

# GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2004

## "How to be happy at harvest"

The psychology of giving thanks



PLUS...

- Tales from Brenda Johnson in Malawi.
- Sermon notes for October.
- Boys' Brigade report and update.



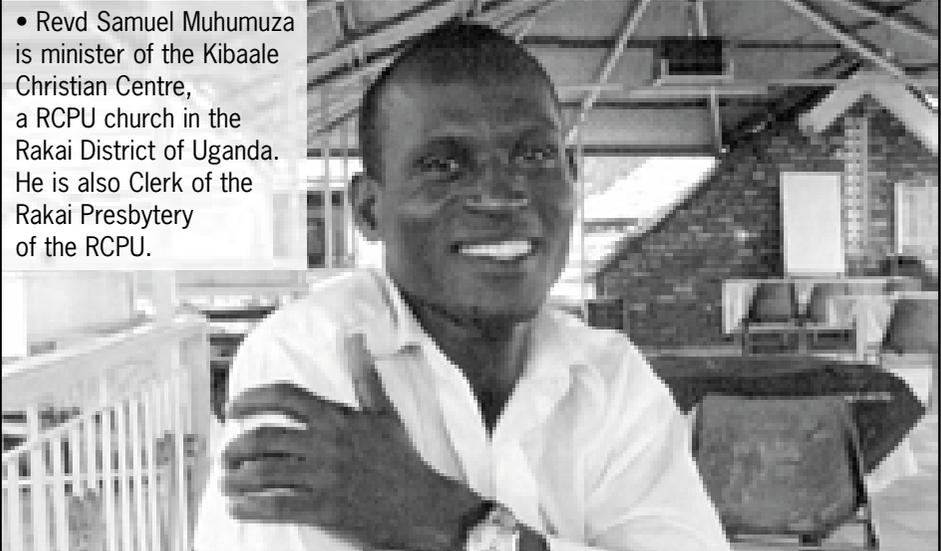
# Harvest

## Thanksgiving weekend

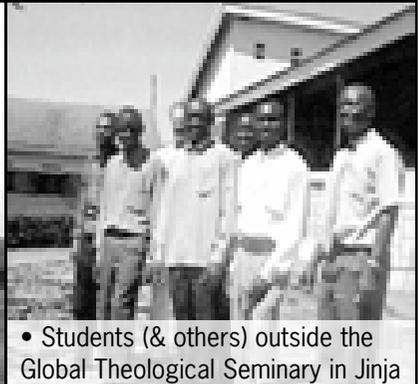
**W**e are delighted that Revd Samuel Muhumuza will be with us for the Harvest weekend. Samuel is minister of the Kibaale Christian Centre in the Rakai District of Uganda. He will be joined by another minister from Mbarara and will share something of their work in Uganda and that of the Romans 1:11 Trust.



- Revd Samuel Muhumuza is minister of the Kibaale Christian Centre, a RCPU church in the Rakai District of Uganda. He is also Clerk of the Rakai Presbytery of the RCPU.



- Land being bought by the RCPU in Nyamiyaga



- Students (& others) outside the Global Theological Seminary in Jinja



## **Harvest – a global event**

**When I was growing up in north east Essex in a rural community, the Harvest service was a very special event. We used to bring a plough into church for “the blessing of the plough”. A successful harvest was important in so many ways, not least to the local economy.**

The soil in that part of the country is particularly good for growing cereals and root crops. We gave thanks to God and brought such produce into church as a symbol of all that He provided – the soil, seed, crops, sun and rain. The harvest produce was afterward shared with those in need in the community. It was very much what we understand as a traditional harvest with a local focus.

Today however, a new note to harvest has been introduced – a Biblical one – that of sharing God's abundance with the world's poor. Today, as we rightly give thanks for God's provision to us, we cannot help but be aware of situations that exist in places like Sudan and Bangladesh. Relief agencies like Tearfund now produce harvest service packs which keep us informed and up-to-date as to how we can best respond.

It is not simply a matter of literal sharing but responding to issues, such as: third world debt, giving when disaster strikes, giving to aid communities in their development and engaging in action on fairly traded goods. This is now a ‘small’ world and I think that is how God sees it. One of the best ways to work out this harvest dimension is to establish links with other churches or communities in very different situations to our own.

Over the Harvest Weekend, 2nd/3rd October, the congregations at Lindfield and Balcombe will be privileged to receive and hear Rev. Samuel Muhumuza from the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Uganda (more about Samuel's visit on page 16). We shall be able to celebrate Harvest in all its dimensions.

*Colin Bones, minister*

# GoodNEWS

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## Editorial

**Notice with interest that Southern trains latest slogan is: “expect more...”. A curious choice, and, to my mind, worthy of comment for two reasons.**

Firstly, it seems a bit of a recognition by the operator that the train-travelling public should indeed get more from them; ie, an admission that they have, thus far at least, not been delivering a sufficiently reasonable service.

Secondly, it seems an odd choice of words as it can only ever disappoint the customer. Even when they might meet what we thought was never possible - we will still be told to expect more; they will never meet the standard!

The notion to expect more also seems out of line with our Harvest theme this month – as we explore the idea of being content and thankful for all that God has done for us. Read more from page 4.

There seems to be plenty of the theatrical on this month. Page 11 gives details of a musical in Lewes and a show being produced at The Hawth in Crawley.

Do go and support these events; I would love to have reviews in the November issue!

Elsewhere, all the usual suspects, plus excerpts (page 18) from a recent letter sent by our own mission mogul - Brenda Johnson - as she gets to grips with life in Malawi.

