

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

APRIL 2004



Our
survey
says...

PLUS...

- The Easter story: Hollywood style.
- How your Self Assessment could help charities.
- Church and other local events listed.



Local events



Music for Pleasure
Ruth Rolt (Fortepiano)
King Edward Hall, Lindfield
Thur 22nd April
1.0pm
FREE. Info: 01444 452697

Tiger Arts presents...
Handel's Messiah
All Saints' Church, Lindfield
9th April (Good Friday)
7.30pm
£10

Lindfield
Village Day
Sat 5th June

Village Run (long & short)
starting at Pickers Green
Mon 31st May

Faithworks 2004
Different with Fiona
Fiona Castle
Lindfield URC
Mon 24th May
7.45pm
"How to be
authentically Christian while
engaging in the diverse
world around us."



CANCER RESEARCH UK 

Sonia's Peru Trek
(Cancer Research)
Charity Lunch

Sonia Bradley is raising
funds for Cancer Research
UK by trekking in Peru.
Lunch (with guest speaker)
Paxhill Park Golf Club
Wed 28th April
12.0pm
£12.50. Info: 01444 456840

Lindfield Bonfire Society
Spring Gift & Craft Fair
King Edward Hall, Lindfield
Sat 3rd April
10.0am - 3.0pm

Christianity Made Clear
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath
Wed 14th April
1.0pm - 1.45pm
Lunchtime presentation on
the Easter Theme of 'How
can Christ's death save us
today?'
FREE. Clair Hall 01444
41 5738

Fairtrade
Grocery Stall
Lindfield URC
Sun 18th April
10.30am - 11.0am



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

Dear Friends...



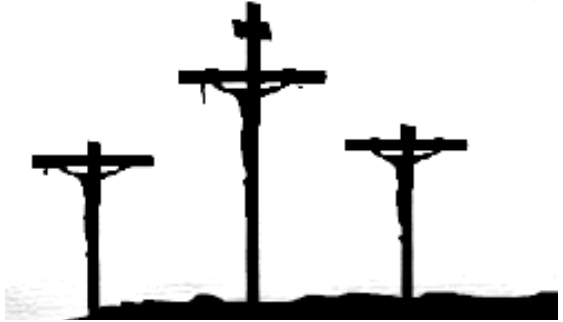
The Passion of the Christ

Recently I took the opportunity to attend a church leaders' preview of the film 'The Passion of the Christ'. There is no doubt that Mel Gibson has produced a powerful and dramatic piece of cinema – even if, at times, quite brutal.

Beginning with the garden of Gethsemane, the way the story of Jesus' last twelve hours is portrayed, moving from trial scenes and harrowing violence to flashbacks of his early life and later ministry, brings Jesus to life on the big screen with an intensity no other film has ever managed.

Yes, the film has an "18" certificate. Isaiah 53 prophesies of Jesus that he was 'stricken', 'smitten', 'afflicted', 'pierced', 'crushed', 'oppressed' and 'afflicted'. Gibson would contend that his portrayal of the trial, beatings and crucifixion – although violent – is literal, realistic and understandable. As a counterpoint we are taken back into Jesus' ministry – the Last Supper and teaching from the Sermon on the Mount. The journey with the cross to Golgotha is a most moving moment.

Is the film anti-Semitic? I didn't find it so – in fact I thought it was well balanced in staying true to the New Testament record.



For some Christians this film is not something they will want to see – and that's fine. For others I suspect it will be an uncomfortable, unsettling but profoundly faith enhancing experience that will change them and deepen their love for Jesus. I found 'The Passion of the Christ' challenging and inspirational.

What of those less familiar or even not familiar at all with the Christian story? I believe that many of these will leave with questions rather than answers. As a church we need to be prepared. Because it is controversial people will go to see it. The nation is talking about Jesus and why he died. Resources for us will be available. Even if we do not see the film, we can use this climate of debate and openness to share the Gospel.

Colin Bones, minister

GoodNEWS

This magazine is produced by: Lindfield United Reformed Church, 50 High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex RH16 2HL.
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Copydate for the May edition is 5pm, Monday 12th April 2004. All contributions should be given to the editor by this time via email, or paper copy can be placed in the "GoodNEWS" pigeon hole at the rear of the church. Please ensure that you include contact details in case of query.

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

Editorial



With your (fairly traded) Easter eggs under your arm, I trust that you are going to be able to find time to think upon the amazing truth of Jesus' death and resurrection.

I do hope so, as, too often, even Christians pass off Easter as just 'a busy time of year'.

From the many reports I have read, getting to the cinema and seeing 'The Passion of the Christ' could be a great wake-up call for us all. You will find a fair amount of information about the film in this issue (page 1, 13)– and, I hope, in next month's, when maybe you could all let me know what you thought of the film.

Elsewhere in GoodNEWS (page 14) Mike Gardiner brings us inspiration from the Biblical account of that first Easter.

