

GoodNEWS

LINDFIELD URC'S VILLAGE MAGAZINE

JANUARY 2005

Worlds apart

Brenda's story from Malawi



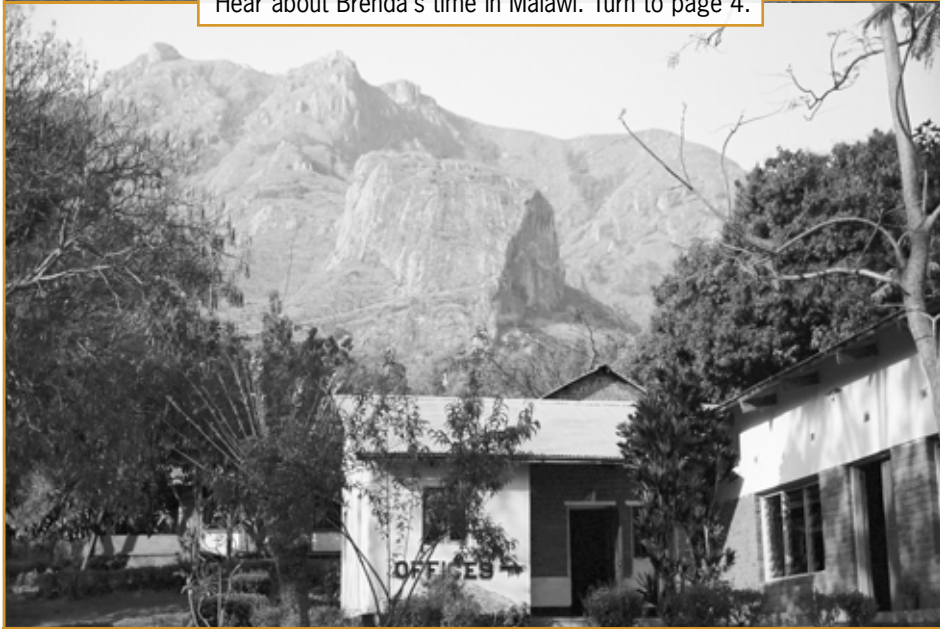
Also in this month's magazine:

- 2004 Secretary's Report
- Crusaders becomes Zest
- Lindfield Life: Ramblings of a Rambler!





Hear about Brenda's time in Malawi. Turn to page 4.



*"...telling the children there's no Father Christmas is one thing...
but denying the existence of Harry Potter is unforgivable!"*

Dear Friends...



In God's gymnasium

As we enter a new year we often make resolutions with the best of intentions of getting mastery over something that is giving us a challenge in our lives. As this is a matter of the mind, we will need to be lean + fit spiritually to see things through. I believe a big part of why we fall down on resolutions is an unfitness that arises from a lack of spiritual exercise. I like to begin the New Year by determining to get rid of all spiritual flabbiness and fat.

As someone who just has to 'look at a piece of cake' to put on weight I know the importance of diet and physical exercise to keep my body in trim. I make the time to get to the gym. Just as physical exercises increase the body's fitness and health, so spiritual exercises improve spiritual fitness and vitality.

The verses from 1 Timothy (right) urge us to train ourselves to be godly. The word 'exercise' in Greek is *gumnazo*, from which

our English words 'gymnasium' and gymnastics are derived. So this year I am inviting you to join with me in enrolling in God's gymnasium to start a spiritual exercise programme that will help us to be spiritually fitter than before.

As our text makes plain, this does not just happen. We have to train ourselves for it. We need to find time and priority for worship, prayer, personal devotional times and bible reading. We are body, soul and spirit and in our lives today it is often the spirit that is neglected. Let us address this this coming year.

May God bless you as you embark upon your spiritual journey in 2005.

Colin Bones, minister

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

1 Timothy 4: 7-8

GoodNEWS

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Editorial



The pages of our magazine this month contain two amazing stories.

The first is that of Brenda Johnson, and her much-talked-about period of service in a remote village in Malawi. The second is in the form of our church's annual report, written by former church secretary, Ron Goodenough.

Brenda's tale is one of immense courage as she tells us how she grappled with a new culture and lived alongside unfamiliar people.

Ron's story, although closer to home, paints a picture of a year in the life of a busy church's life. It shows just what happens when a bunch of sinners work together in Jesus' name.

Two amazing stories, both with Christ at their centre.

Happy New Year.

David Tingley, editor



**IMPORTANT
ALIVE '05
Prayer info
on page 24!!**

Prayer Diary



SUN

Our minister, worship leaders & musicians, junior church staff.

MON

Pray for all who work in our village & serve our daily needs.

TUE

Remember mums who have babies & small children, and the work in Stepping Stones.

WED

This month's mission focus, Interserve.

THUR

Uphold the house group leaders & pray for the spiritual growth of all who attend.

FRI

Pray for Samuel Muhumuza & his 'Jesus Cares' programme.

SAT

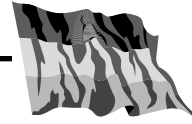
"Alive '05" - Keep praying for this mission in May.

Prayer FOCUS

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

The first is for **Crusaders**, the new children's and youth work we are launching in January. Thank God for those who have offered their time and effort to be involved in 'Zest'. Please pray for a leader to head up the Years 5 & 6 Group, ask God to help all the staff to work and gel together, and pray that boys and girls will want to come along, both from within our Church and from non-churched homes, too.

