

the Link

The United Pastorate of

Leatherhead

Cobham

Effingham

April 2019



The
United
Reformed
Church

Linking:

Christ Church (United Reformed) Leatherhead
Cobham United Church

(Methodist and United Reformed)

Effingham Methodist Church

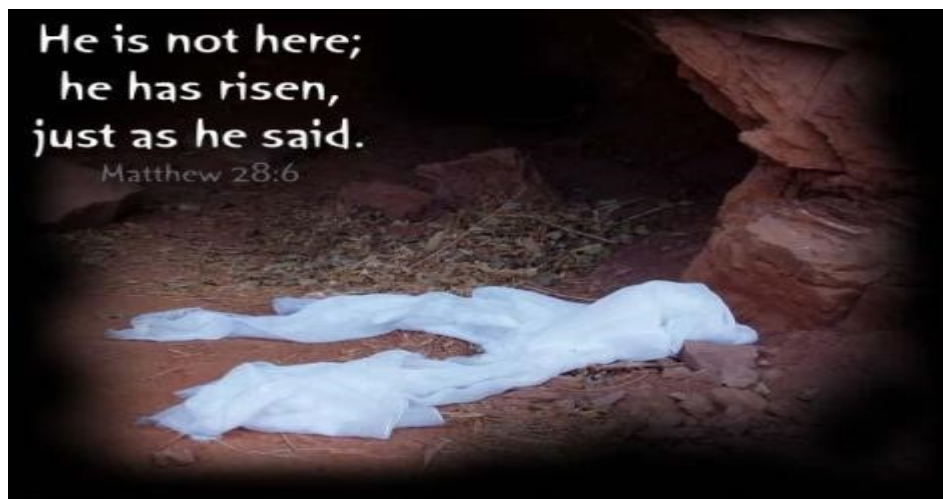
Leatherhead Methodist Church



The **Methodist** Church

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Editor: David Cappitt
17 Downsvie Close,
Downside, Cobham, KT11 3NS
Tel: 01932 862661
E-mail: pastorate.link@gmail.com

All copy for the May issue to the editor by April 16th



The Minister Writes...

From Rev Jan Hofmeyr

Dear Friends,

"The Seven Words from the Cross" have been preached about and written about many times. Many years ago I heard a different slant on these words of Jesus from the cross. They were applied to us as humans as we approach our death, just as Jesus uttered them as He approached His death.

The first words of Jesus on Calvary were the words He spoke as He was being nailed to the cross – "Father forgive them; they do not know what they are doing". Jesus spoke a word of forgiveness. In a similar way as we approach death, it is important for us to offer forgiveness to any against whom we harbour a grudge or unforgiveness. We cannot die in peace if we have not made peace with others. If those we need to forgive have already died or their whereabouts are unknown, we nonetheless need to tell the Lord of our offer of forgiveness in order to 'clear the slate' from our side.

The second word of Jesus from the cross is about receiving forgiveness. As the penitent thief on the cross next to Jesus received an assurance of forgiveness, so too may we need to ask for forgiveness – from the Lord and maybe from other people. To die in peace, we need to know our own sins forgiven.

Jesus then addresses His mother and His friend John when He says, "Mother, here is your son; son here is your mother." Jesus knew that Mary would need care and support; He also knew that John, still a young man, would need love and assistance. They would help each other through the difficult days ahead. A common concern for people who are dying is whether those they are leaving behind will be able to cope. Having the assurance that they will, can help them to approach death with a greater sense of peace.

continued

Another important aspect of Mary and John's presence at the cross is the fact that people generally want to know that they will have one or more loved ones with them when they die. It is touching to think that Jesus' last earthly glimpse was of His mother and one of His closest disciples.

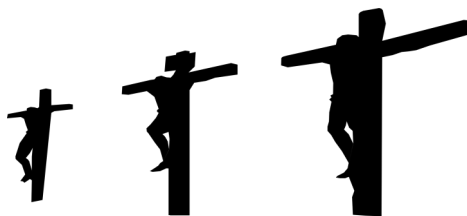
Then there is the mysterious cry of Jesus, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Even those with the strongest faith are prone to feel at times, as they approach death, that God has abandoned them. They need to know that it is a very natural response to all that they are going through. They need to remember that Jesus understands their feelings, for He has experienced them Himself.

Fifthly Jesus says, "I thirst". The physical needs of people remain important right to the end, especially relief from physical pain. One of the things that Mother Theresa sought to do for the 'untouchables' of Calcutta was to give them a place to die with dignity and to tend to their physical needs. One of those physical needs is touch and as a dying person loses more and more contact with the world around them, physical touch provides an important source of comfort and reassurance.

Then Jesus calls out, "It is finished!" It is a cry of triumph as Jesus expresses the fact that He has accomplished everything He came to earth to do. To die well it helps a great deal to be able to complete as much of any 'unfinished business' as possible. Unfinished business may range from practical matters such as finalising one's will or completing some project to speaking to a particular person. Some people like to be able to recount their life story and maybe have it written down for posterity.

Finally, Jesus says, 'Father, into your hands I commit My spirit'. It is a prayer of trust in a loving and gracious Father. For us to die in peace it helps greatly to come to the point of acceptance and trust as we commit ourselves into God's gracious care. And Easter reminds us that the Father's love and care are beyond measure.