On a different note, you can see a brief summary of the responses we had from the Reader Survey in February – starting on page 4. You may also notice a change in format, with local events being given their own space on the back cover. This is just one of a number of changes that may occur, after hearing from you all through the survey.

Do keep the articles, events and local news coming, as well as your comments – they are always much appreciated.

David Tingley, editor



- Please remember the children and young people who attend Lindfield URC.
 - Uphold all those who are involved in any way in God's work on Sundays.
-
- Pray for the 40 or so from our church who will be attending Spring Harvest from 3rd to 8th April.
 - Pray for the 24/7 Prayer Week in Haywards Heath – coming up next month: 15th to 22nd May
-
- Pray for the three joint meetings in Lindfield during Holy Week.
 - Pray for those whose surname begins with C and D (see Who's Who).
 - Pray for all those who see "The Passion of the Christ" and that the Holy Spirit will encourage them to deepen their relationship with God, or find out more at a church.
-
- Remember those ill at home, in hospital or in residential care.
 - Give thanks for Jesus, his sacrificial death and glorious resurrection.
 - Let us truly rejoice and celebrate this Easter time.
-
- For Sussex East District:
Pray for the Hastings Area Group and for Christ Church at Lewes.
 - Uphold the district evangelism and mission enabler, Dr Conradie.
-
- Remember the URC District Council meeting on 16th April.
 - Pray for this month's mission focus – Mercy Ships New Steps.
-
- Pray for those from our fellowship who work with and for charitable organisations in the locality.
 - Especially for Gordon and Iris Bingham in the Mid Sussex Community Support Association.

What you think about

As a reader of this magazine you may, or may not, have been asked to fill in a short questionnaire with February's issue. The purpose of this survey, commissioned by editor David Tingley, was to try and understand how and why people read GoodNEWS, where it can be improved and who it is that does the reading. Here, David explains what the survey found.

The idea of writing a survey was one that appealed to me for several reasons.

I have been editor for over 18 months and, although I have made many changes to GoodNEWS during that time, I am unsure where to go next. Is it 'scratching where people itch' or simply going where I, personally, thought it should?

Another key issue I wanted to consider with the survey was what people outside Lindfield URC made of the magazine. I wanted to give a clear cross-section of readers, including those who are not necessarily Christians, opportunity to tell me how GoodNEWS fared.

And so, on February's magazine publication date, my valiant team of helpers made sure that they personally put a survey into the hands of 100 readers at Lindfield URC that day

across the three services. A further batch (with stamped addressed envelopes) of 100 was distributed through most of our other channels: Post Office, Junior Church and the selection of outlets in the village.

In the end 51 surveys were returned which, I think by commercial data collection standards, is a pretty good percentage.

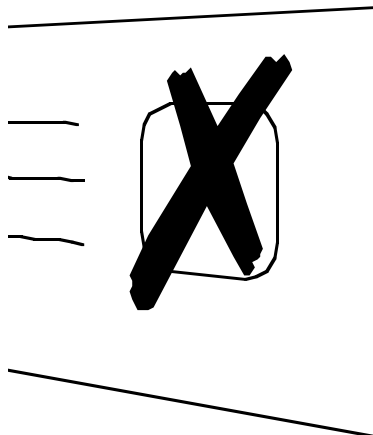
In this article I will simply show the results in summary. I will also make the odd brief comment – as I interpret what YOU said.

Much of this information was shown to the church members' meeting during March. The full, unadulterated, statistics and all comments can be downloaded from the church website: www.lindfieldurc.org.uk.

Thank you for taking part.

David Tingley, editor

GoodNEWS



First off, we asked how often you read the magazine. 92% said every month with the remaining 8% reading it “not quite every month”.

This seems to indicate a pretty loyal readership, interested enough to make sure they try and read it every month. I guess there might be more people who actually do only read it a couple of times a year - if they pick it up, say, at a Christmas service only for instance.

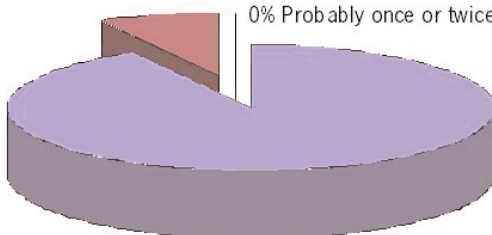
When we asked where readers picked up their copy of GoodNEWS, 75% of those surveyed answered: Lindfield URC. The remaining quarter got it from Lindfield Post Office.

This tends to indicate that most of those who responded are ‘church-goers’ – but then around ¼ of copies do go from LURC every month.

• How often do you read GoodNEWS?

8% Not quite every month

0% Probably once or twice a year



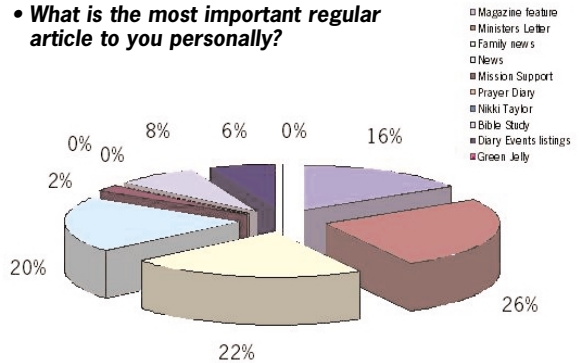
92% Every month

33 out of 51 people say they read the magazine cover to cover, with 20 indicating a preference for ‘dipping in and out’.

