

# GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2004

## Christmas: all in a day's work



PLUS...

- New youth work: Crusaders gears up for 2005
- Can you help with the Blue Peter appeal?
- Christmas services at Lindfield URC

**FREE**



## The United Reformed Church Southern Province Synod

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October 2004

### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

from the Synod Officers, everyone in the Synod Office and from the staff who work in the field

This has been a year of great change in the Synod Office. Having bid farewell to Christine Meekison and Brian West we have been grateful to welcome Graham Campling as Synod clerk, Guy Morfett as Trust Secretary and John Waller as Treasurer. It has been good to see how they have stepped into shoes that were so ably worn by others and made them their own.

The end of 2004 sees the final anticipated change when Norman Fabb retires after almost 11 years as Trust Administrator. Although much of his work has been unseen, those in the know – and that is now many people both in the churches and in the professional agencies we use – have come to value Norman's diligent, unflappable and friendly endeavours in the complex areas of both money and buildings. We thank Norman for an outstanding contribution to the life of the Synod and its churches and wish him and Jean long years of happiness. If you are ever gently pootling along the A21 and a smart sporty job flashes past you, do give the driver a wave – it could well be Norman!

Change is not always so predictable or normal as are office comings and goings. We live in a world where technological progress, increasing cultural diversity and the terrorist's ghastly deeds can leave us reeling with a sense of anything from surprise to crippling fear. On one level these are the inevitable consequences of being alive, on another, the awful prospect of having life snatched away. And then there's the Church, reviewing everything that moves and shredding everything that doesn't! **Catch the Vision of God's Tomorrow** is the United Reformed Church's exciting enterprise in looking forward with commitment, faith and hope. But it will inevitably bring change, which means at least some measure of stepping out into the unknown and so many pages of our story are of timorous clinging-on rather than of faith-filled letting-go; we, and I include myself, feel so complicated about change.

So it is that the routine celebration of another Christmas is good. At the end of December, whatever our situation, whether we feel upbeat or anxious, whether we feel like it or not, we celebrate *"the gift of God's very self to the world"*. In Jesus Christ God comes piercing through the shroud of our uncertainty with the dazzling light of divine love, which is undefeatable, *"every faithful, ever sure"*. And it's a love that is not just about making us feel better, but actually transforming us and our world. So be it this Christmas, as we accept the gift and become pliable to its power.

May the peace, hope and joy of this season be the hallmarks of your New Year too.

Nigel Udén

**Dear Friends...**



# Surprise, surprise!

**When Gallup asked people in 1996 what they most wanted for Christmas, the highest number – 43% – said they wanted a surprise. Indeed, most of us, I suspect, like to give or receive that surprise present. This made me think of the first Christmas and surprises.**

The Christmas story comes as a surprise to Mary – she's going to have a baby, even though she's a virgin.

Mary hears the news from an angel and despite her initial fear clearly has a deep spiritual encounter and simply just knows that it is true - "May it be to me as you have said."

It was even more of a surprise for Joseph, when Mary told him she was pregnant! But an angel of the Lord convinces him that Mary's telling the truth.

And on Christmas night it's the shepherds who get an almighty surprise – first when the angels appear, then when the angels tell them where they will find

the baby who is the "Saviour, Christ the Lord": in a stable, in a manger!

The first Christmas came as a surprise; to us there's a danger, though, that it has become all very familiar and predictable. But if we think about it and truly take it in, the angels' message still has power to shock and amaze:

- peace and good will, in a broken, bitter world like ours?!
- a Saviour, sent to rescue us?!
- good news of great joy, for us and for all people?!

It's astonishing, incredible good news.

*Colin Bones, minister*

*Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests."*

**(NIV) Luke 2:11-14**



# GoodNEWS

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## Editorial



**T**here seems like more than ever this month to write about, not least the amazing message of Jesus' birth. We have covered this this year by finding out how some of those who have to work across the festive period feel about the whole thing, and whether it effects their view of Christmas. Annabel Goody reports from page 4.

By way of reports, Janet Goodenough shares her experiences from her recent trip to India with Ron (working with Operation Mobilisation) on page 18; changes to our church's youth work in 2005 are detailed on page 16 and Nick Bingham, an old friend of our church, expresses his thanks to Lindfield URC in a letter on page 22.

While on the subject of interesting things to say, I will take this opportunity to plug the NEXT issue of GoodNEWS – when the feature article will be about Brenda Johnson's time in Malawi – look out for it on 26th December! In that issue too will be Ron Goodenough's last church secretary's annual report. But, like Christmas, you have to wait!

*David Tingley, editor*

PS: The article on Haywards Heath Operatic Society, printed in last month's GoodNEWS, was written by Fiona Tingley! Sorry, Mum!



# Prayer Diary



**SUN**

- Please pray for our minister and elders
- Uphold our new church secretaries, Sue Waller & David Jones
- Thank God for all the church personnel & pray for their work.

