

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

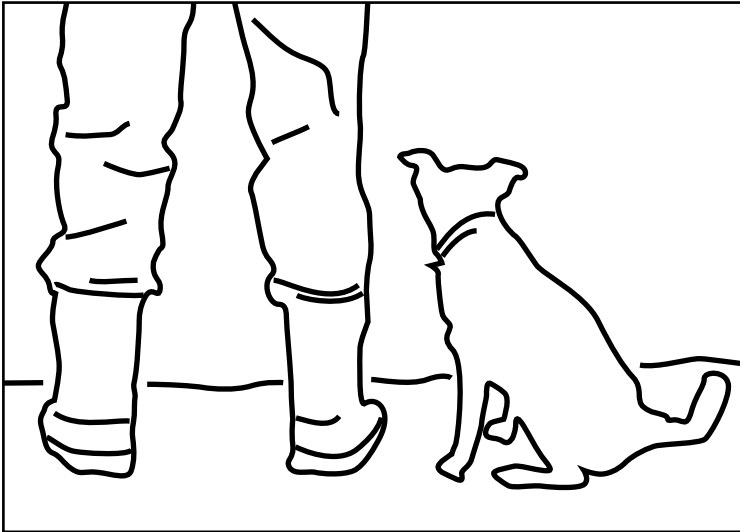
SEPTEMBER 2002

Back to school



-
- What's on at Junior Church?
 - Katy Lewis writes from US Camp
 - Village & church events for September

FREE
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF



I saw a dog handler approach a road junction in Lindfield with his puppy, who was positively wriggling with delight.

His tail was wagging and he was a picture of suppressed bounce! Every few paces the puppy looked up at his master to reassure itself of approval 'cos he knew he was walking to heel. As the man halted at the kerb the puppy entered with gusto into this practised routine. He sat and proudly looked for the expected sign of approval. Strangely, there was no response, only a patient waiting. The master had noticed the dog was sitting PARALLEL to the road and not facing it, as he was

taught! The puzzled pup soon realised the mistake and turned to face the correct way. Praise and reassurance were given immediately, and the pair crossed Denmans Lane in perfect harmony!

This short scene enacted Jesus' own love for us, His so wayward children. How often we get the wrong end of the stick, and our Lord has to wait patiently for us to catch up with His timing for us. Happy walkies!!

Janet Drayton, Elder



SUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Church – give thanks for the summer helpers • Pray for regular staff and the start of the new term • Our worship leaders – Richard Walters & David Nibloe • All visiting preachers and those from our own fellowship • The children & young people in the church (esp those going into new groups)
MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our young people preparing to go to College/University • Those who arrange and distribute church flowers, and for those who receive them • Carol Walters and those who staff the church concourse daily • The Managers
TUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Alpha Course; at All Saints (Tues) & LURC (Thurs) • Girls' Brigade • The local doctors' surgeries and all who work in them • Prison chaplains and all in the Prison Fellowship
WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to offer hospitality to one another • All URC moderators, especially Rev Nigel Uden • URC churches in Eastbourne, Polegate & Hassocks • Volunteer workers in the community
THUR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pop-in, and all who organise and enjoy this • House Groups and their leaders, as they re-start with new study material • All those who are 'carers' for other members of their family • Lesley Partington, the new matron at Compton House
FRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindfield Evangelical Free Church • Boys' Brigade • Wednesday & Friday Luncheon Clubs • The meeting of the District Council and Provincial Council and Trust.
SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Holy Spirit may be touching the life of the person God would have us call to the pastorate here and Balcombe • For a spirit of joy, unity and commitment amongst us, that all might play their part during the pastoral vacancy • Give thanks and praise to God for his many blessings to us

Nobody *knows the* **day** or the **hour.**

“The Arrival of the Son of Man will take place in times like Noah’s. Before the great flood everyone was **carrying on as usual**, having a good time right up to the day Noah boarded the ark. They **knew nothing** – until the flood hit and **swept everything away**.”



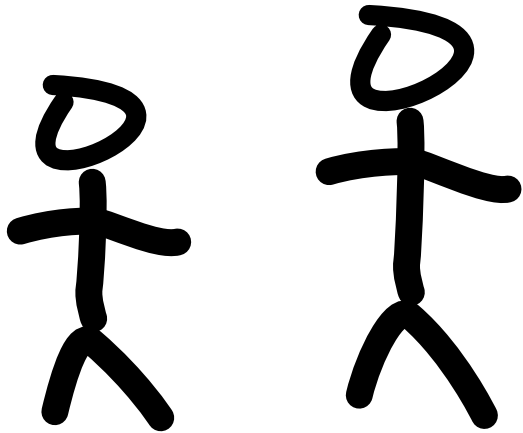
The Son of Man’s Arrival will be like that: Two men will be working in the field – **one will be taken**, one left behind; two women will be grinding at the mill – one will be taken, **one left behind**. So **stay awake**, alert. You have **no idea what day** your Master will show up. But you do know this: You know that if a homeowner had known what time of night the burglar would arrive, he would have been there with his dogs to prevent the break-in. **Be vigilant** just like that. You have no idea when the Son of Man is going to show up.”

From: The Message by Eugene H. Peterson
(The New Testament in Contemporary Language)
Matthew Chapter 24. Pic: CNS July 2002

New term – on Sundays too!

The holidays are soon over, school is back in and you are tired out (parent and child!). Take rest here a while then, and remind yourself of what is available for children at Lindfield URC on Sunday mornings.

Our 9.30am service is normally bustling with people of all ages. A short time into it, the children can leave to do their own thing, in groups of relevant ages. The chart on this page, shows what each group gets up to. If you don't already, why not join us one Sunday? Should you have any questions, the Junior Church Coordinator, Clare Nibloe, will be pleased to hear from you (01444 484683).



