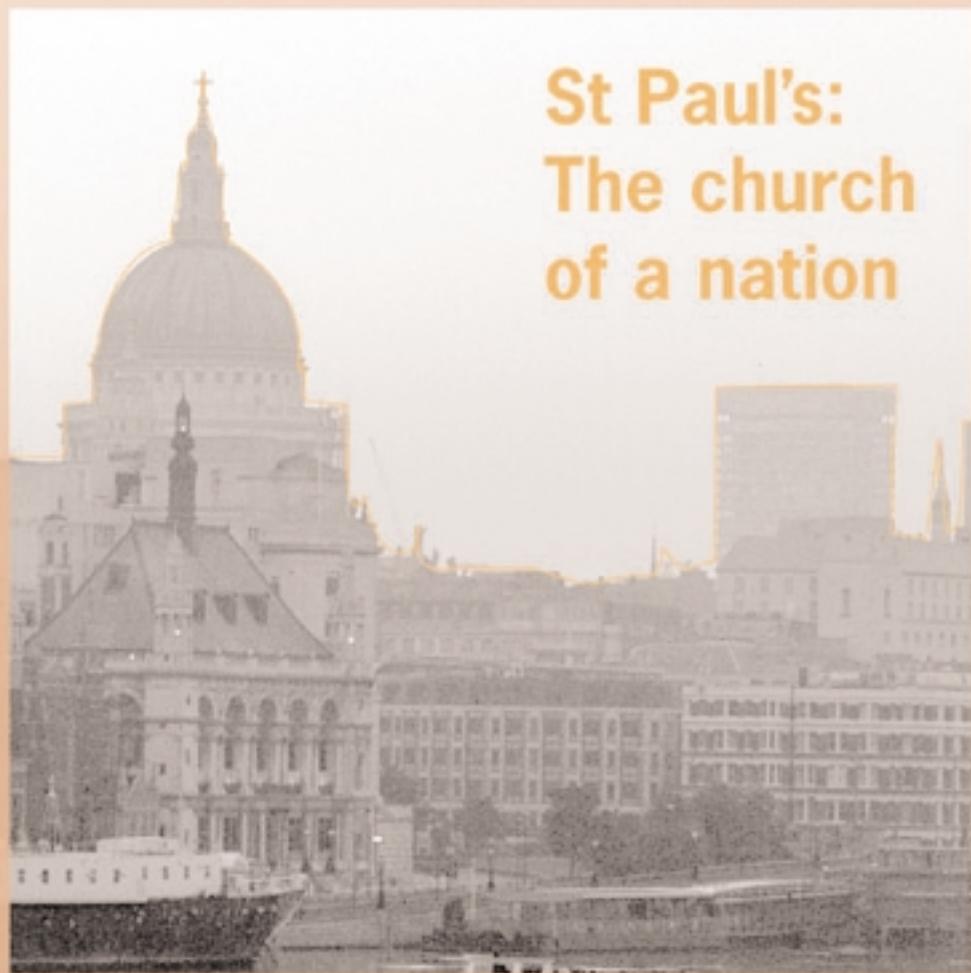


# GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

JUNE 2004



## St Paul's: The church of a nation

PLUS...

- NEWS: Minister on the run!
- The story of Lindfield Preservation Society.
- Forthcoming local and church events.





## Sharing the peace

**In his prophetic book, 'Towards the Dawn' Clifford Hill states that lasting change will never come about by the imposition of an external political system but by a change in men's and women's hearts. The change in a heart turned towards God, knows salvation through Jesus Christ and the peace and security that it brings.**

America and Britain wanted to see regime change in Iraq and to create the opportunity for democracy. Commentators are now saying that it was easy to win the war and oust Saddam Hussein but it is much harder to win the peace. Some in Iraq will no doubt welcome the change but the hearts of the Iraqi people have not entirely been won. We see bloodshed and turmoil and a lack of peace because, for some, their hearts are hardened and turned against the West and its values. I think Clifford Hill had a point.

When we see such turmoil in the world we yearn to see peace but although a peace or ceasefire can come about through the cessation of war and signed accords, Jesus, the Prince of Peace, spoke about a different kind of peace. He spoke about imparting or giving peace on several occasions and in John 14 verse 27 he says:

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

The peace Jesus is talking about here is "shalom" which literally means wholeness or completeness. The peace Jesus gives is that of being at one with our creator, knowing in our heart the burden and guilt of sin removed and having the hope of eternal life. This peace is an inner peace that brings us spiritual wholeness and allows us a perspective on life that brings hope through the gospel of Jesus.