Easter blessings to you all,
Jan



From Rev Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

As any good decorator will know, a plumb line is often a crucial bit of equipment. It is a device that ensures a vertical line, it can be as simple as a piece of string with a weight on the end of it. It points directly downwards offering the decorator, for example, a line to adhere to when hanging wallpaper. It's ingenious in its simplicity.

I loved the way Nick Cuthbert, author of such books as 'How to Survive and Thrive as a Church Leader' (sounds interesting!), offered a group of ministers a powerpoint presentation, his first slide read these words 'Change is difficult, not changing is fatal.' It certainly grabbed our attention, as you can imagine. The question "Why are we here?" Is perhaps one of the most important questions the church needs to ask itself, it seems that once we know the answer, it then enables us to know where we are going, and indeed what strategy is needed to move us in the right direction.

Nick Cuthbert uses the plumb line as a symbolic tool when he thinks of mission. If we know the line which we are called to adhere to, i.e. we know why we are here, we make sure that everything is aligned to it. Then if we discover an aspect of church life which gravitates away from the line, we are challenged to ask how we can move it from where it is to where it needs to be. If our energy is being placed in something that doesn't quite fit much of what we have agreed to do, then perhaps some trimming is needed. So what is God's why for the church? What is the plumb line by which we find our central focus?

I suspect a quick glance at our vision and mission statements might give us some ready answers to such a question; at the United Church we've said it is to '*Love God, Love others, Serve the world in Christ's name*'. However, even that is driven by a much deeper sense of understanding.

In the journey towards Good Friday and Easter Sunday it is in recognizing who Christ is, and the power by which he is able to rise beyond death, that excites us and propels us onwards, for the plumb line points towards a place of divinity and humanity, for they are

continued

intrinsically linked. We meet with a Christ who is both human and divine; it is in that place that we find our identity as disciples of Christ, our sense of purpose and our focus that points directly to God. Just as Christ pointed others to the Father so we too are called to point others to God.

Good Friday and Easter Sunday have always been for me a time of passionate engagement, it is a time when my emotions are raw and when jubilation waits around the corner to lift me beyond my deep sadness to a place of extraordinary abundance.

The Easter journey is all about life and death, endings and new beginnings. I suspect that it also reminds us to whom we belong and to whom we should look.

Wishing you all every abundant blessing in the risen Christ

Kim, Colin and family

EASTER

Even though the darkness raged
And all was still, the sun had gone
Still they shouted their abuse
Taunting Him – “you’re not God’s Son!
Elijah hasn’t rescued you,
Renounce your claim, you’re just like me,
Everyone can see you hang
Arms outstretched, nailed to a tree”.
So it seemed that all was lost,
Their hopes their dreams forever gone –
Eternity had other plans
Resurrection Day was soon to dawn.

By Megan Carter (Parish Pump)



Cobham

United Church

Worship Diary

April

- Sun 7th 9.00am Early Bird Service**
10.30am Rev Stephen Thornton
- Sun 14th 10.30am Palm Sunday—Rev Kim Plumpton**
- Thur 18th 7.00pm Maundy Thursday service**
- Fri 19th 10.00am Good Friday Service**
11.00am Witness round the Cross in the centre of Cobham (tbc)
- Sun 21st 10.30am Easter—Rev Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion**
- Sun 28th 10.30am Rhys Frost**

May

- Sun 5th 9.00am Early Bird Service**
10.30am Rev Roy Bones

Prayers at the Manse **Wednesdays at 9.30am**

April: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

Lent Course

Led by Rev Andy Twilley
Fridays, 10.30 - 12 (coffee from 10.00)
from 8th March

See p 9

Cobham Events

April

Tues 2nd	9.45am	Church Walk
	8.00pm	Trustees Meeting
Thur 4th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship: The Bull's Head, Clandon
Thur 18th	7.30pm	House Fellowship
Thur 25th	3.45pm	Messy Church (to 5.45pm)

Mustard Seed:

- Bible study meeting every Thursday, 1.30 - 3.00pm, at the home of Yoke Lan Palmer.
- All are welcome.



Your invitation to:



Activities

Songs

Food

Crafts

Games

Stories

Messy Church

Thursday 25th April, 3.45pm - 5.45pm
Cobham United Church

Carry the cross patiently, and with perfect submission; and in the end it shall carry you.

Thomas a Kempis

God's Grand Design: 21st century lessons from the Church at Ephesus

Led by Revd Andy Twilley



Lent course

Venue: Cobham United Church

Stoke Road, Cobham

Dates: (continuing)

5th, 12th April

Time: 10am Refreshments

10:30-12 session

The letter to the Church at Ephesus stands as a wonderful declaration of the eternal purposes of God in Christ worked out in His Church. This series of studies will be an exciting journey as we discover a host of practical implications for our lives as believers, both individually and corporately. We will discover again the value that God sees in us, as well as the amazing ways God chooses to work within even the most challenging of contexts. A truly inspiring vision for the church.

Please contact Revd Kim Plumpton for further details on 01932 586988 or e-mail kimp_822@hotmail.com to book a place.



Effingham

Methodist Church

Birthday Dates for April:



We wish a very Happy Birthday to: Rachel Reed and Rosemary Roberts.