Creche

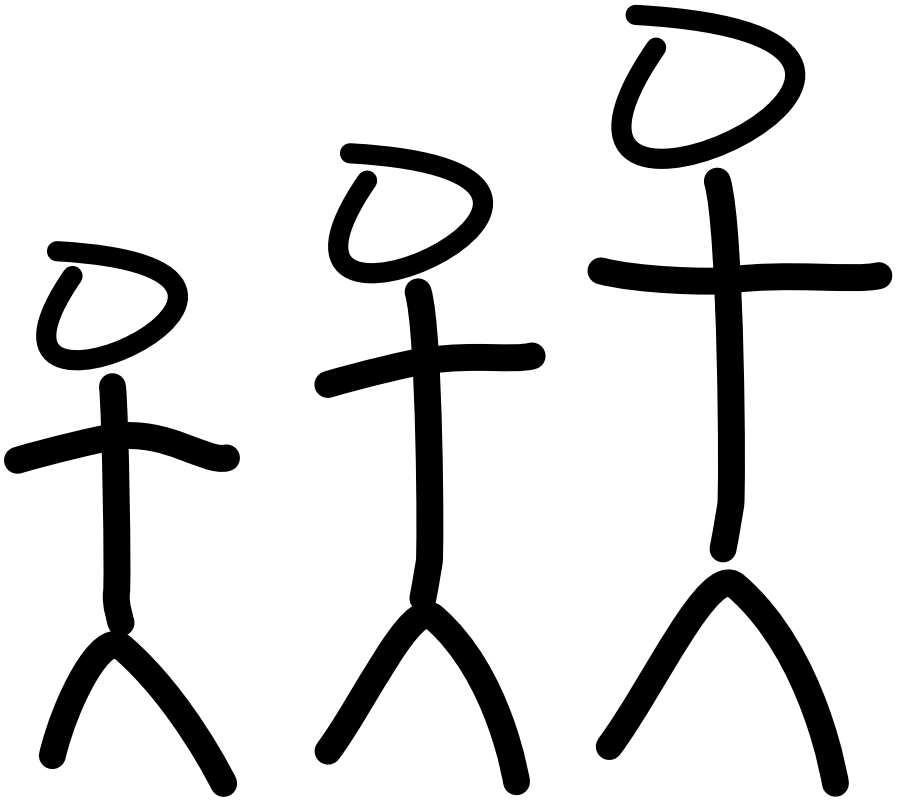
Age: pre 2 ½ years
Who: rota arranged by Janet Drayton

Parents may leave their babies and toddlers in the creche feeling confident that the experienced pair of volunteers will create a safe and happy play session for their child, whilst they enjoy the worship.

Ramblers

Age: 2 ½ – end Reception
Who: Emma, Trudy, Barbara & Serena.

We meet for a crammed session of Bible stories, games and play. We usually make a lot of mess with glue, glitter and paints - resulting in a reminder of the morning to take home!



Hikers

Age: Yr 1 – Yr 2

Who: Rita, Kath, Tim, Charlie & Marion

We have craft things to stick or make, we do colouring and sometimes have games. Most importantly we learn from the Bible through stories and memory verses. We also like to pray together. It's fun!

Adventurers

Age: Yr 3 – Yr 6

Who: Martin, Helen & Tina

Adventurers welcomes all. Our aim is to learn more about the life of Jesus and what life as a Christian is all about in a FUN and CARING environment. See you there!

Carpe Diem

Age: 11 – 14

Who: Suzy, Stuart, Mel & Bill

Meetings usually start with a relevant, but rarely sensible, game. We then read a passage from the Youth Bible. Being a small group we have good discussions about the topic. We end with a prayer.

Fitting all the pieces together

On the second Sunday of every month, all the Junior Church groups get together for one large time of worship, specifically geared for them.

Featuring drama, loads of fun activities and music, courtesy of the Jigsaw band (comprising of really talented young musicians). Jigsaw takes the place of their regular group times, within the 9.30 service. It should be noted, however, that **in October Jigsaw will be on the first Sunday** (6th October), as there is a Brigades' Parade Service on the regular, second Sunday slot.

The Junior Church **Bar-B-Q**

A *fun* time for Junior Church children and their families.

Sat 21st September
4 – 7pm at LURC

All children will be getting a personal invitation

Overheard

What kids said about Junior Church!

"The teachers are old & kind and big & kind"

"I like playing"

"we do making and colouring in"

"We made one a bit like a drum, but we put sellotape on the top"

"we talk about Joseph & God"

"I like sand and drawing things"

"if you learn a verse, you get a prize if you get it right"

Childhood memories

Rob Parsons' book is not, as it may sound, a critique of his Sunday School teachers or a book of deep theological insights that are too profound for those who are at Sunday School (or Junior Church!).

Instead it is a number of reflections on thoughts and truths that were first introduced to him at Sunday School that have subsequently had a significant impact on his life.

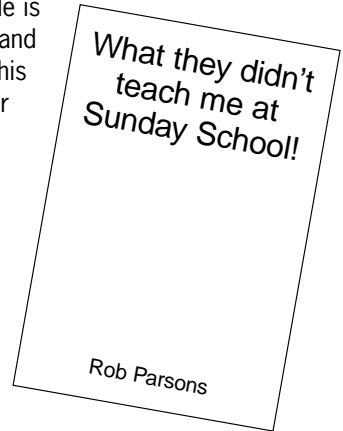
Many of the chapter headings and ideas explored seem obvious on the surface; 'I am known completely and loved unconditionally' (by God), 'The greatest freedom is having nothing to prove' or 'Don't spend your life wishing that you had done more'. However, what Parsons is getting at is that often these are truths that are head and not heart knowledge. Of course, we know that they are true in our heads, but do we accept and know that they are true in our hearts?

All of the chapters are based on stories and ideas from Sunday School that have penetrated to his heart as a result of joyful, sad or traumatic experiences in his adult life. As he says himself, 'the reason that they are so clear is that life itself has enforced them'.

Rob Parsons style is as straightforward and honest as he calls his reader to be in their Christian life and church family. The book is both refreshing and challenging and full of honest insights that take your breath away at times.

Different chapters would speak particularly to different individuals. I personally was hugely encouraged by 'Tomorrow belongs to the failures'. Here Parsons reflects on his experience of his wife's breakdown, and how God showed him that at the end of his resources were God's resources, which were not only infinite but those on which we need to rely if we are ever going to make a difference for God. He encourages the reader to see that real success is being prepared to fail just like Peter trying to walk on the water. God worked in and through Rob and Diane as they served in their weakness and kept on stepping out in faith for Him.

Continued over...



continued from Page 7

I was also massively challenged by 'I was meant to party with my enemies', a chapter that challenges the reader about what God requires from His Church and His children. Parsons emphasises the imperative of real, honest, loving relationships within our church families and the danger of having a 'church world' (how we know it should be) and an 'inner world' (how it really is on the inside). He encourages us to demolish the walls between these two 'worlds' and party with our enemies or all those people that we find difficult. I felt that this chapter was a real insight into God's perspective on His Church.

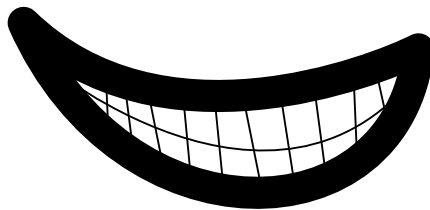
The book is simultaneously a comfort and a challenge, it enables you to have a good look in the mirror and see not only all that you truly are but all that God has in mind for us and that is fantastically exciting! I would recommend it as a book that is a great encouragement for all those who are Sunday School teachers and who sometimes wonder what difference they actually make. It is also a call to the faith of a child for all of us in those times when we mistakenly equate a mature faith to a complicated one.

