

**Dear Friends...**



# Playing the fool

**W**hat a month April is! April Fool's Day, new growth and Easter. April takes us from foolishness through to the good news message of Easter and beyond.

You ask me: Does any of this matter, as we are living in such precarious times? Surely the very word foolishness should not be connected in the same sentence as almighty God?" He who is the great 'I Am', the Holy One who cannot tolerate even the smallest sin, wherever does foolishness come into the picture?

I will let you into a life-changing secret: this Jesus suffered death on a cross because He was my substitute and yours. This one act cleansed all our sin and He took our place on that first Good Friday, dying instead of us. Any sin we confess will not be judged. Jesus' one act on the cross erased the sin from the computer screen of our life. He deleted the sin completely, and wiped it all totally clean!

The cross is the exact opposite of foolishness for those who are Christians. The cross is fantastic, fabulous, futuristic and a fact.



How's your life's screen looking now? All cluttered up with unconfessed sin? Or have you invited Jesus to delete your sin for you? The choice is yours, which is it to be?

*Janet Drayton, elder*

# GoodNEWS

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## Editorial



**E**aster is one of those special times of year. It seems to lend itself to thinking and meditating more on God and what He has done for us, with specific challenges to change the normal routine during Lent.

So, likewise, we give you the opportunity to contemplate and do a little reading in this issue. Ray Smith takes time out to get his head around Rowan Williams book (page 6), Janet Goodenough goes to the theatre (page 4) and Mike Gardiner highlights a passage from the book of John on page 14.

We learn about Christian radio station Feba, broadcasting gospel programmes in over 60 languages the other side of the world (page 16) – this month's supported mission group.

Camping is on Peter Trump's mind as he enthuses us to get involved with Sussex Christian Camps on page 18. I indulge by ranting about what's on my mind on the back pages (page 22), and Twenty Questions gets a refreshed set of ponderances for the guest interviewee to get their head around.

If you fancy it get in touch, or now you can go on the church website, if you wish to take part in Twenty Questions – we'd love to hear from you. Cheers,

David Tingley, editor

# Prayer Diary



<b>SUN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preachers, worship leaders, musicians and technicians</li> <li>• Junior Church (numbers are down), Carpe Diem, 14+</li> <li>• Easter – new life/beginnings – renewal</li> </ul>
<b>MON</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church group at Spring Harvest (Christian-run holiday) 12th – 17th</li> <li>• World leaders and the current situation in Iraq</li> <li>• Elderly and the house-bound</li> </ul>
<b>TUE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls' Brigade</li> <li>• Stepping Stones</li> <li>• The managers – especially work being done in Ryecroft</li> </ul>
<b>WED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The elders (meeting on 23rd)</li> <li>• The Fellowship</li> <li>• On-going Joint Lent Groups</li> </ul>
<b>THUR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Pop-in'</li> <li>• Three Churches United Communion Service (17th)</li> <li>• All those serving in our armed forces</li> </ul>
<b>FRI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The two Lunch Fellowships (9th &amp; 11th)</li> <li>• Boys' Brigade</li> <li>• The Sunday Morning Singers preparing for Easter</li> </ul>
<b>SAT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colin &amp; Catherine Bones and their family</li> <li>• "GoodNEWS" production team</li> <li>• District Council on 6th/all elders and lay preachers</li> <li>• Members/worshippers whose names begin with H, I, J and K</li> </ul>

*Reminder to all at work in the week – the church is open on a Saturday morning for you to come in for prayer (or a chat). Use it – we're there for YOU.*

With the miracle of Jesus' resurrection still unbelievable for many, it is sometimes helpful to get a fresh perspective on the challenges of that first Easter. In this instance, the audience suddenly became the jury in an eye-opening trial against the gardener.

# Jury service

**I**n January a group of us went to the East Grinstead Chequer Mead Arts Centre to see 'The Vigil' presented by the Saltmine Theatre Company.

With Easter approaching we have been reflecting on the way the play made us answer the question: 'Did Jesus rise from the dead or was his body stolen?'

The whole play is set in an American courtroom. The audience is the jury and is judging a modern trial, which follows the story of the first Easter morning, where a gardener is accused of stealing the body of Jesus. The Prosecution and Defence bring a parade of witnesses, including; Mary Magdalene, Pontius Pilate, his wife, Joseph of Arimathea, Peter, Saul of Tarsus and the gardener.

