

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2003



- **The Purpose Driven Life: book review.**
- **Derrick Hillman's tractor adventures.**
- **PLUS... what's on in the village during October.**

FREE
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF



Who are we serving?

I have always admired the music and work of Bob Dylan. So I was struck by the title of a newly released CD “Gotta Serve Somebody – The Gospel Songs of Bob Dylan”. I am very familiar with the song and was intrigued as to why this title, from among many, had been given to the collection of gospel songs. Wasn’t the gospel stomper “Saved”, now sung in many churches, a better choice?

On reflection I realised that the title does hit the mark. Part of the song goes, “You may serve the devil or you may serve the Lord but you’ve gotta serve somebody”. Dylan, always an acute social observer, is getting into the area of worship here. Whether we consciously realise it or not, all of us serve, follow or worship somebody or something. We don’t live our life in a vacuum. We will get our life values from somewhere.

Where is your heart? What or whom do you follow and serve? At the heart of our Reformed faith, The Westminster Catechism says, “Man’s chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever”. In other words we are created to worship. It’s part

of our very make up as human beings. And if we do not worship our Creator, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we will surely worship something and follow a particular life style, e.g. a football team, a pop idol or even a car.

The Christian writer C. S. Lewis pointed out that those who do not worship God live impoverished lives; their souls are unhealthy because the soul is designed to function best when it is in touch with its Creator – when it reaches out to Him in an attitude of praise and worship. There can be no real life in the soul, no completeness in the personality if true worship of God is absent. To worship God in spirit and in truth is ‘simply to be awake, to have entered the real world’. Or to put it bluntly no worship, no spiritual health.

So Dylan’s “Gotta Serve Somebody” gets to the heart of the human condition – if it’s not the Lord we are serving then we will surely be serving something else. For our spiritual wholeness and completeness it must surely be the Lord we worship and serve.

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 November edition is noon, Sunday 12th October 2003. 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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Editorial



Some of you, dear readers, may be shocked and staggered to see we haven't featured the traditional festival of Harvest as our feature this month.

There are a number of reasons for this – but I do hope you are inspired by Bob Warwicker's walk (page 4) and if you still want to get in the Harvest mood – there is a super interview with Derrick Hillman on page 20 all about tractors!

One feature makes a welcome return – spot Nikki Taylor's missionary tales on page 19. Twenty Questions has suffered through lack of participants, and will, I fear, become more of an irregular feature unless more of you good folk are willing to expose your inner thoughts!

Mike Gardiner kindly gives us the next installment in our book of John Bible study on page 16.

You can find out plenty of events going on on the centre pages – including an opportunity for a Barn Dance! If you know of something happening in the village in November – do drop me a line so it can be included.

Meanwhile, sit back and enjoy your GoodNEWS read...

David Tingley

Prayer Diary



SUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pray for all the departments of Junior Church and the Creche.• For the teachers, especially those teaching in a different group this term. Uphold our Young People's work and its staff.
MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remember the work that goes on during the week, including the Concourse ministry, the Brigades, the lunches for the elderly, Pop-In, the Fellowship, In Touch, the prayer times.
TUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pray for world situations, including Israel and Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, the continent of South Africa and Northern Ireland• Uphold world leaders and all seeking to find ways to peace.• Ask God's help and protection for workers in relief agencies.
WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask God's blessing on the work of the Bible Society, our mission focus this month.• Pray for the translators and distributors of the scriptures, at home and abroad.• Pray that the Bible may be more widely read and understood.
THUR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please pray for Colin, our minister, and for Catherine in her new job at Compton House.• Remember their family, too, that each of them will quickly adjust to new challenges and circumstances.
FRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the wider URC, remember the meetings of the District Council on 10th October and the Synod on 11th October.• Pray for all retired ministers in Sussex East District and for all Synod officers.
SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uphold the pastoral work in our church.• In particular Colin, the Pastoral Group and all who visit the sick, elderly or house-bound.• Pray for those who are facing sickness or trauma at this time.

Hot foot from John O’Groats

Between 29th March and 7th June 2003, Bob Warwicker, a URC minister from Sheffield, walked from Land’s End to John O’Groats during a sabbatical break. GoodNEWS caught up with him to find out why and how he did it – and what he learnt from the experience.

WHY?

There were actually several reasons: I was able to meet people from several churches (and people of no church) and ask them about how the world was changing. I raised a bit of money on the side for Christian Aid. I was able to do something I liked doing (walking), and walking gives you a unique view of the world, a view from “below”.

But when all conceivable routes fed me onto the A30, when I was stumbling across a sun-baked, hoof pitted field in Wiltshire, when I walked all day in the Yorkshire rain or when I sat alone at the end of the day in an Edinburgh room with my feet burning from the ache – I didn’t really know “why” either.

