

Dear Friends...



Moving forward with God

As I write this letter the idea is just sinking in that the family and I are moving to Nottingham. Thank you for your support and prayers over the past few months. As always when seeking God's will, persistent prayer, perseverance and confirmation of His leading are required. Inevitably it is a testing time.

We are moving to a different situation. Bulwell in Nottingham is classed as a 'deprived area' and Sutton-in-Ashfield is a town that has experienced difficulty through the closure of its Mine and Hosiery Mill. However, the people with whom we are going to minister would regard themselves as anything but deprived or depressed - they are hopeful and joyful with a vision of what God wants to do in their area. In any, and every, situation or circumstance of life, if Jesus is our focus Christian faith will shine through. I hope by the time you read this we will have found a house in Bulwell to serve as a Manse.

But our work together needs to continue here in Lindfield - we want to see the light of Jesus shine here. After looking at working together through all member ministry we embark this month on the next step – "Becoming Disciples." Disciples are very privileged people. We are called, chosen, gifted and equipped to participate in the ministry of Jesus Christ today. Jesus' ministry on earth was an exciting one – he made a real difference and so can we. There will never be a sense that we 'have arrived' as a disciple but becoming one is a joyous and challenging call – wherever we live and serve.

Colin Bones, minister

GoodNEWS

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Editorial



This month's GoodNEWS is one of those issues that was pretty easy to put together!

It is always a pleasure to know that we have a good quantity of material from which to build your four-weekly church update from Lindfield URC. Some editions come together easier than others; thank you to those who have... written voluntarily / been roped in / been verbally threatened in order to come up with the goods!

The team has received a number of positive comments from outside of the church family in recent months, about our humble publication. It is important to remember our brief though.

We aim to make GoodNEWS first and foremost a church magazine which informs, inspires and challenges its readers on a regular basis. However I believe it is a credit to the editorial team, that this church magazine is so easily picked up and read by so many who are not part of our (or any) church.

Whoever you are, dear reader, thank you for turning these pages; I hope you not only find subjects of interest, but the love of God within them.

David Tingley, editor

Prayer Diary



SUN

Pray for our minister, Colin and his family as they make plans for their move to Nottingham

MON

Remember the shopkeepers in our High Street, and all who serve us in our local community

TUE

Uphold the work of Janet Goodenough and her helpers as they encourage all those in the Stepping Stones group

WED

Continue to pray for Zest – Staffing levels are very stretched – more assistance would ease the burden and help the children

THUR

Our mission focus this month is Saltworkz in Haywards Heath. Pray for the new café & the work in that community

FRI

Pray for the boys in the Boys' Brigade, for Geoffrey Cocksedge and the staff, and for more offers of help in this important work

SAT

In Sussex East District, please pray for the churches in Hastings, Alfriston, Eastbourne, Crowborough & Bexhill

Prayer *FOCUS*

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

Thank God for the miraculous defeat of the government in the House of Commons over the **Religious Hatred Bill**. Keep praying, though! There are many more ethical issues coming up like the Assisted Dying Bill and changes to the Abortion laws where, as Christians, we must make our voices heard. (For further details, see the board in the Concourse.)

Pray for our Police Force in this country, and all who work (often in very difficult circumstances), to provide protection and security to members of the public. CARE encourages us to remember the chief constables and senior officers who head up the 52 police forces, that they may lead wisely and maintain the confidence and morale of all those doing such a demanding work. In particular, ask God to guard and grant success to those who are trying to uncover criminal activities and prevent terrorist attacks. Remember, too, the families of those policemen and women who have lost their lives in the call of duty. Also, pray for the Christian Police Association, that their voice may continue to be heard and considered by their colleagues.



Praying women of the

We all know that the prayers of a few can affect many, so ladies dedicating themselves in prayer from over 170 countries around the world must surely be a force to be reckoned with!

This year our service for Women's World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday 3rd March at 1:45pm in The United Reformed Church. But what exactly is Women's World Day of Prayer and where did it originate?

Women's World Day of Prayer (WWDP) is a worldwide movement of Christian women who come together to observe a common day of prayer held on the first Friday in March each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service. Through Women's World Day of Prayer women are encouraged to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of the wider community.

The Day of Prayer begins as dawn breaks over the islands of Tonga in the Pacific and continues across each continent until the last Services of this special day are held back in the Pacific on the islands of Samoa, circling the world in prayer for about 36 hours. Prayers are said in over 1000 languages.

