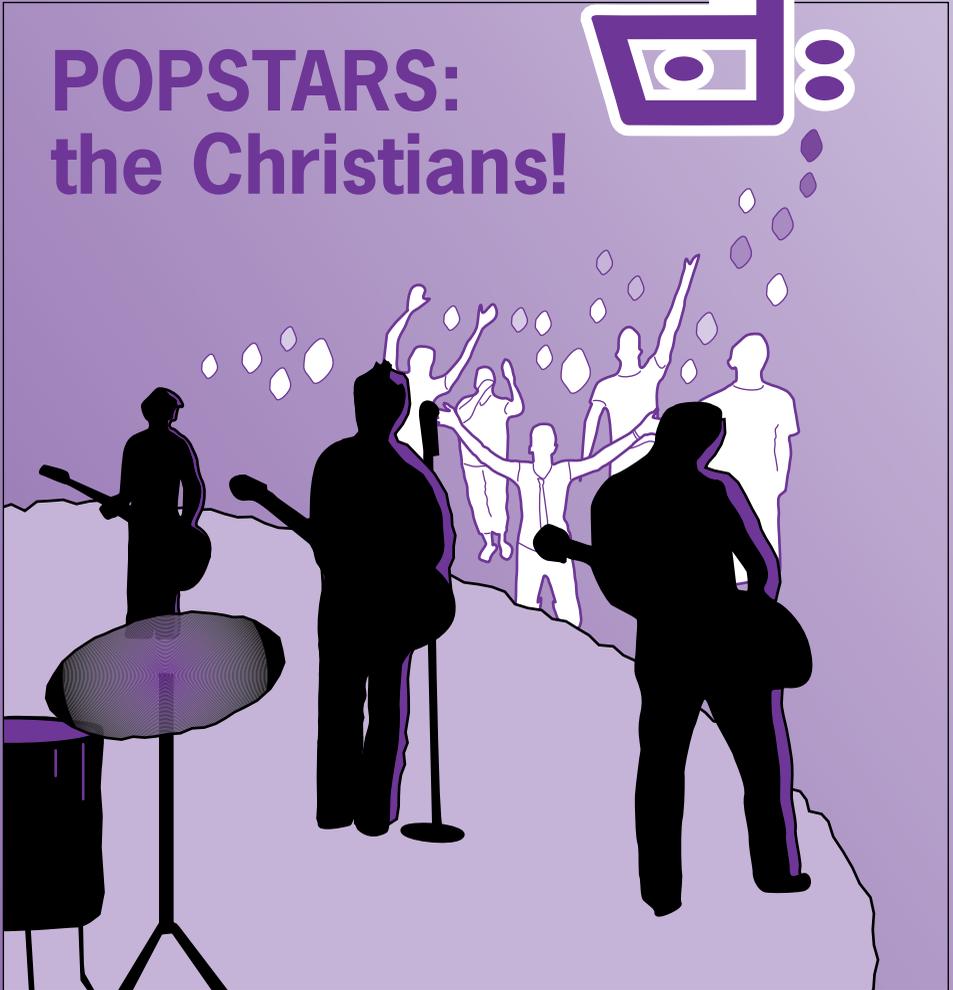


GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2003

POPSTARS: the Christians!



- How God changes lives: Rachel's story
- A visit to Worthing Churches Homeless Project
- What's on in February, and loads more...

FREE
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF



For the rough and the smooth

Are you excited about being a Christian? This question was asked in a sermon on the first Sunday of the New Year.

What an excellent time to be reminded that Jesus Christ, whom we follow and serve, can thrill and stimulate us, and yet give us a peace far deeper than we can understand. If you are a Christian, ask yourself the question:

“Am I excited about it, and if so, am I sharing that excitement with others?”

You see, it does make a difference to our lives when we follow Christ. We believe that there is something more than just the here and now. God’s Son Jesus died on the cross at Calvary in our place, taking all our wrong doings (thoughts, words and deeds) onto himself, in order that we might know the forgiveness of His Father. God grants us grace and compassion on a daily basis when we acknowledge Him as the one and only true God, and ask His forgiveness when we do or say things that are unworthy of Him. Then, and only then, can our feelings of guilt melt away, and God’s peace and joy can fill our minds and hearts. As Christians, we believe that in the end God will have the victory over all that is evil and unjust in this world. We

need not be unduly concerned about the constant threats of terrorism, the fear of accident, illness or even death, because if we know Jesus as our living Saviour, He is our constant companion through His Holy Spirit. He is always with us and will enable us to cope whatever may happen to us. What is more, when we die we believe our souls will live on in eternity with God for ever. (The alternative doesn’t bear thinking about.)

However, as Christians we are not promised an easy life, shielded from the horrors and worries of the world around us. Bad things happen to us as they do to others. There are so many questions that we cannot give answers to in this life. I guess that is where our faith comes in! As one of the modern Christian songs says “Our God is a great big God and He holds us in His hands”. Believe that, and you’ll find it is enough to get you excited!

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever, Amen.” (Ephesians 3 v 20,21)

With my love,
Fiona Tingley, elder

GoodNEWS

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Editorial



The snow has now fallen, the New Year isn't so new anymore and people are beginning to look forward to the summer holidays!

Well, we at GoodNEWS are taking a more optimistic view too – with our new colour cover and photo pages inside – I hope this adds to your enjoyment of the magazine, and you are able to match some names to photos of those featured in each issue.

Our feature this month looks at the band Delirious? – and how they take their faith on tour with them (**page 4**).

We also feature a tremendously honest and detailed personal testimony from Rachel Levell – a Christian in Reading who shows just what God can do (**page 16**).

Heather Barling gives an account of her experience at a local homeless project (**page 22**), Sue Waller keeps us up-to-date with what the women in the church could do socially (**page 25**) and we learn in Nikki Taylor's monthly column (**page 13**) that she will be leaving Sierra Leone.

Meanwhile, at 'base camp', check out the programme of lunchtime presentations at Clair Hall (**page 7**) and why not have a guess at our friend under the spotlight this month (**page 19**)!