*David Tingley, editor*



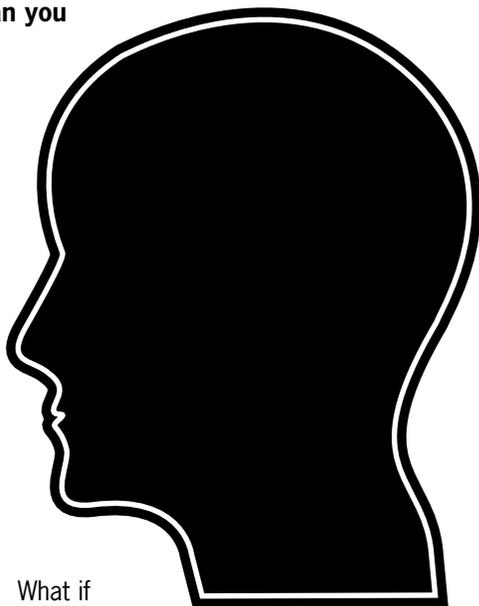
<b>SUN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray that the Holy Spirit may fall afresh on us as a church, to inspire our leaders &amp; to encourage &amp; renew us all.</li> <li>• Pray that we may grow in our love for God and for each other.</li> </ul>
<b>MON</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>TUE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for world situations where there is conflict &amp; poverty.</li> <li>• Uphold world leaders &amp; all seeking to find ways to peace.</li> <li>• Ask God's help &amp; protection for workers in Relief Agencies.</li> </ul>
<b>WED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remember the wider work in the United Reformed Church:</li> <li>• For the Southern Province – Nigel Uden (Provincial Moderator), Graham Campling (Synod Clerk) &amp; other Officers (meeting 9th October.)</li> </ul>
<b>THUR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Sussex East District, in particular the churches at Polegate, St Barnabas, St Luke's Hampden Park, Crowborough, Hassocks, Uckfield and for Haywards Heath (now facing a pastoral vacancy).</li> </ul>
<b>FRI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for 'Alive '05', the three churches mission to Lindfield.</li> <li>• Uphold the students from Moorlands College &amp; all who will be organising and leading the events.</li> </ul>
<b>SAT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our mission focus – the Romans 1:11 Trust. Remember the visit of Rev Samuel Muhumuza (from Uganda) over the Harvest weekend.</li> <li>• Pray for church family whose surnames begin with N, P &amp; R.</li> </ul>

# Thank God I'm alive!

With Harvest weekend coming up early this month, giving thanks will be high on the agenda for all that God has done for us. Gregg Easterbrook, a writer and senior editor for the ecumenical website [BeliefNet.com](http://BeliefNet.com), finds out if there is more to gratitude than you might first think!

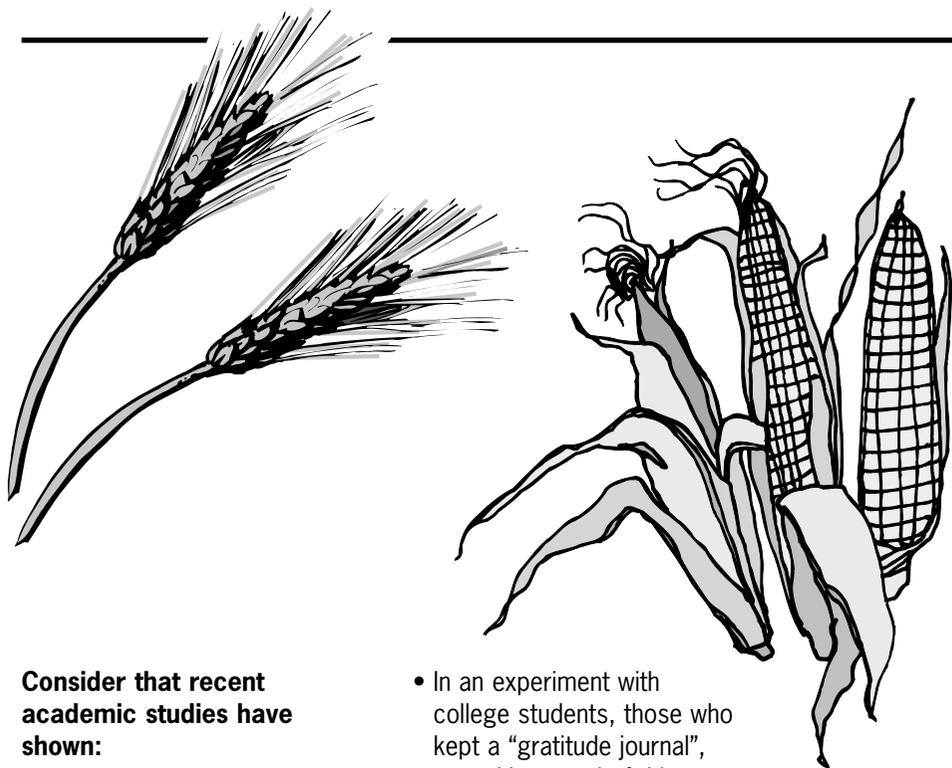
**W**e're supposed to feel gratitude on Thanksgiving Day, and not merely for being stuffed with delicious fowl, wine, and pies. On this day, we should feel broadly grateful to be alive and to have a place in a world that is strange and beautiful.

On other days, we're supposed to feel thankful if someone does us a favour, or fortune smiles. For those who are religious, gratefulness before God is indispensable. And kids, when you get presents, you simply must send thank-you notes! But that's about it for gratitude, which has never finished high on the list of sentiments men and women are taught to cultivate, nor attracted many researchers studying elements central to psychological health.