**MON**

- Keep praying that vacant positions will soon be filled
- Ask God if He wants to use YOU?
- Pray for those who are taking on new roles in church life

**TUE**

- Continue to pray for "Alive 05", asking God whom you should be inviting to attend. Uphold the steering committee. Pray for a celebrity speaker & for various other positions still to be filled.

**WED**

- Remember all Christians in politics, locally & nationally
- Pray for George Bush in his second term of office in the USA
- Pray for Tony Blair and his government here

**THUR**

- Pray for church friends whose surnames begin with U & W
- Thank God for those who work within our local community, whether as a volunteer or as a paid worker.

**FRI**

- Remember the churches in the Sussex East District of the URC, especially Alfriston, Seaford, Upperton, St Andrews, Willingdon UFC, St George's/St John's Bexhill, Burgess Hill & Haywards Heath.

**SAT**

- Our mission focus this month – Worthing Churches Homeless Project
- Pray for more funds & volunteers & for the clients themselves
- Support John and Heather Barling in their regular involvement



# All in a day's work!

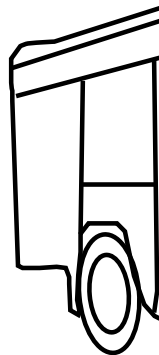
**W**orking is unavoidable! Whether we enjoy our careers or not, most of us have to work or are at least affected by the pressures of working. Jesus himself was trained as a carpenter and Paul talks, in Ephesians 4: 11-12, about equipping God's people for works of service – not just church work, but in the secular sphere too. At the very first Christmas, there were workers going about their jobs - but called by God to play a part. The shepherds; interrupted to hear the news from an Angel, accepted the call and, once they had seen Christ, “spread the word”. The Kings too; excited by a guiding star, went to see and worship the new born baby Jesus and risked their own lives as they heeded God's advice and not King Herod's.

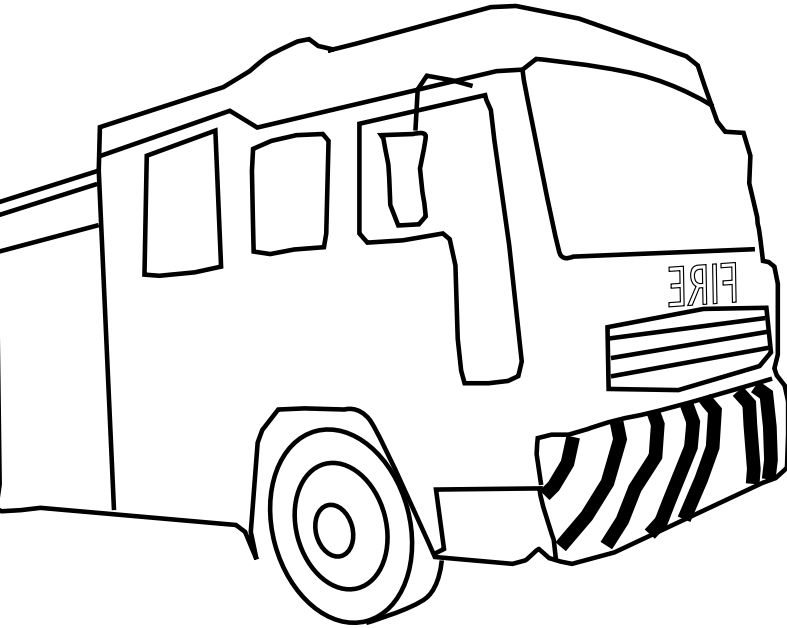
Christmas now is, for some at least, a time when a break from the norm can be sought. Time with the family, perhaps a holiday in some far clime or simply space to contemplate the extraordinary events of that first Christmas. However, not everyone gets a chance to enjoy that luxury. Annabel Goody talks to a range of workers who find themselves otherwise occupied while the rest of us are opening stockings, triumphantly singing “Hark the Herald” or nodding off in front of the television!

**W**orking over Christmas is never easy, particularly when you are in a profession that cares for people who are experiencing difficulties in their life. As a nurse I found it hard to work at Christmas because families were often separated from each other. Sandra Gedrych is a nurse at the Princess Royal Hospital and has worked over Christmas many times during her career. She explains: “For the

patients and families it is a lot harder as everything is magnified at Christmas. I always feel for people as they will always remember being in hospital, whether as a patient or with a loved one, over the season and it makes the sadness worse. Christmas incorporates two ends of the scale, one end of celebration and goodwill and at the other extreme sadness.”

“Last year I worked Christmas





Eve night. This was personally hard as I missed our two young sons opening their Christmas presents. This year I am working Christmas day night.

Chris Saunders is a fire-fighter for West Sussex Fire Brigade.

“This year” he says, “I will not be working Christmas Day, but I have worked the last four out of eight. Nobody really enjoys working over the Christmas period and as there isn’t always a lot to do.

