

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

MAY 2005

A week of events for all ages...

ALIVE '05

MORE TO LIFE?



PLUS...

- Reflections from Spring Harvest
- Election special
- Shop Talk meets the Greengrocer!





Getting a closer look: Trevor Lewes and his family, Neroli, Peter and Fiona Castle all tell us a bit more about why they are involved in Alive '05 in this month's special feature article.



Members of Lindfield URC's youth group did a sleep out in the church garden in March to raise funds for Worthing Churches Homeless Project – see inside for the story.

Dear Friends...



Are Christians optimists or pessimists?

This issue of GoodNEWS is dedicated to Alive '05 and I write with the message of Easter still ringing in my ears. Easter and Alive '05 are about genuine hope for the future.

While there is not a lot of hope for the world without God, there is a great deal to look forward to with God. We live in a world where most people see death as the worst thing that can happen to a person. But the Christian hope lies beyond death - in the Resurrection. So the New Testament does not give us an optimistic or a pessimistic view of future events. It gives us reason to hope, because all of history is under the control of God.

So what has God done that gives us reason to be hopeful about the future? The apostle Paul said:

"We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus to life, will also raise us up with Jesus and take us, together with you, into his presence."

2 Corinthians 4: 14.

As God raised Jesus, so He promises to raise us from death when Jesus returns to wind up the affairs of history. If we are convinced that Jesus was actually raised, we can be equally convinced that God will do as He has promised for us as well. The apostle Peter captures this idea of God being ahead of us, preparing for us to be with him:

"Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope, and so we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for his people. He keeps them for you in heaven, where they cannot decay or spoil or fade away."

1 Peter 1: 3, 4.

Let's discover hope this month of Alive '05.

Colin Bones, minister

GoodNEWS

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Editorial Team: David Tingley (editor), Martin Hall, Annabel Goody, Steven Farley & Tina Elphick
Editorial Oversight / Proof-reading: Hilary Shepherd
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All contributions should be emailed to goodnews@happyseason.co.uk, or hard copy placed in the 'GoodNEWS' pigeon hole at the rear of the church. Please ensure that you include your contact details, in case of query. You can contact David Tingley on 01444 451024.

Directory



Minister: Rev Colin Bones
52 High Street, Lindfield RH16 2HL
Office: 01444 487607
Home: 01444 483803
Email: colin@lindfieldurc.org.uk

Church Secretaries:
Mrs Sue Waller
58 Queens Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1EE
Tel: 01444 455047 Email: susanwaller@lineone.net

Mr David Jones
13 William Allen Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2SA
Tel: 01444 483037 Email: fay-david@supanet.com

Church Accountant: Mrs. Eileen Jacques
23 Canton House, Great Heathmead,
Haywards Heath RH16 1FD

A list of serving Elders can be found in Who's Who?

Editorial



After what seems like ages, we can finally talk about Alive '05 in the present tense rather than the future!

Our May edition of GoodNEWS features special articles (starting on page 4) written to give you some background to this amazing community event. We have even splashed out on a full colour cover to tie in with other Alive '05 materials! Call us crazy!

May is also a notable month this year, as we get to grips with politics and our General and Parliamentary Elections. Martin Hall gives us a fresh perspective on the democracy we enjoy on page 16, while Peter Ford shares a brief insight into a local Christian Election Forum which took place in April (page17).

Something that has been and gone, is Spring Harvest this year. This large-scale Christian holiday - taking place at Butlins resorts out of season - has long been attended by Lindfield URC over the years thanks to Trudy Biersteker, who kindly takes the role of group organiser for us. Trudy reports on what is coming up thematically next year (page 22) - while you can catch up on what went on over Easter in Minehead, with two reports on page 20.

Happy reading!
David Tingley, editor

Prayer Diary



SUN

Pray that the Holy Spirit will come again in power as we celebrate Pentecost on the 15th.

MON

Ask God to raise up more volunteers for the concourse ministry

TUE

Pray for all parents of children who come to church activities here

WED

Remember all involved in our services: preachers, worship leaders, musicians, readers, technicians, etc

THUR

Uphold every aspect of the General Election in your prayers

FRI

Our mission focus this month – Open Doors

SAT

Pray for the newly appointed Pope and Catholics worldwide

Prayer *FOCUS*

In addition to the above daily prayer reminders, please would you uphold in your prayers this month's special prayer request:-

With the "Alive '05" nearly upon us, 21st to 29th May, I do urge you to focus your prayers on this mission during May. Thank God for those who have used their gifts in publicity/advertising, web-site design, graphic design, the Committee in all their plans and preparations, for the many offers of accommodation and much, much more. Pray for the numerous events planned, including the films shown, the Barn Dance, the Cheese and Wine Evening, men's events, activities for children and teenagers, and the debate on "Da Vinci Code".

