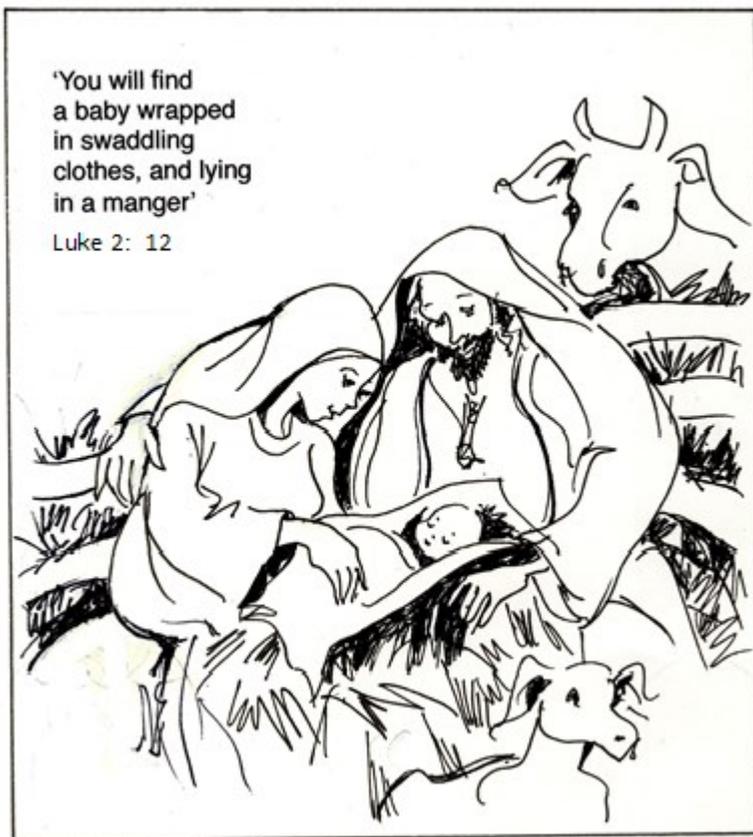


the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

December 2015 / January 2016



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Linking:
Christ Church (United Reformed) Leatherhead
Cobham Methodist Church
Cobham United Reformed Church
Effingham Methodist Church
Leatherhead Methodist Church

The Methodist Church



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To all readers and contributors ...

*All good wishes for a very happy Christmas
and a peaceful, fulfilling and happy New
Year.*

*Thank you to those who have supported The
Link for the past twelve months.*

Editor



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All copy for the February issue to the editor by 15th January



The Ministers Write...

From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Words, words, to embrace them is to find they stir something deep within us.

A week last Saturday I was very privileged to be asked to be one of three judges at a speech competition in London. Feeling extremely unqualified to do so I was given very thorough criteria for marking the contributions made. Each had 10-12 minutes to speak, with the content accounting for 40% of the total score.

The subject matter, 'Women and their role in society' which was intended to encourage new voices, young women to speak about issues that they were passionate about. The prize money was fairly substantial and the winner would have the opportunity to address a meeting in the House of Lords in the New Year.

There were four entrants. Rina spoke about the lack of women in leadership roles in Japan, Tanya about celebrating our feminism in ways that complement men and Salima's recognition of the significant female role models in her life. The winner however was Afroze a 22 year old Muslim woman from Birmingham. Afroze spoke passionately about the challenges she faced as a Muslim woman in community, the need for equality, for generational understanding in a contemporary world. Her words were sensitively spoken facing real issues with integrity, with a hospitality that welcomed you into the debate. Words that were invitational.

Many words have been spoken since the atrocity in Paris, so much so that we can become embroiled in the political landscape that exists concerning the Middle East, but beyond that silence and words have always been some of the tools we use to express our grief.

Antoine Leiris, a French journalist who lost his wife wrote these words on Facebook:

"On Friday evening you stole the life of an exceptional person, the love of my life, the mother of my son, but you will not have my hatred. I don't know who you are and I don't want to know. If this God for whom you kill blindly made us in his image, every bullet in the body of my wife is a wound in his heart.

So no, I will not give you the satisfaction of hating you. You want it, but to respond to hatred with anger would be to give in to the same ignorance that made you what you are. You would like me to be

scared, for me to look at my fellow citizens with a suspicious eye, for me to sacrifice my liberty for my security. You have lost. The player still plays. Us two, my son and I, we will be stronger than every army in the world. I cannot waste any more time on you as I must go back to [my son] who has just woken from his sleep. He is only just 17 months old, he is going to eat his snack just like every other day, then we are going to play like every other day and all his life this little boy will be happy and free. Because you will never have his hatred either."

Stoic words that deeply moved me and will always be a reminder to us all of humanity's capacity to face tragedy with courage and deep determination.

At Christmas many of us will be drawn to recite these words: ¹*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ²*He was with God in the beginning.* ³*Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.* ⁴*In him was life, and that life was the light of all humankind.* ⁵*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

For the many displaced by war, for the grieving, the oppressed and the suffering in our world today we can rejoice for this word made flesh, this tiny bundle wrapped in swaddling clothes, although seemingly insignificant, will become for us all the hope we need for a future beyond the pain. We can rejoice that justice and truth will fall from his lips and bring life and light beyond the darkness. We can rejoice that now 'nothing can separate us from the love of God, neither death nor neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

We can rejoice for the word made flesh comes to us and continually comes to us, journeying with us through all life complexities. Let us rejoice for hope reigns in all its glory!

May you know the depth of God's love for you this Christmas and may 2016 be full of rich surprises. Happy New Year - with love, Kim, Colin and family + bump (grandson in March).

News still continues to come in of more terrorist activity in different places such as Mali, and there still seems to be much confusion as I write, uncertainty of whether some key perpetrators have been killed or not. And then a universally approved UN Security Council resolution to "redouble" action against IS.

I don't want to repeat what Kim has already written so eloquently and helpfully. So let me instead take us further forward to the New Year. None of us know what even tomorrow holds, let alone a new year. And if the events of the past few weeks have reminded us of anything, it is that life is fragile, and there are in the world, those who would seek to shock, to destabilise, to bring about fear and suffering, to maim and kill in the advancement of their own cause. I cannot say in the name of religion, because the true followers of the Islamic faith deny that these people do what they do in the name of their religion. There is a group of Muslims who meet for prayer in the hall at Christ Church on a Friday – they were so concerned that we might link them with this in any way that they rang to point us to an article in the newspaper by Muslims in Britain disclaiming all connection with IS and the atrocities. Of course we had not and would not have done so, but it showed the current levels of fear in the Muslim communities in this country.

