

*Good***NEWS**

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

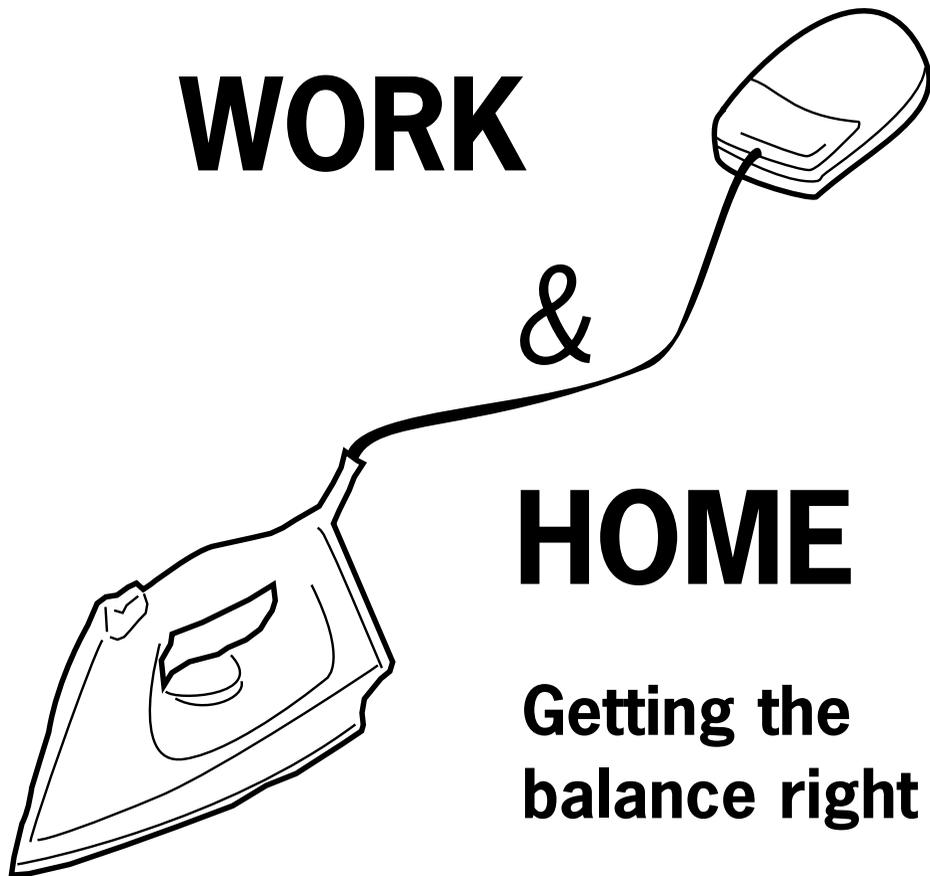
JANUARY 2003

WORK

&

HOME

Getting the balance right



-
- **New minister appointed for Lindfield URC**
 - **Boys' Brigade mid-session report**
 - **Diary events and services for January**

FREE
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF

GoodNEWS

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Editorial



Lay down your turkey sandwich, remove the mince pie wrapper from the table and wash down that last lonely Twiglet with a mouthful of mulled wine! **Right here is where you can, I hope, begin to contemplate the year ahead.**

Ron leads us in gently with some wise words inspired from The Lakes. Reminding us that God will be our guide forever, if we let Him (**Page 1**).

Maybe you have some time to spare over the holiday period – or perhaps you are already planning on spending time in thought/prayer at the church on New Years Day. Whatever, don't forget your monthly Prayer Diary resource (**Page 2**) to assist you.

Our feature this month is all about trying to maintain a healthy balance between work and home life – Lesley Piper shares some of Rob Parsons' wisdom on **Page 4**, and a few kind souls help us get a broad picture of what 'normal' working hours mean (**Page 6**).

Nikki Taylor inspires (**Page 13**), Geoffrey Cocksedge informs (**Page 14**) and Fiona Tingley (mum to me!) encourages us (**Page 18**). Plus more besides...

Above all else, I pray that God speaks to you, and you to Him, throughout this new year.

David Tingley, editor



A resource for the journey

Coming to the end of a year and starting a new one is inevitably a time for reflection and taking stock.

One thing is certain; none of us knows what 2003 will bring. Many of us would have had plans for last year, some may have come to fruition, others didn't. Some things will have taken place in our lives that we didn't expect or plan, some pleasant and others painful. There are often lessons that can be learned as we experience life's journey.