David Tingley, editor

Prayer Diary



SUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For our services each week, preachers, worship leaders, organists, musicians, stewards, welcomers and those who serve coffee. • Thank God for our children and young people. • Pray for the work of Junior Church, Carpe Diem and 14+.
MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praise God for our spacious premises. • Pray for those who man the concourse day by day. • Remember the outside organisations who use our premises.
TUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uphold the Girls' Brigade, and Jacqui Adams as she continues her training to be an officer. • Pray for Ron Goodenough and Sue Waller as they handle church administration. • Uphold Colin Bones and the plans for his Induction in the summer.
WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember the Wednesday and Friday Lunch Fellowships. • Pray for the village shopkeepers, that we as Christians may be a witness to them. • Ask God to continue to bless The Fellowship as it meets monthly.
THUR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for Charles Martin as he leaves Sussex for his new pastorate, and thank God for what he has done as our interim moderator. • Our mission focus – Sivakasi Child Care Project (OM in South India). • Please continue to uphold the elders in your prayers.
FRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray that there may be another way, other than war, to bring to justice those who commit terrorism and plan acts of bloodshed on their fellow man. • Boys' Brigade – pray for Geoffrey Cocksedge and David Walters, and thank God for more helpers in the Junior Section.
SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember in prayer those who are sick or recently bereaved. • Pray for more desire amongst us to participate in worship and prayer opportunities. • Pray for all regular worshippers whose surnames begin with C or D.

Thank you for praying; let us truly expect God to answer our requests asked in Jesus' name



Some people have very set ideas about what a Christian band is like. One group who have set about trying to shake off the rather shabby stereotype are these guys from Littlehampton. In the ferocious world of pop they are doing rather nicely – but you probably still won't recognise the name. Sadly, they remain much of an 'underground' Christian act in this country, but in the States things are different. Richard Grant reports...

Let there be rock

Martin Smith, the songwriter and lead singer of Delirious? – the question mark is a gimmick and not pronounced – is spiking his hair in the dressing-room mirror. It is dyed blond in patches and shaved haphazardly, with odd straggles and tufts.

John Thatcher, the bass player, puts on a ripped shirt with BORN TO LOSE stencilled across the front and a wool skateboarding hat pulled down to his sunglasses. Stu G, the guitarist, with his head shaved, psycho-hardman stare and orange stripe of beard, looks almost demonic – a wholly misleading impression of a gentle, thoughtful family man who loves a round of golf and a decent French wine.

Tonight is Dallas, Texas. Delirious? are playing the 7,000-seat basketball stadium

at SMU, also known as Southern Methodist University – their 60th American concert of 2002.

Radio 1 won't air their music, they have almost no profile in the British media, but in the past 12 months they

have played live to one million people

in 10 different countries and sold two million albums. In

America they have sold more than one million albums – more than Robbie Williams – and they are positioned in the fastest-growing segment of the US market: contemporary Christian music, or in the land of acronyms, CCM.

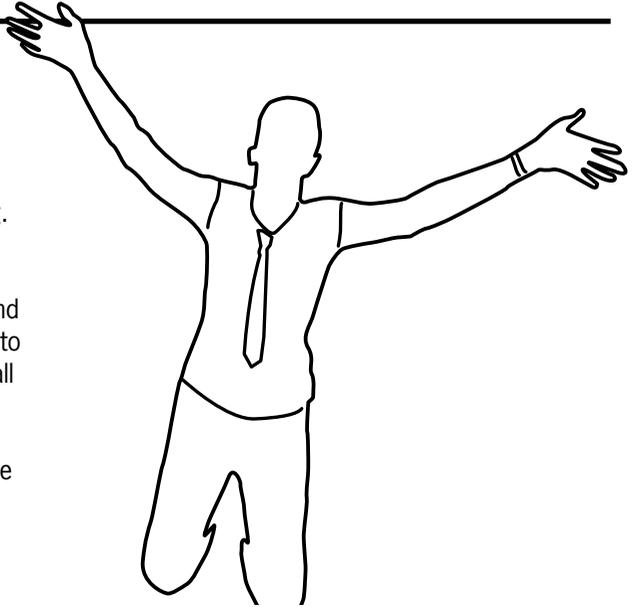
After three rousing rock anthems, heavily influenced by U2 and Radiohead, the band falls silent and Martin says hello to Dallas: 'You know for us it's about more than just rattling off the songs. It's about the glory of God coming and touching us. We'll



see your glory here. Let's sing that together, yeah?' The crowd knows all the words and sings along without further prompting. This is something that never goes stale for Martin: a song that he wrote in his bedroom and now people are singing it back to him in churches and stadiums all over the world.

'Our spirituality is an integral part of who we are, so it's there in a lot of our songs' says Tim Jupp (keyboards). 'But there's more to it – the musicianship, the song writing, the performance. We'd rather people think of us as a rock band who happen to be Christians, rather than a Christian rock band.'

They are extremely pleasant and accommodating towards the photographer and me, with lots of good-humoured banter and absolutely no preaching, but they will not be drawn on Christian political controversies, politely skirting around questions about abortion, homosexuality, evolution and pre-marital sex. They are in a no-win situation. By answering, they either damage their chances with the mainstream audience, or risk another boycott from American Christians. Martin Smith gives the nearest thing to a straight answer: 'We'd probably agree with some of it but not all of it'. Or perhaps Stu G: 'We're religious, right, but sometimes



the religiousness of America freaks us out'.

'It's a schizophrenic life,' says Martin, ducking past the girls and sitting in the van. 'This time tomorrow I'll be back in Littlehampton with the wife and kids, out of my stage clothes and back to being an extra-normal bloke. Two days of that and then we fly to South Africa.' 'I've got to mow the lawn,' says Tim.

Stew Smith (drums) is still outside, trapped between three tongue-tied girls and an older man with a camcorder. The man is yelling at him, 'Go with God and remember Jesus rocks! Give the Devil a bloody nose for us, you hear?' 'Uh yeah, thanks then,' says Stew, climbing in the van, not knowing what else to say.

Richard Grant



What do they sound like?

Access:D Live worship in the key of D:

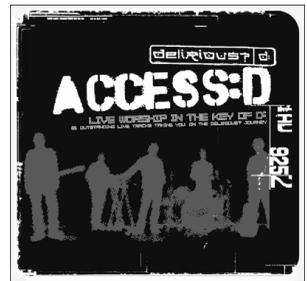
Having seen Delirious? perform live twice, once at the Methodist Breakout 2000 event and the second time supporting Bon Jovi in Glasgow, I was familiar with their Christianity and the content of their songs. Therefore, when I was in a Christian bookshop and saw this CD on their listening stand, I had to see what they had come up with now.

