

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

JANUARY 2006

We Three Kings

The story of Epiphany



PLUS...

- Lindfield URC: A year in review
- Noah's Ark in Lindfield Life
- Mission: OM Turning Point

FREE
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF

Dear Friends...



Working Together in 2006

At Lindfield URC we care passionately for our church and the people and community we serve. We 'fire on many cylinders' and our ministry covers a broad scope – we have many activities providing for the youngest to the eldest.

We are a denomination that believes in the 'priesthood of all believers' i.e. we believe in equal opportunities which allow everyone to be involved in participating in all aspects of church life. For this to happen we need a culture of shared leadership, mutual support, value and encouragement, which cares for all and encourages each person to make contribution, from the minister to the newest member. This is why, in January and February, we are going to look at aspects of "All Member Ministry" in our morning services. In the evenings we complement this by looking at how Jesus exercised His ministry through the early chapters of Mark's gospel.

We want to see ourselves become more influential and effective in 2006 in delivering our Vision Statement :-

*Lindfield United Reformed Church
– worshipping God, sharing the good news of Jesus and seeing lives changed by his love.*

We are committed to:

- encountering God through daily praise, prayer and bible reading*
- encouraging one another to discover and fulfil God's plan for our lives*
- demonstrating God's love by meeting physical and spiritual needs, local and worldwide.*

Colin Bones

GoodNEWS

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Editorial

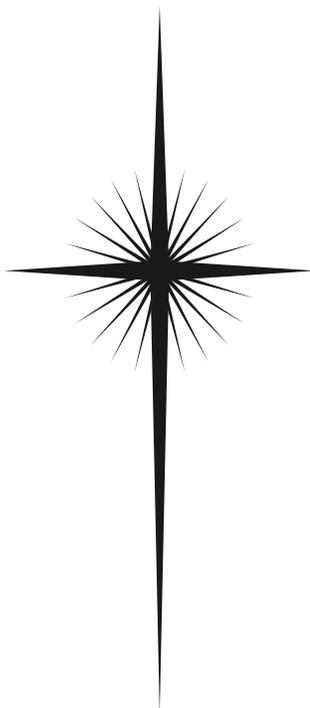


We bring on 2006 with new of last year: David Jones' Secretary's Report is printed for you to hear again, or read for the first time. Starts on page 16.

Our feature article (beginning on page 4) exposes some of the facts and traditions behind the 'Three Kings' and Epiphany. Something to consider perhaps, over your sandwiches!

Please keep your personal contributions and articles coming in – and, if you fancy it, we have a vacancy on the Editorial team, a new year challenge perhaps?

David Tingley, Editor



Prayer Diary



SUN

Pray for our Sunday worship, for those who lead and preach, for all who attend, that it may be glorifying to God whom we serve.

MON

Uphold all who are passing through difficult or changing times.

TUE

Remember Stepping Stones in your prayers, and all the Mothers & Babies/Toddlers who attend.

WED

Keep praying for Zest. There is a reshuffle of leaders this term, some discipline problems to be overcome, more helpers needed.

THUR

Pray for Haywards Heath & Burgess Hill URCs, and their new Minister, Robert Bushby, who joins them in January.

FRI

Lift to God our mission focus this month – 'Turning Point', Simon & Becky Lunt and team working amongst Muslims.

SAT

Continue to pray for 'Off the Fence' & 'The Worthing Churches Homeless Project', and thank God for them both.

Prayer *FOCUS*

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

At the beginning of another year, let us as individuals pray for our own neighbours and those who live in our street. Remember any known to you who are particularly up against difficulties and problems, and ask God to show you ways in which you can show your love and concern and offer them help. Let us resolve to make 2006 a year when we compassionately reach out to our non Christian neighbours and friends with the love of Jesus. We can witness by our actions as well as by our words!

A prayer from CARE: Lord of the Church, please raise up more of your people to be peacemakers – in families, communities and nations. Help each of us to listen to other points of view and be discerning. Give us wisdom and courage to know where forgiveness and repentance are needed to gain true peace and reconciliation. Amen.

The Season of Epiphany

In western Christian tradition, 6th January is celebrated as Epiphany. It goes by other names in various church traditions. In Hispanic and Latin culture, as well as some places in Europe, it is known as Three Kings' Day. Because of differences in church calendars, mainly between the Eastern Orthodox and the western Catholic and Protestant traditions, both Christmas and Epiphany have been observed at different times in the past. Today, most of the Eastern Orthodox traditions follow the western church calendar. The exceptions are some Greek Orthodox Churches and related traditions (e.g., Russian and Serbian Orthodox) that still follow the older calendar and celebrate Epiphany as the Theophany on 19th January.

