

# GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2003



## Bringing home the prodigals

Engaging with our loved ones again.

- GREEN JELLY: Having fun with pumpkins!
- Supporting your local hospices.
- PLUS... what's on diary for November.





# Your supporting role

**Whilst preparing September's sermons on relational evangelism some of the passages I considered led me to look at the related topic of the gift of encouragement. I was only able to look at this briefly in one of the sermons so I have put together a summary of the material on encouragement here – I hope you will find it helpful.**

Often talk in the Church is of 'revival' and 'evangelism' and this is good and stirring stuff. Nevertheless, it is important to remember a basic but important ministry like encouragement. When a church is growing and we are having to cope with change (God is always seeming to do a new thing) then it is essential that we encourage one another.

Whatever gifts and ministries we have it is important to realise that every Christian is called to be an encourager. When we know how to serve and minister to each other then the stronger we are to minister to the world.

Encouragement is more than a gentle pat on the back. Selwyn Hughes defines encouragement in the following way:–

"Encouragement is the

expression we use either verbal or non-verbal, in helping a person cope with or overcome a difficult time in their life and experience."

This is quite a 'deep' but nevertheless helpful definition. We live in a world that gives us knocks and setbacks – we live in a nation that does not live according to Biblical standards. In the Church, as we see the 'day' approaching we will be challenged by new things that God is doing amongst his people. The ministry of encouragement is vital.

When we greet people or shake hands or ask "how are you?" let us be aware of any hurting signals. When this is so we must not fail to respond. We must be supportive of one another's feelings, listen effectively, and be prepared to pray for one another with understanding and acceptance. Encouraging words prompted by love and spoken in tenderness can have great effect.

*Colin Bones, minister*

"Let us consider how we spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as we see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10 v24–25

# GoodNEWS

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## Editorial



**F**or some time now, the work of Care for the Family has impressed me. So it is with pleasure that one of their initiatives is our feature this month.

Not only are the articles featured, beginning on page 4, poignant for parents, but for all of us who have seen friends and loved ones walk away from the Church. If you can make it to one of the events on the tour, it would be worthwhile I am sure.

Elsewhere in the magazine, Jackie Griffiths has collated GREEN JELLY – which features a neat idea on turning Halloween pumpkins into something positive for Christ. Thanks, Jackie!

John Barling take a closer look at the local care hospices in the area, and tells us how they rely on fundraising in the community. See page 21.

Mike Gardiner reveals some more truths from the book of John (page 17), Geoffrey Cocksedge tells us where it's at with Boys' Brigade (page 22) and our church's mission focus for November is highlighted on page 15. Samaritan's Purse – and the Operation Christmas Child project – are indeed a worthwhile cause. And, don't forget your special gift shoeboxes, they need to be at the church by Sunday 9th November.

*David Tingley*

# Prayer Diary



<b>SUN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uphold all those involved in our services – the preachers, worship leaders, musicians, those who lead prayers and read, the stewards and technicians.</li> <li>• Pray for those who are victims of crime.</li> </ul>
<b>MON</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With Christmas approaching, pray for those in the retail industry.</li> <li>• In particular, pray for our local Christian Book shop and the TCBC group of which it is a part.</li> <li>• Remember those who are in prison.</li> </ul>
<b>TUE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our mission focus this month – Samaritan’s Purse.</li> <li>• Pray that many people will feel led to fill shoeboxes, and for the safety of those who deliver them to children across the globe.</li> <li>• Remember those who care for prisoners.</li> </ul>
<b>WED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for continuing developments in Medical Research.</li> <li>• For Scientists and all involved in medical trials of any kind.</li> <li>• Uphold those who are unjustly imprisoned.</li> </ul>
<b>THUR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In our Sussex East District, please pray for the District Commissioners, a meeting of the Provincial Council on 18th November.</li> <li>• Alfriston, Seaford and Upperton URC churches.</li> <li>• Pray for the families of prisoners, and for all those who offer them support and friendship.</li> </ul>
<b>FRI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give thanks for 11 years of ministry at Lindfield Christian Care Home, both Compton House and Little Compton.</li> <li>• Lift to God all the changes happening there at present, and uphold the trustees and staff as well as the residents.</li> <li>• Pray for prison chaplaincy teams and volunteers.</li> </ul>
<b>SAT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank God for the managers and all the work they do to maintain our Church premises.</li> <li>• Pray for all who work ‘behind the scenes’ in church life; that they will be blessed and encouraged.</li> <li>• Pray for those who influence public opinion.</li> </ul>

# A passion for prodigals

Over the past 15 years, Rob and Dianne Parsons have spoken to hundreds of thousands of people on issues that affect families. Care for the Family is on tour with a new event that is based on Rob's bestselling book, "Bringing Home the Prodigals".