Please let us know about birthdays and BIG anniversaries!!

Your invitation to:



Activities

Songs

Food

Crafts

Games

Stories

St. Lawrence Church Hall in Brown's Lane

Our March meeting was about being kind and included the story of the man being let down through the roof to meet Jesus and be cured.

Our Easter meeting will of course be about Easter
Wednesday 10th April ~ 3.30 -5.30pm

For more information contact Gill on 01372 457987

Effingham Methodist Diary



April

- Sat 6th 7.30pm **This Man** Circuit Event at LMC (see p 23)
- Sun 7th 10.00am Rev Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion**
- Tues 9th 2.30pm Tuesday Tea In St Alphege Hall
- Wed 10th 3.30pm Messy Church at St Lawrence Hall (to 5.30)
- Thur 11th 10.00am Connect at St Lawrence Hall (to 12 noon)
2.15pm Christian Meditation in the Chapel
- Sun 14th 10.00am John Oborn**
- Thur 18th 7 - 11am Hand out Hot Cross Buns at Effingham Junction and by the shops
7.00pm Maundy Thursday Service at CUC
- Fri 19th 12noon "No Name in the Street" drama at All Saints**
- 5.00pm Good Friday devotional walk from All Saints**
- 6.00pm "At the Foot of the Cross" service**
- Sat 20th Pat and Iain's wedding at the Chapel ... **Hooray**
- Sun 21st 9.00am Easter Communion Service with Rev Kim Plumpton**
- Tues 23rd 2.30pm Tuesday Teas in the RC Hall
3.00pm St George's Day Tea at EMC
- Thur 25th 10.00am Connect at St Lawrence Hall (to 12 noon)
12.30pm Oasis Bible Lunch in the hall
2.15pm Christian Meditation in the Chapel
- Sun 28th 10.00am Rev Sue Conroy**

May

- Tue 2nd 3.30pm Tea and play in St Alphege Hall (see p 13)
- Sun 5th 10.00am Rev Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion**

Prayer Meetings are held in the Chapel every Friday at

Tuesday Teas - a social group with tea, chat and fellowship

In March we changed our tea session to a fish and chip lunch. 16 of us sat down to lunch followed by cheesecake dessert and coffee.

We meet fortnightly from 2.30pm to 4pm, in St Alphege Hall, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Lower Road, Effingham (and occasional outings).

Next dates are: April 9th and 23rd, and fortnightly thereafter.

Come and join us.

Some car transport can be arranged.

Contact Keith or Gill on 01372 457987 for more information.

Feast of Faith on Aldersgate Sunday?

Methodist website has resources for 19th May with ideas and downloadable "organisers pack" to plan a **Feast of Faith** ~ Food & reflection on how God's love and grace has changed our lives or inspired mission in our church or community.

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/methodist-special-sundays/aldersgate-sunday/>



New Toddler Playground in King George V Playing Fields, Effingham

Our new playground for the very young was opened on Saturday March 16th by Elizabeth, daughter of Barnes Wallis.





'Connect'

A fortnightly group for carers

and partners living with dementia

At St Lawrence Church Hall, Browns Lane, Effingham

Thursdays 10.30 till 12 O'clock

Come for refreshment, friendship, activities and fun.

We meet in St Lawrence Church Hall, Browns Lane, KT24 5LX in Effingham from 10am to 12noon on alternate Thursdays and also arrange monthly outings, often for tea at local garden centres. Refreshments, friendship, chat and a good range of activities are on offer for all.

We have just started a borrowing service for some of the games, puzzles and equipment we now have

April Dates: 11th and 25th.

For more info. contact Gill on 01372 457987
email : GillianMWalker@gmail.com
or Kim on 01932 586988

You don't have to live in Effingham to come and join us

Top Hat Tales

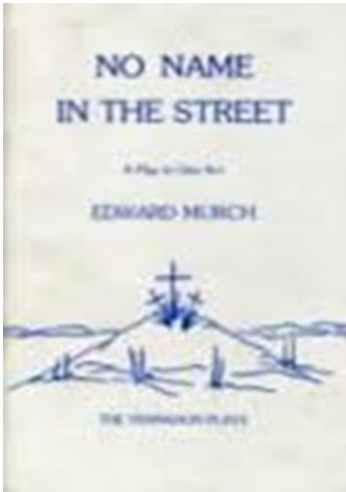
May 2nd, St Alphege Hall, tea at 3.30 and performance at 4 pm (for an hour)



Following a successful "Jack and the Beanstalk" production, the **Rah Rah Theatre Company** return to perform "Top Hat Tales" - a comedy love story based around Broadway shows of the 30s, 40s and 50s with songs for all to

remember and join in with. Specially for Connect families, and friends too - all welcome.

No Name in the Street



A one act play by Edward Murch will be part of an Ecumenical **Good Friday** service at **All Saints Church** starting at 12noon.

The play tells the story of Holy Week through the experiences of a mother searching for her son, and the ordinary people she meets.

Rather than judging those who failed Jesus, it forces us to face difficult questions about how we would have behaved, what we would have done, how we'd have felt if we'd been there ?

Maybe you feel some sympathy for Pontius Pilate ?

