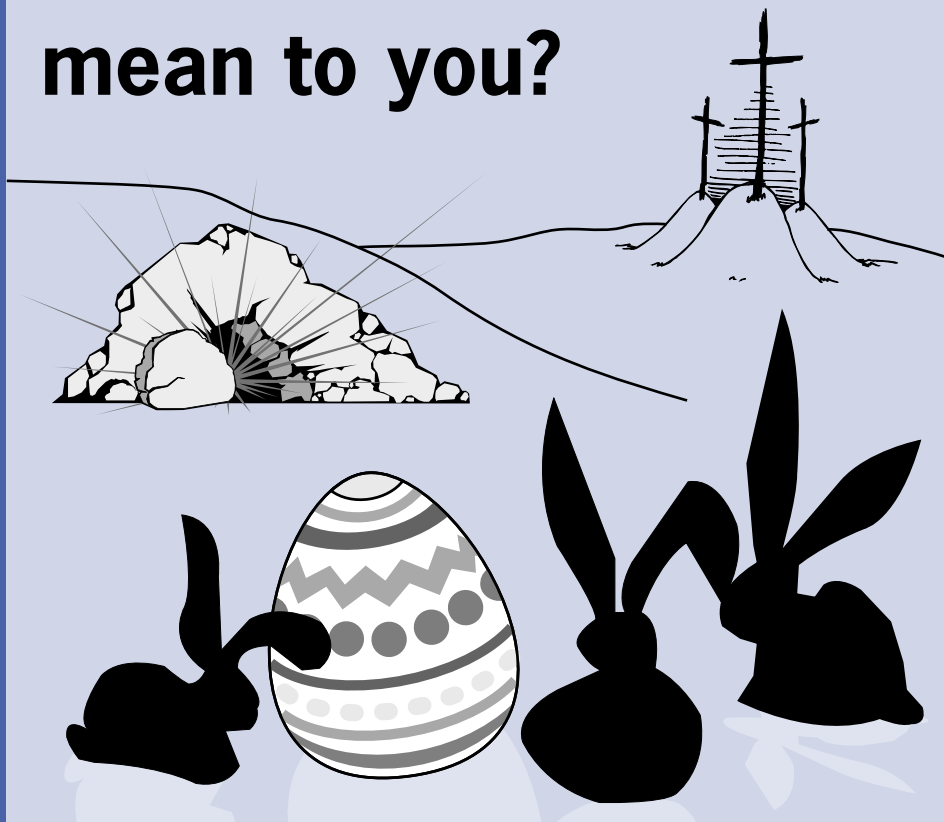


GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

APRIL 2006

What does Easter mean to you?



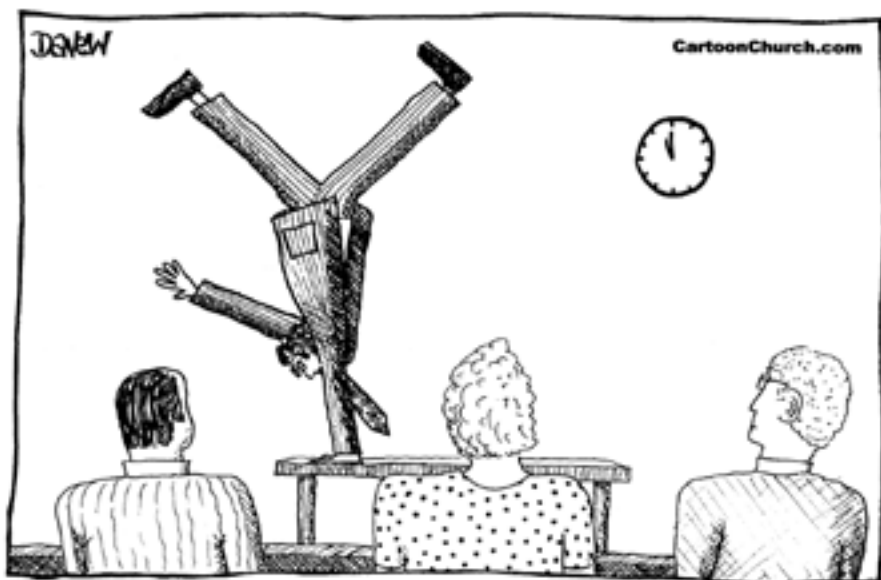
PLUS...

- Test your wits against our Easter Quiz
- Village Plan Latest
- Are you an April Fool?





Recycling: Lindfield tree to church bench



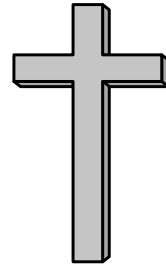
Dave was surprised at the variety of tasks
a youthworker was expected to perform.

Dear Friends...