To be able to live and function in such a troubled world we need this peace. When we look at the world and see so much trouble and suffering it may seem like a long haul to say that peace will come about through people individually accepting the peace that Jesus gives. But sin is the cause of wars through evil, lust for power and greed etc; God's answer: the gospel of peace. That is why Jesus left us with the commission to share this gospel with all nations,

The peace we receive from Jesus we are to share with the help of the Holy Spirit and the more effective we are at doing this then the more we will see this peace affect our world.

*Colin Bones, minister*

# GoodNEWS

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## Editorial



**F**or those of you who desire a read formed of variety and choice – I don't think you will be disappointed in this issue of GoodNEWS!

We can certainly enjoy the 'usual suspects' like contributions from Colin, Nikki Taylor and a healthy range of church family news – but it does not stop there.

I hope a good few of you, lovely readers, will at least have a passing interest in history. On page 4 begins a feature on the awesome St Paul's cathedral, so-called the spiritual home to our nation. Then, found on page 20, is an item in our Community life section all about Lindfield's Preservation Society – also a fascinating glimpse to how life was, and what could have been.

Elsewhere, we can read a couple of personal accounts from the real world: Tina Elphick gets into some hot water (page 22) and John Barling brings us a testimony of a reformation from the Worthing Churches Homeless Project (page 18).

What with news of our minister doing the village run, a quite superb 'virtual' church on the internet and the anticipation of Village Day – it all makes for a pretty exciting read. I hope you agree!

*David Tingley, editor*

# Prayer Diary



<b>SUN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In our vision statement, LURC is worshipping God, sharing the good news of Jesus and seeing lives changed by his love – really ask God to help each of us to do this.</li> </ul>
<b>MON</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LURC is geographically central in our village – pray that Jesus is the centre of our lives, corporately and personally. Then we can reach out to our village with compassion and love.</li> </ul>
<b>TUE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remember before God those friends (in Who's Who) with surnames beginning with E, F &amp; G. Uphold families who have recently been bereaved or are anxious about loved ones.</li> </ul>
<b>WED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pray for Sussex East District – the Council meeting on 25th June, for URC churches at Bexhill, Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath, Polegate, St Barnabas &amp; St Luke's at Eastbourne.</li> </ul>
<b>THUR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pray for our monthly mission focus – Release International.</li> <li>Uphold the work of CARE in Haywards Heath area.</li> <li>Remember the work and ministry of St Paul's cathedral</li> </ul>
<b>FRI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thank God for the three churches in our village.</li> <li>Pray for all the clergy and those in leadership.</li> <li>Uphold the planning for 'Alive '05', the mission to be held next year.</li> </ul>
<b>SAT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thank God for our community here, especially for the fun and opportunities of Village Day on 5th June , the churches refreshment tent and the United Service on 6th June. May God use these events.</li> </ul>

# The city centre

**St Paul's is a landmark in our capital city – but how many of us know the incredible story behind this masterpiece of architecture and 'home' to Christianity in the UK?**



**A cathedral dedicated to St Paul has overlooked the City of London since 604AD, a constant reminder to this great commercial centre of the importance of the spiritual side of life.**

The current cathedral – the fourth to occupy this site – was designed by the court architect Sir Christopher Wren and built between 1675 and 1710 after its predecessor was destroyed in the Great Fire of London. Its architectural and artistic importance reflect the determination of the five monarchs who oversaw its building that London's leading church should be as beautiful and imposing as their private palaces.

As the cathedral of the capital city, St Paul's is the spiritual focus for the nation. This is where people and events of overwhelming importance to the country have been celebrated, mourned and commemorated since the first service took place in 1697.

Since then important services have included the funerals of Lord Nelson, the Duke of Wellington and Sir Winston Churchill; Jubilee celebrations for Queen Victoria, King George V; peace services marking the end of the First and Second World wars; the launch of the Festival of Britain; the Service of Remembrance and Commemoration for the 11th September 2001: the 80th and 100th birthdays of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother; the wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales, to Lady Diana Spencer and, most recently, the Thanksgiving for the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

Over the centuries, St Paul's has changed to reflect shifting tastes and attitudes. Decoration has been added and removed, services have been updated, different areas have been put to new uses. Today, the history of the nation is written in the carved stone of its pillars and arches and is celebrated in its



works of art and monuments.

In the crypt are effigies and fragments of stone that pre-date the cathedral, relics of a medieval world. From Wren's original vision, Jean Tijou's beautiful wrought iron gates of 1700 still separate the quire from the ambulatory; children still test the acoustics in the Whispering Gallery; and the 1695 organ, which Mendelssohn once played, is still in use today.