Epiphany is the climax of the Christmas Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas, which are counted from December 25th until January 5th. The day before Epiphany is the twelfth day of Christmas, and is sometimes called Twelfth Night, an occasion for feasting in some cultures. In some cultures, the baking of a special King's Cake is part of the festivities of Epiphany (a King's Cake is part of the observance of Mardi Gras in French Catholic culture of the Southern USA).

In traditional Christian churches Christmas, as well as Easter, is celebrated as a period of time, a season of the church year, rather than just a day. The Season of Christmas begins with the First Sunday of Advent, marked by expectation and anticipation, and concludes with Epiphany, which looks ahead to the mission of the church to the world in light of the Nativity. The one or two Sundays between Christmas Day and Epiphany are sometimes called Christmastide. For many Protestant church



traditions, the season of Epiphany extends from 6th January until Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent leading to Easter. Depending on the timing of Easter, this includes from four to nine Sundays. Other traditions, especially the Roman Catholic tradition, observe Epiphany as a single day, with the Sundays following Epiphany counted as Ordinary Time. In some western traditions, the last Sunday of Epiphany is celebrated as Transfiguration Sunday.

The term epiphany means “to show” or “to make known” or even “to reveal.” In Western churches, it remembers the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who by so doing “reveal” Jesus to the world as Lord and King. In some Central and South American countries influenced by Catholic tradition, Three Kings’ Day, or the night before, is the time for

opening Christmas presents. In some eastern churches, Epiphany or the Theophany commemorates Jesus’ baptism, with the visit of the Magi linked to Christmas. In some churches the day is celebrated as Christmas, with Epiphany/Theophany occurring on 19th January.

As with most aspects of the Christian liturgical calendar, Epiphany has theological significance as a teaching tool in the church. The Wise Men or Magi who brought gifts to the infant Jesus were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as “King” and so were the first to “show” or “reveal” Jesus to a wider world as the incarnate Christ. This act of worship by the Magi, which corresponded to Simeon’s blessing that this

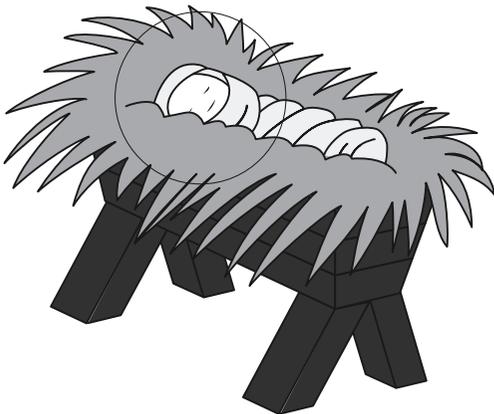
Feature – Epiphany

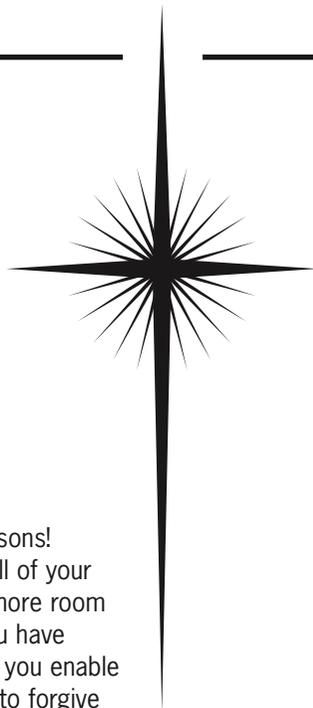
child Jesus would be “a light for revelation to the Gentiles” (Luke 2:32), was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people, of all nations, of all races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to only a few.

The day is now observed as a time of focusing on the mission of the church in reaching others by “showing” Jesus as the Saviour of all people. It is also a time of focusing on Christian

brotherhood and fellowship, especially in healing the divisions of prejudice and bigotry that we all too often create between God’s children.

Christian Resource Institute, Dennis Bratcher,
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<http://www.cresourcei.org/index.html>





An Epiphany Prayer

Father, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in Jesus the Christ, we who once were not your people but whom you chose to adopt as your people. As ancient Israel confessed long ago, we realize that it was not because of our own righteousness, or our own superior wisdom, or strength, or power, or numbers. It was simply because you loved us, and chose to show us that love in Jesus.

As you have accepted us when we did not deserve your love, will you help us to accept those whom we find it hard to love? Forgive us, O Lord, for any attitude that we harbour that on any level sees ourselves as better or more righteous than others. Will you help us to remove the barriers of prejudice and to tear down the walls of bigotry, religious or social? O Lord, help us realize that the walls that we erect for others

only form our own prisons!