The book contains much to teach us as parents and churches.

As our feature this month Rob explains why he is more excited about this tour than anything Care for the Family has done before. Plus; member of our church's Evangelism Group, David Jones, shares what he learnt from reading the aforementioned book.

But you needn't let it stop there, check out the details of the tour on page 7.



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**A**lmost every home will, at some stage, be able to relate to the parable of the prodigal son. It is an issue that will affect nearly all of us. If I could have any prayer granted with regard to this initiative, it would be that the parents of young children would come to these events.

We need to be praying for our children long before they hit the possible 'prodigal' years, and there are lessons we can learn that may just make it a little easier to manage those difficult times or even avoid them completely. Other parents will come to "Bringing Home the Prodigals" with teenagers who are testing them to the extreme, and yet others whose children are actually breaking their hearts.

### **Two giants that stalk parents**

One mother told me her experience: "I hear other parents talk with sadness about the day when their kids leave home and the nest will be empty, and yet I cannot wait for my daughter to

go. I can't honestly tell you that I do feel love for this child." But as this woman was speaking to me, I became convinced that what she was really saying was, 'Help me to love this girl, who at times seems to have ruined my life. She has broken my heart, yet she is part of me – I cannot live without loving her.'

The truth is that many of us have been caught like rabbits in the headlights of a car by two powerful emotions – guilt and fear. The guilt whispers to us, 'You have failed as parents. If only you had done this or hadn't done that, things would have turned out differently.' Guilt fails to remind us that God, the perfect parent, has trouble with his children too.

And hot on the heels of guilt is fear – 'What if my children make a mistake that will ruin their lives?' – 'What if they are hurt physically or become ill?' – 'What if they turn their back on my values?' I believe with all my heart that "Bringing Home the **continued on page 6 >>**

<< *continued from page 5*

Prodigals” has the potential to make a real difference in the life of everyone who attends – whether at the moment our kids seem perfect in every way, or whether, even though we love them, we find it hard to like them just now!

### **A wider issue**

But the issue of prodigals is much wider than parent–children relationships. Some of our prodigals will be our friends, brothers or sisters, or even our own parents. And, of course, the issue reaches far beyond the prodigals themselves – it concerns the kind of churches we have and the incredible prophecy given by an old man years ago: “When the Father’s house is filled with the Father’s love, the prodigals will come home”. In the book I put it like this: One of the most sobering aspects of local church life is the realisation that the way we have dealt with each other has caused some of our children to turn their back on what we believe. Through much of their young lives they have seen Christians fight each other and argue over the insignificant. They have

silently watched as church members have criticised each other, hurt each other, and ostracised those they were meant to love. Many of us have developed a critical spirit in our dealings with others that makes it hard for our children to believe that God can love unconditionally.

## BRINGING HOME THE PRODIGALS

During the “Bringing Home the Prodigals” evenings we will be praying that our churches will rediscover the issues that really matter to God and become places of forgiveness, grace and a refuge for the prodigals. But to achieve this we have to face the issue of the elder brother in the parable – the one for whom the rules and regulations were more important than love – and pray with all our hearts that, when our prodigals do come home, they meet the Father before they meet him. When prayer is all we have left Dianne and I do hope you’ll join us at one of these events. It will be an evening filled with praise and prayer, and I will bring the message on prodigals

that I believe God has laid on my heart. The details of the tour are alongside. As well as the venues listed we'll also be visiting Plymouth, London, Bristol, Belfast, Lincoln, Cardiff and Birmingham in Spring 2004.

I believe something is going on in our nation with regard to the prodigals: there is a wind blowing in the tree tops; prayer groups for prodigals are springing up; our churches are re-examining whether we have made it easy for some of our prodigals to leave and hard for them to return, and thousands of parents are being released from false guilt and are finding fresh hope. At Care for the Family our responsibility is to contribute our piece to the jigsaw – the book and events are our contribution.

Join us if you possibly can. I have no doubt that at least some of these venues will sell out quickly, so please book early. And if you can't be with us, then please pray as you see the tour go around the country, asking that God, in his mercy, will, from the four corners of the earth – bring home the prodigals.