Don’t get me wrong: on the whole, it was a fantastic experience. The weather was unusually good and when it wasn’t good it was interesting. The journey was full of crossing points and of things that marked

progress... the Pennines, the Tyne, the Cheviots, those last, low hills of Caithness before you see the Pentland Firth and many more besides – they all put a spring in my step. It was wonderful to be welcomed into so many people’s homes. It was great that so many people were willing to give up their time to listen to my questions. It was lovely to be prayed for, both in my presence and in my absence... although it did feel a bit odd at times being prayed for with the kind of passion that ought to be reserved for people in serious need: what’s a couple of sore feet in comparison to the trials of an Iraqi?

I learnt a lot. Complete strangers opened up to me. One of the surprising things about the walk was the number of conversations I had that I can’t really report because they were so private.

MORE >

Dear Diary...

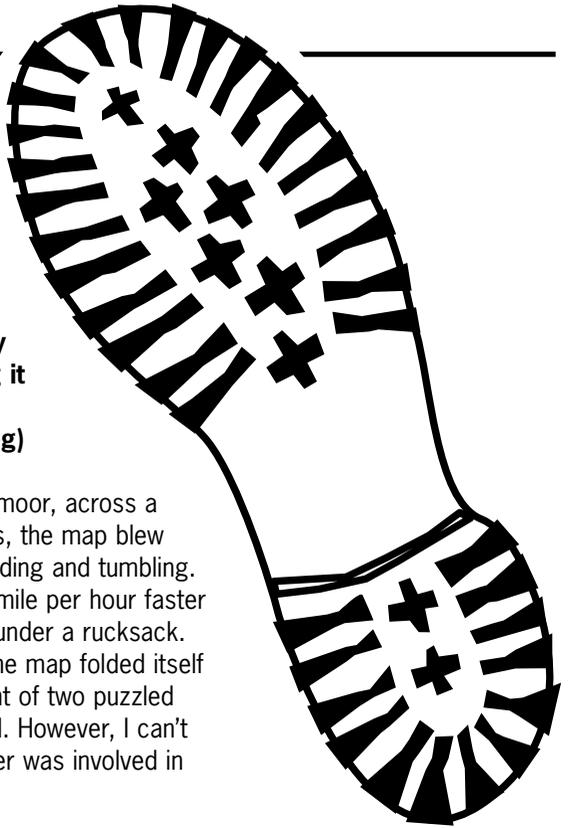
During the walk Bob kept a diary on a palm computer – uploading it daily to his progress website (www.bobjanet.demon.co.uk/lejog)

From Bodmin “On the way off the moor, across a sloping tract of close cropped grass, the map blew out of my hand and up the hill, unfolding and tumbling. It was just that crucial fraction of a mile per hour faster than a fat man labouring up the hill under a rucksack. Just as I was giving up the chase, the map folded itself again and sank to the ground in front of two puzzled sheep. From then on I clung on hard. However, I can't honestly say that the power of prayer was involved in this incident.”

From Gloucestershire “There was a house on the main crossroads in Fairford with a ‘not in my name’ poster. Bless them for their courage. I still don't have any certainty about this war, but I still think it probably wasn't the right thing. Maybe when Mr Bush's mother was busy telling the young George about the evils of pretzels, she'd have been better employed telling him what my mother told me, which is that two wrongs don't make a right.”

From Soutra Hill “[There was a] stock wagon parked on a slope in the layby. The effluent from a number of rather excited livestock was flowing freely out of the back corner and down the tarmac opposite the snack trailer. This was the cause of a lot of conversation around the bacon sandwiches, not much of it complimentary to the driver.”

From the last day “I crossed the small hill near Brabster in a light hail, first fruits of a shower cloud. Suddenly the Pentland Firth was there, and the Orkneys, closer than I had expected. Progress again, and the larks were celebrating for me. ...And so we went down to the end. There were a fair few tourists there in the sunshine (there had hardly been a soul at Land's End in the mist). So that was that. I felt like any tourist anywhere and we had an ice cream.”

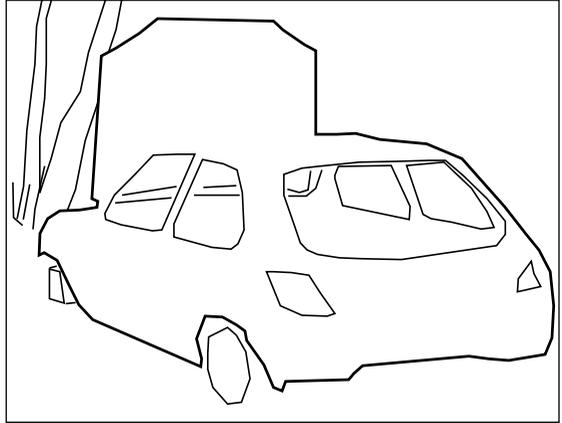


Questions about change

I learned a great deal from my “on the record” questions: individuals and groups answered my questions on the summit of the Quantocks, in their own houses, or in a parish church in Bristol which I gatecrashed.

When I asked, lots of people cited “working life” as something that had changed. The nature of work, working hours, women at work, Sunday working, unemployment; all these and more were mentioned. It might have been because they knew my day job was “industrial mission” (I work for the United Reformed Church but within industry in Sheffield) that they said these things, but I doubt it. I felt there was a serious belief here that working life mattered to people and therefore mattered to God.