Will you fill us so full of your love that there is no more room for intolerance. As you have forgiven us much, will you enable us with your strength to forgive others even more? Will you enable us through your abiding Presence among us, communally and individually, to live our lives in a manner worthy of the Name we bear?

May we, through your guidance and our faithful obedience, find new avenues in ways that we have not imagined of holding the Light of your love so that it may be a Light of revelation for all people.

We thank you for your love, praise you for your Gift, ask for your continued Presence with us, and bring these petitions in the name of your Son, who has truly revealed your heart. Amen

Family News

Congratulations to Ron and Janet Goodenough on the birth of another Granddaughter, Grace, born recently to their Son, Tim and his Wife, Rachel.

Congratulations, too, to **Katy Lewis** who has become engaged to **Tim Wraight**.

Sympathy

We send our love and sincere sympathy to **Kath Elcombe, Carol and Stuart Marsh and the family**, following the quite sudden death of Kath's Husband **Harry**, aged 98. Please support them with your prayers at this time.

Church Membership

We have recently welcomed back into membership **Mike** and **Jean Gardiner** after their ministry in Wandsworth, and we are also equally pleased that **Ray** and **Rosemary Tijou** have joined us, coming from Tooting URC.

Their addresses are as follows:

Mike and Jean Gardiner
48, Finches Gardens,
Lindfield.
Tel. 01444 482559

Ray and Rosemary Tijou
91, Gordon Road,
Haywards Heath.
Tel. 01444 412140

On the move

Finally after a long patient wait, **Sue Chapman** has moved to Sheffield to be near her son, Tim. We are grateful for the many gifts and talents Sue has shared with us during her 18 years at LURC, and we wish her God's blessing in the future. Her new address is:

Sue Chapman
Grawshaw Head Farmhouse,
Hollow Meadows,
Sheffield. S6 6GN.

Janet Drayton expects to move to 1 Finches Gardens, Lindfield just before Christmas.

Suzy Jacques is also on the move (though a some-what shorter distance!) After 15th January her address will be:

Suzy Jacques
3, Laurel House,
Great Heathmead,
Haywards Heath. RH16 1FE.
(Tel. Number should remain unchanged.)

The Fellowship

We start the New Year with our meeting on **Wednesday 25th January** at **2.45pm**, when our visitor will be Stuart Marsh who will be speaking about 'Plants of winter interest'. This will be an interesting afternoon. There will be a Bring and Buy stall. All are welcome.

Books replaced at Crawley Prison Fellowship

We are truly grateful for your generous gift of £250.00 which has come at a very needy time. We have been looking to replace the song books and Bibles that we use on a Sunday morning at Lewes Prison. The books we are using at the moment are looking very shabby, also they are sharing one between two prisoners. The prisoners are also sharing the Bibles. We are thrilled to say that we are having this problem, as there are more prisoners attending the services on Sunday, about 40 attend.

Many of the prisoners may come just for the coffee and biscuits which we serve after the morning service, but during this time in the chapel they hear a clear gospel message, and while they are having their coffee and biscuits we have a good opportunity to share our faith and pray with them. Thank you so much for your support, we are so encouraged.

Nigel and Valerie Maynard, Group Leaders of the Crawley Prison Fellowship.

WANTED – OLD CHRISTIAN BOOKS AND BIBLES FOR USE BY PRISONERS

If any one has any books they no longer need on Christian life and testimonies, perhaps they would be kind enough to pass these to Mary Comber. The books will then be lent to the prisoners after Chapel or Alpha meetings. The same applies to any un-needed new testaments or bibles, the version is not critical. These will be used in the cells.



Futuristic church to be built

A futuristic church capable of seating up to 2,000 people is to be built in West Yorkshire.

The Huddersfield Christian Fellowship has been granted planning permission for the religious complex on St Thomas Road in Huddersfield.

As well as the main auditorium, the 3.7-acre (1.5 hectare) site will include a children's play area, seminar rooms and parking for up to 250 cars.

Work on the site is expected to begin in 2006.

Source: bbcnews.co.uk

Crucifix ban

A 16 year old school girl was sent home from her school in Derby after refusing to remove a crucifix she was wearing. The school has a no-jewellery policy, although it allows Sikhs to wear religious items, such as a steel bracelet. The deputy head said that Sikhs had no option, but this did not apply to Christians.

