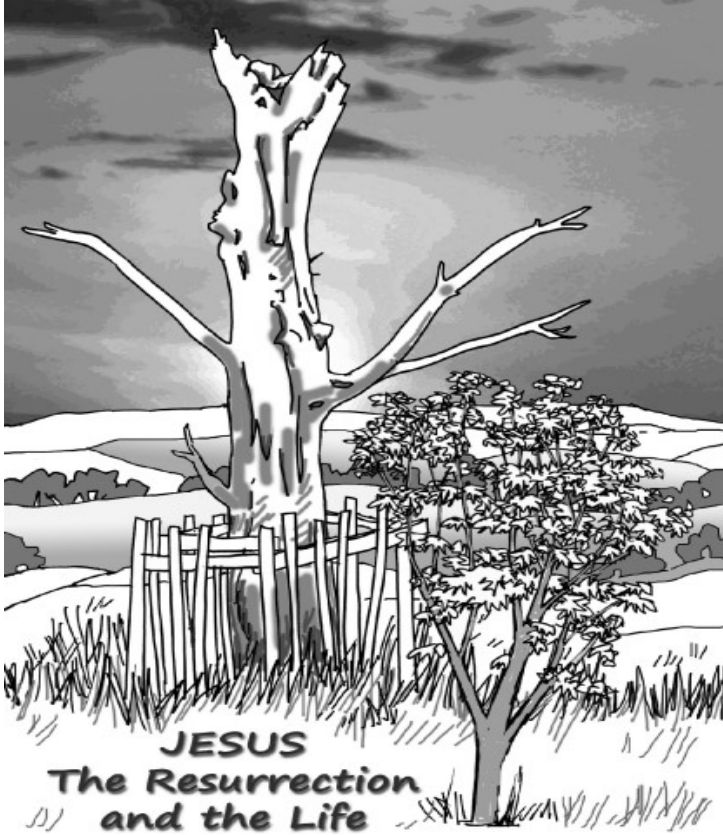


the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**



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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March 29th

The clocks go forward this weekend
Not sure how far forward to put them but
six months should be enough.

Thanks to Gill Walker for this

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All copy for the May issue to the editor by April 15th



The Ministers Write...

From Rev Jan Hofmeyr

Dear Friends,

In every difficult situation, the verse that I often hold onto is Rom 8:28: 'We know that in all things God works for good with those who love Him, those whom He has called according to His purpose'. It was true of Good Friday which we will be marking next week. What sinful humans and the Evil One intended as the destruction of The Light was turned into the greatest victory of Light over darkness. It was like trying to kill a seed by burying it in the ground, or destroying a dandelion by blowing on it.

This is not to say that God is the cause of the present pandemic, any more than He was behind the death of Jesus on the cross. But God is able to turn into good what was intended for evil.

For one thing it has given our earth a moment to breathe more easily. The earth has been displaying the same symptoms as that brought on by Covid19 – a raised temperature through global warming and a cough and shortness of breath through the pollution of the atmosphere. Environmentalists have been calling for a reduction in air and motor travel. Suddenly within the space of a few weeks aeroplane and motor activity has reduced dramatically. Apparently, the reduction in air pollution in China and other places could save the lives of many who are adversely affected by high levels of pollution. We are also told that the pollution on the canals in Venice has reduced to the extent that, for the first time in many decades, fish can be seen in the water. There must be many more such examples. Obviously these trends will be reversed again when the world returns to normal, but hopefully the new normal will be better than the previous one, as people finds ways to reduce air and motor travel through having had to cope without it during this time.

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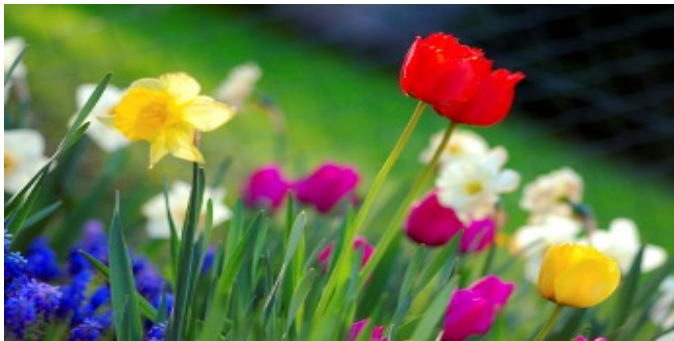
A second way in which God has used this crisis, is to remind us as humans that we are not the all-sufficient, all-powerful species that we sometimes think ourselves to be. In a matter of months, the world has been brought to it's knees by a single tiny virus.