Such love

Easter bunnies, hot cross buns and a bank holiday? There's more to Easter than calories and a 48 hour holiday. Christians believe that Jesus Christ, a man who lived and died on a cross 2,000 years ago, was sent to earth to redeem creation, demonstrate God's love to a hurting, broken humanity and offer grace and forgiveness to everyone who trusts in Him. Easter is a time to remember how God's promise to care for us was fulfilled in the death and coming alive again of Jesus.



Such love looks for a response and we have a wide and varied programme for our Easter celebrations to allow us all to discover the reality of God's love for ourselves.

Colin Bones

GoodNEWS

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All contributions should be emailed to goodnews@happyseason.co.uk, or hard copy placed in the 'GoodNEWS' pigeon hole at the rear of the church. Please ensure that you include your contact details, in case of query. You can contact David Tingley on 01444 451024.

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Editorial



Martin Hall writes a very insightful feature article this month, highlighting – to me at least – how little I knew about some of the more traditional aspects of our modern Easter celebrations.

The amazing depth of just exactly what God did for you and me at Easter, can easily get diluted as we go about our normal lives – whether Christians or not.

One defining moment I can remember from my teens, is from a youth event locally. On a large projection screen was footage from the 'Jesus' film, but the scene leading up to the crucifixion had been dubbed over with the topical (at the time) No1 hit "Everything I do" by Bryan Adams.

It may sound corny now, but it was powerful image with a hard message. It was pretty hard not to be moved and distinctly 'prodded' to think about what sacrifice truly meant to Christ.

I urge you, as I urge myself; to watch one of the many 'Jesus' films that have been made over the years – especially the more recent Mel Gibson-directed version – this Easter. This story is worth getting moved by! I dare you!

David Tingley, editor

Prayer Diary



SUN

Pray for our Easter services, that as we celebrate Christ' resurrection we may have hope for the future.

MON

Uphold the work of "Off the Fence" in Brighton, and for a full return to health for Paul Young

TUE

Our mission focus this month is FEBA – Far East Broadcasting Association

WED

Please pray for our friends at Balcombe URC, in particular Leonie Wren and the Elders.

THUR

For all those away at Spring Harvest – 6th to 11th, that the teaching and fellowship may be beneficial.

FRI

Remember District Council Meeting on 21st, and David Walters in his role as President.

SAT

Pray for Haywards Heath, Burgess Hill, Hassocks, Hampden Park, Polegate, St Barnabas and Uckfield URCS.

Prayer FOCUS

In addition to the above daily prayer reminders, please would you uphold in your prayers this month's other special prayer requests.

Friday, 7th April is World Health Day. With CARE, let us pray for those who seek to protect people living in the poorest countries from diseases that can be prevented and effectively treated through preventative measures, vaccination and better health care. Pray, too, that more and more young people will turn away from harmful habits and lifestyles, so giving themselves the chance of a healthier and better quality of life.

With the threat of pandemics and infections such as HIV/AIDS sweeping through the world, remember those various bodies seeking to monitor, prevent and treat such conditions. Pray also for those who do medical research, and those who nurse and care for the terminally ill. Give thanks for our local hospitals, hospices, GP and dental practices and all those who work in them; praying particularly that Christian staff in the NHS may bring peace and hope into their workplace, where so often there is a spirit of discouragement and conflict.

Pray for the health of our own fellowship, and not only for those who are physically or mentally sick – though there a quite a number who do need our prayers for this reason. Each and every one of us need to really pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ. So, during the next month or two let us work our way through the church 'Who's Who' and pray each day for our church family.

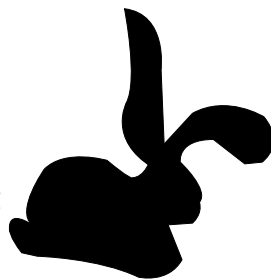
The challenge of Easter

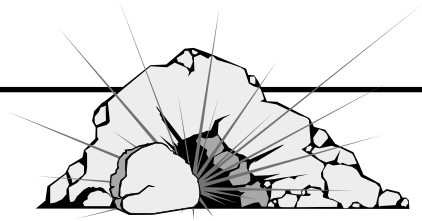
“Easter is not primarily a comfort, but a challenge,” wrote J.N.D. Anderson, late Dean of the School of Law at the University of London. Martin Hall goes in search of the reason why it is so

When I started to prepare this article with a blank sheet of paper the whole concept of Easter certainly was a challenge to me. I knew that I wanted to study the roots of Easter, but I didn't really know where my search would lead. What did Easter mean to me, and what was in my memory banks about Easter? Well, certainly, church services and the truth of the death and resurrection of Jesus featured highly, but mixed in with these were happy family memories of searching for eggs in the garden, images of rabbits and lambs and daffodils – how do these all fit together? I was surprised at first to find that there are Christian groups who reject most of the symbols of our modern Easter, regarding them as tainted with paganism and idolatry. Other groups question how crucifixion on a Friday and resurrection on a Sunday fits in with the three days and three nights that Jesus said that the Son of Man would be in the heart of the earth (Matthew 12: 40).