Lots of people mentioned “family life” as a big change – the changing status of women, the consequences of women being able to control their own fertility, the increase in divorce and “living together” arrangements all featured. Unsurprisingly, there was less unanimity about whether some of these changes were a “good thing”, although I found more



common ground than I expected between conservatives and liberals.

One thing that I didn't expect to hear about so much was the care of old and vulnerable people. Lots of people were concerned about this, mostly from the point of view of children wondering what was going to happen to their ageing parents.

The thing that cheered me up the most in what people said was this, from a group meeting in Winscombe;– “Why can't we talk about the changes we want to happen?” Because Christians don't just experience change – we make it happen as well.

HIGH's

- One of the best bits was striding across the Pennines between Oldham and Halifax. I was heartily singing in the wind and the rain because I knew nobody else could hear me.
- The West Highland Way was good. This is the entry from my web diary from the day I walked across Rannoch Moor; "It will never be better than this. The walking has been easy, and the feet good. I have been in this great theatre where a show of light, cloud and sky and massive peaks and shining lochans and passing showers has been playing out all around me. Other people are in this theatre, too; there's a little cohort of people using the same stopping places and passing and greeting one another. They've seen the same light and shade and rock and water, and maybe they've been caught up by it too. But we each have our own scripts: we each have our own ideas of the play to which these elements belong. I say God is in this place, that's my script."
- There were many, many high points, but oddly, getting to the end wasn't one of them.

LOW's

- I guess the lowest low point was walking into Manchester in the gathering gloom, when it almost showered with rain but couldn't quite manage it. I was tired, I hadn't been well and every place and everyone on the road seemed hard. Fortunately, I already knew Manchester well enough to know it was a good place and the gloom came only from the weather and what was inside me.

A prayer reflection

*May God bless you on the journey.
If it rains, may you not arrive wet.
If the load is heavy, may it not break you.
If the path is steep, may you not fall.
If you are tired, may you find rest.
If you have far to go, may a friend greet you
at the end.*

*Very many thanks to Bob Warwicker for putting together these collective thoughts from his amazing journey. If you want to hear more of his sabbatical challenge – check out his website at www.bobjanet.demon.co.uk
– Ed.*

Balcombe United Reformed Church

Bramble Hill, Balcombe, RH17 6HR

Contact: Mrs Leonie Wren (01444 811253)

Our main services are held at 11am on the first and third Sunday of each month and the children usually go out to Sunday School during the second part of the service. Visitors are always welcome.



**Speakers for October
are as follows:-**

5th HARVEST FESTIVAL – Rev Richard Tucker

19th Rev Colin Bones



Can you save and fill a shoebox?

Last year we collected over 150 shoeboxes to give to various age children across the world through Samaritan's Purse. It was fantastic to see them all piled at the front of the church. Something so enjoyable for us to do but which makes such a difference to a child's life. This year we are again collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. They are distributed to some of the poorest children in over 100 countries worldwide regardless of their nationality, political background or religious beliefs.



If you would like to pack a shoebox please collect a leaflet from the missions table and follow the instructions. You can fill a box for either a boy or girl aged 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 years old with toys, sweets or other small gifts. There are one or two things you can't include which are specified in the leaflet. Please wrap the box and the lid separately and enclose a cheque for £2 made payable to Samaritan's Purse to cover transport costs.

Please bring the shoebox to church on 9th November and we will forward them on.

If you can't fill a shoebox but would like to contribute to the work of Samaritan's Purse please take a missions envelope and give in the normal way.

Missions Group

EA say Cam is OK!

Cameron Stout, who polled more than half the votes cast in the Big Brother final, back in July, became the fourth winner and renowned for his Christian faith during the nine-week reality television show.

“The fact that an obviously committed Christian has won a popular TV show is great!” said Cathy Le Feuvre, Head of Media at the Evangelical Alliance. The way that Cameron stood up for his beliefs in the Big Brother house, under constant surveillance, was fantastic. We hope that some of the issues raised by Cameron will lead to a debate and a better understanding of the Christian way of life, especially among younger television viewers.

“Cameron’s views on sex before marriage and references to ‘What Would Jesus Do?’ bracelets mean he must be seen as a really positive role model. However, Cameron must be under a lot of pressure at the moment, and not just because the focus of attention is on him as the winner of Big Brother. We want him to know that we’re praying for him and supporting him in what is probably a mad time for him right now!” Cathy said.

Source: Evangelical Alliance

Asylum-seekers made scapegoats say Church justice campaigners

Moderator-elect of the Churches Commission for Racial Justice, the Rev Myra Blyth, said that “time and again stories are told of how the dignity and humanity of asylum-seekers is continually denied by targeting them as scapegoats”, reports www.ekklesia.co.uk

In a recent report, senior police officers added: “Asylum-seekers are not the modern pariahs they are made out to be”. Officers found them generally to be “law-abiding” and “extremely positive” and they were more likely to be the victims of crime than the perpetrators.