Henley wrote in his poem 'Invictus', 'I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul.' Although in one sense those are positive, inspiring words, in another sense they express, to my mind, a degree of arrogance about our abilities as humans. Perhaps we needed to be brought down a peg or two, which is invariably a good thing, especially if we are going to get our relationship with God into better perspective. 'Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.' (James 4:10)

The last benefit I want to mention, is the way in which this illness has 'levelled the playing field' amongst people. It is no respecter of persons and has affected the highest in our land and the world as much as the least of us. Suddenly we all have something in common. That in turn has had the effect of seeing in each other our common humanity, and suddenly people are more inclined to greet each other, albeit at a distance, and have a greater empathy towards others, as we all seek together to fight this common enemy.

All of this doesn't in any way deny the gravity of the crisis we are facing, but it does encourage us to see the good that God is bringing out of it, and to build on those things, so that we come out on the other side as better people living in a better world.

Grace and peace to you all,
Jan



From Rev Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

In some ways it's difficult to know where to start this letter. I had hoped that I would be tying up loose ends before I went on sabbatical. But instead I find the landscape has changed so dramatically it's unfamiliar to me, and I am not alone. Recent weeks have challenged us all and reinvented the way in which we live our lives. Few of us could have ever imagined that we would be stripped of our freedom so quickly, and that we would be reliant on so many unsung heroes. Suddenly after years of speculation about the effectiveness of the NHS we find them at the forefront or on the frontline in the endeavour to defeat the virus. Yet amongst it all we are witnesses to extraordinary generosity, the kindness of strangers and those who are willing to offer sacrificial service.

Within the worldwide community many have lost loved ones and others fear the worst. Covid 19 has changed almost everything from how we move around to how we interact with one another. Communication, communication, communication. With my inbox overflowing with emails and the phone in regular use, Zoom meetings begin to fill the diary. Even though we may be reluctant, it is time for us to launch ourselves into the digital arena, dabbling a toe or two does not seem sufficient these days, we need to jump in with both feet. It's a sharp learning curve for everyone, one that can sometimes feel rather frustrating and confusing as you navigate your way through unfamiliar territory.

Even out of our very darkest moments God is seeking to recreate, to renew and to redeem us. I recently received this poem through an email and I thought it spoke volumes:

Continued next page

When this is over

*May we never again take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with the neighbors
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself*

*When this ends may we find
That we have become more like the people we wanted to be
We were called to be, we hoped to be
And may we stay
That way – better
For each other
Because of the worst*

Laura Kelly Fanucci

As we move towards Good Friday we keep in mind those darkest moments when all seemed lost, yet we look towards the horizon and we see that what seemed so bleak, was the avenue by which God worked one of his greatest miracles. Like the women who ran to the tomb on Easter Sunday morn, what they encountered was disorientating and confusing. Yet it's in the heart of all this sorrow and confusion that God offers his greatest gift, life itself, love and forgiveness in abundance. History was reshaped, life would never be the same again. All is not lost.

Even though these times are deeply distressing, we hold onto the fact that good can come out of troubling times and that God's heartfelt desire is that new life be offered to all who are seeking. It may seem like the darkest of days but don't lose sight of the sun coming up on the other side. Hold firm to your faith for the light can never be overcome by the darkness.

Every blessing this Eastertime-
Kim & Colin and family.

A Coronavirus Conversation

Society: But what about my plans?

God: My plans for you are always better than your own. Don't worry. I'm going to work this all out for your good.

Society: We're not going to get anything done!

God: That's the point! You know how you keep spinning your wheels - always working, moving, doing - but never feeling satisfied? I've given you permission to stop. I've cleared your calendars for you! Your worth isn't tied to busyness or accomplishment. All you have to do is take care of each other.

Society: What does all this mean?

God: It means I'm in control. It means you are human and I am God. I've given you a wonderful opportunity to be the light in a dark world. It means you are going to have to learn to rely on me.

Society: What are we supposed to do when we can't leave our homes?

God: Rest. You are always so busy and overwhelmed, crying out to me weary and exhausted. Can't you use a break from your fast-paced and over-scheduled lives? Go ahead and rest. Pray. Love your families. Be still and spend time with me.

Society: You mean we're supposed to stay at home with our kids all day, every day?

God: Yes. And you're going to be just fine. This time together is a rare gift. The rush of daily life has come to a halt. Play games. Bake cakes, Work on projects you've never had time for. Teach them kindness and grace. Show them how to endure difficult circumstances and steer them towards me.