Feature – Reader Survey results

Colin's monthly letter was highlighted as being the primary selection for 'most important regular article'. This was closely followed by Family News, News and, a little further behind, the magazine features. Eight percent chose Mike Gardiner's bible studies.

• What is the most important regular article to you personally?



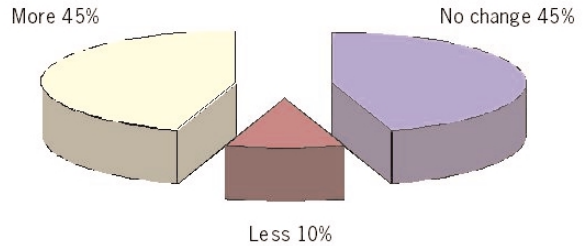
The majority of those surveyed selected Green Jelly (children's supplement) to be 'least important' to them. This is unsurprising, as it is extremely unlikely that children would have filled in a survey! We know that Green Jelly is appreciated, and a team is working at present to alter its format, distribution and profile.

• What do you think of the magazine features?

They are great	27
Okay, don't take much notice of them	1
Too Christian	2
Not Christian enough	0
Pretty poor	0
Not enough variety	6
Too long, generally	7
Too short	0
other...	12

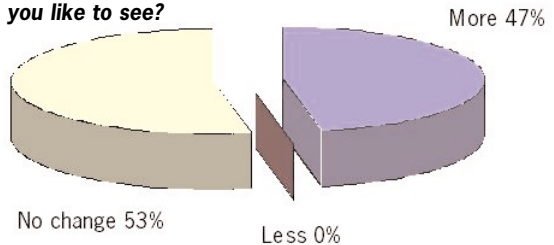
27% suggested a subject, currently which they feel is not covered; some examples include: Human rights, Accounts of church members' meetings and more news on Balcombe URC.

• How much village-centred info would you like to see?



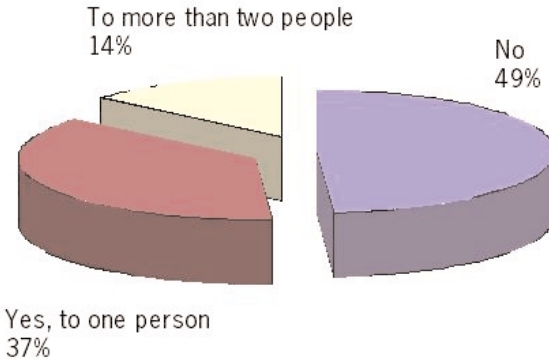
45% said that they would like to see more village-centred information in GoodNEWS, with the same saying they were happy with the amount of village content.

• How much three churches info would you like to see?

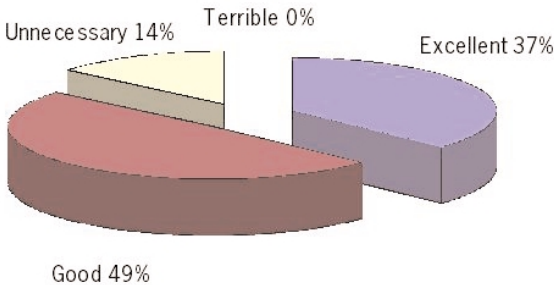


With regards to how much news and info on the three Lindfield churches, 53% said 'no change' and 47% said they wanted more.

• **Do you give a copy of GoodNEWS to anyone?**



• **What do you think of the colour magazine covers?**



• **A sample of the 'Comments' made by readers...**

- Would like to see Diary kept for church activities
- Well put together and very readable
- Always the same people in photographs
- Are copies available at Balcombe URC?
- 'Features' on the Elders
- Background (CV) of visiting preachers/speakers
- Tends to be excellent, but a bit heavy
- Define editorial policy: is it a vehicle for regular worshippers and membership?
- I prefer previous layout, before 2002
- If it is LURCs village magazine, what about all other village activities and community events?
- A little more family news (exam success, holidays)

41% said that they had contributed to the magazine in some way over the past two years. This shows a good range of contributors to GoodNEWS.

Over half of those surveyed said they give away at least one copy of GoodNEWS to somebody else. I suppose the question is 'who' it is given to – but that is another survey!

14% said that they thought the printed colour covers that we have used for some time were 'unnecessary' – however, 86% said they thought they were either 'excellent' or 'good'.

45% said they thought the quality of printing on the insides of magazine was 'good'. In fact, no-one was negative about the inside pages printing – which is a particular credit to Tom – our one-man production team!

In all I believe it was a worthwhile exercise. Many useful suggestions and comments have been made.