Let's start at the beginning with the word itself, Easter. Where does it come from? In my naivety and trying to apply logic I thought that perhaps it came from something to do with Christian origins in the (Middle) East, where Jesus lived and died. So much for logic, I couldn't be much further from the truth! There actually appear to be two quite different origins of the words used to describe the festival of Easter. In much of the world the name for what

we call Easter traces back to the Hebrew word for Passover, the period when Jesus was crucified and resurrected. So, the Hebrew Pesach became the Greek Paskha and the Latin Pascha, and from there it became, for example, La Pascua in Spanish, Pasen in Dutch and Pâcques in French. In contrast, the German word for Easter, Ostern and our own word Easter have a totally non-Biblical origin, coming instead from Eostremonat, the month of Eostre, an origin first





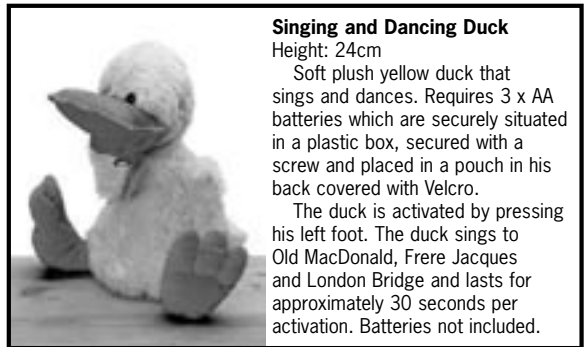
proposed by the 8th-century English scholar Saint Bede. Eostre (or Eastre) and Ostern was the name of the Goddess of the Dawn, associated with spring and fertility, whose festival was observed at the vernal equinox. Her festival is believed to be responsible for the rabbits and the chicks and the Easter eggs - at least as they are celebrated in England. Rabbits were symbolic of Eostre and fertility and eggs symbolise new life.

Easter in UK was originally a pagan festival and the ancient Saxons celebrated the return of spring with an uproarious festival. When the second-century Christian missionaries encountered the tribes of the north with their pagan celebrations, they attempted to convert them to Christianity. They did so, however, in a clandestine manner. It would have been suicide for the very early Christian converts to celebrate their holy days with observances that did not coincide with celebrations that already existed. To save lives, the missionaries cleverly decided to spread their religious message slowly throughout the populations by allowing them to continue to celebrate pagan

feasts, but to do so in a Christian manner.

As it happened, the pagan festival of Eastre occurred at the same time of year as the Christian observance of the Resurrection of Christ. It made sense, therefore, to alter the festival itself, to make it a Christian celebration as converts were slowly won over. The early name, Eastre, was eventually changed to its modern spelling, Easter.

So, whereas consumer society has hi-jacked Christmas, in a way, Christianity has hi-jacked Easter! However, the consumer society has not let go and when you look in the shops today it is hard to find much evidence of Christianity in the Easter goods on sale. I saw an advert for a duck which read:-



Singing and Dancing Duck

Height: 24cm

Soft plush yellow duck that sings and dances. Requires 3 x AA batteries which are securely situated in a plastic box, secured with a screw and placed in a pouch in his back covered with Velcro.

The duck is activated by pressing his left foot. The duck sings to Old MacDonald, Frere Jacques and London Bridge and lasts for approximately 30 seconds per activation. Batteries not included.

It looks cute doesn't it, but

Feature – What does Easter mean to you? _____

the sentence that caught my eye was “Batteries not included”. Without batteries this gift of Easter is useless. By contrast, the Christian gift of Easter, Jesus’ sacrifice for our eternal life, needs no batteries, its power is built-in, the power of God. Our own Junior Church is called “Powersource”, based on the fact that God has limitless power, even over death.

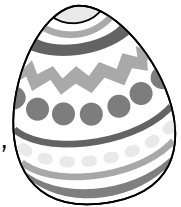
When does Easter occur? Prior to A.D. 325, Easter was variously celebrated on different days of the week, including Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. In that year, the Council of Nicaea was convened by emperor Constantine and issued the Easter Rule which states that Easter shall be celebrated on the first Sunday that occurs after the first ecclesiastical

full moon (which is not always the same date as the astronomical full moon!). The ecclesiastical “vernal equinox” is always on 21st March. Therefore, Easter must be celebrated on a Sunday between the dates of 22nd March and 25th April. Confused?!

To help you, below are the dates of Easter Sunday for the next five years:-

2007 8th April; 2008 23rd March; 2009 12th April; 2010 4th April; 2011 24th April.

Just to confuse further, the above dates are only for the Western Church. The Eastern, Orthodox Church celebrates Easter, its most important festival, on a different set of dates that are linked to the Jewish Passover festival.