It was a difficult decision ! Wasn't it a no-win situation for him ?

Perhaps you were among the crowd shouting for Barabbas to be released ? But was he a terrorist or a freedom fighter ?

What harm had Jesus done that warranted the death penalty ?

Do you sympathise with Peter, who was so afraid that he'd be recognised as one of his followers, that he denied Christ three times before the cock crowed ?

How do you feel about Judas ? Did he earn his vilification or could there be other explanations for his actions ?

The play is a competition winner in Great Britain, a popular work amongst American church groups, and has been televised to great acclaim. **Do come along if you can.**

ORDER OF SERVICE

EASTER OFFERING 2019



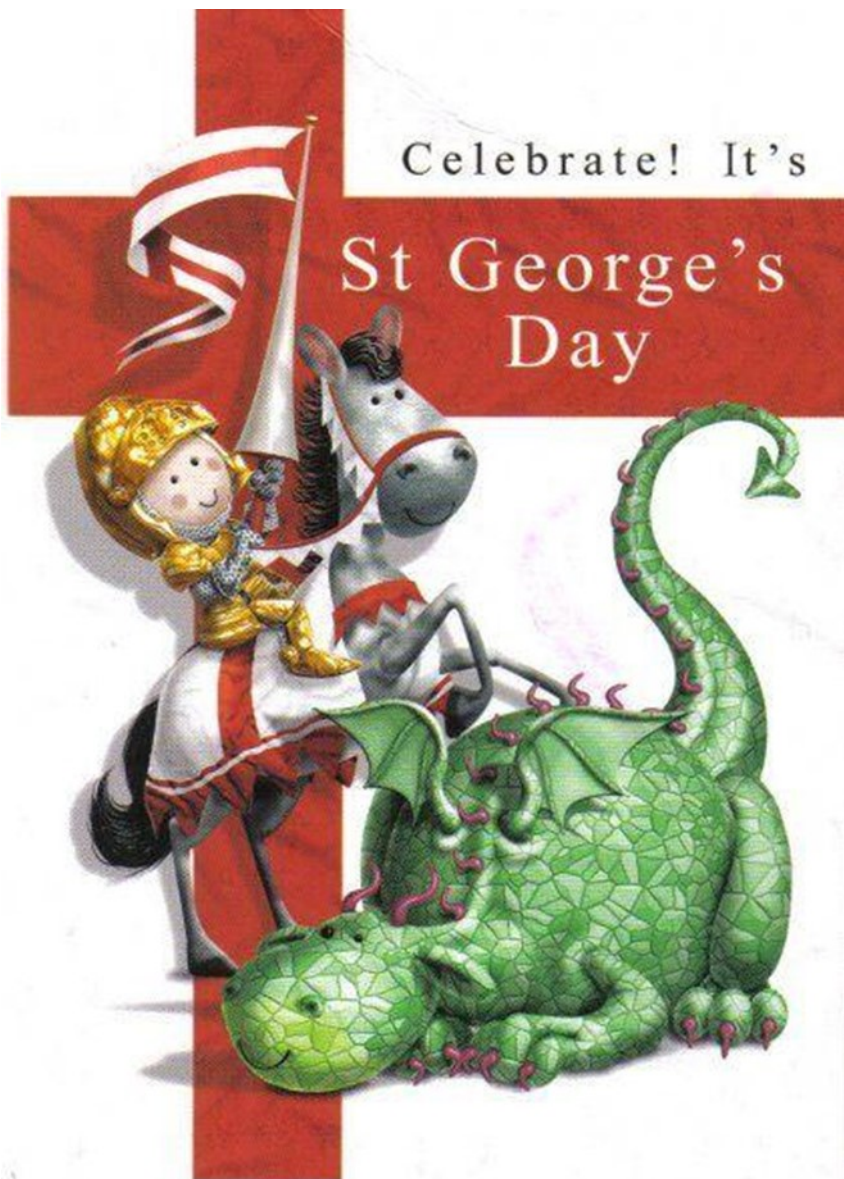
Your local Easter Offering Service is prepared by Methodist Women in Britain on behalf of the World Mission Fund. This act of worship enables the Methodist Church in Britain and Ireland to give to the work of our 65 partner churches overseas.



Methodist Women
in Britain

The **Methodist Church**

Living generously



**St. George's Day Afternoon Tea @ Effingham on
Tuesday 23rd April at 3pm in aid of Church Funds
~ £5 ticket or pay at the door**

Easter Prayer by the **Revd Michaela Youngson**

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.

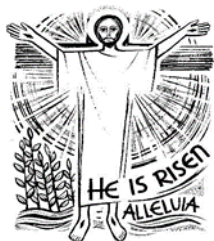
Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.

Amen



*Note: Rev Michaela Youngson is
President of the Methodist Con-
ference 2018-19.*

Leatherhead Pages

Information, news, events and happenings in and around
Leatherhead including news of joint Christ Church/LMC events



A SPECIALITY COFFEE SHOP AND SANDWICH COMPANY

Open Mon-Sat, 8am-3pm

OPEN TO ALL

*the very best coffee +
the very best sandwiches =
the very best support
for young people*

AllSaints, Kingston Road, Leatherhead, KT22 7BT

Men's Breakfasts



The Leatherhead Men's Breakfast Fellowship meets bi-monthly on the fourth Saturday in the month.