*Rob Parsons*

**Catch Rob, Dianne and a host of Spring Harvest worship leaders at these special "Bringing Home the Prodigals" evening events.**

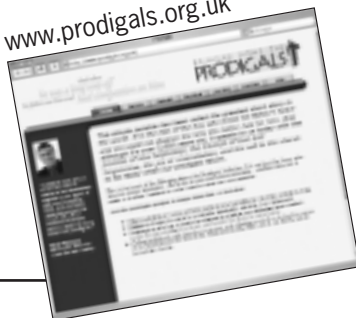
DATE	CITY
Autumn 2003	
8 Nov	Glasgow
13 Nov	Coventry
14 Nov	Croydon
15 Nov	Bracknell
20 Nov	Derby
21 Nov	Sheffield
22 Nov	Liverpool

Spring 2004	
11 Mar	Plymouth
12 Mar	London
13 Mar	Bristol
18 Mar	Belfast
19 Mar	Lincoln
20 Mar	Cardiff
22 Apr	Birmingham

Tickets £5 per person. To book call (029) 2081 0800 or go to their website (below)

They are looking for volunteers to help as stewards at these events. If you can help at any of the venues, please email us and someone will contact you.

[www.prodigals.org.uk](http://www.prodigals.org.uk)





# The modern story of family

**As the title suggests the book is based on the parable of the prodigal son.**

To quote from the book “This is a modern story. Perhaps it is our story for, of a certainty, there is no family, no matter how godly, how expert at parenting, or how devoted to each other, which is immune from the circumstances that cause us to cry out to God for our children”. This is a story of a boy who broke his father’s heart but could not destroy his love. Despite that love, the boy still ran roughshod over his feelings to “Do his own thing”. He disowned his own family.

Again quoting the book “It is without doubt a wonderful story and the important question for us is, ‘who are the prodigals today?’. The truth is that we have made ‘prodigals’ of some who never were in the first place”. He looks at the modern church and asks whether by its petty regulations, which have nothing

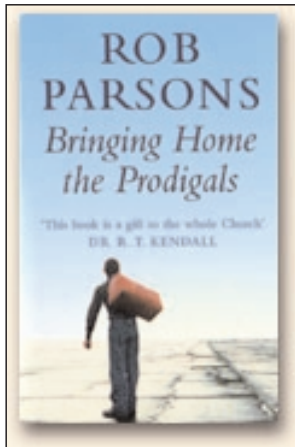
to do with following Christ, and its attitudes it has driven people from the Church. Do people, including our own children, see us criticising or treating others

badly, ignoring them, and does that colour their view of the Christian life. He notes that many people are put off going to church not because of who Christ is but rather the way the church is.

Are you a parent of young children,

concerned about the pressures on them as they grow up? Of older teenagers giving concern or who have already started on a path that you can see leading to trouble? Do you have children who have left the church, friends who have stopped attending? How do we react to these situations? How do we deal with them? The book explores these issues.

It also asks us to look carefully at our own reactions and responses. The parable is



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told very much with the Pharisees in mind. Is our attitude unwittingly that of the older brother or are we like the father, in love, searching for the prodigals.

Rob Parsons is well aware of the guilt into which parents can fall if their children move away from the Church, the danger of becoming judgmental and not being able to let things go. The embarrassment that can be felt, the feeling of failure, the loss of hope. He also looks at the positives in a chapter headed "It is time to stop judging and start sharing". This is followed by a chapter on the "Release of the life changing power of forgiveness". He then considers how to prepare the way for the prodigals' return.

He looks at the positive things that can be done but concludes that ultimately we cannot live others lives for them. We need to live godly lives, be examples, and trust in God's grace. At the end of the book, he counsels, "Never stop praying. Don't ever give up".

And as it should, the book inevitably leads to the grace of God and the cross and the conclusion that God's love for

prodigals is unconditional. However, if we really do come to the foot of the cross we see ourselves as we truly are and realise that we are all prodigals.

The book contains much thought-provoking material as well as testimonies, stories, prayers and reflections and I commend it. It is a short book and well worth the time to read it, prayerfully listening to what God is saying.

As Dr. R.T. Kendall says, "This book is a gift to the whole Church".

*David Jones*

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## Is our faith being challenged?

The Prime Minister Tony Blair and the Foreign Secretary Jack Straw are among those who have been contacted by the Evangelical Alliance UK (EA) to raise concerns about the proposed European Constitution.

The Alliance believes that the freedom of Christians to practice their faith may be affected by the new legislation, and it is calling on Christians everywhere to look at the draft constitutional proposals and to write to the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary, highlighting potential concerns.

The EA has written a report entitled *The Proposed European Constitution - Threat or Opportunity?*, copies of which have been sent to, among others, Mr Blair and Mr Straw.

"We are concerned that Christians' freedom to practice the Christian faith may be compromised by the draft proposals. The tone-setting preamble to the Constitution stresses a humanist European vision and agenda at the expense of God, Christ and the Judeo-Christian heritage," said Dr Don Horrocks, the Alliance's Head of Public Affairs.