Society: Well we'd better start hoarding anything we can get our hands on!

God: Prevention, yes. Precaution, yes. Preparedness, yes. But after that it's time to put the needs of others before your own. When you see someone in need, help them. Offer what you have. Don't worry about tomorrow. Haven't I always taken care of you? Now go and take care of someone else.

Society: Why is this happening?

God: To remind you that I'm in control. To bring your attention back to me. I'm bringing you together as families and neighbours. I'm showing you patience and perseverance. I'm reminding you of your purpose and priorities. Now is the time to learn, and to teach your children what their life is really about

Society; We don't know who to believe.

God: Believe in me. Trust me. Ask me for wisdom and I will surely give it.

Society: We're scared.

God: I've got this and I'm with you.

With thanks to Andy Richardson

Where's the Justice?

A Story for Holy Week



Where's the justice? That's what I say.

By the way, I'm Joseph, and I live in Bethphage, I don't know if you've heard of it. It's a small village, not far from Jerusalem, right by the road to the city that goes over the Mount of Olives. It's handy that, being by the pilgrims' road. A nice little earner. Because you see I've got a donkey. So when the crowds are coming to one of the festivals I make sure I'm there by the road. They think they're nearly there, and then see that last hill to climb, and there are always those who are prepared to pay for a donkey ride up there. The rich ones of course; the poor are used to walking.

Well, there I was, only a few days before Passover, getting my donkey ready to go, when these two men turned up. Big and burley they were, not the sort you'd want to argue with. They looked vaguely familiar, but I just couldn't place them, you know how it is. Anyway, they came up to me and said "The boss needs your donkey". As I said, they weren't the sort you want to get into an argument with, so I let them take it. "Where's the justice in that?" I thought.

I followed them, at a discreet distance, of course: after all it's not very likely that people like that would have the courtesy to bring the animal back when they'd done with it. And that's when I found out why they looked familiar. Who should "the boss" be, getting on the donkey, but Jesus, the travelling teacher, healer, prophet, whatever, and the two toughs who'd fetched the donkey were two of his disciples. If they'd said who they were from, I'd have been happy to let them take it. There'd been talk about him being the Messiah, who'd kick the Romans out and get us back to the way things were in the time of David and Solomon, and as he sat there on my donkey, I could believe it. Other people who hired my donkey usually looked a bit guilty, as if they knew they should really be walking, trying to make themselves look small and inconspicuous, but not him. He sat up tall, looking as though he belonged there, if you know what I mean.

Everybody else thought so too. It's always a busy road, especially at festival times, and Jesus always draws a crowd anyway. And everybody was cheering him and waving palm branches, you'd think he was a king. This went on until he reached the brow of the hill, where you suddenly see Jerusalem laid out before you: it's breathtaking, however many times you see it. There he stopped and said something. I was too far away to hear, but everybody went quiet, the mood changed, and people started to drift away.

Continued next page

I heard later that he'd talked about Jerusalem being besieged by armies and then destroyed. Well everybody knows that will never happen. It's the Holy City, with the temple, God can't let any harm come to it. And he only had to raise his arm, and the crowds would have followed him into the city and swept the Romans out. Give them a taste of justice!

Then, to make matters worse, my neighbour, who has a nice little business selling doves for sacrifice at the temple, he told me that Jesus went into the temple and turned over all the stalls there. Well you just can't go doing that to honest tradesmen! (well, as honest as anybody else, they have got to make a living). Where's the justice in that? I know it gives it the atmosphere of a market place, but they're needed for the festival, and after all it's only the Court of the Gentiles, and a bit of the Court of Women, not the important parts of the temple.

Well, for the next few days there were all sorts of rumours around, as you can imagine. Then, towards the end of the week, my neighbour, the one who had the dove stall, came round late one evening, really excited. He was sure that something was going to happen in the city that night. I thought that was a good reason to stay away, but eventually he persuaded me and we set out. By the time we got there, the place was in turmoil. The rumour was that Jesus had been arrested, and was already being tried, in the middle of the night, if you please; trying to get it all done and dusted before he could rouse up the people again. Well I said "If he wanted to do that he could have done it when he rode into the city; and he's had several days since". It certainly didn't seem like justice to me.