What if that view is wrong?

Suppose thankfulness was not only among our most important positive emotions, but one that links directly to physical and mental well-being. Suppose it is in our self-interest to feel gratitude because it makes us better people. Surprisingly, that is what research is beginning to indicate.



**Consider that recent academic studies have shown:**

- People who describe themselves as feeling grateful to others and either to God or to creation in general tend to have higher vitality and more optimism, suffer less stress, and experience fewer episodes of clinical depression than the population as a whole.
- Grateful people tend to be less materialistic than the population as a whole and to suffer less anxiety about status or the accumulation of possessions. Partly because of this, they are more likely to describe themselves as happy or satisfied in life.
- In an experiment with college students, those who kept a “gratitude journal”, a weekly record of things they should feel grateful for, achieved better physical health, were more optimistic, exercised more regularly, and described themselves as happier than a control group of students who kept no journal.
- Grateful people are more spiritually aware and more likely to appreciate the interconnectedness of all life, regardless of whether they belong to specific religions.



“Psychology has generally ignored the positive emotions,” says Robert Emmons of the University of California at Davis, a psychologist and leading figure in the new field of gratitude research. “We tend to study the things that can go wrong in people’s minds but not the things that can go right. Gratitude research is beginning to suggest that feelings of thankfulness have tremendous positive value in helping people cope with daily problems, especially stress, and to achieve a positive sense of the self.”

Grateful people are not necessarily ones whom the world has showered with gifts; people of modest financial means or who have suffered personal tragedies nevertheless may report themselves as grateful, while the well-to-do and good-looking may exhibit little gratitude.

Why aren’t men and women today more aware of the value of gratitude? One reason, Emmons thinks, is the modern emphasis on self-reliance. Society conditions us to be self-made and independent. In that context, we don’t want to think about our indebtedness to others, including those who came before us.

The decline of intellectual respect for faith seems another factor. Mainstream academics and intellectuals now look down

on the idea of gratitude toward God as a rote church doctrine or even a primitive superstition. Other aspects of the modern milieu assume that the universe is just here, a product of soulless deterministic forces—and if mindless chemistry gave us life, why should anyone feel thankful for a meaningless molecular coincidence?

Yet religious feelings of gratitude should not be seen as belittling. When a person of faith thanks the divine for being granted life, he or she is expressing the joy that comes from knowing God wanted them to exist.

Today, researchers are beginning to study gratitude as part of the broader “positive psychology” movement that seeks to understand, not why some people become mentally ill, but why others become happy, optimistic, and altruistic. A sense of thankfulness for life, for the help and achievements of others, for the chance to experience each day’s sunrise, seems to be part of making psychology positive. Thus it is in our self-interest to feel grateful because it helps enrich our own experience of life. Thanksgiving, in this view, should be every day of every year.

Gregg Easterbrook

Source: [www.beliefnet.com](http://www.beliefnet.com)

# Remembering our blessings

**H**arvest Home in the UK is one thing, but what do other countries and traditions 'do' about Harvest? According to [www.beliefnet.com](http://www.beliefnet.com), many have officially celebrated holidays in Harvest's name..



**BRAZIL** – A National Day of Thanksgiving became official in 1949 as a public, official, and solemn glorification of the name of God. The Chief of State and others celebrate this holiday in the Cathedral of Brasilia with a solemn Te Deum on the fourth Thursday of November.



**CANADA** – A general Thanksgiving (Fete de Grace) and Harvest Home Festival was first observed in 1879. It is officially proclaimed yearly and celebrated on the second Monday in October.



**JAPAN** – The ancient festival by the Imperial Court is associated with rice offerings to both heavenly and earthly deities. "Labor Thanksgiving Day", is celebrated on November 23.



**SOUTH KOREA/  
NORTH KOREA** – Since



ancient times, a Harvest Thanksgiving known as "Chusok" has been observed with special religious rites in gratitude for ancestors and with prayers for their souls. Following the traditional Korean calendar, it is celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month.



**LIBERIA** – In 1870, the legislature recognized "Liberia's dependence on the great Arbiter of events and established a Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the many good and loving kindnesses shown toward us as a people". Its observation occurs on the first Thursday in November.



**SWITZERLAND** – The Federal Day of Thanks, Penance, and Prayer is an outgrowth of days established by religious and secular authorities since 1650. The modern observance, since 1832, on the third Sunday in September is a quiet day to review the good things received.



**UNITED STATES** – From the earliest tribes and settlements, many different traditions became by designation of the Continental Congress, in 1777, the first National Thanksgiving. The holiday is symbolized by George Washington's final Thanksgiving, which ended "impart all the blessings we possess or ask for ourselves, to the whole family of mankind..

## **Bereavement**

We extend our love and sympathy to **Hilary and Barbara Shepherd** and family on the recent death of Hilary's brother.

## **Thank you...**

**from Simon Lunt.**

Thank you for your kind gift of £1200 which was allocated to Turning Point. Every day we can testify to God's faithfulness as we hear what the Lord is doing in different parts of the world through OM. Your gift makes a difference.

Our prayer continues to be **Psalm 67**; May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us: may your ways be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

**from MERCY SHIPS.**

I am writing to thank you for your generous donation of £1200, towards the Mercy Ships New Steps Rehabilitation Centre. This will help us reach out to many people in desperate need. As you may know, New Steps is currently building a purpose designed rehabilitation and training centre at Waterloo, thirty miles from Freetown, Sierra Leone. The centre will enable New Steps to provide even better services and reach out to a wider number of people with disabilities. Your generous donation will help finish the project by the end of the year.