“It is particularly hard for my wife as she has ten days off over the holiday, but she understands that working over this time is all part of the job”

Colin Bones, our own minister comments: “As a minister I like to be at my own church for festival services such as Christmas and Easter. It is a special time for the congregation. As a family we work our visits to others around working on Christmas Day.

“My family understand that I have to work. At our first church in Bradford it was the custom that the minister and his family welcomed people at the door as they arrived for the service. We continued that tradition and have taken it with us to our other pastorates”.

Over the immediate Christmas



## Feature – Working over Christmas

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period I found that the work involved was slightly different. There wasn't the usual "hurly-burly" of the usual week-day work, but the ward would be busy with other activities, such as relatives arriving and visits from Father Christmas. Whilst working in London many celebrities would come into the hospital to see the children, which would always heighten everyone's spirits.

**S**andra explains her workload: "As the only bleep holder for the hospital my shift is generally quite busy, answering calls from anything to do with bed management and moving patients, to finding linen and food for people. One night I was even bleeped because the roads needed gritting!

"As a member of staff the work on Christmas Day is no different to any other night. When you become a nurse you are aware that it is a 24 hour service and people are generally resigned to the fact that they are expected to work. We try and

keep an up-beat and cheerful mood going."

For Chris the work involved is slightly different: "It is a case of finding something to help pass the time. Some people watch television all day and others work on their cars. Anything so that we can get back to our families quickly. Contrary to any episodes of London's Burning, we do not tend to have our families in for the day, mainly because the majority of the watch live so far away."

Doug Whiting is the Landlord at the White Horse in Lindfield and cares for people who are out to celebrate the festive season; "Christmas Eve is perhaps our busiest night of the year. It is always a late night and it can be quite hectic getting the pub ready to open again the next day. We open at 12 noon on Christmas day and close after the last lunch guest has left. We all share the shifts and have a good team of staff. The family are always around (I have two boys) so we get to see them during the day".



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Colin is able to spend time with his family on the day: "The day usually starts early with the children who are up opening presents. After breakfast I like to spend a short time in prayer and preparation before leading the Christmas Day service. After the service is a time to relax with the family. I am not really able to do this until the service is over and I am back home".

In every hospital I have worked there has always been a Christmas Day service in the hospital Chapel. Obviously not all staff are able to attend this celebration and I was interested to see how workers that were unable to worship in church felt God's presence on Christmas Day.

Chris appreciates that time is precious: "I try to have a chat with God whenever there is a quiet moment as you never know what might happen in the next five minutes!"

Sandra comments: "I feel God's presence not just at Christmas but all year round in my job. I see many people, who,

in the face of death, have such a strong faith that they seem easier to nurse".

Colin adds; "My relationship with God does not really change on Christmas day. I like to see it as continuous and developing day by day. Christmas Day helps in that it reminds me of God's determination to act in regard to the salvation of his people. I always want to worship on such a day and I really enjoy leading the service."

On reflection it is good to see that people working at Christmas are not always surrounded by sadness and trauma, and in the case of Doug he is in the company of people who are celebrating this happy season.

It is also reassuring to see God's work in the strength, courage and compassion that is displayed in the workers that would rather be elsewhere.

So spare a thought for all those people that have to work this Christmas, and thank God for their dedication to their career.

*Annabel Goody*



### The Fellowship

This month we are meeting on Wednesday 15th December for our Christmas Tea. **Roy Billins** is arranging some entertainment so Members and friends can look forward to a Festive afternoon.

### New Home

**Christine and Brian Giltrow** have moved to Dorset.

Their new address is:-  
34 Terrington Avenue  
Highcliffe  
Dorset BH23 4RJ  
Telephone : 01425 275861

### Bereavement

We offer our love and sympathy to **Pat Waller** on the recent death of her sister Linda; and to **Elsie** and **Wally Plimmer** on the death of Elsie's sister Doris.

### Phoenix Club Thanks

We were delighted by the amount of **£750.00** which you raised for the **Phoenix Club**, through the September mission support. It was a wonderful response and we are so grateful. Thank you for your generous support, and your prayers.

God bless you all.

*Gordon & Iris Bingham.*

## Christmas greetings!

Once again I'm using the "Good News" to send to all my friends at LURC my love and very best wishes for a **Happy Christmas**. I thank God for each one of you, and pray that He will richly bless you and meet all your needs in the 2005.

**"You are precious in My sight"**

(Isaiah 43 v. 4)

*from Fiona Tingley*

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## Christmas Greenery please

**If anyone has any greenery suitable for decorating the Church for Christmas I would be very pleased to hear from them. I can come and collect it if you can't get it to the church (provided it's not a holly tree, I only have a little car). Please give me a ring on 01444 412626 if you think you may be able to help us out.**

Some of us will be decorating the Church on the morning of Saturday 18th December from 9.00 am and if you feel you would like to join us please give me a ring or just come along with your scissors! Many thanks, I look forward to hearing from you.