The next meeting is on **25th May**, at LMC, speaker Dave Banko with a Churches Together update.

All men of any denomination or none are welcome. A suggested donation of £4 would be appreciated to cover costs; any surplus is donated to the speaker's preferred charity.

Time for Tea



COME for TEA and COMPANY

from 2.30pm to 4.30pm
on the first Friday every month at

LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

Next "Time for Tea" -
Friday 5th April - Speaker: Bob Greenfield -
"Miracles"

EVERYONE WELCOME

(Suggested donation £1)



The Ark Toddler Group



Every Friday
0930-1100
URC Church
Epsom Road
KT22 8ST

Lots of fun,
games and
toys, come
and join us
for a tea or
coffee
whilst your
child plays



For More Information
Contact Joycey on
Joycey.lmcyouth@gmail.com



Leatherhead Concert & Arts

Music on Thursdays at LMC • Wednesdays at Christ Church

Thursday 11th April at LMC:

Camilla Marchant, flute, Thomas Ang, piano
Bach • Boulanger • Karg-Elert • Tchaikovsky • Sancan
courtesy of the Royal Academy of Music

Wednesday 17th April at Christ Church:

Guest Organist - Mark Brafield,
Organ Recitalist

Thursday 25th April at LMC:

Capital Horns (quartet)
courtesy of the Royal Academy of Music

Thursday 2nd May at LMC:

Marina Kan, piano
courtesy of the Royal Academy of Music

Supported by: Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society

LCAS is a charity registered in England & Wales No: 1166764



HOLIDAY CLUB 2019



The dates for this year's holiday club "The Big Build" are:

Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th August - Set Up

**Wednesday 21st to Friday 23rd August -
The Holiday Club**

Saturday 24th August - Family Time
(couple of hours in the rec.)

Sunday 25th August - All-Age Service at Christ Church

If you feel you can help in any way, please keep these
dates free and speak to Joycey, or email:

joycey.lmcyouth@gmail.com



LMC

"THIS MAN"

A Modern Oratorio
The Easter Story as you've
never heard it before.
Prepare to be blown away!

SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH
7.30 PM

TICKETS: ADULTS £12,
CONCESSIONS/CHILDREN £10

Booking Online:
thismantickets.co.uk
Box Office: 07947910002
or
Leatherhead Methodist Church
leatherheadmc@gmail.com
01372 362145



Easter in Leatherhead



Good Friday 19th April

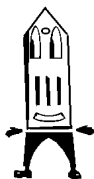
- 9.00am Good Friday Service at Christ Church -
Rev. Jan Hofmeyr
- 10.00am Churches Together in Leatherhead -
Good Friday Walk of Reflection starting
at Christ Church and ending at LMC with
Hot Cross Buns

Saturday 20th April

- 3.00pm Service of Memory and Hope at LMC -
Remembering Loved Ones -
Rev. Jan Hofmeyr

Easter Sunday 21st April

- 10.30am United Easter Day Service URC/LMC at
Christ Church - Rev. Jan Hofmeyr



Leatherhead

Methodist Church

Prayer Breakfasts

Prayer breakfasts are held on the third Sunday each month at 9.30am. It's a bring and share (non-cooked) breakfast with a short time of prayer fellowship before the morning service. All very welcome.

**No Prayer Breakfast on Easter Day
Next Prayer Breakfast is on 19th May.**

LMC House Groups

LMC has three House Groups where Church members and friends can meet together on a regular basis, usually in someone's home, and are informal ways to get to know each other better, to share joys, concerns, and prayer requests if desired, and to discuss various subjects, either from the Bible or from other relevant Christian books.



Monday evenings fortnightly: contact **Carol Stoves**

Friday mornings monthly: contact **Norma Shaw**

Friday afternoons (2nd and 4th Fridays): contact **Sue Friend**

Everyone is encouraged to join a house group



KNIT AND NATTER



NEW GROUP
STARTING
ALL ARE
WELCOME

Leatherhead
Methodist Church

Every Tuesday
between 1400-1600
50p Per Session
to cover costs



LMC



Diary



April

Tues 2nd	9.00am	Prayers in the Vestry
	2.00pm	Knit 'n' Natter
Fri 5th	2.30pm	Time for Tea (<i>see p 19</i>)
Sat 6th	7.30pm	"This Man" - a modern oratorio (<i>see p 23</i>)
Sun 7th	10.30am	Rev. Jan Hofmeyr with Holy Communion
	12.00noon	Bring and share lunch at the Manse
Tues 9th	9.00am	Prayers in the Vestry
	2.00pm	Knit 'n' Natter
Thur 11th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays (<i>see page 21</i>)
Sun 14th	10.30am	Peter Bramhill
	6.30pm	Rev. Jan Hofmeyr with Holy Communion
Tues 16th	9.00am	Prayers in the Vestry
	2.00pm	Knit 'n' Natter
Wed 17th	12.30pm	Organ Recital at Christ Church (<i>see page 21</i>)
Fri 19th	9.00am	Good Friday Service at Christ Church
	10.00am	Churches Together Good Friday Walk of Reflection starting at Christ Church
Sat 20th	3.00pm	Service of Memory & Hope – Remembering loved ones
Sun 21st	10.30am	United Easter Day Service at Christ Church - Rev. Jan Hofmeyr with Holy Communion
Tues 23rd	9.00am	Prayers in the Vestry
	2.00pm	Knit 'n' Natter
Thur 25th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays (<i>see page 21</i>)