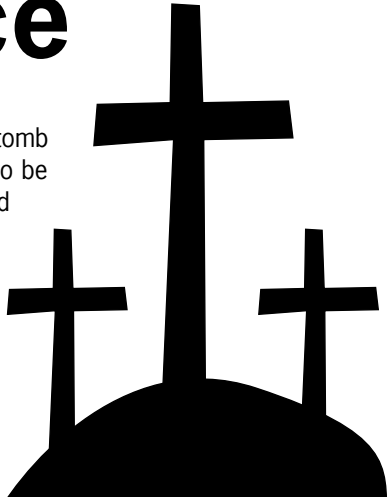
At the back of the courtroom was a thin screen like a veil. The scenes behind it appeared like silhouettes; the gardener digging, Mary at the cross etc. These were very powerful images.

The soldier guarding the tomb was the first to be called. He said he had drunk some wine during the long cold evening and, unfortunately, had dropped off to sleep.

When he woke up the stone had been rolled away and the body was gone. Suspicion fell on the gardener who had been seen in the garden.

Mary Magdalene was given a hard time in the dock as she recounted how she had gone to the tomb and found it empty with an angel sitting on the stone. How did she know it was an angel when she had never seen one before? They said her testimony was unsafe because she had once been possessed by demons, which she said Jesus had cast out of her, so she was just mad.

Saul was brought in and told



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how he was going to Damascus to round up those who were followers of Jesus and stop the spread of this talk about resurrection. In the second half of the play he stands in the dock again but this time as Paul. He recounts his experience on the road to Damascus and how he is transformed (when he changes his name) and believes passionately in the resurrection. He has joined the band of believers much to the delight of the Defence but not the Prosecution.

As the play comes to a climax, Mary Magdalene states that she had met with Jesus in the garden and that he had called her by name.

We, the jury, were then addressed and asked to decide the case. Did Jesus rise from the dead or was his body stolen?

Here are some of the comments of those who went that evening:

“The whole presentation was very enjoyable, but above all made us think hard on all that occurred; perhaps answering questions, confirming personal feelings or bringing out questions that might have been in the backs of our minds”

“Powerful”

“Thought provoking”

“Up-to-date”

“Refreshing in modern day language”

“I think it was good to have arguments presented to us regarding the validity of the resurrection so that perhaps it may reawaken awareness and our thoughts, which may help to answer some questions on the truth that Christ rose on Easter Day. This is perhaps a stumbling block for some people who are seeking the truth and I for one ought to be better prepared and able to articulate my belief to help others”

One of our group had been through a very difficult day as her mother had died that morning. I asked her if there was anything in the play that helped her. “Yes” she said “The scenes behind the veil were very powerful and I felt that it was just a small step from this life to the next”.

So, as we made our way home that evening the question was left with us. I wondered how many in the audience had been made to consider for the first time where they stood on the case for the resurrection and what their response would be.

As Christians the resurrection of Jesus is fundamental to our faith since, as the Bible states: “If there is no resurrection our faith is futile”.

*Janet Goodenough*

# Studying the four gospels

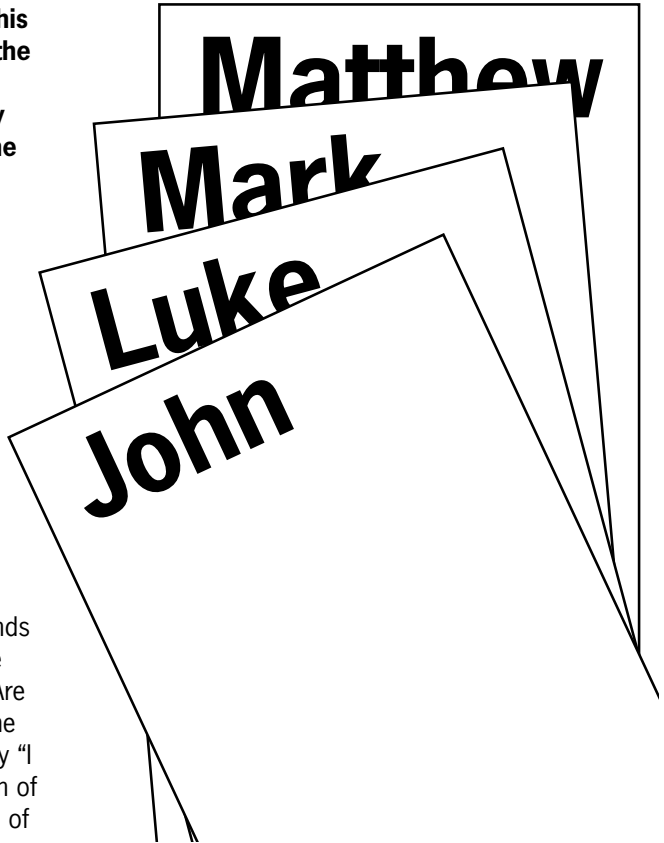
Ray Smith settles down this Easter time with Rowan Williams' book 'Christ on trial', and shares what he found.

