

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

MARCH 2004



Guarantees
a better deal
for Third World
Producers



A taste for life

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT SPECIAL

PLUS...

- Boys' Brigade update.
- What the minister got up to in Malta!
- Local diary listings for March.





His mirror image

On our recent retreat trip to Gozo, Malta, Catherine and I visited Ta Pinu, a Roman Catholic church, shrine and place of healing. We found it to have a wonderful sense of the peace and presence of God; where you can participate in that aspect of our relationship with God that we call 'adoration'.

Adoration is the sense of the quiet contemplation of God and His character that leads to a deeper love for Him and a greater dedication to Him.

I think we often suppose there is no communication with God unless words are being used. This is not necessarily so. The story is told of a devout peasant who used to remain for hours in front of the altar without moving his lips. One day the priest asked him, "What do you say to the Lord as you sit before Him for these long hours?" "O nothing," replied the elderly peasant. "He looks at me and I look at Him. There is no need for words. I just sit and think about how great and good he is. My eyes are ever on the Lord."

One of the great difficulties of our time is that many of us lead such busy lives that it is hard for us to give time to quiet

contemplation of God. Yet we need to be aware not to rush into His presence, race through our prayer time and rush out again. In the words of a poem, if we do this we shall be "limp and lame to face the challenges of the day".

Romans 8 v29 says: "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his son..."

This illustrates the other side of adoration. When we gaze on God we become like a mirror in which the likeness of Jesus is seen more and more clearly. A mirror is of no use unless it remains steady in front of the object which it should be reflecting. Remaining still before the Lord is the secret. God produces not only reflection, but also transformation.

I am sure that keeping still before the Lord is one of the biggest challenges we face in our devotional life. I suspect that most of us would call ourselves novices at this but we need to try to find those windows of time when we can do our part by keeping still in the contemplation of God. When we see Him clearly, the Holy Spirit does the rest.

Colin Bones, minister

GoodNEWS

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Editorial



As shoppers, I believe that we grossly underestimate our buying power in this country.

You alone may well spend up to about £4000 a year at your local supermarket – which is not insignificant – especially when you consider that your neighbours probably all do the same.

So with all that purchasing power – on much that are necessity items – how do we discern what products to buy?

The fairtrade mark gives us all the opportunity do something good with our cash, without us actually having to do anything! To decide to buy fairly traded kitchen roll has little impact on my life, but gives a group of workers in a developing country the opportunity to earn 'decent' money for the goods they produce – and not be 'ripped off' by greedy middle-men.

As the *Fairtrade Foundation* reaches the 10th anniversary of fairtrade products on UK supermarket shelves – Suzy Jacques fills us in (page 4) with the motivation behind it, some lovely recipes and, of course, how you can regularly get your hands on products that change other people's lives.

David Tingley, editor



SUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please pray that our worship may be to God's honour and glory, not only on Sundays but individually as we worship Him throughout the week. • Uphold all those who play a part in our services.
MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank God for the prayer initiative 'Lighting the flame of hope for Sussex'. Ask His help for the future events being planned. • Pray for the preparations for the three joint meetings in Lindfield during Holy Week.
TUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take your 'Who's Who' and pray for those whose surname begins with A and B. • Pray for the new Youth Group and its leaders. • Remember those who work hard to grow produce in poor conditions in developing countries..
WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uphold Ian Knox and his team in their mission to Lindfield, especially the lunch to be held at LURC on 3rd March. • Remember those ill at home, in hospital or in residential care. • Praise God for the pioneering work of the Fairtrade Foundation and other organisations making fairtrade work.
THUR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Sussex East District – we're asked to pray for St Luke's Hampden Park, Crowborough United Church and Hassocks and Uckfield United Reformed Churches.
FRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for families where not all are committed Christians. • Remember this month's Mission Focus – Far East Broadcasting Association; its work and ministry. • "Lord, challenge me to think how my regular weekly shop has the power to make a big difference in someone else's life."
SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for the Synod meeting on 13th, and Mission Council 19th–21st. • For revival in our nation. • Ask God to sustain all those anxious about loved ones.

Ten years on...