A while back we were away on holiday, enjoying the beauty of the Lake District. We love walking and had gone off one day with all of our equipment; proper clothing, plenty of food and water, first aid kit, map (which I do pride myself in being able to read!) – you name it we had it!

For a few hours we were doing fine and we were only a mile or two from the finish. Then the path just disappeared. I knew the direction we needed to go so we pressed on – typical man! Soon the weather closed in and the light started to fade. Rather than risk being rescued the sensible thing to do (I was told) was to retrace our steps and take an alternative route back, which we

did. This meant that we walked a further 5 or 6 miles and arrived back just in time for bed.

What we really needed in addition to all of our gear, was someone who knew the way, who had been there before, who was familiar with the area. Then we wouldn't have had the problem. So often in life we think we can handle situations and circumstances.

A verse of the Bible that has been precious to Janet and myself over the years is Psalm 48:14 – 'This God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end'. Jesus himself promised to be with us 'even to the end of the age'. We may be confident and think we are well equipped but if we don't have the Lord Jesus to guide us day by day there will be the inevitable situation that we will not be able to handle or make sense of.

Maps and guidebooks are fine but when the sky grows dark and the path gets rough, our best resource is the guide Himself.

May God bless us individually and as a church as we seek to walk in step with Him throughout this coming year.

Ron Goodenough, elder



SUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the beginning of 2003, pray that the Holy Spirit will fill us afresh. • Pray that our worship may be to God's glory, and acceptable to Him. • Uphold our worship leaders (David and Richard), and all who preach. • Junior Church's 'Jigsaw' which will continue once a month.
MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank God for 'Bytes', the new cafe for young people in Haywards Heath and pray for it and for the youth workers involved. • Ask God to help us to prepare for any change the new year may bring, either in our personal or church life. • Pray for our young people in Carpe Diem and the 14+ Group.
TUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember the Girls' Brigade – the girls, the staff and all those who help. • Pray for Stepping Stones and Janet Goodenough as she leads that group of parents, carers and babies. • Pray for those who are unemployed and their families.
WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank God for providing Colin Bones as our new minister-to-be. • Please continue to seek God's will in the ministry of LURC. • Our mission focus this month, Prison Fellowship. • Pray for those caring for the elderly, at home, in hospital or in care homes; in particular remembering Compton House.
THUR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask God's blessing on 'Pop-in'; those who attend and for Carol Walters and her team who minister to them. • Pray that the House Groups may be opportunities for fellowship, learning together, caring for each other and evangelism.
FRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for the Boys' Brigade, for a new captain and for more staff required in the Junior Section. • Remember the wider work of the URC in the Sussex East District and The Southern Synod, of which we are a part. • Junior Church – all groups now using the new 'Roots' teaching material.
SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please pray for all members/regular worshippers whose surname begins with A & B. Take time to put names to faces by using the photographs in the Concourse. • Pray for all victims of violence, theft and mans' inhumanity to man.

Pastoral vacancy filled – praise God!!

Following our Joint Church Meeting with Balcombe URC on the 12th December most will now know that Colin Bones has accepted the call to be our minister.

It's great to end 2002 on such a positive and exciting note. We praise God for His clear direction and the overwhelming love, unity and honesty that we experienced at our meeting. Colin, his wife, Catherine and their family will be moving to Lindfield later in the summer and we look forward with anticipation to their arrival.

In a letter from Colin after he received news of the Church Meeting he says that he was both “humbled and rather overwhelmed” and would “consider it a real privilege to come and serve among us.”

He appreciates all that is going on at Lindfield and is “looking forward to bringing the gifts in ministry that the Lord has given him to lead, enthuse, inspire and serve to see our potential fulfilled to the glory of God. Catherine, too, is excited about finding her place in the body to serve and use the gifts that God has given her.”

In the meantime let's continue to pray for Colin and Catherine and also the church at Canford Heath where he is currently the minister. They will be going through the same process that we have during this past year. We also need to pray for ourselves, maintain our unity and support for each other and to continue to focus our eyes on Jesus as we step out into 2003 and beyond with the challenges and changes that will inevitably come.

Ron Goodenough, church secretary

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:-

5th January Frank Mugridge
19th January Michael Davies – COMMUNION SERVICE





The ‘season to be jolly’ has now passed. In January the tradition points us to make one or two valiant resolutions to make for a better year ahead. As Vince Foster (a US lawyer) once said: “no-one was ever heard to say on their death bed, I wish I had spent more time at the office”! How are we at balancing home life and time at work? Lesley Piper reflects on Rob Parsons’ book ‘The heart of success’.