The magnificent mosaics are the result of Queen Victoria's mid-19th Century complaint that the interior was "most dreary, dingy and undevotional". The American Memorial Chapel stands behind the High Altar in

an area that was bomb-damaged during the Second World War – a gesture of gratitude to the American dead of the Second World War from the people of Britain. An altar has now been installed on a dais in the heart of the cathedral, bringing services closer to those who attend them.

Throughout, St Paul's has remained a busy, working church where millions have come to worship and find peace. It is a heritage site of international importance which attracts thousands of people each year, a symbol of the city and nation it serves and, above all, a lasting monument to the glory of God.

# More than meets the eye

St Paul's is more than a great religious centre and an architectural gem. As the cathedral of the capital city of the UK, it is the spiritual focus for the nation. Here are a few facts that you may not have known about it...

- The Great West Door (front door at top of the steps) is nine metres high. It is now only used on ceremonial occasions.
- The organ, the third largest in the UK and originally installed in 1695, has 7,189 pipes, five keyboards and 138 stops.
- The dome of St Paul's is 111.3 metres high and weighs approximately 65,000 tonnes.
- The Bishop's throne, or catherdra, is where a cathedral takes its name from.
- Wren originally wanted to decorate the interior of the dome with mosaics, but the authorities at the time felt these were too lavish. The mosaics you can now see, were commissioned by Queen Victoria and installed between 1891 and 1904.
- More than 28,000 names of Americans who lost their lives while en-route to or stationed in the UK during the Second World War, are recorded in the American Memorial Chapel.
- The domes famous Whispering Gallery is 259 steps up from floor level. The exterior Stone and Golden Galleries are 378 and 530 steps up respectively, both offering panoramic views of London.
- In 1675, the total cost of the new St Paul's is recorded as over £738,000 – approximately £50 million in modern terms.

- St Paul's was, for one hundred years after its completion, the only cathedral in Europe to be designed by one man and completed in his lifetime.
- Wren's son, Christopher, wrote the epitaph that appears in full on the floor under the dome. It translates as: "Beneath lies buried the founder of this church and city, Christopher Wren, who lived more than 90 years, not for himself but for the public good. Reader, if you seek his monument, look around you."
- Mendelssohn once played the organ so long after the service, and the congregation were so reluctant to leave, that cathedral staff brought the performance to an abrupt end by letting the wind out of the instrument.
- Charles' and Diana's was the first royal wedding at St Paul's since 1501, when Arthur Tudor married Catherine of Aragon.



**The scale of it all:**

Double-decker bus

St Paul's

The cathedral is open for sightseeing from Monday to Saturday.

Adult tickets cost £7; concession, child and family tickets are also available. For further information visit [www.stpauls.co.uk](http://www.stpauls.co.uk) or call 020 7246 8348.

## Bereavement

We offer our love and sympathy to Margaret and Stephen and all the family and friends of **Herbert Fisher** who died on 21st April. His thanksgiving service was a celebration of a life committed to serving God and other people. He will be sadly missed.

We extend our love and sympathy to **Brian and Sue Tester** and the family on the death of Brian's father Edwin, who was 92.

And also to the families of two ladies who were members of the Wednesday lunch club, **Mary Fraser** and **Margaret Standen**.

## Congratulations

to **Iris and Bill Green** who celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on 20th June.

## New Address

**David, Emma and Georgina Tingley** have moved.

Their new address is:  
68 Fieldway, Lindfield RH16 2DE  
Please amend your Who's Who.  
Their telephone number remains the same (01444 451024).

## Thank you

Derrick and I would like to say a big thank you to all our friends at Lindfield URC for your support both during and following my recent surgery. Your visits, cards, flowers and practical support have been much appreciated. We have been particularly blessed by your prayers during this difficult time. Although early indications show positive signs of a successful outcome, we would ask you to continue to pray for complete healing.

*Chris Caswell*

## TEDDIES FOR TRAGEDIES

Many thanks to those from Haywards Heath and Lindfield URC's who have knitted teddies. In the last six months over 350 have been collected by the local distributor, for sending to deprived regions throughout the world.

We need more knitting helpers, so if you are interested, please contact me – 01444 441310 – patterns are available.