Christians from over 170 countries and islands are

involved, uniting together in praise, worship and in prayer. The day includes Christian women from Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches. It is interdenominational.

WWDP is primarily concerned with a service written by a specially chosen country but via the WWDP network across the world people are encouraged to pray all through the year.

The aim is to make the service a moving, challenging and faith-deepening experience. Above all, it is an encouragement to women in different countries to know they are remembered in prayer. Each year we have the opportunity to widen our knowledge and understanding of a different country. The Service is translated into over 60 languages and 1,000 dialects. All of this has grown from a simple service of prayer and contrition held in 1887.

world



In England, Wales and Northern Ireland there are over 3,000 Women's World Day of Prayer branches holding around 5,000 Services involving thousands of women, men and children.

All monies received from the offerings in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are used for the Prayer Movement, Christian Literature and Christian Educational Projects.

The idea of WWDP began in 1887 in America. Mrs Mary Ellen Darwin James, President of the Woman's Board of Home Missions in the Presbyterian Church of America, was concerned for the poor immigrants from Europe and the Orient who had arrived in America looking for a new life. Believing that those who persistently prayed would become advocates of the powerless, she issued a call to set aside a "Day of prayer for Home Missions" when there shall be confession of individual and national sins, with offerings that will fitly express the contrition.

The first World Day of Prayer service was held in 1930 in

Scotland, probably in a house.

The theme was 'that Jesus may be lifted up'. It was written by a lady from Korea. Since then the themes have been planned well in advance and are even mapped out right up until 2011.

The service always ends with the hymn "The day thou gavest Lord us ended" and is a particularly poignant part of the theme.

The theme for this year is "Signs of the Times" and it has been written by the women of fifteen different Christian denominations from South Africa.

South Africa – the Rainbow Nation – has enjoyed a decade of liberation, integration and healing following apartheid. However it has real problems today, including the spread of HIV/AIDS.

There is a strong religious feeling in the country. According to the 1996 census, 84% of the population belong to the Christian faith. Approximately 3% belong to other religions which include Hinduism (1.5%), Islam (1.5%), Judaism (0.2%), Buddhism, Confucianism and Rastafarianism.



Next year it is the turn of the Women of Paraguay to bring the theme “United Under God’s Tent” to the service.

In Lindfield our speaker this year is Mrs. Kay McIntosh, who used to be our own Pastoral Assistant.

There will be a crèche and afterwards refreshments will be served in the hall.

A very warm welcome is extended to all to join together in fellowship with many women all over the world.



The logo of WWDP has the cross in the centre formed by praying figures from the four corners of the earth. All are joined together within the circle of the world and enfolded in God's love.

“May this cross be a reminder of the women of WDP. They know first hand many realities: the pandemic of HIV/AIDS in Africa which is now exploding in other continents; the suffering and death that comes from civil war, ethnic conflicts, worker exploitation, religious intolerance - to name just a few.

But in this cross there is also a circle of light yellow with spirals and at the very centre a square of red coloured glass.



This graphic has been designed by Estelle Roos (Pretoria, South Africa). She was inspired by Luke 21 and Revelation 22 to portray the hope that we have in God and the signs of the times from an African perspective. The border has a clear African character and includes small three-legged pots, symbols of fellowship in South African communities.

The image of leaves is the central focus; they are our hope for the healing of the nations and indicate the coming of a new season. The shape of the leaves reflects the Trinity which is central in our hope, and this large symbol dominates over the smaller icons. The leaves of the trees of life are contrasted against the icons, symbols of distinctive features of the end times from Luke 21, which Jesus emphasised would occur.

What if we all prayed together more?

This year it has been decided to alter the format and frequency of the prayer meetings which have hitherto taken place monthly on the fourth Thursday. It is our earnest hope that by having less meetings but slightly lengthened, it will concentrate our thinking and encourage more folk to come along. The dates for your diary are 23rd March, 22nd June and 28th September. We will begin at 7.45pm and continue until 9.15pm, during which time you will be welcome to come in for as little or as long a time as you wish.

At the first of these Thursday evenings (in March) we will be praying for the wide subject of 'Mission'. We are hoping to have input from our Mission Group; together with that, covering some aspects of more local Evangelism. In June it is hoped to have a Prayer Walk in the village, something we have not done for a long time. Then in September, when things start up again after the summer break, it seems appropriate to be in prayer for our Children's and Young People's Work and outreach in general.