In conclusion, I'll return to that original quote from Anderson, “Easter is not primarily a comfort, but a challenge...”. Yes it is a challenge. The challenge is that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is not about a mere historical curiosity, but an event of enormous and inescapable consequence to each of us. According to Romans 1:4, Jesus’ resurrection affirms the Bible’s claims about him:-

“...and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God, by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.” (NIV)

....and it affirms Jesus’ claims about himself, that He alone is the way to heaven, in John 14: 6:-

“...Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me” (NIV)

Christ’s resurrection also guarantees that there will be a Last Judgment (Acts 17:31) and that there is a heaven and a hell (Revelation 1:18). That is the challenge, but the comfort of the Christian festival of Easter is as clear: Christ offers the forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation for whoever believes in Him (John 11: 25-26; Romans 4: 24-25).

Martin Hall

Easter Poem

(from Mary Batchelor (1987). The Lion Easter Book, Lion Publishing.)

Cheer up, friends and neighbours,
Now it's Eastertide;
Stop from endless labours,
Worries put aside:
Men should rise from sadness,
Evil, folly, strife,
When God's mighty gladness
Brings the earth to life.

Silly “jokes”!!!

Why does the Easter bunny have a shiny nose? His powder puff is on the wrong end.

Is it true that bunnies have good eyesight? Well you never see a bunny wearing glasses, do you?

What is the difference between a crazy bunny and a counterfeit banknote? One is bad money and the other is a mad bunny!

Why did the Easter egg hide? He was a little chicken!

Why did a fellow rabbit say that the Easter Bunny was self-centered? Because he was eggo-centric!

Why is a bunny the luckiest animal in the world? It has four rabbits' feet

What do you get when you cross a bunny with an onion? A bunion

What did the bunny want to do when he grew up? Join the Hare Force.

What does a bunny use when it goes swimming? A hare-net.

How do you make a rabbit stew? Make it wait for three hours!

What did the grey rabbit say to the blue rabbit? Cheer up!

What do you get when you pour hot water down a rabbit hole? A hot cross bunny.

How do you post a bunny? Hare mail

Family News

Bereavement

Nellie Glanfield's son, who has been seriously ill for many years, has died recently. We extend to Nellie, her husband and the family our love and sympathy at this time.

Also remember in your prayers **Sue and Mike Dunford** and the family, following the death of Sue's father. Our sympathy and love are with them too.

Fairtrade

There will be no Fairtrade stall in the church lounge this month as it is due to fall on Easter Sunday. Normal service resumes next month on 21st May.

New Address

Bill and Iris Green have bought their own property in Australia. Their new address is:
98 Meridian Drive,
Mullaloo, 6027,
Perth, Western Australia
Australia
Tel Number- 0061 894011661

Engagement

Congratulations to **Steven Farley** and **Elena Mullen**, who became engaged last month.

Thanks

Chris and Mary Comber would like to thank the minister and all church members for their kind wishes on completion of their century with the Lindfield URC. It has been a most rewarding experience, but we hope to add a few more years to the total!

Aubrey and Norna wish to thank our great church family for cards, calls, visits and concern over the past weeks - "how

blessed we are, and special thanks to Andrew's daily 'walkies' programme".

The Fellowship

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 26th April at 2.45pm.

The speaker will be **Suzy Jacques** who will talk to us about 'Fair Trade'. Visitors will be made very welcome

In Touch

This month we meet on April 25th at 7:45pm. Our talk by a visiting speaker has the intriguing title "**Just how small can this be?**". Do come and hear what it is all about.

Cards for sale

My hobby is making greetings cards and I make far too many for my personal use, so I shall be selling them at In Touch Evenings and Fairtrade Sundays starting in April.

I make a general selection, birthday, anniversary, thank you etc. but I am happy to make special cards to order.

All proceeds from my sales go to Tearfund.

Margaret Gomme

25th Pilgrimage Walk

29th April

The walk this spring, about 6 miles long, will start at Alfriston. Part is flat by a river but also involving a steady climb to pass the "Long Man of Wilmington". Worship will take place in three churches.

PLEASE SIGN UP on the sheet in the corridor. Further details are available from Barbara Shepherd (483167) or from the notice board.

Weekly evening jogging sessions start Friday 21st April 2006

With lighter evenings upon us and balmy days just around the corner now is the time to plan a way to fit into those summer clothes.

All the best weight loss programmes include an increase in physical activity, so why not join us on Friday evenings at 8pm starting outside the Church for some gentle jogging. All abilities and ages most welcome and we will commence with one mile, and build gradually from there depending on peoples' requirements, so that by the end of May, those wishing to try out their new fitness can do so in the Lindfield Fun Runs of 3 or 6 miles on Bank Holiday Monday 29th May,

Ray Smith

Benches for balmy summer seating!

Lindfield URC has some new 'al-fresco' seating! Crafted by our own John Newnham, who is a retired carpenter/joiner, they are from the wood of an old Oak tree which used to stand on the Common.

The Oak is believed to have been felled in mid-1990s due to its ill-health. The Lindfield Preservation Society managed to secure the wood, and have it stored at East Mascalls Farm while it seasoned. This was also around the time of our church opening its extended premises, and they kindly offered some of the wood for the purposes of garden benches. The church managers gratefully accepted at the time but had forgotten all about it until the Preservation Society noticed, from its records, that the allocation had not yet been given.