We still need more volunteers to go out with the Moorlands students on Invitation day. Pray for the students and Viz-A-Viz in their final preparations, and pray too that they will feel welcome and at home amongst us. Also please remember the practical tasks to be done during mission week, particularly upholding David and Len as they manage the Tent, for a workforce to erect and dismantle it, pray for safety throughout the week, the provision of First Aiders in case of need, and for strength to do the practical tasks out in the community.

Last, but not least, ask God to encourage you to invite along your family, friends and neighbours.

IT SEEMS today that more and more people are questioning what their lives are about and are seeking a greater spiritual dimension. Their search includes examining the reality of God but they do not feel comfortable in church services.

The three Lindfield churches have responded to the challenge by combining to offer a week's programme of events at the end of May in non-church environments.

Alive '05 – More to Life? – will provide a forum of events and discussions that will give everyone in the village a chance to hear how people of different ages and backgrounds have tackled such questions.

The idea of the week was first mooted 18 months ago when Trevor Lewis became minister of the Evangelical Free Church. Since then he has been working closely with his fellow ministers, Colin Bones from the United Reformed Church and James Clarke, Vicar of All Saints Church.

Trevor said: "I want to get across the idea of unity, partnership and sharing and a message that's relevant with a holistic attitude to life. What we want to do is to ask people to reconsider their suppositions."

Under Trevor's leadership a joint committee of members from the three churches has

been planning the week, the focus of which will be a Big Top on Lindfield Common.

Before the launch on Saturday 21st May everyone in the village will have received a letter explaining the concept and a leaflet outlining the key events and also the address of the Alive '05 website:

www.alive05.info

A team of 90 students from Moorlands College in Hampshire will be helping with the week's activities and as a follow-up to the letter it is planned that they will visit 3,000 homes in a day - on Sunday 22nd May - with the support of 80 local Christians.

The students will give further details of events and also offer residents a video or DVD of stories of people who have found new life through believing in Jesus. The students are also planning to undertake jobs for those in need and will welcome suggestions.

Alive '05 is for everyone who lives in Lindfield and the organisers extend a warm welcome to join in the week's events.



Getting to know you!

A snapshot into the lives of those involved in Alive '05.

Fiona Castle (speaker at parenting session)

I wish I could tell you that I was a perfect parent, but I wasn't! My four children will gladly back that up, as they waste no time in regaling me with their memories of all the awful things I did to them! I am sure they are exaggerating, of course! The best part about it is that we are still friends and still have a really good relationship. In fact, my son now has two boys of his own and I really enjoy standing back with a wry smile and watch him struggle with the same tantrums and discipline issues that confronted me all those years ago!

Peter Howden (Moorlands Bible College student)

I find it very difficult to imagine my life without a spiritual perspective. I am 48 and experienced many of life's traumas such as the death of my father, getting through a bad relationship and a breakdown. But my faith has given me a strength beyond anything that I could have found within myself. Accepting God's Love and His son Jesus has given me a purpose for my life. Knowing that I am loved and accepted by the God that gave me life, brings with it an empowerment that enables me to understand that whatever happens to me in life, I know that God is with me.

Neroli Allen (from All Saints Lindfield)

I always believed in God but as I grew up, my busy life took over from my thoughts of God. Although I was happy, I went on an Alpha course. As I learnt more about Jesus I was filled with an indescribable sense of joy, peace and overwhelming love by and for Jesus. Jesus forgave me for all the wrong things I had done in my life and I no longer carry the guilt and shame. About 6 months after the course, my husband and I experienced a great trauma. We were surrounded by wonderful Christians who prayed for us day and night. My husband became a Christian during this difficult time! God answered our prayers and we witnessed a miracle. I cannot now imagine my life, and our family life, without knowing God's love, peace and guidance.

Fascinating Facts...

- Rev Colin Bones had the initial idea of Moorlands students working in the village for a week whilst attending Rev Trevor Lewis' [ex-student] induction service.
- There are more than 80 local people involved in providing homes for the students to stay during the week.
- Alive '05 has taken a year and a half to plan from the initial idea to the finished week [almost finished week].
- Students will be working to benefit all levels of our community including the schools, nature reserves, rest homes, and work for the King Edward Hall.
- More than 100 people from the Moorlands college [and some from our other partners] will be working in Lindfield during the week.
- The Celebration central focus will be a big top marquee on Lindfield Common. The marquee measures 38ft by 86ft and seats up to 400 people.
- The chairman of the planning committee turns 30 on the first day of the week's celebrations and has gained 32 new grey hairs during his time on the committee.
- There are going to be 16 possible events for local people to attend during the week of which some are free and others involve paying a small cost.
- The students and local Christians hope to visit 3,000 homes on the first Sunday of the week's events.
- The Alive '05 logo was designed by Steven Farley inspired by the idea of freedom and new life.

