

*Good*NEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2005

Bible bugs!



PLUS...

- News of a Christian 'Bridget Jones' novel
- Valentine's saintly myths!
- Church diary and events for February



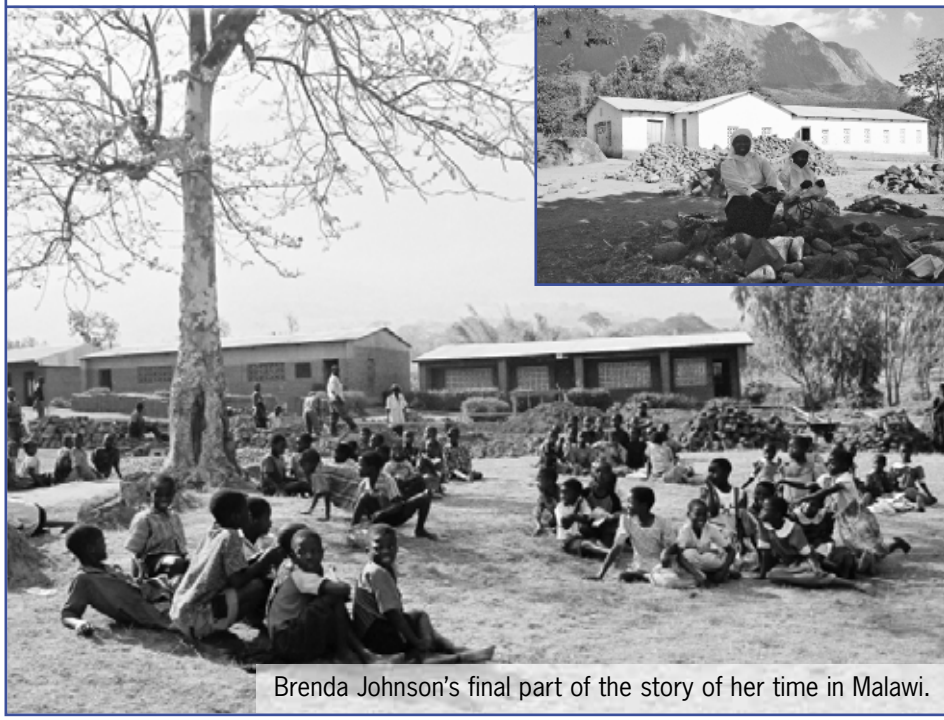


Smile **“THANK YOU
KNITTERS”**

Team member David Mooney delivering knitted teddies to a widow's children in Kosova in August 2004

Knitters unite: see news story inside.

www.smileinternational.org



Brenda Johnson's final part of the story of her time in Malawi.

Dear Friends...



What we have seen in response to the tsunami disaster is the astonishing generosity of the public around the world; faced by the reality of unnecessary death people are massively generous and greatly concerned.

Through this disaster every single person in the country was deeply, horrifically aware of the precariousness of life, particularly for the poor. I'd ask people not to forget their passion of the last six weeks. Hold on to it. Having lived and worked in Africa I am hoping for a "compassion breakthrough" this time. In Zambia I worked as a volunteer with UNICEF and it became clear that aid needs to be coupled with sustainable development long term.

My hope, and one I've nurtured for the past 25 years, is that a terrible tragedy like this will increase people's passion to see something radical done for the poor this year.

The waves took 150,000 lives or more. The silent disaster of poverty claims a similar number of children every five days. They die from lack of food and clean water. In Zambia, one of my laboratory technicians came to me one morning to say that his young nephew had died of measles.

Whatever medically took

the child's life, the real cause was poverty. Someone dies of poverty-related causes every three seconds. As Bob Geldof has said: "The tsunami was an act of God. African poverty is an act of man." The time is now for change.

Aid agencies have put together a campaign "Make Poverty History" - a campaign to create a popular movement that pushes politicians in the G8 countries once and for all to take decisive steps to eradicate extreme poverty. We are fighting against something that is claiming many more lives than slavery or apartheid ever did. It can be solved. It needs a plan from the politicians that delivers "trade justice" so that world trade becomes part of the solution to poverty, not part of the problem. A plan that ends the Third World debt crisis once and for all and that mobilises more and better aid. I would contend that these are not monstrous and unimaginable things. But it will require everyone to do something to make them happen this year.

One simple thing you can do is go to the website,

www.makepovertyhistory.org

Colin Bones, minister

GoodNEWS

This magazine is produced by: Lindfield United Reformed Church, 50 High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex RH16 2HL.
© Lindfield URC 2004

Editorial Team: David Tingley (editor), Martin Hall, Annabel Goody, Steven Farley & Tina Elphick
Editorial Oversight / Proof-reading: Hilary Shepherd
Printing: Tom Burford & Venture Press

Next copydate:

Saturday 12th February, 5.0pm.