Each year the Fairtrade Foundation uses the Fairtrade Fortnight to highlight the growing product lines and availability of fairly traded goods in this country. Items for sale boasting the fairtrade ‘mark’ essentially offer a fair price to those who have grown, harvested or manufactured them in the developing country where they originated. This year’s focus is between 1st–14th March.

Suzy Jacques has personally championed fairtrade locally for many years with the Village Day refreshment tent, a monthly fairtrade stall at Lindfield URC and encouraged the church to use fairtrade products itself. Suzy brings us up-to-date with what fairtrade really means.

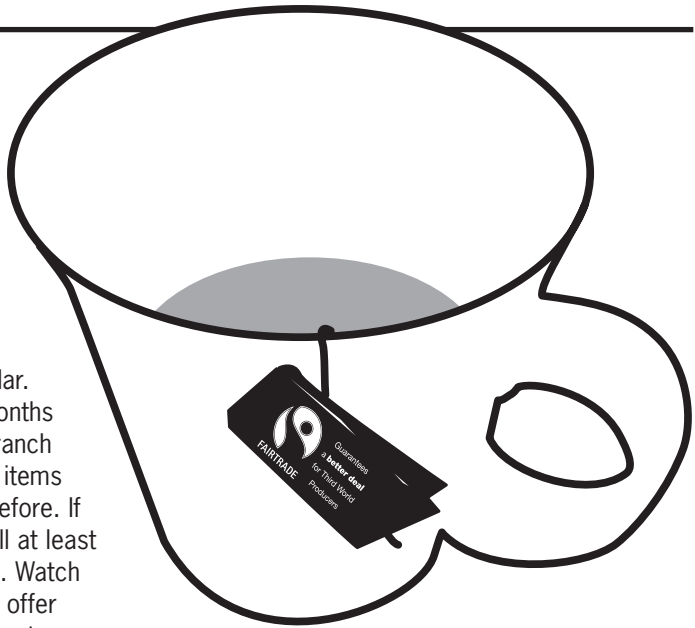
2004 is a special year for fairtrade. It is ten years since the first food and drinks bearing the FAIRTRADE mark hit our supermarket shelves. It is also the 25th anniversary of Traidcraft, where we source the food and other products for our monthly fairtrade stall at the church, between the two morning services.

Our fairtrade stall has only been running since last May, but, to date, we have made sales of over £1,200. Thank you, on behalf of all the producers, for your commitment to buying fairtrade.

If you’ve ever wondered whether your purchases of cookies or those sneakily bought



packets of chocolate covered peanuts make up half our sales, I thought you might be interested in the graph on the next page. It shows that drinks, such as tea and coffee, have been the big sellers, whilst pasta and rice (which this magazine editor will vouch for being just as tasty as any other brand you might buy)



have not been so popular.

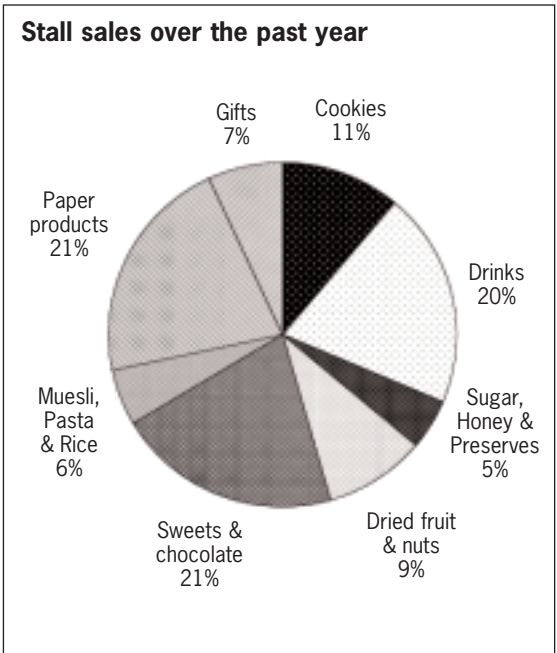
So, in the coming months I'd encourage you to branch out and try a couple of items that you haven't tried before. If you don't like them, well at least you've given them a go. Watch out for any samples on offer over the coming months, too.