GoodNEWS does have a strongly Christian focus, but we can be practically useful within the village community too – so do keep me up to date with what you know is going on in/around Lindfield every month. Thanks.

Thanks

Pat and John Davies would like to thank all their friends for their kind messages and cards on the occasion of their Golden Wedding on 6th March.

The Fellowship

The Fellowship meets on Wednesday 28th April at 2.45pm, when we will be holding a short AGM which will be followed by a talk from our guest speaker. Mr Stratford (from Bluebird Community Transport) will be talking about the charity which has been featured in our local papers recently.

A bring and buy stall will be in operation, tea and biscuits will be served.

Come and join in the fellowship of the church.

Good Friday just got better

This Easter special provision will be made for children at our Good Friday service – 9th April at 10.30am.

There promises to be lots in store for the younger generation, who will meet for their own fun activities in the Upper Room.

* - * - *

Also, some of the rest of the congregation may have noticed a distinct lack of children, at all, some Sunday mornings.

This is because, for a trial period, JIGSAW (the children's all-together worship time) is being held for the entire duration of the service 'out the back' of the church premises.

JIGSAW happens every 2nd Sunday of the month. Should you spot a lost child or confused parent on one of these days – direct them straight 'out back'.

Change of address

Graham Campling has moved. His new address is: 15 Harvest Close, Lindfield RH16 2LW. Phone number remains the same (483539).

No more Junior Church!

Lindfield URCS youth and children's work on Sundays has undergone a rebranding exercise!

'Junior Church' is no more; Powersource is its new collective title for all age groups.

Individual group names will change too:

- Ramblers (for pre-school and reception children) will now be called **Sparks**
- Hikers (years 1 & 2) will now be called **Tornadoes**
- Adventurers (years 3, 4, & 5) will now be called **Solar**
- Carpe Diem (for years 6, 7, & 8) becomes **H²O**

Running stakes 'raised'

With a long-term knee/hip problem curtailing my running for most of 2003, my ability to ever run again was in doubt. However, despite training restrictions, my 'dream' to participate again in the London Marathon is becoming nearer a reality.

In previous years, I was lucky enough to be able to raise some funds for Asthma Research, Tearfund and MacMillan Cancer Nurses, but with the uncertainty still surrounding my fitness, I haven't 'signed up' for any of the hundreds of charities who benefit from the thousands of people's efforts.

My first request to anyone who reads this, is PRIMARILY for your prayers on the 18th April for the 30,000 (hopefully including me) who push their different shaped and size bodies often to their limit to 'finish the race'. My second is for people to be inspired by so many ordinary folk's 'efforts', much of which result in the giving of needed funds for hundreds of worthwhile charities, particularly those in respect of disabled/under-privileged children, that, if possible, they find a way to increase their giving a little to their preferred charity.

Ray Smith

Balcombe United Reformed Church

Bramble Hill, Balcombe, RH17 6HR
Contact: Mrs Leonie Wren (01444 811253)

Our main services are held at 11am on the first and third Sunday of each month and the children usually go out to Sunday School during the second part of the service. Speakers for this month are as follows:—

4th April **Barry Piper**
18th April **Colin Bones**

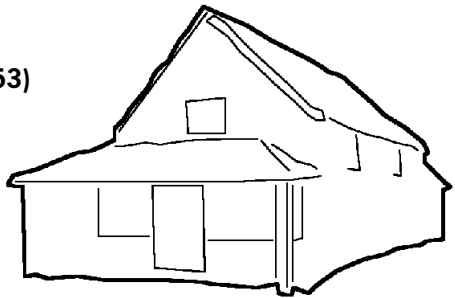
MISSION SUPPER

Saturday 8th May
7.30pm for 7.45pm

Speaker: Simon Lunt from
Operation Mobilisation
– Turning Point

The format will be slightly different from our normal Mission Suppers. Our meal will be served mid-way through the evening and hopefully will have an 'ethnic flavour'!

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



Sistine Chapel... in East London

One of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel masterpiece has been reproduced – on the ceiling of a church in East London.

The 12 sq yd fresco, at St Joseph's Church in Leyton, is The Creation Of Man, the scene in which God creates Adam. Parish priest Fr Chris Cutler said: 'In the evening services in the winter it looks spectacular. People seem to spend a lot of time looking up!' The fresco was painted by artists Leo Stevenson and Fleur Kelly for a BBC TV show.

Metro London

Messages hidden in the Bible?

Some of the strangest coincidences of all are to be found as patterns of numbers in the Bible.

Psalm 118 is the Bible's middle chapter. Just before it, Psalm 117 is the Bible's shortest chapter. Just after it, Psalm 119 is the longest.

The Bible has 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after Psalm 118. If you add up all the chapters except Psalm 118, you get 1188 chapters. If you take the number 1188 and interpret it as chapter 118 of Psalms, verse 8, you will find the middle verse of the entire Bible – 'it is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.'

Some would say that this is the central message of the Bible – and not just numerically.

Daily Mail, 21st February 2004

Bible-reading Cam plugs... err, Bible!