Dawn Walters

Last month's winner

Jessica won the summer colouring competition by entering her version of Noah's Ark. We hope that you and your family have had, or will have, a great time at Fishers Farm Park – the prize being a day ticket.

Sorry if you didn't win on this occasion. This month you can get the chance to liven up your pencil case with a selection of goodies – if you can work out the Bible verse on the Competition Quiz (page 15). Write it down and pop it in the GoodNEWS box before 12 noon on Sunday 15th September!



*Smiling is infectious; you catch it like the 'flu,
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin,
When he smiled I realised I'd passed it onto him.
I thought about that smile then I realised its worth.
A single smile, just like mine, could travel round the earth.
So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected,
Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!
Everyone needs a SMILE!*

Author unknown. Found & contributed by Heather Barling

Dialling up for Haiti mission

Evangelist Brian Harris is preparing for a mission tour to Haiti early next year - thanks, he says, to the Holy Spirit and a mobile phone company. The Rev Dr Harris has received two previous invitations to missions in the country but finance has usually proved a deterrent. This time round, Any Mobile Phone Ltd offered to help fund all travel expenses relating to the trip, and offered Brian the job of part-time company chaplain and counsellor.

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

Concern over Police insignia change

Plans to drop the crown and cross from the Metropolitan Police insignia have prompted calls for an urgent debate.

The Met's personnel "diversity strategy" approved a new design for recruits who have strong religious objections to the old one.

But the Chairman of the Met's Police Federation says anyone who refused to wear the old insignia probably lacked the tolerance to be a police officer.

Source: www.premier.org.uk

Radio boost

A report by the joint Lords and Commons Committee, to challenge the 1990 Broadcasting Act, which currently prohibits religious organisations or leaders from holding a variety of broadcasting licences, was published in August.

The Evangelical Alliance welcomed the recommendation saying "it is a breath of fresh air". The Report also suggested that a national digital music station should not be discriminated against – enabling the creation of a national gospel station for the first time.

Source: The Evangelical Alliance. www.eauk.org

September 11 survivor marries

One of only five survivors pulled from the rubble after the World Trade Center attacks has married her long-time boyfriend. The ceremony was broadcast on US TV – with vows alluding to her ordeal, such as 'tomorrow is not promised to anyone'.

The 31-year old was trapped for 26 hours after the North Tower collapsed, crushing her legs, until a fireman eventually heard her screams. 'I don't have nightmares about it,' she said. 'I think I pray too much and just keep thanking God.'

Source: Metro, Mon 15 July 2002

Congratulations to Rachel Duke and Tim Goodenough who were married at Danehill Parish Church on 24th August. *We wish them God's richest blessing for their future life together.*

Bereavement

We offer our love and sympathy to the following;—

Roy Munday and his family on the death of his wife **Jackie** on 6th July.

Winifred and John Scopes and family. John's mother **Ethel** died at the age of 101 on 26th July.

The family of **Ron Batterbee** who died on 27th July.

Thanksgiving services for these 3 folk were held at Lindfield URC.

We extend our love and sympathy to **Sue Chapman** and her family on the death of her mother, and to **Vera Dalton** whose husband has died.

Membership

Brenda and Brian Tuppen were received into membership at the end of June. Please add their address and phone number to your 'Who's who'.
217 The Welkin, Lindfield.
Telephone 01444 487416

New Home

Norman Burtenshaw has moved to Compton House.

Rosemary, Peter and Lydia Underhill have moved to 55, College Road, Ardingly. RH17 6RZ. Telephone 01444 891588
We welcome them back to Lindfield URC. Please amend your 'Who's who'.

Thanks

"I would like to thank you for all the kindness and wonderful help you gave Jackie while she was very ill. Also for the cards and letters to myself and my family. Thanking you once again."
Roy Munday

Queenie Worcester has recently spent some weeks in hospital. She'd like to express her thanks for the prayers, cards and visits, which have been much appreciated.

"We thank all the people who so kindly sent us cards and letters following the death of John's mother. The Service of Thanksgiving for her life was truly memorable, and we are so grateful to all who took part in it in any way. We feel it was just as she would have wished it to be. We thank God for her wonderful, long and full life, and especially for all the loving care and kindness she received in her latter years, in so many ways, at Compton House."
John & Winifred Scopes

Thanks

"I would like to say a great big THANK YOU to everybody who has prayed for me, visited me, sent messages and flowers. It was only a bunion operation on both feet but it has given me time to sit back, evaluate my life and count my blessings."

Eileen Jacques

Aubrey and Norna Derham would like to thank everyone for joining in the celebrations of their Golden Wedding Anniversary, and for the many good wishes and lovely cards. They were very blessed.

Boats, Bring & Buy

The Fellowship commence their autumn programme on Wednesday 25th September at 2.45pm when the speaker will be Mr Richard Hill from the R.N.L.I. They will have the usual 'Bring & Buy' stall, and tea and biscuits will be served. New members and visitors will be made most welcome.

Lindfield charity gives book grants

A Lindfield charity, Coomber's Trust, is inviting applications for three grants, each of £50, for the purchase of books for educational purposes.

To be eligible you must:

- live within the civil urban parish of Lindfield
- be taking a recognised course of study for an academic or professional qualification
- need financial help towards your studies.

To apply, please write to The Secretary, Coomber's Trust, 117 High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex, RH16 2HR by 21st September giving:

- your age
 - the qualification for which you are studying and where
 - the titles of the books you would buy
 - any other information which you think is relevant to your application.
-

HH town youth work progress

A Youth Cafe (to be called "Bytes") is due to open in The Broadway, Haywards Heath later this month. Jenni Addison, recently appointed detached youth worker in the area, will be based in the cafe office. All under the banner of 'Streetmate', the service is for young people in Haywards Heath, set up in partnership by NCH and Churches Together in Haywards Heath & District.



Managing in faith

It was at a late night forum at Spring Harvest this year that I first heard about the Eco-Congregation programme.

I was excited to hear of some of the projects that churches had got involved in within their local communities. Some had planted trees and flowers in a community garden, others had begun to promote fair trade by changing the brand of teas and coffees that they normally used. Another church had started a 'Green Box' scheme for recycling anything from stamps to mobile phones.