So, what is it?

"Alive '05 is an invitation for people to explore the Christian message and as I travel around I find that in reality very few people actually know the message of Jesus or have experienced contemporary Christianity. On the committee, we have been working very hard so that every man, woman and child would have the opportunity to understand and experience 21st century Christianity, so that we have the choice. On top of that, as a Christian community within the village we want to care for and serve our community because Jesus teaches people are important and special."

Trevor Lewis

The Highlights!

Detailed programmes will be readily available and distributed around the village soon anyway, but here is a taster of what is going on at Alive '05. Check out the website or your personal Alive '05 guide for more information.

■ Comedian **Syd Little** will be bringing a touch of Buddy Holly to the **Big Top on Lindfield Common** on the **first Sunday night of Alive '05**. Best known for being one half of the TV comedy duo **Little and Large**, **Syd** will be the celebrity speaker at the guest service and he will be bringing his guitar along too. Syd became a Christian 10 years ago after talking with other Christian comedians following the death of his son from a drugs overdose

■ **Quiz and Chips men's night** at the **Bent Arms** on **Monday May 23**

■ Cracking the **Da Vinci code**: Lecturer in theology and church history **Dr Garry Williams** gives a talk on the code in the **Big Top** on **Wednesday night, May 25**

■ Another well known Christian, **Fiona Castle**, will be speaking at a daytime event for parents of the under fives. The widow of TV's **Record Breakers** host and trumpeter **Roy Castle**, Fiona will talk about the trials and tribulations of being a parent on **Thursday May 26**

■ **Taste it**: Friday night concert youth event in the **Big Top** with tickets on the door, **May 27**

■ **Family Fun on the common** with Tug of War, clowns and bouncy castle on **Saturday afternoon, May 28**

■ **PLUS: Film night** and **movie matinee; men's ramble** and **pub lunch; barn dance; multi media event** and special **after school club** sessions

■ For up to date events listings and contact details check the Alive '05 website: **www.alive05.info**

The Fellowship

Please note there is a change to our published programme. We shall meet on Wednesday 18th May at 2.45pm but will not be holding a Charity Lunch as advertised but instead we will be showing a video about the work carried out at Great Ormond Street Hospital for children.

Tea and cakes will be served and our Bring and Buy stall will operate. A retiring collection will be taken with the donations going to the Hospital as our main Charity for the year.

Congratulations!

Our warmest Congratulations to **Rosemary Underhill** and **Harry McCleery** on their recent Engagement. They plan to marry in our church on July 23rd. Great news!

...and **Dan McQuillin's** company, **Broadcast Bionics**, has been awarded a **2005 Queen's Award for Enterprise**, for one of its products. Well done!

Gladys Porter wishes to thank everybody in the church fellowship for their prayers, cards and loving sympathy following the death of her younger sister, Dorothy, in March.

Our sympathy goes to Gladys & Paul Porter; Gladys' younger sister died recently.

Congratulations to Marian Tingley who has been offered a teaching post at Sackville school in East Grinstead from July.

Bereavement

We offer our love and sympathy to **Ann and David Elvin and the family** on the recent death of Ann's mother-in-law Rose. The thanksgiving service was held on 15th April.

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. Visitors are always welcome.

Speakers for this month are as follows:-

May 1st Colin Bones – Communion Service
May 15th Sue Chapman

Visitors are most welcome to join us at any time.



Lindfield URC Tsunami appeal raises £10k!

Letter received from Tearfund:

Thank you, on behalf of our partners in southern Asia, for Lindfield United Reformed Church's generous donation of £10,170.61, to Tearfund's South East Asia Emergency Fund. As I am sure you can imagine, we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the support we've received: Tearfund has now received more than £8 million directly from supporters such as yourselves.

As a result, Christians in South East Asia have been able to make a large-scale, compassionate response among their own communities, providing for emergency needs such as shelter, food and clean water. Tearfund's long-term partners in the region were among the first to reach affected areas, and their work will continue for many years. The emphasis is now shifting to longer-term recovery, restoring livelihoods and rebuilding homes.

This is Tearfund's largest ever relief operation, which is bringing relief and restoring hope to some 300,000 people.

All the latest information about this can be found on our website **www.tearfund.org** in the News section.