Continued on the next page

April - continued

Sun 28th 10.30am Rev. Jan Hofmeyr
12.00noon General Church Meeting
6.30pm New Fire at AllSaints café

Tues 30th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry
2.00pm Knit 'n' Natter

May

Thur 2nd 12.30pm Music on Thursdays

Fri 3rd 2.30pm Time for Tea

Sun 5th 10.30am Rev. Jan Hofmeyr with Holy Communion

Weekly Prayer Meeting

Prayer meetings are now held every Tuesday morning in the Vestry at LMC. Meetings start at 9.00am and last about 40 minutes. Everyone is very welcome to join us.

LMC Family News



Our thoughts and prayers are with ...

... the family and friends of **Jeanne Alexandre** who died peacefully on 12th March, following a short illness.

We remember too ...

...all our members, friends and relatives - especially any who are unwell at home, in hospital, in a residential home and those who care for them. We think of Harry and Peggy Robinson, Barbara and John Bees, James and Jean Ross, Joy Foreman and Edward Warren.

LMC General Church Meeting

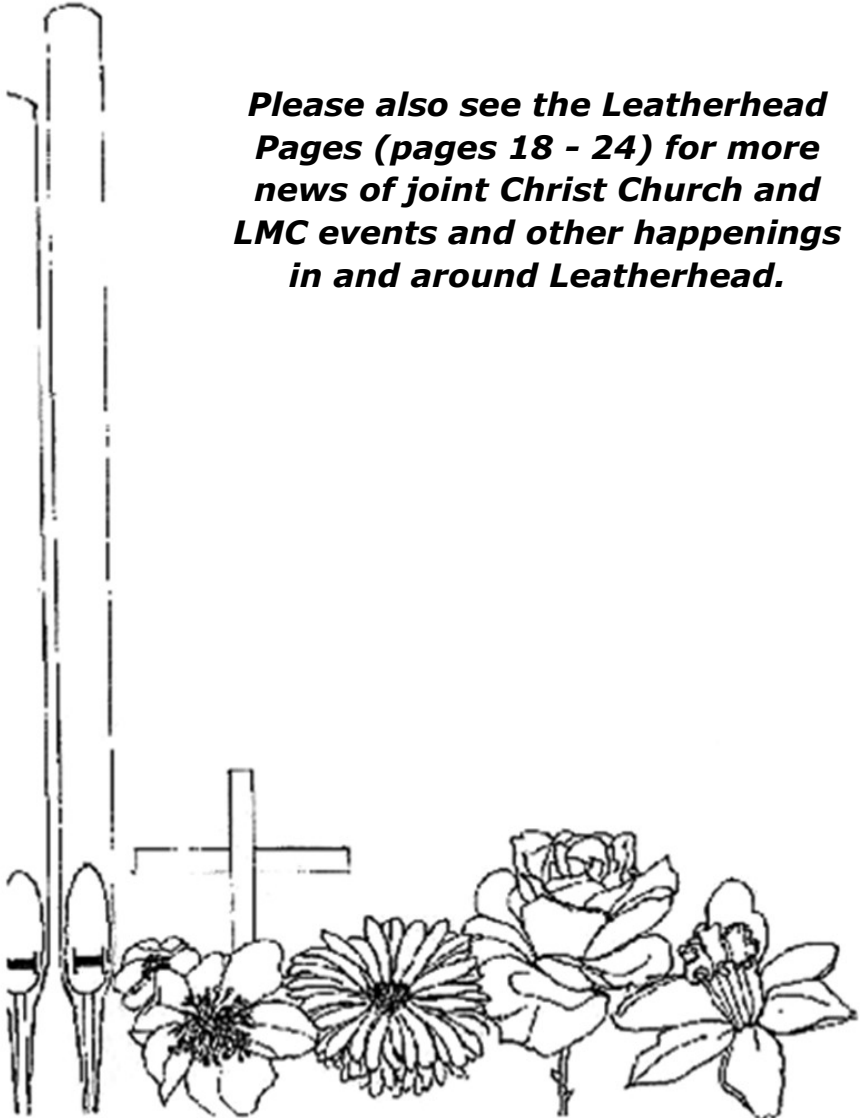
The General Church Meeting, held annually, will this year be held after the morning service on **Sunday 28th April**. The meeting will include the appointment of church stewards, who are part of the Leadership Team, and representatives from the church to the Church Council. We will also receive the Annual Report which includes a financial statement and a report on our plans from last year and the coming one.

Everyone will be very welcome to attend.

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

*Please also see the Leatherhead
Pages (pages 18 - 24) for more
news of joint Christ Church and
LMC events and other happenings
in and around Leatherhead.*



Christ Church Diary



April

Sat 6th 7.30pm LMC: "This Man": a modern oratorio (*p 23*).