Secondly, please pray for **Mike and Jean Gardiner** and their ministry at East Hill, Wandsworth. Mike and Jean give thanks for their recent trip back to Brazil; for many blessings as they revisited the work of which they were a part, and a chance to recharge their batteries. Please pray for Francisco, who is to train at Spurgeon's College next September, and give thanks for new members and recent Baptisms, (6 people from 5 different ethnic backgrounds). Praise God for his help in dealing with difficulties and tensions within the Church, and pray for His continued wisdom and guidance.



All in a day's work!

Brenda Johnson, long-standing member of our church, travelled to Malawi in August of last year as a volunteer for World Exchange. Here is the first instalment of her much-awaited personal report on her experiences whilst there. Part 2 follows next month.

I had no idea what to expect when I left England in mid August to fly out to Malawi, where I was to work as a volunteer until the end of October. World Exchange had arranged my placement following an initial interview and training weekend in Edinburgh, but specific details about Likhubula were never part of the preparation. This was a step in faith with the prayers and encouragement of the people back home supporting me.

I had met three other volunteers at the airport; two were working in Blantyre and Eleanor who was coming with me to Likhubula House. It is situated in a beautiful rural area about 100 km from Blantyre in the far southeast of the country, close to the Mulange Plateau. There is a beautiful river running down one side of the 22 acre estate with gardens around the main house. It was my task to help with the general work of

improving the rather run down facilities by doing gardening, painting and decorating, making curtains and any other tasks I could help with. It took several days to become accustomed to our new surroundings, the sights and sounds, our accommodation and the people who were our new neighbours and work mates. Andrew and his wife Morag had been there for six months and were in charge, Barbara had been out for the same length of time and was very much involved in the work at the orphanage and Francis, a student, was out for three months of his summer vacation. The house and estate are owned by the Blantyre Synod of the CCAP (Central Church of the African Presbytery), who had once used the premises as a Youth and Community Centre where groups could come and stay and enjoy a time of refreshment and fun for a weekend. However, through mismanagement of funds it had to close and the building

had fallen into disrepair. The orphanage is run separately but alongside the main house and the decision was made to close this at the end of the school term in December 2004 and use the building as extra accommodation for large groups who would like to come and visit Likhubula. The plan is to continue to support the children in their wider families with whom they stay during the holidays. To this end, Barbara had visited every home twice to assess the situation and their needs in preparation for the change.

There are seven brick-built chalets in the grounds built for tourists who come to enjoy walking on the mountain. These provide an income and help to pay the wages of the eighteen staff who work there including two gardeners, three domestics, three night watchmen, a couple of general maintenance men plus one or two others and Edna who works in the office. We had a grand tour of the estate on our first day so that we could begin to understand how everything fitted together. Our accommodation for the first two nights was in one of the chalets and then we were moved to a house which was much more comfortable. We had hot and cold running water, electricity, basic cooking equipment to use on our

electric ring plus an electric kettle and so we really felt very well off.

Life on a daily basis gradually fell into some kind of routine beginning with reveille by the cockerel at 4:30am and the sound of people up and about by 5:00am. We could hear the children sweeping outside the orphanage and we became used to the idea that the people get up when it gets light because it has always been done that way and without electricity one has to use the daylight. The children ran down the road to school in the village of Likhubula a mile away at 6:30am to start lessons at 7:00am. Work for everyone else began at 7:30am and continued until midday when there was a 1½ hour lunch break followed by 3 hours work in the afternoon. My own working day was fairly flexible and varied and I was able to spend time doing other things whenever I wanted to get away from the painting or curtain making. These two things occupied me most of the time and suited me well, doing the more physical jobs in the morning and sewing in the afternoon.

Brenda Johnson.

FEBRUARY >>

“CONTINUED NEXT MONTH find out about the school Brenda visited and how she got on at the local church services – 2.5 hours and not a word of English!” Magazine out January 30th!

Malawi Facts & Figures

MALAWI

The name “Malawi” is derived from “Marawi”, the name of people who migrated to the region hundreds of years ago. In 1859 the Scottish missionary and explorer, David Livingstone, reached Lake Malawi, which he named Lake Nyasa meaning “big water”. He set up a Christian mission there. Malawi, formerly known as Nyasaland, became independent in 1964. Blantyre, now an important commercial and industrial centre in Malawi, was named after the birthplace of David Livingstone in Scotland.



9 FACTS ABOUT MALAWI

- 1 of the world's 10 poorest countries
- 855 km long and 250 km at its widest part
- Life expectancy: 37 years
- Population: 11 million
- Annual income: £88
- Official language: English
- Adult literacy: 60%
- Most schools: NO LIBRARY
- Average class size: 102 students



Family News

VILLAGE NIGHT:

Thanks from the hatch!

Village night on the 8th December was a great success. Well it was in the kitchen! I was really nervous before the event as it was my first attempt at catering for something like this. But with all the help and support from the volunteers I think it went off without a hitch and everybody left full of mince pies and sausage rolls washed down with gallons of tea, coffee and squash. From the hatch I could see that Santa was very busy and the only lull in the kitchen was when the magician was around, so thanks to the person that booked him! Thank you everyone who helped me serve, wash up and clear away at the end and to those who brought in the pies and rolls, every single one of which was eaten.