With many thanks once again,

Philippa Holliday, Partnership Fundraiser, Tearfund.



London braces itself for invasion of the worshippers!

Based on the Mystery Shopper, where market researchers are sent out by supermarkets like Asda and Tesco to covertly check their own stores, Mystery Worshippers visit churches undercover. They file a report on, for example, the comfort of pews, warmth of welcome, length of sermon, style of music – and whether the after-service coffee has been fairly traded.

“Our volunteers go to a church they have never been to before - and experience the service as an outsider” explains Simon Jenkins, editor of Christian webzine shipoffools.com creators of the Mystery Worshipper. “For the church being visited, the only clue is the calling card dropped discreetly into the collection bag – bearing the picture of a masked man in Lone Ranger pose.”

Religion ‘in the genes’.

Being religious could be a genetic trait rather than learnt, a study suggests. While environmental factors influenced faith in childhood, genes were the dominant force when they grew up, said scientists who studied 273 sets of male twins. The finding was made by researcher Laura Koenig, after interviewing 169 pairs of identical twins and 104 fraternal twins, who shared 50% of their genes. She found identical twins tended to share their twin’s religious beliefs as adults – pointing to a genetic link. Fraternal twins were a third less likely to do so. Ms Koenig, from the University of Minnesota, said “Differences in religiousness are due in part to genetic differences among individuals”.

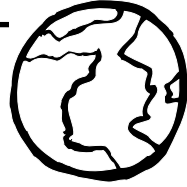
London Metro 22.03.05

The London Men’s Convention at Royal Albert Hall

“Biblical answers to tough questions”
(various speakers & subjects throughout the day)

Saturday 14th May 2005. 10am – 5pm.
£21 - 24 per ticket

More details available from Ray Smith, who is happy to block-buy tickets if there is enough interest from local men. Tel: 01444 484427.



What rules would you make if you were founding a new colony on the planet Zog? Members of our H2O group – aged ten to thirteen – came up with some thoughtful suggestions at a Sunday morning session in April.

The group had been looking at the rule (or Commandment) that they should respect their parents. (See Exodus 20.12 and Ephesians 6.1-4). These were some of their rules for the new colony.

- God's original Ten Commandments to be obeyed
 - All disputes, disagreements and arguments to be resolved without violence.
 - Respect other people and their property
 - Trade goods and services rather than money
 - No smoking
 - Respect the environment
 - No vehicles to burn fossil fuel
 - Use of mobile phones while driving to be prohibited
- And.... as we progressed:*
- All cars to be red Mini Coopers
 - All paper to be yellow (this from the group given yellow paper to work on!).
 - And all rules to be obeyed.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

Brighton Hove and District Battalion
Registered charity number 1071122

Is seeking a **part-time Battalion Executive Secretary**

To support and encourage its very important Christian ministry to boys and young men in local companies and at Battalion level.

The successful candidate will have

- A commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ

- A sympathy with the object of the Boys' Brigade
- Good communication and organisational skills

Experience of working with young people and children will be desirable but not essential.

An attractive honorarium and working hours will be by arrangement. For further details and the application form, please contact Brian Stone as soon as possible 01273 594012 or email bri-bren@supanet.com

May church diary

1st

Sunday

- 9.30am **Communion**
Adrian
Cookney & Ron
Goodenough
- 11.00am Ron
Goodenough
- 6.30pm David Goodchild
& David Jones
-

5th

Thursday

House Groups

7th

Saturday

- 8.45 – Saturday
9.30am Morning Prayer
Meeting (EFC)
-

8th

Sunday

- 9.30am David Nibloe
& Colin Bones
- 11.00am Colin Bones
- 6.30pm Communion
David Goodchild
& Colin Bones
-

11th

Wednesday

- 12.30pm Lunch
Fellowship
-

12th

Thursday

- 8.00pm Church Meeting
(Church)
-

13th

Friday

- 12.30pm Lunch
Fellowship
-

14th

Saturday

- 8.45 – Saturday
9.30am Morning Prayer
Meeting (Tiger)
-

15th

Sunday

- 9.30am David Nibloe &
David Jones
-

Fairtrade Stall between services

- 11.00am Communion
David Jones

- 6.30pm Adrian
Cookney & Ron
Goodenough
(Healing
Service)
-

19th

Thursday

House Groups

21st

Saturday

- 8.45 – Saturday
9.30am Morning Prayer
Meeting (URC)
-

Start of Alive '05

**OTHER LOCAL EVENTS
LISTED ON BACK COVER**

22nd

Sunday

- 9.30am All Age Worship
on the Common
- 11.00am Colin Bones
- 7.00pm Service on the
Common led by 3
ministers

**Full Mission Programme Monday -
Friday****28th**

Saturday

- 8.45 – Saturday
9.30am Morning Prayer
Prayer Meeting
(EFC)

29th

Sunday

- 9.30am Joint Outreach
Service on the
Common
- 11.00am Colin Bones
- 7.00pm Thanksgiving at
All Saints

**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.



Open Doors

– Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide

Open Doors is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. In 1955 Brother Andrew smuggled Bibles to Eastern Europe and since then the ministry has expanded so that now they are working in 45 countries where Christians are consistently persecuted because of their faith.