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.

Directory



Minister: Rev Colin Bones
52 High Street, Lindfield RH16 2HL
Office: 01444 487607
Home: 01444 483803
Email: colin@lindfieldurc.org.uk

Church Secretaries:

Mrs Sue Waller
58 Queens Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1EE
Tel: 01444 455047 Email: susanwaller@lineone.net

Mr David Jones
13 William Allen Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2SA
Tel: 01444 483037 Email: fay-david@supanet.com

Treasurer: Position vacant

A list of serving Elders can be found in Who's Who?

Editorial



When our team gets together to discuss and 'bounce' ideas for this magazine, there is always plenty to talk about!

What we are trying to achieve is a good mix of topical articles with our own local church information and stories too.

I think this February edition shows this well – with a wide range of articles. From Valentines (p.21) to square dances (p.20). From tsunami comment (p.1) to the poverty experienced in North East Romania (p.16). From what is going on in our church (p.12) to what happens when Christians answer the call to "go" (p.18).

The magazine, like the Church, is a diverse mix – a hotch-potch if you like! Hopefully giving us, as readers, plenty to read and plenty to pray through this coming month.

David Tingley, editor

PS: Just to tantalise you, watch out for a new feature in the March edition of GoodNEWS!

Prayer Diary



SUN

Pray for all the 'behind-the-scenes' workers at LURC

MON

Uphold the Sussex East District of the URC, its officers and committees.

TUE

This month's mission focus, CASCAID – Dorca in Romania

WED

Pray for 'Zest', leaders, helpers & children

THUR

Uphold the 'Pop-in' sessions each week

FRI

Remember the Boys' Brigade, staff and boys

SAT

Continue to pray for all aspects of "Alive '05"

Prayer FOCUS

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

Not one of us can help but be moved by the plight of our fellow human beings in SE Asia following the **Tsunami** disaster. Uphold the millions of people affected. Give thanks for the amazing response to the international appeal for finance. Ask God to continue to prompt folk to give in order to provide clean water, food, medical items and toiletries, blankets and clothing and so much more. Pray that the much needed aid may get through to all the stricken areas, however remote. Please pray for the aid agencies and their staff, themselves facing danger as they seek to help the survivors and comfort the bereaved. We can but pray that some lasting good may come out of this heart-rending tragedy.

Also uphold in your prayers our minister and elders. They will be away for their Quiet Day on February 26th. Ask God to guide and strengthen them as they seek His direction in leading this church on into 2005.



Insects in the Bible

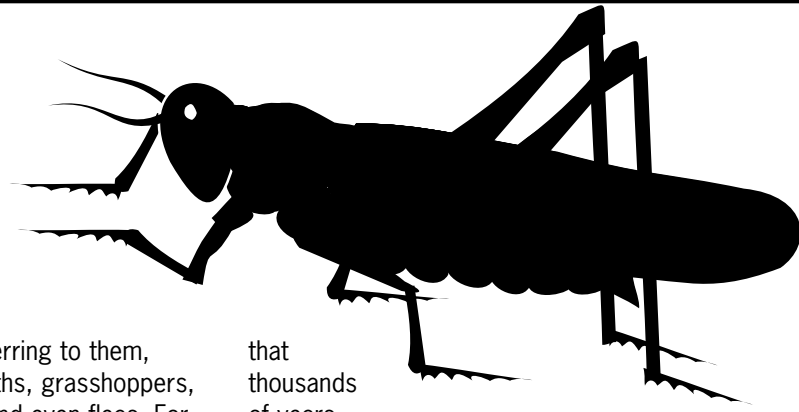
Martin Hall appreciates that insects are not everybody's cup of tea! But, having grown up in more tropical climes than Lindfield, they have fascinated him since he was a child. When he did settle here he was lucky enough to find a girl who tolerated his interest and she even found an appropriate cartoon in a newspaper around the time of their wedding; "Love is sharing his interest in bugs"! Martin works at the Natural History Museum in London and has been studying the rather unpleasant matter of maggot infestations of humans and animals for the last decade! Something which he has experienced personally while working in South America!

Sometimes maggot infestations can be beneficial, being used by surgeons in a carefully controlled manner to heal wounds. It was while researching for a review of maggot therapy that I became aware of the numerous references to insects in the Bible. In our review we found that the Bible contains possibly the earliest written record of human affliction with maggots. During his lengthy period of suffering Job complained, "...My body is clothed with worms and scabs, my skin is broken and festering..." (Job 7: 5). Blowflies are readily attracted to festering sores, like Job's, and it is likely

that the "worms" were actually fly maggots. In Job's case they were probably doing good, cleaning his wounds to reduce the chance of gangrene.