*Gladys Porter*

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## CHURCH SECURITY WARNING

Please note: People should not leave their personal possessions unattended whilst in the church. Anyone in the church for an extended period of time, particularly when on duty in the concourse, should lock items in one of the cupboards. *Ron Goodenough, secretary*

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## HERBERT FISHER

1914 – 2004

Herbert's presence and his counsel will be missed by our local church family of which he was an integral part. His work as an actuary led to a leading role in the Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society, and also to advising government and the URC on pensions. His modesty was such that many were unaware that Herbert was appointed O.B.E. for his services. Sport, painting and travel were among Herbert's many interests, but the Church was always central as an expression of his Christian commitment. Born in South East London, Herbert served in the Hanover Chapel, Peckham until he and Hilda moved to Lindfield and worked among us by preaching and in different kinds of leadership. Herbert achieved a great deal but he will be greatly missed for his confident Christian presence. He hoped and prayed that his life and finally his thanksgiving service would be a proclamation of the gospel. We believe that it was and we are glad to have had him with us.

*Richard Tucker*

## **Balcombe United Reformed Church**

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**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:-

**6th June                      Ron Goodenough**

**20th June                     Colin Bones**

### Thanks

Brenda and Brian Tuppen would like to thank the church for the lovely flowers and for the continuing care and concern for us both.

We appreciate the prayers and kind thoughts of so many people. Brenda's chemotherapy treatment is going well and although it is tiring, seems to be effective.

*Brian and Brenda Tuppen*

### To the family and friends of Lindfield URC

It is quite difficult to put into words our 'thank you' to you all for the support you gave us in so many ways, during the eight years of Lawrence's illness and after his death.

We are immensely grateful for your love and prayers for us, and joining with us at the Thanksgiving Service for Lawrence's life.

Your expression of sympathy in the cards and letters, visits, flowers and phonecalls has helped us so much during this sad time.

*Mies, Charles and  
Caroline Brock*

### Thanks (belated)

I wish to thank everybody for all their prayers, cards and thoughts on the illness and passing of my Aunt, who died in January.

It was really appreciated by me and my family.

*Jane Harfield*

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## We're fair – its official!

In the February church meeting, church members voted to apply to the Fairtrade Foundation to receive a certificate that we are a Fairtrade church. We have now been awarded this certificate (see inside cover). So thank you all for using Fairtrade tea and coffee at church and for your support of the Fairtrade stall each month. In April (despite the lack of stem ginger cookies!) we took over £130.

Just to remind you of how valued your support is to the people who supply Fairtrade products – this is what Ashok Kamar, who works as a stone polisher at Tara Projects, said:

"At private workshops I had to work in dingy rooms. Here at Tara there is a world of difference, well lit, airy rooms. The exhaust fans are very effective, they suck the dust away from us. I am happy here and earn much more than what I earned with private traders. Everyone is respectful to each other."

Unfortunately we don't often stock non-food items, such as Ashok's stone products, at the monthly stall. However we can order Traidcrafts products in for you. See [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk).

Our next stall will be at 10:30am (in between our morning services) on Sunday 20th June in the lounge at Lindfield United Reformed Church.

*Suzy Jacques*

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## Go Reverend go...

**I**n an exclusive interview our minister, **Colin Bones**, advised me that he was **entering the Lindfield 10K run on the morning of Bank Holiday Monday 31st May.**

Although Colin keeps fit by playing hockey, tennis and working out on a treadmill, he confesses to have not taken part in a cross-country race since his school days.

Therefore, if you would like to see 'our Colin' on a rare occasion not in his usual 'shirt and tie' and probably somewhat 'mud-splattered', may I suggest a visit to Hickmans Lane at about 11.20am on Bank Holiday Monday to applaud him and others over the finish line.

N.B. Although I'm not sure of any of our other 'regulars' from LURC partaking in the 10K, there may well be several entering the 3 mile run, whereby they should also be finishing at about the same time.

Good luck to all taking part in both races.

*Ray Smith*

## Happy Birthday, Lindfield, Australia!

On 13th June the parish of St Alban's, Lindfield, NSW, will be celebrating one hundred years of existence. Centenary celebrations are planned for that day and the Archbishop of Sydney will preach at a special celebration service.

In 1936, when the present church building was being erected, stones were sent out from Lindfield to be incorporated into the new church of St Alban's.

The centenary celebrations occur during James Clarke's sabbatical time in Sydney, so he very much hopes to be present, representing All Saints' and Lindfield.

Source: All Saints' News.

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## Brenda exchanges UK for Africa

**L**indfield URC church member, **Brenda Johnson**, isn't just talking about **helping developing nations, she is getting on a plane and doing it!**

Inspired by a conversation with a friend after a talk at a Mission Supper, Brenda has now been selected by Edinburgh-based World Exchange to go on a placement at an orphanage near the village of Likhubula, Malawi, for 12 weeks in the summer.