**A**s the title intimates, this is a book written by the recently installed Archbishop of Canterbury commenting mainly on the four gospels' accounts of Christ's response at His trial.

It also cross-references with several other diverse writings from authors such as Arthur Conan Doyle and Lewis Carroll to William Golding, Bulgakov and Dostoyevsky.

Surprisingly, it starts with the Gospel of Mark, wherein Rowan states that Christ breaks the silence/secretcy that surrounds His mission with His positive response to the question: "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?", with the reply "I am, and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven".

Then follows comment on Matthew's account wherein the view expressed is that the Spirit of God is fully active in Jesus Christ in the ways the prophets



promised, although his account includes a 'weaker' response to the enquiry "tell us if you are the Christ the Son of God", Jesus replies "so you say".

The Gospel of Luke has more

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trial scenes, including when Jesus is in the High Priest's house, and Peter denies knowing Him three times, at which point Jesus turns and looks straight at Peter. When asked if He is the Messiah the reply comes "if I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I question you, you will not answer".

Rowan comments on John's Gospel that it could all be read as a trial story even though little time is spent on the interrogation of Christ.

Furthermore, Rowan considers that John's Gospel gives a damning picture of the Jewish people, especially the 'crowd' outside Pilate's palace which were members of the Jewish priestly caste.

At each Gospel's account of the trial, what is bought to light is not so much a set of facts about Christ but

the truth of His IDENTITY. At the trial each one of us is challenged to step down from the tribunal to stand with Him, and before Him, yielding ourselves up to the truth, and put ourselves in the

hands of the only power that can give life, which requires 'absolute trust' (which we are not used to doing).

Rowan opines that the violence, condemnation and execution of Christ are not a terrible story of iniquity and heroic resistance, but a glimpse of God, utterly different to our expectations. Also, that God has been and continues to be active in Christ, including during His suffering and rejection.

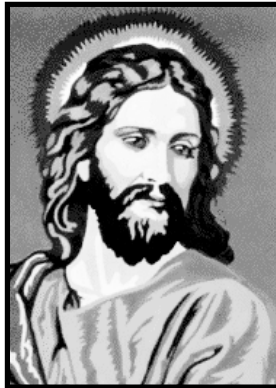
The author mentions that all too easily we 'switch off' to what is really happening in other parts of the World – floods, starvation,

civil wars etc, and that there is a need for change and reform, and that for Rowan this would involve the church changing its stance on war, sex, investment and many other difficult matters.

On first reading I found this book 'heavy'

and had difficulty understanding some of the cross-references. However, with study it became slightly clearer, but was still somewhat 'hard work'.

*Ray Smith*



# The first day

An Easter reflection by Tony Bower

A tomb  
full of doubts.

A body full of evidence.

A stone  
around their heart.

A vision  
of glorious light.

A dawning of truth.

A resurrection of hope.

A glimpse  
of eternity.

A message  
of certainty.

A response of incredulity

A desire  
of reality.

A face  
of expectancy.

A question of rationality.

A tomb  
empty.

A hope  
rising.

A saviour  
walking, smelling the roses in the garden,  
filled with new life.



## Hundreds find Christ in army recruits revival

As Anglican bishops began to express their public support for British troops engaged in the conflict with Iraq, a former soldier claims to have witnessed an amazing outpouring of the Holy Spirit among new recruits at Army Infantry Training Centre in Catterick, North Yorkshire.

Scripture Reader Mark Reynolds served 22 years as a full-time soldier before becoming a full-time evangelist. "Over the past year, I would calculate that somewhere between 700 and 800 have made professions of faith."

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

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## Radio figures up

According to figures released by Rajar – the official body for judging radio audiences – London and Home Countries Christian radio station, Premier (1305 - 1332 - 1413 MW), have around 220,000 people listening every week. This figure marks a 10% increase on the previous quarter.

However, it's not all good news, as it is revealed that the Government's proposed Communications Bill fails to remove legislation blocking religious organisations holding broadcasting licences in the UK.

Christianity & Renewal magazine, April 2003

## Teenagers enjoy church!

Latest research carried out by Christian Research has found that two-thirds of teenagers who go to church say they enjoy it. This is a much higher percentage than their non-churchgoing friends think, only 42% of whom expect churchgoers of their age to enjoy it. Studies show that teenagers particularly enjoy the opportunity to meet old and new friends, and caring people there.