Please do consider coming along on these three occasions. Praying together should be such an important part of our church fellowship, yet for some reason we do not give it priority here in Lindfield. Furthermore, with a Pastoral Vacancy coming up we will need to be in prayer for the future of our church, praying for our church leaders, for God's guidance and His will as we seek the way forward and, in due course, a new minister.

The Prayer Focus Group

'a church that
prays together
grows together'.



Change of address

Eileen West has moved to:-
The Russettings,
Mill Lane, Balcombe RH17 6NP

Bereavement

We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Irene Parr who died on 13th January. Please remember her daughters Pam and Christine in your prayers.

Free offer!

Methodists have the Methodist Recorder, Boat owners have Boating Today, Baptists have the Baptist Times and members of the United Reformed Church have ...Reform! The monthly magazine, which contains denominational and wider Christian news, costs £12.75 for a year's subscription. However, a rare opportunity has arisen for just one reader of GoodNEWS to receive a copy of Reform free – yes entirely FREE – for the remainder of this year. If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please see Stuart Dew. In the event of there being several applicants, the editor (that is the editor of Good News, not the editor of Reform) will draw a name from a hat.

Thanks

Paul Porter thanks those who visited him in The Princess Royal Hospital and for the prayers, cards and good wishes for recovery following his operation.

The Fellowship

This month we meet on Wednesday 22nd March at 2.45pm. Our guest speakers will be the Rev Mike and Mrs Jean Gardiner. Tea and biscuits will be served at the end of the meeting. All are welcome to join us.

Mission Giving 2005

As in previous years we are thrilled with the total that we have been able to give away to Mission. The total distributed during the year amounted to £37,500 (£10,000 from General Fund and £27,500 from designated giving by members and regular worshippers).

Approximately £23,500 went to organisations involved in overseas mission including relief and development, £10,500, to those working in the UK and the balance to individuals who we are supporting regularly as a church.

Our thanks to all who gave so generously.

Congratulations to Gladys and Paul Porter and to Mary and Chris Comber. Both these couples celebrate their Golden Wedding at the end of March.

236 years of membership!

As well as celebrating her 100th birthday in December, Kitty Wood has just clocked up 80 years of church membership here. When she joined the Congregational Church on 6th January, 1926, she had recently married the organist. There were very few members back then, and Kitty and the faithful few kept the church at Lindfield going through some very lean years, when it could so easily have closed down. However, since the 50s and 60s the fellowship has grown and now has a membership of over 200.

So we say to Kitty a huge 'Thank you' for her loyal and faithful service over these past 80 years.

Mary and Chris Comber, have served for 106 years between them – Mary 56 years on 2nd March and Chris was 50 years last November.

Chris tells me he was encouraged to join by the Rev Albert Trinder (Mary's Father), who thought as he had just become engaged to his daughter, it was only right and proper that he should become a church member! (Beat that for an excuse!) Mary and Chris have served this church faithfully in a variety of ways. As a church we are so grateful to Chris for being one of our very capable church organists, and Mary may well be best remembered for her role as an officer in the Girls' Brigade over many years, but there are other tasks, too, that are still being done by this hard-working couple.

Betty Billins (then Betty Willis), came into membership on 1st March 1956. At that time she was a member of the thriving Young People's Fellowship. Like Mary and Chris, Betty has worked hard in the life of the church ever since. For over 20 years now Betty has been in charge of the flower rota and organised the floral displays at all the church festivals. She has just retired from the latter part of this job, and this is a good opportunity to express our very sincere thanks to Betty for this valuable and loyal piece of service.

Ministers have come and gone, lots of changes have taken place, both in the premises and the styles of worship and activities, but their friendship and encouragement continues to be an example to us all. 236 years of membership between them – Wow! From the church family at Lindfield URC, our heartfelt thanks to Kitty, Mary, Chris and Betty.

Fiona Tingley



Restraint under fire

During demonstrations in Beirut against caricatures of the Prophet Mohammad, hooligans laid siege to an entire neighbourhood in the Christian quarters of Achrafieh. Because Lebanon's religious communities are so highly polarized along sectarian lines, the violence had the frightening potential to ignite civil war.

That this was avoided is due in large part to Christian leaders, like Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea, who encouraged the residents not to react in anger, and to the residents themselves, who showed remarkable restraint as they watched their properties being ransacked and destroyed.