Eco-Congregation, the churches environmental programme, was developed from a partnership between Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and ENCAMS (formerly Going for Green & Tidy Britain Group). It aims to encourage churches and members to show their care for God's creation in spiritual and practical ways, helping them work with their local communities. The programme has three core components: a set of resource modules, a process to provide support for churches by linking them to appropriate local environmental

groups, including within their local authority and an award scheme to recognise creditable environmental work of churches. The programme was developed through a pilot study involving 22 churches from eight denominations and a variety of contexts and sizes from across the United Kingdom. The modules cover a range of areas from resources for worship and Bible study material to the managing of financial, catering and purchasing matters. The modules focus on four main areas: Grounding in Faith, Growing in Faith, Managing in Faith and Living in Faith. Churches are encouraged to choose the modules that are most relevant to them, undertaking a project/activity in areas covered by at least three of the modules in order to gain an award. Projects need to include one with a strong spiritual dimension, one with a strong practical dimension and at least one activity that has had a positive impact on, or involved, their local community.

Rev Justin Dunne, Wakefield Baptist Church, reflects on his

The Eco-Congregation Blessing

(inspired by Matthew 7 v 24)



The Eco-Congregation built their Church upon a rock and:

Checked that their premises and life reflected their missionary priorities

Worshipped the God of creation through word and deed

Conducted Bible studies to explore environmental insights from God's word

Considered green theological perspectives in sermons and decisions

Enthused their children with wonder for God's creation

Encouraged their young people to take environmental issues seriously

Challenged their members to green their personal lifestyles

Installed low-energy light bulbs and recycled more than old sermons

Bought fairly traded goods to give their coffee mornings a good aroma

Planted their patch with wildflowers in praise of God

Opened their doors to let the community in and the green Good News out

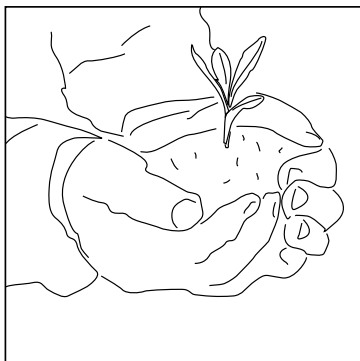
Acted locally, to care for people and the environment globally

And celebrated together, for they lived life in fullness with Christ

experience of the
Eco-Congregation programme:

“Our Church valued the Eco-Congregation Programme because it helped us to take care of God's creation through a variety of practical initiatives including recycling, careful use of

energy, cleaning ponds and other conservation projects.



Eco-Congregation also gave a new lease of life to Church members who have found how their environmental concerns, interests and skills can be used to serve God. It has been faith building for them and faith challenging to those outside the church who see us doing something practical to benefit the whole community.”

If anyone also shares an interest in all things ‘green’ then let me know – perhaps as individuals or a whole church we can make a difference in our local community.

Emma Tingley

fun page



Put the kettle on, pull up an ice-pop or
unwrap the chocolate – you are never too
old for a wordsearch! This one's just for fun.

H	A	G	G	A	I	P	E	B
N	J	O	S	H	U	A	N	T
O	A	H	D	S	E	S	O	M
L	Y	D	I	A	S	P	A	A
D	U	V	O	M	A	O	H	T
I	F	A	A	U	U	T	X	T
V	S	R	P	E	T	E	R	H
A	K	W	C	L	V	W	C	E
D	O	E	S	T	H	E	R	W

can you find these people of
the bible?...

Noah

David

Eve

Moses

Esau

Dan

Joshua

Paul

Lydia

Haggai

Peter

Esther

Samuel

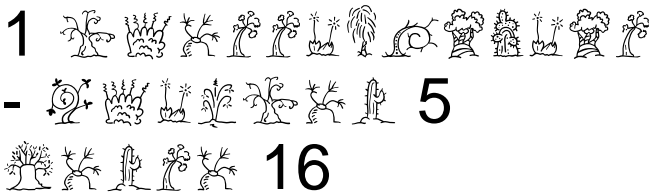
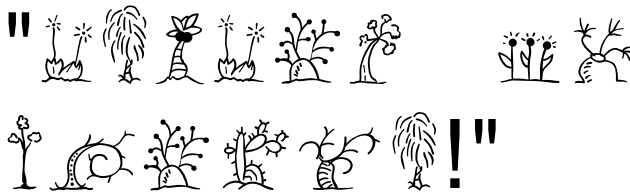
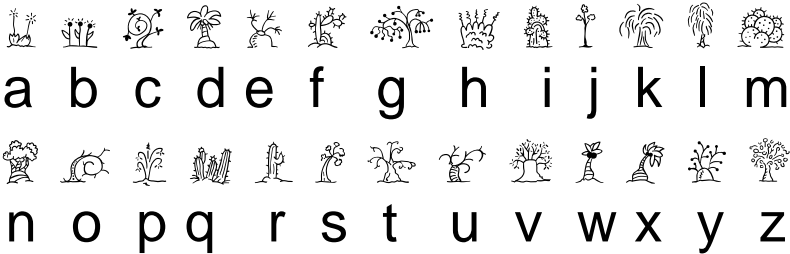
Matthew

Mark



competition quiz!

Using the code below, work out this month's competition!! Use your detective skills to find out what the Bible verse says – write it on a piece of paper, remembering to include your name and a contact telephone number. Pop it in to the GoodNEWS box at the back of the church by 12noon **Sunday 15th September**. The prize this month is a small range of goodies for your pencil case!



September diary

1st

Sunday **9.30am*** Richard Walters & Gerry Willis
11.0am* Gerry Willis
6.30pm* David Nibloe & David Walters

5th

Thursday House Groups' week
(check with your leader)

7th

Saturday Model Railway Exhibition
10am–5pm
Haywards Heath URC

8th

Sunday **9.30am*** Richard Walters & Simon Thomas (Minister of Hythe URC - Hampshire)
11.0am* Simon Thomas
6.30pm* Communion – David Nibloe & Alan Wharton (Sevenoaks URC)

11th

Wednesday 12.30pm
Lunch Fellowship

12th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting

13th

Friday 12.30pm
Lunch Fellowship

14th

Saturday Lindfield Horticultural Society Show at the King Edward Hall

15th

Sunday **9.30am*** Communion – Richard Walters & Duncan Warmington (Staplehurst URC)
11.0am* Duncan Warmington
12noon Copy Date for October GoodNEWS
6.30pm* David Nibloe & Duncan Warmington

19th

Thursday House Groups week

22nd

Sunday **9.30am*** Richard Walters (Speaker T B A)
11.0am* Communion – Graham Campling
6.30pm* David Nibloe & Mike Gardiner (with Healing Ministry)

24th

Tuesday 7.45pm Ladies 'In Touch'

25th

Wednesday 2.30pm The Fellowship
7.45pm Elders' Meeting

Don't forget, you can now download GoodNEWS
from www.lindfieldurc.org.uk

ADVANCE NOTICE

One World Week

20-27 October 2002 "Into Action"

An all-day Celebration for the whole family
Saturday 19 October 10am - 3pm at
Haywards Heath URC

Theme: FAIR TRADE

Something for everyone! Ploughmans
Lunches, coffee tasting, Recipes for Fair
Trade goods, music and drama, face-painting
ALL ARE WELCOME - COME & JOIN IN!