We would also like to thank all the members of Lindfield URC for their faithful support of Nicola Taylor, who has been a great asset to the New Steps team for the last four years.

Judy Polkinhorn. Executive Director of Mercy Ships UK.

## **from RELEASE INTERNATIONAL.**

Thank you for your generous donation of £1200 received recently towards the work of our mission. We are very grateful for your support in enabling us to continue helping our Christian friends who are persecuted for their faith.

With your help, Release International is able to provide assistance in many situations around the world where Christians are in such desperate need, either just basic living requirements or spreading the Gospel message through evangelism, Bibles and Christian literature.

Thank you for remembering our work in such a generous way.

## **The Fellowship**

The Fellowship meets on Wednesday 27th October at 2.45pm. Our speaker this month is Valerie Burholt who will talk about working for the BBC. Tea and biscuits will be served, and our Produce Bring and Buy stall will be open.

## ***Balcombe United Reformed Church***

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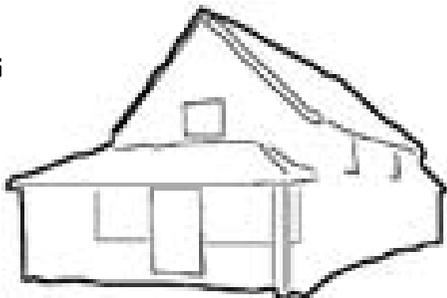
**Bramble Hill, Balcombe, RH17 6HR**

**Contact: Mrs Leonie Wren (01444 81125)**

Our services are held on the first and third Sundays in the month.

The children usually go out for Sunday School during the second half of the service.

Visitors are always welcome.



3rd October      Join with Lindfield URC

17th October    Colin Bones

### Happy birthday to the bible society

**The Bible Society** is celebrating its **200th birthday** this year and as the 24th October is Bible Sunday we are going to celebrate on this day. Keep your eyes open and your ears peeled for further news nearer the date.

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### Charity probe hits Scotland

Scottish churches may have to prove the worship they provide is good for society - or risk losing their charitable status. Church groups such as those working with drug addicts or the homeless would be exempt from new proposals. Congregations could be forced to show that a Sunday service or Bible class also offer public benefits, or lose charitable status with its tax and employment benefits.

Source: Christian Herald Weekly Newspaper

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### Great South Run

TRAIDCRAFT, the UK fairtrade organisation, are seeking runners to participate in Britains biggest and most popular 10 mile road event - the BUPA Great South Run. The historic naval city of Portsmouth will be the backdrop to the event, which is limited to 15,000 entrants, on 10th October.

Traidcraft, as an official charity, have a limited number of guaranteed entries, available to those who pledge the money they raise (no minimum) to them. If you raise over £500, you are entered into a competition to win a trip to Addis Ababa to participate in the Great Ethiopian Run in November 2004!

More information at [www.geoactive.co.uk/](http://www.geoactive.co.uk/)

### Church leader's big day

The Rev Chris Morley and his wife Myriel have moved into the Manse around the corner from Haywards Heath Methodist Church.

Mr Morley will give his full service at morning worship at the beginning of last month. Mr Morley was at Notting Hill Methodist Church for ten years and three and a half years ago married Myriel.

For Mrs Morley it is almost a homecoming as her grandfather and father, both fine art dealers, lived in Haywards Heath until the mid-30s.

She looks forward to continuing her personal and professional development as a transpersonal psychotherapist while supporting her husband in his ministry.

Once he has settled into his role of Superintendent Minister to the other Methodist churches in the circuit, Mr Morley hopes to involve himself in the successful Streetmate youth project, which is run through the Methodist Church and Churches Together in Haywards Heath.

Source: Mid Sussex Times

# Back by popular demand!

**Wildfire is Roger Jones' exciting musical about Stephen, the first of Jesus' followers to die for his faith. Produced last October in St. John-Sub-Castro Church, it is back by popular demand!**

Lewes Town Hall,  
Friday 15th October & Saturday 16th October  
8PM

*Refreshments available after the performance*

Starting on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit came with tongues of fire, we follow Stephen's ministry of service in the early church. Stephen was a man prepared to defend the truth before the religious leaders of his day, and to die for his beliefs, whilst forgiving his tormentors. From this point in history, the Gospel spread like wildfire!

**Members from many different Lewes churches are presenting "Wildfire" for the bonfire season.**

Tickets £4, available from: Fogdens Outfitters (Nr War Memorial), Harvey's Brewery Shop (Cliffe High St), Reeves Photographers (Bottle-neck). Also after services at most Lewes Churches.

The musical is written by Roger Jones. More about him can be found on the following web site. <http://www.cmm.org.uk>

## More than meets the eye

(A musical version of the Biblical story of Esther)



**18 –19th October, 7pm  
Hawth Theatre, Crawley (Studio)**

Tickets £7 and £5 concessions from (01293 553636)  
Hawth Box Office or [www.hawth.co.uk](http://www.hawth.co.uk)

Profits go to the lighthouse project (which provides Christian assemblies to 22 schools in Crawley) and the national centre for young people with epilepsy.

When a school friend of mine told me she was writing a musical, I was quite impressed. Now that she's actually finished it and is putting it on at the Hawth with Productions (a Christian theatre group) and a cast of over 30 I can't wait to see it! It should be a great night, please come and support it.