*Angela Newnham*

**Nick Bingham** writes greetings to Lindfield URC.

See page 23



# School wins prestigious award

**L**indfield primary school received the British Council international school award from the BBC correspondent Nicholas Witchell for Global dimension that Lindfield has embedded in its curriculum. The children have been learning and experiencing a wide range of activities, customs and traditions and teachers have learnt about comparative education in Hungary and Canada. Only 500 schools hold this award in the UK which raises childrens awareness of global citizenship. Lindfield Primary was one of only 6 schools in West Sussex to receive the award.

WELL DONE TO ALL!



## Accommodation needed!

When the Moorlands College Students come to lead our Alive '05 Mission next May (21st. – 29th.), we will be requiring accommodation for them for the week. I have agreed to be the Accommodation co-ordinator for the URC, so if you are able to help please do let me know. (Tel. 01444 483419)

Thank you!  
Fiona Tingley.

## **Balcombe United Reformed Church**

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**Bramble Hill, Balcombe, RH17 6HR**  
**Contact: Mrs Leonie Wren (01444 81125)**

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.



Services for this month are as follows:-

**December 5th Frank Mugridge – 11am**

**December 19th CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT – Colin Bones – 3.30pm**

Visitors are most welcome to join us at any time, including our afternoon Carol Service. Tea and mincepies will be served after this service.



### Christmas shopping with a difference

Do your Christmas shopping on line at [www.ushopugive.com](http://www.ushopugive.com), and you could be giving to charities like Bible Society and Crusaders as you shop - at no extra cost to you!

Simply select the charity of choice and then the retailer you wish to shop at, and they give a percentage of the value of your purchases to the charity. For example, Amazon gives 5%, Marks and Spencer 3% and the Gadget Shop 10%. You pay the same price as you would have done had you gone to the retailer's own website directly.

### Will Aid

Lanching this month is a scheme through which you can arrange a simple will for just £65 - and every penny of that is donated to charity! Check out the Will Aid website at [www.willaid.org.uk](http://www.willaid.org.uk) for more information.



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### Making saves

Tim Howard, Manchester United's 6ft 3in goalie, spoke about his life as a Christian to 400 people at an Alpha supper at the Old Trafford Football Stadium in September. He said, "My faith and relationship with God is far more important to me than football. It plays a part in my profession; it plays a part in my marriage, in my friendships. Playing at Old Trafford can be a pressure cooker, so it helps in my career in terms of staying humble and being grounded. I think we all search for meaning. I think we all search for peace and we certainly all search for contentment..... I'd highly recommend it [Alpha] to anyone who is interested in exploring what life is really about." More than six million people have attended Alpha courses worldwide since it was started in 1992 and there are now over 29 thousand registered courses.

Source: Alpha News No. 35,





# Blue Peter Appeal 2004

## – Welcome Home

**E**very year Blue Peter has an appeal to help others around the world.

This year they're helping to reunite families. Until 2 years ago a civil war

was happening in Angola in Africa. This has meant that many families have been separated and some parts of the country have been completely cut off. Many roads are full of land mines, there is no postal service and very few people have a phone. Finding each other is very difficult. Thousands of people are looking for each other.

Blue Peter has joined with The British Red Cross to help. All you have to do is clear out your wardrobes and bring any unwanted clothes or shoes (not children's shoes) to the church hall on Saturday 4th December between 10am and 12pm. The British Red Cross will then sell it and use the money to trace people, send messages and reunite families. Every bag that we fill is worth £10. Blue Peter is hoping to raise £250,000, which will trace and reunite 250 children with their families.

*Kirsty and Luke Biersteker*



## Christmas card collection

- If you would like to send a Christmas Card to friends in the Church, you are welcome to use the church's Christmas Post Box.
- It will be available from Advent Sunday (28th November).
- The final posting date is Friday 17th December.
- The cards will be sorted and ready for collection on a table at the back of the

church on Sunday 19th December.

- Any donations will be gratefully received and will go to TearFund. There will be a collection box on top of the post box for this purpose.
- To help with sorting, please can you use the full address on your envelopes.

Thanks and Happy Christmas.

*Christmas Card Collection Teams*



# December church diary

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2nd

Thursday House Groups

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5th

Sunday

9.30am **Communion**  
- Adrian  
Cookney &  
Colin Bones  
11.00am Colin Bones  
6.30pm **Prayer &  
Praise** - David  
Nibloe & Ron  
Goodenough

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8th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch  
Fellowship  
**VILLAGE NIGHT**

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10th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch  
Fellowship

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12th

Sunday

9.30am **Healing**  
- David  
Goodchild &  
Derek Heath  
11.00am Derek Heath  
6.30am **Communion**  
- David Nibloe  
& Sas Conradie

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15th

Wednesday **The Fellowship**

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19th

Sunday

9.30am All Age Service  
- David Nibloe &  
Stuart Dew  
11.00am Michael Davies  
6.30pm Adrian Cookney  
& Colin Bones

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20th

Monday 7.30pm Carol Concert

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24th

Friday

7.00pm **Christmas Eve  
Service**

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25th

Saturday

10.30am **Christmas  
Morning  
Service**  
- Colin Bones

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26th

Sunday

10.30am **Communion**  
- Colin Bones

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## 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.