Source: The Daily Star, Lebanon 7/2/06

Church is important

Nearly 60% of people in Britain believe that a place of worship makes their neighbourhood a better place to live, according to an Opinion Research Business attitude survey. Only 11% of respondents disagreed with the statement, reflecting widespread approval of the role of the local Christian community. When asked if "a place of worship is an important part of the local community", 72% of people backed the statement, while 11% again disagreed.

Source: Church of England Newspaper
3/2/06

Ban for 'exclusive' Christian Union

A Christian group at the University of Birmingham says it has been banned from using facilities after refusing to open membership to those of other faiths.

The Evangelical Christian Union (CU) said the Student Guild wanted it to change its constitution and impose a Guild leader onto its executive. The CU said it has also had its bank accounts frozen by Guild authorities. The Guild has said any of its students should be able to join any of its societies.

But Andy Weatherley, from the national support body the University and Colleges Christian Fellowship, said: "Christian Unions should be permitted to restrict membership to only those people who profess faith in Jesus Christ".

President of the Guild, Richard Angell, said: "We have to ensure by the 1984 Education Act that all of our societies are open to students' membership and that the procedures which we go through to allocate those resources are fair and equitable across the board.

Source: bbc.co.uk 25/01/06

Janet Goodenough

This month it falls to David Tingley to go in search of the musical truth from Janet Goodenough, a pianist in the church worship group.

David: Janet, you play piano in church, do you play any other instruments?

Janet: No.

If you could instantly play anything else, what would it be?

Well, I do like the saxophone & clarinet, but wait, I know, it would be the harp. Now I think about it, it would definitely be the harp; a unique and beautiful sound.

Do you enjoy any particular music styles personally?

Classical; we go out to a few concerts.

Back to your piano playing in church then, how important do you think worship is within services?

Very high on the priorities. I find it lifts my spirit when I sing, and I can feel closer to God.

Can you worship while 'serving' in the music team?

Yes I can. Playing in church is totally different from playing in a concert. I sometimes sing while playing the piano, as I almost 'have to' in worship!



Are there any special events you have played at?

I used to play a bit for Weddings and Funerals. It felt special to be involved in these personal services.

Ron [your husband] plays guitar and sings doesn't he? Do you ever do duets together?

Funnily enough that's how we got together over 30 years ago!

Really, kind of like a travelling Pop Idol! Were you (wait for it!) good enough! Sorry, joke over, tell me more...

We joined forces with another couple, wore matching mini-skirts (the girls!), and sort of toured around this general area doing various youth events, at coffee bars, for instance. Oh and once did a Beach Mission too!

March church diary

2nd

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting

4th

Saturday 8.45-9.30am
Sat Morning Prayer
Meeting All Saints

5th

Sunday 9.30am Communion
Colin Bones
11.00am Colin Bones
6.30pm Prayer & Praise

8th

Wednesday 12.30pm
Lunch Fellowship

10th

Friday 12.30pm
Lunch Fellowship

11th

Saturday 8.45-9.30am
Sat Morning Prayer
Meeting All Saints

12th

Sunday 9.30am Colin Bones
11.00am Coin Bones
6.30pm Communion
Colin Bones

16th

Thursday House Groups

18th

Saturday 8.45-9.30am
Sat Morning Prayer
Meeting All Saints

19th

Sunday 9.30am Stuart Dew
11.00am Stuart Dew
Fairtrade Stall
6.30pm Colin Bones

22nd

Wednesday 2.45pm
Afternoon Fellowship
8.00pm Elders' Meeting

25th

Saturday 8.45 – 9.30am
Sat. Morning Prayer
Meeting All Saints

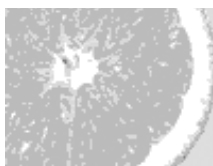
26th

Sunday 9.30am Colin Bones
11.00am Communion -
Colin Bones
6.30pm Prayer & Praise

28th

Tuesday 7.45pm In Touch

**OTHER LOCAL EVENTS
LISTED ON BACK COVER**



**Fairtrade Fortnight
6-19 March 2006**



Guarantees
a **better deal**
for Third World
Producers

"When we went to the Palace!"

In Touch
28th March 7.45pm

We are looking forward to hearing John and Anne Blake re-live their invitation to Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

The evening will include a short video of the event.

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.