Source: Church Times 9/12/05

Church primaries top tables again

By Rachel Harden

CHURCH of England and Roman Catholic primary schools accounted for two-thirds of the 100 top-performing primary schools in the country, according to Government figures released last week. Church schools account for only one third of the country's 17,000 primary schools.

Figures for the top 100 schools are calculated on the proportion of pupils achieving Level 5 in English, maths, and science at Key Stage 2, a test which is sat by 11-year-olds or pupils in Year 6.

The table released by the Department for Education and Skills showed that four Church of England and one Roman Catholic schools featured in the top ten.

Source: Church Times 9/12/05

The Ban(ne)d Interviews!!



Alex Hall

When did you first pick up your first drumstick?

It must have been about 3-4 years ago, so I was about 10.

How often do you practice?

I have drum kit at home, so I try to practice as often as I can. I also take lessons every week.

Do you have a favorite song(s) that you like to listen too or play?

Yes, Stairway To Heaven by Led Zeppelin.

Have you ever broken a drumstick?

No, not yet!

What colour socks are you wearing today?

Hehe erm... Grey ones with black strips, I just put on whatever I find first.

What is it like being up at the front during the service?

I was a bit nervous at first, but it's alright now, the only downside is I can't see the projector screen!

Do you play any other instruments?

Not any more, I used to take piano lessons, but I stopped them about a year ago.

Are you in a band outside of church?

No, not at the moment.

A tale of two Johns

A couple was arranging for their wedding, and asked the bakery to inscribe the wedding cake with 1 John 4:18 which reads: "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear."

The bakery evidently lost, smudged or otherwise misread the noted reference, and beautifully inscribed on the cake John 4:18: "For you have had five husbands, and the man you have now is not your husband."



Source: www.parishpump.co.uk

January church diary

1st

Sunday

10.30

All age New Year's Day Family Service
Colin Bones

5th

Thursday

House Groups

7th

Saturday

8.45 –
9.30am

Sat am Prayer
Meeting LURC

8th

Sunday

Jigsaw Sunday
Created for Good Works

Isaiah 42: 1-7,

Ephesians 2: 1-10

9.30am Colin Bones

11.00am Colin Bones

Mark's Gospel series begins

Mark 1: 1-15

– **Good News!**

6.30pm **Communion**
Colin Bones

11th

Wednesday

12.30pm Lunch

Fellowship

12th

Thursday

8.00pm

Church Meeting

13th

Friday

12.30pm Lunch

Fellowship

14th

Saturday

8.45 –
9.30am

Sat am Prayer
Meeting LURC

15th

Sunday

The Purpose of the Ministry of the Body of Christ

Luke 24: 44-53,

Ephesians 4: 7-16

9.30am Ron Goodenough

11.00am Ron Goodenough

Fair Trade Stall Between Services
Jesus' Amazing Ministry

Mark 1: 16-45

6.30pm Colin Bones

19th

Thursday

House Group Week

21st

Saturday

8.45 –
9.30am

Sat am Prayer
Meeting LURC

22nd

Sunday

The Character of Ministry

John 13: 1-17,

Galatians 6: 1-10

9.30am Colin Bones

Holy Communion

11.00am Colin Bones

Complete Healing

Mark 2: 1-12

6.30pm Colin Bones

25th

Wednesday 2.45pm Afternoon Fellowship
8.00pm Elders' Meeting

28th

Saturday 8.45 – Sat am Prayer
9.30am Meeting LURC
7.15 for In Touch
7.30pm Dinner

29th

Sunday

Our Response to Jesus' Love for Us

John 14; 15-31,
1 John 4: 7-12
9.30am Colin Bones
11.00am Colin Bones

True Freedom

Mark 2: 13-27
6.30pm Colin Bones

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.

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS LISTED ON BACK COVER

Turning Point

During 2005 we have continued to support Simon & Becky Lunt who are working with Operation Mobilisation Turning Point in London. At present they are in Damascus continuing with their Arabic Language Studies. Please continue to pray for them.

This month we are devoting our mission giving to Turning Point and in particular the development of a new two-storey resource library.

Often described as the most cosmopolitan place on earth, London has also been called 'the political and economic centre of Islam in Europe and the Western world'. With 11.8 million people speaking more than 300 languages, London is certainly the most international city in the world.

Remember the vision!

Seeing the growing challenge of Islam in the world and the need for training and resource, on 18th September 2001, OM Turning Point purchased a building in the heart of London. The timing of this development was significant - coming just days after the 9/11 attack in New York. The building appeared ideal for the vision of training, educating and resourcing - a huge answer to years of prayer.