Tina Elphick.

Call all men

Saturday 22nd January 8.30 to 10.00 am

Please make a note in your diaries concerning the above date when following a cooked breakfast, Fred Preston, who started work as a London barrow-boy and went on to be army chaplain to Parachute Brigade and SAS Special Forces, now semi-retired, gives us a talk entitled 'Resistance to interrogation and stress'.

It all sounds good to me, and if this appeals to you why not come, and even invite along a male friend/relative/neighbour as well.

Invitations should be available early in this month, and indication of your attendance on/before 16th January would be appreciated for 'catering' purposes."

Ray Smith.

Belated **CONGRATULATIONS** to **Richard Tucker** who reached one of those 'milestone' Birthdays in November. Love and good wishes from us all.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Phillip** and **Leonie Wren** on the birth of their first Grandchild, the gift of a daughter to Jonathan and his wife, Juanne. The baby's name is Charissa and she was born on December 3rd.

CONGRATULATIONS, too, to David Walters who has recently been appointed District Vice President for the Sussex East District of the URC.

We are sorry to hear of the death of **John Gage**, a regular worshipper with us over many years. Our sympathy and love go to his widow Edith, and to the family.

Rhoda Patterson has moved into Little Compton. Her new phone number is 01444 487206

Christine Giltrow writes:

Thank you for your prayers and the many cards wishing us well in our new home. We have settled in well and are grateful for all your support. With best wishes to you all for a Happy New Year,
Christine Giltrow.

Fo receives honours

Fiona Tingley was recently made an Honorary Life Member of Haywards Heath Operatic Society (HHOS) at a recent Patrons Concert in Scaynes Hill.

As documented in an article in this magazine back in November, Fo has been involved in the Society since the very beginning in 1964. In fact, she has been involved in some way in all, but two, of the 68 shows put on by HHOS in its history! Fiona is delighted and honoured by the accolade, especially as she follows in the footsteps of her mother, Evelyn Sarsons, and of her late husband, Brian, both of whom were Honorary Life Members of the Society.

Stuart and Carol Marsh would like to thank everyone for their Get Well cards, telephone calls, offers of help, and, most of all, for their prayerful support during Stuart's recent illness.

Thankfully, things were not as serious as we first feared and Stuart is recovering well.

The **new church accountant** will be **Eileen Jacques** with effect from Jan 1st. Any queries to Eileen or Jeremy Campling.

THE FELLOWSHIP

We start the New Year on Wednesday 26th January 2005 at 2.45pm when Stuart Dew will speak to us on 'A Sense of Justice'. At the end of the meeting, tea and biscuits will be served. Please feel free to join us for an interesting afternoon; all visitors will be made very welcome. *Many thanks*

Doreen Fowler

CONGRATULATIONS to **Emma** and **David Tingley** on the birth of **Ella Charlotte**, a sister for Georgina. Ella was born on 13th December, weighing in at a very healthy 9lb 4oz. *Well done Ed!*

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 & third Sunday of each month and the children usually go out to Sunday School during the second part of the service. Visitors are welcome to join us.

Speakers for this month are as follows:-

January	2nd	Stuart Dew
January	16th	Colin Bones – COMMUNION SERVICE

Visitors are most welcome to join us at any time.



Family News

ONCE AGAIN the love from Lindfield URC has been shown to us with the Christmas gift of a very attractive poinsettia: our family thanks to you all.

Also recently our family have had your prayers for our Grandson who was in Iraq and who is now safely home and we are so grateful for your support. Let us hope that 2005 will see an end to that conflict.

Sid and Daphne Collins.

Dear Everyone,

Wally and I want to thank you all for your very kind deeds you have done for us. We have had a couple of bad years but the people of the Church helped to make it a lot easier for us and we are very grateful to them.

We wish you all a very Happy New Year.

God bless,

Elsie and Wally Plimmer.

A new way to have fun!

In last month's Good News we shared with you that a Crusaders group would be starting in January for both boys and girls. Well that group now has a name.....Zest! Zest has several meanings but one is fun, hence "A new way to have fun!".



Zest is affiliated to Crusaders, a national Christian organisation, where children and young people can meet in a club-style environment. There will be many different activities including games, crafts, sports and a Bible slot.

We will be meeting each Wednesday during term time, starting on the 12th January 2005. There will be a small charge of £1 per week, which will include tuck. The age groups and times of sessions are:

Zest 1:2 for school years 1 & 2	5.30 – 6.30pm
Zest 3:4 for school years 3 & 4	5.30 – 6.30pm
Zest 5:6 for school years 5 & 6	6.45 – 8.00pm
Zest 7:8 for school years 7 & 8	6.45 – 8.00pm

If you are young enough to come, please join us and why not bring a friend? If you are too old to join us yourself, I am sure you will know some children who would enjoy Zest – so please encourage them to come along.

Please speak to Rob Biersteker or Clare Nibloe if you would like any more information.

From tiny acorns...

We were saddened by the demise of our sister Brigade Company, but appreciate the church's affirmation of our continued ministry to boys in the neighbourhood.