I’ll do it, in a minute!

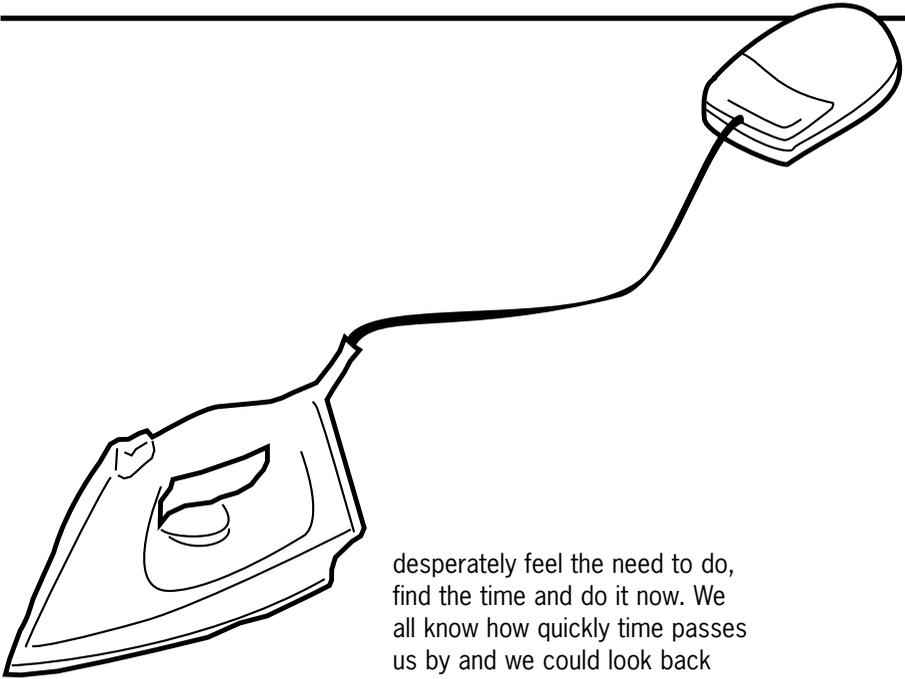
I have just finished reading this thought-provoking book by Rob Parsons, and the main and immediate impressions I have are that you are made to reconsider your life at work and how it affects the rest of your life.

Do you have any other life outside of those hours committed to your job or career? Do you make time to enjoy being with your family, or do you just need those hours to sleep, to get you through the next day? You may earn enough cash to buy your children bigger and better toys, but do you watch them play with them? Are you there at the important moments in their lives?

The author refers to each chapter as a ‘law’ and in “Law 1” I found it very easy to relate to

an example about working longer hours than others. I think it is possible sometimes, as a manager, to feel guilty if you are ready to leave at the same time as everyone else, or if you leave before a fellow manager. The questions then come thick and fast... Do they have more to do than me? Am I doing my job well enough if they need to stay late and I don’t? Is there something I can do to help them? Taking a day off is wonderful but an agony of decision – is there a good reason for my absence? Delegation is a good thing, but am I relinquishing my duties onto other shoulders?

“Law 2” is about giving people a feeling of self worth. As far as the company that I work for is concerned, I feel proud of the



training and care that is now given to the members of staff. We have gained an award for 'Investors in People' and hope that there is no one who feels that they work for an uncaring employer.

"Law 3" encourages us to discover those hidden talents in people so that they can be used to the best advantage, both personally and for that of the business. People need the freedom to dream in order to achieve their potential (Law 4), finding solutions to problems instead of difficulties. "Don't just dream – plant a seed" – if there is something that you

desperately feel the need to do, find the time and do it now. We all know how quickly time passes us by and we could look back and find that it is too late.

What do we do with the time that was once spent doing the washing by hand, or writing a letter instead of firing off a quick email? When your life seems to stretch endlessly into the future and you keep putting off things that could be done today, remember this quote from chapter 7. "When she was 115 years old Jeanne Calment was asked how she saw the future. Her reply was 'very, very short'."

How much longer have we got to make a mark in our business, our church, our family? Will we be remembered for being there when we were needed or will people say "I don't remember them"?

Lesley Piper



A day in the life of...