Today, almost unrecognizable inside, the centre has seen a remarkable overhaul in its structure and is pivotal in developing the amazing 25-year track record of ministry among many of the one million Muslims living in London.

Building the resource!

The Centre is now at a crucial stage in its continued development, nearing the final phase of building work, and ever closer to fulfilling its potential. However, OM Turning Point's need is still vast.

One third of the refurbishment and rebuilding work remains to be completed including the development of office facilities for the team, two training rooms and a new Resource Library.

Resource Library.

One of the visions of the London Centre is to establish a resource library with a large resource of apologetic and polemic materials.

This unique library will provide a facility for study and





research for scholars, church planters and outreach workers. It will also be made available to other partnering agencies and individuals.

The urgency!

Please pray for this, as work and progress has been significantly held back by lack of finance at present. Although work continues to complete the remaining one-third of the refurbishment, leaders have ensured that the building work has not hindered the on-going evangelism, training and church planting ministries.

Its strategic importance!

OM Turning Point has helped thousands of people to share the love of God with Muslims, both in London and around the world. Throughout the history of this ministry, thousands have joined short-term outreach programmes in London and more than 500 people have completed one and two-year training programmes. In partnership with others, OM Turning Point workers have established two bilingual churches.

Its uniqueness!

For over 25 years OM Turning Point workers have shared the Gospel with Muslims in London. Their training programme is recognised both within OM and among other mission agencies

as ideal preparation for those hoping to serve across the Muslim World.

Three-fold Ministry Plan:

- Short-term mission opportunities, church seminars and resources
- Training for long-term Muslim and cross-cultural contact
- Bi-lingual international church planting

Keep praying for:

- The on-going outreach and training programmes
- More skilled volunteers especially builders for short term projects and year-long placements
- An increase in available funds to ensure the completion of this fantastic training and resource centre

More information about the ministry of OM Turning Point is on the missions' display boards and table.

If you would like to give towards this work please use the special envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any of the Sunday services. Please complete a Gift Aid Slip if appropriate.

Thank you

We live in interesting times

This report was read out by David Jones at the November church meeting for members, last year.

There is an old Chinese proverb “We live in interesting times” and this is true for the world, the denomination and Lindfield URC. We face several important challenges as we look ahead, particularly as Colin will have discovered God's next call for him and we will have the challenge of finding a new minister. There are many things to encourage us as well as some that should cause us to reflect.

Our membership increased by seven over the year to 202 but that does not include a number of other regular attendees.

Sadly, last year we had to close Girl's Brigade after 36 years. We are grateful to God for all those blessed through GB and those who so faithfully served in GB over the years. However, change is inevitable and we rejoice that God led us to Crusaders and the formation of Zest.

Another change saw the completion of the Baptistry after several years. Thanks must go to David Walters and the Managers for their hard work and commitment in completing what was a very complicated and time consuming task. The

challenge now is to see it used on a regular basis. There should be no shortage of candidates.



During the year we had Alive '05 with both its challenge to us to take the gospel to Lindfield and the lessons learned. God certainly blessed some through it, but in many ways it was an opportunity lost. We believe that this and the Baptistry are a challenge to us to see where evangelism lies in our priorities.

Village night will soon be upon us. Last year we again saw many

people on the premises and this is also a good opportunity to contact new people.

Last year's Christmas activities were well attended and the gospel was shared in song, drama, word etc.

There is always the danger of looking at the up-front events and forgetting the enormous contribution made by committed church members who week by week tend the garden, look after the fabric, tidy up, help with refreshments, pray, visit, lead worship and provide support in so many quiet ways and I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to them and publicly thank them on behalf of the fellowship. Things would soon grind to a halt without their input.

Mission

During the year we have continued our regular financial support of Simon & Becky Lunt and Dave & Pam White, all working with Operation Mobilisation and Andrew &

Jane Spiro serving in the Far East. Our total giving to Mission for the year will be around £36,000 being made up by £10,000 from the church's General Fund and £26,000 from members and regular worshippers through our monthly mission giving scheme. In addition to this, 34 children in Uganda are now being sponsored at £120 per year, plus one trainee pastor through the Romans 1:11 Trust following Samuel Muhumuza's visit last year. We also sent almost 200 Shoe Boxes last Christmas for Operation Christmas Child organised by Samaritans Purse.



We have had visits from a number involved in mission including Dickie Twort (Cascaid - Romania), Nicki Bigler (nee

Secretary's report continued...