"As a non-professional retired person", says Brenda "I feel that I can take a lifetime of experience to cope with all manner of challenges that I may encounter". She will be required to do a range of jobs including decorating, gardening and clearing pathways to enable an emerging tourist industry in the area to grow. However, it sounds as if one major challenge will be in the self-catering living quarters. Brenda goes on: "I am told there is basic water, power and a western toilet, but I will be discovering what to buy in the local market and how to cook it!"

Brenda needs to raise a massive £1800 to do the trip, so why not contact her to help her meet her target and get out there to help others. Well done Brenda.

## June church diary

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1st

Tuesday 10.15am Senior Citizens'  
Coffee Morning

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3rd

Thursday House Groups

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6th

Sunday 9.30am Communion –  
David Goodchild  
& Colin Bones  
11.0am Colin Bones  
6.30pm United Service  
All Saints' Church  
Trevor Lewis  
preaching

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**NO EVENING SERVICE @ LURC**

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10th

Thursday 8.0pm Church Meeting

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12th

Saturday 5.0pm Copy Date for  
July & August  
GoodNEWS

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13th

Sunday 9.30am Healing Service  
– Adrian Cookney  
& Colin Bones  
11.0am Colin Bones  
6.30am Communion –  
David Nibloe &  
Brian Stone

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17th

Thursday House Groups

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20th

Sunday Fathers' Day  
9.30am David Goodchild  
& Stuart Dew

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**FAIRTRADE STALL TODAY 10.30am**

11.0am Stuart Dew  
6.30pm David Nibloe &  
Colin Bones

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22nd

Tuesday 7.45pm In Touch

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23rd

Wednesday 7.45pm Elders' Meeting

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24th

Thursday 8.0pm Monthly Prayer  
Meeting

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27th

Sunday 9.30am Parade Service  
– David Goodchild  
& Colin Bones  
11.0am Communion –  
Colin Bones  
6.30pm Adrian Cookney  
& Barry Piper

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**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.

## Online to God with an internet service

The world's first "three-dimensional" internet church service, complete with gothic arches, wooden pews and a congregation of cartoon characters, was launched last month.

The online service, aimed at those who have swapped the kneeler for the keyboard, will be celebrated by a real priest who will appear on the screen in cartoon form. He or she will be able to move around the church, welcome the congregation, lead the service and preach from a pulpit.

The congregation will log on and be able to see themselves depicted on screen as cartoon characters, not dissimilar to The Simpsons.

"They will chose a pew, introduce themselves through speech bubbles, 'sing' a hymn, listen to the sermon, perhaps pray together and chat to one another afterwards," said Simon Jenkins, one of the website's creators. "They will even be invited to put something in the collection plate via text messages."

[www.churchoffools.com](http://www.churchoffools.com)

Source: Daily Telegraph, 14/04/04, Jonathan Petre

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## Vote against BNP!

The Churches' Commission for Racial Justice has issued a leaflet encouraging Christians to vote in local and European elections on 10th June, in order to keep far-right racist groups – like the British National Party – from gaining further positions of power.

Source: New Christian Herald

# What about worship?

**Following a sermon given by Colin Bones, looking at part of our church vision statement, here are the accompanying notes.**

## **Worship Definitions**

- A heart to heart exchange of love with God – *John Wimber*
- Worship is inner health made audible. Going through the door of worship, we complete ourselves; we become all we were meant to be – *C.S. Lewis*
- Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever – *Westminster Catechism*

## **Aspects of Worship**

1. Shout for joy – Psalm 100:4  
*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.*
2. Building a throne – Psalm 22:3  
*Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel.*
3. Place of awe & wonder – 2 Chron. 5:13–14  
*The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: "He is good; his love endures for ever." Then the temple of the LORD was filled with a cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God.*
4. Place of repentance – Isaiah 6:5  
*"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."*
5. Need to be in God's presence – Isaiah 40:31  
*...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*



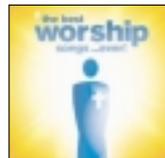
6. Place of faith – Acts 4:23–31  
*Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.*
7. Place of relationship – Luke 11:2  
*He said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father...*
8. Place where God speaks – John 14:26  
*But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*

### **Participation**

- Who God is...
- Spontaneous and sacrificial
- Romans 12: 1,2 – living sacrifices
- Ephesians 5:19 & Colossians 3: 16 – Hymns, psalms and spiritual songs.

## Now that’s what I call worship!

**Now, I am not the kind of guy to advocate Christians listening to ‘Christian music’ the whole time.**



However, I have to admit something to you! I was recently given “The best worship songs... ever!”, and I am struggling to select anything else on my iPod these days.