Here we see just how some of us do spend our days! On the opposite page you have a brief diary of three friends of the church; David Goodchild, Jane Harfield and, to give a spin on how ministers spend their time, Charles Martin (departing interim moderator). Then below, we ask them to explain if their faith in God helps or hinders their work and home life balancing act, and if they have any tips!

God gives me the ability to cope with the daily stresses and pressures of such a tight schedule. He provides me with the answers to my problems of meeting the children from school etc, until Tim gets home. If I didn't have my faith I'd have given up and gone back to Sainsbury's [to work] long ago! I now have evenings/weekends with Tim and the children.

My only tip is have faith in God, because if you don't it would all collapse like a pack of cards.

Jane
clerical
officer

I do take one day off each week and occasionally there is a free evening. The danger of the Ministry is that your job and your life become one. The strain soon begins to show and in order to give me a hobby, my family are ganging up against me to get a dog. At least he/she/it won't tell the elders what I say about them when they are not listening!

Charles
minister

God has given me a wonderfully tolerant and understanding family. One of the most important calls of the day is to Lydia after she has dropped Joe at Playgroup. We try speak a couple of times a day. Lydia has a full time job as mother of our children. When working from home I try to ignore the phone during my 'tea breaks'. On a day to day basis God keeps me safe as I drive, sometimes silly, distances for work. As a family we pray together before the children go to bed.

David
area sales
manager

Charles

0530 Wake.

0600 Pray.

0700 Breakfast with wife.

0720 Leave house, get stuck on A27!

0745 Arrive at office at Hounsom Memorial Church in Hove.

1000 Folk know when I am in the office, because my car is

outside the church and they drop in for a chat and a coffee.

1045 Minister's team meetings.

1130 Visit to play-groups / time for people etc.

1200 Sandwich lunch.

1300 Snooze time.

1400 Afternoon spent in visits / sick communions

/ catching up with paper work / preparing for evening meetings.

1800 Supper from microwave in church.

1930 Meeting.

2200 Home time.

Jane

0640 Tim wakes me before he goes to work.

0700 Wake children, wash, dress and feed them.

0830 Take children to school.

0900 Take Kieron to playschool.

0915 Go shopping.

1030 Get home, unpack shopping, make sandwiches for lunch and

get ready for work.

1130 Pick Kieron up from playschool.

1145 Take Kieron to friend's house.

1200 Have lunch.

1245 Go to work.

1300 Start work – pulling files, being at admissions window & dealing with telephone calls and the "bleep".

1620 Do the post.

1800 Sign out keys and go home.

1815 Arrive home, see the children, have tea and help put the children to bed.

1945 Get changed and go out to play darts with Tim.

2330 Get home and go to bed.

David

0600 Wake up.

0715 Leave the house. Drive to Paddock Wood (Kent) for 0815 to collect some products for installation in the Vale of Glamorgan tomorrow.

0830 Leave Paddock Wood for Strensham (Worcestershire) for a meeting with a key client.

1300 Heading off to a site visit with a client and contractor in Cirencester (Gloucestershire).

1500 Site visit: made some notes and reported back to both missing parties. Head off to Barry in the Vale of Glamorgan.

1830 Arrive at my hotel in Barry. Unfortunately my

son, Joe, had just gone to bed, so missed saying goodnight on the phone.

1930 Night visit to site in preparation for tomorrow's works.

2100 Dinner with client.

2230 Back at my hotel. I call Lydia to see how her day was and to say night night. After that I go to sleep.

I'm a celebrity, I'm sorry!

When former world champion boxer Nigel Benn appeared on a charity reality TV show shown on ITV1 during September last year, he came across as an unforgiving bully. In an interview with Martin Saunders, he had the chance to apologise for his actions.

Benn explains "I came back and thought – the show hasn't changed me. And the Lord said 'hey, watch that video of you.' I watched it and said 'Wow! Please, that's not me! It's got to have been the editing... it must have been!'" He continues, "They didn't want to show me reading the Bible to Darren – they wanted to show me in conflict instead". But he admits he took the bait, and since returning to full calorie rations, he got the chance to apologise on 'This Morning'. "I apologised to my Christian brothers and sisters, I didn't want to come out with any feeble excuses. I'm sorry Lord. And He's heard my cry, and that's why I've still got a smile on my face, because He's in my corner."

Source: Christianity and Renewal Magazine

Jailed charity worker freed

Deaf charity worker Ian Stillman has been released from prison two years into a ten-year sentence for drug smuggling in India. He was released on health grounds but has not been acquitted, the Foreign Office told BBC News Online.