*Emma Wren*

## October church diary

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### 2nd

Saturday 7.30pm Harvest Supper

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### 3rd

Sunday 9.30am Harvest  
Thanksgiving -  
NO COMMUNION  
David Goodchild  
& Samuel  
Muhumuza  
11.00am Harvest  
Thanksgiving  
Colin Bones  
& Samuel  
Muhumuza

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#### NO EVENING SERVICE

#### Autumn Celebration at The Triangle

Leisure Centre 5.00pm - 7.00pm

- Speaker Revd David Coffey (President of Churches Together & Baptist Union General Secretary)

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### 7th

Thursday House Groups

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### 10th

Sunday 9.30am Adrian Cookney  
& Colin Bones  
11.00am Colin Bones  
6.30pm Communion  
David Nibloe  
& Jeremy  
Campling

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### 13th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

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### 14th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting

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### 15th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

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### 17th

Sunday 9.30am Parade Service  
David Goodchild  
& Cavan Wood

#### FAIRTRADE STALL BETWEEN SERVICES

11.00am Cavan Wood  
6.30pm Healing Service  
- David Nibloe  
& Colin Bones

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### 21st

Thursday House Groups

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### 24th

Sunday **Bible Sunday**  
9.30am Adrian Cookney  
& Colin Bones  
11.00am Communion  
- Colin Bones  
6.30pm David Nibloe  
& Colin Bones

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### 27th

Wednesday 2.45pm The Fellowship  
7.45pm Elders' Meeting

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OTHER LOCAL EVENTS  
LISTED ON BACK COVER

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28th

Thursday 8.00pm Monthly Prayer Meeting

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31st

Sunday 9.30am David Goodchild & Adrian Cookney's House Group  
11.00am Dick French  
6.30pm Adrian Cookney & Jeremy Heath

## 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.

# What's the 'preach'?

Colin Bones reviews what themes are coming up during October. Use them as a preparation for worship, or a personal study afterwards.



**This month we have an exciting beginning on 3rd October. Rev. Samuel Muhumuza from the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Uganda will be our preacher. As well as bringing God's word he will give us news of an exciting project in Uganda with which we might become involved through the work of the Romans One Eleven Trust. In the evening we have no evening service but will join other Christians in Sussex for a prayer event at the Triangle, Burgess Hill where David Coffey, President of Churches Together & Baptist Union General Secretary will be the speaker.**

In the mornings we move on through Ephesians tackling among other topics 'the blood of Christ', perhaps not preached on enough in today's church. We manage to include a Parade service on 17th to which we welcome Cavan Wood as our speaker. We celebrate Bible Sunday on 24th when we hope to have a guest from the Bible Society. On 10th and 24th morning services we shall bring or be bringing people into membership. Again, a varied programme in the evenings and we take in two more steps to freedom in Christ.

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**3RD OCTOBER – HARVEST**

**9.30 am AND 11.00 am**

– Harvest Services

(Romans One Eleven Trust focus)

Preacher – Revd. Samuel Muhumuza

**5.00 – 7.00 pm**

– **YOUR KINGDOM COME**

– **Lighting The Flame of Hope  
for Sussex**

Celebration, Prayer and Worship to  
the King. The Triangle Leisure Centre,  
Burgess Hill

Speaker – Revd. David Coffey

(President of Churches Together &  
Baptist Union General Secretary)

**10TH OCTOBER**

– **EPHESIANS RESUMES**

**9.30 am**

– Jigsaw for children  
& Membership service

**11.00 am** – Morning Worship

**Ephesians 2: 11-13**

– The Blood of Christ

There is no other way by which the  
sin of humankind can be covered  
except by Jesus' blood.

Preacher – Colin Bones

**6.30 pm** – Holy Communion

Preacher – Jeremy Campling

**17TH OCTOBER**

– **ANOTHER STEP TO FREEDOM (PM)**

**9.30 am** – Parade service

**11.00 am** – Morning Worship

Preacher – Cavan Wood

**6.30 pm**

– 3rd Step to Freedom in Christ  
Bitterness vs. Forgiveness

**Matthew 18: 21-35**

Preacher – Colin Bones

**24TH OCTOBER**

– **BIBLE SUNDAY**

**9.30 am** – Morning Worship

**11.00 am** – Holy Communion  
& Membership

**Ephesians 2: 14-22**

– One in Christ

Exploring what it means to be  
reconciled to God and to one  
another.

Preacher – Colin Bones.

**6.30 pm**

– 4th Step to Freedom in Christ  
Rebellion vs. Submission

**Romans 13; 1-7**

**& 1 Peter 2: 13-25**

Preacher – Colin Bones

**31ST OCTOBER**

– **GUEST PREACHERS**

**9.30 am** – Morning Worship led by  
Adrian Cookney's Housegroup

**11.00 am** – Preacher: Dick French

**6.30 pm** – Preacher: Jeremy Heath.



# The Romans One

## Uganda, visions for the future ....

**I**t was great to have John and Gwen Hall with us last year to talk about the work of the Romans One Eleven Trust. This is a wonderful work that emerged out of the International Charismatic Consultation on World Evangelisation for world church leaders held in Brighton in 1991. I was invited to attend and saw a vision of how we can be mutually encouraged (Romans 1: 11, 12) come to fruition.

African leaders asked for help from us in developing their churches – leadership training and setting up schools and clinics. We in turn asked if they could come and do preaching tours in the URC to inspire us in faith.