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

Evangelist celebrates 20 years in style

Rob Frost, director of Share Jesus International, successfully climbed the three highest peaks in the UK to celebrate his 20th anniversary as a national evangelist. He was accompanied by more than 80 walkers from all the main Christian denominations, and they ranged in age from people in their teens to their 70s. On route up the mountains and at the peak they prayed for God’s blessing on the countries of the UK.

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

The Fellowship

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd October at 2.45pm, when our speaker will be our minister, Rev Colin Bones. Tea and biscuits will be served at the end of the meeting and there will be a Bring and Buy stall. All are welcome.

Thanks

It seems amazing that it is just over 25 years ago that Richard Tucker married us in our Lindfield URC. A beautiful warm day it was – we have many memories, thoughts and photos to reflect on now. God has blessed us in so many ways and has been alongside us in the ups and downs of everyday life.

Thank you all for your very kind wishes, cards and gifts that made our day so special on 2nd September 2003.

Terry and Alison Ward

...and more thanks!

A big thank you to my church family for the surprise and generous gift on my retirement from Lindfield Boys' Brigade.

The gardening voucher will be very useful and I will always treasure the book of Favourite Psalms by John Stott. The valued support and prayer has been so appreciated over many years.

Terry Ward

Matthew Wren is going to University at Guildford to study 'Entrepreneurship in Technology, IT and Business'.

Please pray for him in this new phase of his life.

bring & share LUNCH

Sunday, 19th October at 12.30 at the church

Have you looked at the "Who's Who" lately, or at the photograph board, and wondered who certain people are? Whether you attend the service at 9.30am, 11am or 6.30pm, whether you are young or old, this lunch will give you a chance to put a name to a face that you didn't know before! Bring something savoury and something sweet, enough for however many in your family, and we will share it all. Drinks will be provided. No after dinner speaker, but come along and get your 'share certificate'.

THIS LUNCH IS FOR EVERYONE!

U will be missed if **you** are not there!!

The Pastoral Group

THE ALPHA COURSE

For details of
a local course
call 01444 482405



Change is as good as 'bed rest' at Compton House

The Trustees of Lindfield Christian Care Home (LCCH) would like to tell everyone the following good news:

On 1st September 2003 Mrs Jean Painter became the care manager of LCCH bringing with her a wealth of experience in nursing and management. We continue using the familiar title of Matron, and we pray for her as she settles into her work at LCCH.

Within days of welcoming our new matron, the appointment of deputy care manager was confirmed, and we welcome Mrs Catherine

Bones into our management team; we pray that Catherine will soon adjust to her new role. Since arriving in Lindfield, Catherine has already been working at Compton House as night sister and is a very valued member of our nursing team.

Please pray for all the residents and all those who work in Compton House and Little Compton. The Lord hears each prayer and he will answer in his own perfect time when we are prepared to wait and listen.

On behalf of the LCCH Trustees – *Mies Brock*

Another great partnership

Congratulations to Winifred and John Scopes who celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on the 14th October.

They met at Church in Southampton in the late forties, when, at that time, the Above Bar Congregational Church and St Andrew's Presbyterian Church had already joined together due to war time bombing. This preceded the national union of the two denominations in 1972.

As with all couples, they have had ups and downs but they are very thankful for all the happy years that they have had together.



October diary

2nd

Thursday House Groups

5th

Sunday

9.30am Communion
Richard Walters
& Colin Bones

11.0am Colin Bones

6.30pm Philip Wren

8th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch
Fellowship

9th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting

10th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch
Fellowship

11th

Saturday 7.30pm *Barn Dance at
King Edward Hall. Tickets
£9 with Fish'n'Chip supper,
£5.50 without. Details:
Christine Giltrow 452328.

12th

Sunday

9.30am Richard Walters
& Colin Bones

11.0am Colin Bones
12noon Copydate for
October
GoodNEWS

6.30pm Communion
David Nibloe &
Colin Bones

16th

Thursday House Groups

19th

Sunday

9.30am Parade Service
Richard Walters
& Colin Bones

11.0am Ron Goodenough

6.30pm **No Service** –
United Celebration at Clair Hall

22nd

Wednesday 1.15pm *Christianity
Made Clear: Is death the end?
– Clair Hall, HH.
2.45pm The Fellowship
7.45pm Elders' Meeting

23rd

Thursday tbc *Lunchtime
Mezzo-soprano
& pianist
concert at King
Edward Hall
8.00pm Monthly Prayer
Meeting

26th

Sunday

9.30am Richard Walters
& Barry Piper

11.0am Communion
Barry Piper

6.30pm David Nibloe &
Dick French

*Week beginning 27th October:
'Educating Rita' will be performed by
Lindfield Dramatic Club at King
Edward Hall.



PARENTS' WEEK 20-26th October

Some family facts...