The Indian authorities had come under increasing pressure to free Mr Stillman, who is deaf, has an artificial leg and diabetes.

Source: www.bbc.co.uk

Change of heart in Zimbabwe?

The Zimbabwean government has announced, in an apparent change of heart, that it will spare church farms that had been listed for compulsory acquisition under its controversial land reform programme. A government minister told church leaders that the church properties had been listed by mistake, said the Rev Trevor Manhanga, president of the Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia.

Fair deal at the checkouts?

Recent research from National Opinion Polls looked at the question: "Are we a nation of supporters or cynics?" The survey, on behalf of Traidcraft showed that while the overwhelming majority of people agree with fair trade in principle, only one fifth currently follow this through when shopping.

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

Jo and Paul Bloxham and family would like to thank all their friends at Lindfield URC for their prayers and support on the passing of Jo's mother, Wendy Musson, who greatly appreciated fellowship at the Friday lunches.

Brenda Tuppen would like to thank the church for the beautiful flowers received recently, when she was unable to get to church. The prayerful thoughts and continuing care and concern and practical help of so many people are deeply appreciated. Brian and I feel so pleased to be members of such a loving and caring fellowship.

HOT OFF THE PRESS – Ian Stillman has been released. Your signing of the petition at our Prisoner Sunday and your prayers have worked. Praise GOD!

Greetings to all my friends in Lindfield from **Dickie Twort**. (If you wish to receive the latest Prayer Letter from Dorca, please see John Barling).

The Fellowship

We meet next at 2.45pm on 22nd January when our speaker will be the Rev Michael Davies. He will be talking to us about '30 years in the Ecumenical Jet-Set'. Tea and biscuits will be served at the close of the meeting. All visitors will be made welcome.

Teddies for Tragedies

Thanks to all who have contributed to making teddies at Lindfield and Haywards Heath URC's. This year's tally is about 250. They appear from time to time on television in various parts of the world in the hands of deprived children.

Gladys Porter

Thank you from Cascaid in Romania.

I received your cheque for £1000 this morning – what a fantastic surprise! It is a wonderful gift, and it's just marvellous the way Lindfield has supported us so consistently over many years – especially as your outward-looking vision connects you to so many other places as well.

We cannot for the foreseeable future import items into Romania, and are not collecting clothes. Accordingly our plan has been to give to Dorca whatever cash donations we can, in lieu of what we would have spent on transporting the clothes and other items. So your money has come at a perfect time. It will be an enormous boost to Misu and the gang – not only practically, but psychologically too.

Dickie Twort

January diary

1st

Wednesday 10am-noon
Church open for prayer

5th

Sunday
9.30am Richard Walters
& Ron Goodenough
11.0am Ron Goodenough
6.30pm David Walters

8th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch
Fellowship

9th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting

10th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch
Fellowship

12th

Sunday
9.30am Richard Walters
& Stuart Dew
11.0am Stuart Dew
12noon Copy Date for
February 'GoodNEWS'
6.30pm Communion –
David Nibloe & Steve
Fisher (Tonbridge URC)

16th

Thursday House Groups week

19th

Sunday
9.30am Communion –
Richard Walters & Charles
Martin (interim moderator)
11.0am Charles Martin
6.30pm David Nibloe &
Cavan Wood

22nd

Wednesday 2.45pm The Fellowship
7.45pm Elders' Meeting

23rd

Thursday 8.00pm Monthly Prayer
Meeting

25th

Saturday 7.15pm 'In Touch' Dinner

26th

Sunday
9.30am Richard Walters
& Martin Hall
11.0am Communion –
Michael Davies
6.30pm Jeremy Heath

Happy? Got anything to share from Christmas?

Read any particularly helpful verses from the Bible? Read a really helpful book?

Prayer answered? Has God spoken to you in a powerful way?

Have you been challenged by a recent sermon? **Become a Christian?**

If you have something to share which may help or amuse the rest of us, why not submit it to GoodNEWS – February copydate is noon on 12th Jan.



7 days

Our church is open 7 days a week – whether you want to pray quietly alone, have someone pray with you or just talk! You are welcome.

Mon–Sat 10am - 1pm
Sunday services



This church, 10-12noon
New Year's Day.

A place to think.

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.

Prison Fellowship

“At any one time there are as many as 100,000 children in England and Wales who have a parent or parents in prison.”

This is a heart wrenching statement from the Prison Fellowship whom we are supporting this month.