Our March stall falls slightly outside of Fairtrade Fortnight, but will run on **Sunday 21st March**. However, during Fairtrade Fortnight, can I encourage you to take part in any events you see running in the local area.

Later in the month you could perhaps take a few of the free samples of fairtrade tea or coffee, available at our stall, into work or share them at home with friends and colleagues who may not have heard of fairtrade yet. More than a quarter of the British public are now aware of the FAIRTRADE mark, but before more farmers can be helped, more shoppers need to make the choice to buy their products.

Thank you for your support.

Suzy Jacques



Pension plan

Manickam has just turned 58 years old and has worked on a tea estate in the Western Ghats Mountains of Southern India for the last 41 years. Years ago, when he was young and strong, the strenuous work between the tea bushes under a scorching sun lugging heavy baskets and sacks full of freshly plucked tea leaves was easy. But now it's become a struggle and Manickam has decided to retire.

Some would say he is lucky; in India, his case is certainly exceptional. Pension schemes are not widespread and, where they exist, usually pay little more than 200 rupees a month (about £3). On Manickam's estate in the Nilgiris Hills, workers can retire when they reach 58 and receive a pension of 800 rupees a month for 20 years' service, or 1200 rupees for 30. The pension fund was set up in 1995 with the help of Fairtrade premiums and is jointly managed by estate workers and managers. By 1997, the first pensioners started receiving their monthly payments.

The lives of the more than 3,000 workers on the estate have been improved by Fairtrade funds. There are now computers in schools, a school bus, vaccinations for workers and basic medical care.

Source: Conrad Gutekunst, Fairtrade labelling Organisation Tea Product manager, visited the United Nilgiri Tea Estate, South India, July 2002.

“

Ten years on, I have seen the amazing growth in the delicious range of foods with the FAIRTRADE Mark – testimony to the good taste of the British public.

Anthony Worrall Thompson

”

Chocolate Walnut Muffins

Ingredients (makes 12):

175g / 6oz	unsalted butter, chopped
150g / 5oz	Fairtrade plain chocolate, chopped
225g / 8oz	Fairtrade raw cane sugar
50g / 2oz	Fairtrade muscovado sugar
4	eggs
5ml / 1 tsp	vanilla essence
1.5ml / ¼ tsp	almond essence
75g / 3oz	plain flour
115g / 4oz	Fairtrade walnuts, chopped

Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4. Grease muffin tins, or use paper liners. (Muffin tin highly recommended unless you want one large, part-cooked chocolate and walnut splat!)

Melt the butter with the chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a saucepan of water. Transfer to a large mixing bowl.

Stir both the sugars into the chocolate mixture. Mix in the eggs, one at a time, then add the vanilla and almond essences.

Sift over the flour and fold in until evenly combined.

Stir the walnuts evenly into the chocolate mixture.

Fill the muffin tins almost to the top and bake for 30-35 minutes. Leave to stand for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack.



Sample shopping list/prices

Stem Ginger/Brazil Nut/Double Chocolate Chip Cookies	= £1
227g medium roast ground coffee	=
£2.35	
500g raw cane/caster/muscovado sugar	= £1
Walnuts	=
£1.10	
200g Vanilla Fudge	=
£1.25	
100g plain chocolate	=
£1.40	
500g white Basmati rice	=
£1.50	
500g organic fusilli pasta	=

Fairtrade food – to go

Not only can you make your own fairtrade treats at home – but you can also enjoy fairly traded products at High Street retailers such as **Costa Coffee, Starbucks, Pret A Manger.**

On a more local note, you can drink fairtrade teas and coffees at the coffee shop at **Wakehurst Place** in Ardingly and at Lindfield's **Coffee Connection.**



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

**TEA PICKERS
WANTED**

Long hours. Hard work.
No perks. No union. 6-day week.

Salary: 34p a day

For a fairer world, visit www.traidcraft.org.uk

Congratulations...

to **Pat and John Davies** who celebrate their Golden Wedding on 6th March.

to **Jean and Mike Gardiner** who became proud grandparents to twins. Benjamin and Rebecca were born on 22nd January weighing in at 5lbs 15oz.

Sympathy

We offer our love and sympathy to **Rosemary Underhill** and all of the family and friends of Rosemary's mother who died recently. The thanksgiving service was held at All Saints on 4th February.