- There are 13 million families in the UK
- The average age at which a woman was likely to marry for the first time in 2001 was 28, for men it was 30
- In 1897 there were 504 divorces, in 2001 there were 143,818
- People from black and ethnic minority groups make up 7.6 per cent of the UK's population
- Sixty-five per cent of women with dependent children are in work
- Just over half the adult population of the UK is married
- The average full-time worker in the UK works for 38 hours a week

www.e-parents.org.uk

ADVANCE DIARY

9th Nov ***Remembrance Concert**
Ardingly College Choral Society. 01444 892316.

20th Nov ***Lunchtime concert (KEH)**
The Lindfield Quintet.

29th Nov ***Perdido Players Swing Night**
King Edward Hall. Tickets £7.50 inc Ploughmans Supper. Details: Christine Giltrow 01444 452328.

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

* = event not held at Lindfield URC

Sunday services explained...

The **9.30am service** is an opportunity for all age groups to join in a relaxed informal time. There is a crèche, and after about 20 minutes children and young people up to age 14 go out to their own groups on most Sundays.

Coffee is normally served between the morning services and after the evening one.

The **11.00am service** is usually more set and formal.

At **6.30pm** it is sometimes a celebration, sometimes a quieter ministry time and sometimes an open communion service or something quite different!

Personal prayer is available after every service. Prayer requests and brief statements of praise for answered prayer can be put in the red book on the concourse table. We can also offer personal prayer ministry at home or in hospital.

We **do not take up an offering** during the services, but all those wishing to give are invited to place a gift in one of the bowls at the doors before or after the service. Thank you.

Cassette **recordings of services** can be borrowed free from the church.

The Bible Society

The 26th October is Bible Sunday when we are reminded about the many people in the world who do not have access to a Bible. Well, we at Lindfield URC are giving over the whole of October to Bible Society for our regular Mission support. Some may think that it would be more helpful to distribute food rather than Bibles but the following article from “Word in Action”, the Bible Society magazine, will show how Bibles can also save lives.

Please visit the Missions Notice Board where you will find some “hand outs” which can help you pray and give to the Bible Society. If you wish to give a regular amount each month you may wish to donate to the “Bible a Month” club, details of which you will find on the Missions table. Many people in our church already give to this.

Bill Green
Missions Group.

P.S. We welcome Colin and Fiona Sutherland to the Missions Group.

2000–YEAR–OLD VACCINE

NAMIBIA CURRENTLY HAS 47,000 CHILDREN ORPHANED BY AIDS. IN TWO YEARS THE FIGURE WILL HAVE GROWN TO 89,000. IN FACT, STATISTICS SAY ONE IN FIVE OF THE POPULATION ARE INFECTED WITH THE DISEASE

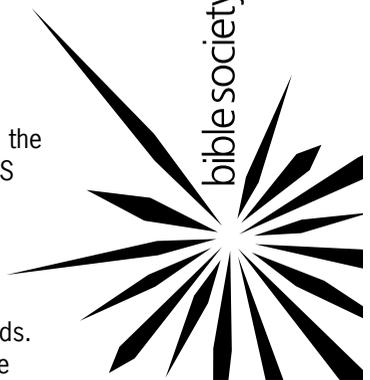
As part of its campaign to prevent the spread of AIDS among young people, the Bible Society in Namibia (BSN) is using TV and radio, as well as producing posters, to show the Bible as “the

2000–year–old vaccine”.

In its aim to limit the spread of AIDS over the next three to five years, the Bible Society is working with churches, AIDS–related organisations and the government’s AIDS programme to postpone the onset of sexual activity among 14 to 25–year–olds.

The Revd **Barnie**

bible society making the bible heard



van der Walt, BSN Executive Secretary, said the need for a preventive project was urgent. "The AIDS problem has long been neglected by the government and the Church. Namibia has the fourth highest rate of infection in the world, after Botswana, South Africa and Swaziland. Official statistics put the proportion of Namibians infected at one in five, but in some places it may be as high as one in four or even one in three."

One businessman believes, "Until the 1990s people did not realise the need for precaution, and the disease has hit hard the section of society which can afford to be the most promiscuous. Often, a young person's Christian morals have been a life-saving factor – literally."

The BSN is already distributing the Scripture Portion Living in Hope, first published by the Bible Society of South Africa, which is being used extensively across many African countries. It is available in print in all seven of Namibia's main languages, and almost 50,000 copies have already been distributed. Along with this, other Scripture materials will also be available, such as audio cassettes –

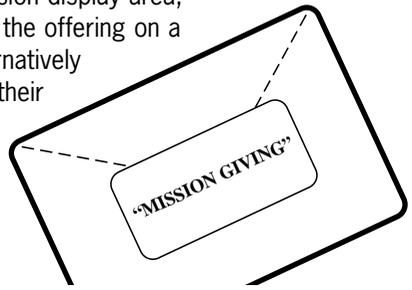
including audio versions of Living in Hope – and CDs.

YOU CAN HELP

We are committed to giving many more sick people around the world the opportunity to know God's message of hope and comfort during difficult times.