We assumed it would be an accusation of blasphemy, and a stoning to follow, but no! Our Jewish court sent him off to the Governor, accusing him of stirring up rebellion against Rome: the one thing he hadn't done. Pilate had a public hearing, it was getting towards dawn now, and it was clear he wasn't taken in by the accusations, but he was more than a bit edgy, and all they had to do was threaten to report him to Rome. He tried to get out of it by offering us a choice of Jesus and Barabbas to be released. Clearly he expected us to choose Jesus, he must have known about his popularity. Barabbas on the other hand was widely proclaimed as a terrorist. Who did we choose? Who do you think? On the one hand there was Jesus, who'd turned down chance after chance of rousing the people against Rome; on the other hand Barabbas, who had killed Romans and their sympathisers at every opportunity. No choice. Everybody shouted for Barabbas. It wasn't justice of course, but there you are.

So instead of a stoning, we had a crucifixion. It's brutal of course, but they're not uncommon round here, and when you've seen as many as I have you get used to them. At least so I thought; just another one, I told myself, but it didn't turn out like that.

Continued next page

Jesus wasn't like the usual victim, cursing and swearing with the pain. They'd pinned up a notice saying "The King of the Jews", just to humiliate us all; to tell us that that's the only sort of king fit for people like us! But it's odd. Just as when he sat on the donkey, he had that air about him; he really did seem "royal"; and at the same time he seemed "right" there. Very odd, and very moving. I wasn't the only one who regretted having shouted for Barabbas to be freed rather than Jesus.

And then, towards the end, when I was longing to do something, anything to help him, if only saying a prayer for him, it seemed as if he looked straight at me, and he said a prayer for me: "Father forgive them".

Now where's the justice in that?

DC



Easter Story

The thud of nails on open palms,
'Father forgive' was all He said,
'Finished' was His final cry,
As death approached God bowed His
head.

Born of a woman He entered our world,
Fully man yet fully divine,
Such is the mystery beyond comprehension
That One such as this should step into time

He came to die and rise again
The first fruits of the Father's love,
That man should follow in His train
On wings of light to realms above.

By Megan Carter (Parish Pump)



Kaleidoscope of Cape Town

Our trip to Cape Town took two years to plan. What an adventure and opportunity. Rhys and I were going to have the privilege of working alongside our missionary friends, Sandra and Jaco Leeuwner who work with Biblia.

Cape Town, widely known as a tourist destination, with some beautiful historical sites and natural beauty, has become one of the world's most dangerous cities. The violence largely stems from escalating turf battles between gangs that traffic drugs, weapons and illicit goods.

The Mother City is a beautiful place, but what struck me, was the divide between rich and poor. The razor wire and electric fences/gates everywhere, even outside restaurants. The homeless on the streets, sleeping at traffic junctions during the day because it is safer then sleeping at night! The peddlers trying to sell you goods when the traffic lights changed. However, in the midst of all this there is a glimmer of hope, ordinary people trying to make a difference one day at a time.

We visited a village in Houtbaai, one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen. White sand and blue water, seals, dolphins and awesome views. The village of Imizamo Yethu, an area of 44 acres, which supports 20,000 people living in cramped, squalid conditions with no plumbing, roads or sustainable living. This was where in the summer of 2019 there were riots, in which property and vehicles were burned, we still saw the evidence of the burn marks on the road when we were there in November. This Shanty Town, was a shock to my system, what you see on TV, or read in the news, nothing can prepare you for the smell, the eeriness, that I felt. We saw children openly dealing drugs, we also encountered some youths with a baseball bat which made me feel uncomfortable. The poverty was indescribable, we had gone out to SA to work, but I felt totally useless. What could I do that would make a difference? Was I so naïve?

We were able to help one family whose roof leaked badly, and we were also able to provide help with school uniform. What we did discover was that the churches in the area did not work together as they could. The only clinic was closed because of the riots, which meant a taxi drive because there was very few buses, into Cape Town for medical treatment. However in all this deprivation, there was that glimmer of hope. Hope in the smiles of everyone whom we met, the sheer joy of our visits to the family we were able to help, made our trip worthwhile. This is something that we could not have done without the generosity of friends and LMC.

Rhonda Frost





Editor(s) for the Link
Does your picture fit in here?

I am planning to move to Lincolnshire in September.

If by that time a new editor has not been found then the September issue of the Link will be the last. It doesn't have to continue as now. One suggestion is that it could come out every two months, and/or two people—or a small team—could share the job.

If you want the Link to continue, somebody must take it on.

David Cappitt



Cobham United Church



Effingham Methodist Church

Life in our churches

I am sure you are all well aware that the churches have been unable to offer services on Sunday mornings as well as being unable to hold any groups that we usually attend throughout the week.