We also extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of **Elsie Wood** and **Queenie Worster** who both died recently.

Thank you

Very grateful thanks to all at Lindfield URC for your prayerful support during Paddy's on-going spell in hospital/home/MS Nursing Care in Horley. The telephone and house calls have been a great comfort (as have the hugs!).

Many thanks indeed to you all.
Jehovah Shalom.

Anne Lay

Thank you

Rosemary Underhill and family wish to thank all those who have offered kindness and prayers following the death of her mother. She would also like to rejoice in the birth of her niece in January.

Thank you

Wally and I wish to thank you all for your help during the past seven months. Your prayers are very appreciated and the practical help and flowers have made us very grateful that we chose Lindfield URC to worship in.

Elsie Plimmer

The Fellowship...

meets this month on Wednesday 24th March at 2.45pm. We will be joined by students from Great Walstead School, who will give us a musical afternoon. Do come and hear these musical talents and share with us for tea and biscuits. A bring and buy stall will be available.

Women's World Day of Prayer

The service this year is on Friday 5th March at 1.30pm at the Lindfield Evangelical Free Church, Chaloner Road. The theme is "In faith women shape the future" and has been prepared by the women of Panama.

The speaker will be Mrs Jean Gardiner.

A very warm welcome is extended to all – men and women – and a creche will be available for young children. Light refreshments will be served after the service.

Please donate
any of the following
in good condition:

PUZZLES

CDs

CAKES

CARDS

GAMES

PLANTS

TOYS

TAPES

BOOKS



Blue Peter Bring 'n' Buy

presented by 1st Lindfield Girls' Brigade

on Tuesday 16th March
at Lindfield URC from 6.30 – 8.0pm

Any questions, please contact:
Sam Hoare-Ward 01444 417335
Dawn Walters 01444 441601

for children with
learning disabilities
to go to out-of-school
clubs

Please come and bring and buy!

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:-



7th Richard Tucker – Communion Service
21st Colin Bones

Web to campaign for prisoners

The Prison Reform Trust has launched a website to support its *Reform Remand* campaign, which draws attention to the fact that remand prisoners, innocent until proven guilty, endure some of the worst conditions in overcrowded prisons.

See www.innocentuntilproven guilty.com

Source: Churches' Criminal Justice Forum Newsletter #6

Mel Gibson releases new 'Jesus' film this Easter.

See page 22 for full story...

When is a miracle not a miracle?

A Russian mathematician says he has come up with a scientific explanation for one of the Bible's best-known stories – the parting of the Red Sea. Naum Wolzinger says Moses' miracle in leading the Israelites to safety was down to tides, not divine intervention.

He claims there is a plateau less than 20ft under the water running across the Gulf of Suez. With the right tidal conditions and a strong wind, it would have been possible to walk across. A drop in the wind would bring water flooding back over the plateau, sealing the fate of the Egyptians in the story, says Wolzinger.

Source: Metro London

Sunte Avenue PO rescue bid

LOCAL organisations are joining forces to mount a rescue campaign for at least one of the two sub-post offices in Haywards Heath facing the axe.

Lindfield Preservation Society and Haywards Heath Society have decided to press ahead with a bid to take over Sunte Avenue sub-post office as a community-run business.

They are setting up a non-profit Provident Society and will be preparing a business plan to put to Post Office managers.

Michael Anstey, treasurer of Lindfield Preservation Society, said the aim was to set up a Provident Society along similar lines as previously successful ventures in Horsted Keynes and at Whitemans Green.

Mr Anstey said they were now urging the Post Office to give them an assurance that Sunte Avenue branch will not be closed and to advise them about who they should approach for talks about a possible transfer.

Then would come the true test of the degree of public support for the venture, he added, with the launch of a major fundraising campaign to finance the project.

"We are going to have to raise the necessary funds, which we estimate will be over £30,000."

Source: Mid Sussex Times 6th February 2004

Caring through sharing

Over the past two or three months many of you have kindly filled in a 'Share Certificate' offering your services to assist someone else in need of help or support.

On behalf of the Pastoral Group, our thanks to you all. With the assistance of Fay Jones and her computer, we have now collated all your offers, and it is quite a remarkable list of talents that we can draw on.