Sun 7th 10.30am Heather Ward

Thur 11th 12.30pm Music on Thursdays (*see page 21*)

Fri 12th 7.30pm Choir practice

Sat 13th 11.00am CTiL: "God's Extravagant Love" - gifts in the town centre (Cookies to LMC 7.00pm Friday)

Sun 14th 10.30am Palm Sunday musical service: Rev Jan Hofmeyr

Wed 17th 12.30pm Organ Recital: Mark Brafield (Dorking)

Fri 19th 9.00am Joint Good Friday Service (at Christ Church)
Rev Jan Hofmeyr

10.00am CTiL "Walk of Reflection" from Ch Ch to LMC

7.30pm Joint choir practice

Sun 21st 10.30am Joint Easter Communion (at Ch Ch): Rev Jan Hofmeyr

Wed 24th 7.30pm House group: 3, Orchardleigh

Thur 25th 12.30pm Music on Thursdays (*see page 21*)

7.30pm Church AGM in the church

Sun 28th 10.30am Gail Partridge

6.30pm All Saints Café: New Fire ecumenical service

May

Sun 5th 10.30am Rev Stephen Thornton

Wed 8th 7.30pm Housegroup: 3, Orchardleigh

Christ Church Family News



Exciting news of two births:

Congratulations and good wishes to David and Alice Gillott on the birth of Phoebe Joy on 15th March, a little sister for Harry and a fourth grandchild for Nigel and Alison.

Congratulations and good wishes to Catherine and John Craven on the birth of Matthew Alan on 14th February, a third grandson for Sue and Alan Huxtable.

News of members:

Jacqui Ball has had an operation to straighten the toes of her right foot and is doing well. We send our very best wishes for a speedy recovery and return to normal activity.

We send Margaret Ball our very best wishes on reaching her 94th birthday on 27th March.

Gilbert McMillan unfortunately had to return to Ashted Hospital recently, but is now back at Rosebery Manor. We send our very best wishes and pray that he will soon be feeling much better.

We announced the death of John Rayner very briefly in the March Link. His funeral took place at Randall's Park Crematorium on 20th March. He was a well-loved and faithful member of Christ Church who had been living in a care home in Cobham for a few years after the death of his wife Olive. We give thanks for his sterling work as Synod Treasurer and elder and fabric steward at Bookham for many years before taking on the same roles at Christ Church in 2001. It was not unknown to see John and Olive busy with paint brushes or screwdriver around the premises! We send our sincere condolences to Alison and David and their families and assure them of our support in the days ahead.

We send congratulations and good wishes to Mike Way on becoming a grandfather, and to the parents, son Alex and his wife Barrie on the birth of Arthur Michael. We send our condolences to Mike on the recent death of his partner Irene.

We remember all these friends in our prayers, the bereaved, the lonely and those with health problems

Anne Cairns

Memories of John Rayner

Mike and I first met John and Olive Rayner when we moved to Bookham in 1992. They were very involved not only in the local United Reformed Church but also in all levels of the denomination. When they realised that we had moved into a house with a garden needing much attention they brought us plants. A healthy fuchsia bush in our front garden still thrives to this day. Sometime later when Bookham Church was due to have a new hall floor, Mike mentioned to John that his father had made a shed out of a church hall floor back in our home town of Cardiff. John planned out the various parts of a shed on the floor and had them cut out. Along with an old door from the manse that shed stands steadfastly in our garden some 25 years later. John was an Elder at Bookham URC for many years and oversaw all the maintenance and upkeep of the church, the hall and the manse. He and Olive often undertook many of the renovations and repairs themselves. When they transferred their membership to Christ Church, Leatherhead their skills were soon in demand with John once again becoming an Elder and looking after the properties.

When in 2002 I was persuaded to become secretary of the Wimbledon District Council of the URC John was the treasurer and we spent many an hour travelling back and forth to the Southern Synod Office in Croydon, to District Council Meetings held at various churches and to other meetings linked to the District and Synod. Initially John would drive but as his eyesight deteriorated, I did the driving. During this time, he would tell me about the churches and the folk within the District and Synod. Becoming District Secretary involved a steep learning curve for me and John helped me immensely. He had a wealth of knowledge and I was only too happy to glean some of it. Eventually John had to give up this work, but he remained very interested in the wider URC and it often formed the basis of our conversations in later years.

When Olive died a few years ago John coped reasonably well with help and even managed to walk to the Bookham church if we were unable to take him to Christ Church. However, after a fall when he broke his arm his health began to deteriorate. A spell in hospital highlighted the need for full time care and he eventually entered a care home in Cobham. Although his sight was poor and his hearing was impaired he could always manage a smile and would often attempt to relate one of his stories.

Jeanette Chamberlain

God in the Sciences: The Beauty of Good Friday

Some of the most beautiful things in the world have an ugly side. What about the emperor penguin chick, nestling in a feathery pouch above its parent's feet? There's a lovely moment when mum and dad greet each other over the gaping beak of their fuzz-ball offspring. Heads bent together, making a heart shape in the air, we can't help seeing a reflection of our own ideals of love in the pair.

But the reality of what those birds are going through is even more gruelling than human parenthood. Father penguin has spent all winter sheltering the egg from freezing hurricane-force winds, while mother penguin was feeding at sea. When the chick hatched its parents started an exhausting game of tag, taking it in turns to walk across the ice and risk being eaten by leopard seals or killer whales in order to catch fish for their new offspring.