More info from [www.eauk.org](http://www.eauk.org)

Source: Evangelical Alliance

## Spiritual soap

A new "EastEnders" poster has been unveiled as part of a media campaign by Nottingham churches working with the Bible Society. The campaign, which centres on the BBC1 soap opera, aims to highlight the relevance of the Bible to modern-day communities.

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



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## ABBEY+ ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

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### Musical influence in design

Design consultancy The Field, has recently completed the rebranding of Abbey Road Baptist Church in London.

## Bereavement

We extend our love and sympathy to **Paul Bloxham** and the family – on the death of his mother.

Another of our friends has journeyed on to be with the Lord and we offer our love and sympathy to **Anne, Simon and Susanne** and all of their family and friends on the death of **David Parker** on 12th October.

## Moving House

Mel and Jeremy Campling have recently moved to:-  
28 Finches Park Road, Lindfield, RH16 2DN.  
Telephone no: 01444 484140

## Thank You

My grateful thanks to the church family for all the kindness shown to me when I was poorly for a few weeks.

Also for the prayerful support when my granddaughter Lizzie spent six weeks on traction with two operations on her hips. The love and caring at the Royal Alexandra Hospital has been wonderful. Last but by no means least I do indeed thank our Heavenly Father for his everlasting love and knowing His 'healing arms' are there for us all.

*Jessie Green*

## Thank You

I am very grateful to all who contributed towards the four missionary causes in memory of Ken.

The magnificent sum of £2000 has been distributed between the Mission Aviation Fellowship, Far Eastern Broadcasting Association, Christian Witness to Israel and the Scripture Gift Mission which Ken took a particular special interest in.

*Priscilla Walden*

## Green Jelly

Just a little note to say thank-you to Jackie Griffiths who has agreed to have a go at putting together the Green Jelly kids pages in the magazine – relieving me of the responsibility!

I think that you'll agree that she's done a great job on this month's issue. Huge thanks also go to Clare Nibloe who has provided a lot of ideas, material and support, particularly over the last six months or so! She will continue to support Jackie and maintain the link between our on-going children's work and Green Jelly.

*Emma Tingley*

## Thanks

I would like to say thank you to all those members of the church family who have expressed their sympathy to me and my family following David's recent death.

To know that you are praying for us is upholding us and a great comfort at this very sad time in our lives. Thanks, *Anne Parker*

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## Thank You

To all my friends and readers of the GoodNEWS.

Belated thanks for all the prayers, help and loving kindness shown to Michael and me during his illness, and for your on-going friendship and concern for me.

Evelyn Lea

**NB:** *The editor would like to apologise that Evelyn's 'note of thanks' was not printed in last month's magazine. Sorry.*

## The Fellowship

The Fellowship meets on Wednesday 26th November at 2.45pm. Our speakers will be Rev Mike Gardiner, and Mrs Jean Gardiner; they will be speaking about 'Russia, Land of Beauty and Sadness'. Tea and biscuits will be served. There will also exist a 'Bring and Buy' stall. All are welcome to join us.

## Busy season means more puff

Lindfield URC's resident 'choir' – The Sunday Morning Singers – is committed to a busy programme during December. Peter Swann, who organises the group, is appealing for help!

"Anybody who can *almost* read music and can sing is welcome to join us. No audition, no subs, all music provided, all that is required is the joy of singing and praising the Lord."

Rehearsals are every Friday night at 8.00pm until 12th December 2003.

If you cannot assist in this way, they would value your prayers as they rehearse not only for the special events but as they bring the ministry of song during the 11am services.

For more information contact Peter Swann 01444 450335.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

*Good***NEWS** magazine is produced in three formats every month?

**1 PAPER**  
pick it up from the church, Post Office, Coffee Connection, The White Horse & Weber Brown.

**2 ELECTRONIC**  
download it from [www.lindfieldurc.org.uk](http://www.lindfieldurc.org.uk)

**3 AUDIO**  
listen to selected articles recorded onto tape and CD – available from the church.

## November diary

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### 1st

Saturday 8.30am Mens' Breakfast at The Tiger. Roger Whipp gives his testimony.  
Details: 01444 482756.