Therefore the Bereavement Café, Messy Church, Oasis, Tuesday Teas, Connect, Precious Moments, Church Walks, Men's Fellowship, Mustard Seed, Cobham Soup and Lent group study are postponed until further notice.

However, those are face-to-face groups and our need to either self-isolate or self-distance means that we must explore new and creative ways of being the community of faith.

So what is still happening:

The Foodbank which runs from Cobham United Church remains fully operational, although the way they work will change; the need as you can imagine is ever greater. The church is enabling the Foodbank to use the premises to fit their needs.

Lunchbox is still operating from LMC for the time being, offering food parcels only.

Sunday morning worship can now be found on our websites where you will find a link or on facebook:

Cobham website: <https://cobham-united-church.org.uk>

Cobham facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/unitedchurchcobham>

Effingham Website: <https://www.effinghammethodistchurch.com>

Effingham facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/effinghammethodistchurch>

Zoom meetings will enable the trustees and other groups to meet to further those all important issues that still need addressing. It is an effective and easy way to meet online. Prayer groups can do so and bible study will be set up to accommodate our need to join in prayer and to study. Those dates are not yet confirmed.

Daily meditations will soon be online too on each of our websites starting Monday 30th March (hopefully).

There is a listening service which we can contribute to run by Churches Together, if you feel someone you know would benefit from this service the number to call is:

Cobham 01932 910184
Effingham 01483 385120

The service is intended to offer our unique gift of listening and praying for others. Guidance is given to all who offer to volunteer and each person operates from 9-5pm for one day only. If you would like to help and have not volunteered phone Kim on 01932 586988 or drop me an email kimp_822@hotmail.com

In Cobham, Churches Together is also working with the Health Centre and Lloyds Pharmacy to deliver prescriptions. Due to safeguarding issues CT are only offering drivers from churches so that we can ensure some accountability. Again, if you ring Kim on 01932 586988 or drop me an email kimp_822@hotmail.com I can ensure you are on the system.

Alan Willis sent this to me recently and it makes a really great point:

Sun is not cancelled
Spring is not cancelled
Relationships are not cancelled
Love is not cancelled
The truth is not cancelled
Reading is not cancelled
Devotion is not cancelled
Music is not cancelled
Imagination is not cancelled
Kindness is not cancelled
Conversations are not cancelled
Hope is not cancelled

Revd Kim Plumpton

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.



Effingham Dates to celebrate this month ?

Two of our ladies celebrate birthdays this month:
Rachel Reed on 5th and Rosemary Roberts on 19th.

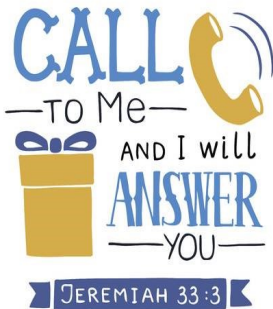
Is God calling YOU ?

Don't hang up !



As disciples of Jesus Christ we are all called: called into being, called to life in abundance, called to love, called to follow, called to be the best that we can be. Some are called into roles within the Church others beyond the church walls. God continues to make different calls on us throughout our lives. The task of the disciple is to be attentive to the movement of God's Holy Spirit who might be trying to nudge us into serving in a different way.

Methodists are encouraged to regularly think about Our Calling. To respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ in the church's life and worship. You might like to do that by designating one Sunday as **Vocations Sunday**. This year the Methodist diary suggests 3rd May, however, we can think about our vocation at any time! It's also a great time to ask people to give their testimony. Don't ask the usual suspects – we all have a story to tell!



There are some materials to help you plan an act of worship with a vocations theme on the Methodist website (see link below). Some are full services, others are outlines to make your own. Each has been prayerfully crafted by a Methodist Disciple.

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



Leatherhead Pages

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

Time for Tea



"Time for Tea"

is postponed until further notice.

We will be back as soon as we can. We'll let you know when we can all get together again and enjoy lovely tea and cakes and listen to interesting speakers.



Community Coronavirus Care

Are you self isolating, worried about going out or need some help generally? We are a group of people from the surrounding community that would like to help.

We currently have volunteers in *Bookham, Fetcham, Leatherhead, Ashted, Cobham*, and surrounding areas.

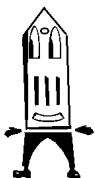
We can pick up shopping, collect prescriptions, walk the dog and help wherever we can.

How it works:

- Ring 0800 3077 111 (freephone) and tell us how we can help.
- Details of what is needed will be passed to the volunteers and you will be matched with someone who can help. They will then be given your contact details and you can speak to them to get the help you need.
- This is a volunteer led community initiative carried out of good will and the want to help the vulnerable people in our local area and to ease pressures on other services.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have a genuine need and we will be happy to help in any way we can.