How we see the system working is this: If you need some 'one-off' help in any of the areas listed below please phone either Bill Green (484117), Barbara Shepherd (483167) or Mel Campling (evenings 484140) and they will do their best to put you in touch with someone from the church who can assist.

- Cooking a meal
- Sewing
- Gardening
- Light Maintenance, including changing a plug or light bulb, adjusting a TV, cleaning, laying paving slabs, washing a car, painting
- Being a friend offering a cup of coffee, listening, reading to those with poor sight, visiting etc
- Pet care – feeding/dog walking
- Computer help
- Digital photography & other speciality care
- Ironing
- Baby-sitting
- Shopping
- Lifts
- Typing

PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO ASK! The scheme has been designed so that we can help one another as part of the family of LURC.

Fo Tingley (Pastoral Group)

March diary

4th

Thursday

House Groups

7th

Sunday

9.30am Communion
David Nibloe &
Colin Bones
11.0am Colin Bones
6.30pm No Evening
Service –
United Celebration Clair Hall

10th

Wednesday

12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

11th

Thursday

8.0pm Church Meeting

12th

Friday

12.30pm Lunch Fellowship
5.0pm Copydate for
April
GoodNEWS

14th

Sunday

9.30am Adrian Cookney
& Colin Bones
(Service will include a time
of prayer for healing)
11.0am Colin Bones
6.30pm Communion
David Goodchild
& Jeremy Heath

18th

Thursday

House Groups

21st

Sunday

Mothering Sunday

9.30am David Nibloe &
Stuart Dew

FAIRTRADE STALL TODAY @ LURC

11.0am Stuart Dew

6.30pm David Goodchild
& Cavan Wood

7.30pm *St John's

Passion – The Chapel,
Ardingly College. ACCS.

Tickets £7, 01444 893271

23rd

Tuesday

7.45pm

Ladies 'In Touch'

8.0pm

House Group

Leaders

Meeting

24th

Wednesday

2.45pm

The Fellowship

7.45pm

Elders' Meeting

25th

Thursday

8.0pm

Monthly Prayer

Meeting

28th

Sunday

9.30am

Parade Service
Adrian Cookney
& Brian Stone

11.0am

Communion

Brian Stone

6.30pm

David Goodchild
& Colin Bones

31st

Wednesday

8.0pm

Three Churches'
Prayer Meeting

* denotes event not taking place at Lindfield URC

ADVANCE DIARY

Friday 2nd April

Boys' Brigade Annual Display, 7.30pm

Holy Week 2004

4th April – Palm Sunday

Only ONE morning service at Lindfield URC at 10.30am.

6th, 7th & 8th April

There will be a different speaker from Moorlands Bible College each evening at 8.0pm, Lindfield URC.

18th April

Fairtrade stall 10.30am Lindfield URC.

Saturday 15th May

Concert (LURC) in aid of the St. Peter & St. James Hospice. Details to follow.

In next month's
magazine:

The results of the
*Good***NEWS**
Reader Survey 2004

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.

Could you be a *convicted* Christian?

¹²Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him ¹³and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people.

¹⁵Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, ¹⁶but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

¹⁷"You are not one of his disciples, are you?" the girl at the door asked Peter. He replied, "I am not."

¹⁸It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

¹⁹Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

²⁰"I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. ²¹Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said."

²²When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby struck him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded.

²³"If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" ²⁴Then Annas sent him, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵As Simon Peter stood warming himself, he was asked, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not."

²⁶One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove?"

²⁷Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

About a third of John's gospel deals with the week from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. Unlike biographies of other famous men, Jesus' death is portrayed as the climax of his mission – follow through, for example, the references to “lifted up” in 3v14, 8v28 and 12v32-33.

In this chapter, everything Jesus had foretold about his death and his disciples' troubles (see 15v20, 16v2, v33) begins to happen. Jesus' suffering starts with his being arrested, tied up, roughly questioned and man-handled. Peter put on the spot by hostile questions is just the first page in the long history of persecution of Christians. Peter, unlike the anonymous disciple mentioned in v15-16, is a marked man; he was one of Jesus' inner circle, “the Twelve”, and had used violence to defend Jesus (see v10-11 and v26). Jesus rebuked Peter for his misplaced zeal, but the debate continues to this day as to whether Christians should take up arms against evil.