# Worthing Churches Home

**T**his month Lindfield United Reformed Church will again be pledging support to the homeless during its monthly Missions giving programme. With the onset of winter many who have become homeless for a variety of reasons are particularly vulnerable, so the help given by organisations such as WCHP both in the short and long term is vital to their well-being and recovery.

Publicity and PR Manager, **Alison Godfrey**, has sent this note:-

*“Worthing Churches Homeless Projects is now ten years old and during that time I am sure many of you have supported us in our work. As we grow and develop we are always in need of neighbours and what terrific neighbours you have been to us. Without your committed support both financially and prayerfully as well as the volunteers who work with us we would not be able to offer so much support and care to those who need us most.*”

*All our Projects continue to move from strength to strength – working with over 500 individuals each year. In the next year we are keeping our vision firmly focussed on our new Recovery Project. This will be a new residential project and will be a place where people who are living under the influence of drink or drugs can find support while they learn to manage their lifestyles and move forward to recover their place in our community. Friends, we will continue to need your support more than ever as this project moves forward.*

*Thank you for all that you have offered to us.”*

Why not visit the Missions display in the church concourse area, give a donation and get a copy of the special collection of recipes that Serena Nathan has compiled and published in aid of the homeless. Our display will also give you more up to date information of the work, opportunities for volunteers and the items of clothing and provisions that will be needed over the Christmas and New Year period.

*John Barling – Missions Group*



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# less Project

## WORTHING CHURCHES HOMELESS PROJECTS

### CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

We would be extremely grateful of any help you can give us in obtaining the following items which are required for use at Christmas and to make up Christmas presents for our clients.

#### GENERAL ITEMS

- Christmas crackers
- Men's socks
- Men's pants
- Men's boxer shorts
- Men's wallets
- Men's belts
- Shirts
- T-shirts
- Combs/brushes
- Hand Warmers
- Cooking foil
- Sellotape
- Washing-up liquid
- Gloves, hats, scarves
- Torches
- Nail files/clippers
- Cigarette lighters
- Cigarettes/tobacco
- Pens

- Envelopes
- Notepads/writing paper
- Cling film
- Pocket games/ puzzle books
- Washing powder
- Bin liners
- Sleeping bags

#### FOOD ITEMS

- Turkeys
- Joints of meat – Beef, Pork, Gammon etc.
- Bacon
- Sausage Meat
- Chipolatas
- Fresh Vegetables – sacks of potatoes, carrots, sprouts, etc..

- Sauces – cranberry, bread, mayonnaise etc..
- Stuffing
- Tinned potatoes
- Instant mashed potato
- Cooking oil
- Mince pies (non alcoholic)
- Christmas puddings (non alcoholic)
- Christmas cakes (non alcoholic)
- Biscuits
- Coffee
- Orange Juice
- Squash (all varieties)
- Sweets
- Chocolate

- Gift packs** – deodorant, aftershave, shower gel etc.
- Christmas tableware** – tablecloths, serviettes etc.
- Mini portable radio alarm clocks (battery operated).

**PLEASE REMEMBER WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT ANY GIFTS CONTAINING ALCOHOL.**





# Crusaders 2005

**E**arlier this year the very sad decision had to be taken that it was no longer viable for us to operate the Lindfield Girls' Brigade Company and this group would close at the end of 2004. Following a comprehensive review of our Youth and Children's work during the summer, the September Church Meeting unanimously agreed that we should seek affiliation with Crusaders, which has now occurred, with a view to starting a new group at our Church commencing in January 2005.

Membership of the Crusader organisation will provide access to some centrally provided resources and also activities such as summer camps organised on a regional basis. Locally our aim is to provide a varied, stimulating and interactive mid-week activity programme for both churched and unchurched boys and girls, school year 1 upwards, in a safe environment through which they can discover and learn more about Jesus.

We propose operating, probably on a Wednesday evening, with 4 groups:  
5.30 - 6.30: **Group 1** (school years 1 & 2) and **Group 2** (school years 3 & 4)  
6.45 - 8.00: **Group 3** (school years 5 & 6) and **Group 4** (school years 7 & 8)  
The NOS group (formerly 14+ Youth Group) will continue to meet on a Sunday evening aimed at school years 9 and above.

In preparation, before commencing Crusaders, a series of 5 training sessions has been arranged for anyone considering a role in Crusaders.