This triple-CD (amazingly, distributed by Virgin) contains a good mix of modern songs/ choruses played by many of the UKs most popular worship leaders and a few less-well-known artists.

Brilliantly, the producers have managed to – in the most part – avoid the sort of worship times that lead you to believe the leader thinks he is a member of Status Quo.

Most of the tracks sound live, and it is easy to find yourself joining in: the uplifting ‘Shout to the Lord’, gentle guitar-driven ‘How deep the Father’s love’ and the beautiful ‘We bow down’.

As part of a worship group myself, I can happily say this would be a fine accompaniment to any worship; personal or corporate. Great music for God.

*David Tingley*

The Best Worship Songs... ever! £15.99 3CD Set.

# Release International

**Last year we enjoyed a presentation by Clare from Release International, who told us about the work they do and their vision for the future. I was greatly moved by the presentation and struck by the freedom we enjoy and often take for granted. We attend church, house groups, prayer meetings, mission suppers whilst Christians in other countries are dreadfully persecuted and even executed for their faith in Jesus Christ.**

Christians in Vietnam and North Korea are deliberately persecuted to destroy their churches and organisations. So too in Burma, China, Nigeria, Pakistan and Sudan, to name but a few.

Release International (R.I.) estimates that around 250 million Christians are persecuted in some way for their faith. I wonder how we might feel or deal with persecution for our faith? R.I. was born out of the suffering and personal experiences of founder, Pastor Richard Wurmbrand, who was tortured for Christ in Romania during the cold war years in the 1950s and '60s. R.I. continues his legacy by serving the persecuted church and Christians in their walk of faith.

Their mission:

**1) Showing God's compassion**

Providing for the needs of families of martyrs and prisoners

**2) Serving God's Church**

Enabling people to survive persecution and its efforts

**3) Sharing God's love**

Helping the persecuted church win to Christ those who are opposed to the Gospel

**4) Spreading God's word**

Supplying Bibles and literature for growth and evangelism

**5) Speaking as God's advocates**

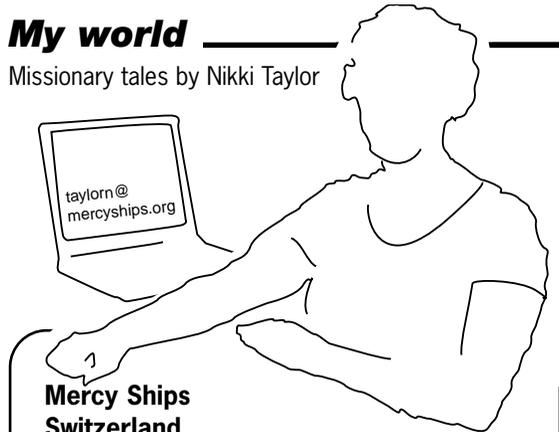
Being a voice of martyrs and the oppressed

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## My world

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Missionary tales by Nikki Taylor



Release International asks us to support its Campaign 7x7. We are to pray for seven years for seven countries where persecution is particularly severe. I felt moved to contact R.I. and this month our mission givings will be supporting this worthwhile Christian organisation. Leaflets, magazines and prayer cards will be available from the church – but prayer is what is really asked for. Prayer for the persecuted churches and families of the world. I hope you feel as moved as I was by the plight of these struggling Christians, persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ. I thank and praise God for our freedom and faith.

*Fiona Flett*



Join 7x7 and they will keep you up to date by fortnightly email with the latest news and information from the seven countries: **China, Indonesia, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Sudan and Vietnam.**

### Mercy Ships Switzerland

Summer is coming apparently! The weather was very warm last month when friends visited from my home church in Shropshire. The mountains seem to be within reach as I look out the window, the weather has been so clear and warm. One thing I did miss in Africa was four seasons. Sierra Leone has its own seasons which I miss now.... Arrgg torn in two!

I am left to hold the fort for a month, while the director goes down to visit the project in Sierra Leone. I would have loved to have seen my friends and the new building. Pictures are just not enough!

This is a very exciting time for Mercy Ships and New Steps as the focus in Sierra Leone expands. There is a new project opening in September this year, a Fistula Centre over in the west of Freetown. There is also a Dental Therapy school in the process of being established by one of Mercy Ships Dentists.

Exciting stuff! When I look back over the last four years and see all that God has done: As a team we have gone from 7 to 46 staff! We have regular contact with some 800 people in the communities we serve, the total number being somewhere around 4,000.

Wow, what a lot God has done with the small drops of each persons' time and skill!