But interestingly, five in six who attend regularly have parents who also attend regularly.

Source: Christianity & Renewal magazine, March 2003.

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## Cricketer makes costly stand

Henry Olonga, the Zimbabwean cricketer who is happy to be known as a born again Christian, has been expelled by his club, Takushinga, following the stance he took alongside fellow cricketer Andy Flower during the country's World Cup match against Namibia. The players wore black arm bands to depict the death of democracy in Zimbabwe and made a statement signifying their protest that millions of their compatriots were starving, unemployed and oppressed and many may die in the coming months through a combination of starvation, poverty and Aids. Olonga was the first black cricketer and youngest-ever to represent Zimbabwe at international level.

Source: Christianity & Renewal magazine, April 2003.

## On the move

**Queenie Worcester** has recently moved to Arthur Bliss House, Finches Gardens, Lindfield

## Bereavement

We offer our love and sympathy to the family and friends of **Fred Coley** who died on 19th February. His thanksgiving service was held at Worth on 28th February....

and also to **Roy and Betty Billins** on the recent loss of Roy's brother-in-law. The thanksgiving service was held on 11th March.

## Thanks

Very grateful thanks to those who were aware of my four-month stretch of respiratory illnesses and subsequent relapses – the worst winter experienced since my medical condition began. I appreciated very much the shopping done for me, the flowers sent, the phone calls of solicitation and cheer, and especially the visits by the pastoral care team, as I felt very much divorced from the church during this time. Also appreciated were the regular phone calls by Mrs Meg Sidky concerned by my absences.

Love to all.  
*Jean Baxter*



## Star letter!

Thank you for our church magazine – it's interesting and informative for adults and fun for children. It contains some thought provoking items as well as church family news. Recently, whilst staying in a small village in Warwickshire, I had a chance to look at their local church magazine. I'm afraid it had nothing going for it. It contained mostly adverts for local shops or services, the content was poor and to cap it all cost 40p a copy! Thanks for our mag – it's great.

*Anne Parker*

[Your kind words are much appreciated, but as a church we all make GoodNEWS what it is – Ed]

## Long distance pen pal required

A number of requests come my way as a result of my involvement with the Churches' Criminal Justice Forum. For instance, can I suggest examples of Christian forgiveness for a forthcoming Songs of Praise television programme (no problem).

However, here is one that someone at LURC might like to help with. A prisoner in Zambia wants a pen friend. He has been on death row at a maximum security prison for thirteen years. He describes himself as a born again Christian, and says he is a peer educator within the prison. Anyone interested? Please see me. *Stuart Dew*

### God's good provision

At the church members' meeting in March, Mike Gardiner announced he felt it right to step down from his position as Lindfield URC's Pastoral Assistant after July.

Mike took up the part-time role after Rev Norman Smith left in December 2001 – meeting a significant 'need' within the life of the church. As well as doing much home visiting, Mike (as an ordained minister) also helped greatly by being able to take funerals and infant blessings.

"It has been a great privilege serving you all, but it is simply time to enjoy [our] retirement" Mike said.

Rev Colin Bones is due to be inducted as Lindfield URC's new minister during July.

### Bad hair day

David Tingley, GoodNEWS editor, found himself having a 'worse than normal' hair day – in aid of Comic Relief on 14th March.

"It was just a silly idea that someone mentioned in passing – but I quite fancied dying my hair!" he commented.

He will have collected over £300 in sponsorship for the charity.

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### Women's World Day of Prayer

"A big thank you to all who helped me in so many ways in preparing for this service. We are truly blessed in our church to have people who are so willing and able to help." *Winifred Scopes*

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**The Fellowship** will be holding their AGM on 23rd April at 2.45pm in the Church Hall. This will be a joint meeting of the men's and women's sections, and it is hoped all members will be able to attend. The meeting will be followed by a social afternoon with tea and biscuits.

## Balcombe United Reformed Church

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**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:-**

**6th April** Barry Piper  
**20th April** EASTER DAY – Michael Davies  
(this service will include Communion)

## April diary

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### 2nd

Wednesday 8.00pm United Lent Group

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### 6th

Sunday

**9.30am** David Nibloe & Derek Heath

**11.0am** Derek Heath

**6.30pm** Richard Walters & David Jones

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### 9th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship  
8.00pm United Lent Group

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### 11th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

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### 13th

Sunday

PALM SUNDAY

**9.30am** Adrian Cookney & Mike Gardiner

**11.0am** Mike Gardiner  
Noon Copy Date for May GoodNEWS

**6.30pm** Communion  
Richard Walters & David Walters

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### 15th

Tuesday 1.15pm Christianity made clear lunchtime presentation – Clair Hall  
“What’s Easter all about?”