We are all in this together. We all walk forward into the New Year of 2016 not knowing what it will hold. Will there be more violence and destruction? Almost certainly. Jesus said 'there will be wars and rumours of wars...nation will fight nation and ruler fight ruler, over and over.'¹ But he also said that during this time the good news – 'the Message of the Kingdom – will be preached all over the world'. Surely we are in this time, when we must stand up and share the good news. For without the light seen to be shining within us, the darkness will be even darker. And the good news is that although 'A loveless world is a sightless world. If anyone loves [Jesus... he] and the Father will love them – and move right into the neighbourhood!' ²

And Jesus' gift to the neighbourhood – and to us, at Christmas and at the dawn of a New Year – is that promised Peace. The Peace which overcomes fear, the unknown, and anything else we can imagine. His Peace which overwhelms and surpasses our understanding.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ to you and all whom you love.
this Christmas and New Year.
Lynda & John (and Daisy!)

Accreditation as Local Preachers in the Methodist Church



Angie Choat and Juliet Fuller at the Accreditation Service for Local Preachers at Southwater Community Methodist Church on Sunday 1st November. Our congratulations to both Angie and Juliet and we look forward to their preaching in our local Methodist churches.





Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary



December

Thurs	3rd	8.00pm	House Fellowship at the Manse
Sun	6th	10.30am	David Cappitt
Sat	12th	10.00am	Time 4 You (<i>until 12 noon</i>)
Sun	13th	10.30am	Jay Dunning
		6.30pm	United Carol Service at Cobham URC
Thurs	17th	3.45pm	Messy Church at the URC (<i>to 5.45pm</i>)
Sun	20th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion
Thurs	24th	4.00pm	Crib Service at Cobham URC
		6.00pm	Communion Service at Cobham URC
		11.30pm	Midnight Communion at Cobham URC
Fri	25th	10.30am	United Christmas Service at Cobham URC
Sun	27th	10.30am	United 'Songs of Praise' Service at CMC

January

The theme for January services will be 'Put me to what You will'

Sun	3rd	10.30am	Rhys Frost & David Cappitt
Sat	9th	10.00am	Time 4 You (<i>until 12 noon</i>)
		2.30pm	Platinum Service
Sun	10th	10.30am	John Oborn
Sun	17th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Covenant Service, followed by General Church Meeting
Sun	24th	10.30am	Rob Pitt
Thurs	28th	3.45pm	Messy Church at the URC (<i>to 5.45pm</i>)
Sun	31st	10.30am	United Service at the URC - Heather Ward -

Cobham Page

Information, news, events and happenings in and around
Cobham including news of Cobham Churches events

Next Messy Church for Cobham, Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon



**Date: Thurs 17th December
and Thurs 28th January**

Time: 3:45pm - 5:45pm

**Venue: Cobham URC,
38 Stoke Road,
KT11 3BD**



Next "Time 4 You"

Saturday 12th December, and
Saturday 9th January
10.00am - 12 noon

Cobham Methodist Church

Why not stop and rest awhile, recharge your batteries, find the space for you to enjoy a chat and a free cup of coffee.



Cobham

United Reformed Church

Cobham URC Worship Diary



December			
Sun	6th	9.00am 10.30am	Early Bird Service Andrew Gibb
Sun	13th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion United Carol Service at Cobham URC
Sun	20th	10.30am	Rev. Iain Stewart
Thurs	24th	4.00pm 6.00pm 11.30pm	Crib Service Communion Service Christmas Eve Service
Fri	25th	10.30am	United Christmas Day Service at Cobham URC
Sun	27th	10.30am	United 'Songs of Praise' at Cobham Methodist Church
January			
Sun	3rd	10.30am	Rev. Roy Bones
Sun	10th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Sun	17th	10.30am	Sydney Shore
Sun	24th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton <i>Church Meeting follows morning worship</i>
Sun	31st	10.30am	Heather Ward - Joint Service <i>followed by Joint Church Meeting</i>

Cobham URC Events

December

Tues	1st	9.45am	Church Walk
		8.00pm	Elders' Meeting
Thurs	3rd	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship
Sun	6th	3.00pm	Play & Chat (to 6.00pm)
Tues	15th	2.00pm to 5.00pm and 7.00pm to 10.00pm:	Open House at the Manse - all are welcome
Thurs	17th	3.45pm	Messy Church (to 5.45pm)
Fri	18th	3.00pm	T @ 3

January

Sun	3rd	3.00pm	Play & Chat (to 6.00pm)
Tues	5th	9.45am	Church Walk
		8.00pm	Elders' Meeting
Thurs	7th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship



Prayers at the Cobham URC Manse:

at 9.30am on Wednesdays:

2nd, 9th, 16th December & 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th January



Tea at Three:
Friday 18th December &
Friday 29th January



Effingham

Methodist Church

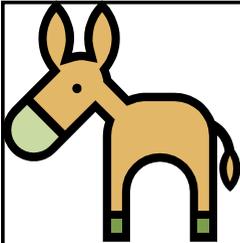
Dates to celebrate this month:



In December - Joan Dawson on 20th, and our Minister, Kim on 29th. In January, Philip Beardon on 4th and Charles Dawson on 29th.

Dates for your diaries

Church Council will be meeting on **Tuesday 26th January** from 10.00am to 12 noon in the Church.



Mary, Joseph and Dan the donkey...

...will be visiting several local schools and even taking part in Advent Assemblies! YOU could have them for a night too - Ring Ange Putland. They will be at St. Lawrence Church for the Christmas Eve Crib service at 5pm

Prayer Meetings...

...are held at the Chapel

Saturday Morning Live: Effingham's Café Church



Come and sample coffee and croissants and some food for thought at our alternative worship at St. Lawrence's hall on **Saturday 5th December** from 10.00am to 11.00am - **It'll be a Christmas Cracker!**



Prayers for Peace

Compassionate God and Father of all, we are horrified at violence in so many parts of the world. It seems that none are safe, and some are terrified.