The training covers the following areas: Aims and Strategies, Discipline, Communicating the Gospel, The Spiritual Programme (Energize) and The Activity Programme. Anyone considering involvement with Crusaders can obtain information sheets on the training which has been held.

Thank you to all those who have already offered help with Crusaders. We have been greatly encouraged by everyone's enthusiasm. Youth and Children's work is a key element of our ministry in Lindfield and in fulfilling our vision statement. The new Crusaders group is a key part of this. There really is a role for everyone! Prayer





support (perhaps a group could meet to pray on the premises whilst Crusaders is operating), practical help on the evening, assisting at the group possibly only on a periodic basis through to group leadership. Offering help needn't mean a life long vocational commitment to the group. The more people who help the more manageable it will be for everyone!

Everyone is welcome to attend Crusaders and if you would like your children, boys or girls, to be part of these groups then

please keep a look out for further information, available soon, which will tell you how they can join.

*Please speak to Rob Biersteker, Colin Bones or Jeremy Campling if you would like any more information.*

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# Goodbye Girls' Brigade

**At the October Parade service friends and parents joined to give thanks for the wonderful ministry of the Girls' Brigade in this Church for over 38 years. It was especially moving to have Ruth Clark with us, who began the work during the Reverend Richard Tucker's ministry.**

Over the years, the faithful leadership of the officers and helpers has influenced many girls. Each week the girls have learned many skills through badge and teamwork and all within the framework of regular Biblical teaching and instruction in the Christian faith.

We will never know the impact of the Girls' Brigade on those who attended, but I am sure that all the girls would like to express their sincere thanks to the officers and helpers for their dedication and commitment over the years.

*Heather Swann, chaplain*



# Look at their

**I had been to India with Ron seven years ago so this time I knew what to expect, which made me apprehensive. We were there for ten days to visit some of the projects that Operation Mobilisation are involved in.**

Our first trip was to a school, which had been set up in a remote village. We were given an enthusiastic welcome by the 430 children aged between 5 and 15. Their classes were basic with a bench and desk but their work was immaculate. Without this school these children would remain uneducated. We were told that two of the 15 year old girls were already married. They still practice arranged marriages and I wondered what life held for these girls and realized that there would not be the opportunities that girls in our country can enjoy.

Another day we went to a slum, the conditions were indescribable with garbage and open sewers everywhere. We were introduced to a 16 year old girl with a radiant smile. She had been married at 14 and after a while her husband grew tired of her and set her alight. She suffered horrific burns to her neck and body. He will not be prosecuted, it's fine to treat a woman like that. Tears welled up in our eyes as she smiled brightly and testified of her love for Jesus. The OM team are supporting her and she is working in the school, but we were told she would never marry again because no one would want her now she is so disfigured.

On a visit to a different slum; we went to a women's prayer meeting. The conditions here were worse than the first slum. These women sang and prayed with real joy. I found myself praying that they would be able to get out of these awful conditions and I felt the Lord saying 'don't look at the surroundings, look at their hearts'. I realized that to these women the Lord means everything and it put my faith to shame. We say he means everything to us but our lives have



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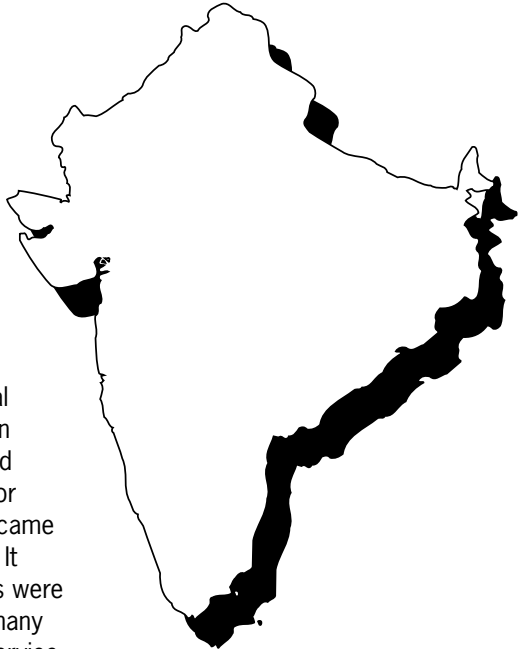
# hearts

become cluttered with forms of worship and man made baggage. Balmer, an OM worker, had been working in these slums for ten years and had seen many people become Christians. She told us she loved the people and the ministry God had called her to do. She was truly one of God's heroes.

On our last day we went to a hospital just outside Bombay. An Indian Christian doctor set it up twelve years ago. It had 50 beds and half of the patients paid for their treatment and the other half who came from the poor areas were treated free. It was a modern hospital and the patients were helped both physically and spiritually, many had become Christians and a church service was held every Sunday. They also run a project for AIDS victims and their families. We went to the home of a widow with AIDS, she was blind and had three children. Her youngest, a girl of twelve stayed. at home to look after her. She had become a Christian and we had the privilege of praying for her.