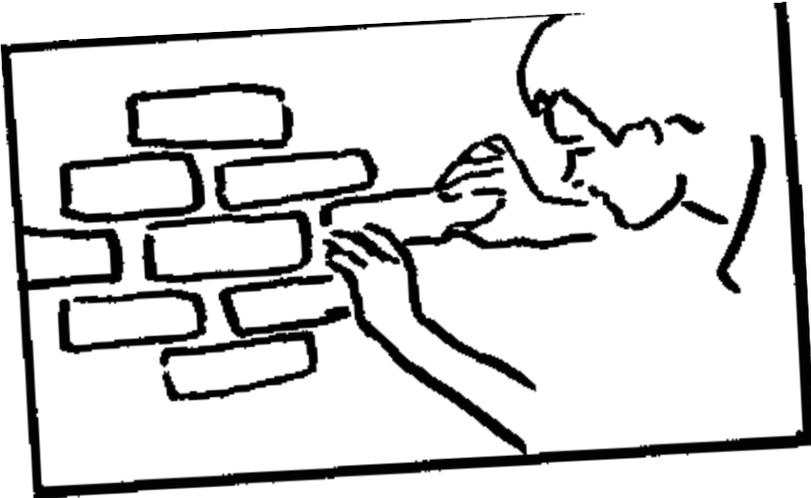
Since the Trust was set up in 1992 there have been 9 team visits to Uganda, 6 to Malawi, 4 to Zambia and 2 to Ghana. In Uganda alone land has been bought for 2 churches and help in building a further 6. We have helped construct a Bible College, a number of school buildings and an extended family home for orphans.

I have been on 4 of the visits to Uganda, mainly involved with leadership training and schools support and development. The reciprocal visits by the Ugandan pastors coming here to preach have been dynamic and faith building. With limitations of time and money it is amazing what has been accomplished by the grace of God.

I have mainly been involved in theological education in Uganda and we are to receive this month a visit from **Rev Samuel Muhumuza (Reformed Presbyterian Church in Uganda) from Kibaale Christian Centre**. He will be able to tell us first hand about a very exciting venture of developing “Spiritual Life Centres” strategically located in rural and poorer parts of Uganda, where local pastors with little finances or opportunity to access Bible training can come to be equipped for ministry.

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# Eleven Trust



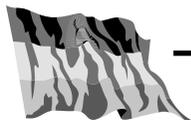
In the past I have helped to set up a Bible college in the capital, Kampala, but I also saw the need for these regional centres because it is not always practical for students to come to Kampala for training.

You cannot give support for training without helping to meet the practical needs of the people in the church and community. Samuel will be able to tell us much about their local area (near the Tanzania border), the church, the people and their needs and **most importantly how we can help and play our part.**

This is a unique opportunity for us as a congregation to hear first hand from a Ugandan brother in the Lord and to forge a partnership with will advance the Kingdom of God and to be mutually encouraged.

**Don't miss it!** Samuel will speak at the Mission Supper on Saturday 2nd October and at both Sunday morning services.

*Colin Bones*



Mon 30th August 2004

# Likkubrula House, Malawi

**I**t is difficult to write down what my first impressions have been. When we flew from Nairobi to Blantyre, most of the ground below looked brown and parched, even near Lake Malawi. However, as we came in to land the countryside became much greener and on driving the 100km from the airport to here (on a very good road), we began to see many tea estates, irrigation, maize, sugar cane, bananas, large trees and a few goats and cattle. Malawi has a large population for its size and there is a constant stream of people walking along the roadsides or pushing a bicycle laden with bananas, wood, sacks of maize – two or even three people on one bike! I even saw a single bed being transported on one! There are very few cars and most people use a variety of buses to go longer distances.

On Sunday we walked to church in the village with some of the ladies who live here. When we arrived, the service

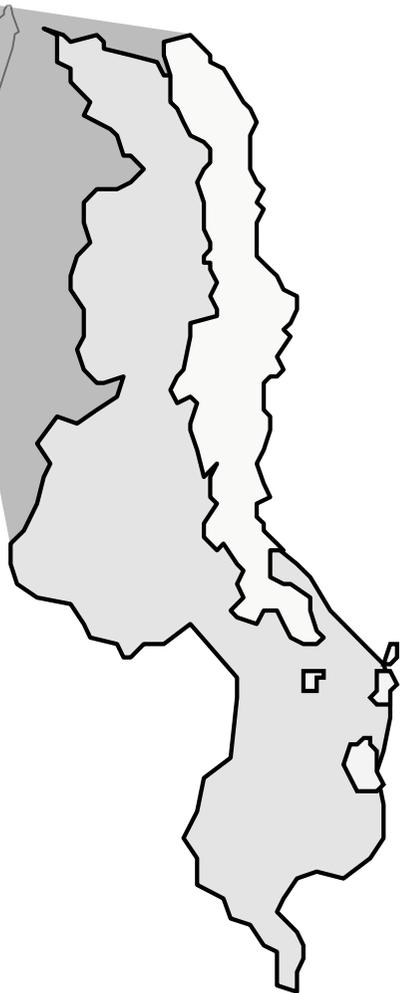
had already begun at 9.30am with a choir singing. There is no organ or piano or music, but the result was beautiful. We had a prayer and a hymn then the large children's choir came to the front and sang two or three songs, were given a talk, a few came to the front to say a verse they had memorised and then they had their collection. All together there were six different choirs who sang during the service. Eleanor (a fellow Brit!) and I were invited up to the front to be officially welcomed and say where we came from. All the service, which lasts 2.5 hours, was in the local language of Chichewa – fortunately two of our friends from Likkubula House were able to translate and explain what was going on. The church itself was full to capacity, with about 200 people of all ages. During the week, it doubles up as the village school. There are no chairs, only stone benches within a simple building with a tin roof. Their aim is to build a new church next door and they are trying very hard to gradually buy the



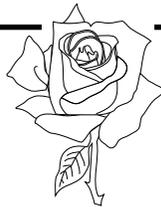
bricks. the people here are very poor and there is high unemployment so that even if they manage to go to school regularly until they are 13 or 14 and graduate, there is little chance they will get a decent job. Fees for any form of higher education prevent many, who would like to, from continuing and are unable to do so.