# Love in action

## A story of hope among the homeless

**One of the guys I have enjoyed working alongside in the kitchen at St Clare's Day Centre for the homeless, Worthing, over the past few months is Kevin. This is Kevin's story so far, told in his own words:**

"My dad died when I was four and it shattered my world. It left me, my mum and my older sister on our own. I really relied on my mates. When I was 11 we had to move house. I felt I had done something wrong and that's why we were having to move away from all my friends. I blamed my mum for taking everything away that was important to me and I was really a handful from then on. Because of my behaviour I left school at 16 with nothing. I was already in the wrong crowd and using cannabis. I know I can't turn back the clock but my life could have been very different.

"By the time I was 21, I was using all sorts of tablets and drinking too much. The first time I used heroin I felt a warmth that crept around my whole body. The pain, the hurt and the badness just went away. I got into theft, deception and burglary and all the lying and scheming that goes with it. My prison sentences got longer until they were back to back.

"When I got out for the last time, I knew it had to be now or never. I came to WCHP (Worthing Churches Homeless Projects) where they said if I came back on the Monday and I was clean of drugs, I could go to their hostel in Byron Road. I couldn't believe my luck when I got a space – I was in! Sarah, my substance abuse worker, worked with me every week for 14 months. She helped me to feel comfortable with myself and boosted my self-esteem but what made the difference was she was always within reach, there when I needed her.

"I am proud of what I've done and I couldn't have done it anywhere else. From my very first day at the hostel I was treated as an equal and as a human being, no one has ever looked down on me or judged me. I can't begin to tell you how much that has meant to me.

"I've got my own flat and a job now. I would like to have a family and lead a normal life. When I walk down the road, just as it's beginning to get dark, I can see families sitting around the telly and I think, if I could, I would slip through the letter box just to be part of that." Kevin's story in his own words.

*John Barling*

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# The Phoenix Club

## **Mid Sussex Community**

**Support Association** is a small local registered independent charity which provides a drop-in centre, called 'The Phoenix Club', where men and women who are affected by severe, long-standing mental health problems can meet together in a safe and friendly atmosphere away from a hospital or clinical environment. Its aim is to give support and encouragement to members who are anxious to return to work or engage in educational pursuits.



We meet weekly at the Church of the Ascension Hall, Haywards Heath. A low cost two-course meal is provided at each session plus a wide range of monthly activities including: pool, lawn croquet, bingo, craft sessions and occasional outings to places of interest or a local pub for a meal.

Each session costs £50 to run – our main source of funding comes from major trusts and private companies, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to raise the monies needed to keep things going. Lindfield URC has kindly agreed to sponsor the project to the tune of £750pa. We also need more helpers at the club, and would be delighted to talk to anyone who feels they might want to get involved.

We would like take this opportunity to thank church member Bill Peter, who audits our accounts.

Please remember this ongoing work in your prayers, and your personal giving.

With love in Christ

*Gordon & Iris Bingham*

# The face of Lindfield

Looking around the village it is easy to see why it is so highly regarded as a beautiful place among locals. Alan Gunson, a member of the management committee at the Society for the Preservation of Lindfield, reminds us why the Society is so important.

**The Society for the Preservation of Lindfield began in 1961 when an aggressive, speculative housing development threatened the quality of life in the village. At the time no such organisation existed then. It now has 1,000 members and is growing.**

The ancient parishes were associated with parish churches, which for centuries were the means of governing the country, and giving identity to the community. But in the nineteenth century a revolution began, leading to central government taking over the administrative responsibility for the population, through a complicated, many tiered, network of national, regional, county and district councils. The present day 'parish councils' no longer relate directly to the parish church, being a part of the hierarchy of politically elected bodies.

Although large by village standards, around 1934 Lindfield lost its parish council, and so its body of local opinion, and became part of Haywards

Heath. In 1961 at the very time when Lindfield needed strong local support there was none. It was the threat of 200 flats in five tower blocks being built on the Welkin that galvanised 30 people from the parish church to meet and devise plans to oppose the flats. Three weeks were allowed by the council to mount an appeal, so a public meeting was hastily arranged at the Congregational Church Hall – now the United Reformed Church Hall – a petition was organised with 600 signatures and funds were raised to oppose the developers. That appeal proved successful, and so the Society came into being.