Up until this point I did not own any of their CD's, and on the whole categorised Christian music to "Easy Listening" or "Praise & Worship" songs – with the exception of 'The World Wide Message Tribe'. I found this album a welcome change. It is definitely a live album from what I would classify as a 'rock' group, therefore if you don't like this kind of feel to your album or sound from your artists, this isn't for you. (A non-Christian friend of mine said it sounded a little like Robbie Williams.)

The songs were all recorded during their various world-wide tours and you hear the crowd accompanying the band as they sing. I found that very uplifting, knowing that these Christians

were all gathered together and worshipping in such a modern manner. Tracks such as 'Deeper' make you want to be there in the crowd and jumping with everyone else, with the drumbeat, bass and lead guitar melodies, whereas tracks such as 'Touch' raised the hairs on my arms and back of my neck. It was very moving sitting there listening to hundreds singing along, and track ten – The Happy Song – gives a different spin to one we know.

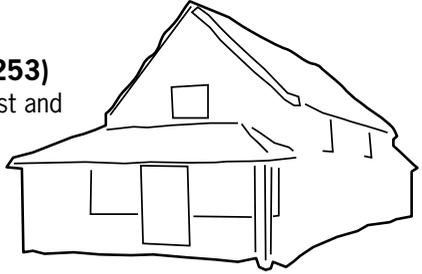
The second album contains one or two worship songs you might recognise too! 'I could sing of your love forever' is there. Ultimately, if you're looking for a different kind of album, I would recommend this album to you, with the proviso that you take into account the nature of the recording – which for a live album, is great quality. One other feature that appealed to me was the metal CD cover it comes in, ensuring it is virtually indestructible for my commute. All in all, I give it the thumbs up!
;-) *Marion 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.



Speakers for this month are as follows:-

2nd February Stuart Dew

16th February Hymn Choice – Donald Nisbet



Lunchtime Presentations
for all those who want to
Discover more about Christianity

Clair Hall – Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath
1.00pm for 1.15pm finishes at 1.45pm

Dates and Topics for 2003

- Wednesday 22 January.....What's Christianity all about?
- Wednesday 19 February.....Whose world is it?
- Thursday 20 March.....Are people essentially good or bad?
- Tuesday 15 April.....What's Easter all about?
- Wednesday 21 May.....What is a Christian?
- Wednesday 18 June.....Is the Bible relevant today?
- Wednesday 16 July.....Living for God?
- Tuesday 16 September.....Living for others?
- Wednesday 22 October.....Is death the end?
- Thursday 20 November.....Any other Questions?
- Wednesday 17 December.....What are God's plans for the future?

please feel free to bring your lunch – we will provide tea, coffee and soft drinks
the meetings will be free of charge, friendly and informative
car parking and wheelchair access available

for further information please contact The Kings Church 01444 415738

Christianity Made Clear
is a joint venture of the Haywards Heath Christians at Work group and the
Haywards Heath and District Evangelical Fellowship of churches

Bereavement

We extend our love and sympathy to **Kathleen Faith** whose sister died just before Christmas. Also to the family of **Eileen Chandler** who also died just before Christmas.

We offer our love and sympathy to **Herbert Fisher** and all the family on the recent loss of Hilda. The thanksgiving service for Hilda was held on 9th January. (see tribute, right)

A letter received from Jane Matthews, **Jo Bloxham's** sister in Canada, expresses warm thanks for the prayers, kindness and practical support of many church members at the time of the death and funeral of their mother, **Wendy Musson**. She says that "Lindfield URC has been a second spiritual home to me for many years now... it was very special to feel everyone's loving prayers and support during a special time".

Moving

Three of our elderly folk have moved into nursing homes.

They are:-

Leslie Crayford has moved to Compton House

Fred Coley has moved to Beech Hurst

Doris Bailey has moved to Compton House.

Thanks

"Let me say thank you for the privilege of serving you as your interim moderator and put it on record that I could not have done the job, without the splendid support of the elders and Ron Goodenough in particular. The church owes him a tremendous debt of gratitude."

Charles Martin

Thank you from St Peter & St James Hospice

Thank you for your kind donation of £580, being the amount raised at your carol concert. Please pass on our heartfelt thanks to Mr Peter Swann for organising and conducting this concert, the choir and to everyone who attended.

This gift, in recognition of our work at St. Peter & St James will go towards our much needed ongoing work helping us give the best possible care to the patients who need us most in the Mid-Sussex area, inpatient care and general Hospice funding.

So far, 2002-3 has been our busiest year ever, with demand for all our services continuing to increase to the extent that around 65% of those in the local area needing specialist hospice care are now being referred to us. Now we are almost entirely reliant on the generosity of the community.

Many thanks once again for this donation and support.

How to have fun fundraising!

Church member, Peter Swann, has a reputation for successful charity events – and Christmas 2002 was no exception – but we know from his face that he thoroughly enjoys doing it too!

Peter organised the carol concert and musical 'Night of Miracles' (performed by The Sunday Morning Singers) that raised just under £600 (see left) on 19th December at our church. "Thanks for all those who took part" he says, "especially the sound engineer – Richard Walters, the coffee providers and meeters and greeters."

Just a couple of days later Peter orchestrated a "big band" carol concert on the High Street outside Lindfield URC, with the help of The Perdido Players and some friends from Haywards Heath Baptist Church. This event, with the help of the Rotary Club, totted up another £100 for St Peter & St James' Hospice. Well done Peter!

Hilda Fisher 1909 – 2002

We extend our Christian love to Herbert on the death of Hilda after a partnership of 60 years. At the service, which Herbert wanted to be one of thanksgiving for her life and faith, Stephen and Margaret spoke warmly of their mother and her Christian witness in home and church. Hilda taught in the Sunday School in the church in Peckham for 50 years, and served in leadership and caring as leader of the womens' meeting and as an elder. Hilda shared in the work of keeping the church witness alive during the war and its growth afterwards. On moving to Lindfield nearly 30 years ago Hilda continued to serve as an elder, as a leader of the Womens' Fellowship and supported actively the work among the young. There are mature Christians today who owe the beginning of discipleship to Hilda's witness. We give thanks for her life of faith.