Taylor YWAM - Switzerland), Dave Taylor (Interserve), Graeme & Sharon Golightly (Easter Team - Crawley), Patrick Ggenza (Romans 1:11 -Uganda) and Andrew & Jane Spiro. Mission events have included an evening with Brenda Johnson sharing her experiences in Malawi, Mission Suppers with Derek & Geri Wensley from the Newham Group of URCs and Paul Young from Off the Fence in Brighton. We also had a Tearfund Barbecue in the summer - and it didn't rain!

Looking at our regular events and programme we have received various reports which we will now share.

Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones have continued to be encouraged by the support of the parents/carers in the group. Contact with them is for quite a short period of time as the children leave to go on to Nursery or Playgroup at around 3 years of age.

This year we invited them to the Alive '05 Mission in May.

Over 100 children came each morning and Fiona Castle spoke to the parents on one of the mornings. Although it was a great week, numbers dropped significantly afterwards and were the lowest since Stepping Stones started 8 years ago.

This term we are back to full capacity and have started a waiting list again.

Through the morning we chat to the parents and are often able to talk about the Lord. Two mothers have started to go to King's Church and one has become a Christian and been baptized. We continue to pray that there will be a spiritual breakthrough.

Trudy & Janet are grateful for the dedication of the helpers. The morning is often busy and noisy but they happily serve the drinks, take an interest in the adults and children and help clear up the chaos at the end of the morning!

Boys' Brigade

During 2004/5 the Boys' Brigade Company worked with

a membership of just under 30 boys, and 8 adult staff. The revived Company Section, for boys of secondary school age, gradually achieved stability, and showed a modest numerical growth. The Anchor Boys, at the other end of the age range (5–8 years), showed a drop in numbers, partly in consequence of the transfer of a number of boys to Juniors. Both Company and Junior Sections have entered competitions, and joined holidays organised by the area organisation for BB, the Brighton Battalion.



Zest/Crusaders

ZEST is affiliated to Crusaders and began on Wednesday 12th January 2005 for children in school years 1 up to 9, and numbers grew steadily



during the first two terms. The average numbers each week are around 65 with a total of 95 youngsters on our registers. It's great to see so many young people coming along every Wednesday – many of whom have no church connections. Lots of fun is had each week in the form of sport, craft, cooking, games and a bible slot. There is an ongoing need for leaders to come forward due to the fact that we will be losing at least three in the very near future.

POWERSOURCE

This group meets each Sunday morning during the 9.30am service and covers the ages from 0 to 13 years. Numbers on the registers are slightly down on last year – currently 48. Unfortunately attendance each week is quite low with the average being 26. We have seen a marked difference in how often many church families attend over the past year. There is also a staffing need in our two middle groups and as a result we have

joined the groups together. JIGSAW is still held on the 2nd Sunday of the month when the youngsters don't come into church, but meet in the large hall for fun and learning all together

The Fellowship.

The Fellowship meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the church at 2.45pm. The object being to develop Christian fellowship. The meetings are open to all. We have 58 members on the register, with an average 35-40 attending each month.

Each meeting starts with family news, devotions and then a speaker. We also have a bring and buy stall which helps to finance speakers, etc.

A painting class meets every other Monday and has proved successful.

Among the speakers we have had this year have been our Minister Colin Bones, Stuart Dew on A Sense of Justice and John Withall; Blue Badges from Wakehurst Place. We had a Charity Tea for Great Ormond

Street Hospital for Sick Children, when our own Annabel Goody, who had nursed at Great Ormond Street, gave a most interesting talk on her life as a nurse at the hospital.

In October we hosted the East Sussex Rally of URCs from eleven churches in East Sussex - our programme for the day consisted of a talk by Margaret Nicholl on William Allen (Quaker) then Chris Comber organised a guided walk and talk on the history of the houses in the High Street. The afternoon speaker was John Withall with an update on the seedbank, etc at Wakehurst. It was a most successful day and an opportunity to get to know other URC members in Sussex. Our Fellowship is growing in numbers and a full comprehensive programme has already been booked up to July 2006. We look forward to more people joining us.

The Lunch Fellowships

The two Lunch Fellowships have cooked approximately 870 meals in total during eleven

months of this last year. Iris Green decided that the time had come for her to hang up her apron last December, thus completing over three years in the Wednesday leadership role. She handed the wooden spoon to Janet Drayton, who pays tribute to the splendid back-up teams that Gwen Hillman and she have inherited, without whom not one meal would be possible.

Throughout both of the Fellowships an atmosphere of pastoral care is fostered.

Faith Group is a monthly opportunity for parents of pre-school children to get together to support one another spiritually and provide encouragement in the challenge of being a parent to young children.