The most satisfying development of the last few months has been the resurrection of our Company Section. It is early days yet, but the signs are encouraging, the spirit of the lads concerned is good and, although numbers are small, we pray it is a case of "from tiny acorns....."

The Anchors have started out under new leadership, headed by Peter Snashall, and with a lively and imaginative set of activities, we hope this section of our work in particular will grow.

Few major events take place in the autumn, but Boys have enjoyed trips to Alton Towers and Legoland, and the Juniors put in a team for the Battalion Potted Sports at Falmer: a happy enough afternoon, although they only managed a slightly

disappointing 6th place.

There are a couple of milestones I would like to share with you. Joe Lunt has retired as an officer after a magnificent 32 year innings – the longest period of service anyone has so far given to the 1st Lindfield. We plan to commemorate this achievement in appropriate form at our Annual Display on 22nd April. Then, at the risk of being thoroughly immodest, I have completed 50 years service in the BB (but only 5 at Lindfield). Am I worn out and ready to go? I must confess that there are days when I feel like it, but the vision of Christian Manhood is a powerful incentive, and in the final analysis I am only too keen to press on to work for it (Philippians 3.14).

Geoffrey Cocksedge

January church diary

2nd
Sunday

9.30am Communion
David Nibloe &
Colin Bones
11.00am Colin Bones
6.30pm David Goodchild
& Colin Bones

6th

Thursday House Groups

9th
Sunday

9.30 am Adrian Cookney
& Brian Stone
11.00am Brian Stone
6.30pm Communion
David Goodchild
& Colin Bones

12th

Wednesday 12.30pm Lunch
Fellowship

13th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Meeting

14th

Friday 12.30pm Lunch
Fellowship

16th
Sunday

9.30am David Nibloe &
Doug Scott

Fairtrade Stall between services

11.00am Doug Scott
6.30pm Adrian Cookney
& Colin Bones
Healing Service

20th

Thursday House Groups

23rd
Sunday

9.30am David Nibloe &
Colin Bones &
Interserve
11.00am Communion
Colin Bones &
Interserve
6.30pm David Goodchild
& Derek Heath

25th

Tuesday 7.45pm In Touch

26th

Wednesday 2.45pm The Fellowship
7.45pm Elders

27th

Thursday 8.00pm Church Prayer
Meeting

30th
Sunday

9.30am Adrian Cookney
& Colin Bones
11.00am Colin Bones
6.30pm John & Heather
Barling

30th January is “Homelessness Sunday”

First of all, a great big ‘thank you!’ to all of you who gave so generously towards the work of the Worthing Churches Homeless Projects in December, whether in items of food, clothing, donations for the Food For Thought recipe book or gifts of money. It will all be used and is gratefully received by many for whom life is very difficult, especially over the British winter.

Sadly, the problem is still with us, so we are joining with many organisations, Christian and secular, to mark January 30th as Homelessness Sunday with a special 6.30pm service, inspired by the Homelessness Sunday partnership: Housing Justice, Scottish Churches Housing Action, and Churches’ Housing Coalition of Wales.

For the brave and truly empathetic, there is also a sponsored Sleep Out on the 29th, organised by the Worthing churches.

See *John Barling* for details
– 01444 482415.

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!

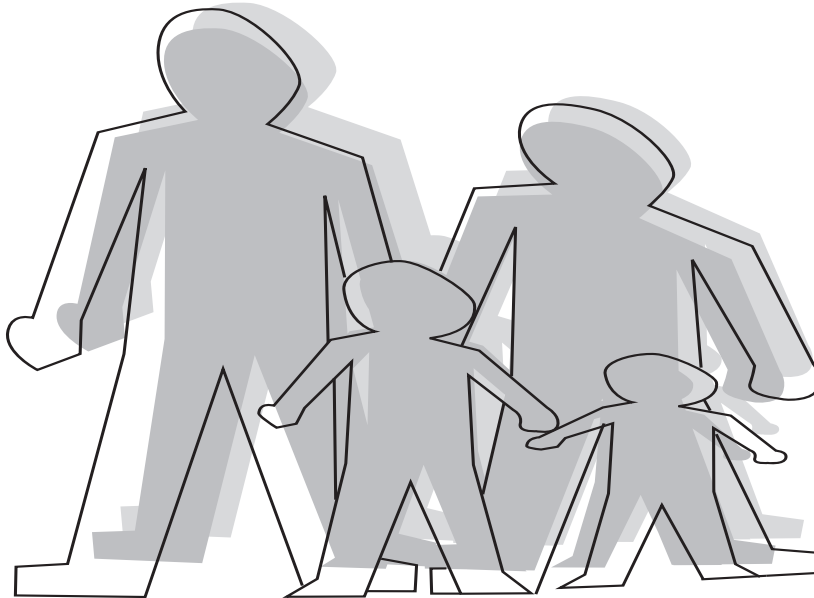
Personal prayer is available after every service. Prayer requests and brief statements of praise for answered prayer can be put in the red book on the concourse table. We can also offer personal prayer ministry at home or in hospital.

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.

Sermon notes...

Services at the start of 2005



We begin the New Year in our morning services by looking at some interesting passages in Ephesians chapters 5 and 6, which look at practical issues concerning marriage, parenthood, children and family life. We shall be able to consider just how relevant the Bible is for today. Our mission focus for the month is Interserve and we will be joined by a representative on 23rd January.