Hold back the hands that kill and maim; turn around the hearts that hate. Grant instead your strong Spirit of Peace – peace that passes our understanding but changes lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Advent talks with Art historian

Churches together in Effingham & Little Bookham have organised three talks for Advent by **Leslie Pitcher** B.A. Cambs which will be held on **2nd, 9th & 16th December** at **7.30pm** at Our Lady of Sorrows, new **St Alphege Hall**. Leslie is a fascinating speaker who lectures for several local U3A groups.

The Force is not with Christians apparently?



A pre-Christmas advert promoting prayer has been banned from Britain's biggest cinema chains for fear of causing offence, much to the bewilderment of the **Church of England**, which had hoped it would be played before screenings of **Star Wars** latest blockbuster, guaranteeing a huge cinema audience in the run-up to Christmas.

The ad was cleared by British film censors but the agency which controls **80%** of screens around the country, has refused to show it because of a policy not to allow political or religious advertising.

There has been a storm of protest and support from all faiths saying it is wrong to deny Britain's Christian heritage. Even prominent atheist Richard Dawkins has said that he "strongly objected to suppressing ads on the grounds that they might 'offend' people. If anybody is 'offended' by something so trivial as a prayer, they deserve to be offended." **Hmmm !!!**

The church has warned that it might sue under the Equality Act which bans commercial organisations from refusing services on religious grounds.



Effingham Methodist Diary



December

Wed	2nd	7.30pm	Advent talk at the Catholic Church Hall
Sat	5th	10.00am	Café Church at St. Lawrence's Hall
Sun	6th	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion
Tues	8th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea - Christmas Lunch at pub
Wed	9th	3.30pm 7.30pm	Messy Church - St. Lawrence Church Hall Advent talk at the Catholic Church Hall
Thurs	10th	2.30pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Fri	11th	2.30pm	St Lawrence School carol singing at shops
Sun	13th	10.00am	Waseem Haq
Wed	16th	7.30pm	Advent talk at Catholic Church Hall
Sun	20th	10.00am 4.00pm	John Oborn Carol Service followed by tea at 5.00pm
Tues	22nd	2.30pm 7.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall Carol singing for CRISIS - meet at EMC hall
Thurs	24th	5.00pm	Crib Service at St Lawrence's with our Posada
Fri	25th	9.00am	Christmas Day Service - Rev. Kim Plumpton
Sun	27th	10.00am	Local Arrangement

January

Sun	3rd	10.00am	Ray Salmons
Tues	5th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Thurs	7th	2.30pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Sun	10th	10.00am	Rev. Darlene McCarley - Holy Communion
Wed	13th	3.30pm	Messy Church - St. Lawrence Church Hall
Sun	17th	10.00am	Beth Little
Tues	19th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Thurs	21st	12.30pm 2.30pm	OASIS Bible Study Lunch Christian Meditation in the Church
Sun	24th	10.00am	Juliet Fuller
Tues	26th	10.00am	Church Council Meeting in the Chapel (to 12noon)

Baby Jesus “handbagged” by Christmas advert!



A high-end fashion retailer has replaced the baby Jesus with a handbag in its new Christmas advert, and used the story of the Nativity to promote the £900 present! Watching the ad on YOU TUBE made me angry!!

£900 for a handbag is obscene!!!

“Mary” is given the gift by “Joe” and visited by shepherds and three kings who’ve all come to adore and wonder at the magnificent gift!

A spokesperson said "The film is a tongue-in-cheek cinematic celebration of the many playful interpretations of the Christmas story that happen in schools and village halls up and down the country in true British tradition". So that’s alright then!!!

The ad has mixed reactions....some love it and one fashion writer has called it "brilliant" but of course it has led to some criticism from Christians! However, a spokesperson for the **Evangelical Alliance** has suggested that it should be used as a great opportunity to talk about the real meaning of Christmas and accepted it was a nice bag. She said all Christians know that an overpriced piece of leather can't remotely be compared to the miracle of Jesus and the hope and peace he can bring to all our lives. However too often Christians are known for what they are against, rather than what they are for, and so we have a choice. We could hop on our religious high horse by getting offended or we could make the most of the chance to talk about Jesus. When she watched that ad for the first time she was quite encouraged, because there’s an assumption that we’re familiar enough with the story to understand a spoof joke about the Nativity.



Meanwhile the campaign group **Christmas Starts With Christ** has released another version of the video which ends asking the question "What are you worshipping?" this festive season.

10 Best Christmas Cracker Jokes



They're corny and seldom improve with the telling, but Christmas lunch wouldn't be complete without the chorus of groans that corny cracker jokes always provoke...

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?

Claustrophobia!

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?

A Holly Davidson!

How did Scrooge win the football game?

The ghost of Christmas passed!

What do reindeer hang on their Christmas trees?

Horn-aments!

How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?

One that's deep pan, crisp and even!

What carol is heard in the desert?

O camel ye faithful!

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

Tinsilitis!

What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?

Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

What's green, covered in tinsel and goes ribbet ribbet?

Mistle-toad!

How did Mary and Joseph that Jesus was 7lb 6oz when born?

They had a weigh in a manger!

Merry know
Christmas he was



'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



"Connect" enjoyed the visit of "Grace Notes" who entertained with a selection of music from the shows and well known songs. A happy time enjoyed by all.



Easter's really Early!

Easter is early and our annual **Lent Lunches** start on **Ash Wednesday**, 10th February at 12.30pm at St. Lawrence's Church Hall as usual, then on 24th February and 9th March. The chosen charity is Leatherhead's **Pitstop**, which hopes to have new premises by Easter.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Charles Wesley, the godfather of English hymns wrote the lyrics to "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" in 1739, although the carol was originally, and less catchily, entitled "Hark! How all the welkin rings."

Despite its upbeat message "Glory to the new-born king!", apparently Charles specifically requested that his words be accompanied by sombre music: a request that was adhered to for a hundred years. Congregations in the 18th and early 19th centuries sang the carol to a plodding, miserable melody.

Then in 1840, the German composer Felix Mendelssohn composed a cantata entitled "Festgesang" (festival song), to commemorate Johann Gutenberg and the invention of the printing press. And, in 1855, an English musician, William Hayman Cummings, heard the second chorus of "Festgesang" - "Gott ist Licht" (God is light) - and adapted "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" to its tune. So this is the version sung to this day, although the third verse descant, lovingly trotted out by enthusiastic trebles up and down the country, was added by David Willcocks in 1961.