Channel 4's 'Big Brother' winner, Cameron Stout, has been using his new-found fame to promote the Scottish Bible Society.

Stout, from Orkney, famously read from the Bible on live TV during the reality show.

Therefore he was the ideal candidate for launching the 'Bibleworld Experience' – a centre aiming to help young people understand the Bible.

www.scottishbiblesociety.org

Calling all 'pilgrims' and those who would like to be. Next year will be the 10th anniversary of our pilgrimages. A special pilgrimage around Southwick is being planned for 26th June 2004 to mark the occasion. In the morning we will walk on the Downs, visiting three Southwick churches and in the afternoon there will be a gentle stroll to visit a 12th Century church. It will be possible to do either or both walks. We have made the afternoon walk short so that those 'pilgrims' who can no longer walk long distances will be able to join in our anniversary. You don't need to have been on a pilgrimage with us before, to join this one. All are welcome. If you want to know more, or to book a place, please contact either Darryl Sinclair (01273 564591) or Brenda Stone (01273 594012). It promises to be a great day of fellowship, friendship and fun. Do join us if you possibly can.

MARGARET GOODARE

Margaret Goodare, who died suddenly on 5th March, had been a member of this church for 50 years. She moved here with her parents in 1954, and as a young qualified architect she designed the large hall (we still use it now) and a new kitchen and toilets that were added to the church in 1959. These facilities continued to be used until the further building work was done in 1996.

With her late husband Geoffrey, together with Brian Tingley, they put together a number of audio-visual productions which were presented at the church over the years (and at numerous other churches and clubs throughout Sussex). These included "For the beauty of the earth" – a meditation for Harvest, "The South Downs Way" and "A Sussex Garden" – photographs of Margaret's own lovely garden at Wivelsfield.

She truly loved her garden and the birds and wildlife that inhabited it, feeding her beloved birds right up to the day of her death.

Apart from being a good photographer, she was a very talented artist. She illustrated a number of books on local history, designed the Millennium sign for Wivelsfield Green, as well as many cards and notelets. Margaret played an active part in the Wealden Buildings Study Group and other history societies. She also ran the Wednesday Club for the elderly at Wivelsfield where she will be much missed. She played the piano too, but not in public.

Margaret was a quiet unassuming Christian lady. Here at Lindfield URC she was often to be found arranging flowers with Betty Billins. "A friend," Betty says, "that we could always rely upon."

Also, she has helped at the Friday Lunch (Lindfield URC) for a number of years and run the Bring and Buy stall at The Fellowship. We thank God that Margaret shared her talents in many ways at LURC and in this locality. She has now gone home to her Lord, whose creation and creatures were her constant delight.

Fiona Tingley

April church diary

1st

Thursday House Groups

2nd

Friday 7.0pm Boys' Brigade Display

4th

PALM SUNDAY
10.30am Communion
David Goodchild & Colin Bones
6.30pm Adrian Cookney & Colin Bones

9th

GOOD FRIDAY 10.30am Sunday Morning Singers & Colin Bones

11th

EASTER SUNDAY
9.30am Adrian Cookney & Colin Bones
11.0am Colin Bones
6.30pm Communion
David Nibloe & Colin Bones

12th

Monday 5.0pm Copy Date for May GoodNEWS

14th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

15th

Thursday House Groups

16th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

18th

Sunday 9.30am David Goodchild & Ron Goodenough
FAIRTRADE STALL TODAY
11.0am Ron Goodenough
6.30pm Healing Service
David Nibloe & Colin Bones

22nd

Thursday 8.0pm Monthly Prayer Meeting

24th

Saturday 9.30am–12.30pm
'Preparing for Mission'
Sussex East District
morning of workshops

25th

Sunday 9.30am David Goodchild & Colin Bones
11.0am Communion
Colin Bones
6.30pm Adrian Cookney & Philip Wren

27th

Tuesday 7.45pm Ladies 'In Touch'

28th

Wednesday 2.45pm The Fellowship
7.45pm Elders' Meeting

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS LISTED ON BACK COVER

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.

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

a film by Mel Gibson

at cinemas nationwide from 26th March

What they say...

"This is the ultimate hero story for all mankind. He suffered, He died and He still won." Mel Gibson

"Brilliant, biblical... a masterpiece."

Rick Warren, Pastor Saddleback Church, USA

"The most dramatic, shocking, compelling, emotional film I have ever seen in my life. This film was a tonic to my soul."

Steve Chalke

"Every time I preach or speak about the cross, the things I saw on the screen will be on my heart and mind."

Billy Graham

"This film represents a multi-million dollar gift to the Christian Church around the world."

Kevin Bird, Bible Society, Australia

"It will stun audiences and create an incredible appetite for people to know more about Jesus. I urge Christians to invite their spiritually seeking friends to see this movie with them."

Lee Strobel, former Willow Creek church

Now go and see it and make your own mind up. It'd be great to hear all your opinions on it in next month's magazine! Jot your comments down to the editor before 12th April.