By the end of the trip I was emotionally and physically exhausted but I had seen Jesus in the dedication of the OM workers and the joy in the lives he had touched. It was a very humbling experience.

*Janet Goodenough*





# The call to worship

**Brenda Dart has been ringing church bells for over 40 years. As secretary for All Saints' Lindfield tower bells, Brenda 'shows us the ropes' in this month's Lindfield Life!**

We ring every Sunday for either the 09:30 or 11:15 service and then again in the evening for the 18:30 service. There are eight bells in the tower, but we generally ring an average of six bells due to the number of ringers available. We usually ring "Method" style (i.e. changing the order in which the bells are rung with every stroke), but, depending on the number of people available, we occasionally use call-changes, which can involve a fewer number of bells.

We ring for many special occasions, including village events and weddings, with the highlight of the year being New Year's Eve. Just before midnight we "Ring out" the old year by tolling the bell 31 times (to represent the number of days in December), wait for the clock to strike midnight and then "Ring in" the New Year.

The oldest bell in the tower dates back to 1573 and is the clock bell. This bell is not rung

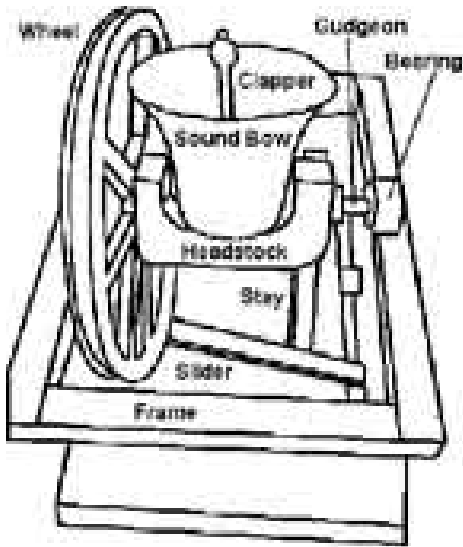
but used to strike the time. In 1887 the belfry was taken off the ground floor, the gallery put in place and a further three bells added. The bells are relatively heavy, with the tenor bell (the heaviest) weighing in at 21cwt. The average bell is between 15cwt and 16cwt.

We are members of the Sussex County Association of Church Bell Ringers (Northern division) which meets on a Saturday. Visiting ringers from all over the country pop-in to our practice evenings and occasionally we have visiting groups on a Saturday.

Practice night is a Tuesday evening from 19:45 until 21:00. We like to have a minimum of six bells ringing and we alternate between new and experienced ringers. This is also a good chance for anyone interested in ringing to see the tower in action.

Just about anyone can learn to bell ring, as long as they are





able to climb the stairs to the gallery. As the bells are heavy we generally start teaching youngsters from the age of 13 years. It takes a minimum of three months to gain bell control and then once you have got to that stage you move on to learn how to keep the bell in place.

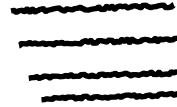
We welcome any newcomers who wish to learn how to bell ring, as well as more experienced ringers.

For more information contact  
**Mrs. Brenda Dart**  
on 01444 482283.

## 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 the editor – it would be great to see more of what is going on in/around the village.

Contact details on page 2.



**Dear Friends,**

I wish to thank all at the church for their prayers and letters of support, over the last of what seems like a hundred years of enjoyable academic indulgence!

I have really felt supported by all those who know me (and those who don't) during this time.

Uni has been near impossible at times, but, the thing that has got me through and guided me all the way to completion, is the sub-conscious knowledge that God had pre-planned this time in His schedule for my healing.

Life for me will always contain difficulties, until I meet the Lord in person. The confidence I have achieved through the experience of university, has allowed me to see that when the going gets tough God will 'never leave us nor forsake us'. This is true, because I feel that I have experienced God's words as a fact within my own sphere of reality. And this, for me, is like Jesus personally delivering the Bible to my front door.

I am humbly grateful for your continuing prayers, letters and cards and I wish to express this to you Thank you.

As for the future? Being awarded an honours degree has given me the confidence to apply for the Professional Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) commencing in the academic year 2005. This next step will give me professional teacher status and with this qualification I intend on teaching primary school pupils who have special needs, because I feel this as being close to my heart.

My simple vision is to give our tomorrow's people a boost, which will cut the experience of losing something because they have a disability.

With all my love, thanks and prayers in the name of Jesus.

Nick Bingham



# Hot survival tips

**A**fter a long day it is sometimes easier to sit in front of the television and be entertained. One of my favourite topics is the natural world. My husband, Chris, and I sat down recently to watch 'Ray Mears Bushcraft'. If you've not seen Ray Mears before he is a cross between David Bellamy and a large overgrown boy scout!