Insects are found just about everywhere on our planet and have been closely tied to the lives of humans throughout history. Therefore, it is no real surprise to find them mentioned many times in the Bible. How do the stories of insects in the Bible compare to our experiences of insects today and can we learn anything about ourselves from them?

According to most Bible dictionaries, the Bible has at least 23 names of insects



or words referring to them, including moths, grasshoppers, caterpillars and even fleas. For many of us the most potent images of insects in the Bible are those of the plagues in Egypt, recorded in Exodus 8-10. These included “gnats”, “flies” and “locusts”. The flies were probably stable flies. These are frequently seen on the legs of horses and cattle in the fields around Lindfield and cause painful bites, to humans as well if we are unlucky enough to be attacked!

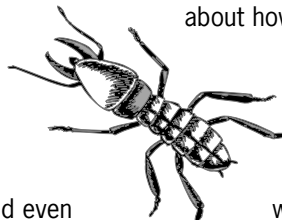
Although we might not see locusts around Sussex, their destructive powers are well known. In Exodus it says that they “...invaded all Egypt...Never before had there been such a plague of locusts, nor will there ever be again. They covered all the ground until it was black... Nothing green remained on tree or plant in all the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 10: 14-15). These words describe very accurately the devastating effects of locust swarms, a single one of which can cover hundreds of square kilometres. It is amazing to think

that thousands of years after the plagues of the Bible and with all of our high-tech advances these same locusts are causing just as much devastation now as then. One of the enduring images from the TV news of last year was of swarms of locusts that spread throughout much of Africa, causing the worst locust problems for 15 years. As in Biblical times, swarms invaded Egypt and Israel. We’ve seen the past and present effects of locusts and the Bible suggests that locusts will be around in the future too, being involved in the final days predicted by Revelations (9: 1-11).

It is easy to dwell on the negative aspects of insects, but there are positive aspects too and the Bible does point to these. For a start, while locusts cause lots of problems by eating our crops, in some countries people get their own back by eating locusts, boiled, roasted or dried and ground into a powder

Feature – Bible bugs

that can be used for making cakes! A good example of this is shown by John the Baptist, whose "...food was locusts and wild honey" (Matthew 3: 4). Honey, of course, is another positive result of insect activity, although it is a brave man who attempts to take it from a wild bee nest. I remember a peaceful midday siesta under a tree in Sudan being rudely interrupted by a swarm of bees that flew down from the tree to attack us. It was a comical scene as I, my colleagues and even my dog fled in confusion and it was some hours before we were able to sneak back and reclaim our mats and Land Rover! Those sort of dangers aside, the image of honey is one of good and God used it as he spoke to Moses to portray the

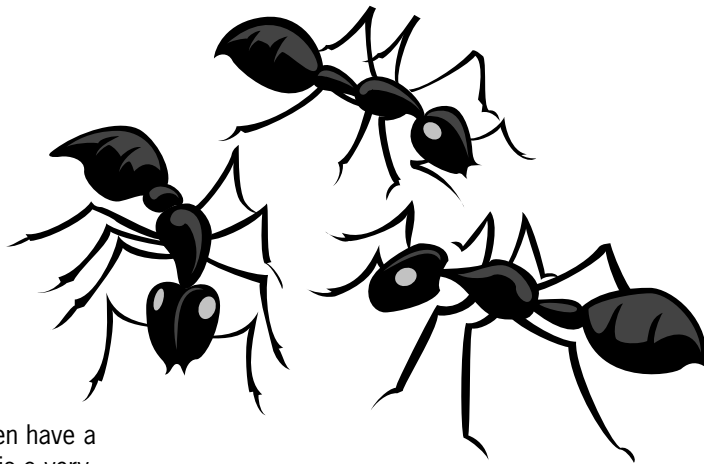


land into which he would deliver the Israelites, "...flowing with milk and honey..." (Exodus 3: 8). In the beautiful and sensuous Song of Songs (4: 11) there is a mention of milk and honey reminiscent of this description of the promised land, "...Your lips drop sweetness as the honeycomb, my bride; milk and honey are under your tongue..."

Can insects teach us anything about how we might behave?

Clearly the author of Proverbs thought so because there is a wonderful example there to those of us who might be feeling a bit lazy: "Go to the ant you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!" (Proverbs 6: 6-8). What a wonder it is to see such diligence and complexity in such a tiny frame.