Effingham's Messy Church



Messy Church where tea is a serious business for some after an afternoon of activities around the subject of "Remembrance". 22 children brought a parent or carer with them to take part and advent calendars with the story of Christmas were given as a takeaway.



**St. Lawrence Church Hall in Brown's Lane
Wednesdays 9th December &
13th January -
3.30pm to 5.30pm**

Effingham's Tuesday Teas



Tea Up!

Empty plates after tea, cake and chat - plenty of the latter to continue though at Tuesday Teas.



Dorking and Horsham Circuit
NEWSLETTER

**December
January &
February 2016**

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" is not just a classic children's book by C S Lewis, but a deeply Christian story even though it is set in the fantasy world of Narnia. When I realised this, then one of the characters struck a jarring note – what on earth was Father Christmas doing in Narnia?

I know that his appearance showed the wicked witch was losing her power over the land. Under her spell it was always winter but never Christmas. But how does 'Christmas' fit in with the character of Aslan the Lion? It is clear from the stories that Aslan represents Jesus. He offers himself to a sacrificial death to save one of the children and returns to life with the dawn. So what is the celebration of the birth of Jesus doing in a fantasy story where Jesus is represented by a lion?

Perhaps I am thinking too logically about this. Christmas as a concept has taken on a life of its own. In the Harry Potter stories, where miracles are performed by magic and where God plays no part, the wizarding community still celebrates Christmas. The festival of Christmas now seems to have as much to do with the birth of Jesus as the festival of Halloween has to do with it being the eve of All Saints day (or "All Hallows" day to use the old language.)

One thing that Christmas still has going for it is that many people do associate it with the Nativity Story. Even though that story has become surrounded by all kinds of traditions and details which are not part of the Biblical narrative, the baby in the manger has not yet vanished entirely from our celebrations.

I don't think there's anything we can do to stop Christmas being the mammoth two-month long celebration of consumerism and fancy decorations. But what we can do is keep Jesus as the reason for our celebration, and as an inspiration for how we celebrate. Here are two suggestions for how to do that, both based on the kind of people who hate Christmas.

Not everyone looks forward to the family getting together over Christmas. For a variety of reasons some will be dreading the gathering of the clan. Maybe it's the amount of cleaning and cooking which needs to be done. Maybe it's the knowledge that certain family members do not get on with

(Continued on page24)

The **Methodist** Church 

LONDON ROAD

We are looking forward to Advent in good heart, with the exciting news that we have appointed a new Family Worker. Waseem Haq, from our own congregation, will be taking up the post at the beginning of December. Waseem is well known to us all, and we congratulate him on his new role and look forward to the new opportunities to work with children and young people opened up by his appointment.

We are also pleased to report the appointment of a new Worship Leader: Trefor Little has many years experience in assisting with worship and has now completed a course of study and has been officially appointed to this role. We look forward to his continued contribution to worship. On 29th November, the first Sunday in Advent, we invite everyone to join us for an evening of Advent Lessons and Carols. This will take place at 6.30 pm in the Church.

During December, our Posada will be on the move, visiting the homes of youth groups connected with the Church. On December 12th, Action for Children invite you to a cafe style Miscellany in the Wesley Hall at 6.00 pm. Refreshments will be on offer, together with entertainment suitable for the season and of course, singing and carols! On December 13th, the uniformed organisations will be joining us for our Parade and Gift Service, and on Thursday 17th December, at 3.30 pm, we will have a special Christmassy Messy Church. On December 20th, at 6.30 pm, we will have our annual Carols by Candlelight Service. New for this Christmas, will be a performance of the Graham Kendrick production 'The Gift'. This will take place on Tuesday 22nd December at 7.30 pm in the Church and is intended to be a worship evening, with minimal rehearsals beforehand. Everyone is welcome, irrespective of whether you have attended the rehearsals! The music is joyful and simple to pick up. Finally on Christmas Eve we will be having our Christingle Service at 4 pm, and on Christmas Day, Paul will be leading us in Worship at 10.00 am.

EFFINGHAM

Hooray ! Now the Chapel has a new roof , thanks to the Circuit's generous help with a very large bill. Although the roofer's scaffolding was still up, we had a very successful **Heritage Weekend** with over 70 visitors. We celebrated our **Chapel Anniversary** service on October 4th, exactly 161 years since its opening.

Several committee members from **Churches Together in Effingham and Little Bookham** were among 160 representatives from parishes throughout the Diocese who attended a meeting at **Guildford Cathedral** to hear local government plans, and discuss how to respond to the refugee crisis, and provide support for those who may be able to be housed within our communities.

Churches Together's very successful "Oliver" sing-along evening raised nearly £600 for **Christian Aid's Refugee Crisis appeal**.

Connect, our fortnightly group for carers and people living with dementia is answering a real need locally and continues to grow. **Saturday Morning Live**, our Caf  Church, will be celebrating Christmas with carols, songs, poems and lots of fun.

There will be three **Advent talks** at **Our Lady of Sorrows RC Church** exploring the Nativity with local art historian Leslie Pitcher. **Messy Church's** kids will all get an Advent calendar again this year, and are being asked to bring clothes and toys for refugees. **Posada figures** of Joseph and a very pregnant Mary on her donkey, will be visiting local schools and homes to remind everyone about the real meaning of Christmas and we'll be carol-singing around the village in aid of **CRISIS** as usual.

Lent lunches begin in February with speakers from local charity **Pitstop**, which is still striving to find a new home two years after being flooded out of their old premises on Christmas Eve 2013.

DORKING

Sadly we have said goodbye to some longstanding members. Julia Chandler and Wilma Firth have died, and the Badbys and Spragues have moved from Dorking. All are greatly missed for their differing contributions to our Church life.

The Christian Centre is a busy place and is well used by people who may not come to Church, but they do experience a Christian presence there thanks to the dedicated work of so many, volunteers and staff. We are delighted to have the very able Clare who is making her presence felt with the accounts and assisting our Manager Janette, who continues to run the Centre so efficiently. Juliet, our Chaplain, has organised a team of volunteer Listeners who talk to people who need a listening ear and for whom we are grateful. We have recently had the kitchen completely refurbished so it is now reliable and much easier to keep clean - in fact the

hygiene rating has already gone up from 4 to 5, which is good news. The new cooker which someone kindly paid for is much easier to use, and the floor is now much safer. The new table cloths in the café, paid for by a donation, have brightened it up; we have a new, faster coffee machine, thanks to another generous donation; and the Saturday lunches are popular. Mole Valley DC has agreed to finance our chefs for another 18 months at least, which is wonderful. They realise that we are doing a good job. The Holiday at Home lunches back in August were warmly received, and several of the regular afternoon activities are popular, like the sequence dancing and social table tennis. We have been blessed to have a group of people just turn up one day to volunteer to cook and organise the Christmas Lunch on Christmas Day, so that we can continue to care for people on this special day.