Rev Richard Tucker

Herbert Fisher and family wish to express their very real appreciation for the many kind cards and letters following Hilda's death on 30th December. Your prayers and practical help have upheld Herbert in particular

during the three years when Hilda was so wonderfully cared for by all the staff at the Lindfield Christian Care Home.

The pastoral care shown by Lindfield URC has never been better demonstrated.

Thank you from RELEASE INTERNATIONAL

Thank you very much indeed for the gift of £350. We are very grateful for your support and it was encouraging to hear about your initiative for the International Day of Prayer in November.

(A Release International prayer map has been placed on the Notice Board in the large hall and speak to any of the Missions Group about praying for the Seven Countries for Seven Years – known as 7X7).

Thank you from Open Doors

Many thanks for your most generous cheque for £350. It is always such an encouragement to hear from those who stand with us in serving persecuted Christians. It was also good to see the photograph of the prison cell which was made for the special meeting you had.

Your prayers and gifts are never taken for granted. Thanks,
Mark Bedford

The Fellowship meets next on Wednesday 26th February at 2.45pm, when the speaker will be Margaret Goodare, talking on the subject of 'Sussex Gardens'.

Tea and biscuits will be served at the close of the meeting; please feel free to bring along a friend.

Enjoy singing?

Rehearsals will commence in February in preparation for Easter for The Sunday Morning Singers. It is by no means a 'closed group' – anyone wishing to join in can do so, specifically by turning up at 8.0pm on 7th and 21st February!

A meal to remember for £2 a head!

The first of the 2003 monthly fellowship lunches was served in the Church Hall on Wednesday 8th January by Iris Green and her support team. Fruit juice, roast beef, yorkshire pudding, three veg, home-made apple pie with cream or custard and tea or coffee. Any retired village folk are welcome.

For further information and a 12th or 14th February reservation, phone Iris Green 484117 or Gwen Hillman 456963.

Sidney Burden

DAILY BREAD FOR NO 'BREAD'!

Good home wanted for whole year 2003 subscription to Daily Bread (Scripture Union) Bible Reading notes. Available free from Stuart Dew.



Gun crime plea

Following the fatal New Year shooting of Birmingham teenagers Charlene Ellis and Latisha Shakespear, leaders of the city's black-led churches met to respond to the problems of escalating gun crime. The meeting at Aston Christian Centre where Charlene and her twin sister Sophia worshipped, came as Charlene's father called for understanding rather than revenge. Bishop Joe Aldred, who chaired the meeting, said it was important to tackle the causes of crime as well as the crime itself.

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

Child cloning ban call

Christian ministries and churches remain sceptical of continuing claims that Clonaid, an organisation founded by an offshoot of the Raelian religious cult, has produced two cloned babies since Christmas. Focus on the Family based in the United States, said: "We hope the Clonaid announcement, whether true or false, will stimulate all who value human life to support a comprehensive worldwide ban on human cloning". The Church of Scotland's Science Religion and Technology Project backed the call.

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

In the footsteps of St Paul

Edward Stourton presents an historical documentary about the life of Paul – due to be aired on BBC Radio 4.

The six-part series, beginning on Saturday 23rd February, "follows 'In the Footsteps of St Paul' on a quest to understand what turned an enthusiastic persecutor of the early Church into a man whose zeal transformed the Christian world. And asks whether the Christianity that we have today owes more to Paul than Jesus".

The programme will also invite guests to contribute, including the likes of Tom Wright, Canon Theologian of Westminster Abbey, and Anne Atkins. While former Tory minister Jonathan Aitkin and Nixon's Whitehouse hatchet man Chuck Colson talk about their Damascene conversions at the prison gates.

Source: www.bbc.co.uk

EA speak out over BBC documentary controversy

The Evangelical Alliance (EA) has issued a statement following the screening of a documentary on the Virgin Mary before Christmas.

Dr David Hilborn, Theological Adviser to EA, said in the response: "The most controversial claim made by the programme was that Mary may have been raped by a Roman soldier and therefore Jesus was born illegitimately. This has its origins in the second century and bears all the hallmarks of the sort of anti-Christian propaganda which was common at the time. The documentary did acknowledge this point, but by dramatising this esoteric theory and presenting it alongside more serious scholarly research, it lent it more credibility than it warrants."

Source: www.eauk.org

Operation Mobilisation

A year ago we supported the Child Care Project being run by Operation Mobilisation in South India. This is in an area where there are many thousands of children working in factories where conditions are hard and dangerous and where there is no hope of education.

OM started a school in rented accommodation, also a Tailoring School for adults and a Children's Club. Gifts enabled a four acre site to be purchased and during last year construction work has taken place to provide their own buildings and facilities.

More information is on the mission display board. If you would like to give towards this work please use the special envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any Sunday service. Please complete a Gift Aid Slip if appropriate.

Excerpts from a recent report read as follows:



School building under construction

The new school building for the Sivakasi Light House Public School is finished! God provided land and a good team of construction workers to build the first phase of the much needed permanent building. With enrolment increasing in the school every year, the school team had prayed that God would provide in this way. The inauguration of this new building took place on 12 December 2002. In addition to the school building, the team has also built a compound wall around the school and a bore-well.

Meeting with construction workers

The team has been wanting a way to reach out to the construction workers who are building the new school. The team is now planning a special meeting in which they can praise the construction workers for their work on the building project. They will give a big meal to the workers and then have a short programme where the team will share God's message of love with the workers. The team is praying for this event and hope that this will be a major spiritual breakthrough in the lives of these workers.

My world

Missionary tales by Nikki Taylor

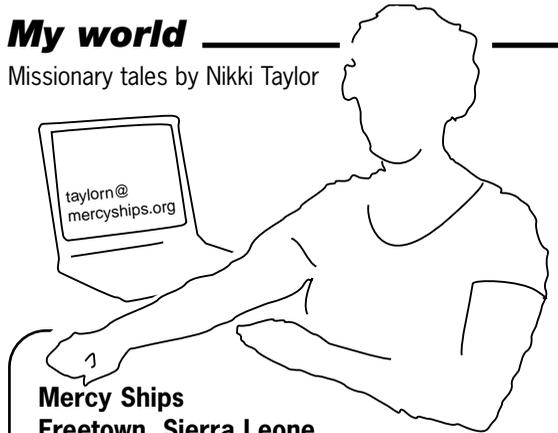
Uvanesh

– a Primary School student

Uvanesh is a four-year-old student attending the Light House Public School. He is studying in Lower Kindergarten and his parents work in the firecracker factory.