The seed for the formation of Prison Fellowship was sown when, in 1974, Charles Colson, Special Counsel to USA President Richard Nixon, went from presidential circles to a seven-month prison sentence for his part in the Watergate conspiracy. On his release, Charles founded Prison Fellowship to support the sort of offender he now knew more about from personal experience.

Prison Fellowship is now an ecumenical prison-outreach movement of Christians committed to breaking the cycle of crime through personal involvement with prisoners,

ex-prisoners and their families in over 80 countries.

In England and Wales there are over 130 prison establishments and over 100 of them are visited by Prison Fellowship groups. There are over 50,000 prisoners at any one time and over 30,000 of these are contacted by volunteers from Prison Fellowship. This is great news but there is more to do and this is where YOU can help. Please visit the Missions Notice Board this month and take an information sheet so that you may PRAY for Prison Fellowship. Please take an envelope and GIVE to Prison Fellowship. Please GO and help Prison Fellowship, if God is prompting you to do so.



PRISON FELLOWSHIP
A Christian Ministry to Prisons

Registered Charity No. 279446

Thank you from Project Ruth

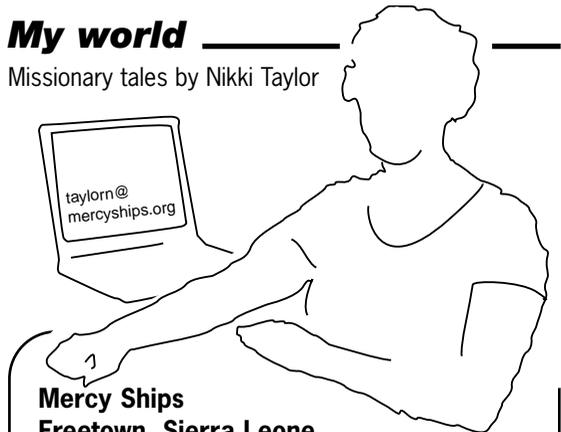
Thank you very much for the cheque for £1000, this is very much appreciated, and please express our thanks to the church members and friends. It is good to hear of the interest of your church in the work of Project Ruth and to know that some of your members have been out to the school in Romania. Thank you once again for your interest, prayers and support.

(If you wish to know more about Project Ruth, please contact Aubrey Derham. You may remember Ron Goodenough and John Barling visited the project some years ago.)

Mission giving for 2002

It is thought that last year's total financial gifts to missionary charities will be over £20,000 from Lindfield URC. This figure includes personal 'restricted' giving for specific charities (through monthly missions etc).

Bible Society	500
Cascaid Trust – Dorca	1,000
Christian Aid	86
Christian Witness to Israel	236
Council for World Mission	487
FEBA	600
Interserve	500
Mercy Ships – Nikki Taylor	480
Open Doors	750
Operation Mobilisation:	
Dave and Pam White	960
OM India Child	1,500
Operation Mercy	600
People International	480
Project Ruth	1,000
Release International	350
Samaritan's Purse	900
Scripture Gift Mission	500
Andrew & Jane Spiro	480
Tear Fund General	2,500
Tear Fund – Ethiopia	128
Tear Fund –	
14+ Child Support	180
Toy Box Charity	183
World Share	4,170
Worthing Churches (est.)	1,500
TOTAL (2002)	£20,070



Mercy Ships Freetown, Sierra Leone

Well, the ship arrived without any mishap. It was a lovely sight to see her cruising past the end of the peninsular.

Surgery has started, as have sanitation projects, evangelism and dental clinics. I haven't been to the dentist for a year and had to have a small filling.

So business as usual, I finally cleared out the junk the ship gave me last year for the IT department ready for any new junk they would like to give me. It seems the ship gets peoples cast off's and we get the ships cast off's! I also got the boxes my mum put on the ship in September; toner cartridges, a couple of items for myself and lots of stationary for our office.

I have been helping Sally (our coordinator) put together a report and proposal for more funding from UNICEF. It is good for me to hear about the success of a programme to intergrate disabled kids into school. I learn that the proud parents receive the first reports from the school, and how it has changed the neighbours attitude from uncaring to envy. Now the glory needs to go to God.

We are so dependent on God for everything. I look forward to celebrating Christmas with my family this year at home.



At the beginning of the session, Matthew Heyward, having completed 12 years service as a boy in the Company, was discharged. We wish him well in his studies at Newcastle University. Matt has also qualified for the Queens Badge, and (almost) for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, and we are waiting for a suitable opportunity to present him with these awards.