26th

Thursday 8.00pm Monthly Prayer
Meeting

28th

Saturday 7.30pm Harvest Supper

29th

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Sunday **9.30am*** Richard Walters
& Barry Piper
11.0am* Barry Piper
6.30pm* David Nibloe &
Norman Nibloe

Helpers needed

I need a team of helpers to decorate our church for Harvest Festival on Saturday 28th September at 9.30am. People who are creative, as well as people that can arrange flowers. Please let me know if you can help. Flowers will need to be purchased, so donations would be appreciated.

Betty Billins

What about our Sunday Services* then?

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

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.

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.

Harvest Appeal

As in past years we are devoting our giving this month, including gifts from our Harvest Thanksgiving Weekend, to a mission agency offering support to those in desperate need. This year we will be channeling our gifts through 'WorldShare' for the relief of those in famine stricken Malawi.

WorldShare works in partnership with indigenous, self-governing ministries throughout the world – especially in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe – enabling them to fulfill their part in the Great Commission through evangelism, Bible teaching and practical assistance.

Founded in 1943, WorldShare today serves as a link in fellowship, prayer and financial support to partner ministries in over 50 countries.

There is more information on the mission display. Please use the special envelopes for your gifts and place in the offertory bowls at any Sunday service throughout the month. If appropriate please sign a Gift Aid slip.



Sad Facts

- Up to thirteen million people across southern Africa are facing starvation.
- Many of the most vulnerable are mothers and their babies, and children under five.
- The situation is made worse by the devastation of HIV / AIDS

WorldShare is now launching an emergency Southern Africa Famine Appeal.

Funds raised will enable our local Christian partners to:

- supply food, medical aid, clothing and shelter to people facing starvation in Malawi and northern Mozambique;
- implement agriculture projects and other forms of sustainable development;
- bring a Christian ministry of comfort, help and hope to those in need.

'Hope for Africa' is a WorldShare partner. Rarely can a name have been so apt! Please, help us to help our African partners, as they seek to save famine-ravaged lives in Malawi.

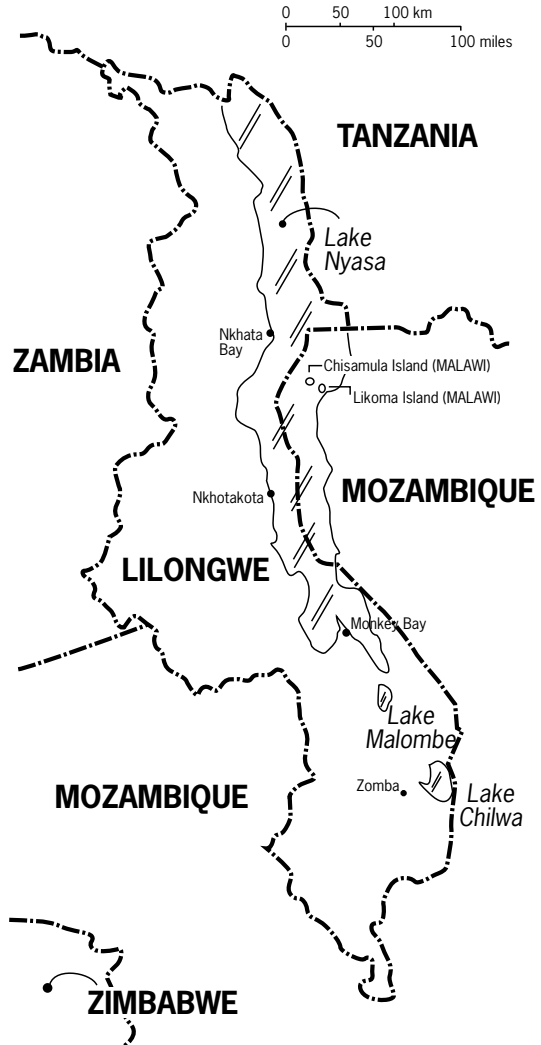
Hope for Africa?

WorldShare partner, Hope for Africa, is poised to help save many lives in Malawi, from where ministry director Rev Hendrick Mahlangu reports...

"In the Shire Valley region we found the situation to be very serious. People are eating everything they come across just to survive. Coping mechanisms for affected families include feeding on tree leaves. The greatest impact is on children, orphans, women, the aged and people with disabilities. Hospital admissions due to malnutrition, especially children under five, have reached alarming proportions. Cholera cases have increased as families no longer observe hygiene practices in their feeding habits. Crop forecasts reveal a deficit for this region alone of 39,085 metric tonnes of maize. Of 100,586 farming families, 74,720 are without food."

"The need is so vast. Hope for Africa is partnering with churches in this region to supply food, and to develop food security and an agricultural project... that will bring sustainable development."

"As always, our principle is not just to supply food and stop there", concludes Rev. Mahlangu. "We also want to open doors for sharing God's love in this region."



Notes from District Council:

"Sounds like another boring bit of ecclesiastical bureaucracy! Well, it met, about 40 representative ministers & elders, at Lindfield URC on June 21st. The main job of a DC is sharing and caring between the churches. We are a family - we look after each other."

'Pastoral Committee' reports: The **Lindfield** one was very encouraging. We are now probably the strongest church in the District and it is felt we have much in the way of experience and skill to share with others less fortunate.

Welcome/induction of three Ministers (**Seaford/Eastbourne, Haywards Heath** (shared with **Burgess Hill**), Methodist at **Lewes**).

The call of a minister for the **Hastings** Group was agreed and the two churches in **Bexhill** were authorised to seek a minister.

A proposal to suspend the District Executive (good – one Committee less to attend!)

Report on an outreach programme in **Sussex** in May by a group of Southern Baptists from the USA.

A plug for a series of three "Mission Workshops" in the **District** in the autumn.

Michael J. Davies

Nikki tells all

Many will know Nikki Taylor, who works as a missionary for Mercy Ships in Freetown, Sierra Leone. As a church we have been supporting her and enjoy hearing from her when she is back in the UK.

Nicola has kindly agreed to put a couple of day-to-day happenings down on paper for us each month! The column (page 23) will give us a regular glimmer of what it is like for Nikki, out on the mission field.

You can email her direct and find out more on taylorl@mercyships.org.