Uvanesh was born with a birth defect leaving a hole in his heart. This condition is only remedied through an expensive surgery. The doctors recommended that this surgery take place before this month to be most effective. However, Uvanesh's family cannot possibly afford to have this surgery done. The school team is doing its best to determine how to help this family. Because of this heart condition, Uvanesh is in constant pain and cannot always attend school. He comes when the pain is not too bad, but he has difficulty concentrating.

His family, from a Hindu background, has been coming to the school team asking them to pray for Uvanesh. They feel that the power of prayer can do good things in the life of their son. Though they are not yet believers, they are interested in spiritual things and the team is positive that they will believe in Jesus soon.



Mercy Ships Freetown, Sierra Leone

Christmas at home with my family was such a treat. More wet than white, but lovely to spend time with my family and at my home church.

Shopping is a nightmare, I don't know what's available, or what to buy for people. I suddenly realise I am quite out of touch with things of the developed world nature. I don't feel at home in the UK and I am not Sierra Leonean. It is time to spend a year or so in the UK. Although I already made this decision some time back, being home at Christmas has confirmed this.

When in Freetown I feel like I never want to leave. I love Freetown, the beautiful landscape and the people. In the UK people seem so angry and cynical. I call the West the real world, but when I read all the lifestyle magazines, which shoes to wear, who is doing what, and what's on TV, the world seems to be much more real in Sierra Leone.

There is so much to do, how can I leave? I have to trust God will send someone to fit the bill to continue the work he has started. So the work hurtles on like crazy. So many proposals, so many reports. I really don't feel as motivated anymore; it just becomes overwhelming. So I need to remember to lean on the Lord's strength and not on my own. I lay on the beach this weekend and looked up at the stars, so many in number, so beautiful and He made each one. I know He is in control and only He could be.

February diary

2nd

Sunday

9.30am Brigades' Parade Service. David Nibloe & David Walters

11.0am David Walters

6.30pm David Nibloe

6th

Thursday

House Groups

9th

Sunday

9.30am David Nibloe & Mike Gardiner

11.0am Mike Gardiner

12noon Copydate for March GoodNEWS

6.30pm No Service – Joint Celebration at Clair Hall

12th

Wednesday

12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

13th

Thursday

NO CHURCH MEETING

14th

Friday

12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

16th

Sunday

9.30am David Nibloe & Tim Griffiths

11.0am Tim Griffiths

6.30pm Richard Walters & Derek Heath

19th

Wednesday

1.15pm "Whose world is it?" free talk at Clair Hall
7.45pm Elders' Meeting

20th

Thursday

House Groups

22nd

Saturday

8.0pm Lindfield Folk Club Barn Dance & Supper
Tickets: 01444 482787

23rd

Sunday

9.30am David Nibloe & Peter Trump

11.0am Communion – Graham Campling

6.30pm Richard Walters & Brian Stone

25th

Tuesday

7.45pm 'In Touch'

26th

Wednesday

2.45pm The Fellowship

27th

Thursday

8.00pm Monthly Prayer Meeting

**Next *Good*NEWS
out 23rd February**

If you have any
**village
events**
for this monthly
diary page –
we'd love to hear
about them.
We may be able
to help you
promote them.

Speak to David Tingley on
01444 451024, email on
<david@visualeclipse.co.uk>
or post information to:
Lindfield URC
GoodNEWS Editor
50 High Street,
Lindfield RH16 2HL

Please note, we cannot guarantee
inclusion in the magazine.

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.

The following is the testimony of Rachel Levell, the granddaughter of one of our members, Ken Walden. It was published in the December 2002 issue of Greyfriars News, the magazine of Greyfriars Parish Church, Reading. It tells her amazing story of God working in her life. Next month we hear something of the other side to her story, when Beverley writes of her experiences in Rachel's life.

Amazing grace

My name is Rachel, I am 25 and have been going to Greyfriars church since October 2002. My life has been completely transformed over the past month.

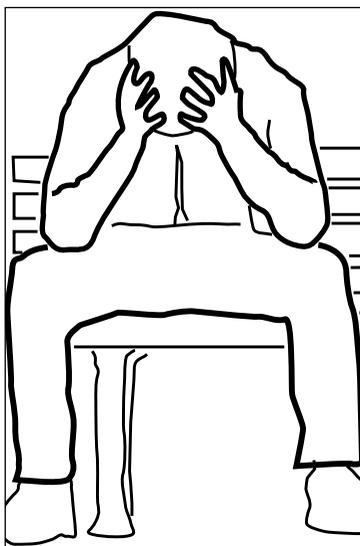
When I was a teenager I began to think that I was eating too much and was worrying about my weight. I became a Christian when I was 14, however, because I had been sexually abused as an 11 year old and was being bullied at school, I found my relationship with God rather distant. I think this all led to me suffering with bulimia by the time I was 16, which meant I was binge-eating and making myself vomit. I started to suffer with panic attacks, which made it difficult to socialise. As my bingeing grew worse, I began to put food before everything else and gradually I began to lose all my friends.

I began nursing but was very unreliable as I often couldn't turn up due to the bingeing. By the

time I was 18 I was also taking laxatives and had begun to cut myself, along with starving and was also drinking too much.

I found myself admitted to an eating disorders unit and gained some weight, following which I returned to my nurse training again. However, things continued to go downhill as I became addicted to other drugs and began stealing them from the wards. I wasn't eating anything and couldn't go out without a drink and a handful of pills. Then I got caught forging a prescription, was arrested and went to court. That was the end of my nurse training. I was admitted back to a psychiatric ward for four months.

During this time I continued to lose weight and after I was discharged the weight continued to drop off until at four stone I eventually overdosed on about 300 antidepressants resulting in a stay in intensive care on a life support machine.



I did gain weight once I recovered from this incident, but my life remained in turmoil as I continued to drink heavily, overdose on anything I could, and was cutting myself very badly.