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### 16th

Wednesday 8.0pm “The Lost Railway” illustrated talk by Lindfield Preservation Society at King Edward Hall

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### 17th

Thursday 8.00pm United Maundy Thursday Communion

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### 18th

GOOD FRIDAY

**10.30am**

Ron Goodenough

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### 20th

EASTER SUNDAY

**9.30am** David Nibloe & Duncan Warmington

**11.0am** Communion  
Duncan Warmington

**6.30pm** Richard Walters & Dick French

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### 22nd

Tuesday 7.45pm Ladies ‘In Touch’

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### 23rd

Wednesday 2.45pm The Fellowship  
7.45pm Elders’ Meeting

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### 24th

Thursday 8.00pm Monthly Prayer Meeting

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**27th**  
Sunday

**9.30am** David Nibloe &  
Stuart Silk  
**11.0am** Communion  
Michael Davies  
**6.30pm** Richard Walters  
& Brian Stone

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*Who is it?*

Twenty Questions on page 21

**Next *Good*NEWS  
out 27th April**

**village  
events?**

Contact the editor to inform  
him of local events in April.

## 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 Word Became Flesh**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

<sup>6</sup>There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup>John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" <sup>16</sup>From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

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# It's all greek to me!

**This passage may be very familiar to some, but read it through slowly and thoughtfully, as though for the first time.**

We call this the Prologue, it's a sort of curtain-raiser or overture to what John is to write. It's interesting to compare it with the start of Mark, who, after the briefest of introductions, plunges straight into the story. Luke begins by explaining why he has written, whereas John doesn't do that until the end. In fact, it's worth taking a look at John 20v31, because it helps us understand the whole of this Gospel. The word "Gospel" means "Good News", and John is very aware that knowing Jesus is good news. After all, he'd been a follower of Jesus for over 50 years and could recommend it!

Look at these 18 verses carefully – what is the key word? Not much doubt, it's "Word" (John wrote in Greek and used the word *logos*). Although it only appears four times, it dominates the Prologue, because each of the four statements (three in v1 and the other in v14) is so important. Think about them – really mind-blowing! "The Word" is of course Jesus of Nazareth, and John wants his readers to know that to believe in him and

have eternal life, we need to take in that he was God-become-man! God's creative, life-giving Word (see Genesis 1 and Psalm 33v6), the highest imaginable wisdom (for that's what *logos* meant to Greek philosophers) – all this was embodied in a real man who lived among us!

John's gospel is not difficult to read right through. Why not do this at Easter-time? One thing you'll notice is the simplicity of John's vocabulary. Jot down the words that keep cropping up, and think how John uses them to achieve his objective in chapter 20v31. And if you look again at this verse, you will see from a footnote that the Greek word that John used may have been either "you may believe" or "you may continue to believe". I think of this as one of the "happy ambiguities" in John's Gospel – it means that this inspired account of Jesus' life is for you, whether you are a committed Christian or whether you are just wanting to find out what it means to follow Jesus.

Next month we'll look at another passage from this wonderful book. And a promise: no more than one Greek word a month!

*Mike Gardiner*

# FEBA – broadcasting hope

### **The history of FEBA**

Feba has been reaching the unreached with the Gospel for over 30 years. And it all started with just £400 in the bank, a small group of supporters and a lot of prayer. That was in the mid-sixties and in the years since many listeners have met God through Feba's radio broadcasts.

### **In the beginning....**

Originally Feba was a UK support group for the US radio mission FEBC, which broadcasts from the Philippines. In the 1960's FEBC found that the reception from the Philippines was poor in North India, and despatched one of its engineers to find a better site for broadcasts to that region. Many countries were considered before settling on the Seychelles and in 1970 Feba began broadcasts to India. The work was now independent of FEBC and Feba was born.

Broadcasts began in just nine languages to India from two small transmitters. 1974 saw the completion of Feba's unique offshore antenna structure, built on a coral reef. Broadcasts followed to Pakistan and to East and Southern Africa.

### **Onwards and upwards...**

Since 1984, Feba has been a member of World Radio. The goal of World Radio is to broadcast the Gospel to every man, woman and child on earth in a language they can understand.

Most of Feba's broadcasting is still by short wave from a variety of outlets. But they are fast expanding into other areas. As well as two FM stations in Uganda and Kenya, many more are planned for Africa. In Central Asia a variety of media is used to reach people and there are many programmes on local stations throughout the whole broadcast area.

