving

John and Ann Blake have moved to 5 Upper Stables, Parkfield Way, Bolnore Village RH16 4TA. Telephone number remains the same (448018).

Reg Campling has moved to Compton House.

Thanks

The Campling family would like to express their very grateful thanks to all those friends who, during Zena's long illness, gave such immense prayerful and practical support and encouragement. We would also like to thank the many friends who sent us words of comfort since Zena went to her Lord, and especially those who joined us at the Service of Thanksgiving for Zena's life. The love of Jesus is seen in such a caring Church.

Graham, Noel, Jeremy and Melanie, Elsie and Reg

10 – June GoodNEWS

Thanks

Thank you so much for all those who sent cards, messages and generally made a fuss of us, since our little Georgina was born. Praise God for His goodness – we are certainly having lots of fun as a family!

I know John and Heather and Fiona have also been 'showered' with cards, for which they are most appreciative.

David & Emma Tingley



Fairtrade grocery stall

The fairtrade stall got off to a great start with Suzy and Serena selling £155-worth of goods between the church services. Next months stall is on 15th June.

Family News

Liz goes on tour...

Professional actor and Lindfield URC church member, Liz Jadav took to the road at the end of last month, in a production of The Merchant of Venice.

The tour, by production company Illyria, goes around the country until late August – stopping at The Hawth Amphitheatre in Crawley on 4th June.

Liz, who is a teacher-turned-actor, has been professionally acting for two years. Over that time she has found herself playing many roles in many theatres and schools up and down the UK.

She has been in a stage-play in Derby to working with The Rainbow Theatre Company in

schools on the likes of Cinderella, Harry Potter and a play about the life of Moses – in which she played an Egyptian Mummy. Wrapped from top to bottom in bandages and with a bag over her head, when asked how she breathed in the outfit, she simply replied “slowly!”.

The Merchant of Venice is Liz’s first production with Illyria – the show only uses five actors and an uncut Shakespeare script. “It’s pretty fast and full of action” she said – in one section of 13 pages Liz has to make 13 costume changes!

In case you miss out on catching Liz in June, the play is also at Bodiam Castle in Kent on 10th August.

...and Leesa taps the floor

Also playing at The Hawth theatre complex, was Leesa LeMay, back in April, for a production of ‘Singing in the Rain’ by Crawley Operatic Society. Leesa rekindled her love for the theatre last year, when the Society had a bit of a last minute lack of dancers in the company – when the tap dance teacher saw they were doing this show she said: “I couldn’t resist it”.

Heather Barling, who went to see the show in Crawley, said: “An enthusiastic tap-dancing beginner (John!) and fellow novices (all girls actually!) thoroughly enjoyed seeing their very talented teacher in action. Others of you who saw the production would no doubt agree that the cast and supporting team did a great job. It was hard to believe it was an amateur production... we even had rain! Well done.”

John 5v1-18

¹Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. ²Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. ⁴One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁵When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

⁷“Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”

⁸Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.”

⁹At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, ¹⁰and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.”

¹¹But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

¹²So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?” ¹³The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

¹⁴Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.”

¹⁵The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

¹⁶So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him. ¹⁷Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.” ¹⁸For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Compassionate, not constrained

This healing is one of only three such incidents John selects for his account, compared with at least eighteen separate healings in the other gospels.

Let's recap that key verse in 20v31 – John's objective is to lead us to life, through our faith in Christ as the anointed Son of God. As we read through John's Gospel, we find that his style is to intersperse Jesus' teaching with cameos of Jesus' encounters with individuals; sometimes healing encounters (as here and in 5v46–54 and 9v1–7), sometimes significant conversations (as with Nicodemus in chapter 3 and the Samaritan woman in chapter 4). John likes to recount a miracle, then show how that miracle was a "sign" to illustrate a spiritual truth. See, for example chapter 6, where Jesus' presentation of himself as "the Bread of Life" arises out of the feeding of the 5000, and chapter 9, where the healing of a blind man develops into a discussion of spiritual blindness.

In this passage, we see Jesus meeting a very sick man who had lost all hope. When Jesus asks him if he wants to get well, the man doesn't jump at the chance, but complains about his lack of help (v6–7). Although

Jesus often healed in response to faith, here it seems that the man was so sunk in his private pit of despair that he hadn't even heard of Jesus (v13)! But Jesus' power is not limited even by our lack of faith, and the "no-hoper" is given health and life through meeting the Lord of life.