I became addicted to horror movies and could sense an evil presence in my room at night. I didn't know how to deal with it and I didn't know where God was anymore. I also had nasty flashbacks following a rape at a nightclub. I kept screaming in the night and waking everyone up. The fear and despair were indescribable.

I did some awful things at home as a result of the drugs, like microwaving the kettle, which all led to my parents not being able to cope with me any longer and having me admitted

back to the psychiatric ward for a further seven months where I was then transferred to a specific self-harm unit.

Then my life suddenly changed. On the unit we were allowed to self-harm if we reported it within two hours. During a weekend's leave I had overdosed and did not report it until I got back to the unit. I was told I had to take a week's instant leave as a punishment for this and had to find somewhere to go immediately. Mum and Dad felt unable to cope with my illness anymore and could not take me back. I felt abandoned, rejected and unloved. In a state of utter despair and desperation I telephoned a lady called Beverley who worked for 'Freedom in Christ' and had been writing to me in hospital for the past year.

I took her by surprise when I asked her if she would put me up there and then, but she agreed to come and get me. I was in a really bad state and was severely drugged, my arms in extensive bandaging and was starving myself. I felt very suicidal and trapped. I felt that my life was out of my control, I was in the hands of the evil presence that materialised before me regularly from the horror films I had watched, who made me do the things that I

Personal testimony

continued from page 17

had done. It felt like there was no way out.

I gave Beverley and her family a very difficult time during that first week. She arranged for me to have a freedom appointment, which meant going through the 'Steps To Freedom' later that week. At the beginning of the day I was so tied up in bondage but by the end of the 8 hour session God has set me free – completely free!

I've stayed with Beverley ever since and have not returned to the hospital at all, much to their surprise! I don't know what I'd do without her. She has helped me to understand stronghold busting and taking thoughts captive, which she encourages me to do daily and she is there for me every time I get a bad thought that needs renouncing. She is supporting me whilst I'm still learning to walk in the freedom God has given me. Her family have taken me in and made me feel part of their family and Beverley has helped me by giving me things to do that will help me get used to living a normal life again.

Part of the programme she has devised for me, along with the help of Phil Cole, has been to go to work two days a week in the Greyfriars Centre helping

in the coffee shop. This has been quite a challenge as I didn't even know how to butter a slice of bread properly. They had to make a demonstration bacon sandwich for me to copy. I also help out in the Freedom in Christ office for a couple of days and on the other remaining day, I am attending the Alpha course where I have made new friends.

A few weeks ago I would never have believed all of this – I could not even talk or see sense and now I am working! I can really worship God in spirit and in truth and I want to live my life for Jesus – yet a few weeks ago I wanted to be dead.

God is so good and has set me completely free and filled me with his love, joy and peace – AMAZING JOY! If he can do it for me, he can do it for anyone!

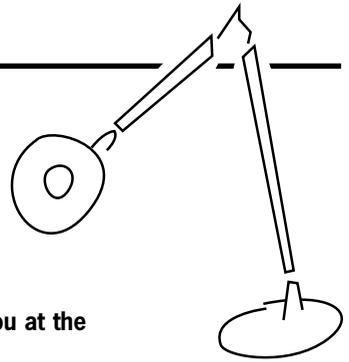
Praise be to God our Saviour. When I was weeping, he heard my cry. When I was hurting, he was there and rescued me from all my pain. There's no evil presence anymore, only God's presence fills my room. I love him. I'm free! Praise be to God! And a great big thank you to Beverley.

Rachel Levell

Read Beverley's side of the story in the March edition of GoodNEWS – out on 23rd February.

Twenty 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. Tell us one memorable date?**
26th June, 1965.
- 2. Why?**
My wedding day.
- 3. All time favourite film?**
'A room with a view'
- 4. What is your shoe size?**
5 1/2.
- 5. Describe your experience of God in a single sentence...**
He is my Good Shepherd who leads and guides me.
- 6. Jelly Babies or Jelly Beans?**
Jelly Beans.
- 7. Where is the furthest place that you have ever worked?**
London.
- 8. How long have you been coming to this church?**
10 months.
- 9. What year did you pass your Driving Test?**
Not taken.
- 10. What is your greatest ambition?**
To help other people and serve the Lord.
- 11. If you met Jesus in the street today, what one question would you ask Him?**
Too overawed to ask a question.
- 12. Who has had the greatest influence on your life?**
Parents & Grandparents.
- 13. Where were you at the Silver Jubilee?**
Sidcup, Kent.
- 14. Plain, Milk or White?**
Milk
- 15. Favourite holiday destination?**
Venice
- 16. What would you do with the Millennium Dome?**
Leisure complex or some sort of amusement place.
- 17. Approximate height?**
5' 1"
- 18. Most-read Bible verse?**
Psalm 23.
- 19. Who is your hero?**
Dame Cecily Saunders.
- 20. Broadsheet or Tabloid?**
Broadsheet.

Keep missing the church notice sheet on a Sunday?

Not a problem. Our church website has the news updated every week, go to...

www.lindfieldurc.org.uk

Tom Burford goes back in time again, and investigates what made the headlines in our church magazine nearly 35 years ago. GoodNEWS was then shared with Ardingly Congregational Church. One of our organists now, Chris Comber, was the editor back then, and the magazine's 'Business Manager' (!) was Mr L. Hanks.

In a report of the first meeting of a new "Central District", Albert Trinder comments on the thoughts of some to close smaller, less active, churches to bolster 'Parish' Church numbers. He writes: "I do not subscribe to this notion at all. Recently I visited Plumpton for the morning service, and found a lively, cheerful Junior Church of nearly 30 children, under the leadership of Mrs Honess and teachers. No sign of defeatism here. The signs are of vigorous growth. From the pulpit, I felt the presence of God with us and the true spirit of worship."

January 1968

End of Middle-East war.

"Christian Aid sent £70,000 for the relief of war victims. It was estimated in August that there were something like 200,000 new refugees, there already being one million Palestinian registered with U.N.W.R.A before the new crisis."

R.M.C. – January 1968

"A year or so ago we were making notable decisions with regard to the pastorate, the manse, missions at home and overseas etc, which meant the church accepting the challenge to raise its giving quite substantially. It is very gratifying to report that in the first nine months of the present financial year, offertories have increased by more than 20 per cent."