From AIDS sufferers in Namibia and the disabled in Paraguay, to sick patients in India and the deaf in Belarus – we hope to distribute Scriptures that are suited to the needs of the sick and disabled around the world. Your support of this work will enable thousands of people find comfort from God's Word – please give as you can.

At Lindfield URC – you can donate to The Bible Society through the "Mission Giving" offering envelopes. Pick one up from the Mission display area, and pop it in the offering on a Sunday. Alternatively you can call their donation hotline on 08459 272120.



Bible drama continues...

The Jews continue in their unbelief

³⁷ Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. ³⁸ This was to fulfil the word of Isaiah the prophet:

“Lord, who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

³⁹ For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

⁴⁰ “He has blinded their eyes
and deadened their hearts,
so they can neither see with their eyes,
nor understand with their hearts,
nor turn—and I would heal them.” ⁴¹ Isaiah said this
because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.

⁴² Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

⁴⁴ Then Jesus cried out, “When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. ⁴⁵ When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me. ⁴⁶ I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

⁴⁷ “As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. ⁴⁸ There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. ⁴⁹ For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. ⁵⁰ I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”

Some say that John's Gospel is a powerful two-act drama. An interesting idea – let's use it as a working hypothesis for this month's study.

John starts with a Prologue, remember, then 1v19 to the end of chapter 12 tell the story of Jesus' public ministry. Act Two would be chapters 13 to 20, recording Jesus' teaching to his followers, preparing them for his "glorification", ie his death and resurrection, which is the climax of the drama. Chapter 21 is then an epilogue.

On this view, the passage we're looking at serves as a resumé of Jesus' public ministry before the curtain comes down on Act One. Verses 37–40 are an expansion of 1v11 in the Prologue, then 44–50 repeat some key themes in Jesus' proclamation. Ideas of "seeing" and of light and darkness are prominent in John, and in verses 44–46, we have a recap from 8v12: the follower of Jesus comes out of darkness and into Jesus' light. By sad contrast, those who do not heed Jesus' words remain in the darkness and stand judged by their rejection of the Son of God.

John is obviously troubled that so many of his fellow-Jews had missed the boat – they had failed to become Jesus' followers despite the privilege of

witnessing his miraculous signs (v37). He reminds us that the people's blindness and hardness of heart had actually been foretold by God through the prophet Isaiah several centuries earlier. The prophecy of v39–40 may sound harsh, but it must be balanced by Jesus' promise in this same Gospel (6v37) that "whoever comes to me I will never drive away".

John never forgets to include the good news (v42) – that some even among the religious leaders had become believers. Elsewhere John tells us about two of them: Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea, and clearly there were others, all facing the dilemma of the cost of confessing their faith (read 7v45–52 to get the picture). We may sympathise with their position yet John says that they were missing out on praise from God – a play on words, because the Greek for "praise", *doxa*, is one of John's key words, usually translated "glory", as in v41 .

As elsewhere in John's Gospel, Jesus' words bring a challenge. The cost of confessing our faith may be high, but it is nothing compared with the eternal glory of life with Jesus. If this gospel is a two-act drama, perhaps we are meant to consider our response during the "intermission".

Mike Gardiner

The return to the throne

In our summer edition of GoodNEWS, we said a sad goodbye to our Missionary Tales feature – which had been a monthly diary entry, to us as a church, by Nikki Taylor. However, in a recent service you may have heard that Nikki now has new plans for the foreseeable future and, as a result, we welcome her back home to her regular feature – this time writing from Switzerland. Trudy Biersteker explains more about her work.

Nikki has been working for the past 3 years in Freetown, Sierra Leone with Mercy Ships New Steps Rehabilitation and Development Project. This project provides physical, financial and counselling services to those who are disabled.

Included in Nikki's role was setting up the computer network, giving technical support to the team of international and local staff, tutoring them in computer usage. She also managed the team accommodation and the reintegration of disabled children in schools programmes funded by UNICEF.

Her time in Sierra Leone finished in June and having thought that was her time finished with Mercy Ships, found that God had other ideas!

The international director for Mercy Ships New Steps, based in their Swiss office, asked if she would be willing to come and assist them in raising funds and providing technical

and logistical support to her colleagues on the field in Sierra Leone.

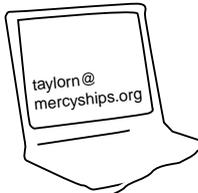
The government of Sierra Leone has just given a piece of land for a permanent rehabilitation centre. At present they operate out of rented accommodation with very bad access for the disabled. So they are in the process of raising funds not only for the continuation of the programme but also for the building of the new centre. The director has been very ill after an operation and complications. They urgently needed someone who already knows the situation and has skills in organisation and administration. Nikki has agreed to cover the post for 3 months with a view to a further 3 months.

The cost of living in Switzerland is significantly higher than in Sierra Leone and Nikki has to raise her finances herself so if you wish to support her please pick up her letter (from Missions Display area) or see me.