The healing brings into the open two of the conflicts between Jesus and the religious leaders (v16–18). The Sabbath (Saturday), was the day of rest and worship commanded by God, but it was often observed in a hypocritical way. It seems that Jesus was never asked to heal on the Sabbath, but here, as on other occasions, he did not hesitate to take the initiative and extend his compassionate ministry to those in need, regardless of the day of the week. Jesus' answer to his critics led to the more serious charge of blasphemy. But we, John's readers, have known right from the start (see 1v1) that Jesus is no charlatan – his claims are true!

This passage teaches us that we may have lost hope, may be looking to a bleak future. But Jesus is the anointed Son of God, and he can and does still give life and hope to those who come to him in their need.

Mike Gardiner

June diary

**1st
Sunday**

9.30am David Nibloe &
Cavan Wood
11.0am Cavan Wood
6.30pm Richard Tucker

5th

Thursday House Groups

**8th
Sunday**

Pentecost Sunday
9.30am David Nibloe &
Derek Heath
11.0am Derek Heath
3.0pm Service of
Dedication of the New
Women's Section British
Legion Standard
6.30pm United Service
at All Saints

11th

Wednesday Lunch Fellowship Outing

**village
events?**

Contact us about local
events in July/August.

14 - June GoodNEWS

12th

Thursday 8.0pm Church Meeting

**15th
Sunday**

9.30am Adrian Cookney's
House Group

**Monthly fairtrade stall
between the services**

11.0am Jeremy Taylor
(All Saints)

12noon Copy Date for
July/August GoodNEWS

6.30pm Haywards Heath
& District
Churches United
Celebration at
Clair Hall

18th

Wednesday 1.15pm Christianity
Made Clear at Clair Hall.
Free entry.

19th

Thursday House Groups

21st

Saturday 9.0am Health & Hygiene
Church Training Day

**22nd
Sunday**

9.30am David Nibloe &
Stuart Dew

11.0am Communion
Stuart Dew

6.30pm Richard Walters
& Tim Griffiths

24th

Tuesday 7.45pm Ladies 'In Touch'

25th

Wednesday 7.45pm Elders' Meeting

26th

Thursday 8.0pm Monthly Prayer Meeting

**29th
Sunday**

9.30am Parade Service
David Nibloe &
David Walters

11.0am David Walters

6.30pm Richard Walters
& Gerry Willis

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.

Monthly mission support

Tearfund

Our giving in June will be supporting children's education in Ethiopia through Tearfund. The following are extracts from a Tearfund leaflet.



CHRISTIAN ACTION WITH THE WORLD'S POOR

"I want to be a doctor. I want to help people."

Hannah, aged 10, lives in a valley so remote it has no roads, no electricity, no running water – and until recently no school.

Now she is learning to read and write – thanks to the Meserete Kristos

Church. Supported by Tearfund and local communities, they have built 10 education centres across the valley, in Meta Robi, Ethiopia, bringing basic education to more than 2,500 children.

Hannah and her friends study English and Maths (Hannah's favourites), as well as health, nutrition and environmental studies. And they have the chance to play and make friends.

Misre must work an eight-hour day in neighbours' fields to earn 22p.

Misre is 15 and has barely been to school.

Her mum Werki says; 'Misre is always crying because she wants to go to school. But the problem is I can't afford to send her. I can't even feed her, let alone support her education by buying pencils, pens and exercise books'.

Along with her brothers and her parents, Misre must work an eight-hour day in neighbours' fields to earn 22 pence.

Like six out of ten children, without education, Misre faces a life-sentence of hard labour."

Through Tearfund, you can give children like Hannah the opportunity to learn, to develop – to fulfil their dreams and give access to education to the poorest families like Misre's.

You will find further information and envelopes for your gifts by the Missions Notice Board.

Meet the new minister

After 18 months without a minister, Colin Bones comes to 'fill the gap' at Lindfield URC with his formal induction on 12th July. Colin and family have kindly agreed to tell us a bit about themselves in preparation for them moving to Sussex late June.