R.E. Campling – Feb, 1968

"Mr & Mrs Campling have had a time of celebration with their family recently. Their son Graham has received his Doctorate on the completion of his thesis, and their daughter Lyn has recently announced her engagement."

February 1968

In a minister's letter, Richard Tucker reminds the readership of Psalm 55 v17, and says: "Never think your need is silly, for no problem is silly that causes anxiety or spoils a life".

March 1968

“Church Anniversary. On May 4th and 5th we will centre our thoughts upon the church.”
May 1968

“Please note: For an experimental period of three weeks (May 12th-26th) the evening services will commence at 7.30pm.”

“Is anyone able and willing to help in the running of a new coffee bar (Carnaby Pew) in Haywards Heath? Get in touch with Mr Gordon Franklin.”
May 1968

“This year’s Junior Church outing has been arranged for Saturday July 13th and will be at Chessington Zoo.”
July 1968

“June Church Meeting. Miss Ruth Clark gave details of the Girls’ Brigade’s new and revised form. It was then decided to form a company in the church, and preparatory work would take place during the summer months.”
July 1968

“In spite of the dull and dreary weather, a most interesting evening was enjoyed by those

who went on the coach party to Weir Wood in June.”
August 1968

“The jumble sale for Y.P. funds raised £21.”
December 1968

“Readers will remember that the Social Committee agreed to raise a sum of money towards the purchasing of a duplicating machine. The efforts of the committee, of the young people in erecting and decorating the stalls, of those who stood behind the stalls, those who gave articles for sale, and not least, those who purchased – resulted in a gratifying total of £60, which more than paid for the duplicator. On behalf of the committee I thank you all.”
G.G. December 1968



“Outstanding subscriptions for 1968 for Good News would be appreciated and should be paid either to your distributor or to Mr L. Hanks.”
December 1968

Much more than seafront soup

1 January 2003 – “The year began with lunch.....” though, sadly, not the French gastronomic feast enjoyed by Peter Mayle at the start of his first ‘Year in Provence’.

Nevertheless it was a hearty, nourishing and warming meal at St Clare’s Day Centre just off Worthing’s seafront, for those who might otherwise have had little or nothing to eat.

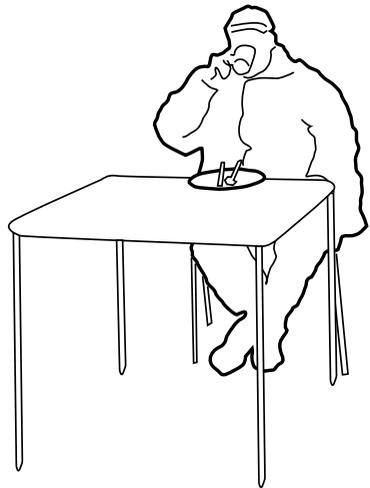
St Clare’s normally offers breakfast each day (and an evening meal a couple of times a week) to homeless people in Worthing, so David and Emma [Tingley] and John and I were very grateful that New Year’s Day provided lunch instead of breakfast... I’m not sure we’d have had sufficient sleep after seeing in the New Year to crawl out of bed on a very cold, wet morning in order to drive down to Worthing in time to cook breakfast for an unknown number of people!

A 10am start seemed much more civilised! I later regretted this wimpish (and selfish?) thought when another of the helpers – a lady past retirement age – arrived, drenched but uncomplaining, having cycled for an hour through driving rain, a journey which she does regularly

on her faithful bike in order to help at the centre. She must have had many similar soakings during those past wet winter weeks.

The four of us found working alongside the regular helpers was a real joy. The kitchen team was headed up by a super couple who put heart and soul into their commitment to cook breakfast one day a week. This clearly sprang from a deep faith and gratitude to God for his blessings in their own lives. Steve’s prayer for those people, young and old, who would be coming into the centre that day and had experienced very little blessing in life, was both heartfelt and moving. He himself has been a Christian for only two years and clearly his love for these people is in response to all that God has done, and is still doing, in his own life.

We were soon put to our



various tasks: putting up and setting tables, preparing the meal, dispensing large volumes of tea and coffee, chatting and, more importantly, listening to the clients as they came in from the cold wet streets. There were heart-rending stories, tempered by laughter as jokes were shared. Concern was shown by these homeless people for one or two who were unable, physically, to get to the centre and who asked for a “takeaway” for them. Dogs were also catered for with scraps!

Before we knew it the dishwasher had completed its last load, the kitchen was once again clean and tidy and only one or two clients remained, still drinking coffee and finishing off mince pies and Christmas cake. It was time to go home. To warm houses, clean beds and the certainty of another meal for us. Not so for the twenty-five or so who had benefited from St Clare’s generosity that day. Where would they sleep that night? In a shelter on the sea front? In a car park? At best in a squat? Or maybe there would be room at Rupert Bacon House, the hostel run, like St Clare’s, by the Worthing Churches Homeless Project (you may

remember reading about the work of WCHP in December’s Good News – why not have another look).

To all those who contributed so generously to WCHP during last December, I would like to assure you that the money is well spent and that staff and volunteers, as well as those on the receiving end, are extremely grateful. The whole project exists to meet people where their needs are and to offer a hope for the future. Everything is done in a spirit of love and service, as an overflow of God’s love poured into hearts and lives and a desire to share His love in practical ways.

... At the end of that first day of 2003, I had a feeling that our lunch was far more satisfying, to body and soul, than Peter Mayle’s gastronomic delight!

Heather Barling

The appeal during December raised £1450.00. That’s a lot of boxer shorts and food!! If you do not understand this comment you did not read the Worthing Homeless News Sheet which was available from the Mission’s Display during December! But seriously though, WELL DONE.

Do you know the Archbishop?

The new archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, will be enthroned in the cathedral on the 27th of this month. But with so much press coverage surrounding the appointment – this is just a glimpse of the man who takes over in Lambeth Palace.

Desert Island Discs

Rowan Williams grew up in Swansea and Cardiff. He enjoyed reading, being outdoors and acting in school plays. He remembers attending church every day in Holy Week, getting involved cleaning out the store rooms and making a bonfire of the rubbish.