Easter encouragement

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²²And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

²⁶A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed;

³⁰Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

What a wonderfully positive message John brings us in his account of that first Easter day! Let's encourage ourselves by identifying what are surely some of the hallmarks of the Christian life:–

PEACE that dispels fear (v 19 & 21): Jesus gives his fearful friends far more than a conventional greeting. He bestows on them the peace he had promised (16v33) – the gift of the peace of God. Not an absence of trouble – far from it – for Jesus' friends were still in danger of being arrested, and would face severe persecution (see 16v33 again). But in the midst of the storm, they would know a source of inner peace that would transcend human understanding.

JOY instead of sorrow (v20): not just the passing emotion of being reunited with Jesus, but the fulfilment of Jesus' promise in 16v20–22: a joy that no-one would be able to take from them. Suffering marks Good Friday, yet the keynote of Easter is surely the joy of celebrating the empty tomb and a Saviour who is alive for evermore.

WORSHIP in place of doubt (v28): Thomas the doubter articulates his faith in the most fulsome worship of Jesus found anywhere in the gospels. The word 'kurios', understood as

Rabbi or Master, now assumes a new depth – Lord of everything and Lord of my life! Doubts are a part of our human make-up, and today there is no access to proofs of Jesus' resurrection. We need to hear the call of Jesus to believe without seeing. (v29)

MISSION to a needy world (v21, 23): The theme of Jesus being sent into the world by God is a frequent one in John's Gospel (typically in 3v16–17). But now, Jesus is returning to his Father and he commissions weak people like us to continue his work of announcing peace and forgiveness in Jesus' name. How on earth are they going to do it?

THE HOLY SPIRIT, the enabler (v22): Jesus promised that they would not be alone (14v18), and now he grants them the abiding presence of the Spirit (see Genesis 2v7 for the significance of the life-giving breath of God). That same gift of the Holy Spirit is promised to all believers (see Acts 2v37–39).

LIFE! (v30–31) This passage closes with John's heartfelt longing that each of us may come to experience the life that comes from believing in the risen Jesus. And so his book might have ended – but there is a touching postscript that we will look at next month.

Mike Gardiner

Mercy Ships: New Steps

Mercy Ships New Steps provides physical, spiritual, educational and economic rehabilitation together with primary health care, HIV/AIDS education and counselling for children and adults with disabilities. New Steps is currently working in more than 30 communities in the area from East Freetown to beyond Waterloo, Sierra Leone.

The current rented centre in Kissy, East Freetown – where New Steps operates – is inadequate to meet the present demand. It is also unsuitable for the planned expansion to provincial locations so a new centre is being built. Many of you will have read Nikki Taylor's monthly diaries in GoodNEWS. Part of her work, now based in Switzerland, with Mercy Ships has been to raise finance and help in the administering of this project. This building is scheduled to be completed and the New Steps Centre operational by June 2004 and will comprise:

Rehabilitation & Medical

- Orthotic and prosthetic workshop (emphasis on orthotics)
- Adult and Children's physical therapy treatment rooms
- Children's play therapy room
- Outside children's playground for creative play
- Provision for a small hydrotherapy pool
- Medical treatment suite
- Counselling rooms

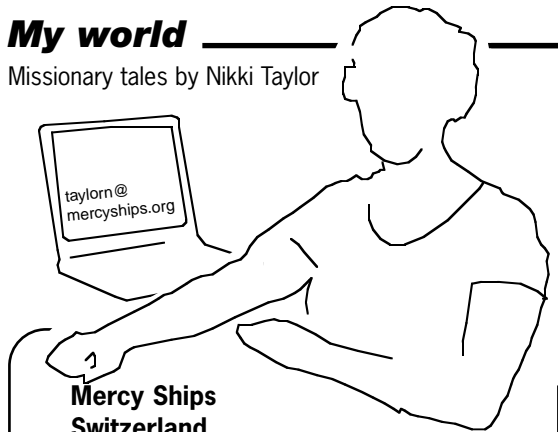
Training

- Large meeting/training hall for 100 students
- Focused training room
- Resource centre with library and computer learning facilities
- Agricultural training area with model farm
- Store rooms
- Toilets and washrooms

Support base for Community workers

- Offices for community workers
- Secure compound and service area for vehicles
- Limited accommodation facility for visiting trainers and consultants.

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The proposed facility will ensure quality services from this strategically sited location for clients (current and new) and for mobile outreaches to up-country locations. The New Steps Centre on the east side of the peninsula will have easy access from the port, providing a centre of operations for Mercy Ships health and development activities in Sierra Leone.

This is a very exciting project. For more information please see the Mission Board in the concourse and please give, using the mission envelopes.

Mercy Ships Switzerland

Well, as you can imagine life here has become a little crazy for me as we try to organise two weddings in two countries. Work has also been heavy:

We have a huge grant pending with an organisation for funding for the whole programme. A holistic approach to funding makes having a holistic approach to rehabilitation and development a lot easier. Constantly chasing small grants for one part of a project and reporting on everything in bits, makes so much work for our team. This grant would give security for implementing developmental programmes that won't be cut due to lack of funds next year. It really lifts a burden from the staff to have that security. However, it's good to be dependant on God. To learn that he often keeps us 'lean'. Hmmm, how do we have that security yet remain dependant on God?