The aims of the Society qualified it to become a registered charity. From 1961 until the formation of the present Lindfield Urban Parish Council in 1987 the Preservation Society was the only corporate body in the village. During these 26 years it sought to maintain the separate physical identity of the village, and monitored every planning application to ensure they were in the best interests of

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**The Society for the  
Preservation of Lindfield**  
[www.lindfieldsociety.org.uk](http://www.lindfieldsociety.org.uk)



all the residents. The Society has continued to take a watching brief on all aspects of village life, working in collaboration with the parish council whenever it is appropriate to do so.

Past achievements of the Society include: Retaining Hickmans Green as an open space for recreation and ensuring the common, pond and the village centre are designated a Conservation Area.

It was not possible to prevent ribbon housing development between the village and Haywards Heath. But it is true to say that the village has benefited from the endeavours of those pioneers who devoted their energies to preserving the quality of life in Lindfield over the last 40 years.

In 2004 the members of the Preservation Society continue in the footsteps of the founders of the Society and through donations and voluntary work promote many activities throughout the year. Details appear in the Society newsletters and on the website.

Society benefits/ involvements include:

- Regular newsletters
- Excursions to places of interest several times each year
- Annual Garden Party at The Old Place
- Stand at Village Day
- Planning Committee reports on every planning application and liaison with L P C and with MSDC on these
- Attendance at many LPC and MSDC meetings
- We promoted the Lindfield Postal Address Campaign
- Currently seeking a solution to the closure of two Lindfield Sub Post Offices  
...and much more!

Membership of the Society is open to everyone having an interest in Lindfield, details on the website, and all are welcome at our Public Meetings.

*Alan Gunson*

# On the buses

**I'm a country, not a town, girl at heart! I can freak out up Lindfield High Street on a busy Saturday morning (I know, I'm a wimp!), so you can imagine I was all at sixes and sevens on a recent trip to Brighton.**

We had gone there to let in the delivery man. Tom, my son, lives in Preston Park now and we had bought him a new bed for his birthday. My husband, Chris, was going to stay at the house for the afternoon while Jess (my daughter), Alex (her boyfriend) and myself went in to town to shop.

All went well; the three of us walked to the end of the road just as a bus arrived. Okay, the driver looked at me a little strange when I asked him what this stop was called (well, I did need to find our way back), but he told me the number of bus I would need and I followed the other two to sit down.

All fine so far. What was I worrying about? I'm an adult and I have all my senses – wrong! At the next stop some people got on including a young couple with a small child in a buggy. The mother pushed it into a space beside me but then had trouble putting on the brake. The bus set off before she could sit down and she muttered “people are so ignorant” under her

breath. I thought she was talking about the driver. All was still okay, or so I thought. I happened to look up when an older woman sitting next to the mother said in a loud voice: “Yes, you! Those seats are for people with buggies.” Then she gestured at the cross I was wearing and said: “So called Christian and her cross around her neck.” The mother had obviously been complaining about me. I immediately got up, apologising, and moved to another seat. I felt so embarrassed, I must have missed the sign above the seat. You know the ones, “Please give up this seat for elderly etc”. I looked around, but no, there was nothing.

As we travelled on, any and everyone sat on these seats without being harassed as I had been.

My point is this; people still expect Christian values even if they don't give them out. I was in error (I think) but hey, I don't read minds and as I said at the start, I'm a country girl at heart!

*Tina Elphick*

PS: We managed to catch a bus back and find Tom's house, but only after visiting a very weird guitar shop – a favourite of Alex's, but that's another story!

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# Senior Citizens' Coffee Morning

**TUESDAY 1st JUNE – 10.15am to 12noon**

Calling all senior citizens to our annual Coffee Morning just for YOU! There will be the usual array of homemade biscuits and cups of tea or coffee, plus some home-spun entertainment brought to you by Peggy Bennett, Heather Swann and others. A chance for you to join in some community songs too, and, of course, time to chat with friends, old and new. Why not invite your neighbours along for the fun? You will all be very welcome! If you need transport, then just ring Heather on 01444 450335 and we will do our best to oblige.

Now here is an invitation to the rest of you. The Pastoral Group, which is organising this morning, does need some help to serve the coffee and to provide transport for those who request it. Please support us in this if you possibly can. Offers of help to Heather Swann or myself, Fiona Tingley (01444 483419). Many thanks!



## Flower Rota

		<b>Arranging</b>	<b>Distributing</b>
June	6	John Gage	Fiona Tingley
	13	Mies Brock	Heather Swann
	20	Hilda Danagen	Sue Tester
	27	Anne Blake	Dorothy Forster
July	4	Carol Walters	Betty Peter
	11	Gladys Porter	Jacqueline Wood
	18	Dorothy Forster	Iris Bingham
	25	Fiona Tingley	Fiona Tingley

## 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)
- 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