ST ANDREW'S

By the end of February, we will have been back in residence for a year (give or take a bit), and the refurbishment has affected us all very positively.

There is a noticeably high degree of pride, love and care in how our congregation feel for our magnificently refurbished buildings. It has been surprising quite how much extra work is now required to organise and run the church; however, we have been blessed by many folk stepping up to the challenge and giving their time and skills to make everything run smoothly.

The refurbishment has also been taken note of by the local community (particularly the jazzy night-time lighting!). We are receiving more inquiries for bookings, with a fellow church using our entire premises for one Saturday a month. Of course the building sets us a clear challenge: how can we use it to further God's Kingdom? What would Jesus now have us do? One of our missional aims is to use the property as a catalyst to re-engage with the community of Roffey, and provide a space where they can better meet Jesus. We appreciate this is not a simple or quick process, and will take time and much prayer, but we are already seeing some signs of new connection. Darren, our Youth and Family Worker, is now running four different groups aimed at parents and their children, and is seeing encouraging numbers attend. This is also reflected in growth in our youngest BB section. It remains early days and a beginning from which broader relationships will hopefully form.

We have now engaged our Community Café Managers, Sue and Jenny. They are working out the responsibilities and boundaries of their role, whilst looking at setting up the new Community Café. Many of us are looking forward to our first coffee when the Café opens, but appreciate it will take time.

(from page21)

.....each other. Maybe it's the need to keep everyone entertained. Maybe it's simply the large numbers which seem like an invasion.

My suggestion? Jesus showed us how to love and serve others no matter who they are. What better way to honour his birth than by treating Christmas as an opportunity to practise the virtues of humility, hospitality, self-sacrifice, peace-making and patience. The more awkward your relatives, the better practice it will be to treat them well.

Some dislike Christmas for the opposite reason – loneliness. It's bad enough to feel neglected and alone, but when everyone around is having a good time then it somehow feels much worse.

My suggestion? Take the time to remember the lonely and unloved this Christmas. There is a legend of a king who gave up his own comfort to trudge through the snow and provide warmth and food for a poor man. Admittedly this was on December 26th (St Stephen's Day) rather than the 25th, but good King Wenceslas is not just a carol to be sung. He is an example to be followed.

Paul

LEATHERHEAD

Only two months into our Methodist New Year and LMC has done so much. Fellowship together and amongst the local community seems to be a driving force in our mission.

We took a full part in Leatherhead's Heritage weekend, opening our now historic premises (1893 is 19th century after all) to visitors as we have done in previous years. Displays traced our history and of course related Leatherhead to the scene of John Wesley's last sermon before he died. Member Bob Greenfield took matters one step further. He dressed appropriately, donned a wig and in the High Street delivered a Wesley sermon from 1738 titled "Salvation by Faith". Bob recalls that 14 people remained the entire 45 minutes!

Most Thursdays our church hosts lunchtime concerts featuring students of the Royal Academy of Music. Once a month the music concert moves to Christ Church because we host the ecumenical Messy Church. In October Messy Church celebrated its 5th birthday based on the Wedding at Cana. Needless

to say there was lots of water, but the wine was an illusion.

LMC was the host for the ecumenical Harvest Supper, albeit using premises at Christ Church. We really needed CC's large hall as over 80 people of at least four denominations sat together on a Saturday evening. Lots of members were involved in creating a memorable occasion with super food, lots of entertainment and the best of fellowship.

Hannah Mulcock, LMC's and CC's new family and children's worker arrived just in time to meet a good portion of Leatherhead's church family. We are pleased and proud to have Hannah working with us. Lynda and the leadership team seem determined to maintain LMC's significant role in God's work spending time together in Stoke attending a conference about "Navigating Change". Meanwhile other initiatives have resumed in the Autumn namely "Time for Tea", "Men's Breakfasts", "New Fire", West Hill School Community Café and of course House groups.

Leatherhead Pages

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



All Saints, Kingston

**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*

Christingle...



*Leatherhead Parish Church
Sunday 13th December at 4pm
followed by refreshments in the Parish Church*

*A very special service for children
and the young at heart.
Collection for the Children's Society.*

All children welcome, accompanied by an adult.

"It's the first tingle of Christmas!"

Bob Chilcott's *On
Christmas
Night*

*Join in festive carols
with St. Peter's Catholic School Choir*

Conductor - Ian Assersohn
Saturday 19th December
4pm

Christ Church (URC),
Epsom Road,
Leatherhead,
KT22 8ST

Tickets (including refreshments):
Adults £7, Under 16s £3
Available on the door
Tickets@leatherhead-choral.net

Sisters Get-Together in Leatherhead



Come along and
join us at
Leatherhead Parish Hall
for
Coffee, Croissants & Conversation
Saturday 19th December
8.15am to 10.00am

Breakfast will be followed by a Christmas Floral Decoration Demonstration by Alison Gillott and the opportunity to make your own decoration. To book a place please pay £5 to Sally Milner or leave at the Parish Office in an envelope marked with your name and "Sisters Christmas Activity". Further information from Sally on 07703 539872.

Time for Tea



COME for TEA and COMPANY

From 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Friday 4th December

Theme this month: My Christmas

The next one will be on **8th January**, and then every first Friday in the month at

LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH
EVERYONE WELCOME



Next Messy Church for Leatherhead:

Thursday 17th December
and 21st January,
3.30pm to 5.30pm at:



NEW FIRE

Don't forget to plan to come along to the contemporary New Fire service at 6.30pm on the fourth Sunday evening each month at LMC. Stay afterwards for coffee and a chat.

No New Fire in December.