### **Feet still on the ground...**

Feba now broadcasts in over 60 languages and the half-million letters received each year indicate that its programmes are heard by millions of people. In this media age Feba uses its expertise in the field to reach the unreached with the gospel. Through Feba, by God's grace, the good news is being heard and people believe.



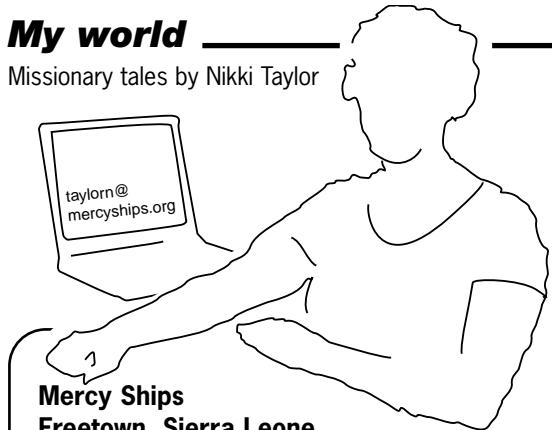


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## My world

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Missionary tales by Nikki Taylor



**This article from Feba is to remind us that we can support them in Prayer and giving throughout April. In these troubled times, even more people will be listening to their radios all over the world. See the Mission Notice Board for more information and envelopes for your donations.**

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## Meet the listeners

“One day I heard the ‘Sound of Life’ programmes. I was so happy... what I have searched for, for a long time, is Christianity.”

*A listener in Pakistan*

“Pray that God will change the lives of my parents and relatives as he has changed mine.”

*A listener in Ethiopia*

“For us in war-torn Sudan, Feba has become our church. I normally hide myself with my radio in tall grass and then tune in for the ‘Nuer’ programmes.”

*A listener in Sudan*

“I was greatly blessed, because I wanted to kill myself. I stay with my father’s brother, everyday he scolds me for nothing... This message made me realise how precious my life is and that Jesus loves me.”

*A listener in Zimbabwe*

### Mercy Ships Freetown, Sierra Leone

I am typing by light of the LCD screen on my laptop and running on battery power. The electricity has been pretty bad for the last few weeks, we seem to get some most days but it seems to go early in the evenings.

The ship has gone but our work goes on. We are always being asked “so has the ship gone?” Then the usual question: “so why are you still here?” So much focus goes on the ship, but it is good because then we get to explain what we are doing here.

I think I have just about got over my crush, there are definitely no feelings shown in return! But he does come to church with me, which is nice. I have been taken out to dinner by one of the British Soldiers over here. We seem to attract invites to BBQ’s and parties up at Leicester Square!

Hooray ‘light don cam’ Krio, for the power is back. We have adapted the popular Christian song for our own purposes here: ‘More water, more power, more of these in my life...!’

There are some exciting changes happening: I think we have just been given the land by the government to build our new centre on. I am very excited about all the new things that God is bringing to the fore here at the moment but I am also beginning to miss things from home badly and feel it is getting to be time to leave.

# Singing in the rain, almost!

Every year Sussex Christian Camps runs two weeks of youth camps near Uckfield. One of our members, Peter Trump – a committee member of the group for the last five years – tells us what it's all about.

**W**e may have forgotten how wet it was!! Yet we were blessed with two exceptional weeks for camp.

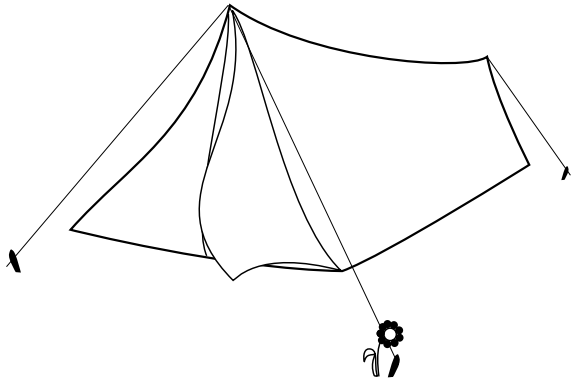
The final preparations were somewhat dependant on the Lord but with much prayer, a little anxiety and a few citing "Oh! Ye of little faith" the rain stopped and the field was cut, baled and carted just in time. Leaving us with the huge task of erecting the site.

The younger week began with a heat wave in the 30's and the 'It's a wet knockout' came as a relief with more people getting wet than usual just to cool down!

After all the prayer and efforts of everyone we had enough tent leaders and helpers to accommodate all 60+ children.