I hope that this brief glimpse of insects in the Bible has shown



that while insects often have a negative press there is a very positive side to them and they can even teach us something about how we should act. As we approach Spring, remember to take time to look and marvel at the beautiful insects that begin to appear in our gardens. For me, working with insects has been and still is a real privilege and great fun, although perhaps not as much fun as someone once thought when I said I worked in the "Insects Department" and he responded, "In sex – wow!".

Thanks

Thank you very much indeed for the cheque for £7187.55. I have sent Samuel £640 today for the Jesus Cares programme, this money will be used specifically to help any children who are in particular need and do not have a sponsor.

Would you please pass our very grateful thanks to everyone in Lindfield – we really praise the Lord for this wonderful gift. We will keep you informed of the progress on the Spiritual Life centre and how this money is used.

*Yours in Christ, Gwen Hall,
Romans One Eleven Trust - Uganda*

NOTE FROM BILL GREEN: See the 'Mutually Encouraged' brochure for further news and an invitation to join John Hall on a visit to Uganda this year. Is God calling you?!



Accommodation

Many thanks to those of you who have kindly offered to accommodate students from Moorlands College when they come for the Mission, 21st – 29th May. At the time of going to press the URC still needs another 10 or 11 beds to fulfil our quota. Please do speak to me as soon as possible if you can help. *Thank you!*

Fiona Tingley 01444 483419

8 – February Good**NEWS**

Harry McCleery would like to thank everyone in the church for their good wishes, prayers and messages of sympathy on the death of his mother in December.

As of 8th February 2005

Anne and Paddy Lay's

new address will be:

8, Kiloanin Crescent, Banbridge,
Co. Down, NORTHERN IRELAND
BT32 4NU

Meg Sidky would be glad if anyone knows of someone who would do **a little light cleaning** for a couple of hours one morning a week.

Terms to be agreed.

Please ring Lindfield 482981

Very many thanks to so many in the church for all your prayers, support and practical help in recent months. Also for the many cards received. These have all meant so much to me.

Joan Armitage.

New Address

Arline Wight has moved to:

48 By Sunte, Lindfield, RH16 2DB.

Tel: 01444 414403

"THE FELLOWSHIP"

The Fellowship **meets** this month on **Wednesday 23rd February** at 2.45pm. Or guest speaker will be Mr Withall who will be showing slides and talking about Wakehurst Place. After which tea and biscuits will be served.

Please come and join us for this interesting afternoon"

Teddies for Tragedies

The name was coined in 1991 and is not part of any church group as it involves people from many churches and other organisations.

Many thousands of teddies have been distributed throughout the world. Those made by the knitters of Haywards Heath and Lindfield URC's are currently distributed through "Smile", a Christian charity based in Orpington, Kent.

Last year a total of about 1000 teddies were sent from Haywards Heath and Lindfield.

The demand is as great as ever with the natural disasters and war situations around our world, for example the post war situation in Kosovo and Bosnia.

It is essential the bears are knitted exactly to the pattern to obviate any problems with customs regulations. Patterns and information available from Gladys Porter (Lindfield URC) on 01444 441310

Balcombe United Reformed Church

Bramble Hill, Balcombe, RH17 6HR

Contact: Mrs Leonie Wren (01444 811253)

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

Speakers for this month are as follows:-

February	6th	Ron Goodenough
February	20th	Rev. Colin Bones



Visitors are most welcome to join us at any time.

The all new Bridget!

“The Whitney Chronicles” follows the life of an American 30-something single girl who is desperately searching for a man. It is comparable to our own “Bridget Jones” (Whitney doesn’t have much luck with relationships either) except for the fact that Whitney is a Christian.

Billed as “Wholesome faith-based entertainment” (unlike Bridget, Whitney hardly drinks) the book is selling fast in America and is set to do the same over here.

Look out for a review in forth-coming months.

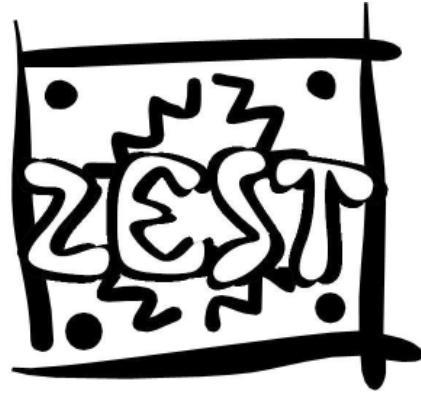
Shaping up to the Red devils

A Christian managing director of a non-league football club is thanking God after drawing the top tie of the FA Cup Third Round – Manchester United at Old Trafford. Ian Huxham only took over at cash-strapped Exeter City Football Club in December 2003. But now fans are celebrating after the club’s fortunes have begun to turn round. It was capped off two weeks ago after they drew Manchester United for the Third round of the FA Cup to be played on 8th Jan where some 9,000 Exeter City fans flocked to Old Trafford on the day.