[Find us on Facebook: \[tinyurl.com/cccsurrey\]\(https://www.facebook.com/cccsurrey\)](https://www.facebook.com/cccsurrey)



Leatherhead

Methodist Church

Church Services and Activities Suspended

Sadly, following Government advice and advice directly from Methodist Church House, we have had to suspend all Church Services and activities including Messy Church, New Fire, The Ark and Time for Tea, until further notice. (For more details, see www.methodist.org.uk). In the meantime, we are implementing the following:

- Those not already using the Standing Order method for offerings are encouraged to do this. The Account Number to use is 01545833 and Sort Code 40-27-07.
- We have assembled a click-through online Sunday service that includes hymns, songs, prayers, scripture and a video sermon from our minister. If you would like to engage in this service you need to connect to our church website: **www.leatherheadmethodist.org**

At the right-hand top of the home page you will see a logo. If you click on that logo it will take you to the service. Please read the instructions on the service page. These explain how to see each of the elements of our service in full-screen mode. It is designed to work on all types of PC, iPad, tablet, and ChromeBook. We welcome your comments about the service, so that we can make improvements to what we do in future.

- Children - Joycey will have some Bible Study Activity Packs available. Contact Joycey for details. The packs will include some crafts, puzzles and the like, suitable for years 1 to 6.

In the absence of our usual services and activities, we are looking at alternative ways to provide opportunities for worship, study and support.

If you have any concerns or needs, please contact your Pastoral Visitor, one of the stewards (Les Prescott, Maureen Prescott, Norma Shaw, Tim Hall, Fred Meynen or Laurie Williams) or the Minister. (For telephone numbers, please see the church directory).

Although worship together is an important part of our spiritual life and growth, it is not the only one. We encourage you to spend time on your own in prayer and reading, and trust that, despite the lack of church services, we may nonetheless grow in our walk with Christ in these challenging days. We will keep in touch with you over the coming weeks.

With love to you all,

Jan Hofmeyr

Our Trip to Thailand and Other Things God Has Done

Some of you who read this will know that my wife is Thai and so we go to Thailand regularly so that she can see her family.

We went there on 6th February, returned on 25th February and were based in a town nearly 100 miles north of Bangkok. On each of the three Sundays we were there we went to a church in my wife's home town.

The last Sunday we were there (23rd February) was the most inspiring. My mother-in-law came as well although she is a practising Buddhist. We heard three "testimonies" of people being miraculously healed. One lady was healed of bowel cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure. Another lady went to a hospital for a heart operation. She had been prayed for. When she got there they found that there was nothing wrong with her and that she could go home again! A third lady was half paralysed. She was taken to the church to be prayed for and afterwards was able to walk around and look after her grandchildren. I understand that a lot of miracles happen there and elsewhere in Thailand.

There is also good news concerning my sister-in-law who, after someone bashed into the back of her in Kingston nearly ten years ago, has had to use a walking stick or walking frame. She went with her husband on a trip to Africa and while they were there received prayer from a pastor. We now have a video of her running!

In some cases God works in a wonderful way when people go through great trials. Recently on Premier Christian Radio I heard about a man called Dr. David Donovan who is a medical missionary in Nigeria. They saw cancers being miraculously healed. Something amazing happened when someone stole the fuel they need for the generators. They prayed about it and 15 minutes later the tanks were full again!

They had a bad experience when they were kidnapped and held captive for about three weeks in October 2017. One of them was shot, although as a result of his death revival broke out among the local people. Some of their captors were open to the Christian message and they ended up having Bible Studies with three of them!

Bob Greenfield

LMC Family News



We give thanks...

... That Peggy Robinson is back at home following her recent surgery and pray that her recovery will continue in the coming weeks.

Our thoughts and prayers...

... are with our church family members, relatives and friends at Easter. We remember those who mourn, any who are lonely or have personal concerns as well as those who are unwell at home or in hospital and those in residential or nursing care and the people who look after them every day.

LMC House Groups

It is likely that all the House Groups will be suspended during the current crisis. In normal circumstances, LMC has four 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**.

Tuesday evenings fortnightly contact **John Bees**.

Friday mornings monthly contact **Norma Shaw**.