Check the weekly notices for details of an event at the Theatre on Sunday evening 24th January:

The event is entitled: *No Abiding City - Christian presence, problems, and possibilities in the Middle East.* Michael Lewis, bishop of the Anglican diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, will give an overview of Christian presence and engagement in the whole of the Middle East region: the Gulf and Arabian nations as well as the Levant. In particular he will give a snapshot of his own diocese, which includes among its congregations St George Baghdad and Christ Church Aden in the Yemen, and of the millions of Christians of all traditions in the lands he serves, the vast majority of them expatriate migrants.



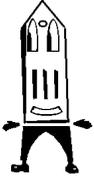
Men's Breakfasts

Leatherhead Men's Breakfasts will be at 8.00am on the following Saturdays:-

No Men's Breakfast in December.

23rd January in the Parish Church Hall, then on the fourth Saturday morning each month.

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.



Leatherhead

Methodist Church

***Please see the Leatherhead Pages
(pages 25 to 29) for more news***

West Hill School Community Café...

...is held at LMC every Tuesday morning at 10.30am, except during school holidays (*so no café on 22nd or 29th December*).

West Hill School in Leatherhead is an outstanding special school for pupils aged from 11 to 16 with learning difficulties and autism. The café is providing learners with opportunities to develop work-related skills as well as social and communications skills. Please come along on Tuesday mornings to support this very worthwhile enterprise.



LMC House Groups

LMC has three House Groups where Church members or friends can meet together on a regular basis. These groups usually meet 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. Everyone is very welcome to join a group.



What If?

"Unto us a child is born"

The same today as yesteryear?

What if there was no stable, however humble,

Just the corner of a tatty, makeshift tent

In a place of conflict?

No star to show the way,

Only a burst of angry shouts.

Men squabbling with guards!

No choir of angels -

Just more shouting.

No wise men either.

They were stopped at the first border!

The guards there guffawed with disbelief!

"A King? You're looking for a King.

On your bike mate! Back the way you came!"

But what if that baby in the tent

Was the King?

No turning water into wine,

No raising daughters from the dead!

Miracles? What miracles? What teaching? What prayers to pray?

God's message to all, newborn or adult

Is 'Peace on earth and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled'.

Alleluia! Birth and rebirth, all the same now

As all days gone by.

The Spirit of the Baby lays within each one.

Reach deep and find the spark of God

Christmas Day Service - 10.00am

This year's joint Christ Church and LMC Christmas Morning Service will be held at **LMC** at **10.00am** with our Minister, Rev. Lynda Russell.

Family and Children's Work

I feel very settled in Leatherhead now and have enjoyed getting to know the congregation here at LMC. I have gotten to know the regular children quite well over the past month and have enjoyed participating in Sunday mornings both in the service and out with the young people. I have been in contact with parents of those children who attend irregularly and I am looking forward to visiting them all in their homes to give them "The Real Advent Calendar" and getting to know them all a bit better.

Ester and I are learning the ropes of the Messy Church here and are looking forward to being more involved and eventually taking over from Jane in January. We are looking forward to developing Messy Church and helping those who attend discover more about their faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

I have been into Trinity school frequently to help develop my relationship with both the staff and the pupils. I have been involved in leading an assembly with Lynda and I have been in to help out in classrooms and to listen to readers. I attended the open morning which gave me a good insight into the school and I am looking forward to further working with them to develop the spiritual side of the school and getting to know the children better.

I attended a uniformed organisation meeting with the leaders of Cubs, Beavers and Scouts and off the back of that have attended sessions at all three. I am hoping to develop the link between these organisations and the church further and help them be more involved in the parade services that happen at Christ Church. I am hoping to visit the Brownie pack soon.

I have attended two conferences since I arrived- "Prayer spaces in schools" and "The Sticky Faith Tour". The former was about setting up reflective areas in school which allow the children some space and time to think and, if they wish to, pray. It consists of a set of creative prayer stations which the children can complete activities at. This is something I have previously done and I am looking forward to working with Lynda and the school to do one here. The Sticky Faith Tour was about how we can encourage our young people to engage with their own faith and develop it so that it sticks when they leave their home and their home church. What was most evident from this conference is the need for intergenerational relationships and on the back of this I am starting to look up how we, as a church, can mentor our children and young people.

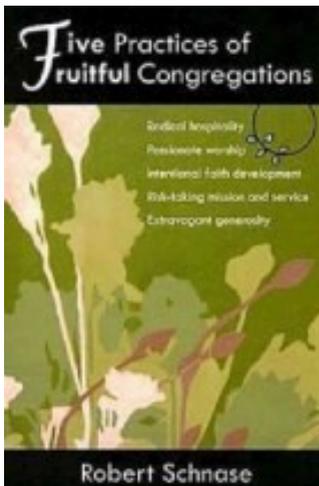
Hannah Mulcock

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations (Robert Schnase)

This book was one of the resources on the bookstall at the 'Navigating Change' event that five from LMC attended in October. It contains six quite long chapters, each divided into 4 to 6 sub-sections tackling:

1. The Practice of Radical Hospitality
2. The Practice of Passionate Worship
3. The Practice of Intentional Faith Development
4. The Practice of Risk-Taking Mission and Service
5. The Practice of Extravagant Generosity, and
6. Excellence and Fruitfulness

The five 'practices' are qualities to help a seeking church attain vitality and progression. Most of the LMC Leadership Team have a copy, and aim to present to the Church Council and the whole congregation, what is learnt from studying the book, and how that learning can be used at LMC to make more fulfilled disciples of Jesus.



The author is Bishop of the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church in America. The book has, therefore, quite an American flavour, but the underlying precept can be applied to any church community. To quote (from the Introduction): "Failure to perform them (the 'practices') results in congregational deterioration and decline."

The book is not an easy armchair read. Time needs to be put aside to read, think and digest its content. It's early days yet, but it is hoped to report more fully as time goes on. Each chapter ends with conversation questions and a suggestion for a group activity.



HOLLY JOLLY
CHRISTMAS PARTY!
Sunday 6th December
(After the Morning Service)
Bring & Share Lunch!

On 6th December at LMC, straight after the Service and until about 2.30pm, we will be coming together as a Church Family to celebrate Christmas! It will be an afternoon of eating, playing games and there may even be singing! We will be having a "bring & share" lunch. Could those with last names A-M please bring something savoury and those with last names N-Z please bring something sweet! Let's all try not to bring sausage rolls though! Christmas jumpers are encouraged!