Source: Christian Herald

Youth Work

A new way to have fun!



On Wednesday 12th January, Zest was launched here at Lindfield URC. There was a real buzz about the place and some of the activities we did were French cricket, volleyball, hockey, giant snakes and ladders, giant JENGA, Pictionary, badgemaking, eating tuck and finding out how Jesus can be our special friend.

There were a number of young people there, some came with friends and others came through links with the church. We have room for more – so if you are in school year 1 through to 8 we would love to see you.

5.30pm – 6.30pm is ZEST 1:2 & ZEST 3:4 (for school years 1 – 4)
6.45pm – 8.00pm is ZEST 5:6 & ZEST 7:8 (for school years 5 – 8)

Our logo is “Zest – a new way to have fun!” and that is exactly what we intend to do when we meet each Wednesday during term time. For more info phone Clare on 01444 484683.

Clare Nibloe and Rob Biersteker

The Little girl & Grandpa

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, “Grandpa, did God make you?”
“Yes, sweetheart,” he answered, “God made me a long time ago.”
“Oh,” she paused. “Grandpa, did God make me too?”
“Yes, indeed, my dear,” he said. “God made you just a little while ago.”
Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, “God's getting better at it, isn't he?”

Source: www.parishpump.co.uk

February church diary

5th

Saturday 8.45am
– 9.30am Morning
Prayer Meeting
(Lounge)

6th

Sunday 9.30am **Communion**
David Goodchild
& Dickie Twort
Cascaid
11.00am Colin Bones
& Dickie Twort
6.30pm Adrian Cookney
& Colin Bones

9th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch
Fellowship

10th

Thursday 8.00pm Mission Training

11th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch
Fellowship

13th

Sunday 9.30am David Goodchild
& Cavan Wood
11.00am Cavan Wood
6.30pm **Communion**
David Nibloe &
David Jones

20th

Sunday 9.30am Adrian Cookney
& Stuart Dew

Fairtrade Stall between services

11.00am Stuart Dew
6.30pm David Goodchild
& Colin Bones

22nd

Tuesday 7.45pm In Touch

23rd

Wednesday 2.45pm The Fellowship
7.45pm Elders

24th

Thursday 8.00pm Mission Training

27th

Sunday 9.30am David Goodchild
& Colin Bones
11.00am **Communion**
Colin Bones
6.30pm United
Celebration at
Clair Hall

**OTHER LOCAL EVENTS
LISTED ON BACK COVER**

A short history of Crusaders

The North London missionary Albert Kestin could see a need to reach young people who did not know Jesus and were not connected with a local Church.



Unofficially born in 1900 as a missionary movement the Crusader's objective was for Christians from Churches across a town to reach these young people. The cross denomination approach did result in some opposition but at its inaugural meeting on 29th March 1906 the Crusader Union agreed "to work in harmony with all denominations and local churches".

Since then much has changed. The target is no longer school boys but all young people. Meetings are not 'classes' on a Sunday but mid-week 'groups'. More churches now pursue their own outreach to non-churched children. Crusaders has adapted, increasingly using its resources and training to work with churches instead of independently alongside them. The patron is now Sir Cliff Richard and the president is Rev Steve Chalke. However, its original motto "looking to Jesus" (Hebrews 12:12) and four foundation principles remain the cornerstone. Crusaders: is a pioneering ministry movement with a specific cause; mobilises leaders across churches for the cause; emphasises unity and relationship; and is committed to relevant, creative communication of the bible.

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.

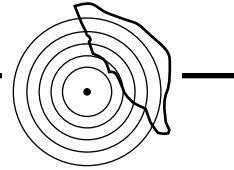
The **11.00am service** is usually more set and formal.

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.



Responding to the earthquake

Disastrous news has followed the celebrations of the Christmas good news for a second year in succession. In the last days of 2003, an earthquake flattened Bam in Iran, killing 31,000 people. The earthquake in the Indian Ocean was said to have claimed at least 150,000 at the time of going to press. The suddenness of the devastation, and the number of countries affected, left governments and aid agencies temporarily stunned. There are, however, encouraging reports that aid is getting through.