10th May 2003

From the Bones family

We are very excited and looking forward to our move to Lindfield.

Thank you to all the people who are working so hard to prepare Ryecroft for us. Emily keeps asking, 'When can we go to our new house.' It has seemed a long time coming, but suddenly we are in mid-May and the move is becoming a reality. We are anticipating a lovely summer getting to know you all and the area.

Amidst all the practical things that need to be done we are thinking about the induction service (which is almost finalised) and the life of the church. Colin is eagerly looking forward to taking his position, settling in, seeking vision and looking to the future development of the work God has for our congregation. Catherine is looking forward to finding her place and role within the congregation's life and witness and finding a nursing post locally.

We shall be with you about the third week of June but roll on 12th July!

*Every Blessing
Colin and Catherine*

Meet the new minister



Colin

Colin is a very active and keen sportsman, he plays tennis and hockey, and enjoys visits to the gym and circuit training. So if anyone was wondering how he keeps such an impressive physique then your question is answered! They say that a dog is man's best friend and this is certainly true for Colin. I have no doubt that many of you will be seeing him strolling down the High Street with our two loveable hounds. Although Colin doesn't watch much television you can be assured that if there is a football match on then he will be watching! Colin used to be an industrial chemist but finds his call to Christian ministry much more fulfilling.

18 - June GoodNEWS

Colin says: "See 1 Timothy 4:8!"

Catherine

Catherine, like Colin, is very close to all of her children and loves being a mum. In fact our older children love her so.. much that I think she and Dad may be getting worried that we will never leave home! She is very gifted at children's work and can turn her hand to most things. Not only is she a full time mum of five but she also works as a nurse, a career that she really enjoys. As well as seeing her friends Catherine enjoys cooking, (and is very good at it), singing and reading but above all she loves peace and quiet (but she doesn't get much of it)!

George

George is 20 years old and is currently in his first year studying for a degree in politics and sociology at Reading University. He is very much enjoying this and loves university life! George's main hobby is playing tennis and he has enjoyed playing in different tournaments; he also likes to keep fit with weekly visits to the gym! He is a man of many talents ranging from sport to karaoke not to mention writing poetry! George is also a brilliant dog walker which always comes in handy if Dad is away!

Lydia

Lydia is 16 years old and is taking her GCSE's at the moment. Lydia plans to go to college next year and is still thinking about what path she would like to follow career-wise. Lydia is a very bubbly, independent young lady and enjoys spending time with her friends. She is also a member of a dance group and really enjoys her dancing! She has played a very active role in the youth group at our current church and is extremely gifted in this work!

Joshua (Bo)

Josh is two years old and is a very bubbly and cheeky little boy. He is very much a lad and loves playing football, particularly with Dad! Josh is extremely funny, he has a very good sense of humour and loves to play the comedian. He is very energetic and loves swimming!!! Josh will be starting the Tiger Cubs pre-school in September which he is already excited about! He is very sociable with other children but is definitely a mummy's boy and can be quite shy!

Hannah

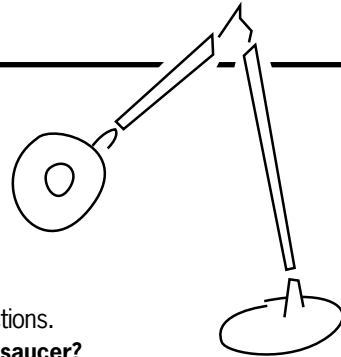
Hannah is 18 years old and has been studying child care for the past two years at Poole College. She will be taking a year out next year to earn some money and decide what sort of a career she would like to pursue. Like all of our children Hannah is free spirited and confident! She plays a big role in bringing up her younger siblings Emily and Josh. Hannah is very talented at poetry and hopes to soon have some of her work published. She, like Lydia, enjoys spending time with her friends and I am sure that our phone bill will go up significantly when we move!

Emily

Emily is 4 years old and becomes more like her elder sisters every day; she already loves make up and shopping! Spending a lot of time with Hannah and Lydia and their friends Emily seems to be growing up fast. She is a lovely fun-loving little girl and she loves Barbie and anything pink! She loves dancing and playing with her friends. Emily is extremely talented and artistic and not a day goes by without her doing some craft! She also loves visits to the park. Emily will start Lindfield Primary School in September.