Trudy Biersteker

My world

Missionary tales by Nikki Taylor



Time has passed quickly since leaving Sierra Leone. I had a wonderful break up in Iona with my church and attended weddings of friends, had friends to visit, visited friends and spent a month looking after my Grandad who has been very ill with shingles. He is nearly 95 now and is planning a trip to visit me in my new location in Switzerland.

My Grandad was a minister with the URC church for 35 years and is thrilled that I decided to become a missionary. He doesn't always understand how different missions operate and sometimes gets confused as to where I am and what I am doing but he has been a stalwart supporter for 4 years now. I know that he spends much time with the Lord on my behalf (although it is not on the original knees). 'The prayers of the righteous avail much'. This must be true as I could never have got nearly this far by myself!

So Switzerland... I am looking forward to participating in the churches near Geneva and Lausanne – they are very lively! There is a big focus on youth ministry in the Mercy Ships base I am living at. It should be very different from Sierra Leone and my home in Shropshire. So I start with my new job on Monday... I am excited about what God has in store for me in this new place.

He ploughs the fields and

When GoodNEWS got wind of the fact that Lindfield URC church member, Derrick Hillman, had a vintage tractor in his garage – we wanted more information! So we sent John Blake in to harvest some answers.

JB: Derrick, harvest over, farming thoughts turn to ploughing, ready for next years' cropping. Standing in your driveway is a restored old T20 Ferguson tractor. How old is it and why have you done this?

DH: The tractor is a 1951 model. This type of tractor was the earliest I drove on the farm, so it was restoring a bit of my farming history and background.

JB: How did you do this and how long did it take?

DH: This machine was a non-runner, very rusty, and needing some replacement parts, so I stripped it down, cleaning and freeing all its working parts, then painted it to its original colour grey. The whole process took me twelve months (part-time!).

JB: Lets go back in time! What started your interest in tractors and ploughing?

DH: When I left school, I wanted

to be involved in farming, in particular ploughing, as I came to realise it is the important basis for growing plants and crops on the land. Besides all this it is an interesting and satisfying job that develops into a skill and craft.

JB: You are a first class ploughman and have won many prizes at ploughing match competitions. Can you tell our readers when and where you first tried your hand at a competition, also the value you feel these competitions have even in today's much changed farming scene?

DH: My first competition match was the then Mid-Sussex Society's event at Borde Hill Estate in 1948 or '49. These traditional ploughing matches open the craft to increased skill for competitors and part of the farming scene to the public.

JB: So when and where are your first competitions this season?

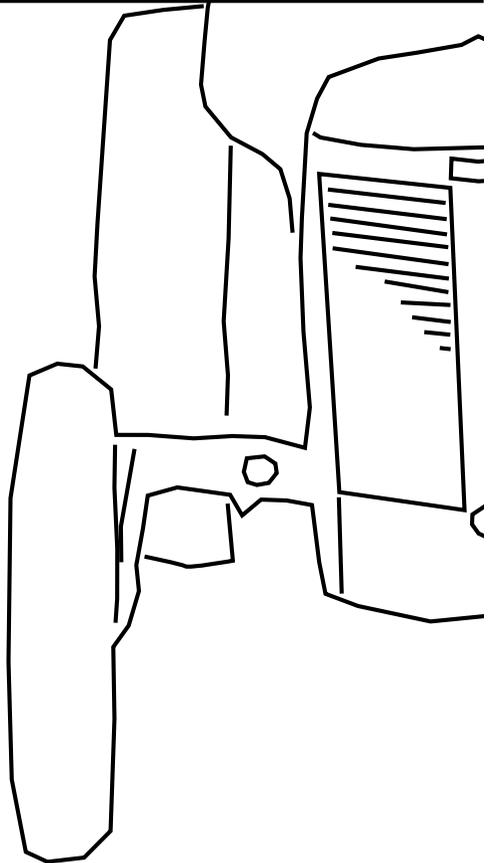
scatters

DH: I am planning to enter the Hurstpierpoint and Crowborough matches. My entry will be in the Vintage ploughing class, this means tractors of an age prior to 1960. This is now one of the largest classes at competitions.

JB: Finally, how do you see your acknowledged Christian faith in relation to the countryside, farming and in particular the skill needed to make a good job?

DH: I feel that through ploughing the Lord has taught me patience! Being a Christian helps me understand the countryside and God's creative continuing part in it.

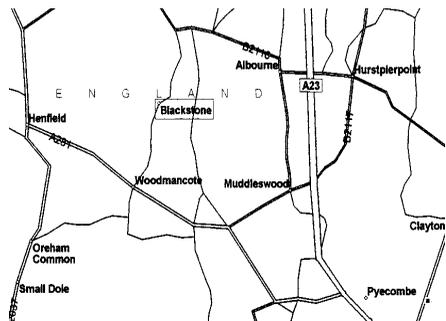
JB: Thank you Derrick for that interesting discussion that opened up memories for me too!



HURSTPIERPOINT PLOUGHING MATCH

If you wish to see Derrick and his tractor in action – he will be entering the Ploughing Match at Blackstone Grange Farm on Saturday 4th October.