An earthquake is perhaps the purest form of natural disaster. No blame can attach to human intervention. The disinterested planet shifts in its sleep, and, in those few seconds, is transformed from a benign and generous host into a brutal foe. On occasions, human folly and injustice can exacerbate the harmful effects of a disaster: inadequate buildings are constructed on known fault-lines: or the poor are forced to live in precarious coastal regions. Political considerations may at times impede the essential humanitarian work: there are already reports that divisions in Sri Lanka are hampering relief efforts. A strongly contemporary feature of the present situation is that several thousand Western tourists had unwittingly paid to be flown into the danger zone to share the suffering of the resident population.

Christian belief needs to embrace phenomena of this kind, and hold fast to faith in the God of compassion, even when the world seems to have destruction built into it. It is wise to be judicious in using the word "miracle". The owner of a hotel chain on one of the Thai holiday islands said: "We have little hope, except for individual miracles". A number of Western tourists have put their "miraculous" survival down to the quick thinking and sacrificial action of local residents. Fortunately, the time for this sort of miracle is not past. The rapid delivery of fresh water, food and medical aid has the

potential to save perhaps as many lives as were lost in the first hours of the disaster.

Our Lord taught his disciples not to hunt for a sinful cause when disaster struck in Siloam, killing 18, but to look themselves, seeking repentance and reformation. We cannot understand the ways of God any better simply by picking our way through the debris, and sifting stories of tragic loss or of survival against the odds. But we can use the opportunity to follow our Lord's example of sacrificial love, and acknowledge our common humanity with people who need our help on the other side of the world.

www.churchtimes.co.uk 31st Dec 2004

Please pray:

- For all those who are grieving the loss of friends and relatives, particularly for children who have lost parents.
- For those who are homeless and endangered by hunger and disease.
- For the protection of orphaned children, at risk of abduction by trafficking gangs.
- For the countless people whose livelihoods were washed away. Pray for resilience and strength as communities start to rebuild.
- For the health and well-being of Tearfund relief workers and partners who are faced with overwhelming need. Pray particularly for Eficor in India, Leads in Sri Lanka and the joint agency relief team in Indonesia. Pray too for Tearfund staff and relief workers supporting them, including Prince David in India and Oenone Chadburn in Sri Lanka. Pray that their relief work will be effective and their witness strong.
- For swift and effective co-ordination of the international relief effort and a wise use of funds.
- That the UK public's amazing response, together with raised awareness of global poverty, will help to bring lasting good out of this appalling tragedy.

Give thanks that governments have been moved to give aid on a large scale – and to consider urgently needed debt-relief for countries affected by the tsunami. Pray that this will be a turning point in international attitudes towards poverty.



February GoodNEWS – 15

Cascaid Trust in Romania

On 6th February, we again welcome our friend Dr Dickie Twort, Director of the Cascaid Trust, who will be speaking at the 9:30am and 11am Sunday services at Lindfield United Reformed Church. Here Dickie gives us a taster of his visit...

"As I write this piece, protesters have been camping in the snows of Kiev for a fortnight - who could ever say that history is boring!? It's a little bit reminiscent of the events which convulsed Eastern Europe in 1989, and which catapulted us into Romania in the first place.

"Interesting" periods of history are probably best viewed from a distance, but 15 years of involvement with Romania have nevertheless been fascinating. When we first visited, with an aid convoy in April 1990, we were astonished at the degree of poverty. In recent years the country has made visible progress, but wealth per capita (even after adjusting for the difference in prices) is still only one quarter of ours. If you struggle to pay the monthly bills on an English salary, imagine paying those same bills on one

quarter of your salary!

We were fortunate from the beginning in linking up with a local Romanian group in North-East Romania, who have since become a registered charity there. They are called "Dorca", and are composed of Christians of all denominations, especially Eastern Orthodox.

We started our work with relief convoys, and we do still support humanitarian work through Dorca. However, our main emphases have shifted to community development work. Romania has one of the largest Roma populations in Europe, and the Roma are generally very poorly integrated into society. It has been a privilege, therefore, to support the establishment of a new Baptist church in a nearby community, where a lot of support has been given to integrating the children



into the local school. Through Dorca, we also support one of the Romanian secondary schools in the area in various ways, including through pupil sponsorship. We are always looking for new sponsors, so do contact me if you would like to know more!

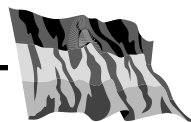
Romania – like Ukraine – is still undergoing enormous changes in the very fabric of society. Responding to this, we have set up a series of conferences, where young

people from all backgrounds can come together to grapple with how faith relates to change. We have supplemented this material with discussion bulletins, English translations of which are also available.