**Sunday 6th December -
Toy Service**

The Communion Service on Sunday morning 6th December will also be our annual Toy Service. Please can you bring **unwrapped** toys for B@titude (to give to families at Christmas and throughout the year) and also **gifts for 16 to 18 year-olds** for the Homeless Prevention Service (see notice on church noticeboard for more details including ideas of what to donate).

“Open the Book”

“Open the Book” presents the Bible in primary schools in an accessible and enjoyable way. Teams of volunteers from the local churches use drama, mime, props, costume - and even the children and staff themselves - to present the Bible stories in lively and informative ways during an assembly!

We are hoping to set up an “Open the Book” team that will be able to visit Trinity School once a month. It will require a short rehearsal before assembly and about half an hour. We hope to start this in the New Year. Training will be provided; all you need is a heart to share Bible stories with children! If you are interested, please email Hannah at:

hannahleatherheadfcw@gmail.com

Charity Christmas Stockings

Once again this year, instead of sending individual Christmas Cards to your friends at LMC, you are invited to pin a Christmas Card on the notice board at the rear of the Church. Please then place a contribution in a stocking for one of the chosen charities:

- LYP (Leatherhead Youth Project)
- Lunchbox
- MWiB Charity for this year - Dalit Solidarity

You will be familiar with **LYP**, the local charity passionate about helping young people. See their website for their latest news: **www.leatherheadyouthproject.com**

Lunchbox is being run by Dave Putland and Colin Plumpton on a Wednesday lunchtime at LMC for homeless people while Pitstop is looking for a new home.

The MWiB project supports Dalits (the untouchables) in India.

LMC Family News



Jean Jones...

... Our beloved member Jean died on Thursday 19th November. Jean touched all our lives in one way or another and her wisdom and kindness will be greatly missed. We remember Philip, Juliet, Owen and all members of the family at this time. The funeral will be at Randalls Park at 10.15am on Thursday 10th December, followed by a Thanksgiving Service at LMC.

Our thoughts and prayers are with...

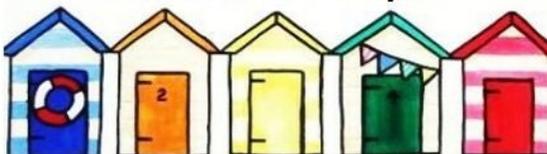
... Members and friends being looked after in nursing care or at home, and with all those who care for them day by day. We think of Jean and James Ross, Marion Mcaulay and Geoffrey Marland.

Holiday at Home 2016

"Holiday at Home" is an event to provide interesting activities and friendship for older people, people who may be unable to get away for a traditional holiday.

Our thinking is that the event should take place next August at LMC. It needs thought, prayer and planning. There has been some interest shown in forming a team to run the event which may initially only be for one day. If you think you may be interested in being part of the team, or simply helping out on the day, please contact Lynda.

Holiday at Home for Older People





Diary



December

Tues	1st	10.30am	West Hill School Café at LMC - all welcome
Fri	4th	2.30pm	Time for Tea (<i>to 4.30pm</i>)
Sun	6th	10.30am	Toy Service (<i>see note on page 34</i>) Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion
		12 noon	"Holly Jolly Christmas Party" (<i>see page 34</i>)
Tues	8th	10.30am	West Hill School Café at LMC - all welcome
Sun	13th	10.30am 4.00pm	Rhys Frost Christingle at the Parish Church
Tues	15th	10.30am	West Hill School Café at LMC - all welcome
Thurs	17th	3.30pm	Messy Church (<i>to 5.30pm</i>)
Sat	19th	8.15am	Sisters' Get-Together (<i>see page 27</i>)
Sun	20th	9.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	Bring and Share Prayer Breakfast Family Christmas Service - Rev. Lynda Russell Carol Service at the Parish Church
Fri	25th	<u>10.00am</u>	Joint Christmas Day Service at LMC
Sun	27th	10.30am	Joint Service at Christ Church - Rev. Lynda Russell

January

Sun	3rd	10.30am	Rev. Lynda Russell - Joint Covenant Service with Holy Communion
Tues	5th	10.30am	West Hill School Café at LMC - all welcome
Fri	8th	2.30pm	Time for Tea (<i>to 4.30pm</i>)
Sun	10th	10.30am 6.30pm	James Wild Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion
Tues	12th	10.30am	West Hill School Café at LMC - all welcome
Sun	17th	9.00am	Bring & Share Prayer Breakfast

...LMC Diary continued from the previous page

Sat	23rd	8.00am	Men's Breakfast - Parish Church Hall
Sun	24th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Frank Smith Check weekly notices for an ecumenical event at the Theatre
Tues	26th	10.30am 2.30pm	West Hill School Café at LMC - all welcome Pastoral Visitors' & Elders Prayer Meeting
Sun	31st	10.30am	Beth Little

February

Tues	2nd	10.30am	West Hill School Café at LMC - all welcome
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Monthly Service at The Beeches Care Home

A service is held at The Beeches Care Home in Forty Foot Road at 3.00pm on the third Tuesday every month. If you feel you can assist with running the service, please contact Lynda.

Prayer Breakfasts

Prayer breakfasts are held on the third Sunday each month at 9.00am. It's a bring and share (non-cooked) breakfast with a short time of prayer fellowship before the morning service. All very welcome.



Pastoral Prayers

Prayer meetings are held at 2.30pm on the 4th Tuesday every month at LMC. All pastoral visitors Stewards and Christ Church Elders are welcome to attend. No meeting in December; next meeting - **Tuesday 26th January.**

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

***Please see the
Leatherhead Pages
(pages 25 to 29)
for more news***



The Station

Michael and I enjoy cruising, sometimes on our small boat and sometimes on a large ship. Recently we attended an interdenominational church service aboard a large ship which was prepared and conducted by the Captain. Here is one of the readings, which he included. It is an abridged version of a poem by Robert J Hastings. It was originally written for the Illinois Baptist Church.

Jeanette Chamberlain

Tucked away in our subconscious is an idyllic vision. We see ourselves on a long trip that spans the Country. We are travelling by train.

Out of the windows we drink in the passing scene of cars on nearby highways, of children waving at a crossing, of cattle grazing on a distant hillside, of smoke pouring from a power plant, of row upon row of corn and wheat, of flatlands and valleys, of mountains and rolling hillsides, of city skylines and village halls.