For more information, speak to Derrick or visit the website:
www.geocities.com/ploughingmatch



What on earth am I here for?

Church secretary, Ron Goodenough, finds Rick Warren's follow-up book to 'The Purpose Driven Church' a must for anyone seeking God's direction in their lives.

The above headline is the strap line for Rick Warren's latest book; **'The Purpose Driven Life'** and it is a 'must read' for every Christian who wants to grow and be effective in their witness and ministry – and even discover what their ministry is.

Rick Warren is the pastor of Saddleback Church in California but before you stop reading this review, **THE BOOK IS NOT AMERICAN!!** I believe it is one of the most important and significant books that have been written recently.

It's more than a book; it is a guide to a 40-day spiritual journey by the end of which you should know God's purpose for your life and understand the big picture.

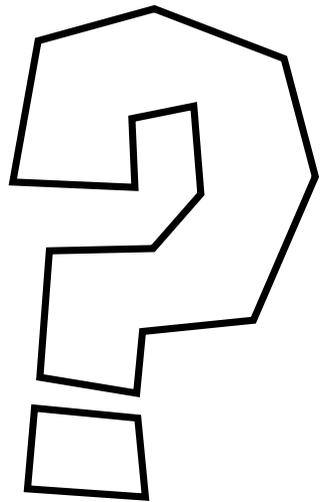
Forty days was a very significant period of time in the bible for many people and the book is divided into 40 short chapters. The plan is to read a chapter a day and resist the temptation to read ahead!! There is a verse of scripture to memorise and a question to consider at the end of each chapter. The book is not heavy going but it is challenging. In

examining why we are here the book covers such subjects as; developing friendship with God, belonging to His family, becoming like Christ, defeating temptation, discovering our gifts, serving and telling others.

To quote from the back cover of the book 'knowing God's purpose for creating you will reduce your stress, focus your energy, simplify your decisions, give meaning to your life and, most importantly, prepare you for eternity'.

I think it's fair to say we all need that. So get along to a Christian bookshop and buy your copy. Then find out who else is reading it and share with them, you'll find that helpful too.

Ron Goodenough



A recipe for retirement

For a good many years now Peter 'Mac' (as he is affectionately known to some) has ministered to Lindfield URC at various times as part of his itinerant ministry. Some of you will remember when his wife, Kay, was our pastoral assistant in the early '90s. Of course, he was the moderator of national URC's General Assembly for a year, and he has travelled widely in the UK and further afield, particularly during that year of high office.

He was the Director of the URC's Conference Centre at Windermere for seven years, and latterly Director of Lomas House in Worthing. Now he has just retired. A number of us from Lindfield hope to attend the service to celebrate Peter's ministry to be held in Reigate on September 20th. (In fact, the Sunday Morning Singers have been asked to sing before the ceremony begins!) So, what food for thought can we give to Peter, and to any others reading this who may have just retired or are anticipating retirement?

- R** – reduce stress
- E** – enjoy
- T** – tired? – then rest
- I** – income – less than before!
- R** – relax, be renewed & restored!
- M** – minister to those around you
- E** – exercise body, mind and spirit
- N** – neurotic and forgetful!
- T** – trust in God

Well, congratulations on your retirement, Peter! May God bless you and Kay as you seek His will as to how you might both serve Him in the future.

If you have been blessed with reaching that precious time of being retired, then see it as a gift from God; new opportunities; new experiences to enrich your life; frustrating and hard at times, yes, but God is always there to help you through the difficulties. Remember, God loves us and wants what is best for each one of us His children.

Fo Tingley



Flower Rota

	Arranging	Distributing
Oct. 5	Heather Swann	Sue Tester
12	Jessie Green	Dorothy Foster
19	Mildred Taylor	Betty Peter
26	Jean Baxter	Jacqueline Wood
Nov. 2	Ann Blake	Iris Bingham
9	Betty Billins	Fiona Tingley
16	Sue Waller	Heather Swann
23	Chris Caswell	Sue Tester
30	Dorothy Forster	Dorothy Forster

Church activities

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

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

PRAYER MEETINGS:

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

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

House Groups normally meet 1st and 3rd Thursday

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

Phonebook



Church Telephone Number:

01444 484620

Boys' Brigade:

Geoffrey Cocksedge
01444 474007

Cradle Roll:

Sue Tester 01444 482810

Flowers:

Betty Billins 01444 484494

Girls' Brigade:

Margaret Luscombe
01444 412156

Hall Letting Secretary:

Audrey McKee 01444 415031

In Touch:

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Lunch Fellowship:

Wednesday:
Iris Green 01444 484117
Friday: Gwen and
Derrick Hillman 01444 456963

Magazine: Editor:

David Tingley 01444 451024

The Fellowship:

Jessie Green 01444 452708
Roy Billins 01444 484494

Stepping Stones:

Janet Goodenough
01825 740351

Transport:

Tina Elphick 01444 484440

Youth and Children's Work

Co-ordinator:

Rob Biersteker 01444 440835

Junior Church Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683