

the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

**December 2019
& January 2020**



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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*Blessings of Christmas and New
Year to You All*

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

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



The Ministers Write...

From Rev Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends

"Just a hurried line ... to tell a story which puts the contrast between our feast of the Nativity and all the ghastly 'Xmas' racket at its lowest. My brother heard a woman on a bus say, as the bus passed a church with a Crib outside it 'Oh lor! They bring religion into everything. Look - they're dragging it even into Christmas now.'" *C.S.Lewis: Letter to an American Lady*. Lewis died in 1963. Amazing, isn't it, it's the kind of conversation you could imagine hearing today.

Religion, some might say, is the cause of so many problems in our world. Former Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks once wrote: *"Too often in the history of religion, people have killed in the name of the God of life, waged war in the name of the God of peace, hated in the name of the God of love and practised cruelty in the name of the God of compassion. When that happens, God speaks sometimes in a still small voice almost inaudible amongst the clamour of those claiming to speak on his behalf. What He says at such times is : Not in My Name!"*.

Advent goes some way in highlighting the messy world in which we live, a world where religion is not always seen in a favourable light. We are abundantly aware of a world in need of healing and redemption, peace and reconciliation. Jesus' entrance into this world is a timely reminder that the world remains a place that needs a faithful people who are living testaments to a child born in a stable, died on a cross, risen to bring life.

Marc Gopin suggests that where there is the pursuit of peace and reconciliation *"relationships depend on gestures of honour, shared understandings of civility, generosity, expressions of regret and shared defence against needless suffering."*

Faith communities at their very best have the capacity to play a critical role in the nurturing and rebuilding of community where suffering occurs. Peace and goodwill to all humankind is something we profess each Christmas. Faith communities have the capability to promote shared values and vision, the pursuit of peace, in life lived in all its fullness, in the dignity and value of every human being, in unrelenting love for our brother and sister regardless of faith, creed or ethnicity. Working toward ever greater human rights and compassion for the good of all people.

C.S.Lewis summed up Christmas in one sentence: *'The Son of God became a man to enable men to become the sons of God.'*

The birth of Jesus is confirmation, God loves humankind so much he will go to any length to reach us and save us. In this we will always have hope, hope that God is always entering this world through the hearts of those who love and serve him. Hope lives on, Jesus is the light that can never be put out. May our lights shine brightly this Christmas and, in the year to come.

We wish you a blessed Christmas and may God's abundant goodness walk with you as we move into 2020

With love Kim & Colin and Family x

From Rev Jan Hofmeyr

Dear Friends,

This week I read the following regarding the impeachment process under way in America: "As we watch the impeachment process unfold, let's keep in mind that while the immediate context is whether the President has committed an impeachable offense, the long-term consideration is, "What kind of nation would we become if we allowed our President to behave this way?" The impeachment process is ultimately about the trajectory that a President's behaviour sets and the message it sends. Impeachment is ultimately about what becomes of our national soul."

Talk of a "nation's soul" is, of course, very relevant for the UK at present. As we go to the polls (which I hope you will be doing), I believe we need to cast our vote for the candidate and party which we feel is best placed to heal the "national soul". Having lived through the ten years of President Zuma's administration in South Africa, I know only too well how the head of a country can damage the soul of a nation.

So, for which candidate and party should one vote? Obviously I, as the minister of a church, and also as a newcomer to the UK will not recommend any particular party, but maybe there are certain criteria to bear in mind, as Christians, in making our choice.

In his recent book, "Reimagining Britain", Archbishop Justin Welby proposes three values that need to be at the heart of a healthy society. They are: Community, Courage and Stability. Community is about 'the common good' and recognition of the fact that all that exists is given by God and is for all. Vast discrepancies between rich and poor are a denial of this value.

To achieve 'the common good' requires the second value Welby speaks of, namely courage. By nature we humans are selfish and tend to focus on our own needs to the exclusion of others around us. A governing party will need to display courage if it is going to promote community and the good of all. This in turn can bring about conflict in society and requires the third value of stability, achieved through being able to bring reconciliation in situations of conflict and resilience to persevere on the path of what is good and right.

The party which is best able to promote community, and display courage and stability, is the one most likely to restore the soul of this nation.

These values are evident in the coming of Jesus which we celebrate in this Advent season. God's love which brought Jesus to this world is a love for all; all are equally objects of God's love and equally important in His sight. Then too, great courage was needed on Jesus' part in His coming and his earthly life. Finally, His perseverance enabled Him to fulfil His mission of bringing reconciliation between God and humanity.