In this programme he was in the Amazon Rain Forest where he met up with a native tribe. After a couple of days Ray and his camera team set off down river with two of the native men as guides, to make camp and survive in the middle of the rainforest. Ray took his trusty rucksack of essentials, the natives taking no more than their boat and knives which they would use to show him how to find food, water and medicine in the jungle. They made hammocks, string and went fishing. They also showed Ray how to tap trees to find ointment for cuts, sap for a headache, even resin to make the children a ball to play with.

On the last day Ray asked them to show him how they made fire but was surprised when they admitted they used a cigarette lighter! "What if you run out of fuel or lose the lighter?" Ray asked.

They told him it would take a month to go down river and back again to get more supplies. With kindness and gentleness he asked them if he might be allowed to show them how to create fire using just wood. Warily they agreed. With some effort and care and the three men gently blowing on the hot dust that Ray had made, the flame suddenly took hold and there was laughter, smiles and congratulations around the small camp fire.

The next day back in the village the whole tribe spent all day practising their lost art of fire making. They were delighted. Ray had given them back something so useful which was also vital to their survival.

I looked at Chris and we both had tears in our eyes. We said how he could have given them a plough, seeds or even blankets; but no. With respect and kindness he had given them back something they needed more than anything else.

It reminded me of Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross. There may be lots of things I would like but the only vital thing I need is God's saving grace which is given to me freely. My hope for everlasting life.

*Tina Elphick.*



# A word from Nikki – now Bigler

**W**ell it has been a long time since you started supporting me and I am looking forward to an opportunity to come back and visit you.

Thank you so much for your card and present – I was so touched to know that you thought of Nico and I. We had two lovely weddings, one in my home in the UK with lovely sunshine in between some overcast skies, thank fully it rained the days before and after! We took a mini moon for 3 days in Barcelona which was wonderful. We then returned to Switzerland for a Marriage Blessing in the church where Nico grew up followed by a reception in an old chalet half way up a mountain

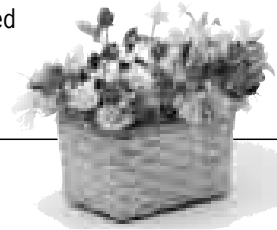
We had a honeymoon in Italy relaxing in Capri and crazy sight seeing in Rome. We returned planning to spend the rest of our two weeks holiday nesting into Nico's apartment together. This involved several trips to Ikea and we now have plenty of storage solutions in a small apartment!

I am continuing to work for New Steps which has now grown to be a part of Mercy Ships Sierra Leone so a few more added bits of job description – I don't think I will be getting bored in the near future.

Thank you for your gift, which has gone towards building the new rehabilitation centre. It is nearly finished and the team have moved from the rented building into what is finished to start services from the new site just the first week of November. It is a really exciting time in Sierra Leone with

the new Aberdeen Clinic and Fistula centre coming on line in February and long time Mercy Shippers Rene & Marianne Lako now installed as the new directors in Sierra Leone so Dorothy is retired at the end of November and handing over to them. My role will become even more communicational as I try to help with all the things that cant be done from down there. With a new team and new national staff director for new steps.

Love Nikki



## Flower Rota

	<b>Arranging</b>	<b>Distributing</b>
Dec 5	Janet Wade	Betty Peter
12	Hilda Donegan	Jacqueline Wood
19	Christmas Dec.	Iris Bingham
26	Christmas Dec.	No delivery
Jan 2	Gladys Porter	Fiona Tingley
9	Carol Walters	Heather Swann
16	Anne Blake	Sue Tester
23	Mary Comber	Dorothy Forster
30	Mies Brock	Betty Peter



## 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)
- 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.)
- 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

### Hall Letting Secretary:

Audrey McKee 01444 415031

### In Touch:

Sue Waller 01444 455047

### Lunch Fellowship:

Wednesday:  
Janet Drayton 01444 456161

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  
01444 417002

### 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

### Christmas services at Lindfield URC

**SUNDAY 19TH  
DECEMBER**

**9.30 am**

All-Age Christmas Service  
– "What, me Lord?"

**11.00 am**

Christmas Carol Service  
– "Who is this babe of  
Bethlehem?"

**6.30 pm**

Christmas Unwrapped  
– Drama, Readings,  
Poetry,  
Carols & Songs.

**MONDAY 20TH  
DECEMBER**

**7.30 pm**

Traditional Christmas  
Carol Concert  
Brass Band,  
Choir & Lots of Carols!

**CHRISTMAS  
EVE**

**7.00 pm**

Christmas Eve Carol  
Service  
– "Angels Calling"

**CHRISTMAS  
DAY**

**10.30 am**

Family Celebration  
– "Jesus –  
Follow the Star"

**SUNDAY 26TH  
DECEMBER**

**10.30 am**

Morning Worship  
with Holy Communion  
– "From the Stable –  
New Beginnings"

### Lindfield Village Night

Wednesday  
8th December

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