Peter is much criticised for his denial of Jesus, but we need to remember that he faced a very real risk of being arrested and crucified as a revolutionary, especially as John tells us there were Roman soldiers in the squad sent to arrest Jesus (v3). In some countries today, ordinary men

and women face imprisonment or death for being identified as Jesus' followers – do we, whose persecutions are so light, remember them in prayer?

A careful reading of these chapters leaves us with the feeling that there was no real trial of Jesus. Caiaphas, the president of the court that was to try Jesus, had already made up his mind to get rid of him (v14 and 11v49-51). The “trial” in fact consisted a series of hearings of dubious legality, hastily convened throughout the night, and within 24 hours, Jesus would be dead. The man who had exposed religious hypocrisy was done away with so that the festival could be celebrated with clean hands (see v28).

This reading leaves us with some questions:

Is my mind made up about Jesus? Is it informed by prejudice and habit – or am I prepared to look at the evidence of the gospel accounts and the lives of those who have met with him?

How well do I stand up for Jesus in the pressures of family life, or my peer group at school or work?

If I were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to secure a conviction?

Mike Gardiner



FEBA

This month we are supporting the work of FEBA, a Christian organisation which broadcasts in nearly 60 languages to more than 40 countries in Africa, India, the Middle East and Central Asia. Via shortwave, mediumwave and FM radio, it offers the Good News of Jesus Christ to millions who would otherwise not get the opportunity to hear.

On 14th March FEBA's Chris Binstead, back hotfoot from India, will be at each of our Sunday morning services, at 9.30am and 11.0am, to tell us first-hand a little more about the latest developments in Christian radio.

Meanwhile, Tony Ford, FEBA's Director of Programming, gives us a taster in his recent report for 'Threshold' magazine. Here are some extracts:

“So, how is Feba these days?” someone asks at church. Inevitably I talk about the massive change in how we now transmit programmes to our audiences.

'The Big Move', we called it – all the programmes formerly transmitted from Feba's Seychelles station moved to several different stations as far apart as Siberia and South Africa. "And how did that go?" is the next question.

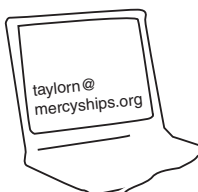
There's only one answer. Praise–provokingly, amazingly, unexpectedly well! A few white–knuckle waits for precise frequencies, complications as Internet connections behaved oddly and big changes for Indian audiences that left some of them

disgruntled. Yet God has smoothed the path to better services for many audiences in Africa and Asia.

The stations we broadcast from are owned by several companies, most of whom transmit programmes for other international broadcasters, public service and Christian. This new freedom has allowed Feba India to redesign services for north Indian listeners. Instead of one service for all languages right across the breadth of India, we will have an eastern language service, a western one, then a third for Hindi and Urdu, spoken all across the north. In addition, Arabic services are being tailored to suit regional audiences better. >>

My world

Missionary tales by Nikki Taylor



Mercy Ships Switzerland

Wow. Love is the most amazing thing. I don't think I realised. When you start to understand how deep committed love decisions are with a fellow human, it leaves you breathless in the face of how Love is with God.

I met an incredible man when I came to Switzerland. We have been friends for four years, we did our DTS together on the M/V Anastasis and have bumped into each other on regular occasions in Switzerland since. Nicolas works part time doing video communications work and Vee Jay in Clubs as part of the collective of DJ's and VJ's in the creative pool here in Mercy Ships, Switzerland. They have a great impact on youth in the club scene in the area. He also has a job as a Chemical Technician here in Lausanne. He asked me to marry him. What an amazing gift from God this feeling and intensity of commitment. We are both just completely amazed by God's provision of a life partner. If you had told us four years ago this is what we would be doing now I think both of us would have laughed. So we are planning to marry in the summer. The date has yet to be decided.

We have discovered a small world of 'airtime sales' for international broadcasting. The operators are professional and as keen to do the best job as we are. The market is competitive and Feba is free to move programming to the best transmission provider.