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### 2nd Sunday

**9.30am** Communion  
David Nibloe &  
Colin Bones  
**11.0am** Healing Service  
Colin Bones  
**6.30pm** Colin Bones

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### 5th

Wednesday \*Lindfield Bonfire Night  
Procession starts at 7.0pm

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### 6th

Thursday House Group week

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### 9th Sunday

Remembrance Sunday  
**9.30am** David Nibloe &  
Colin Bones  
**11.0am** Colin Bones  
3.0pm \*Armistice Day  
Service at All  
Saints' Church  
**6.30pm** Communion  
Richard Walters  
& David Walters

\*Remembrance Concert  
Ardingly College Choral  
Society. 01444 892316.

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### 12th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

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### 13th

Thursday 8.00pm Church AGM

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### 14th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

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### 15th

Saturday 2.30pm \*Christmas Cake  
and Gift Sale at  
Compton House  
7.30pm Mission Supper  
with John &  
Gwen Hall

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### 16th Sunday

**9.30am** David Nibloe &  
John Hall  
**11.0am** John Hall  
noon Copydate for  
December  
GoodNEWS  
**6.30pm** Richard Walters  
& Colin Bones

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### 20th

Thursday 1.0pm \*Lunchtime  
concert (KEH)  
'The Lindfield  
Quintet'  
1.0pm \*Christianity  
made clear –  
short talk at  
Clair Hall  
House Group week

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### 23rd Sunday

**9.30am** David Nibloe &  
Colin Bones

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- 11.0am** Communion  
Colin Bones
- 6.30pm** Richard Walters  
& Tim Griffiths

## 25th

Tuesday 7.45pm Ladies 'In Touch'

## 26th

Wednesday 2.45pm The Fellowship  
7.45pm Elders' Meeting

## 27th

Thursday 8.00pm Monthly Prayer  
Meeting

## 29th

Saturday \*Perdido Players Swing  
Night – King Edward Hall.  
Tickets £7.50 inc  
Ploughmans Supper.  
Details: Christine Giltrow  
01444 452328.

## 30th Sunday

- 9.30am** David Nibloe &  
Colin Bones
- 11.0am** Colin Bones
- 6.30pm** Richard Walters  
& Colin Bones

### ADVANCE DIARY

**3rd Dec Lindfield Village Night**  
Christmas Shopping/Festival night

\* = event not held at Lindfield URC

## 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.

# Samaritan's Purse

**This month we are supporting Samaritan's Purse International both with the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox appeal and also with their wider projects. Junior Church is also supporting them this year raising money to buy a bike for a pastor in Africa.**

Samaritan's Purse is working in many war-torn areas in the world. Over the summer 16 tons of medical supplies and equipment was airlifted into Iraq. They are building a medical centre and also assisting local churches with feeding programmes for hundreds of needy families, both Christian and Muslim, in Baghdad. Samaritan's Purse has also worked in Liberia and The Congo for many years.

Their most recent projects involve providing farm tools, seed and other aid for rural families and they have used their planes to evacuate many people to safer places in the Congo. They assist local churches providing blankets, food, shelters and Bibles to those who have settled in camps.



Their aim is "to meet critical needs of victims of war, poverty, famine, disease and natural disaster while sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ".

Samaritan's Purse often have a Christmas Gift Catalogue with a difference so look out for those too.

Please visit their website at [www.samaritanspurse.ie](http://www.samaritanspurse.ie) for up to date information and pick up the leaflets from the mission board in the concourse.



**Don't forget to bring your shoebox on 9th November.**



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# MISSION SUPPER

Saturday 15th November at 7.30pm

## **Speakers: John & Gwen Hall**

Many will remember John Hall from years back when he came to speak at one of our church conferences. At that time he was a URC Minister in Crawley. He and Gwen now head up the **Romans 1:11 Trust** which was founded in 1991 to support and encourage churches in a number of African countries.

Colin, our minister, has been on a number of teaching tours with the trust and we are hoping to explore the possibility of being involved in a project. It would be good, therefore, if as many as possible could be at the supper.

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

John & Gwen will also be with us for our Sunday morning services the following day.

This will be sited in the concourse from Sunday 30th November for the use of church members and regular worshippers only. Please address envelopes clearly with christian name, surname and address. A box for donations to Tearfund will be alongside.

### **Last posting date:**

Friday 12th December

### **Card collection date:**

Sunday 14th December

Note: This is not a free service so please give generously.