Rowan went to Cambridge to study theology and for a time he was torn between Roman Catholicism and Anglicanism. He decided on the latter and soon after, when he was 28 years-old, he was ordained as a priest. He spent the next few years lecturing and working with students and the local community.

He is also a philosopher, a poet, and a linguist who speaks seven languages. He has written a number of books on the history of the theology and spirituality.

If he could only take one record [to his desert island] it would be 'No 5, Solo Cello Suite Number 1 in G Major'. His book, in addition to the Bible and Shakespeare, would be a collection of W H Auden poems. His luxury would be a piano.

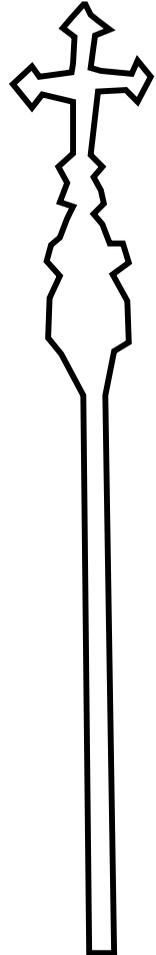
Clifford Hill

I first met Dr Rowan Williams on the day he received his letter of appointment from 10 Downing Street. We met in a car park and stood there for half an hour talking and praying together.

I am well aware of the hostile reception Dr Williams has received in some sections of the media and the reservations expressed by senior Anglican evangelicals. I understand their concerns that the new archbishop should be unequivocal in declaring the word of God with apostolic fervour using all the authority of scripture and the power of the Holy Spirit. I fully share that desire.

I have spoken to many people in Wales who know him. All speak of him with love and respect although not all agree with his teaching.

Instead of believing all we read in the press and passing judgment, it would be good if we each undertook to pray daily for Rowan Williams and his family as they move from the shelter and security of their beloved Wales into the glare of publicity in 'town'.



The year ahead – for the ladies!



The 'In Touch' group started the year 2003 with a meal to which around forty people came and a good time was had by all.

The February meeting will be a very light hearted affair in the shape of a Beetle Drive, never having taken part in an event such as this – it promises to be an amusing evening, much needed at the end of the winter I think.

The rest of the year's programme is being finalised at the time of writing this, but one date to ponder on is Thursday 3rd July.

It has been decided that an "Away Day" is a popular event in our calendar and I thought it worth trying something slightly different.

Ashburnham Christian Trust run three days a year – Ladies Days – these are billed as "Days of Teaching and Refreshment" and involve worship and teaching from an invited speaker, on this occasion Jennifer Rees Larcombe, as well as time to enjoy fellowship. I am informed by Ashburnham that they attract around 100 people and cost £12 per head to include lunch. The days run from 10.00am

– 4.00pm and as that seems to fit with our timing I have provisionally booked 30

places. Obviously we would need to firm up that booking as soon

as possible., so if you would like to go – you must let me know as soon as possible after reading this in order for me to confirm the number with them. I think this venture well worth a try and look forward to hearing from you.

I hope you will support this group throughout the year. It has grown in many different ways since its onset, but does need you – for that to continue.

Sue Waller

The back pages

I am not usually 'excited' by church meetings, but the one held on 12th December was an exception!

Our task on that Thursday in December was to decide whether to 'call' a minister. The decision made has already been reported, however, it was the meeting itself which was so meaningful to me.

The church had been called to prayer; particularly as the Rev Colin Bones came to spend the weekend with us, and during the following days leading up to the meeting. I guess we had hoped we would all get an overwhelming feeling that this was God's choice for LURC, but it seemed this was not the case. A number of people had concerns, and perhaps in some cases, even doubts. With one exception, the Elders of Lindfield and Balcombe were still very enthusiastic and believed this was the man to which God was leading us. So we were very much in prayer for God's Holy Spirit to be present in the meeting, knowing the uncertainties that some folk had expressed.

Wow! How prayers were answered that night! Thank you to everyone who spoke at that important gathering of our Church family. Such positive thoughts and feelings were expressed, in some cases by friends who felt God had really

spoken to them that Colin was the man for this pastorate. Others who had doubts also spoke, but were prepared to be led by the overwhelming sense of certainty that was being expressed in the meeting. The guidance of the Holy Spirit seemed so clear, for which we praise God. After a time of prayer, the ballot was taken, and the call to invite Colin here was almost unanimous. How grateful we are to be able to look forward to a new chapter in the life of this fellowship when that new ministry begins in the summer.

Meanwhile, the work must go on. The Elders continue to be grateful for your prayers and support. Be encouraged by the Benediction which Colin used when he visited us: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever, Amen." (Ephesians 3 v 20, 21)

Fiona Tingley

def: Church Meeting.

Some of you may be asking "What is a Church Meeting?" Briefly, in the United Reformed Church it is a regular meeting where the church members have the opportunity to discuss items of 'business' (day-to-day running of the church), and this includes making a decision on a possible new Minister.

Have you heard the GoodNEWS?



As many of you will know – GoodNEWS is recorded every month by a small team of fine voice artists! It is put onto cassette and CD for ANYBODY to borrow during the month. Maybe you cannot see to read any longer or perhaps you have some time in the car when you could listen to it. It is a selection of articles from the printed magazine.

If you wish to borrow either format, you can simply take it. Please note: there are no forms to fill in for the GoodNEWS tapes (the Sunday service tapes work on a different system, although they are in the same position in the church).

All we ask is that you return it as soon as possible after you have finished with it – so that someone else can make use of it.

Thanks.

Flower Rota

		Arranging	Distributing
Feb	2	Anne Blake	Fiona Tingley
	9	Chris Caswell	Heather Swann
	16	Jessie Green	Sue Tester
	23	Zena Campling	Dorothy Forster
Mar	2	Carol Walters	Betty Peter
	9	Betty Billins	Jacqueline Wood
	16	Joan Durrant	Iris Bingham
	23	Dorothy Forster	Fiona Tingley
	30	Margaret Goodare	Heather Swann

If there is anyone else who feels they could join the distribution rota, for what is a pleasurable task, it would be much appreciated.

Fo Tingley would be pleased to hear from you (Tel 483419).

Betty Billins & Fiona Tingley

**The Twenty Questions guest this month was
Brenda Tuppen**

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**

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-ordinators:

Stuart Dew 01444 413694
Rob Biersteker 01444 440835

Junior Church Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683