If you would like any further information about our work, please don't hesitate to contact me on **dickietwort@aol.com**, or look on our website

www.cascaid.org.uk

Dickie Twort



School – Malawi Style

Here is the second part of last month's feature article, written by Brenda Johnson. It follows her working sabbatical' last summer in Malawi with World Exchange.

I think that my visit to the school had the biggest impact on me of all the different things I saw. There are over 1000 children registered at the primary school and only eight teachers and the headmaster. The majority of classes were being held outside in groups, with the children sitting under a tree. Two classes were held inside a brick classroom, but there was no door or windows, chairs or desks. Everyone had to sit on the concrete floor and write as best they could on their knees. The blackboards were in a very bad state and one could hardly read what was written on them and the extreme shortage of text books meant that it was impossible to attain or achieve the level of work the teachers would like the children to reach. At the end of the school year a child only goes up to the next grade if he or she has passed to a satisfactory standard. Secondary education is beyond

the means of most Malawi families as it costs about £100 a year, so it is very hard for teenagers who would love to study more but cannot do so and cannot find work either.

Likhubula is in a very rural area, 12 km up a dirt road, with one or two small shops and market stalls where it is possible to buy a few basic essentials like sweet potatoes, tomatoes, eggs, bananas and dried fish. There is no telephone or baker's shop, no newsagents or chemist, no post office or garage so that to obtain food for a basic western diet or other items we had to get down to the main road to Mulange. Many local people have a bicycle and will use that to carry goods and people everywhere, the alternative is the "matola". This form of transport is unsafe and uncomfortable but we had to join the local people and treat it as an experience. A pick up truck with the tailgate down can carry as many as twenty people

plus bikes, luggage and on one occasion a pig and for 30 pence will take you into town. Having bought the bread and other groceries, one has to face the return journey in the same way and then walk for a mile uphill back to the house, the whole thing having taken about four hours to achieve in hot and dusty conditions.

We found the local people very friendly and, although very few could speak good English, we often had a laugh as we went on one of these journeys. I got to know a few very well and they told me a little about their lives. They are very poor and live in small mud brick houses with no running water or electricity, no beds or tables or chairs, just a couple of cooking pots, a sleeping mat and blankets, a hoe and an axe, a hurricane lamp, a bucket for carrying water and a change of clothes for best. Their life is hard and it is difficult to get to a doctor or hospital when they are ill. Their diet is always the same, maize porridge with a few vegetables with no milk for the children, but they care

for their wider families without question. Many are Christians and attend the local church where a 2 1/2 hour service will be vibrant and alive with as many as six choirs, hymns, readings, a sermon and collections. The singing was without music or accompaniment, but I know that if ever I hear that sound in the future I will immediately be transported back to Likhubula.

I was able to spend time up the mountain while I was there and also visit a National Park and enjoy seeing some wildlife and many other things in other parts of the country. My time there was very rewarding and I really enjoyed it. The opportunity to go there was something that I would have never imagined I would do and so I say to everyone, you don't have to be twenty-something to have a gap year experience - World Exchange will be happy to hear from you at any time, whatever age you may be!

Brenda Johnson

www.worldexchange.org

Sermon notes... _____

Ephesians continued



We continue in our morning services by looking at the diverse and challenging chapter 6 from Ephesians which looks at practical issues concerning parenthood, children and family life and the issue of spiritual warfare. To compliment the Ephesians teaching Cavan Wood and Stuart Dew will be bringing the word that God leads them to bring. Our mission focus for the month is Cascaid and we will be joined by Dickie Twort on 6th February.

The evening services will begin with a Praise and Prayer. Also on the 6th February is an opportunity to hear the URC General Secretary, Dr. David Cornick preach at a Synod-wide service at 5pm at Christ Church URC, Sevenoaks. On 27th February we have another opportunity to join with local Christians in a United Service at Clair Hall.

6TH FEBRUARY
- HOLY COMMUNION & CASCAID

9.30 am – Holy Communion
11.00 am – Morning Worship

Ephesians 6: 1-9

– Children, Parents & Family Life
This is a very practical passage looking at the dynamics of parenthood and our family and working lives. There are principles here that are relevant for today's living.
Preacher – Colin Bones

6.30 pm – Praise & Prayer

5.00 pm – **Synod-wide** service at
Christ Church URC, Sevenoaks
Preacher – Dr. David Cornick,
General Secretary of the
United Reformed Church