Will & Lyn Andrews were the speakers and we all became Gladiators for the week.

Several children were again challenged and this year they were invited to purchase a helpful bible reading booklet. This was to see if they were sincere in their commitment and a number spent a small amount of their pocket money to take a copy. (We only charged a



fraction of the true cost).

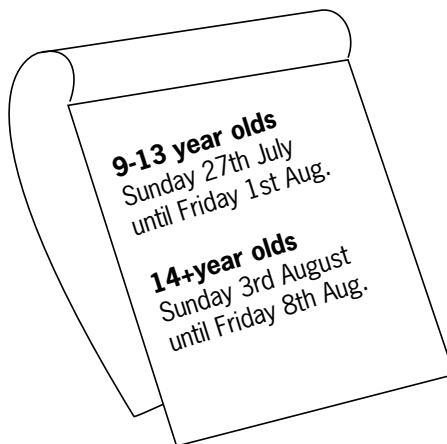
Youth Week had more numbers than before and Danny Tanton was the speaker (a young trainee missionary) along with his wife Sheila. He challenged all of us with several relevant questions like: "What are you doing here?" and "So what happens in the end?".

On Thursday a church in Eastbourne put on a film entitled "Left Behind" for us to see which provoked much discussion late into the night.

Friday came and we said goodbye to all the happy campers with some committing their lives to Christ for the first time, some determined to try and lead better Christian lives,

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!



but all benefiting for having spent time together with the Lord and their friends.

In the early hours of Saturday morning the few who remained to pack camp away were woken by an incredible rain storm which continued until late morning, frustrating the arrangements for packing everything away.

Although the canvas and field were still wet it was nothing compared to after lunch when the rain absolutely fell out of the sky, turning the field into a lake with the water lapping at our ankles. A dispirited bunch of leaders left everything to the elements hoping the rain would ease at some time.

Fortunately by Wednesday the sun had been out and with a little wind all was dry and with some valiant workers everything was put away for another year.

A big thank you to all those who helped in any way last year.

*Peter Trump*

## What can I do?

1. Pray
2. Be tent leaders (male and female) for the first week. Here's an opportunity for active Christians, looking to work with young people.
3. Be in a music group for one or two weeks (only in evenings)
4. Cook (chef's required)
5. Be general kitchen staff (complete teams welcome!) washing up etc.
6. Help to erect marquees and tents: Friday 25th and Saturday 26th July.
7. Help to pack everything away – Saturday 9th August.

**More information, application forms and costs from:  
Peter Trump 01444 451572 <[phjt@pasm.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:phjt@pasm.freeserve.co.uk)>**

# BB Display

**Friday 11th April** at 7 pm.

Please come and support the work among the boys.

This year the emphasis will be on the presentation of awards. Refreshments will be served after the Display. Entry is free!

**release** INTERNATIONAL  
  
THE VOICE OF THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

## **ADVANCE NOTICE: MISSION SUPPER**

**Saturday 3rd May**  
**7.30pm for 7.45pm**

**Speaker: Clare Myring**  
from Release International

Clare has recently visited Nigeria and will be able to give up-to-date information about what is going on in that country. She will also give us an overview of the world situation as it relates to the persecuted church.

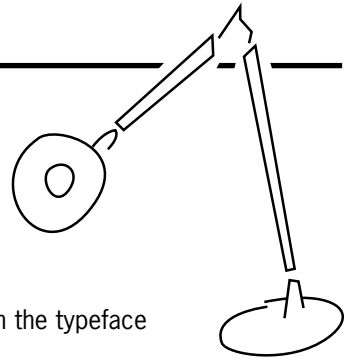
Free tickets are available from the Missions Group;  
Bill & Iris Green, Trudy Biersteker, John Barling and  
Ron Goodenough

NB. During the month of May we will be devoting our mission giving to Release International and there will be opportunity during this evening to give towards the work.

## Twenty more questions

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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 23.