Twenty more questions

GoodNEWS takes a probing glimpse into the minds of those who come to the church! Twenty Questions gives you a chance to guess the interviewee and learn a bit more about them too! This month's guest is revealed on the foot of Page 27.

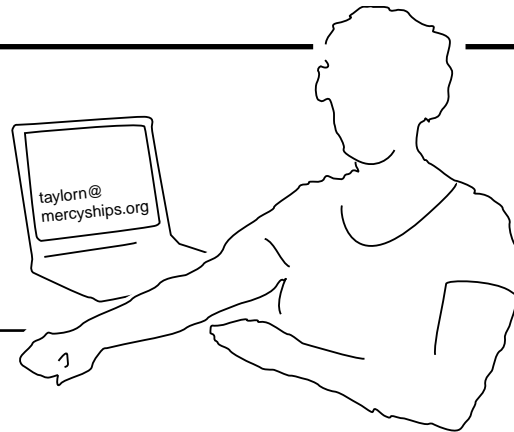


1. **What is your best memory from your school days?**
Going home.
2. **Favourite TV programme?**
Most Police dramas.
3. **If 'Changing Rooms' were to visit your home, which room would you ask them to redecorate?**
None. I would do it myself.
4. **Banoffee Pie, Apple Crumble or Fruit Salad?**
Apple Crumble.
5. **Which service do you frequent most often?**
9.30 and 6.30.
6. **Have you been trained in a specific line of work, if so what?**
Electrician.
7. **What one person do you think has most influenced your desire to follow Christ?**
Many, but one is a BB officer from my youth.
8. **Who would you most want to have a 'one-to-one' conversation with (past or present)?**
Isombard Kingdom Brunel.
9. **Do you qualify for a free Bus Pass?**
No.
10. **Shoe size?**
7.
11. **Create a new law:**
People have to be responsible for their own actions.
12. **Mug or cup & saucer?**
Mug.
13. **Do you have a personal email account?**
Yes.
14. **What is the best strength of the Christian church?**
You and me. If we do not move forward the church will die.
15. **Describe the 'Christian life' in no more than three words.**
Life everlasting.
16. **Most romantic moment?**
Me, romantic?
17. **Best moment of fame?**
Leading singing at the Royal Albert Hall.
18. **Give one piece of wisdom to the next generation.**
Do everything to the best of your ability and complete the task.
19. **What is the greatest difference between your life now and before you became a Christian?**
It would probably be to please God in all I do and not just please myself and other people.
20. **Glasses, contact lenses or none?**
Glasses.

Go on, take the 20 Questions challenge
at www.lindfieldurc.org.uk

My world

Missionary tales by Nikki Taylor



Mercy Ships Freetown, Sierra Leone

I am trying to download my brain to Samuel our new local staff, who is succeeding me in the IT administration. I wish it were as easy as burning a CD. I seem to keep so much in my head and I thought I had everything pretty much down in files but my computer tells me that is not so as Samuel asks questions which the computer can't answer.

It is so hot here. I have sweat trickling down my neck by 6.30am when I go to clean my teeth. I am just praying for rain. I am so thankful for air-conditioning in the office.

There is an outbreak of TB among the communities we work with. Their state of health is very poor because of the lack of food. So whatever medication can be given is useless without the food, and others catch it easily. There is so much to do here, how can I leave?

We took the 29 disabled children from the Ingrid Centre to the beach. Melrose takes care of all the children age 2 – 15 from her wheelchair and teaches them basic lessons and vocational skills. We had so much fun. They all wanted to go in the sea and my arms ached from carrying the kids in and out for a 'deep swim'. Friends in the British Army lent us the transport, paid for the picnic and came along to help out (they were great). There were a few wipe outs and scraped knees and a nose bleed among the adult helpers; all the kids had a fabulous time. Aminata held the day with her huge smiles and deep chuckling laugh. What a fabulous time.

So finally we got the rain, a huge deluge. I got my fingers trapped in the steel door to the balcony when I went out to shut the windows at 3.00am this morning. Incredible the amount of rain. My mind goes to those 29 children sleeping on the mud floor under canvas while I am tucked up in my bed. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. This is so true. I am praying God will send more because my time here is finished.