May His Spirit direct our lives and our nation in the coming days.

With love in Christ,

Jan



O, Come let us adore Him



Christmas 2019

Dear Friends,

All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth! At the October Synod Together meeting in October we said farewell to Revd Nicola Furley-Smith after 8½ years as Moderator of Southern Synod. We wish her well as she takes up her new role as Secretaries to Ministries in the URC nationally. She has certainly left a gap in our lives and for now that gap is being filled by the two of us (Revd Bridget Banks and Revd George Watt) supported by Revd Paul Dean covering the Ecumenical work of the Synod. We hope that someone will be in post by the summer next year. Please pray that the right person would be found to permanently fill the gap.

But there is something endearing about the smile of someone missing their two front teeth! It makes you aware of the other teeth which are every bit as important as the front ones. And we would remind you that the Synod is also made up of the Office and Field Staff, the Ministers, Local Church Leaders, Elders and all the members and adherents of our local churches – all playing our part in the mission of the Church. Let us smile broadly and celebrate each other.

As Christians what we long for isn't shiny new incisors but more of God's kingdom. At Christmas we celebrate the coming of Christ to fill the gaps in our lives and in our world. He comes to bring light in our darkness, hope in our despair and peace in our troubled world. We are invited to come and gaze on the baby born in a humble stable. He was the one that had been longed for and wished for to rescue and to save.

But it wasn't a one-off event. Christ comes afresh to the present troubled world to bring light, hope and peace. At the time of writing this letter we are preparing for a General Election and politicians are promising how to cure the ills of the present world. Promises can sound very easy, the hard thing is making it a reality. We rejoice that God didn't just promise us that he would love us but he showed it in a very tangible way by sending Jesus into the world. As unbelievable as it may sound this was part of God's plan to change hearts, minds and the whole world.

Continued next page

As John Bell & Graham Maule from Wild Goose put it:

Who would think that what was needed
To transform and save the earth
Might not be a plan or army,
Proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision,
That a child should lead the way?
God surprises earth with heaven,
Coming here on Christmas Day.

This is the Good News that we will be celebrating in our churches when there are so many challenges and so much uncertainty in our world today.

But we are also invited to join in with this work. We all have a part to play. At the recent LICC (London Institute of Contemporary Christianity) day we were encouraged to avoid saying 'I am just a...' as though we have no part in God's work. So, we should avoid thinking that we are just a florist, bin man, accountant, grandparent. We all have a part to play in filling the gaps in our world today. We can be the answer to our own prayers 'All I want is...' As we rejoice in God sending his Son into the world may we discover how he sends us to continue the work that he began.

We would like to wish all of you in local churches a happy and peaceful Christmas. And may you faithfully proclaim that Christ has been born amongst us bringing light in our darkness, hope where there is despair and peace where there is unrest.

God bless.

Bridget
Bridget Banks

Revd
Revd George Watt

George

Brid-





Cobham

United Church

Worship Diary

December

Sun 1st 9.00am Early Bird Service
10.30am John Oborn
Sun 8th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton, with Holy Communion
Sun 15th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton
6.30pm Carol Service
Sun 22nd 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton
Tues 24th 4.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm Christmas Eve Service
Wed 25th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton: Christmas Day Service
Sun 29th 10.30am Andrew Gibb

January

Sun 5th 9.00am Early Bird Service
10.30am Peter Bramhill
Sun 12th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton: Covenant Service with Holy Communion
Sun 19th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton
Sun 26th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton: followed by Church Meeting

February

Sun 2nd 9.00am Early Bird Service
10.30am Sydney Shore

Prayers at the Manse
Wednesdays at 9.30am

December: 4th, 11th, 18th
January: 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

Cobham Events

December

Tues 3rd	9.45am	Church Walk
	8.00pm	Trustees Meeting
Thur 5th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship: The Jovial Sailor, Ripley
Fri 6th	10.30am	Advent Course (to 12.30)
Sat 7th		Dress Church for Christmas
Fri 13th	2.30pm	Bereavement Café at CUC (to 4.00pm)
Sat 14th	10.00am	Messy Church (to 12.30pm)