The evening services will begin with Praise and Prayer – which is proving popular; we have a short series of three giving a radical look at what it means to be part of the Church; John and Heather Barling round off the month by leading a service recognising Homelessness Sunday (see note on page 13).

2ND JANUARY
- HOLY COMMUNION
9.30 am – Holy Communion
11.00 am – Morning Worship

Ephesians 5: 1-7
– Be Imitators of God
There is a doctrine of the imitation of God!
This may seem a tall order but we have
the help of the Holy Spirit to enable us.
Preacher – Colin Bones

6.30 pm – Praise & Prayer
– International focus.

16TH JANUARY – GUEST PREACHER
Doug Scott preaches at both the
9.30 am & 11.00 am morning
services

6.30 pm – Healing Service
The Church: Building – Living Stones

1 Peter 1: 1-12
Preacher Colin Bones

30TH JANUARY – HOMELESSNESS
SUNDAY

9.30 am – Morning Worship
11.00 am – Morning Worship

Ephesians 6: 1-4
– Children & Parents
This short passage has some
interesting things to say about children
and parents, especially fathers.
Preacher – Colin Bones

6.30 pm – Service for Homelessness
Sunday. Leaders – John & Heather Barling

9TH JANUARY – JIGSAW SUNDAY

9.30 am – Jigsaw for children &
Morning Worship

11.00 am – Morning Worship

Ephesians 5: 8-20
– Live as Children of the Light
What it means for us “now you are
light in the Lord”.
Preacher – Rev. Brian Stone

6.30 pm – Holy Communion
The Church: Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12: 12-31
Preacher – Colin Bones

23RD JANUARY – INTERSERVE &
HOLY COMMUNION

9.30 am – Morning Worship
11.00 am – Holy Communion

Ephesians 5: 21-35
– Wives & Husbands
We look at a passage that has
caused some controversy in
the Church but does have some
important things to say about
marriage and men and women's
roles.
Preacher – Colin Bones

6.30 pm – Evening Worship
The Church: Temple of God

2 Corinthians 6: 14 - 7:1
Preacher – Derek Heath

Missions Giving

January – Interserve

From its roots in India in 1852, when its vision was to train women teachers, Interserve has grown and developed and now has approximately 600 mission Partners, from nineteen different sending countries, in Asia and the Arab World, as well as in the UK. Their Partners are mainly professionals who have a wide range of skills, and who are willing to use them to serve others in medical, education and development work, as well as in the arts, sports and sciences. Interserve Partners aim to meet both the spiritual and physical needs of the people they serve. All are involved in the planting and strengthening of the Church in the countries where they work.

For more information see the missions' board and please take the leaflets and magazine.

Website: www.interserveonline.org.uk

Dave Taylor, the Southern Area Rep, will be speaking at our morning services on January 23rd.

“ALIVE ‘05” - Request for your help

If you are a member or regular worshipper at LURC, you may be able to play an important and valuable part in the Mission the three Lindfield Churches are holding from May 21st – 29th next year. Have you a spare bed (or beds) you could offer to help accommodate the Students and Staff that are coming from Moorlands College and from VIZ-A-VIZ? These visitors will require bed and breakfast, some packed lunches and sometimes an evening meal. As a Church we have been asked to find accommodation for 35 people, so we really do need YOUR help. I don't think this task will be too arduous, in fact I think it may well bring us pleasure and blessing. So please, if you think you can help or require further information, please contact me on 01444 483419.

With very many thanks, Fiona Tingley.

Secretary's Report 2003/2004

We are grateful to God for his faithfulness through another year. There has been, as always, a mixture of blessing and disappointment and as we look back I'm sure we would wish to be able to see more progress in the life of the church. However, attendance for worship on Sunday has remained high with both morning services being comfortably full. Numbers are variable on Sunday evenings. I did mention in my last report that we needed to challenge some of our regular worshippers to consider becoming full members of Lindfield URC and I am pleased to be able to report that our membership has increased by 14 over the year to a total of 195. We welcomed 19 new members, 14 on profession of faith, 5 by transfer; sadly 3 members died during the year and 2 were transferred out. We already have others who have requested membership and they will be processed in the next few weeks.

Around this time last year the Elders were in the process of producing a Vision Statement. This was approved and accepted by the church early this year and is displayed on the premises. The various aspects of this formed the basis for a series of sermons. We need to keep this constantly before us and seek to convert the vision into reality.

Our Christmas activities and worship were, as usual, well attended. It was great to see hundreds of people coming on the premises on Village Festival Night, with a full programme of activities for the young and not so young. It also gave opportunity to speak with people and distribute Christmas literature.

At the end of February we had a weekend concentrating on the subject of prayer with Ian and Pauline Cole from the World Prayer Centre in

Birmingham. Then at the end of May we had a visit from Fiona Castle as part of her UK-wide tour to stimulate us to think about ways in which we can be involved in the community. I think we have yet to see the impact of these two events.

Overseas and UK Missions have again had a high profile throughout the year. We had a Missions Supper with a team from Operation Mobilisation Turning Point in West London led by Simon Lunt working among Muslims. There was also a Tearfund Barbecue, which was well attended in the summer. The visit of Samuel Muhumuza from Uganda for our Harvest Weekend was also a highlight in the year. His enthusiasm and personality was a breath of fresh air and a real encouragement to us. Many have committed themselves to sponsoring

Secretary's Report continued...

children through the school that he is responsible for. We need wisdom to know how we should continue our support and involvement with him.