Saltworkz Café

A NEW NEIGHBOUR IN AMERICA LANE SHOPPING PARADE

If you're a local resident you won't have missed the frantic building works going on at 34 America Lane, Haywards Heath at the end of last year - the shop that used to be a Wine Store but had been empty for a few years until the sights and sounds of workmen appeared to do the make-over. Now it has opened as the Saltworkz Café.

This month we will be devoting our mission giving to Saltworkz. Photos and other information are available at the Mission Display Area. If you would like to give, please use the special envelopes and place your gift in the offertory at any Sunday service. Please complete a Gift Aid Slip if appropriate.

We are also pleased that Graham Nicholls and Nigel Goodenough will be sharing more about the project in our morning services on 19th March. In the meantime here are some answers to questions that some may be asking;

What is Saltworkz Café?

Well, not surprisingly, it really is a café! There is coffee, which

by all accounts tastes as good as anywhere else in the world and home-made cakes served all day. Also there is a breakfast menu with everything from bacon butties to cereal and toast and a lunchtime menu with sandwiches and hot snacks made to order.

So it's worth a visit just for that. But there's more than just food and drink.

Who is the café for?

Everyone is welcome, from babies in arms to OAP's. We want to encourage a real family atmosphere.

What else is there?

There are computers with Internet access at a nominal charge of 50p per ½ hour. The computers have all the latest software for word processing, making presentations and spreadsheets—everything from writing a letter, doing your homework or buying something online.

If you're not used to using computers the staff in the café will be only too pleased to help you get started and be on hand to rescue you if you get stuck!

For young children there's a safe play area outside by the patio and a fun play table with

some toys and there are high chairs available.

What are our aims?

We really want it to be a community café—somewhere that people of all ages can relax and enjoy a time alone or with friends. We also want it to be a focal point for information and help.

Why call it Saltworkz Café?

About 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ said to his disciples “you are the salt of the earth”.

This is a good description of Jesus’ followers sharing the good news about Jesus Christ and showing it by the things they do.

Saltworkz began with Christians in Haywards Heath showing the good news in the local area by helping people and arranging community activities.

They started off with a series of one-off events like kids clubs, sports competitions and family fun days, but decided it would be good to have a permanent base which could be a meeting point for the local community, and a good place for the churches and other agencies to offer help and advice.

The café is now open weekdays from 8.00am to 5.00pm and you are warmly invited.



Tearfund Support Meeting

The next meeting on
Thursday 30th March at 8.00pm
will be at Lindfield URC

We are pleased that Ian Roberts, Tearfund's South East Area Coordinator will be with us to bring up-to-date information of the work. He will also talk specifically about Tearfund's new 'Killer TB' pack.

Gordon & Brenda Wilkinson, our local representatives, will be back from their trip to South America and will be able to report on that too.

In addition we are hoping that Andrew Berry, Campaigns Coordinator will be with us.

This should be a very informative and inspiring time so please put the date in your diary.

We look forward to seeing you



News from the BB...

The autumn session for the Company Section culminated with the Badminton Competition at Oathall School when our Boys held on to the Junior trophy they won last year. We also gained the most points in the Senior event, but for technical reasons, could not be awarded the Cup. Thanks to Charlie Tingley for giving the lads the benefit of his expert advice.

We have welcomed new members into our Junior and Anchor Sections, among them George Burch. George is an interesting young man: the first 4 year old to join the BB in Lindfield (George has a good BB pedigree: his uncle Andrew Bennewith was a Beal VC Award winner in Paddy Lay's time). Now we have official permission to work with these very young children, we want to gain experience and understanding of their needs. It is amazing to think that we now have members born in the 21st century!

At our Junior Christmas party, we said farewell and 'thank you' to Joe Horton, who has been helping with the Juniors for the past two years. Joe was one of three young people who have been helping with our Juniors and Anchors: we shall be losing the services of all three by the

summer when they go on to university, and this will affect our ability to staff our activities. If anyone is aware of a young person who may wish to help out with our younger age groups on a short term basis – perhaps to help the young man/lady gain the service section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award – it would be appreciated if they would get in touch with me.

As a Company, we were sad at the passing of our good friend Richard Tucker. Paddy Lay reminded me that Richard had instigated the formation of the Company in 1972, as a Christian organisation for Boys to work alongside the GB, and he and Lyn were always faithful supporters of our events. Richard was a man of many Christian graces, who served his Lord faithfully all the days of his life, and surely all the trumpets sounded on the other side.