But uppermost in our minds is the final destination. On a certain day at a certain hour we will pull into the station. Bands will be playing and flags waving. Once we get there so many wonderful dreams will come true and the pieces of our lives will fit together like a completed jigsaw puzzle.

How restlessly we pace the aisles, damning the minutes for loitering, - waiting, waiting, waiting for the station. When we reach the station, "that will be it!" we cry.

"When I'm 18", "when I buy a new car", "when I put my last child through college", "when I have paid off the mortgage", "when I get a promotion", "when I reach the age of retirement, I will live happily ever after".

But sooner or later we must realise that there is no station in life, no one place to arrive at once and for all. The true joy of life is the trip. The station is only a dream. It constantly outdistances us.

It isn't the burdens of life that drive us mad. It is the regrets over yesterday and the fear of tomorrow. Regret and fear are twin thieves who rob us of today.

So stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Instead, climb more mountains, swim more rivers, go barefoot more often, watch more sunsets, eat more ice cream, laugh more and cry less.

Christ Church Diary



December

- Fri 4th 2.30pm Time for Tea at LMC (*to 4.30pm*)
- Sun 6th 10.30pm Rev. Robert Blows - Holy Communion**
- Sun 13th 10.30am Parade/Gift Service - Rev. Lynda Russell**
4.00pm Parish Church - Christingle
- Thurs 17th 3.30pm Messy Church at LMC (*to 5.30pm*)
- Sat 19th 8.15am Sisters Get-Together (*see page 27*)
- Sun 20th 10.30am Carols & Readings - Rev. Barbara Pearson**
6.30pm Parish Church - Carol Service
- Fri 25th 10.00am Joint Christmas Day Service at LMC -
Rev. Lynda Russell
- Sun 27th 10.30am Favourite Carols Service - Joint at**
Christ Church - Rev. Lynda Russell

January

- Sun 3rd 10.30am Joint Covenant Service with Holy Communion**
at LMC - Rev. Lynda Russell
- Sat 8th 2.30pm Time for Tea at LMC (*to 4.30pm*)
- Sun 10th 10.30am Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion**
6.30pm Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion at LMC
- Sun 17th 10.30am Rev. Bruce Stuart**
- Wed 20th 2.00pm Elders' Meeting
- Thurs 21st 3.30pm Messy Church at LMC (*to 5.30pm*)
- Sat 23rd 8.00am Men's Breakfast - Parish Church Hall
- Sun 24th 10.30am Back to Church Sunday - Rev. Lynda Russell**
6.30pm Ecumenical Event at the Theatre
- Tues 26th 2.30pm Pastoral Visitors' & Elders Prayer Mtg at LMC
- Sun 31st 10.30am Rev. Robert Blows**

Christ Church Family News



We are pleased to hear that Hilary Porter now has her new hip and is back at home and making good progress. We send our very best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

We are sorry to report that Keith Poulton is suffering still with a leg injury and is mostly housebound at present. We were pleased to see him at church on 15 November. We send him every good wish for his recovery.

We look forward to seeing these friends back at church very soon. We remember them in our prayers and those who are unwell, the carers in our community and any who especially need our support.



Christmas Day Service - 10.00am

This year's joint Christ Church and LMC Christmas Morning Service will be held at **LMC** at **10.00am** with our Minister, Rev. Lynda Russell.



Commitment for Life

By the time you read this, you will have received a letter from your elder inviting you to make a donation to Commitment for Life. Most of you are very familiar with this organisation, and Christ Church has been extremely generous in its giving in the past.

As I said last year, we are no longer involved in Christian Aid house-to-house collections, so by donating to Commitment for Life, we can perhaps make up a little of the shortfall in our church giving.

At the back of our church, you will find up-to-date information on the varied causes in which Commitment for Life is involved.

It is heartening to hear how many people give up time to campaign against injustices. Some of us feel that we are too old to join such campaigns, and it is true that it usually involves a trip to London, and this in itself can be quite tiring. However, here is something we can do while sitting in a comfy chair in our own home, chequebook in hand. Please find it in your heart to be generous with your donation.

Margaret Dodds-Ely



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

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:

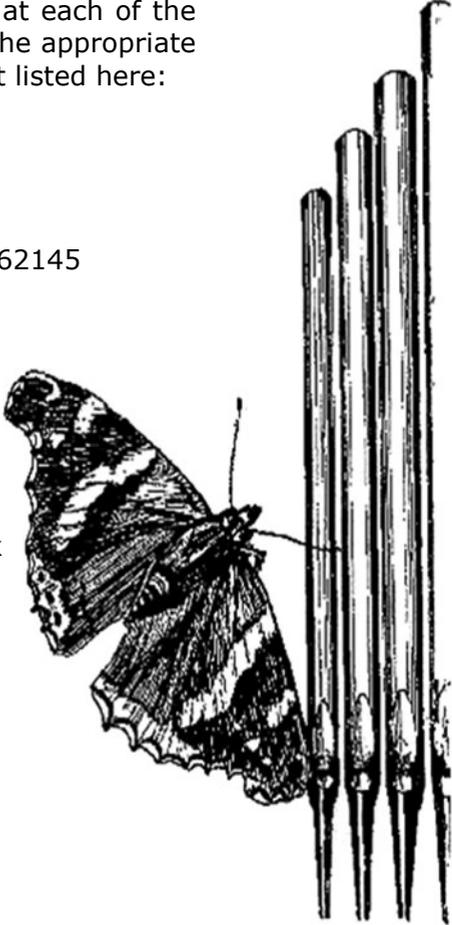
Leatherhead Methodist Church:
Church Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8AY
www.leatherheadmethodist.org
Contact: Administrator -
Carol Stoves 01372 377125; Office 362145

Christ Church (United Reformed):
Epsom Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ST
www.chch.org.uk
Contact: Local Church Leader -
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 Reformed Church:
38 Stoke Road, Cobham, KT11 3BD
www.cobhamurc.org.uk
Contact: Church Secretary -
Mary Langtry 01483 282421

Cobham Methodist Church:
Cedar Road, Cobham, KT11 2AA
www.cobhammethodistchurch.com



United Pastorate Ministers

Rev. Lynda Russell

10 Church Road
Leatherhead
KT22 8AY

Tel: 01372 372743 (home)
01372 362145 (office)

Rev. Kim Plumpton

38 Stoke Road
Cobham
KT11 3BD

Tel: 01932 586988