These are examples of the kind of help they provide:

- Deliver Bibles, commentaries, reference books, teaching materials, children's Bibles, Christian literature, evangelistic aids, and hymn books
- Provide pastoral and discipleship training, including formal theological training
- Conduct seminars on Christian living, family life and how to thrive under persecution
- Run Bible-based literacy courses
- Supply equipment and vocational training to help widows, families of prisoners of conscience, the displaced and the unemployed to earn a living
- Provide legal aid and spiritual and emotional comfort to prisoners and their families
- Finance and supply equipment to pastors, churches and Bible colleges
- Supply printing presses, radios, cassette players,

photocopiers, audio-visual and transport equipment

- Sponsor Bible colleges, reconciliation ministries and restoration centres for Christian refugees, widows and orphans
- Support trauma counselling for Christians living in violent and war-torn areas.

They also work to inform and motivate the Church in the free world to assist persecuted Christians, with special emphasis on mobilising Christian young people.

For more information please see the missions board and take the leaflets or visit their web site **www.opendoorsuk.org** or the youth site **www.opendoorsuk.org/underground/**

If you would like to give towards the work please use the special envelopes marked 'Monthly Mission Giving' and place your gift in the offertory at any service during the

month. Please complete a Gift Aid Slip if appropriate.

Open Doors is the world's largest outreach to persecuted Christians. They work in the most high-risk places for Christians on

earth, where the Gospel costs the most.

Projects are extensive, seeking to support Christians where the Church is often forced underground.

How we help in Africa:

- Bibles and literature
- Ministry and theological training
- Family life and Christian living seminars
- Bible-based literacy courses
- Practical aid
- Specialist projects

CENTRAL ASIA

- Azerbaijan
- Chechnya
- Mid-Volga
- North Caucasus
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan

How we help in Central Asia:

- Bibles and literature
- Ministry training
- 'Standing Strong through the Storm' and other Christian seminars
- Practical aid
- Specialist projects

EAST ASIA

- China
- India

Our mission and ministry

We believe that all doors are open and our ministry focuses on high-risk areas where Christians are living under restriction or persecution.

- Indonesia
- Philippines
- Vietnam
- Other countries unnamed for security reasons

How we help in East Asia:

- Bibles and literature
- Ministry and theological training
- 'Standing Strong through the Storm', Family life and Christian living seminars
- Bible-based literacy courses
- Practical aid
- Specialist projects

LATIN AMERICA

- Colombia
- Cuba
- Mexico
- Peru

How we help in Latin America:

- Bibles and literature
- Ministry and theological training
- 'Standing Strong through the Storm' and other seminars
- Bible-based literacy courses

- Specialist projects

MIDDLE EAST

- Israel/West Bank & Gaza
- Other countries unnamed for security reasons

How we help in the Middle East:

- Bibles and literature
- Ministry training
- Bible-based literacy courses
- Practical aid
- Specialist projects

THE GULF

- Iraq
- Afghanistan
- Arabian Peninsula
- Other countries unnamed for security reasons

How we help in the Gulf:

- Bibles and literature
- Ministry training
- 'Standing Strong through the Storm' and other seminars
- Bible based literacy training
- Practical aid
- Specialist projects

Election Special!!

Our elections are now scheduled for 5th May. We are fortunate in the UK in being generally confident that they will be free and fair, that is assuming efforts have been made to avoid the sort of interference with postal ballots that was seen recently in Birmingham. Spare a thought then for the citizens of some countries who have no vote or where the elections are so rigged that they might as well not have one. Zimbabwe springs readily to mind, remembering its elections of 31st March. A recent letter in the "Metro" (7th April) compared the UK and Zimbabwe situation:-

"What do these people [in UK] know about vote rigging? When your opposition supporters are under constant threat of violence; when your police, army, judiciary, election monitors and media are government propagandists; when it is against the law to hold a political meeting of more than three people; when your foreign election observers are from only friendly countries; where you have to join the government party to get food aid and when the government wins some constituencies by higher margins than the total votes cast, then you can start using the word 'rigging'." (A Zimbabwean in London)