Questions about faith?

**Why not visit
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Great Music

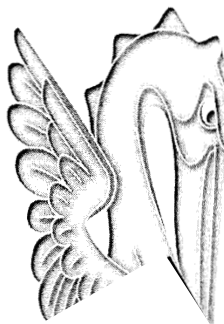
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Rehearsals start 5th September!

Rehearsals

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Six months on...

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offence. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

(Colossians 3v12–14
The Message)

This vivid new translation makes doubly clear what is surely the overwhelming message of the New Testament – that God's amazing love has been poured out on us, forgiven sinners, and is to be shared one with another just as God shared it with us. Ungrudgingly, unreservedly, without limit.

I have received much of this love from many of you, and I was privileged to become an official part of it when early this year you appointed me as Pastoral Assistant. "I'll write an account of my first six months in the job" I said cheerfully to

Ron Goodenough. Then I discovered how difficult this is – but here goes!!

Well, in the first place I have enjoyed my job. I've been impressed by the high level of practical care shown by Fo Tingley and her Pastoral Group, as well as by many others who have no official title. I've got to know more members than I would otherwise have done in six months, and you have blessed me.

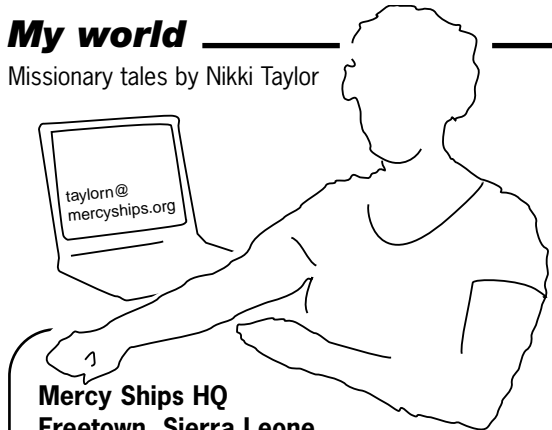
I've learned from observing the courage, patience and faith of many facing illness, operation or death, and have admired the devotion of those caring for needy family members. I've received much from the cheerful wisdom of our senior citizens, and I've been reminded again that behind all the human caring, it is our Lord himself who is the Good Shepherd.

What are my aims for the future?

- 1)** To continue to learn from the Good Shepherd
- 2)** To be available – to any who are anxious, afraid or lonely, or who just need to talk to someone

My world

Missionary tales by Nikki Taylor



- to any who have lost the way and would like help to return to a closer walk with God.
 - to listen to those who have been hurt – by life, by other people or by the church.
- 3) To help any of you who would like to be a greater part of the network of love and care that brings healing and peace. It's not easy, and we all feel so inadequate, yet God is wanting to work through inadequate and fallible people – it's the way he does it! I can share with you my mistakes and how God is helping me, and we can learn together.

I am aware that although over the past six months I have visited many of you, either at home or in hospital, there are still many I hardly know. I seldom refuse the offer of a cup of tea and a chat, so if you feel I have overlooked you, just give me a ring!!

A reminder – please don't forget to pray for me. Often the job makes greater demands than my spiritual resources can cope with, and I depend on God baling me out in answer to your prayers!

And a last word – if I have been less than sensitive to you, if I haven't listened enough, or if I've said the wrong thing, I'm sorry. Remember, I'm learning too.

Mike Gardiner
Pastoral Assistant, LURC

Mercy Ships HQ Freetown, Sierra Leone

"It was a little strange to be back at 'home'. Very hot and humid now the rainy season has set in. I have to remember to do all those small things that were habits before I went away and I so quickly lost while living in a world where electricity and water function nearly all the time. I left the shower running while I went to get my towel forgetting that water is a precious commodity and I shouldn't waste it. We usually shower to get wet, then soap and then shower again to get clean. While showering I had an encounter with a hazard of the season called 'Champion' locally. These acid bugs inflict a nasty burn, which spreads when squashed against your skin. Toothpaste is about the only thing that stops it spreading, so now I smell all minty and feel a bit sticky!"

"The country [Sierra Leone] does indeed seem to be coming together a little after the declaration of the end of the war in January this year and the first democratic elections since, errm, well a long time ago. The British armed forces have left, taking BFBS (British Forces Broadcasting Service) with them. Shame, no more 'Friends' or 'A Touch of Frost'. However this does speak of the confidence that people have in the peace here."

Autumn Pilgrimage

Saturday 5th October 2002

The Autumn Pilgrimage this year will consist of two short walks, both beginning and ending at Hassocks URC. The morning walk is about four miles and the afternoon walk about two miles. It will be possible to do either the morning or the afternoon walk or both. We hope this will encourage those to come who have not felt able to walk our usual six or eight miles.

There will be a little more street walking than is usual on our pilgrimages but we hope you will find something of God's glory both in the town and in the fields we walk across.

Four churches will be visited, Hassocks URC, the church of St Francis of Assisi in Hassocks, St Edward R C church in Keymer and the church of St John—the-Baptist in Clayton. Keymer church is a fairly modern building in contrast to the Clayton church which is 1000 years old. This church has some very interesting wall paintings which may date from 1080 AD.

We shall meet at Hassocks URC probably at 9.45 am, be back to eat our packed lunch around 1.00 pm and end the day with a short birthday celebration tea for the National United Reformed Church which will be thirty years old on that day. We expect to leave the church about 5.00 pm.

We look forward to walking with old and new friends for what we hope will be another great pilgrimage. We would, as always, value your prayers for the day.

For further information please speak to either Barbara Shepherd (483167) or Priscilla Walden (458707).

Daryl and Brenda

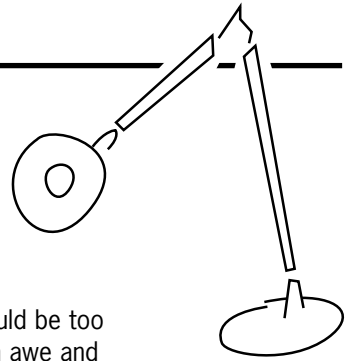


Buying new shoes? Then save your shoeboxes as we will be filling shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child again this year. Look out for more information in next month's GoodNEWS.

Trudy Biersteker

Twenty Questions

GoodNEWS takes a probing glimpse into the minds of those who come to the church! Twenty Questions gives you a chance to guess the interviewee and learn a bit more about them too! This month's guest is revealed on the foot of Page 32.