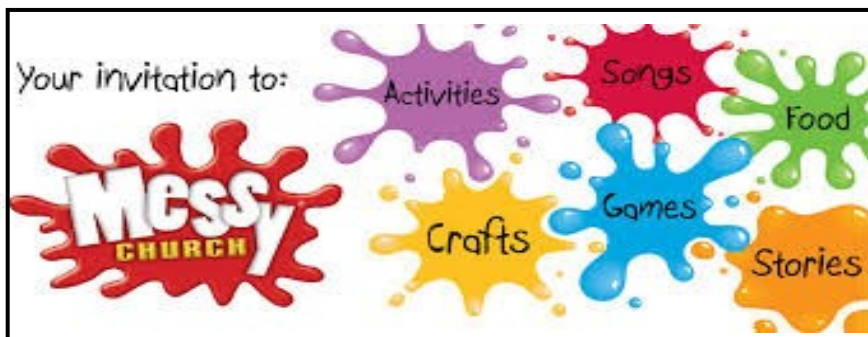
January 2020

Tues 7th	9.45am	Church Walk
	8.00pm	Trustees Meeting
Thur 9th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship: The Queen's Head, E Clandon (Note: Not the 1st Thursday)
Fri 10th	2.30pm	Bereavement Café (to 4.30pm)
Wed 15th	2.30pm	Spiritual Committee
Thur 16th	8.00pm	House Fellowship
Fri 17th	6.30pm	Ra Ra Theatre - pantomime
Sat 18th	to Sat 25th	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Thur 23rd	3.45pm	Messy Church (to 5.45pm)
Fri 31st	2.00pm	Pastorate Planning Meeting

Mustard Seed:

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





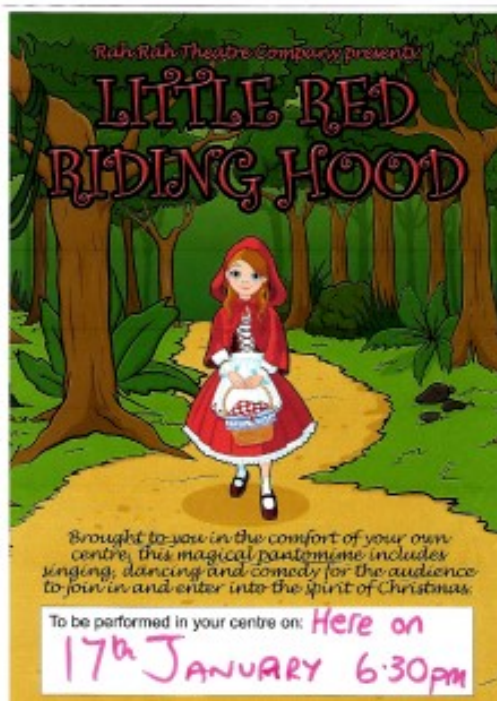
Sat 14th December 10.00am - 12.30pm

Thur 23rd January 3.45 - 5.45pm

Cobham United Church

Cobham, Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon Churches Together

**Come to the
pantomime
At Cobham
United Church
6.30pm on
Friday
17th January**



Bereavement *Café*



A place to talk

with people who understand

Cobham United Church
38 Stoke Road
Cobham KT11 3BD

Second Friday of each month
From 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm
Starting 13th September 2019

For more information please contact
01932 586988

In partnership with

Princess Alice
Hospice



pah.org.uk/bereavement 01372 461808

pah.org.uk



Join us @PAHospice





Effingham

Methodist Church



Birthday Dates for Dec/Jan:

.Joan Dawson for her 90th on 20th December and our minister **Kim** on the 29th, and then it's Charles Dawson on the 29th January

Please let us know about birthdays and BIG anniversaries!!



Do come and join us for crafts, food and fun, with a story from the Bible.

The Road to Emmaus was our theme in November, and in December we shall be having a Christmas celebration party.

**St. Lawrence Church
Hall in Brown's Lane
Wednesdays 11th December
and 8th January ~ 3.30 -**

5.30pm

For more information contact
Gill on 01372 457987



Effingham Methodist Diary



December

- Sun 1st 10.00am Rev Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion**
Tues 3rd Tuesday Teas Christmas lunch at pub
Thur 5th 10.00am Connect at St. Lawrence Hall (to 12 noon)
2.30pm St Lawrence School carol singing at shops
2.15pm Christian Meditation in the church
- Sun 8th 10.00am John Bees**
Wed 11th 3.30pm Messy Church at Little Bookham Village Hall
- Sun 15th 10.00am Rhys Frost**
Tues 17th 2.30pm Tuesday Tea in the R. C. Hall
Precious Moments service followed by tea
- Fri 20th 2.30pm**
6.00pm Living Nativity starts at Earl Haig pub
- Sun 22nd 10.00am James Wild**
4.00pm Carol Service
- Tues 24th 4.00pm Crib Service at St Lawrence's with our posada**
- Wed 25th 9.00am Christmas Day service with Rev Kim Plumpton**
- Sun 29th 10.00am United Service at St Lawrence's**