I am really looking forward to coming home now. But I am also scared. I don't really like England so much, the people always seem to be angry, and interests in matching Gucci handbag and shoes seem so superficial. Plus the weather is awful. I don't know what my near future holds, which is also scary. What does God have for me next? Please continue to hold me in your prayers.

LOOK AT PRAYER DIFFERENTLY

"The Apostles often met together
and prayed with a single purpose
in mind ... On the day of Pentecost
all the Lord's followers were
together in one place ... The Holy
Spirit took control of everyone"
(Acts 1:14; 2:1, 4)

Week of Prayer 2-7 June 2003

United Reformed
Church
Sussex East and West
Districts



Week of Prayer

As a Church we are asking everyone to include the following subjects in their prayers for this special week of prayer:-

DAILY PRAYER PROGRAMME: 2nd – 6th June 2003

- MONDAY 2nd Pray for new spiritual life in individual members of URC
- TUESDAY 3rd Pray for new spiritual life in LURC, and for the new Ministry with Rev Colin Bones. Also pray for the other two churches in Lindfield.
- WEDNESDAY 4th Pray for new spiritual life in the URC and other churches in Sussex.
- THURSDAY 5th Pray for new spiritual life in local communities.
- FRIDAY 6th Pray for new spiritual life in Sussex and the UK.

Would the regular Prayer Meetings and the House Groups please include this material in their prayer times. There will be an additional opportunity to pray together for the spiritual life and future ministry of our church in the Lounge on **Tuesday 3rd June** at 8pm.

Special tribute made

Lindfield Royal British Legion Women's Section is dedicating a new Standard in memory of Jackie Munday and the celebration of the 60th anniversary of our branch on Sunday 8th June at 3pm in Lindfield United Reformed Church.

This is a special occasion. County Standards from other branches will be parading before the service, leaving Hickmans Lane playing field at 2.30pm. This will be led by Mid Sussex Pipe Band.

After the service the Standards will parade past the saluting base near the pond then return to the URC for Tea, which we hope you will come and join us at.

Betty Billins

Funnies on marriage

A woman who took her husband 'for better, for worse,' found that he proved to be far worse than she took him for!

A free-church clergyman was so scrupulous about his morals that he refused to perform any marriage ceremonies. His conscience would not allow him to participate in any game of chance!

We live in a two-storey house. She's got her story and I've got mine! (*William Loblett Jnr*)

June GoodNEWS – 23

Working in the Community

Here's looking at you

Peter Ford, general manager of Haywards Heath-based voluntary group West Sussex Hard of Hearing Association, writes here on reflection from 'Deaf Awareness Week' which took place last month.

I'm on my way back from a Deaf Awareness Week reception at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London. I've been 'hob-knobbing' with Lords and M.P's and networking with other voluntary groups that work with Deaf and Hard of Hearing people around the Country.

This year's theme for the week has been 'LOOK AT ME'. The delegates at the reception and the events that have been organised across the country have been saying [through the slogan] there are ways of communicating with Deaf and Hard of Hearing people that make life inclusive.

We often give a presentation to social, professional and business groups entitled 'Deaf

not Daft'. These three words sum up the basic problem. A deafened friend once said to me 'I don't have a problem with my deafness until you (hearing people) talk to me.' What she was saying was follow the basic rules like 'Look at Me' so I can read your lips, see your signing, interpret your body language and gestures etc.