The living world is truly wonderful in so many ways, but the darker side of the picture is never far away. Creation is groaning (Romans 8:22), and waiting to be rescued. Enter Jesus, through whom all of creation was made. The king of the universe came to live with us, bringing His great love and wisdom to the human population of first-century Israel. The Creator was relating to His creation in a very personal way, and this could have been a totally beautiful picture.

But there is a horrifically ugly side of Jesus' story that threatens to obscure the beauty of what He did on Good Friday. It was a brutal and terrifying day when human sinfulness resulted in the Son of God being executed by His enemies, but thankfully there was much more to it than that. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ set off a seismic wave of spiritual events whose effects are still rippling out across the world.

So that ugly day nearly 2,000 years ago is called 'good' because of what it achieved. Those who follow Jesus find their lives are changed for the better, even if their day-to-day existence may still be incredibly tough. When people come to understand what creation is for and who it belongs to, they can begin to serve and preserve the earth as they should. These things are only whispers of what is to come, but they give me hope for the future redemption of all Creation. I can choose to dwell on the beauty of Jesus' death because it was not the end of the story – the future beckons.

This article is extracted (with permission) from *New Life: Reflections for Lent*, edited by Amy Robinson and Wendy H Jones (£7.99).
Parish Pump

Grace for the Moment

I recently wrote about the book *Grace for the Moment* by Max Lucado because I had found it a very valuable way of reading the Bible. Well I'm about to encourage you once again to get a copy!

At the beginning of each daily section of the book there is a short introduction and I have found some of these most stimulating and challenging. These are some of Max Lucado's words.....

If you ever have one of those 'down' moments when you just find life too much and you explode "Why doesn't God answer?", consider this.....what if God weren't here on earth ? You think people can be cruel now, imagine it without the presence of God. You think we can be brutal to each other now, imagine the world without the Holy Spirit. You think there is loneliness and despair and guilt now, imagine life without the touch of Jesus. No forgiveness, no hope, no acts of kindness, no words of love, No food given in his name, no songs sung to his praise. No more deeds done in his honour. If God took away his angels, his grace, his promise of eternity, his servants what would the world be like? In a word Hell !

The next time you think that no one understands, pay a visit to the garden of Gethsemane. The next time that self-pity convinces you that no one cares and you wonder if God really perceives the pain that prevails on this dusty planet, listen to Jesus pleading amongst the twisted trees. Not my will but yours be done !

It isn't hope that led Mary and Mary Magdalen to the tomb on that first Easter Day it is duty, Naked devotion. They expect nothing in return. What could Jesus give? What could a dead man offer? They are going to the tomb to give ! There is no motive more noble..... Service prompted by duty. This is the call of discipleship.

Dave P

Pastorate Details

Details of the Services and Activities at each of the Pastorate Churches can be found on the appropriate website, or by telephoning the contact listed here:

Leatherhead Methodist Church:

Church Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8AY
www.leatherheadmethodist.org
Contact: Administrator -
Carol Stoves 01372 377125; Office 362145

Christ Church (United Reformed):

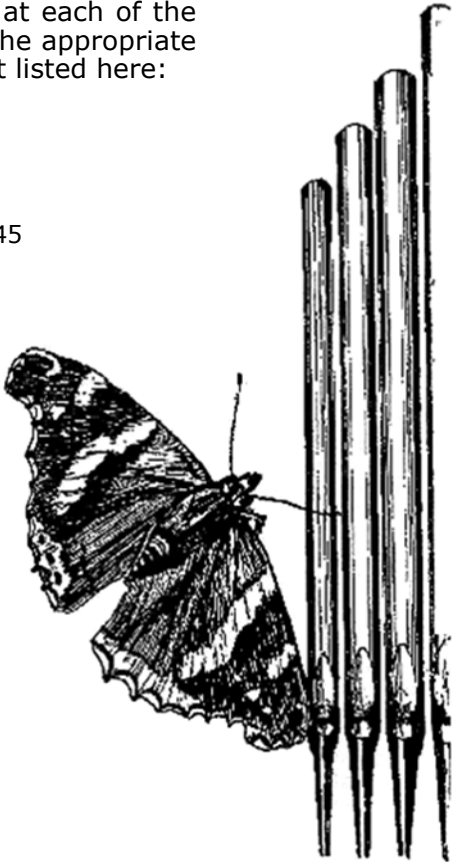
Epsom Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ST
www.chch.org.uk
Contact: Church Secretary -
Mike Essex 01372 273472

Effingham Methodist Church:

Chapel Hill, Effingham, KT24 5NB
www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk
Contact: Senior Steward -
Dave Putland 01372 454850

Cobham United Church:

38 Stoke Road, Cobham, KT11 3BD
www.cobhamurc.org.uk
Contact: Church Secretary -
Mary Langtry 01483 282421



United Pastorate Ministers

Rev Jan Hofmeyr

10 Church Road
Leatherhead
KT22 8AY

Tel: 01372 373154 (home)
01372 362145 (office)

Email: revjannie@gmail.com

Rev. Kim Plumpton

38 Stoke Road
Cobham
KT11 3BD

Tel: 01932 586988

E-mail:
kimp_822@hotmail.com