*Andrew & Gladys Muir*

# Can you do the dishes?

## **Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet**

<sup>1</sup>It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

<sup>2</sup>The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup>Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup>so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

<sup>5</sup>After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

<sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

<sup>7</sup>Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

<sup>8</sup>"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."  
Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

<sup>9</sup>"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

<sup>12</sup>When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and asked them. <sup>13</sup>"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup>I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup>Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

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**I remember an incident from my college days. There had been a plea to help the hard-pressed domestic staff by clearing the tables after lunch, yet students were drifting off, chatting to their friends, forgetting the crockery. I spotted the college principal, a man with an international reputation in Christian circles, quietly stacking dirty plates and carrying them to the washing-up room.**

The story of Jesus washing dusty feet has become too familiar to us. We fail to sense the disciples' shock and acute embarrassment as their revered Teacher strips off his robe to perform a slave's task. We need to hear the story afresh, in the way that John probably meant us to hear it: on two levels. The first is obvious, so obvious that it often falls on deaf ears: that we are actually meant to copy this sort of loving service (v14–15) – to forget our dignity and self-importance, and serve one another. Jesus says (v34–35) that love for one another – sacrificial, Christ-like love – is to be the norm for the Christian (the implication being that people will question the authenticity of someone claiming to be a Christian yet not demonstrating that love). Status in the Kingdom of God is not

about power, position or title, but about loving others and serving them in the spirit of Jesus' example.

But, secondly, Jesus is, in true prophetic fashion, acting out a parable whose meaning, he tells the indignant Peter, the disciples will not understand until “after these things” (literal rendering of v7). The word translated “took off” in v4 is actually “laid down”, the same word Jesus used when he said he had power to lay down his life and take it up again (10v17). Only after Jesus' death and resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit would those men remember having their feet washed and understand that it spoke of a King who came not to trample on people but to serve them and lay down his life for them.

Peter never forgot that day. Many years later, when he came to write to suffering Christians, he urged them: “All of you, clothe yourselves with humility towards one another...” (1 Peter 5v5). A striking metaphor which used the same verb as John uses in v4 of Jesus clothing himself with a towel to kneel at Peter's feet.

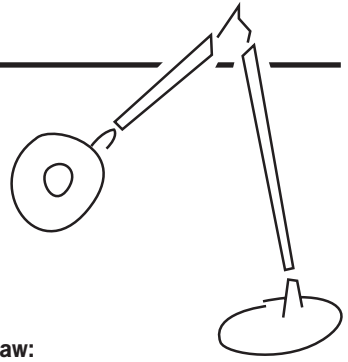
Actions speak louder than words, which must be why I remember my college principal's action more clearly than any lecture he gave!

*Mike Gardiner*

## Twenty more questions

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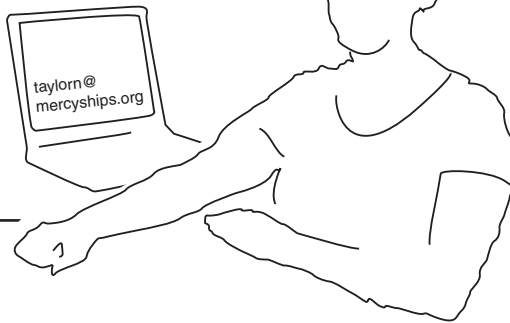
GoodNEWS takes a probing glimpse into the minds of those who come to the church! Twenty Questions gives you a chance to guess the interviewee and learn a bit more about them too! This month's guest is revealed on the foot of Page 23.



- 1. What is your best memory from your school days?**  
Being Sixth Form Chairman.
- 2. Favourite TV programme?**  
The West Wing.
- 3. If 'Changing Rooms' were to visit your home, which room would you ask them to redecorate?**  
Kitchen.
- 4. Banoffee Pie, Apple Crumble or Fruit Salad?**  
Banoffee Pie.
- 5. Which service do you frequent most often?**  
6.30pm
- 6. Have you been trained in a specific line of work, if so what?**  
Marine Insurance.
- 7. What one person do you think has most influenced your desire to follow Christ?**  
Keith Ward.
- 8. Who would you most want to have a 'one-to-one' conversation with (past or present)?**  
St (Rocky) Peter.
- 9. Do you qualify for a free Bus Pass?**  
Not quite yet!
- 10. Shoe size?**  
9
- 11. Create a new law:**  
Treat your neighbour as you wish to be treated yourself
- 12. Mug or cup & saucer?**  
Large mug.
- 13. Do you have a personal email account?**  
Alas yes.
- 14. What is the best strength of the Christian church?**  
The example and words of Jesus Christ.
- 15. Describe the 'Christian life' in no more than three words.**  
Journey of hope.
- 16. Most romantic moment?**  
*astounding* = seeing my three children each enter the world.
- 17. Best moment of fame?**  
Playing football for East Kent Schools at Under 12.
- 18. Give one piece of wisdom to the next generation.**  
Communicate continuously with God.
- 19. What is the greatest difference between your life now and before you became a Christian?**  
I swear a lot less now.
- 20. Glasses, contact lenses or none?**  
Glasses (sometimes).