The benches have been long talked about and in the making too, representing around 60-70 hours of work for John. Try them out in the courtyard!

Balcombe United Reformed Church

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

Our services are held weekly at 10.30am. The children usually go out to Sunday School during the second part of the service. Visitors are always welcome to join us.

Speakers for this month are as follows:-

April 2nd	Mike Gardiner
April 9th	Glynn Philips
April 16th	EASTER DAY – Philip Wren
April 23rd	Colin Bones
April 30th	Philip Wren



April church diary

1st

Saturday 8.45 Sat Morning Prayer
-9.30am Meeting URC

2nd

Sunday

Baptism

Acts 2: 32-41,

Romans 6: 1-7

9.30am **Communion**

- Colin Bones

11.00am Colin Bones

6.30pm **Prayer & Praise**

6th

Thursday

House Groups

7th

Friday

12.30pm Lunch Fellowship
(note change of week)

8th

Saturday

8.45 Sat Morning Prayer
-9.30am Meeting URC

9th

Sunday

Palm Sunday

The Triumphal Entry

Matthew 21: 1-13

Family/Parade Service

9.30am Colin Bones

11.00am Colin Bones

Resurrection and meeting life's challenges

Acts 8: 26-40,

1 John 4: 7-21

6.30pm **Communion**

- Colin Bones

12th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship

13th

Thursday

7.30pm Passover Meal
at Great Walstead School -
further details in the magazine

14th

Friday

Good Friday

10.30am The Challenge of
the Cross (Creche facilities
available)

7.30pm The Ashdown
Singers -The Crucifixion
- John Stainer

15th

Saturday

8.45 Sat Morning Prayer
-9.30am Meeting URC

16th

Sunday

Easter Sunday

New life - new beginning

Matthew 28: 1-10,

1 Corinthians 15: 42-58

9.30am Colin Bones

11.00am Colin Bones

- Communion

(note change of week)

Reflections on

Resurrection Life

Ephesians 1: 15-23

6.30pm Colin Bones

20th

Thursday

House Groups

22nd

Saturday

8.45 Sat Morning Prayer
-9.30am Meeting URC

**OTHER LOCAL EVENTS
LISTED ON BACK COVER**

23rd

Sunday

9.30am David Jones

11.00am David Jones

**Resurrection and
the Holy Spirit**

Acts 10: 44-48,

1 John 5: 1-6

6.30pm Ron Goodenough

25th

Tuesday

7.45 pm In Touch

26th

Wednesday

2.45pm Afternoon Fellowship

8.00pm Elders' Meeting

27th

Thursday

8.00pm Church Meeting

29th

Saturday

8.45 Sat Morning Prayer

-9.30am Meeting URC

30th

Sunday

**NOTE: Only one morning
service today.**

10:00am Dedication of
Baptistry & Baptismal Service
- Colin Bones

**Resurrection and
our calling**

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26,

1 John 5: 9-13

6.30pm Prayer & Praise

**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.

Come-and-go worship

A vicar in Hillingdon has introduced “come-and-go” worship on Sunday mornings, in an attempt to give members of the congregation more flexibility.

The Rev Rob Harrison, Vicar of St John’s, Hillingdon, in the diocese of London, said that the new look Sunday, which started in February, gave worshippers a chance to pick and choose each week. The service starts at 9am, with a rolling programme of half-hour slots, ending with a lunch at 12.30pm. The programme ranges from the Book of Common Prayer to modern worship slots.

Source: Church Times 17.02.06

Lack of inspiration for workers in Christian sector

Two out of three Christian leaders are failing to truly inspire their employees according to a recent HR investigation carried out by the Evangelical Alliance.

The findings are part of a survey thought to be the largest of its kind in the Christian sector. Only 36 per cent of employees rated their leaders as excellent in their ‘ability to inspire’. Less than a third (30%) marked their leaders as excellent in competence and professionalism. Only a fifth (18%) rated their leaders as excellent at delegating. The results highlight a need for more leadership training. In the areas of trustworthiness, integrity, spiritual maturity and compassion, however, they fared much better.

There were 240 respondents to the survey, Authentic Christianity at Work, representing a spectrum of organisations from small churches and charities to large international Christian societies. It concentrated on eight main areas: communication, legislation, leadership, staff welfare, distinctiveness, learning and development, motivation and challenges.

Source: www.eauk.org

Charlie Tingley

This month Annabel Goody talks to Charlie Tingley, keyboard maestro, who regularly plays in the church worship group.

I have been playing the piano since I was knee high to a grass-hopper! My Nan taught me the basics and then I went on to have proper lessons. I gave up when I was about 15years old and moved onto the keyboard. Why was that?

When I was in the church youth group we had a band together and the keyboard seemed to fit in better than the piano.

Did you tour the local pubs and clubs?

Err, not quite, we generally played for fun and did covers of popular music for youth group events

When did you start playing in the worship group?