We initially met in each others homes but changed venue to the lounge at church with the benefit of having extra play space for the children. Five or six mums usually attend the sessions. One of the mums does not attend church regularly and started coming after attending an

Alpha course.

Annabel Goody and Emma Tingley took over the coordination of the group in September.

In Touch

This group has now been running for some seven years and continues to be an attraction particularly to newcomers to the church. It serves as an interim step and is a way of meeting a number of ladies at one time.

We had speakers from the Haven Trust and the Interfaith Liaison office. Brian Tuppen, one of our members led a very interesting evening, which included his testimony. We had an enjoyable Walk and Supper.

Informal evenings have proved to be very successful and many have enjoyed furthering relationships on these occasions. A varied programme is arranged for 2006, beginning on January 28th with the In Touch Dinner, an evening which has proved to be excellent for all who attend.

We do pray that In Touch will continue to serve this fellowship

Secretary's report continued...

in a way pleasing to God and in the furtherance of his kingdom.

Pop In continues to meet on a Thursday to provide fellowship and refreshments. There is a regular attendance of some 20/30 people from within the fellowship and visitors.

Concourse continues to open daily from 10 to 12.30. to provide an opportunity for people to stop by, to pray and have fellowship. We have had a number of visitors, some requesting prayer and some wishing to know more about the church and its activities.

House groups continue to provide support in fellowship and teaching with a varied programme. Currently we are looking at the Lord's Prayer.

We should also remember Eileen Jacques and the finance team, Fo Tingley and the pastoral team and David Walters and the managers for their continued input.

2006 now beckons and it is essential that as a church we spend time in prayer seeking God's will for the future, remembering that unless the Lord builds the house they labour in vain that built it. Are we to build something that will glorify the Lord? How do we build on our mission statement and grow in maturity? The call to go into all the world to preach the gospel is still current – how will we reach the people of Lindfield? We will need to pull together if we want to see these things happen.

David Jones and Sue Waller

Noahs Ark

Noahs Ark is a group run for pre-school children and their carers which is held in the stable block and school room of All Saints' Church in Lindfield.

It is run each week during school term time. We talk to Janet Dingemans, who oversees the running of both sessions.

Noah's Ark is held on a Tuesday and Wednesday of every week between 9.30am and 11.00am. The group was set up over 30 years ago and Janet has been running Noah's Ark for nine years.

There are between 60 and 70 children on the register with a maximum of 40 children attending each session, although this number does fluctuate. The children attending come from Lindfield and the surrounding area. Each session is run by a team of four helpers and the aim of each morning is to share the love of Christ through chatting to Mums and Carers and playing with the children. They also share the grace during each morning.

Coffee and tea is served until 10.00am and then the children sit down for a sing song and a drink and a biscuit.

The children also go to the main body of the church for a service three times a year, at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

As well as Noah's Ark there are also other groups held in the stable block, including a twins club on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month and Rainbow Club which is for 0-16 month olds on a Wednesday afternoon.

For further information regarding Noah's Ark please contact Janet Dingemans on 01444 483565

Tell everyone about it.

If you run a club or group in the local community that you would like to talk more about, submit an article/information to the editor – it would be great to see more of what is going on in/around the village.

Contact details on page 2.

Reflections on a Rainbow

By Sue Chapman

Why the rainbow, Lord?
Arching your heavens?
It speaks of promises and trust,
Love, protection, faithful and just.
Mercy proclaimed across the sky;
Ours the covenant and blessing
Yours the heartfelt forsaken cry;
Signs repentance and confessing.

The blood red surmounts.
Points to sacrifice
The Lamb of God, the perfect gift,
Suffering, dying to heal the rift.
It's all sufficient message now
Declares the answer to man's need,
If only we, at your knee will bow
And daily, follow your gentle lead.

Orange reminds us,
Of God's rich harvest.
Souls bought, lives changing, fruit to bear;
Love, joy and peace His gifts to share.
In patient kindness He provides
Faithfully ministers to our need.
Walking, in friendship, he confides,
Prompts us to others, for Him to feed.

Gold-yellow for God,
A diety, nigh.
Seated on high in burning light,
Adored by angels, pure and bright.
Immortal, yet present, always wise.
How can we bear thy searching gaze?
Nor flinch from thine all seeing eyes?
The cross can stand the piercing rays.

Everlasting green
Whispers eternity.
Verdant pasture by waters still.
Seeking to know my Father's will.
Growth and obedience, hand in hand;
His constant presence I will tell,
Until, on Jordan's brink I will stand
And evermore with Him do dwell.

Blue is for Jesus,
Colour of heaven.
Perfect Godhead, obedient Son
Veiled in flesh, til redemption's won
Baptised your Father acknowledged you.
A dove anointed, pure and holy.