Brenda Johnson has just returned from 12 weeks in Malawi working at an orphanage/centre through the auspices of World Exchange. We look forward to hearing about her experiences in the near future.

Monthly mission giving has again increased from last year and we estimate that by the end of 2004 a total of almost £25,000 will have been donated for the various organisations we have featured. Added to this there is the £10,000 set aside from our General Fund, which will give us a total of almost £35,000. That is something to praise God for. We continue our regular support of Simon & Becky Lunt, Dave & Pam White with Operation Mobilisation, and Andrew & Jane Spiro in the Far East.

Turning to the regular activities that take place in the church I have received reports from various leaders and these are précised as follows:

Junior Church is now known as 'Powersource' with each group being named after different sources of power - Sparks for electricity, Tornadoes for wind, Solar for sun and H2O for water. There are 47 names on the books with an average of about 28 attending each week. The two groups that have seen most growth in the year are Sparks, for the youngest ones and H2O the oldest. Some teachers have stood down and the current staff of 16 needs help as many are committed to other activities

in the church.

Stepping Stones has had another hectic year with a full register - at one stage there were 11 on the waiting list. Currently there are 32 on the books with about 22 attending each week plus parents and carers. Contact with the children and adults is only for a limited time as they leave to go on to Nursery School. It is important, therefore, to make the most of the time they spend with us. This year four of the mothers did an Alpha Course at our church and another has just started to attend one led by King's Church. Prayer continues that the teaching given will produce fruit. Parents are encouraged to share their concerns and are prayed for. One mother who had a very difficult pregnancy and looked like losing her baby was prayed for and she has recently given birth to a healthy baby girl. The mornings are busy and noisy and we are grateful to all those involved.

The Boys' Brigade Company had a membership of approximately 30 boys of all ages during the year. Much good work was done with the under 11s but our Company Section had to be suspended halfway through the session. It has since re-commenced. Even so, two boys in this section achieved major BB and Duke of Edinburgh awards. Joe Lunt retired as Leader in Charge of the Anchor Boys and was replaced by Peter Snashell. We were particularly pleased that Jim Johnson has been received into Church Membership and is becoming an Officer in the Company.

Girls' Brigade has 16 girls currently on the books. A few left in the summer and it was not possible to advertise for new girls due to the on-going staff shortage. The Annual Awards Evening in July was well attended with a meal in the church followed by a play performed by the girls. One Brigader continues her young leaders' training and will be going on an away weekend this month. Margaret Luscombe resigned in March but stayed on until July. With only one officer, Sam Hoare-Ward, and two helpers it was decided, sadly, that GB would close on the 30th November. We are grateful to all those who have worked in the GB and particularly to Margaret and Sam for their many years of service. At the final Parade Service in October Richard Tucker led a short time of thanks for 1st Lindfield Girls' Brigade and it was a real pleasure to have Ruth Clark with us as she had started the brigade 36 years ago. We give thanks to God for all that has been achieved. Many people who have been involved with GB over the years are being invited to the final meeting. It is hoped that the girls will now attend Crusaders when it starts after Christmas.

Nos (previously known as the 14+ Group) meets on the first and third Sunday evenings each month. The group has grown to 8, which is encouraging. The aim is to encourage the young people to know God, explore their faith - asking questions and seeking answers, to see the relevance of their faith in everyday lives and to grow as a community within the church.

If there were an offer of help for this group it would be possible to meet every Sunday, which would give more continuous contact with the young people. They are a wonderful bunch of young people and the leaders really enjoy their company and questions.

FAITH Group (Fellowship and Infants Together at Home), which I have omitted to report on before is being led by Lydia Goodchild. The group for parents/carers and children meets monthly for fellowship, support, to encourage each other and to strengthen their personal relationship with God. During the morning there is time for a chat whilst the children play and also devotion and discussion. There are 5 members meeting regularly with 5 children (soon to be 6!), One has recently joined as a result of the Alpha Course and Stepping Stones. There are others who would like to join but it has not been possible to find a day of the week that is convenient for all.

The Fellowship, meeting on the 4th Wednesday monthly, continues to attract good numbers, with 55 men and women on the register and 35 on average attending. Each meeting starts with family news, devotions and then a speaker, followed by refreshments and a social time. One of the speakers this year was Richard Bryant on the History of Lindfield. There was a visit from the children of Great Walstead School and an outing to McBean's Orchid Nursery. The chosen charity for this year was the Bluebird Community Bus. The year saw the passing of three of our stalwart members - Herbert

Secretary's Report

Fisher, Elsie Campling and Margaret Goodare. We thank God for their lives and example.