During the coming months we shall be working for competitions and awards, culminating in our Display on Friday 19th May. On the national horizons, there are a number of changes proposed to BB, including a very controversial one to turn the movement into an organisation for both sexes, to be debated and decided early next session.

This is the article advertised to be featured in last month's magazine! Please accept my apologies that it did not. Editor

Diamond Jubilee Gala Concert

The Mid Sussex Choir (in which quite a number of our church members sing), is celebrating its 60th Anniversary with a special concert on 1st April – yes, truly, it is 1st April! It will be held in Oathall Community College at 7.30pm. The choir will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra, and Charlotte Shorthouse will be the soloist in Elgar's "The Music Makers". The programme will also include a number of favourite opera choruses and an arrangement of "The Lord is my Shepherd" by Howard Goodall (theme from the BBC TV series 'The Vicar of Dibley'). It should prove to be an enjoyable and varied programme.

Tickets in advance are Adult, £9, Senior £7 and Child/Student £4. (Also available on the door at £10, £8 and £5.) So it is worth booking early and you can get your tickets from any of the following who sing in the choir: Elise Burden, Sue Dunford, Doreen Fowler, Carol and John Merrett, Fiona Tingley, Pat Waller or Graham Wood. We hope we will see you there for this very special concert.

The Ashdown Singers

Directed by Terence Steele
perform

The Crucifixion

by John Stainer

Good Friday, 14 April 2006
Lindfield URC, 7.30pm

Admission free. A retiring collection will be taken for
St Peter & St James Hospice.



Releasing hostages

On Saturday 14th January, some 36 men were treated to a cooked breakfast followed by a talk by David Goodenough providing an insight to a small part of what happened in the Lebanon Civil War in the late 1980s / early 1990s. David was then based in Cyprus as an Advisor to the Middle East Council of Churches. David explained his role in the negotiating chain and how success was often achieved where as little publicity was attracted as possible. For instance, the most successful negotiator was only known by his first-name of Tarick.

David informed us that the 'Western' hostages known to us, for example, Terry Waite, Terry Anderson and Jerry Levin, were only a small percentage of the hostages taken, and when the civil war ended there were still 350 Middle Eastern hostages in captivity. Jerry Levin (an American Journalist) escaped when one morning he awoke to find the chain, which had previously attached his leg to a radiator, had come off, and the barred-window was open – this was arranged after a ransom had been paid by an Austrian businessman. Throughout the civil war only one Russian was taken hostage which could have something to do with the handling of the situation by Russia – they in turn took a Lebanese hostage then traded 'body parts' until both hostages died - but no more Russians were taken hostage!

Whilst in the Middle East David experienced a far more 'serious' look at life by most people who were genuinely trying to find the truth and whether God exists, and this led to several experiences of the 'God at work' he heard of / experienced himself :-

Once he met a famous 'former' hitman' in Beirut – this man didn't own a car so whenever he wanted to get anywhere he would steal one. On one occasion, when ordering the driver out of his car at gun-point he met with refusal and when at close range the hitman fired his gun at the driver, remarkably the bullet rebounded back off the car bodywork and took a nick out of the hitman's temple; being a 'crack-shot' having killed countless people before, the hitman concluded

that only God could have organised this impossible act, which started him on a journey of discovery which ended with him finding Jesus Christ and renouncing his former way of life.

A Leader of the Shi-ites, by realising that Jesus was the most powerful person in the Koran, went on to study the New Testament Gospels and by accepting the facts became a Christian.



When missiles were being fired from a crusader fort at a church where people were praying, an Angel appeared in the sky and turned one of the missiles around and back to the fort blowing it to pieces.

David was once in a Boeing 707 which when coming in to land at Beirut airport encountered anti-aircraft fire, but the aircraft was able to take evasive action and everyone survived, which would not have been possible in most other commercial aircraft.

One evening in Beirut after going to the cinema and visiting friends, David had a strong feeling that he should not take the usual route back to his hotel. As he walked along parallel streets he heard machine-gun fire break out on his 'normal-route' and feels sure had he taken that route he would have been a casualty caught in the cross-fire.

David did also provide examples of Christians and Kurds working closely together for reconciliation, but there are often many complications, and one of the key issues is whether or not there are 'moderate' Muslim leaders in power.