Transfigured before those who knew,
You, God's Son of birth so lowly.

Indigo proclaims
A King in royal robes.
To your chosen people promised long.
A Messiah foretold in words and song,
The Christ, to whom all knees will bend,
The resurrection first is He,
When rolled, as a scroll, the earth will end;
In His triumph train, His church we'll be

The violet breathes
A Spirits counsel.
His constant witness to the Son;
Comfort, presence, til life is done.
He utters groans we cannot phrase,
Pervades and heals with selfless love.
Teaches a path of prayer with praise,
Whispers gentleness, rest of a dove.

Seven colours tell,
Of God's perfect plan,
Divine fullness for mortal time.
Completeness only in Him we find.
Your book records sprinkling sevenfold,
A leper's cleansing required the same.
Seals and trumpets the angels
hold,
Before we can enter the city
of gold.



Flower Rota

Arranging

Distributing

January

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Christmas Decorations | Heather Swann |
| 8 | Gladys Porter | Sue Tester |
| 15 | Mies Campling | Dorothy Forster |
| 22 | Vera Dorton | Betty Peter |
| 29 | Mary Comber | Jacqueline Wood |

February

- | | | |
|----|---------------|------------------|
| 5 | Carol Marsh | Barbara Shepherd |
| 12 | Audrey McKee | Iris Bingham |
| 19 | Jessie Green | Fiona Tingley |
| 26 | Zoe McQuillin | Heather Swann |



Church activities

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

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

PRAYER MEETINGS:

- Mon 9.30am An Hour of Prayer
- Wed 9.45am Short Service of Intercession
- Thur 8.00pm Church Prayer Evening
(4th Thursday)
- Sat 8.30 Three Churches Prayer Meeting.
– 9.45am Venue rotates between the three churches.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

- Sun 6.30pm Sunday Evening Youth Group
- Mon 6.30pm Boys' Brigade – Junior Section
(8–11 years)
- 7.45pm Boys' Brigade – Company
Section (11+ years)
- Tue 10.00am Stepping Stones
(Parents and toddlers)
- 7.45pm In Touch (4th Tuesday)
- Wed 2.45pm The Fellowship (4th Wed.)
- 5.30pm Zest 1:2, 3:4
- 6.45pm Zest 5:6:7
- 7.15pm Zest 8+
- 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)

House Groups normally meet 1st and 3rd Thursday

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

Phonebook

Church (payphone):

01444 484620

Minister's office number:

01444 487607

Boys' Brigade:

Geoffrey Cocksedge
01444 474007

Cradle Roll:

Sue Tester 01444 482810

Flowers:

Betty Billins 01444 484494

Hall Booking Secretary:

Audrey McKee 01444 415031

In Touch:

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Lunch Fellowship:

Wednesday:
Janet Drayton 01444 456161

Friday:

Gwen Hillman 01444 456963
Anne Parker 01444 473519

Magazine: Editor:

David Tingley 01444 451024

The Fellowship:

Jessie Green 01444 452708
Roy Billins 01444 484494

Stepping Stones:

Janet Goodenough
01444 417002

Transport:

Tina Elphick 01444 484440

Youth and Children's Work

Co-ordinator:

Iris Green 01444 484117

Junior Church

& Zest Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683

Local events



Lindfield URC Men's Breakfast

Saturday 14th January
8.30 – 10am

RELEASING HOSTAGES

Real life stories from the Middle East during the Lebanese Civil War. One of our current local Hospital Chaplains (David Goodenough) was, from May 1987 to July 1993, based in Cyprus working for the Middle East Council of Churches, which included being an advisor to the Archbishop of Canterbury on negotiations to secure the release of the western hostages. David witnessed the power of God at work during these tense and difficult times.

Do join us and perhaps bring a friend for a traditional cooked breakfast, followed by the inside story of the above.

For catering purposes, please contact Ray Smith (484427), Ron Goodenough (417002) or David Jones (483037) for advance free tickets.

The Preservation Society

King Edward Hall

A talk on
Kipling's Sussex
by Mike Smith
Thursday 19th January
2.30pm

Members will be able to renew their annual membership at the meeting. Admission is £1 including refreshments. All welcome.

Coffee Morning

In aid of the Boys' Brigade

Saturday 21st January
10am – 12pm,
Lindfield URC

Bric-a-brac, book stalls
Refreshments.
"Please come and join us for refreshments in a nice warm hall"

Lindfield Times

is now available and
delivered free to over
3000 homes in Lindfield.

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