The Lunch Fellowships continue to serve an average of 45 meals each, including helpers, many of whom would qualify to attend the lunch anyway!. Help is always needed with transport and it is getting more difficult to provide lifts for people who are becoming more frail. It's a great opportunity for friendship evangelism and the short talks after each meal give an opportunity to share the gospel. A good proportion of those coming to the meal attend church either here or elsewhere. Highlights of the year include the Christmas lunch which is always welcome, a special lunch in February with Ian Knox who was leading a mission to the elderly in the village, the annual outing, this year to Ashburnham, and a visit to Great Walstead School for the performance of a musical by the children. There are some changes taking place in the two teams; Christine Giltrow who has helped for many years is moving, Derrick Hillman steps down at the end of the year and Iris Green also retires from heading up the Wednesday team. We express our thanks and appreciation for all that they have done and achieved over the years. A number have been added to the teams, which is good, and we are pleased that Janet Drayton is taking over from Iris.

The Concourse is now open from 10.00am to 12.30pm each day. Each morning starts with a time of prayer by those on duty, particularly for requests

entered in the prayer book. We need to be reminded that this is available and to encourage the book to be used more. Carol Walters has been organising and overseeing this work since it started back in 1995 and we are grateful for all she has done. We are pleased that Fay Jones is taking this on.

Pop In meets on Thursdays, which now coincides with the clinic that used to be held on Mondays. This seems not to have been a problem and some of the mothers drop in for coffee. We would welcome any new people who have time on a Thursday to come and meet friends over a coffee or just to have a break during shopping.

In Touch continues to fulfill a need in the life of the church. It has been found, this year in particular, to be an evening to which newcomers have been able to come for a time of fellowship and meet church members and regular worshippers. An average of around 25 attend the evenings, which have a balance of outsider events and in-house speakers. A good number went for an away day at Ashburnham with Jennifer Rees-Larcombe and the group supported the Fiona Castle evening. In-house speakers have included Jean Gardiner, Janet Wade and Catherine Bones. The annual dinner was held in January to which I am pleased to say the men are invited. The next one is on December 4th.

Although I have mentioned some people by name we are grateful to all those who are serving in the life of the church, many behind the scenes, particularly those involved in visiting

and pastoral work. Because of the need for confidentiality we do not know the full extent of what is being done unless, of course, you are on the receiving end. I would like pay tribute to Fiona Tingley and to thank her on behalf of the church for all she has done over the years, for her care and concern for so many people. She is stepping down from the Eldership for a well-earned break from this responsibility after many years of service but will continue to chair the Pastoral Group.

I would also like to thank Barry & Lesley Piper for their service as Treasurer and Church Accountant, not just in the last year or two but previous terms. We are all aware that they step down from 31st December and will be moving. At present we do not have anyone set aside to replace them and this is a very urgent need. I am not sure how we can continue to function without someone taking on these responsibilities.

This is a busy church with many activities and it is important to keep focused on the Lord and ensure that what we are doing as a church and as individuals is still relevant and in line with His will. The possibility of introducing termed appointments needs to be implemented to avoid people going on too long, losing their effectiveness and simply burning out. I can say that this year has been draining and many of those in leadership are very weary.

So what of the future? Well we have a major mission planned for May next

year with the other two churches in the village. This will give us a great opportunity to reach out with the gospel to the whole community. We need to be praying for this and asking how we can be involved. Are we excited about this and expecting people to really have an encounter with Jesus?

We are also starting Crusaders in January and have been encouraged by the response to this and the first two training sessions. Let's continue to pray for the final preparations and arrangements and that through this new venture many children and young people will come to know Jesus. Even if you're not actively involved week-by-week you can pray and I would encourage you to do this not just for Crusaders but for all the activities and events that are taking place.

Finally, I would like to thank those who have supported and prayed for me over the past few years and for those who have made a point of encouraging the Eldership during this past year. In our Vision Statement we committed ourselves to encountering God, encouraging one another and demonstrating God's love. Can I encourage you as I challenge myself to ensure that we put this into practice - if we do I believe it will transform the life of this fellowship and ensure blessing. Maybe our motto for the coming year could be Hebrews 10: 23-24 - Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess and let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds.

Ron Goodenough, 11th November 2004



Ramblings of a Rambler

It was June 1980, that a significant event occurred in my life at the South of England Agricultural Show, Ardingly. I wandered into the tent occupied by the Rambler's Association and signed up. Subsequently, I have enjoyed regular walks with the local Group, the Mid Sussex, and in about 1986 was coerced into leading my first walk. I later took on various responsibilities on our committee, on which I still serve. The rest, as they say, is history.

I would estimate that we do about 75% of our walks in the geographical Mid Sussex area, say the area bounded by Cowfold, Balcombe, Newick and Hassocks, but we also like to venture further afield when the days are longer. In October a party of us ascended Leith Hill in Surrey and we usually have an apple blossom walk in Kent in April. Our long weekends away are also popular, Last year we stayed at York, our base for exploring the North York Moors, and in previous years have visited the Malvern Hills and the Isle of Wight among other places.

Walking is often the best way to see many of our spectacular views, ancient manor houses and ruins, churches, mills and other places of interest. Who would guess, for instance, that a short stretch of railway tunnel can be found at Cornwells Bank, near Chailey, although this involves a wee bit of trespass (tut tut!). The preparation is often as rewarding as the event. It is pleasing to see the route you have planned from your Ordnance Survey maps come to life on the ground. Of course it is not always that easy: getting lost is an occupational hazard but sometimes the most difficult walks to get right are the most enjoyable. All our walks are advertised in the local free press and the Evening Argus and the general public is always welcome. For example, at the end of 2004 we had our



Festival of Winter Walks, a national event for which Mid Sussex offered walks from Beech Hurst Gardens, Cuckfield and Chailey. A sample from January's programme includes short walks from Fletching and Plumpton Station.