## **My world**

Missionary tales by Nikki Taylor



### **Mercy Ships Switzerland**

En Suisse. I was so excited this last week. There was the first snow on the mountains as we drove up to St Cerque and I made a new friend, Monsieur Neige! His ear had already melted off in the bright sun and I had to replace his pine cone nose!

I have settled in quite well to the office. We had a community cleaning day where everyone get together to clean the public parts of the house. It is a small country house in the green belt outside Lausanne. There is a large room called the Grand Salon with French doors onto the porch. The Petit Salon is attached to that room and then you go through to what is now our TV room to probably the butlers pantry and linens store. The kitchen has been kept reasonably similar with some modernisations. The bread oven is now a pizza oven and we light the fire in it and have great pizza parties with people in the house, and often the youth from the churches hold evenings in the house. There is a big range and the kitchen does seem to get very cold in the winter because of the huge windows.

The cellars are used as a youth event place every month. There is a max life party which uses the talents of the DJ's and VJ's who work here and a themed party is created to attract youth in the area to come. This is not a hard sell Christian party but all the video and music is Christian themed and the scene is set for discussion with people.

The Gate, a youth discussion group, provides a different forum for talking about god and life and the bible. I attend the Gate on Tuesdays and I have been enjoying the challenge of the discussion and different ideas expressed.

So all in all I am experiencing some new and interesting things. Please pray for me as I come closer to God.

# Down your local

**No, not the local pub! Read on. If, like many today, you have lost a family member or friend through a life-threatening illness such as cancer, or perhaps know someone who is ill right now, then you are bound to have the utmost respect, admiration and support for our hospices and the many caring and dedicated medical, nursing and volunteer staff who run them.**

Here in Lindfield our “locals” are St Catherine’s in Crawley and St Peter and St James between Wivelsfield and North Chailey, both providers of patient care and support for relatives. Although each receives some funding from the NHS the lion’s share of financial support comes from community groups, individuals, businesses, trusts, schools, churches and through special fundraising initiatives. To cover the cost of respite care, follow up support by specialist community nurses, day care or full-time in-patient care, bereavement support and counselling, it requires unstinting support from donors since no charges are made for any of the services. The sole criterion for hospice care is medical need.

Help is given freely to all patients regardless of age, ethnic origin, gender, nationality or religious affiliation.

The Perdido Players (Swing band) led by Peter Swann, a member of Lindfield United Reformed Church, have supported both hospices over recent years with various charity concerts. The next one for St Catherine’s will be at the King Edward Hall on 29th November but, alas, as GoodNEWS goes to press, all tickets have been sold, so do look out for other opportunities of supporting your local. Speak to Christine Giltrow, our link with the local Fundraising Support Group, or contact either hospice direct.

*John Barling*

## **St Catherine’s Hospice**

Malthouse Road, Crawley West Sussex  
RH10 6BH Tel: 01293 447333  
Registered Charity: 281362  
[www.stch.org.uk](http://www.stch.org.uk) email: [info@stch.org.uk](mailto:info@stch.org.uk)

## **St Peter and St James Hospice and Continuing Care Centre**

North Common Road, North Chailey,  
East Sussex BN8 4ED  
Tel: 01444 471598  
Registered Charity: 1056114  
[www.stpeter-stjames.org.uk](http://www.stpeter-stjames.org.uk)  
email: [enquiries@stpeter-stjames.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stpeter-stjames.org.uk)





# Importance of Christian influence

**So far as numbers were concerned, the Glynde Camp in the first week of the summer holidays was the most successful for a number of years, 50% more lads attending than in the millennium year.**

The Lindfield contingent did not distinguish itself this time, but the fellowship was as delightful as ever, and we had a really happy week – personally, it was the most enjoyable camp I've had for many a long year.

Every camp has its “characters”, and one that stood out was a midget 12 year old from Eastbourne called Tyler, or as he was nicknamed “Atyler the Hun”! With a permanent smile on his face, treating everybody as a personal friend, Tyler won all hearts, and amazed us with his astonishing acrobatic ability – he could shin up the marquee main pole in half a minute!

One of the great things about these camps is the opportunity to meet and influence lots of likeable youngsters with great potential, and it was an opportunity not missed, for 20 boys committed their lives to Christ. I do believe firmly that anything we can do to encourage boys to attend this

camp in future years pays dividends for us as a church community.

Back at home; our session is now well under way and Anchors and Juniors are doing quite well with a lot of energy and enthusiasm – although we still want more boys particularly in the Juniors.