I've been playing in services for about three or four years now. I started playing full-time, as it were, when I gave up doing junior church.

If you had a preference, which service would you chose to play in? The 09:30 or the 18:30?

I think I would have to say the 09:30 as I really enjoy seeing the congregation worshipping and the morning service is generally busier.

What would your favourite song be?

Ooh I have loads of favourites but I think at the moment I'd have to say



“The splendour of the King”

Do you feel you can worship and play at the same time?

It's only really been in the last three or four months that I have been able to properly worship and play. I'm not overly talented so I normally have to concentrate rather than take the opportunity to worship! I now know some of the tunes well enough to be able to do both.

So in that case how do you manage to sing and play at the same time?!

I can only do that with the songs I know very well!

If you could play any instrument what would it be?

I'd have to say the piano. To be able to play it properly and to sight-read would just be great.

Would you ever feel called to lead?

No, I'm not really a leader.

And finally, do you ever wish you could stand at the front?!

No! Definitely not! The nice thing about playing a big keyboard is that you can hide behind it!

Feba

Bringing the Good News of Jesus to people in a language they understand.

We take the radio for granted as we do all the means of communication available to us in the West. Our radios are companionable, but not essential, often burbling away in the background while we do something else. This is in contrast to so many Feba listeners. Way out of reach of other forms of communication, they see radio as a prized possession - a link with the wider world. Radio's good at giving people information and offering choices. It doesn't matter if someone can't read - they can listen. Isolated people who are unlikely ever to meet a Christian can tune in and hear. In places where Christianity is opposed or forbidden, radio is a friendly way to help curious people in their search for truth.

Feba broadcasts the Good News of Jesus in more than 60 languages to audiences in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

What's being broadcast?

National Christians make most of the programmes that are broadcast to their countries. Because the producers share the same language and culture as their audience, they are able to appreciate the same values and traditions.

The Good News is broadcast in lots of ways: Bible teaching, testimonies, drama, discussion, praise and worship. There is world and local news with Christian comment on it. Other programmes tackle local issues: drink, drugs, violence, AIDS, health care and agriculture.

Correspondence counsellors can help them

Whatever the language broadcast, trained correspondence counsellors reply to listeners' letters.

This letter was written by an Afghan refugee.

"One day I heard the Sound of Life programme on the radio. I was so happy that I swelled with joy. My wife asked me, what are you so excited about? I told her that what I have searched for, for a long time, is Christianity. I took the address and sent a letter. When I received a reply, and read the book *What is Christianity?* the heavy burden that always was



with me disappeared.

Then I came to know the Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, who is the only Son of God, the Saviour of everyone who believes in Him.”

Apart from letters, listeners contact Feba staff by phone, fax and e-mail. Some even take the time to visit in person.

Broadcasting and production bases

Feba has programme production and co-ordination centres in India, Pakistan, Lebanon, Cyprus, Kenya, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa and the UK. We arrange international broadcasting using a number of different stations, while in Africa Feba owns an FM station and partners the operation of another.

Together we work to reach the unreached with the Gospel, penetrating areas torn apart by war or ravaged by natural disaster. The heart of Feba’s ministry is to bring the Good

News of Jesus to people in a language they understand. Every year thousands of hours of programming do just that.

We can’t do it alone!

Only through the dedicated prayer and financial commitment of Feba supporters is the work able to continue. Millions of people hear about Jesus because of their partnership with us.

In the UK Feba supporters pray for the ministry, helped by a wide variety of resources for group and individual use. People find out more about Feba through our publications and website. Some groups invite a speaker along or attend one of Feba’s special events. Age, financial restrictions or physical ability is no deterrent for supporters becoming involved in reaching the world through Feba’s ministry.

Together we will broadcast a unique hope that never disappoints. [Rom 5.5.]

Pakistan Earthquake Relief

Thank you for the support you have given both financially and prayerfully for the Pakistan Earthquake Relief Effort and the work of Bach Hospital following the earthquake last year.

Mickey Hurshman who works for TEAM, the USA missionary partner of the hospital, is visiting the UK. She will be coming to Lindfield URC on **Easter Monday 17th April at 7.30pm** for an informal evening with coffee and cakes. During the evening she will be showing a short DVD and giving a presentation on the relief efforts and the ongoing plans for the future. Please do join us on this evening.

Easter Quiz

Take the first letter of each answer in their correct order leaving a space between the fifth and sixth letter and the tenth and eleventh letter to reveal an Easter Message.