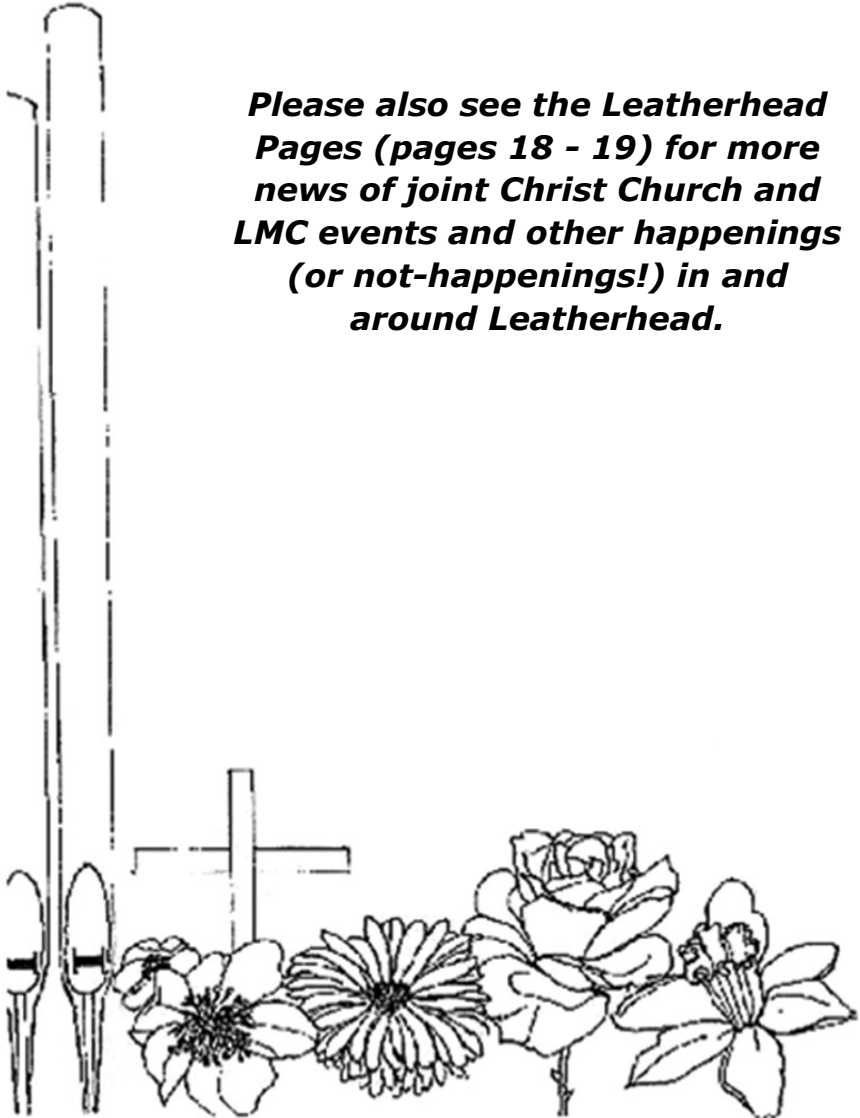
Friday afternoons, (2nd & 4th Fridays) contact **Angela Hofmeyr**.

Everyone is encouraged to join a house group.

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

***Please also see the Leatherhead
Pages (pages 18 - 19) for more
news of joint Christ Church and
LMC events and other happenings
(or not-happenings!) in and
around Leatherhead.***



Christ Church Diary



All services and other activities are suspended for the time being

In the absence of our usual services and activities, we are looking at alternative ways to provide opportunities for worship, study and support.

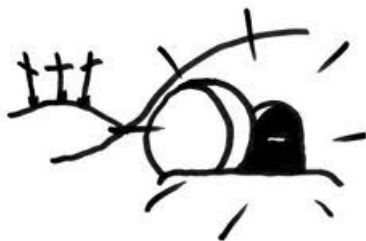
If you have any concerns or needs, please contact one of the elders or the Minister. Jan plans to carry on with pastoral visiting, but only if the persons concerned are happy to have him do so, and they are not showing any symptoms of the virus.

Although worship together is an important part of our spiritual life and growth, it is not the only one. We encourage you to spend time on your own in prayer and reading, and trust that, despite the lack of church services, we may nonetheless grow in our walk with Christ in these challenging days. We will keep in touch with you over the coming weeks.

With love to you all,

Jan Hofmeyr

And see p 20



Christ Church Family News



We are relieved to know that Jeanette and Mike Chamberlain are safely back at home and well after their ordeal on the cruise ship Grand Princess.