Our other, vital, activity is the preservation of our footpaths. They are under constant threat from illegal obstructions, summer growth, and stiles and bridges which decay and become unsafe. Cash-strapped local authorities have to be constantly chivvied to include an adequate amount in the highways' budget.

One gets a marvellous sense of well-being from walking in the countryside on a fine day in any season. Walking is recognised as a healthy activity and it is important to get exposed to as much of what passes for sunlight at this time of year as you can. On a personal note, I found the group very supportive at a time of bereavement - we are something like an extended family and we look out for each other. If I am marked down as absent from the 11 a.m. service it usually means I am out on the South Downs or the Ashdown Forest, where I have to say I feel closer to God.

If any of you feel like taking the plunge and joining our friendly group I will be delighted to pass your details to our membership secretary.

John Cribb

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.

The back pages

Three Churches Saturday morning Prayer Meetings 8.45 – 9.30 am



Please note that with effect from 8th January the above Prayer Meetings will be concentrating on the Lindfield Mission of 19th to 29th May 05 and the lead up thereto, and the hosting will be 'rotated' between the three Churches as below.

8th Jan The Tiger
15th Jan URC Lounge
22nd Jan Evang. Free
29th Jan The Tiger

5th Feb URC Lounge
12th Feb Evang. Free
19th Feb The Tiger
26th Feb URC Lounge

5th Mar Evang. Free
12th Mar The Tiger
19th Mar URC Lounge
26th Mar Evang. Free

2nd Apr The Tiger
9th Apr URC Lounge
16th Apr Evang. Free

23rd Apr The Tiger
30th Apr URC Lounge

7th May Evang. Free
14th May The Tiger
21st May URC Lounge
28th May Evang. Free



Flower Rota

	Arranging	Distributing
Jan 2	Gladys Porter	Fiona Tingley
9	Carol Walters	Heather Swann
16	Anne Blake	Sue Tester
23	Mary Comber	Dorothy Forster
30	Mies Brock	Betty Peter
Feb 6	Dorothy Forster	Jacqueline Wood
13	Iris Green	Iris Bingham
20	Jessie Green	Fiona Tingley
27	Carol Marsh	Heather Swann

Thanks for the practical help from "The Team" of helpers during the past year, many thanks also to those who have donated towards the Flowers Fund.

Betty Billins.

All are encouraged to join these Meetings which are led by different people each week from the three Churches, so we can 'lift up' in collective prayer our families, friends, neighbours and those God knows that we don't, who we hope are 'on a journey' to get to know the Living and Saving God during the first half of 2005.

Church activities

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

9.30am	Service for all the family, including crèche and Junior Church (Most weeks, children leave after 20 minutes for their own activities) Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.0am	Morning Worship Holy Communion (4th Sunday)
6.30pm	Evening Service Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)

Healing services as announced

PRAYER MEETINGS:

Mon	9.30am	An Hour of Prayer
Wed	9.45am	Short Service of Intercession
Thur	8.00pm	Church Prayer Evening (4th Thursday)
Fri	7.30am	Prayer Meeting in the Lounge

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

Sun	6.30pm	Sunday Evening Youth Group
Mon	6.30pm	Boys' Brigade – Junior Section (8–11 years)
	7.45pm	Boys' Brigade – Company Section (11+ years)
Tue	10.00am	Stepping Stones (Parents and toddlers)
	7.45pm	In Touch (4th Tuesday)
Wed	2.45pm	The Fellowship (4th Wed.)
Thur	10.00am	Pop-In (for coffee and a chat)
	8.00pm	Church Meeting (2nd Thur.)
Fri	5.30pm	Boys' Brigade – Anchor Boys (5–7 years)

House Groups normally meet 1st and 3rd Thursday

**The church is open Monday to Saturday
from 10.00am to 1.00pm**

Phonebook



Church (payphone):

01444 484620

Minister's office number:

01444 487607

Boys' Brigade:

Geoffrey Cocksedge
01444 474007

Cradle Roll:

Sue Tester 01444 482810

Flowers:

Betty Billins 01444 484494

Hall Letting Secretary:

Audrey McKee 01444 415031

In Touch:

Sue Waller 01444 455047

Lunch Fellowship:

Wednesday:
Janet Drayton 01444 456161

Friday: Gwen and
Derrick Hillman 01444 456963

Magazine: Editor:

David Tingley 01444 451024

The Fellowship:

Jessie Green 01444 452708

Roy Billins 01444 484494

Stepping Stones:

Janet Goodenough
01444 417002

Transport:

Tina Elphick 01444 484440

Youth and Children's Work

Co-ordinator:

Rob Biersteker 01444 440835

Junior Church Co-ordinator:

Clare Nibloe 01444 484683

Local events

Preservation Society

A talk by Mike Mason

of the RSPB
on Wildfowl

Thursday afternoon
20th January
2.30 – 4.30 pm
in The King Edward Hall

followed by a short
talk on the upkeep of
the village pond
by Richard Powell.

*(Annual members of the
society will be able to
renew their membership
at this meeting).*

All welcome.

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