- 1. What is your best memory from your school days?**  
Flirting!
- 2. Favourite TV programme?**  
'Friends'.
- 3. If 'Changing Rooms' were to visit your home, which room would you ask them to redecorate?**  
Bedroom, it was a bit of a rush job with purple paint!
- 4. Banoffee Pie, Apple Crumble or Fruit Salad?**  
Apple Crumble (with custard!)
- 5. Which service do you frequent most often?**  
Statistically, 9.30 I guess.
- 6. Have you been trained in a specific line of work, if so what?**  
Graphic Design.
- 7. What one person do you think has most influenced your desire to follow Christ?**  
Rev Norman Smith.
- 8. Who would you most want to have a 'one-to-one' conversation with (past or present)?**  
My Dad.
- 9. Do you qualify for a free Bus Pass?**  
No.
- 10. Shoe size?**  
9½, I think.
- 11. Create a new law:**  
Serious documents must not be typed in the typeface 'Comic Sans'.
- 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?**  
Its cross-section of different people.
- 15. Describe the 'Christian life' in no more than three words.**  
My only hope.
- 16. Most romantic moment?**  
Probably via text message!
- 17. Best moment of fame?**  
Sadly, my photo and name-check on Timmy Mallet's "Wack-a-day".
- 18. Give one piece of wisdom to the next generation.**  
Don't believe the hype.
- 19. What is the greatest difference between your life now and before you became a Christian?**  
I committed my life to Christ quite young, but I was unnecessarily sarcastic during teenage years (and I'm still trying not to be!).
- 20. Glasses, contact lenses or none?**  
None.

# The way of the world

**Call me old-fashioned, but when I go to see a movie set in the 'romantic comedy' genre I don't expect to be watching a scene which includes such delicacies as open surgery in a hospital theatre!**

It is no secret that I prefer to abstain from that kind of action personally, but it is true to say that there is definitely more of that than there ever used to be in the film industry. All movies seem to be required to contain a dose of bad language, a fistful of violence and a little blood and gore for good measure.

Of course, there have been many column inches written, by far more qualified authors than myself, about this subject. Mark Greene, in *Christianity & Renewal* magazine, cites that many industries (music, film, games) refuse to accept any blame for any evidence of negative attitudes or actions within society, but points out that "advertisers, politicians, propagandists and preachers know that attitudes and behaviour can be changed by communications". For instance, how many companies use product placement on screen to promote their brands? Even without any 'direct' reference being made.

So is the media breaking down a 'shock' barrier, that will never

be able to be replaced, I wonder?

Years ago, for instance, we all knew that many people swore in real life, but it just never happened in soap operas. Now all that has changed. Greene goes on to say "People get their models and their ideas about how to behave from somewhere, and if the only models they have are negative, then it is more likely they will behave in that way".

So is it me, am I just naive? After all, when I get the luxury of a session in front of a PS2 games console I play *Grand Theft Auto* to simply drive cars around the block, and don't get involved in any time-consuming fights! I guess God made us humans with minds to discern, and I can certainly easily choose to avoid the likes of *Animal Hospital* and *ER* on my TV.

However, what worries me more is the slow and gentle filter of all these effects in society taking the toll on future generations from an ever-younger age, where choosing is more difficult. As Christians we have a responsibility to teach what is right and true (Philippians 4:8) and be careful not to encourage others (whatever age) to do wrong.

*David Tingley*

"Try to shine as lights among the people of this world, as you hold firmly to the message that gives life."

Philippians 2: v15

## RUA preacher?

**The first sermon preached each Sunday is not by the pastor, but by you.**

You preach a message of good cheer when you say 'Good Morning' to those you meet as you are parking or are near the church door. You preach a message of welcome when you slide over in the pew instead of forcing others to squeeze in front of you. You preach a message of hope and joy when you sing the hymns. You preach a message of love when you smile and say hello to a visitor. You preach a message about the importance of the Scriptures when you listen carefully to the Bible being read. You preach a message of faith when you share a prayer request. You preach a message of encouragement when you voice your praise to the Lord.

Many messages are preached before the pastor stands to share the sermon. If your message is positive, faithful and consistent, then the message from the pulpit will be more effective. Go to church this Sunday and every Sunday, prepared to preach your very best sermon.

Something I found on the Internet.

*Jean Gardiner*

# *Your church needs YOU!*

*If you are a regular worshipper at Lindfield URC, why not take the new **Twenty Question** challenge? We need your contributions to the magazine. Do it online at [www.lindfieldurc.org.uk](http://www.lindfieldurc.org.uk) or send it to the editor as usual.*

## **Flower Rota**

		<b>Arranging</b>	<b>Distributing</b>
Apr	6	Iris Green	Vera Dorton
	13	Carol Marsh	Sue Tester
	20	EASTER SUNDAY	Dorothy Forster
	27	Zoe McQuillin	Betty Peter
May	4	Fiona Tingley	Jacqueline Wood
	11	Boys' Brigade	Iris Bingham
	18	Audrey McKee	Fiona Tingley
	25	Angela Newnham	Heather Swann

Help will be needed for the Easter flowers/decoration on Saturday 19th April. Watch the notice sheet for further information or contact Betty Billins. Many Thanks.

The **Twenty Questions** guest this month is  
David Tingley!

## 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