January 2020

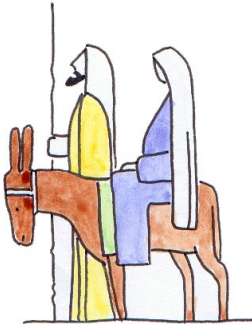
- Sun 5th 10.00am Rev Kim Plumpton: Covenant Service**
Tues 7th 2.30pm Tuesday Tea in the RC Hall
Wed 8th 3.30pm Messy Church in St Lawrence's Hall
- Sun 12th 10.00am Waseem Haq**
Thur 16th 12.30pm Oasis bible group lunch
2.15pm Christian Meditation in the church
- Sun 19th 10.00am Peter Bramhill**
Tues 22nd 2.30pm Tuesday Tea in the RC Hall
Thur 24th 2.30pm *Precious Moments* service followed by tea
- Sun 26th 10.00am David Cappitt**

Continued next page

Diary continued

February

Sun 2nd 10.00am Rev Kim Plumpton: Holy Communion
Followed by a short Church Council meeting in the Chapel



Do YOU have room for Mary & Joseph ?

Our Posada figurine of Mary, Joseph and Dan the donkey will travel around **Effingham** and **Little Bookham**, staying at a different House, School or Classroom every night. What questions would you ask ? Would it change your life ?

Could YOU offer a Room for the night, or a School Assembly and then write about how it felt to be part of their journey ?

Ring Angela on 01372-454850 to book

Then on Christmas Eve @ 4pm they will be taking part in the **CRIB Service** at **St Lawrence Parish Church**.



Living Nativity in Effingham

At 6pm on **Friday 20th December** ~ Come and join families and friends for a Living Nativity pageant complete with donkey, starting at the Earl Haig pub and telling the Christmas story around our village.



Carol Singing

St.Lawrence school children will be singing at the Effingham shops on **Thursday 5th December at 2.00pm**.



'Connect'

A fortnightly group for carers

and partners living with dementia

At St Lawrence Church Hall, Browns Lane, Effingham

Thursdays 10.30 till 12 O'clock

Come for refreshment, friendship, activities and fun.

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

In November we welcomed "Grace Notes" to play songs which we could join in with.

On December 5th the Rah Rah Theatre Company will be presenting Red Riding Hood and on December 19th Effingham's splendid Ukelele Band will bring us some rousing songs for Christmas.

On January 2nd there will be an exercise session to get the Christmas weight off; on the 16th we shall be joined by St Lawrence School's Theatre Drama Group; and we shall also meet on the 30th.

For more information on Connect, contact :

Gill on 01372 457987

or Kim on 01932

586988



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



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

In November another cream tea took place at the Grange in Bookham and was enjoyed by all. What a lovely place for a cream tea; available every Tuesday afternoon, but you have to book.

Our Christmas Lunch at the King William IV in Horsley is on December 3rd, so no regular meeting for tea on that date.

Meeting dates onward are December 17th, with Greensand Ridge to entertain for Christmas, and December 31st. January dates are the 14th, with a drama and songs by The Phoenix Singers, and January 28th, all at St Alphege Hall.

Come and join us! Occasional outings also arranged.

Some car transport can be arranged.

Contact Keith or Gill on 01372 457987 for more information.

Science and Christianity

Fr Stephen Dingley, Priest at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Effingham holds a PhD in Astrophysics as well as his theological qualifications. He will be giving a series of three talks on the subject of Science and Christianity. They will be held at St Alphege Hall, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Lower Road, Effingham at 7.30pm on Monday evenings in December. Light refreshments will be available. The talks are as follows:

- 2 Dec: The myth of conflict: Galileo and the Bible
- 9 Dec: A First Cause: The Chicken, the Egg and the Big Bang
- 16 Dec: A Cosmic Designer: Evolution and the Multiverse



Prayer is God's initiative, a gift which enables us to be attentive to the presence of God in our lives and in the world. It is also a means of expressing what we believe about God and can prompt us to act to change the world as we respond to God's love.