Most programmes are now compiled with station announcements and tuning signals before delivery by the Feba centre, via the internet to London or Worthing. Where connections and standards are good, they go direct to the transmitting agency. Once in London, programmes are stored on computer for playout via a satellite distribution system to the transmitters.

It's a complex chain, so we like to listen to the end product. Human monitors check for us in the service areas and we also have computerised systems recording off-air 20-second clips we can listen to in Worthing.

About one third of the programmes we broadcast are made by Feba staff. We provide the backbone of some services and useful additions to others. With follow-up work, this is an increasingly core part of Feba's ministry.

So to answer the question: "How do you feel it's going?" By the grace of God, amazingly well.

Tony Ford, FEBA

In January our minister and his wife, Colin and Catherine Bones, set off for a conference entitled “The Suffering Church”, held by International Charismatic Consultation (ICC) in Malta.

This is what they went to, and what they learned...

A fresh perspective

It's not at many consultations that you find yourself having meals with Orthodox Christians from Romania and the USA, Pentecostals and Lutherans from Sweden, and Roman Catholics from Kenya and Nigeria.

This was just part of the enriching experience for Catherine and me of being in Malta last month. It's always a privilege to be part of ICC – it is unique in its breadth encompassing Christians from all continents of the world and all denominations. The consultations aim to be more than just another ‘conference’ or ‘talking shop’ but to provide the opportunity for the Body of Christ to network together to see God’s kingdom extended. I have been involved since 1991 and have seen the emergence of groups like the Romans 1:11 Trust.

This time we were looking at the suffering church, an all too familiar label to give to parts of the world Church today. As the early church shared the gospel

in the Roman Empire, Christianity was, at times, declared illegal and Christians were beaten, persecuted, arrested and put to death – not much has changed in 2000 years. It was the early church father Tertullian who said, “the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church”.

In Gozo many speakers shared of persecution. There were three main sources described:

- 1) Government policies – seen in Cuba.
- 2) Cultural pressures – imprisonment for anyone talking negatively against another religion – seen in Trinidad & Tobago where Hindus hold the political majority.
- 3) Religious Protectionism – seen particularly in Islamic states where all of life is interconnected including church and state e.g. Pakistan, Nigeria and Indonesia.

It is a humbling experience to hear from those who have

personally been tortured and imprisoned for their faith. Yet those of us from the relatively free Western Church were urged not to be guilt-driven but love-driven regarding our brothers and sisters who are suffering in the Body of Christ. What can we do?

We can lobby governments, work with Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to bring aid, support and send missionaries – e.g. Iranian Christians see Iran as a vast and fertile mission field. Elam Ministries is training Iranians at a bible school in London as evangelists to work in Iran.

Intercede in prayer – n.b. listen to the suffering church and be informed, enter into prayer about their experience. It was sobering to hear that persecuted Christians did not want us to pray for them to be protected and rescued but that their suffering would lead to the spread of the gospel.

In ICC we take John 17 – unity – to heart and we trust and pray that this consultation may be a small step towards the hope ‘That the world may believe’ (John 17 v21).

Colin Bones



What is ICC?

International Charismatic Consultation

ICC seeks to:

- Encourage and share with others the grace of renewal in the Holy Spirit
- Bring together Christians from all churches and ecclesial communities.
- Foster fruitful consultation on the task of world evangelisation.

Its purpose is...

In its meetings, ICC participants take care to express mutual respect and to maintain a balanced presence of the different traditions.

ICC is not an institution. We are committed and practising members of our own churches. We come together not as formal representatives of our churches but as individuals who desire to serve them in the tasks of unity and evangelisation.

www.iccove.com



Bucking the trend

A recent government report stated that there are 18% fewer children in the population than 30 years ago. As Lindfield may have been affected more than most communities by this trend, youth organisations have to work harder than ever to attract youngsters into membership.

We are lucky, therefore, to have two sections in our Company which are relatively prosperous: the Anchors and Juniors, both of which are holding their own quite well, and if anything, have gained members. The Juniors took a strong team to the Potted Sports in Falmer in the autumn, and did well to come third overall, the winners being a particularly good team from Burgess Hill. Anchors and Juniors have both had parties and other social events, and their weekly programmes have been full of life and enthusiasm. The potential is there for the future.