David's message was one of HOPE, where impossible things are made possible through Jesus Christ.

Ray Smith

Spring forward...

As I write this, Spring is (almost) in the air. Green buds are appearing on the “dead” sticks of winter and bulbs are thrusting their shoots above the seemingly lifeless soil.

Birds are becoming increasingly noisy with each new morning and, this month, another sign of the changing season occurs – albeit a man-made one. Those of you who just can't wait to get to the 9:30 a.m. service can go an hour early on 26th March and not have to wait for the start, because 8:30 GMT is 9:30 BST and the clocks will have gone forward at 1:00 a.m. that morning (was 2:00 a.m. until 1981). However, many of us might not be so thrilled at the thought of losing a precious hour of sleep – we will have to wait until 29th October to catch it up again, when the clocks return to GMT.

If you don't remember to adjust your alarm you'll end up, like one or two each year, at the 11am service wondering why everyone except you 'at the 9.30', seems to have aged 20+ years overnight! Oh yes, the joy of adjusting our clocks, not just

on our wrists and mantelpiece these days, but on an endless number of machines - the video, stereo (in lounge, kitchen and each bedroom), cooker, the car etc, etc... at least the computer can usually remember to change its own clock!

Why do we do this to ourselves? It's called “daylight saving time” (DST) throughout most of the world (BST in UK), but I hadn't actually noticed any daylight being saved, just repositioned in the day. It was first proposed by William Willett (1857 - 1915), a London builder, in a pamphlet he circulated to many Members of Parliament, town councils and businesses in 1907. His proposal was to improve health and happiness by advancing the clocks twenty minutes on each of four Sundays in April, and by reversing this idea by the same amount on four Sundays in September. At first the scheme was ridiculed and met with considerable opposition. This opposition still continues, for example farmers complain that their animals do not observe it, so their workers are placed out of synchronization with the rest of the community.

It is also expensive to remind people twice a year of the change, some lose sleep and concentration and so there is even a small peak in road accidents on the morning of the change – others forget and miss planes – or turn up at the wrong church service! A Daylight Saving Bill was introduced in UK in 1909, though it met with no success before war broke out. In April, 1916, Daylight Saving Time was introduced as a wartime measure of economy, not only in Britain but, within a week or so, in nearly all countries, both allied and enemy. Sadly, William had died the previous year so never saw his idea put into effect.

Perhaps we can take a lesson from all the effort that goes into making the most of the light in the world, to encourage us to make the most of the “Light of the World” (John 8:12) and spend just a little more of our time each day basking in that light, through prayer, Bible study, and reflection – surely a Light that will help anyone suffering from SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) on a gloomy late-winter day.

Martin Hall

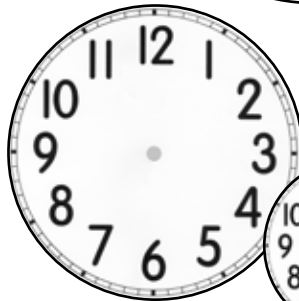
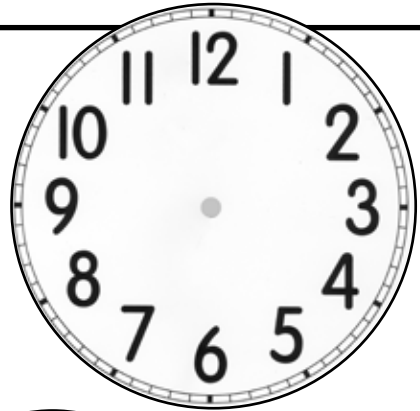
don't forget
to set your
clocks forward!
26th March

For more information see:

<http://www.greenwichmeantime.com/info/daylightsaving.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Summer_Time

<http://www.sada.org.uk/>



Do U know U3A?

Readers of GoodNEWS may be interested to know that Haywards Heath & District U3A has over 600 members and offers more than fifty special interest and activity groups. U3A is an abbreviation for 'University of the Third Age'.

The purpose of the U3A is to promote life-long learning – this may be take the form of learning something new, or furthering an existing interest. Membership is open to anyone no longer in full time employment. No special qualifications are required as all that is needed is interest, enthusiasm and a willingness to contribute. The organisation runs on a self-help basis with members sharing their expertise, knowledge and enthusiasm to explore a wide variety of special interests.