James Horton was also discharged after 12 years boy service, but will continue to serve the Company with the rank of staff sergeant. We are also very pleased that Terry Heyward is continuing his work with the Company as a warrant officer. Another welcome increase to our staff is Stuart Dew, who is organising games for the Company Section on Friday nights.

Peter and Catherine Snashall are now the proud parents of a baby son, William, who arrived at the end of September.

Our Juniors and Anchors have started the session with a welcome increase in numbers, although the Company Section has dropped a little. There is little to report in the way of competitive activity, and, unfortunately, the Junior Potted Sports, normally one of our highlights, was seriously

affected by mishaps this year. On the other hand, we had the satisfaction of seeing Jim Johnson and James Horton presented with their Silver and Bronze D of E Awards by the mayor of Brighton, and a little earlier, James received his President's Badge from the battalion president. The Anchor Boys enjoyed a good afternoon's partying at Horsham in November. In the same month, we held our coffee morning, which raised £215; our thanks to all who supported.

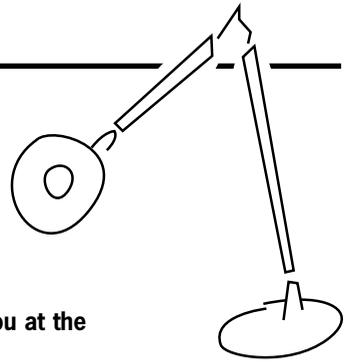
After last session's high point, when we held our 30th anniversary celebrations, we are going through a period of upheaval, which will see us lose 3 more staff members, including the retirement of 2 long-serving, experienced ones. We shall more than ever need the love and prayers of the church to see us through this transition. Youth work in a church is a privilege which has its price: it needs a lot of commitment and support on the part of everyone if the potential which these youngsters represent is to be realised.

Geoffrey Cocksedge

“Youth work in a church is a privilege which has its price: it needs a lot of commitment and support on the part of everyone.”

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 20.



1. **Tell us one memorable date?**
19.12.2000
2. **Why?**
Nearly my last day
3. **All time favourite film?**
Titanic – 1950s version
4. **What is your shoe size?**
10¹/₂
5. **Describe your experience of God in a single sentence...**
An ever-present, close (not “from a distance”!) loving bulwark.
6. **Jelly Babies or Jelly Beans?**
Jelly Babies
7. **Where is the furthest place that you have ever worked?**
Inverness
8. **How long have you been coming to this church?**
29 years
9. **What year did you pass your Driving Test?**
1953
10. **What is your greatest ambition?**
To see the “Rockies” again
11. **If you met Jesus in the street today, what one question would you ask Him?**
How can I thank you for saving me twice?
12. **Who has had the greatest influence on your life?**
Jesus
13. **Where were you at the Silver Jubilee?**
In Lindfield – I forget what doing!
14. **Plain, Milk or White?**
Plain
15. **Favourite holiday destination?**
British Columbia
16. **What would you do with the Millennium Dome?**
Dump it, or give it to the Chinese as a giant wok!
17. **Approximate height?**
5’ 10¹/₂”
18. **Most-read Bible verse?**
John 3 v16
19. **Who is your hero?**
Placido Domingo
20. **Broadsheet or Tabloid?**
Tabloid

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

The cracked pot

A water bearer in India had two large pots. Each hung on the two ends of a pole, which he carried across his neck.

One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. Every day for a full two years the bearer delivered only one and a half pots full of water at his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made.

The poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was only able to achieve half of what it had been made to do. After two years of what it felt was a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologise to you."

"Why?" asked the bearer, "What are you ashamed of?"

"I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak



out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path." Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologised to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them, For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way

you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are, and look for the good in them. There is a lot of good out there. There is a lot of good in you!

Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape. Remember to appreciate all the different people in your life! Or as I like to think of it – if it hadn't been for the crackpots in my life, it would have been pretty boring. Thank you all my crackpot friends.

An anonymous writer on the internet – seen in
Cuckfield Parish Magazine June 2002

Kenco coffee challenge!

As I was preparing the Prayer Diary for this edition of GoodNEWS a thought came to me that I felt might be worth sharing with you.

It stemmed from the suggestion of going through the members and regular worshippers alphabetically again this year, and upholding them in prayer, using the lovely photographs John Barling has taken, which are on display in the concourse, to help you to put names to faces.