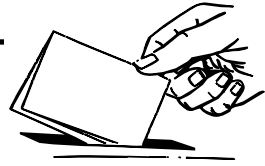
How ironic it was to see Robert Mugabe at the Pope's funeral on 8th April. In March he had called the Pope's

representative in Bulawayo, Archbishop Pius Ncube, a "half-wit"!! The Archbishop had called for a peaceful uprising against President Mugabe's repressive regime, similar to the "Orange revolution" in Ukraine. A mission of 60 non-EU ecumenical peace observers (from World Council of Churches and All African Conference of Churches) concluded that the Zimbabwe elections were not fair, but applauded "the voters who turned out in millions, showing civic responsibility and endurance, although a huge number were denied the possibility to vote". UK's Jack Straw also condemned the elections as "seriously flawed".

How lucky we are in UK where local churches are being encouraged to host "Question Time" style meetings



Vote



for parliamentary candidates (see below). The aim is to give people of all faiths or none the opportunity to cross-question those standing for office about issues of social justice, ethics, manifesto promises and social purpose.

(see: www.churcheselection.org.uk). Please pray for our whole election process on 5th May, but pray also for those in countries like Zimbabwe whose voting rights have been so abused.

Martin Hall

Local Christians debate politics

Friday evening 15th April saw around 150 mostly village residents attend a Christian Election Forum at the King Edward Hall. The purpose of the evening was to enable local people to question the four candidates who have been selected from their party to stand as our local Member of Parliament .

The questions covered everything from a Sustainable Local Environment, European Common Market, Euthanasia, Abortion, Immigration, BBC and the licence fees to support for the Family.

A lively debate was held and the candidates spoke openly, honestly and freely, giving their views and opinions on this wide range of subjects.

Speaking with a few people afterwards I gained the impression that people will now be able to use their vote with greater knowledge and understanding of the issues.

Peter D Ford

May services – what's the preach?



May promises to be a very exciting month as we work towards and engage in our mission – Alive '05. On the three Sunday mornings leading up to Alive '05 we look at working together as a congregation as we approach the mission week, through a short series on the book of Nehemiah. The Alive '05 services look to be interesting and varied with something for all.

The evening services take in two of the Alive '05 services and are complemented by an interesting mix - Praise & Prayer, a healing service and the start of a series on the seven miracles in John's gospel.

**1ST MAY – HOLY COMMUNION
NEHEMIAH SERIES BEGINS**

9.30 am – Holy Communion

11.00 am – Morning Worship

Nehemiah Chapter 3

– Building together

The vision to build together becomes a reality. The overall picture demonstrates a unity of intention by the people. We see here a unity and diversity which should characterise the work of the church

Preacher – Ron Goodenough

6.30 pm – Praise & Prayer led by David Jones

15TH MAY – HOLY COMMUNION

9.30 am – Morning Worship

11.00 am – Holy Communion

Nehemiah Chapter 6

– Completion of the task

Unity leads to a wonderful scale of achievement.

Preacher – David Jones

6.30 pm – Healing Service led by Ron Goodenough

29TH MAY – Alive '05 SERVICES

11.00 am

– 'CELEBRATION OF LIFE'

Open-air event at the Big Top on the Common.

Led by Moorlands Worship Team

6.30 pm – Alive '05 Joint Service of Thanksgiving
'WHAT NEXT?' at All Saints

8TH MAY – JIGSAW SUNDAY

9.30 am – Jigsaw for children & Morning Worship

11.00 am – Morning Worship

Nehemiah Chapter 4

– Overcoming obstacles together

Flexibility, faith and rallying together to overcome obstacles and opposition to the work of building give a model for working together as a church today.

Preacher – Colin Bones

6.30 pm – Holy Communion
Signs for Today – Transformation

John 2: 1-11

Preacher – Colin Bones

22ND MAY – Alive '05 BEGINS

9.30 am – Alive '05 Commissioning Service - All-age worship at the Big Top on the Common.

Led by Moorlands Worship Team & Lindfield Ministers

11.00 am - Alive '05 Service
Preacher – Dotha Blackwood (Moorlands College)

7.00 pm

– Guest service on the Common

Is Life a Journey?

Drama, dance, musical performance etc.

Back down to earth!

Where else can you sing Boney M songs, eat Turkish Delight ice-cream and see respected elders of the church dancing in the aisles? Where else but Spring Harvest in Minehead!

After a good time at Spring Harvest last year, I eagerly signed up last June to go again this year. However, as the time drew near, there was a part of me that wasn't too sure I was ready for a Butlin's chalet and a Big Top filled with thousands of people worshipping with their arms in the air...