20TH FEBRUARY

Stuart Dew preaches at both the
9.30 am & 11.00 am morning
services

6.30 pm – Evening Worship
The Church – sent from God

Matthew 16: 13-20 & 2

Corinthians 2: 12-17
Preacher Colin Bones

13TH FEBRUARY
- JIGSAW SUNDAY

9.30 am – Jigsaw for children &
Morning Worship

11.00 am – Morning Worship
Preacher – Cavan Wood

6.30 pm – Holy Communion
Preacher – David Jones

27TH FEBRUARY
- HOLY COMMUNION
& UNITED CELEBRATION

9.30 am – Morning Worship
11.00 am – Holy Communion

Ephesians 6: 10-17

– The Armour of God

We deceive ourselves if we do not think that we do not need to deal with evil in the world. This passage focuses on how we keep things in focus and protect ourselves, engaging in spiritual warfare through prayer.
Preacher – Colin Bones

6.30 pm – United Celebration at
Clair Hall

Lindfield and District Folk Dance Club

Lindfield and District Folk Dance Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month with the exception of a summer break in August and early September.

It is a lively, friendly group with an emphasis on enjoyment rather than perfection. We attempt a wide range of social folk dances – mainly English – from those of a more formal “Pride and Prejudice” style to the lively North Country jigs and reels. We also add a number of squares and contras from the American repertoire.

The club is now in its 30th year. During that time its numbers have fluctuated and it has met in several different halls in Haywards Heath. For many years we met at the social centre in Lewes Road until the school was sold for re-development. Currently it meets at the Church of the Ascension Hall in Vale Road, Haywards Heath, but an eventual return to the village has not been ruled out if a large enough hall with a suitable floor could be found.

The club’s big event of the year is the Spring Barn Dance at the King Edward Hall – to be held on Saturday 26th February. This is always popular, and often a sell out. Each year a number of those who attend become regular club members. Why not give it a try?

For further information contact:
Jennie Stockbridge (Club Secretary)
on 01444 482787

**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.

Valentine's Day

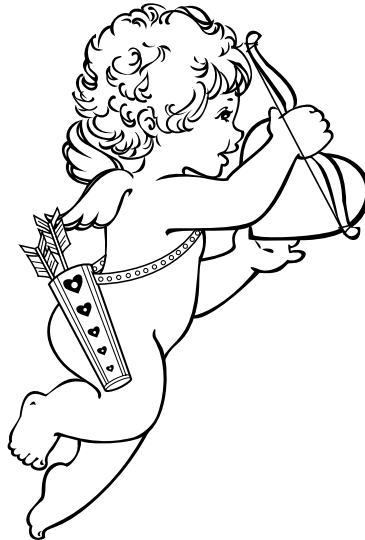
Love is in the air!

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

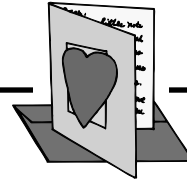
So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day - 14 February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

SOURCE: www.parishpump.co.uk



Valentine's Day

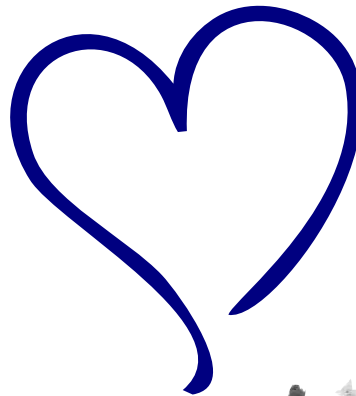


The very first Valentine card – a legend

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So, secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison waiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.



Flower Rota

	Arranging	Distributing
Feb 6	Dorothy Forster	Jacqueline Wood
13	Iris Green	Iris Bingham
20	Jessie Green	Fiona Tingley
27	Carol Marsh	Heather Swann
Mar 6	Betty Billins	Sue Tester
13	Audrey McKee	Dorothy Forster
20	Zoe McQuillan	Betty Peter
27	EASTER SUNDAY	Jacqueline Wood

Local events

Fairtrade Grocery/Craft stall



Sunday 20th February

between the services
at 10.30am,
Lindfield URC

"Buy with reassurance
that goods have been
fairly-traded"

www.fairtrade.org.uk

Preservation Society
has a social meeting on
THURSDAY afternoon
17th February

Mike Smith

will be talking about

"The Heritage of
Sussex".

at 2:30 The King Edward
Hall. All welcome.

Lindfield & District Folk Dance Club

Are holding a

Barn Dance
in the King Edward Hall
on Saturday 26th
February
7.30 – 11.00pm.

Tickets £8 (to include
Fish and Chip Supper)
from Club Secretary
01444-482787 or Club
Members.

Concessions for children.
Bring your own drink.

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

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.)
	5.30pm	Zest 1:2, 3:4
	6.45pm	Zest 5:6, 7:8
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 Letting 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:

Rob Biersteker 01444 440835

Junior Church

& Zest Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683