Some folk are really good at offering hospitality to others. How about we all (if we are fit and able, of course) try to make more effort during 2003 to get to know our fellow worshippers better and invite folk to our own homes. It might be for a cup of tea or a meal, it doesn't matter which. If I may be so bold as to suggest it, and I speak to myself here as well, it is especially valuable to meet up with new members of our congregation and help them to feel at home and welcome amongst us. This is not always easy to do (especially if you are rather shy), but it is so worthwhile. I believe it could make all the difference to our fellowship and our attitudes to one another.

So, how about stepping out of your comfort zone and inviting someone you do not know very well for a cup of coffee? A key to your success – pray about it first and you will find help and strength from the Lord. You could well find it is so enjoyable that you will want to do it again and again! Please, if you can, give it a try.

(By-the-way, if you usually skip the Prayer Diary page, how about making it one of your resolutions for the New Year to use the suggestions there?)

Fiona Tingley

WINTER PILGRIMAGE

1st FEBRUARY 2003

A circular walk of about 4 miles from Scaynes Hill via Lindfield is planned for the winter pilgrimage. There will be an opportunity to see and hear about St. Augustine's Jubilee Tapestry. We shall meet at Scaynes Hill at 10.00am. As usual, you will need a packed lunch and tea/coffee will be provided at lunch time. The cost for the day will be £5 plus £2.50 for the tea.

The walk is a pleasant one and flat, although there are some stiles to negotiate and there could be some mud!

Please put your name on the notice in the hallway before January 12th.

More details available from Barbara Shepherd or Priscilla Walden.

Global village

If we could shrink the Earth to a village with a population of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, there would be ...

57 Asians
21 Europeans
14 from the Western Hemisphere (North and South)
8 Africans

52 would be female
48 would be male

70 would be non-Christian
30 would be Christian

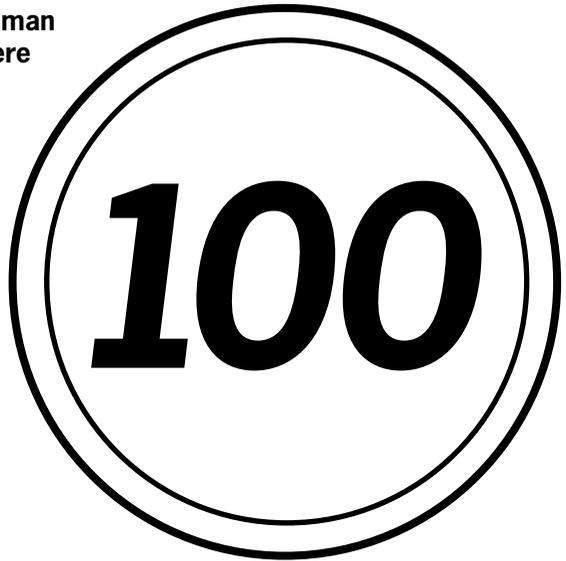
89 would be heterosexual
11 would be homosexual

6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all would be from the United States

80 would live in sub-standard housing

70 would be unable to read

50 would suffer from malnutrition
1 would be near death
1 would be near birth
1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education
1 would own a computer



Author unknown. Contributed by Hilary Shepherd

The back pages

GoodNEWS copydate schedule for 2003!

<u>COPYDATE</u>	<u>PUBLISH</u>
January	
8th Dec 02	29th Dec 02
February	
12th Jan	26th Jan
March	
9th Feb	23rd Feb
April	
16th Mar	30th Mar
May	
13th Apr	27th Apr
June	
18th May	1st Jun
July/August	
15th Jun	29th Jun
September	
17th Aug	31st Aug
October	
14th Sep	28th Sep
November	
12th Oct	26th Oct
December	
16th Nov	30th Nov
January 2004	
7th Dec	28th Dec

Many thanks for all your contributions in 2002 – do keep them coming this year too! If you have typed it out, give us the disk or email it – that'll save us a bit of time! Remember to give your contact details too – in case we need to query something. Ta!

David & Emma Tingley

20 – January GoodNEWS



Flower Rota

		Arranging	Distributing
Jan	5	Gladys Porter	Dorothy Forster
	12	Carol Walters	Betty Peter
	19	Jean Baxter	Jacqueline Wood
	26	Mary Comber	Iris Bingham
Feb	2	Anne Blake	Fiona Tingley
	9	Chris Caswell	Heather Swann
	16	Jessie Green	Sue Tester
	23	Zena Campling	Dorothy Tester

Betty Billins & Fiona Tingley

The Twenty Questions guest this month was our own Hilary Shepherd!!!