Spring Harvest is so big, it can be overwhelming and so good, there is the risk of being taken up on a spiritual high, only to drop back to earth with a thump when you return.

However, for me this year, it was just excellent. Over the years I've learned to take the Big Top as it comes, taking part only if I feel led to and the teaching was simply good, solid feeding to send us back out into our "Strange Land" more equipped to stand firm for what we believe. I was personally encouraged to get my own life re-centred around God, making more time for Him in my hectic lifestyle.

We had excellent Bible teaching on the book of Daniel by Chris Chia, a pastor from Singapore, though I chose the lazy option of sitting on the sofa watching that on the TV, before going off to the "life application" bit in a "zone". I also went to a couple of "Walking the Talk" seminars in the afternoon and it was in the evening celebration that we all got to sing "By the rivers of Babylon" as part of the "Singing a Song in a Strange Land" theme.

In the afternoon there was also time to relax - I ended up going for a couple of walks on the beach (which was when we found the Turkish Delight ice-cream!) and spent lots of time with others from the church family, particularly after the evening celebration when we ended the day discussing what we'd learnt over coffee and biscuits.

Suzy Jacques

I thank God for Spring Harvest; it is like a spiritual booster pack, as well as being a great opportunity to spend time with Christian friends. This year at Minehead was no exception. For once, I didn't charge around like a headless chicken, trying to go to every seminar that looked the least bit interesting, but I really enjoyed what I chose to attend.

The morning Bible studies were led by a delightful Chinese Pastor from Singapore, who had us laughing with his captivating sense of humour, and yet brought to life the book of Daniel and made it so relevant for us today. The theme for the week, "Sing the Lord's song in a strange land", was also very helpfully put over in the Everyday Life Zone led by Ruth Dearnley and Steve Chalke. Ruth (an Anglican Clergy's wife) and Steve (a Baptist Minister) made an amusing double-act, but more importantly challenged us about living out the Christian life within the world which is so far removed from the things of God (a strange land).

The evening celebrations in the Big Top are always such an encouragement, to be worshipping God along with several thousand like-minded believers. We had some excellent speakers, good drama presentations, much banner-waving and 'loud' music! They were a bit of a highlight for me this year, as I decided to join the choir who met for short rehearsals on three afternoons and were ably trained by Pat Bilbrough (wife of the singer/songwriter Dave), who, incidentally, was leading worship at the celebrations. It was great to have the opportunity to learn harmony for some modern songs. In the final Communion Service it felt like a privilege to be able to sing two of those songs to the congregation. It was a real thrill for me!

We enjoyed meals together, including a picnic outside the McQuillin's chalet Sunday afternoon, walked the sands and along the seafront into Minehead, and were very impressed by a couple of 'After Hours' theatrical presentations. Thank you, Trudy, for all your organising on behalf of us all. It was a great time!

Fo Tingley

Spring Harvest 2006

Minehead, 6 - 11 April



Gifted speakers unpack the Bible to deliver you fresh understanding. Talented musicians lead powerful times of vibrant worship. Tailor-made programmes for children and young people allow them to learn and explore their faith with their peers. A number of meeting styles and additional workshops give opportunity to study the way that suits you. Plus there's time to relax with your family and make new friends.

Spring Harvest 2006 will focus on "One God – celebrating the one true God". In our uncertain and fast-changing world, the church has some strong truth claims to make – and a Big Story to talk about. We'll be looking at One God – who He is and what He's like. We'll also focus on how our understanding of God shapes how we live out our faith. We'll delve into the big issues – moral, ethical and spiritual – in society and discover what the Bible has to say about them. We'll also explore what makes Christians different and how to live in authentic, biblical and practical ways.

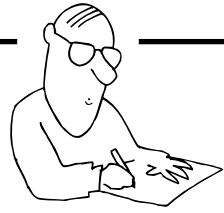
Spring Harvest is a fantastic time of teaching, worship, fellowship and fun from the youngest to the oldest. It would be great for as many as possible to come next year.

Cost £138 per adult
£125 per child

Please sign the form by the kitchen if you are interested in coming, by Sunday 9th June

For more information see Trudy Biersteker





Rules of writing

Check out this tounge-in-cheek writing lesson!

Writing an article, be it for a church magazine or otherwise, is not always an easy matter so here are some helpful guidelines.