I suppose that's a question that many of us need to ask and to keep current with God, depending on him and yet having some financial security. We need to be constantly checking that we are not standing in our own strength but leaning on God. Neither does the Father want us to be poor or needy.

Do you complete a Self Assessment tax return?

From 6th April this year the Inland Revenue is introducing a system whereby any individual who receives a tax refund as a result of the assessment will have the option to give that refund directly to a charity.

The details below have been taken straight from a Revenue notification. Perhaps you will keep this in mind for the future, and, if you want to see the Inland Revenue letter, please ask Hilary Shepherd.

Please note that this is additional to and NOT a replacement for the current Gift Aid scheme, and you do not have to be an existing Gift Aid donor to the charity of your choice for this arrangement.



New scheme for giving to charity through the tax return

From April 2004 people who complete a Self Assessment tax return will be able to nominate a charity to receive all or part of any repayment due to them. The Inland Revenue repaid around £3 billion to nearly 3 million Self Assessment taxpayers last year.

The new scheme will have real advantages for participating charities:

- *The donation will be paid direct to the charity's bank account*
- *The form will incorporate a Gift Aid declaration*
- *Gift Aid tax will be paid without the charity having to make a claim*
- *For the first time, charities will benefit from Gift Aid on anonymous donations.*

We will publish a list of participating charities from which donors will choose. The list, showing charity name and address together with an identification code, will be available on the Inland Revenue website (www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk). Donors will enter the code for their chosen charity on the tax return.

Lindfield United Reformed Church's identification code is: **GAE17TG**

**ADVANCE
NOTICE**

An Evening with Fiona Castle

at Lindfield United Reformed Church on Monday 24th May 7.45pm

We are thrilled and privileged to be able to host this evening which is part of the 2004 Faithworks programme. Fiona will be speaking in churches across the country on the issue of remaining authentically Christian while engaging in the diverse world around us.

As part of the Different Tour, Fiona will speak about God's call on our lives to be holy, which literally means different. For Jesus, holiness was about inclusion, demonstrating God's compassion and passion for his people, whoever they were.

Different with Fiona, will also explore why and how we should get involved in our communities as well as building meaningful relationships with those we live among and work with.

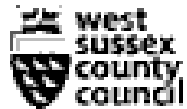
Many will know that Fiona worked in the theatre and was married to Roy for over 30 years before he died of cancer in 1994. She now spends much of her time on speaking tours such as this one and writing.

More information later but PLEASE PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARIES

Do you have what it takes to make a difference?

REMAND FOSTER CARER VACANCIES

£176.05 – £212.24 per week per child
plus skills-based fees £64.40 – £276.96 per week



West Sussex County Council and the Youth Offending Team have a number of vacancies for remand foster carers to provide short term care for young people aged 10-17, who are on bail and awaiting further court appearances or sentencing.

Foster carers are needed from all backgrounds and ethnic groups; couples and singles, males and females. Some previous childcare experience is desirable and a spare room is essential.

As a remand foster carer you will work alongside and receive a high level of support from the Remand Management Team (Youth Offending Team) and from other remand foster carers. A bail program is put in place with every new placement and this involves different professionals seeing the young person weekly. Full training is provided through four recognised levels. Remand foster carers receive a retainer payment when they do not have any fostered child in placement.

For an application form or for more information, contact Remand Fostering Social Worker on 01903 718739.

Called to be a nurse

After reading February's magazine feature on personal vocations, Lindfield URC church member Jean Baxter tells us what it is like to feel 'called' to be a nurse...

Always, nursing was the calling for me, except for wanting briefly as the usual little girl, to be a ballet dancer.

Originally, the idea was to be a doctor, but my maternal instinct returned me to the former. I had it said to me several times that nursing was a call from God and I was mildly interested in that observation.

Nursing led me into varied and exciting times – the fulfilment that God gave to me for a large part of my life (though the initial training in a large London teaching hospital was often terrifying in the era of tyrant sisters and God-like consultants). Nursing is a profession by which “the world is your oyster”, especially if you train in several fields and this I did.

Having been born in Tanganyika – as it was back then – and moving frequently around the territory, then to Scotland, back to Tanzania, then on to Kenya for the first 19 years of my life, it may be that I could not, in my following life, settle in one place.

The call to the vocation of

nursing took almost immediate effect on leaving school. First in a children's hospital in Nairobi, then to London for training, and afterwards to various places in England as I followed my parents' reluctant return to Britain.

I had intended to add tropical diseases to my training and return to East Africa, but the Mau Mau terrorists put paid to that.

However, the peripatetic life – the lifestyle learned from the early years – had taken hold and so I joined the Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service and then the Royal Canadian Navy. By so doing, I took on two careers at once – that of nursing and that of the Armed Forces – so life was very full.