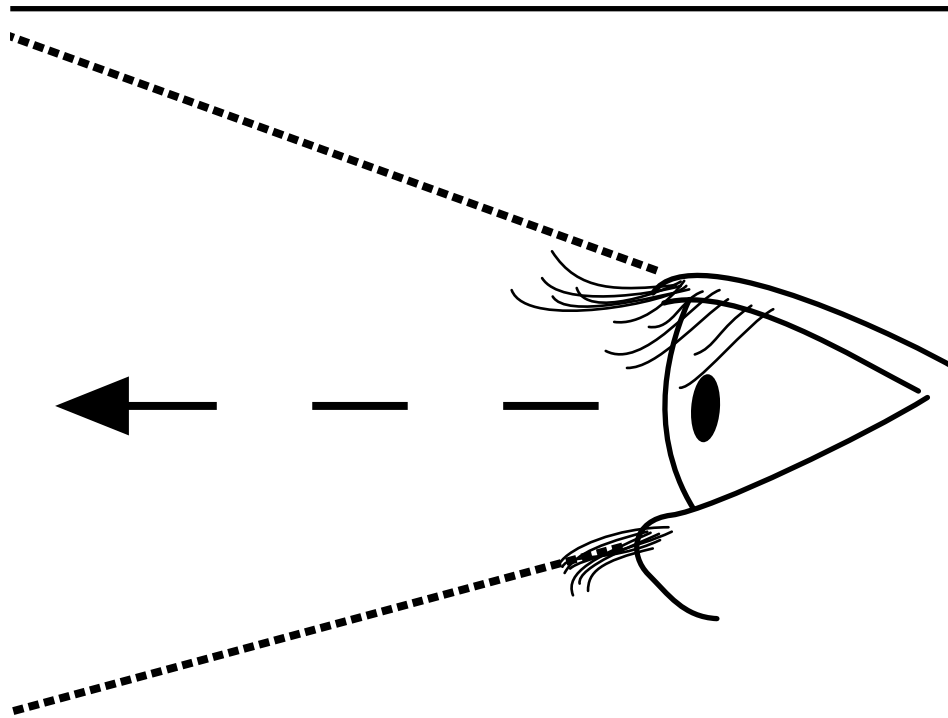
We all know someone who has

hearing difficulties. I wonder if you fall into the trap – thinking I've cracked it – I just shout at them. That's the worst thing you can do because it distorts the sound and your

face. It's much more important to get their attention, look at them, speak a little slower, don't drop your voice at the end of sentences etc.

So, what's the Association all about? Well, we are made





up of three very skilled and committed colleagues plus a team of 25 volunteers and a Board of Trustees – all of whom have a hearing loss work to support hearing impaired people across the County and beyond.

We act as a link to improve communication and ensure people get the services, care and environmental equipment they need. The work also includes support through education and training, all with the object of making life more inclusive.

If you or someone you know has a problem pop in and see us

at 5a Hazelgrove Road, Haywards Heath. We're open Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30 to 1.30pm and Tuesday & Thursday 9.30 to 4.00pm.

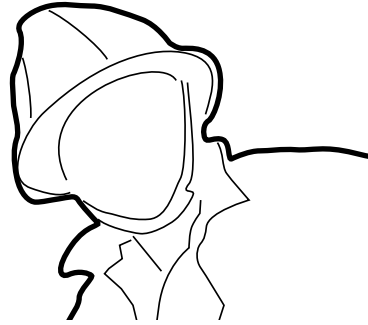
Deaf Awareness Week – so what was that for? It's just a week highlighting problems and needs for this, the largest disability grouping in the country, and how you and I can improve communication with and for them.

So 'Look at Me' is not so much to say 'I'm great' but in order that you can help me to understand and follow what you are saying.

Peter D Ford

The back pages

Playing with fire



Its been nearly seven years since I managed to get in to the Fire Service. Many of you will be aware of the time I spent at Training School, it was testing mentally, physically and spiritually and I do not think I would have got through it without the support and encouragement of Nicola, parents and a number of you who prayed regularly for me.

Whilst on the 14 week residential course I quickly made it clear to my peers that I was a Christian and received the usual negative comments. It seemed relatively easy, but then I started on station, and it was more difficult.

It was immediately evident that there was a certain macho image to maintain, no one seemed to show emotion or weakness, and soon enough I found that Religion was viewed to be a weakness after seeing Songs of Praise on TV. The comments generated were quite offensive but I said nothing for fear of ridicule. The Fire Service is not an easy place for a Christian, so I hid my beliefs.

I have always tried to stay out of certain conversations, jokes or the drunken nights on the town. I have also tried to keep my language clean in an environment where swear words are used more than

please and thank you! I soon learnt words I had never heard of or wanted to hear.

I really wanted to come clean about my faith but the longer I left it the harder it got. It is hard enough to be the new boy or "sprog" as you are affectionately called in your first two years. Over the past 7 years I have tried to act as I should but not always managed it.