1. **Tell us one memorable date?**
9th June 2002
2. **Why?**
It was yesterday, and I don't find it too difficult remembering back that far.
3. **All time favourite film?**
Probably "Four Weddings"
4. **What is your shoe size?**
8
5. **Describe your experience of God in a single sentence...**
Always just that little bit more than you expect or imagine.
6. **Jelly Babies or Jelly Beans?**
Jelly Babies
7. **Where is the furthest place that you have ever worked?**
Dundee (for 1 week)
8. **How long have you been coming to this church?**
25 years, almost exactly
9. **What year did you pass your Driving Test?**
1989
10. **What is your greatest ambition?**
To be good at what I do
11. **If you met Jesus in the street today, what one question would you ask Him?**
Assuming that the meeting is with Jesus in His glory, I think that I would be too overcome with awe and reverence to contemplate asking a question.
12. **Who has had the greatest influence on your life?**
Parents
13. **Where were you at the Silver Jubilee?**
Just moved to Lindfield
14. **Plain, Milk or White?**
Plain
15. **Favourite holiday destination?**
Somewhere quiet and away from it all
16. **What would you do with the Millennium Dome?**
Probably turn it into some form of leisure or amusement place, but above all try to make it someone else's problem as soon as possible.
17. **Approximate height?**
5'9"
18. **Most-read Bible verse?**
There's not a single verse, but there are a couple of Psalms which are helpful at particular times.
19. **Who is your hero?**
I.K. Brunel
20. **Broadsheet or Tabloid?**
Infrequently, Tabloid.

At camp – US-style!

Katy Lewis, as part of her ‘gap’ year, went to work Stateside at the US Camp Allergheeny, Pennsylvania. She took with her such skills as sailing and lifesaving, but it seems she will have learnt some new ones by the time she returns home for University. This is her story...

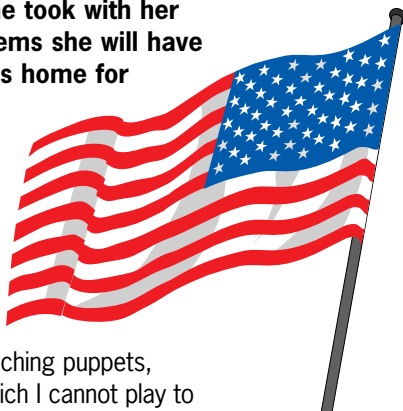
It doesn't seem like two months have passed already, and by the time you read this there will be only one camp session left.

We've had about six sessions so far, each a week long with 180–270 kids per session. The first week was for Salvation Army kids who go to what seems to be the Army version of Boys'/Girls' Brigade – they were all good and well-behaved, and actually listened when asked to be quiet, which lulled me into a false sense of security regarding typical camper behaviour! I was rudely awoken from my misconceptions the following week, when we were restraining kids left, right and centre (to stop them fighting/running away/hurting themselves) and the female program staff (me included) were on constant alert at night because of the riots breaking out in the girls' cabins. Not what I was expecting!

My role at camp is a mishmash of several different things –

primarily I'm boating supervisor and a lifeguard, but I've also been seen teaching puppets, basketball (which I cannot play to save my life) and dressing up as the Queen... I think the job highlights were checking for lice and athletes foot the very first day (all kids are checked on opening day – there's a whole building for dealing with the lice cases they're that common) and being removed from that duty for the rest of the summer because I missed loads of 'lice-kids' and ruined the whole days schedule as they all had to be rechecked. Whoops!

Camp food is a story in itself – I'm not sure whether it's typical American nutrition or not, but we eat the strangest things and weirdest combinations (at one point we had the same food for lunch, dinner, and lunch the next day). My all-time favourite must be when we came into the staff



dining room after a long day of dealing with difficult kids to find a table full of butter-coated chicken wings, and a huge vat of sweetcorn. Nothing else. And only forks to eat it with – I'm not sure that the concept of knives is understood in America. They also have no idea what real tea is like or how it should be drunk – the 80 tea bags mum sent me have been a lifesaver (as well as making me very popular with the other British staff!) Chocolate is also disappointingly bland here – not the real deal, but I do like the amount of choice you get at stores like Walmart for anything. I'd never seen an entire supermarket aisle devoted to pickled gherkins before – America is the land of choice!

I've experienced several American 'firsts' over the past weeks; my first trip to Walmart (got lost), first 'twinkie' (spongey cake thing – very nice), first drive-in movie (started raining so we sat in the car with the wipers on, only to drain the battery and require jump-starting the stupid thing at 1.30am in the middle of a storm), and a few weeks ago, my first baseball game. Baseball. Possibly the most boring game to watch on the face of the planet – we actually didn't even realise they'd started until about the 3rd innings when someone scored a home run and fireworks were let off!

In between each camping session we have either a one- or two-night break, so I've been able to see a fair bit of the surroundings, including two trips to Ohio. A few memorable staff break moments include cramming 12 of us into a 2 bed motel room whilst avoiding being seen by security guards, and playing "who's line is it anyway?" at 1am in the middle of the street. For my next (and final) staff break I'm planning a trip to a friend's house, who has his own private lake and jet-ski – sounds like fun!

Anyway, I'd better draw to a close – it's past midnight and 'lights out', so I don't want to get into trouble! To be honest, the only reason I've managed to find time to write this letter is because I was given a curfew – have to be in our rooms at 9.45pm – for the past 2 nights because two others and myself were caught creeping around after midnight last week – a punishable offence here at camp!

I'm due back on 3rd September, but there may be a trip to Germany in the pipeline to see a certain young Canadian!

A big thank you to all who have written – it has been great to hear from home. I'll see you in a few weeks!

Your American representative,
Katy xxx

find out more...

By the time you read this article, both All Saints and ourselves will be very close to starting our next **Alpha Courses**. In order to provide flexibility of choice, an **Introductory Supper**, comprising a two-course meal, will be served at The Tiger on **Tuesday 17th September** and also at this church on **Thursday 19th September**. The evenings are designed for anyone interested enough just to come along to **find out more** about the Christian faith and will give people the opportunity to decide on which evening of the week they would like to attend the course.

The format of the Introductory Supper at this church will be as follows;

- 7.30pm Arrival
- 7.45pm Meal
- 8.45pm "Christianity – Untrue, Boring, Irrelevant?" (video)
- 9.45pm Close

The **Alpha Course** itself will then run for a further 11 weeks on Thursday evenings and will revolve around a number of videos, comprising a series of talks (including the one referred to above) given by the **Rev Nicky Gumbel**, the curate of Holy Trinity Church, Brompton. After each presentation there will be time for everyone to **discuss any issues** or questions that arise from the talk giving opportunity to get to know each other and **learn together**.

The venue for each of the weekly sessions will be the lounge at the church and the intention will be to serve a **light meal** at 7.30pm prior to each **video presentation**.