Roy Billins

1. The first month of the year
2. Hens lay them
3. You have it with pepper on the table
4. Your mothers' brother is your
5. The ninth and tenth books of the Old Testament
6. Jesus raised him from the dead
7. And lemons say the bells of St Clements
8. The meat of the deer
9. The tenth book of the New Testament
10. Paul's Cathedral is in London
11. You may often see this tree in a Church yard
12. The and the Pussy Cat went to sea
13. This biblical bread is made without yeast

ANSWERS: 1. January, 2. Eggs, 3. Salt, 4. Uncle, 5. Samuel, 6. Lazarus, 7. Oranges, 8. Venison, 9. Ephesians, 10. Saint, 11. Yew, 12. Owl, 13. Unleaven

The Ashdown Singers

Directed by Terence Steele
perform

The Crucifixion

by John Stainer

Good Friday, 14 April 2006
Lindfield URC, 7.30pm

Admission free. A retiring collection will be taken for
St Peter & St James Hospice.



The Ashdown Singers are a Chamber Choir formed in 1967, based in Uckfield but drawing together singers from a wider area. The aim is to have a group large enough to perform some of the established works of the choral repertoire and yet small enough to be able to sing Madrigals and Part-songs in an intimate and authentic manner. The repertoire includes some light-hearted items, and the atmosphere in rehearsals is good-natured and welcoming. The choir has broadcast on local radio and gives concerts widely in Kent and Sussex. Church music is included in the repertoire (the choir have sung Evensong and at Crown Court services in Lewes) and concerts have included contemporary music, some written for the choir, and on occasions, vocal and instrumental solos.



Flower Rota

April	Arranging	Distributing
2	Anne Parker	Barbara Shepherd
9	Barbara Shepherd	Iris Bingham
16	Easter Flowers – help, please!	
23	Audrey Saunders	Fiona Tingley
30	Winifred Scopes	Heather Swann
May	Arranging	Distributing
7	Boys' Brigade	Sue Tester
14	Fiona Tingley	Dorothy Forster
21	Wedding flowers	Jacqueline Wood
28	Heather Swann	Barbara Shepherd

April Fools

As part of Lindfield URC's aim to develop links within the local community, plans have been unveiled to hold swimming lessons for young children in the church. These lessons are designed to make use of the recently built baptistery, a move which will certainly prompt mixed reactions amongst church members.

It is unlikely that even the most naïve reader fell for this hoax. However, every year on one day at the beginning of April; jokes like this become a common occurrence.

The closest point in time that can be identified as the beginning of this tradition was in 1582, in France. Prior to that year, the new year was celebrated for eight days, beginning on 25th March and finishing on 1st April. Under Charles IX, the Gregorian calendar was introduced, and New Year's Day was moved to 1st January.

The more obstinate crowd refused to accept the new calendar and continued to celebrate the new year on 1st April. These traditionalists were viewed as "fools" by the general public. They were ridiculed heavily, and were often sent on "fool's errands" or were made the subject of other practical jokes.

Over time, this harassment evolved into a tradition of prank-playing on the first day of April. The tradition eventually spread to England and Scotland in the eighteenth century. April Fool's Day has since developed into an international fun fest, so to speak, with different nationalities specialising in their own brand of humour at the expense of their friends and families. Jokes often range from the simple (such as "Your shoe's untied") to the more elaborate (such as re-setting alarm clocks).

Unlike many other holidays, April fools day has not turned into a commercial money-making scheme, however it is widely recognised by the media. Newspapers often print a false article, leaving its readers the task of finding it. The TV industry also gets involved; a British short film once shown on April Fool's Day was a fairly detailed documentary about "spaghetti farmers" and how they harvest their crop from the spaghetti trees.

April fool's Day is a "for-fun-only" observance. Nobody is expected to buy gifts or to take their partner out to eat in a fancy restaurant. Nobody gets off work or school. It's simply a fun little holiday, but a day on which one must remain vigilant, for he or she may be the next April fool!

Jonny Dew

Radical suggestions for Village!

Councillor Rev Michael Davies, Chairman of the **Lindfield Village Plan Steering Committee**, reports that some of the major concerns expressed by Lindfield people in their responses to the recent Questionnaire are:

- The need to eliminate unauthorised parking and provide more off-street parking places
- Provision of a skateboard rink and meeting place for young people
- A pedestrian crossing by the King Edward Hall

A radical proposal to address all these points will be on the table for discussion at the Village Plan Exhibition. Concrete over the village pond. Create there a large, at least two storey car-park with a bridge across the road directly into the King Edward Hall at first floor level. Reserve a section at ground level to form a covered skateboard arena and meeting place for young people. *(Note: Discussion of this particular proposal will close at 12 noon sharp!)*

What do you think? Come along to see the Questionnaire responses and draft Village Plan and express your views at the Exhibition to be held:

**At the King Edward Hall from 9.30 am until 1pm on
Saturday, 1st April, 2006**

Lindfield Handbell Ringers

The Lindfield Handbell Ringers meet on a Monday Evening in the 'Stable' behind the Tiger from 8pm to 10pm. We practise music from the Classics, Folk songs, Gilbert and Sullivan, Sea Shanties, hymns and tunes from around the world. Of course, there are carols at Christmas time and this is our very busy period when we entertain at a variety of places including nursing



homes, church functions, parties, and clubs for the blind and the elderly. Every year we have entertained at the Borde Hill Christmas Fair, and at Gatwick Airport where we collect for three charities. We welcome new players to join our team—all you need is to be able to read music and free Monday Evenings. *If you are interested in coming and having a try please contact me.*

Cynthia Marney 01444 450649

World Council of Churches

The 9th Assembly of the World Council of Churches met in Porto Alegre, Brazil, 14th - 23rd February 2006, addressing the theme “God, in your grace, transform the world”. The Assembly was a time of encounter, prayer, celebration and deliberation for thousands of Christian women and men from around the world.