But then last week the opportunity arose for me to tell all...

We were watching Eastenders, Dot Cotton had lost her bible when one of my colleagues said to me, are you religious? BANG, there it was! So I took my chance and told all, heart pounding.

It turns out they had suspected something all along, with the way I acted in certain circumstances etc. I got the usual questions "How do you know that God exists" and the like, but no ridicule. I did not try to answer their questions, hey one step at a time; after all its taken seven years to get this far and it feels good.

I just wish Dot had lost her bible sooner!

Chris Saunders

The back pages

Thank you from Operation Mobilisation

I want to thank you for the recent gift of £1600 for the Sivakasi Child Care Project in India. The purchase of the land, building of the wall, digging of a bore well and the first phase of the building construction has been completed. We really thank God for all of this.

The involvement of Lindfield United Reformed Church has been a great blessing to this project. This will transform many lives of young children, rescuing them from child labour in the factories and giving them education and life direction. This is a significant investment from the church. I hope someone will again visit Sivakasi sometime in the future.

Please continue to pray for the ongoing work in India.

Shankar Sankannawar, director of India Ministries

Thank you from Prison Fellowship

Thank you for your generous gift of £600 to Prison Fellowship.

We give thanks to God for the successful pilot of the Sycamore Tree course. Nine young men in Feltham Young Offenders Institution took part and were particularly impacted by the victims who came to tell their stories. Please pray that the course will have positive long-term effects on the young men who took part.

We continue to give thanks to God for the opportunities He provides through projects like this – as well as the everyday ongoing ministry of the 156 local Prison Fellowship groups.

We thank you for your prayers and financial gifts which help to make all this possible.

The Twenty Questions guest this month was: David Walters. Why don't you take the challenge? Email the editor your answers, or do it on the church website.

Flower Rota

		Arranging	Distributing
June	1	John Gage	Vera Dorton
	8	Lindfield R.B.L.W.S.	Sue Tester
	15	Iris Green	Dorothy Forster
	22	Gladys Porter	Betty Peter
	29	Barbara Shepherd	Jacqueline Wood
July	6	Zoe McQuillin	Iris Bingham
	13	<Induction>	Fiona Tingley
	20	Gladys Porter	Heather Swann
	27	Fiona Tingley	Vera Dorton

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)
- 11.00am Morning Worship
Holy Communion (4th Sunday)
- 6.30pm Evening Service
Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)
- Healing Services as announced*

PRAYER MEETINGS:

- Mon 9.15am An Hour of Prayer
- Wed 9.45am Short Service of Intercession
- Thur 8.00pm Church Prayer Evening
(4th Thursday)
- Fri 7.30am Prayer Meeting in the Lounge

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

- Sun 6.30pm Sunday Evening Youth Group
- Mon 6.30pm Boys' Brigade – Junior Section (8–11 years)
- Tue 10.00am Stepping Stones
(Parents and toddlers)
- 6.15pm Girls' Brigade – Juniors, Seniors & Brigaders
- 7.45pm In Touch (4th Tuesday)
- Wed 2.45pm The Fellowship (4th Wed.)
- 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 Boys' Brigade – Company Section (11+ years)

House Groups normally meet 1st and 3rd Thursday

**The church is open Monday to Saturday
from 10.00am to 1.00pm**

28 – June GoodNEWS

Phonebook



Church Telephone Number:

01444 484620

Boys' Brigade:

Geoffrey Cocksedge
01444 474007

Cradle Roll:

Sue Tester 01444 482810

Flowers:

Betty Billins 01444 484494

Girls' Brigade:

Margaret Luscombe
01444 412156

Hall Letting Secretary:

Audrey McKee 01444 415031

In Touch:

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Lunch Fellowship:

Wednesday:
Iris Green 01444 484117
Friday: Gwen and
Derrick Hillman 01444 456963

Magazine: Editor:

David Tingley 01444 451024

The Fellowship:

Jessie Green 01444 452708
Roy Billins 01444 484494

Stepping Stones:

Janet Goodenough
01825 740351

Transport:

Tina Elphick 01444 484440

Youth and Children's Work

Co-ordinator:

Rob Biersteker 01444 440835

Junior Church Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683