Sadly, the Company Section is not able to operate as such at the moment, although some of its members are continuing their BB service in other ways. It is

hoped to re-launch it in due course, maybe as soon as the autumn of this year.

Our Annual Display is at 7.0pm on Friday 2nd April, and we invite all members of the congregation to join us for the evening. Our inspecting officer and chief guest will be Rev Brian Stone, who as our former assistant minister and BB/GB chaplain, needs no introduction to most of our folk. As usual, refreshments will follow the programme of activities and awards. I do hope we will be able to welcome as many of you as possible.

Geoffrey Cocksedge



Boys' Brigade Annual Display

**Friday 2nd April 2004
7.0pm, Lindfield URC**

URC District Meeting notes



Here are some agenda items, selected from the Sussex East District Council Meeting, held at Polegate URC in January

- **Proposed National URC Vision Statement**

Further responses were urgently requested from the churches that have yet to discuss this draft document. Lindfield URC expects to collate all the proposals gathered at the February church members meeting and then submit them to the council.

- **Fairtrade**

Each church is invited to apply for membership of the association. Fairtrade fortnight will be from 1st – 14th March 2004.

- **Music**

a) The Musicians' Guild has arranged an interesting day at Lancing College on Saturday 20th March. The college organs will be demonstrated as part of the varied programme. Details and the application form are on the church notice board.

b) "Music in Worship" has been arranged for 11th March at Seaford URC and this will be led by Rev Brenda Stevenson. Ladies are particularly welcome.

- **Giving**

The district was congratulated by Rev Nigel Uden for contributing so satisfactorily to the 'Maintenance of the Ministry' fund in 2003.

- **District church and society representative**

Stuart Dew was proposed and voted upon to fill this vacancy. Our thanks go to him for finding the time to undertake this work on our behalf.

- **Baptistry**

The council approved a motion for Lindfield URC to undertake this work. We await this completion with expectation and pray God's blessing on this project.

Janet Drayton

An Easter movie sensation?



EXCITING BREAKING NEWS...

An extraordinary film about the death of Christ, which has caused a storm of publicity on both sides of the Atlantic, is released in UK cinemas on 26th March, a fortnight before Easter.

The Passion, which is directed by Mel Gibson, is a graphic retelling of the events from Gethsemane to the cross. The film has attracted massive debate. Released in the US on Ash Wednesday, 25th February, the film is a labour of love, which Gibson, who is a practising Catholic, has mostly funded himself.

The film tells the story of the final 12 hours of the life of Jesus Christ, and, through flashbacks, provides the context. Using Aramaic and Latin throughout – with English subtitles – people who have attended preview screenings of the two-hour film have variously described it as

‘intense’, ‘a spiritual experience’ and ‘almost unbearable’.

Mel Gibson travelled to Billy Graham’s home to show him a special screening and discuss his decade-long spiritual journey that inspired him to make the movie. The widely respected veteran evangelist was positive saying; “I was moved to tears. I doubt if there has ever been a more graphic and moving presentation of Jesus’ death and resurrection”.

It seems likely it [The Passion of the Christ] will be granted a 15 certificate in UK cinemas. It is possible that millions of Britons will see this movie over Easter, giving the Church an extraordinary opportunity.

Details and trailers can be found at www.thepassionofthechrist.com

Source: Christianity & Renewal magazine – March 2004.



Flower Rota

	Arranging	Distributing
March 7	Betty Billins	Heather Swann
14	Winifred Scopes	Sue Tester
21	Heather Swann	Dorothy Forster
28	Lucy Thom	Betty Peter
April 4	Lyn Tucker	Jacqueline Wood
11	– Easter Sunday	Iris Bingham
18	Janet Wade	Fiona Tingley
25	Carol Walters	Heather Swann



our church's vision statement

Lindfield United Reformed Church – worshipping God,
sharing the good news of Jesus and seeing lives changed by his love.

We are committed to:

- encountering God through daily praise, prayer and bible reading.
- encouraging one another to discover and fulfil God's plan for our lives.
- demonstrating God's love by meeting physical and spiritual needs, local and worldwide.

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