Currently, the membership of the World Council of Churches represents 18 church “families”: African instituted; Anglican; Assyrian; Baptist; Disciples; Free; Hussite; Independent; Lutheran; Mar Thoma; Methodist; Non-denominational; Old-Catholic; Eastern Orthodox; Oriental Orthodox; Pentecostal; Reformed; United and Uniting.

Evangelical and Pentecostal participants in the 9th Assembly have welcomed better relationships with WCC churches and called for greater co-operation in the future.

Speaking to journalists on Monday 20th February were three leading evangelical figures. Rev. Geoff Tunnicliffe, international director and CEO of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), said that the WEA “parallel network” of 400m Christians identified with many of the WCC’s themes, such as work on HIV/AIDS, violence and poverty.

He said that evangelical Christians - of which there were many in WCC churches - were committed to integral mission, the proclamation and demonstration of the gospel. “If we ignore the world, we betray the word; if we ignore the word, we have

nothing to bring to the world,” he said.

Rev. Dr Michael Ntuny, chairman of The Church of Pentecost in Ghana, made an impassioned plea for closer connections between Pentecostal and WCC churches. He referred to the origins of Pentecostal congregations a century ago, many of them the result of acrimonious separations from old churches. “Although time does not necessarily heal all divisions, 100 years is long enough,” he said.

In the Assembly, he said, he had observed “the beauty of confessional diversity”. He praised the strong emphasis in WCC churches on the social gospel, but said that “the Pentecostal emphasis on the proclamation of the gospel is an area WCC churches do not emphasize enough”.

If Pentecostal, WCC churches and the Roman Catholic Church were to come together, he said, “We would become a spiritual colossus in the hands of God”. He concluded, “Our doors are open; come, let’s talk.”



God, in your grace,
transform the world

World Council of Churches
9th Assembly
14-23 February 2006
Porto Alegre, Brazil

More information on WCC Assembly at www.wcc-assembly.info or speak to Michael Davies, who used to work for World Council of Churches prior to his retirement to Lindfield in 1997.

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)
- Sat 8.30 Three Churches Prayer Meeting.
– 9.45am Venue rotates between the three churches.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

- Sun 6.30pm Sunday Evening Youth Group
- Mon 6.30pm Boys' Brigade – Junior Section
(8–11 years)
- 7.45pm Boys' Brigade – Company
Section (11+ years)
- Tue 10.00am Stepping Stones
(Parents and toddlers)
- 7.45pm In Touch (4th Tuesday)
- Wed 2.45pm The Fellowship (4th Wed.)
- 5.30pm Zest 1:2, 3:4
- 6.45pm Zest 5:6:7
- 7.15pm Zest 8+
- 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 12.30pm

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

Hall Booking Secretary:

Audrey McKee 01444 415031

In Touch:

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Lunch Fellowship:

Wednesday:
Janet Drayton 01444 456161

Friday:

Gwen Hillman 01444 456963
Anne Parker 01444 473519

Magazine: Editor:

David Tingley 01444 451024

The Fellowship:

Jessie Green 01444 452708
Roy Billins 01444 484494

Stepping Stones:

Janet Goodenough
01444 417002

Transport:

Tina Elphick 01444 484440

Youth and Children's Work

Co-ordinator:

Iris Green 01444 484117

Junior Church

& Zest Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683

Local events

The Ashdown Singers

directed by
Terence Steele
perform

The Crucifixion

by John Stainer

Good Friday, 14th April

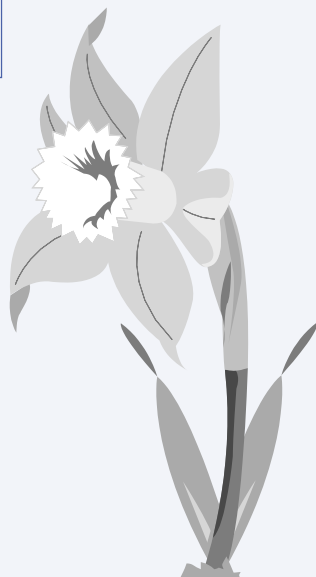
Lindfield URC, 7.30pm

Admission free.
A retiring collection will
be taken for St Peter &
St James Hospice.

Lindfield Preservation Society Annual General Meeting

Thursday 19th April

8pm, King Edward Hall



For more information **Lindfield Times** is also available
and delivered free to over 3500 homes in Lindfield.

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