Congratulations to Alison Gillott whose beautiful flower arrangement (pictured below) was "Commended" at the 13th World Show of the World Association of Floral Artists held in Jaipur, India. 28 countries took part arranging over 300 exhibits. As a member of Surrey Area of the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies, Alison competed in an "Imposed Class" alongside members from across the world, She was given the title, size and materials and had just 4 hours to produce the finished design. The entries were assessed by a Japanese and two Indian judges who awarded Alison "Commended" for her design, a great result.

Congratulations to John Henderson on becoming a great grandfather to Lucy, daughter of Jessica, née Henderson, and Daniel.

Congratulation and very best wishes to Mary Keane who celebrated her 80th birthday on 29th March.

As always we pray for all our members and friends, especially Mike and Dinah Essex, those who have health problems of any kind, and for the bereaved, the isolated and the lonely, especially at this critical time with the spread of the corona virus. We also remember our ministers, Jan and Kim, and their families. (Because the need here is so great at this time, Kim has postponed her sabbatical.)

Anne Cairns



Amazing Grace

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me."

So wrote John Newton, and to anyone outside the Christian community it sounds as if he had a real problem of lack of self-worth. Who in their right mind would call himself a wretch? Lovely tune, loony sentiment. Or perhaps it's just archaic language. Except that "wretch" is a very polite word for what John Newton was. He was a slave trader. He made money by transporting cargoes of kidnapped human beings in conditions of great squalor and suffering to places where they and their children and their children's children would be treated as objects to be bought and sold and brutalised. Wretch? He was a horror.

But at least he came to know it. At least he made the journey from comfortable acquiescence to an accurate, and therefore horrified, sense of himself. And "Amazing Grace" is his account of that journey. Unfortunately, this description doesn't quite work, because he wrote 'Amazing Grace' *before* he gave up slave-trading. He wrote it under the impression that he had *already* given up everything he should really be worrying about – booze and licentiousness and not strictly keeping the Sabbath and so on. Rather like us thinking we've done our bit by giving up chocolates for Lent!

But Newton's guilt, once found, wouldn't leave him alone. It went on increasingly showing him dark, accurate visions of himself. It went on changing him until eventually he could not bear the darkness of what he did every day, so he gave up the trade and ended his life as a campaigner against it. At every stage it was the same patient guilt that led him on, and 'Amazing Grace', which records its first insistent gnawing at him, is then unwittingly faithful to the rest of what was coming to him. In the second verse he wrote "Twas grace that taught my heart to fear", reporting his *amazed* feeling that he'd been done a massive undeserved favour by being allowed to become frightened of his inner self. In some human states guilty fear is the absolutely appropriate response; the first step of the only available rescue.

'Amazing Grace' has been popular for two and a half centuries; has been claimed by millions as true to their own experience. If there's room for John Newton to find peace, then there's room for everyone.

*With acknowledgement to "Unapologetic" by Francis Spufford.
DC*





Chi-Rho (first two Greek letters of Christ)
from the Book of Kells

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):

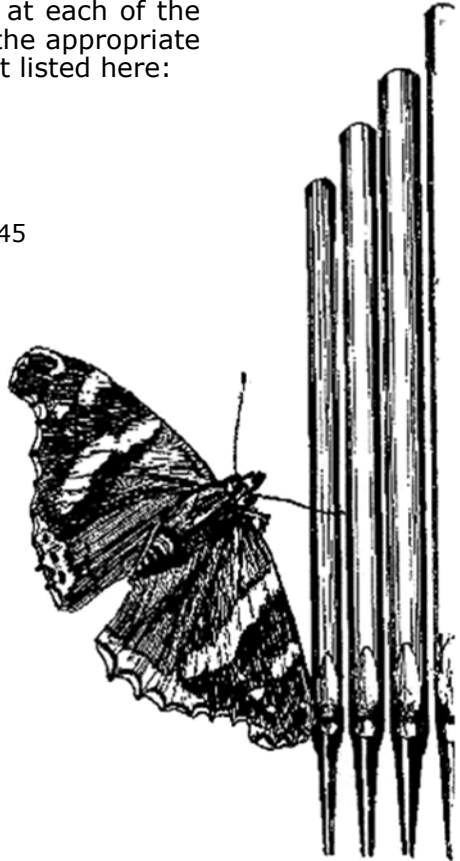
Epsom Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ST
www.chch.org.uk
Contact: Church Secretary -
Mike Essex 01372 273472

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.cobham-united-church.org.uk
Contact: Church Secretary -
Mary Langtry 01483 282421



United Pastorate Ministers

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