During this time, I started going to church from time to time. Religion is present in the lives of many of the men and women, especially if they are going into battle. Every base has a church and minister/chaplain. The same applies to hospitals. Clearly, the need for God is demonstrated in these places.

With the forces, I learned more skills. The more dramatic were: after a rudimentary lesson on science of the making of an atomic bomb, we learned the effect and management of nuclear, bacterial and chemical attack (we experienced tear gas in a special chamber – unpleasant!). Regular and unexpected exercises were staged day or night.

After the Geneva Convention rule relating to doctors and nurses using guns to protect their patients was revoked in 1974, we learned to shoot with three types of gun. I was still a nominal Christian, but we all worried about this turn of events and vowed that we would never injure vital organs – if we fired at all!

In Canada, I trained also to be a flight nurse, which could be tough work on occasions.

I often wonder if this career was the sublimation that our Father had arranged for me to replace marriage and children – for these I wanted. I do believe that God was with me in that career, though, sadly, I was unaware then.

I loved my patients and felt great compassion for them. Many were my ‘babies’. God also gave me courage for the 2–3 contre–temps I had with doctors for the sake of my patients. Did these feelings belong to God? I now believe so.

Since retirement and due to a health problem, I have bemoaned the fact that I am no longer of much use. A kind Christian friend replied to this by saying that perhaps after a long working life, it was my turn to rest.

This has more meaning when, in a recent letter in GoodNEWS, our minister reported the story of a young African woman who wished to train for the Christian ministry – perhaps I too should be content to be a “follower” instead of a leader. Is that what God is calling me to do now?

Jean Baxter

24/7 PRAYER

Our church, together with other churches in the area, has agreed to join in a week of round-the-clock continuous prayer from noon on Saturday 15th May to noon on Saturday 22nd May. This, in current jargon, is known as '24/7 prayer'. This is part of this year's local effort in 2004: the 'Sussex year of prayer'.

There is a need for the prayer centre, the location of which has yet to be confirmed, to be manned throughout the whole time in order that those wishing to pray may be welcomed and the premises kept secure.

Our church will be responsible for this activity from 12noon on Tuesday 18th May until 12noon on Wednesday 19th May. I have volunteers who are willing to cover the night period, and, in due course, will be asking for two volunteers to cover each remaining period of one hour.

Those wishing to pray will be asked to put their names down

within one-hourly slots, but whether it will be for each church to arrange this over the same period as their premises duty, or for any day throughout the week, is yet to be agreed.

Please pray for guidance in the arrangements yet to be completed and for any ways in which we may use this period to draw closer to God and seek His help and will in healing this area and our country.

Dennis Rowell

Calling all 'pilgrims' and those who would like to be

Next year will be the 10th anniversary of our pilgrimages. A special pilgrimage around Southwick is being planned for 26th June 2004 to mark the occasion. In the morning we will walk on the Downs, visiting three Southwick churches and in the afternoon there will be a gentle stroll to visit a 12th Century church. It will be possible to do either or both walks. We have made the afternoon walk short so that those 'pilgrims' who can no longer walk long distances will be able to join in our anniversary.

You don't need to have been on a pilgrimage with us before, to join this one. All are welcome. If you want to know more, or to book a place, please contact either Darryl Sinclair (01273 564591) or Brenda Stone (01273 594012).

It promises to be a great day of fellowship, friendship and fun. Do join us if you possibly can.

How does your garden grow?

Are you like me and heave a sigh when you look at the shrubs and bushes in your garden at this time of the year? Oh dear, they need cutting back again!!

Well, have I got good news for you! WE NEED YOUR GREENERY. On Easter Saturday, 10th April, folk will be decorating the church as we prepare to celebrate Christ's resurrection, and we are in desperate need of greenery to supplement the spring flowers. So please time your spring pruning to help adorn the church this Easter. Please WE NEED YOUR GREENERY!

With the sudden and unexpected death of Margaret Goodare, could YOU help with church flowers? Betty frequently writes asking for assistance, but nobody different offers to have a go. It is really not such a difficult task and there are several folk who are willing to give you help to start with; you don't have to be an expert. Please support Betty and her handful of helpers by getting involved. Betty would welcome and encourage you. (You can phone Betty on 01444 484494.)

*Fiona Tingley
(trainee flower arranger!)*



Flower Rota

		Arranging	Distributing
April	4	Anne Parker	Jacqueline Wood
	11	(Easter Sunday)	Iris Bingham
	18	Janet Wade	Fiona Tingley
	25	Carol Walters	Heather Swann
May	2	Fiona Tingley	Sue Tester
	9	(Boys' Brigade)	Dorothy Forster
	16	Winifred Scopes	Betty Peter
	23	Lyn Tucker	Jacqueline Wood
	30	Jean Baxter	Iris Bingham

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the flowers for Easter, please give it to 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)
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 9.15am 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)

House Groups normally meet 1st and 3rd Thursday

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

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

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