The work I have been given each day varies, some gardening in the vegetable patch where we can buy some for our own use, painting the inside of various chalets, which the tourists use, making curtains and mapping our local footpaths. Quite a variety!

I am really enjoying this opportunity and so far am keeping well. At the end of next week (second week in Sept), Eleanor and I are taking a few days off to visit a National Park and the Lake Malawi.



*With Best wishes from Brenda Johnson*



# A promising harvest

**L**indfield Horticultural Society (affiliated with the Royal Horticultural Society), was formed in 1945 and currently has over 450 members. We meet about twice a month for talks & presentations, and we have three flower & vegetable shows each year in the Spring, Summer & Autumn. We have three plant sales a year, three coffee mornings and a Christmas social as well as other social events like outings to gardens etc. We have our own garden sundries centre which offers discounted garden supplies to all our members.

## **The committee.**

There are currently 16 positions on the committee that meets regularly for lively and opinionated debate! We have one vacancy for show superintendent and one for catering supervisor at present so if anyone out there feels they'd like to join in you'd be made most welcome!

## **How to join.**

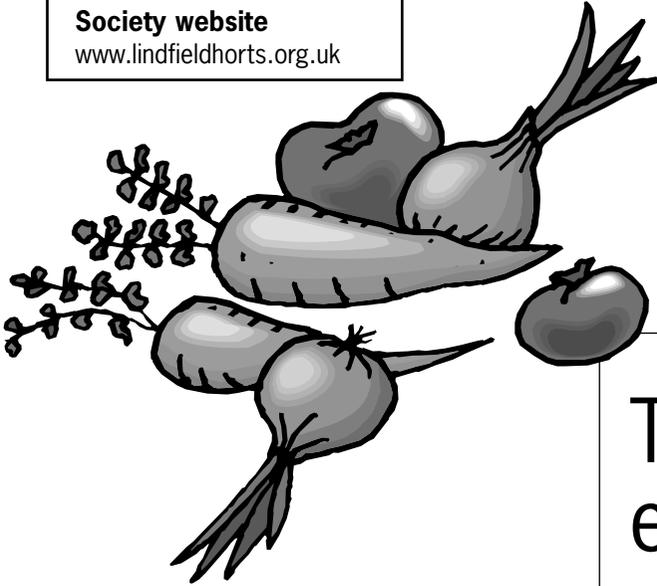
**Membership costs just £3.00 a year.**

**You can either come along to one of our events & join then, or email us leaving contact details & we will get in touch.**

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**Lindfield Horticultural  
Society website**

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



## Budding Photographer?

**Just a reminder of the photographic  
classes for the SPRING SHOW 2005**

1. A Blue Flower
2. At Anchor
3. Built to Last
4. Fit to Eat
5. Cobwebs
6. A Wing and a Prayer

**RESTRICTED CLASS:**

7. Being fettled

*So if you fancy yourself as a bit of a Heather  
Angel or David Bailey now's the time to prove it!*

# Tell everyone about it.

If you run a club or group in the local community that you would like to talk more about, submit an article/information to editor – it would be great to see more of what is going on in/around the village.

Contact details on page 2.



# Boys at Camp

**Camping! Although you will be reading this in the autumn, it was compiled in the summer holidays, just after two remarkable camping experiences.**

Only three of us were able to attend the Battalion Camp at Glynde this year – but what a camp! I never cease to be amazed at the inspirational power of this event: its meticulous organisation, imaginative programme, warm and cheerful fellowship, electric spiritual atmosphere. In a week of brilliant sunshine, Boys and men from across Sussex made or renewed friendships, and enjoyed their comradeship with scarcely a note of disharmony. Guided by a worship leader with a great rapport with the Boys, many lads expressed a desire to commit their lives to Christ. It truly showed how effective the BB can be when talents are brought together with love and commitment to the cause. I came home refreshed and renewed.

Just a week before a band of staff and parents took some of our Juniors away for a night to Blacklands Farm to give them

a taste of camping: we did the basics of tentcraft and cooking to help get the Boys onto the learning curve, and added games, a walk, a camp fire, and an archery session. The Boys were excited and pleased, and it certainly whetted their appetite, since they (and their parents) are asking for a whole weekend next time round.

The Juniors ended the session with what has become a little tradition: turning up in fancy dress, this time of film characters. We had Bugsy Malone - at least that's what I think he was meant to be! – Aragorn and Legolas from Lord of the Rings, and several Pirates of the Caribbean. Bugsy and the best pirate won! All good fun.

*Geoffrey Cocksedge*

# 10 things we didn't know a year ago!

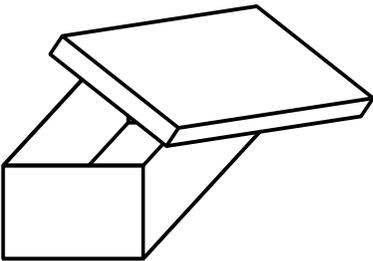
## Some fascinating facts from 'Quadrant' in 2003.