Some groups organise occasional outings or field trips and there are also two walking groups. New groups formed in the past year include Local History, Spanish and Yoga. It is hoped to start a Russian Beginners group in April 2006. Our pastel painting group will be exhibiting their work at the Halcyon Bookshop in the

Broadway, Haywards Heath, from 27th March until mid April. All groups are informal and interactive and meet either in private homes or local halls.

The annual membership fee is currently a very reasonable £12, irrespective of the number of groups joined. Members of larger groups, such as Heritage and Art Appreciation, also pay a small contribution towards the cost of hall hire. Quarterly open meetings and occasional coffee mornings are proving very popular and afford opportunities for members to socialise.



Further details about Haywards Heath & District U3A, and a copy of the current programme, can be obtained by contacting Membership Secretary, Alastair Porter, on 01444 482001. Details can also be found on our website: www.haywardsheathu3a.org.uk and from the national website: www.u3a.org.uk.

The prodigal son set in 'F'

I am not sure what this proves about the human race, the genius of the brain God has given each of us or Christian's in particular - but one number in our global brethren decided he'd write this parable using mostly words beginning with F! Decide for yourself! - Ed.

Feeling footloose and frisky, a feather-brained fellow forced his father to fork over his farthings. Fast he flew to foreign fields and frittered his family's fortune, feasting fabulously with floozies and faithless friends. Flooded with flattery, he financed a fully-fledged fling of "funny foam" and fast food.

Fleeced by his fellows in folly, facing famine, and feeling faintly fuzzy, he found himself a feed flinger in a filthy foreign farmyard. Feeling frail and fairly famished, he fain would have filled his frame with foraged food from the fodder fragments.

"Fooy," he figured, "my father's flunkies fare far fancier", the frazzled fugitive fumed feverishly, facing the facts. Finally, frustrated from failure and filled with foreboding (but following his feelings) he fled from the filthy foreign farmyard.

Far away, the father focused on the fretful familiar farm in the field and flew to him and fondly flung his forearms around the fatigued fugitive. Falling at his father's feet, the fugitive floundered forlornly: "Father, I have flunked and fruitlessly forfeited family favour."

Finally, the faithful Father, forbidding and forestalling further flinching, frantically flagged the flunkies to fetch forth the finest fatling and fix a feast.

Faithfully, the father's first-born was in a fertile field fixing fences while father and fugitive were feeling festive. The foreman felt fantastic as he flashed the fortunate news of a familiar family face that had forsaken fatal foolishness. Forty-four feet from the farmhouse, the first-born found a farmhand fixing a fatling.

Frowning and finding fault, he found father and fumed: "Floozies and foam from frittered family funds and you fix a feast following the fugitive's folderol?" The first-born's fury flashed, but fussing was futile. The frugal first-born felt it was fitting to feel "favoured" for his faithfulness and fidelity to family, father, and farm. In foolhardy fashion, he faulted the father for failing to furnish a fatling and feast

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overleaf...**

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for his friends. His folly was not in feeling fit for feast and fattling for friends; rather his flaw was in his feeling about the fairness of the festival for the found fugitive.

His fundamental fallacy was a fixation on favouritism, not forgiveness. Any focus on feeling "favoured" will fester, and friction will force the frayed facade to fall. Frankly, the father felt the frigid first-born's frugality of forgiveness was formidable and frightful. But the father's former faithful fortitude and fearless forbearance to forgive both fugitive and first-born flourishes.

The far-sighted father figured: "Such fidelity is fine, but what forbids fervent festivity for the fugitive that is found? Unfurl the flags and finery, let fun and frolic freely flow. Former failure is forgotten, folly is forsaken. Forgiveness forms the foundation for future fortune. "

Four facets of the father's fathomless fondness for faltering fugitives are: 1) Forgiveness; 2) Forever faithful friendship; 3) Fadeless love; 4) A facility for forgetting flaws.

Timothy E. Fulop, Assistant Dean of Faculty, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA.



Flower Rota

	Arranging	Distributing
March		
5th	Betty Billins	Sue Tester
12th	Mies Campling	Dorothy Forster
19th	Angela Newnham	Betty Peter
26th	Serena Nathan	Jacqueline Wood
April		
2nd	Anne Parker	Barbara Shepherd
9th	Barbara Shepherd	Iris Bingham
16th	Easter Sunday	Easter Flowers – help, please!
23rd	Audrey Saunders	Fiona Tingley
30th	Winifred Scopes	Heather Swann