1. Verbs HAS to agree with their subjects.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.
4. Avoid clichés like the plague. (They're old hat.)
5. Also, always avoid annoying alliteration.
6. Be more or less specific.
7. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are (usually) unnecessary.
8. Also too, never, ever use repetitive redundancies.
9. No sentence fragments.
10. Foreign words and phrases are not apropos.
11. Do not be redundant; do not use more words than necessary;
it's highly superfluous.
12. Eliminate commas, that are, not necessary.
13. Never use a big word when a diminutive one would suffice.
14. Understatement is always the absolute best way to put forth earth shaking ideas.
15. If you've heard it once, you've heard it a thousand times:
Resist hyperbole; not one writer in a million can use it correctly.
16. Puns are for children, not groan readers.
17. Who needs rhetorical questions?
18. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.

And finally...

19. Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.



'Pauls' Greengrocers

This month Paul Bicknall, from 'Pauls' the greengrocer shop on the High Street, answers our questions for us:

1. For how long have you run the shop?

14 years.

2. What do you know of the history of the building you are in?

Very little. Has supposedly been a food shop for many many years.

3. What has been your favourite customer experience?

Watching children grow to become adults. Gaining friendship with many loyal customers.

4. What is your best-selling line?

Varies from day to day and time of year. Bananas always sell well.

5. Why have a shop in Lindfield?

Good question!! I ask myself this on numerous occasions. In economic terms village trade is difficult to make a living but at least I can offer a personal service.

6. What percentage of your stock is produced locally?

30-40%.

7. Total number of staff?

4/5

8. What time do you have to get up for work?

1.30am

9. What is your busiest day/week of the year?

*Busiest day is Saturday.
Busiest weeks are Christmas and Easter.*

10. Opening times?

*7:00 am – 5:30pm
Monday to Saturday*



Flower Rota

	Arranging	Distributing
May 1	Fiona Tingley	Dorothy Forster
8	Boys' Brigade	Betty Peter
15	Audrey Saunders	Jacqueline Wood
22	Winifred Scopes	Iris Bingham
29	Jean Baxter	Fiona Tingley
June 5	Heather Swann	Heather Swann
12	Lucy Thom	Sue Tester
19	Lyn Tucker	Dorothy Forster
26	Janet Wade	Betty Peter

Many thanks for donations for Easter Flowers and also my team of helpers. *Betty.*

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)
- Fri 7.30am Prayer Meeting in the Lounge

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

- Sun 6.30pm Sunday Evening Youth Group
- Mon 6.30pm Boys' Brigade – Junior Section
(8–11 years)
- 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, 7:8
- 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:

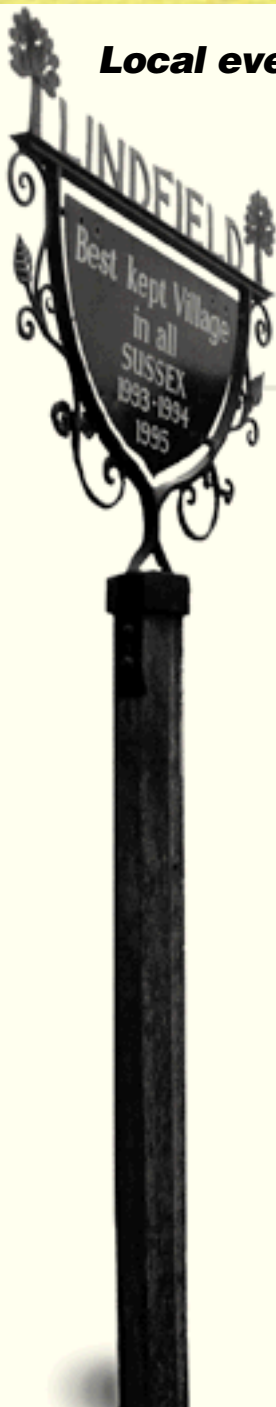
Rob Biersteker 01444 440835

Junior Church

& Zest Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683

Local events



Haywards Heath United Reformed Church

Present a

Concert with Singspiration

The Gospel in Song

Saturday 14th May

at 7.00pm.

Tickets £6.00.

Available at door or from

01444 456198

or 01444 454618

Lindfield Preservation Society

has a talk
by Chris Todd

on

The History of Steyning

at **The King Edward Hall**

on **Wednesday 18th May**

at 8pm. Admission £1.

All welcome.

Music for Pleasure.

Burgess Hill School for Girls

Will be singing on

Thursday 19th May

1pm to 1.50pm

Admission free but
donations welcome.

Tea, coffee and biscuits
available.

Please feel free to bring
your lunch.

Contact Liz Hinze

01444 452697

Lindfield Christian Care Home

The annual plant sale at Compton House

will be held on

Saturday 7th May

10am 'til noon

We value your support
and look forward to
seeing you there.

The Trustees.