Coming to the supper in no way commits you to attend the course! Equally if you cannot come to the supper but would like to know the course arrangements with a view to coming along to see what it is like, please have a word with either **Barry Piper** (456823) or **Rob Biersteker** (440835).

All Saints plan to run their courses on **Monday mornings** and **Tuesday evenings** and for further information regarding their arrangements, please contact **Susan Lodge** on 482218.



You can respond, by replying with this tear-off slip, to:
Rob Biersteker, 16 Priory Way, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 3LT (01444 440835)

We/I can/cannot come to the Introductory Supper at Lindfield URC on Thursday 19th September.

Although I/We are unable to attend the Introductory Supper, I/We would like to know more about the arrangements for the Alpha Course continuing on Thursday 26th September.

NAME

ADDRESS TEL. No.

Temple of Christianity

“When I found this wonderful Temple of Christianity, with the Holy Spirit as my guide, I entered the portico of Genesis, walked down the Old Testament art galleries where the pictures of Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and Daniel hang on the wall.

I passed into the Music Room of the Psalms where the Spirit of God swept across the keyboard of nature, until it seemed that every reed and pipe in God's great organ responded to the tuneful harp of David, the sweet singer of Israel.

I entered the Chamber of Ecclesiastes, where the voice of the preacher was heard, and into the Conservatory of Sharon and where the Lily of the Valley's sweet scented spices filled and perfumed my life.

I entered the business office of Proverbs and then into the Observatory of the Prophets, where I saw telescopes of various sizes pointed to far off events, but all were concentrated upon the bright and morning star, which was to rise above the moon-lit hills of Judea for our salvation.

I entered into the Audience room of the King of kings and caught a vision of His glory from the standpoint of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. I passed into the Acts of the Apostles where the Holy Spirit was doing His work in the formation of the infant Church.

Then I stepped into the Correspondence Room where Peter, Paul, James and John penned their epistles ...

I stepped into the Throne Room of Revelation where towered the glistening peaks and got a vision of the King of kings upon His throne of glory with the healing of the nations in His hand.

Then I cried out, 'All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let Angels prostrate fall! Bring forth the Royal Diadem and crown Him Lord of all!'"

What are you doing here?

During the past two or three years many more people have become interested in their ancestry.

There seems to be a wish that they have a positive identity and are 'someone' who matters. They should know that we all matter to God! When details of the 1901 census were made available to the public there were so many requests for information that the service was quickly withdrawn.

Are people beginning to ask whether there is more to life than greater material possessions and enjoyment of leisure turned only to pleasure? The world has become a global village and our TV screens show ever more of the disparity of the quality of life between what are known as the nations of the West and the Third World. There is, indeed, a good public response to appeals such as 'Children in Need' and to help in sudden dire emergencies. But the situation in many overseas countries regarding poverty, starvation and enmity seems to worsen. Since the events of September 11th and subsequently, people are confused. Life itself is now more uncertain – has it really any purpose?

A promising feature is that

many young people now take opportunities to travel abroad to see for themselves. Some, indeed, spend a few months of a 'gap year' or otherwise to render help in Christian groups working in poor areas of needy countries or in helping to take the Gospel in new ways. Will they be able and willing to make use of their experiences to influence Western governments to take more action?

As we grow older we should become increasingly sure of God's purpose in life for each of us as individuals. That purpose may change through the years in the challenging circumstances of one's life. No one needed to be asked the question above more than God's great prophet Elijah. He was very depressed after success seemed to turn to abject failure. As the hymn reminds us, after the earthquake, wind and fire came the still small voice that put God's question – "What are you doing Elijah?"

What are you doing here?

Herbert Fisher

“Since September 11th, people are confused. Life itself is now more uncertain – has it really any purpose?”

United we rhyme

Many of you will remember our church weekend away, last November. Over one hundred of us stayed at Ashburnham House, near Battle.

The focus: to 'UNITE' as a church family, especially in preparation for Norman Smith's imminent retirement. Well, much time has since passed, and in a new series GoodNEWS takes you back to reflect on what we learnt, both as a church and personally from UNITE2001.

The Bard of Ashburnham was a competition we ran during the weekend, to allow us to share our feelings creatively. One such example is printed below. Please use this series as a prompt to your thoughts about UNITE2001, and maybe share your aspirations for us, as a church, for the future. All contributions to the normal address, please.



*We unite at Ashburnham 2001
Excited this weekend at last has begun
Not sure what we'll learn, or how we will grow,
Or what we'll perform at the "Fun Time" show
And now that the end of the weekend is near,
We reflect on God's blessings throughout our time here
The 'blessing' of the youthful post-midnight joke,
The shock of being Jessie Green when I awoke!
And leadership skills were put to the test,
In free time would young Mr Walters know best?
"We'll be back before dark" as we set off through the woods,
To Dawn's and my joy we were back before food
Then Janet & Fo's song, it brought down the house,
Whilst Hilary made us cry over his mouse
Cinderella at Fun Time won't soon be forgotten
Nor guessing "Banana" from Alex Hall's bottom!
And now for the challenge as we go from this place,
Will we grasp the commission, will we love by God's grace
Will your warm fluffy feelings only last while you're here?
Or will we take up the challenge, for God's kingdom is near.*

Singers wanted

“Night of Miracles” is a Christmas Musical comprising songs and narration which detail the story of Christmas.

The work was written by John W. Peterson and performed by the London Emmanuel Choir in the early 60's.

It is full of good tunes and has a very evangelical message.

The Sunday Morning Singers have commenced rehearsals and would welcome any others (male or female) who would like to share in this musical.

Rehearsal dates are as follows: 30 August, 13/20 September, 4/18/25 October, 1/15/22/29 November, 6/13 December

If you would like to know more please contact Peter Swann 01444 450335.

Did you know?

You can view the weekly Notice Sheet online – just in case you miss it, or want to know who is preaching!

www.lindfieldurc.org.uk

The Twenty Questions guest this month was Richard Walters.

Flower Rota

		Arranging	Distributing
Sept	1	Joan Durrant	Heather Swann
	8	Carol Marsh	Sue Tester
	15	Gladys Porter	Dorothy Forster
	22	Zoe McQuillin	Betty Peter
	29	Harvest Festival	Jacqueline Wood
Oct	6	Angela Newnham	Iris Bingham
	13	Jessie Green	Fiona Tingley
	20	Barbara Shepherd	Heather Swann
	27	Audrey Saunders	Sue Tester

Betty Billins & Fiona Tingley

*Good***NEWS** to listen to...

If, for whatever reason, you wish to listen to this magazine, rather than read it – YOU CAN!

Copies of it are available to borrow on CD and Tape at the rear of the church, by the Sunday Service tapes.