In Company Section we are struggling to obtain a commitment from Boys, and find the erosion of members at transfer age (11/12) really frustrating. Mind-blowing demands seem to be made on youngsters when they start secondary school, and other loyalties get crowded out. I fear that Church youth organisations will simply be marginalised where adolescent boys are concerned unless somebody is prepared to tackle the authorities about this situation. After all, the BB is very often the sole opportunity for the Church to influence the lives of young males, and the loss of that influence is not something to view with complacency.

*Geoffrey Cocksedge*

# Tearfund sends thanks

**Dear Friends,**

Thank you for your generous gift of £1500, of which £750 is being used for the current crisis in Liberia. This is much appreciated and has been allocated to the work of our partners in this country.

It is estimated that hundreds of people have been killed in the recent escalation of violence in Monrovia. Some 200,000 people displaced by fighting in rural areas have fled into the capital during the past two years. Now, with fighting having reached the capital, they have become refugees again within the city.

Please pray that improved security will allow better access for aid agencies, including Tearfund partners, to provide swift humanitarian assistance to those suffering from the conflict.

The remaining £750 has been allocated to the work of the Meserete Kristos Church (MKV).

Ethiopia is in the midst of its worst drought since 1984 and the Meta Robi region, where MKC runs its education project, faces severe food shortages. Without their basic needs being met, the children are not able to attend school or apply themselves to study. Therefore, Tearfund is currently focusing all resources for the work in this region on meeting immediate relief need. For this reason your gift has been allocated to this fund.

Projects include a community seed bank and 'cash for work' – where workers are paid for their labour enabling them to buy food.

Thank you once again for your kind support and heart for the poor.

Our Twenty Questions guest this month was Ray Smith



## Flower Rota

	<b>Arranging</b>	<b>Distributing</b>
Nov. 2	Ann Blake	Iris Bingham
9	Betty Billins	Fiona Tingley
16	Sue Waller	Heather Swann
23	Chris Caswell	Sue Tester
30	Dorothy Forster	Dorothy Forster
Dec. 7	Margaret Goodare	Betty Peter
14	Iris Green	Jacqueline Wood
21	Christmas Dec.	No delivery
28	Christmas Dec.	No delivery

Many thanks to the 'team' of people who decorated our church for Harvest, also to friends who gave donations, greenery, flowers, etc.  
*Betty Billins*



## Church activities

### SUNDAY WORSHIP:

- 9.30am Service for all the family, including crèche and Junior Church  
(Most weeks, children leave after 20 minutes for their own activities)
- 11.00am Morning Worship  
Holy Communion (4th Sunday)
- 6.30pm Evening Service  
Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)
- Healing Services as announced*

### PRAYER MEETINGS:

- Mon 9.15am An Hour of Prayer
- Wed 9.45am Short Service of Intercession
- Thur 8.00pm Church Prayer Evening  
(4th Thursday)
- Fri 7.30am Prayer Meeting in the Lounge

### REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

- Sun 6.30pm Sunday Evening Youth Group
- Mon 6.30pm Boys' Brigade – Junior Section (8–11 years)
- Tue 10.00am Stepping Stones  
(Parents and toddlers)
- 6.15pm Girls' Brigade – Juniors, Seniors & Brigaders
- 7.45pm In Touch (4th Tuesday)
- Wed 2.45pm The Fellowship (4th Wed.)
- Thur 10.00am Pop-In (for coffee and a chat)
- 8.00pm Church Meeting (2nd Thur.)
- Fri 5.30pm Boys' Brigade – Anchor Boys (5–7 years)
- 7.30pm Boys' Brigade – Company Section (11+ years)

House Groups normally meet 1st and 3rd Thursday

**The church is open Monday to Saturday  
from 10.00am to 1.00pm**

## Phonebook



### Church Telephone Number:

01444 484620

### Boys' Brigade:

Geoffrey Cocksedge  
01444 474007

### Cradle Roll:

Sue Tester 01444 482810

### Flowers:

Betty Billins 01444 484494

### Girls' Brigade:

Margaret Luscombe  
01444 412156

### Hall Letting Secretary:

Audrey McKee 01444 415031

### In Touch:

Sue Waller 01444 455047

### Lunch Fellowship:

Wednesday:  
Iris Green 01444 484117

Friday: Gwen and  
Derrick Hillman 01444 456963

### Magazine: Editor:

David Tingley 01444 451024

### The Fellowship:

Jessie Green 01444 452708

Roy Billins 01444 484494

### Stepping Stones:

Janet Goodenough  
01825 740351

### Transport:

Tina Elphick 01444 484440

### Youth and Children's Work

#### Co-ordinator:

Rob Biersteker 01444 440835

#### Junior Church Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683