- 1) 72% of the population call themselves Christian. Previously, in 2001 Census, we had been challenged that 65% was too high!
- 2) Half of those who leave church in England are aged under 15. The majority of whom leave between 10-14 – but 'Tweenagers' who do come to church enjoy it.
- 3) In Scotland two thirds of those who leave church are women, half of them aged 20-44. This is mainly because of the impact of work, especially the change in Sunday working.
- 4) The total number of people working for Christian mission agencies has stayed roughly the same since 1990, but more of them now work in the UK. In 2003, 5,200 worked overseas and 2,200 in the UK.
- 5) The total number of people who call themselves Christian across the world is about 2 billion.
- 6) American research shows that if a child is the first person in a family to become a Christian there is a 3.5% probability that all the rest of the family will follow. If the mother is the first person, chances are 17% that all the family will follow, but if the father is the first, there is a 93% probability that everyone else in the family will follow him.
- 7) In the Church of England 3% of all clergy are Bishops, Deans or Archdeacons. The youngest Bishop appointment was at 37.
- 8) 164 Anglican churches have more than 400 on an average Sunday, 10 of them have over 1000.
- 9) A survey which included nearly 5000 Christian leaders in 21 countries found that overall they think the most important hindrance to evangelism is religious fundamentalism (15%), but in the West, 20% of leaders think the biggest hindrance is materialism.
- 10) The most significant reason why some churches grow is that they have a strong leader who is enabling the church to fulfil its vision. A warm welcome is the most significant action a growing church takes, which is much less likely in a declining one.

# Samaritan's Purse

## Operation Christmas Child

**T**his 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. This is something that is enjoyable to do and makes a real difference to children's lives.

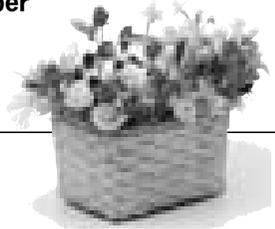


If you would like to pack a shoebox please collect a leaflet from the missions table and follow the instructions. You can fill a box for either a boy or girl aged 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 years old with toys, sweets or other small gifts. There are one or two things you can't include which are specified in the leaflet.

Please wrap the box and the lid separately and enclose a cheque for £2 made payable to Samaritans Purse to cover transport costs.

Please bring the shoebox to church on **21st November** and we will forward them on.

*Missions Group*



### Flower Rota

	<b>Arranging</b>	<b>Distributing</b>
Oct 3	Harvest – please help if you can	
10	Carol Marsh	Dorothy Forster
17	Jessie Green	Betty Peter
24	Serena Nathan	Jacqueline Wood
31	Heather Swann	Iris Bingham
Nov 7	Lucy Thom	Fiona Tingley
14	Betty Billins	Heather Swann
21	Sue Waller	Sue Tester
28	Lyn Tucker	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)  
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

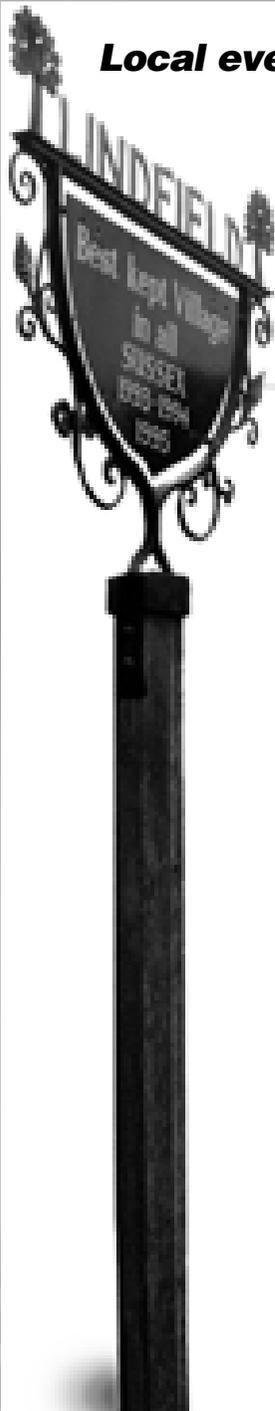
#### Co-ordinator:

Rob Biersteker 01444 440835

#### Junior Church Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683

## Local events



### Music for pleasure King Edward Hall Helen Arnold

(HARP)

**16th September**

Lunch time concerts

1.0pm-1.50pm

Admission FREE, donations welcome. Tea and coffee provided.

### Perdido Players

ANNIVERSARY DANCE,  
CONCERT & PARTY



**30th October**

7.30pm Old School Hall,

Cuckfield. Tickets are

£7.50 – if you buy a table

of 8 then the cost is £54.

Info from Peter Swann on

01444 450335.

### FAIRTRADE

Grocery/  
Craft Stall

Lindfield URC

**Sun Oct 17th**

10.30am – 11.0am

(between the services)



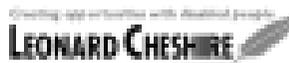
**The Heatherley  
Cheshire Home**  
are holding a

### Fundraising Lunch

at the King Edward Hall on

**Friday 12th November**

from 12noon - 2pm.



Tickets £10 each, available  
from Mies Brock (482640)  
or Norah Olver (453712).

Preservation Society

### A William Allen Evening

presented by Margaret  
Nicole with the

### Lewes Quakers and Brian Hall

on Wednesday 20th

October at 8pm in the King  
Edward Hall. All welcome.

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