Here are **events** from the Methodist website : www.methodist.org.uk

December 2019

1st December is World Aids Day > Rock the Ribbon

We're winning the fight against HIV, but losing the fight against ignorance ! There are still thousands of people living with HIV in the UK. There is no cure. Show your support with one simple thing !

#ROCKTHERIBBON see World Aids Day website

Advent Sunday > Mission in Britain ~ This year's theme is 'Homelessness & Hospitality', and helping to give a warm welcome to those in need'. The **Advent Offering service** is a Connexion-wide event that raises prayer and money for the **Mission in Britain Fund** to support many amazing projects across Britain.

If you represent your church or circuit, save the date for an Advent Offering service between 2 and 24 December.



You can use our Advent Offering worship resources flexibly. Use for a pre-planned All Age service, or adapt elements and add your own ideas. Everything is provided for you to make your Advent Offering service suitable to your local context

Download **Advent Offering Service** resources and posters from Methodist website : <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/support-our-work/advent-offering/>



January 2019

6th **Covenant Sunday** ~ download study guide rootsontheweb.com

18-25th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ~ www.ctbi.org.uk

Order or download resources > Material for 2020 has been prepared by the **Christian churches in Malta and Gozo** (Christians Together in Malta) On 10th February many Christians in Malta celebrate the Feast of the Shipwreck of St Paul, marking and giving thanks for the arrival of Christian faith on these islands. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles used for the feast is the text chosen for this year's Week of Prayer. God's will for his Church and all people comes to fulfilment. As Paul will proclaim in Rome, this salvation of God has been sent to all peoples (see Acts 28:28).

27th January is Holocaust Memorial Day ~ it marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

The Holocaust threatened the fabric of civilisation, and genocide must still be resisted every day.

Our world often feels fragile and vulnerable and we cannot be complacent. Even in the UK, prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all.

The theme for HMD 2020 is **Stand Together**. It explores how genocidal regimes throughout history have deliberately fractured societies by marginalising certain groups, and how these tactics can be challenged by individuals standing together with their neighbours, and speaking out against oppression.



WOW what Grace for the Moment !

Christmas should really make us stop and think about our Faith. God has given his son to us ! Not to just show us the way but to die for us ! The Bethlehem story taken at face value is about a homeless mother having a baby, like many mothers in our world today; who would have thought that the story would end triumphantly on a cross of wood and change the world for ever !

Max Lucado says....We understand how storms are created. We map solar systems and transplant hearts. We measure the depth of oceans and send signals to distant planets.....we have studied the system and we know how it works.

And for some the loss of mystery has led to a loss of majesty. The more we know the less we believe. Strange don't you think ? Knowledge of the workings shouldn't negate wonder.... knowledge should stir wonder ! Who has more reason to worship than the astronomer who has seen the stars !

Ironically the more we know, the less we worship. We are more impressed with our discovery of the light switch than the one who created the electricity.....rather than worship the Creator we worship the creation (see Romans 1 v 25) No wonder there is no wonder! We think we have figured it all out.

Are you still in love with Jesus ? Before you remember anything, remember him, if you forget anything don't forget him.

Oh, but how quickly we forget ! So much happens through the years. So many changes within, so many alterations without. We don't turn away from him we just don't take him with us! Assignments come, promotions come, budgets are made, kids are born and the Christ.....the Christ is forgotten.

Has it been a while since you stared up at the heavens in speechless amazement ? Has it been a while since you realized God's divinity and your humanity?

If it has then you need to know something.... he is still there, he hasn't left !

Excerpts from Grace for the Moment by Max Lucado

LOVE, PRAY, VOTE

As we approach a General Election on 12 December 2019, the **Joint Public Issues Team** (JPIT) are inviting us all to Love, Pray, Vote. But what does that look like? Politics plays an important role in how our society is run. It helps to influence our priorities and the opportunities we create in our communities. As Christians, we can use our opportunity to engage in politics as a chance to love our neighbour and our world.

When we look at the choices put before us in these elections, do they offer us the chance to show the deep, all inclusive, radical love God shows us? What priorities can we set which will love those around us by amplifying the voice of the marginalised, challenging injustice and promoting peace? What opportunities do we have to pioneer change which will safeguard the vulnerable, care for creation and welcome the stranger?

Elections are significant times in the life of our country. Spending time with God in prayer as we consider how to use our voice is important. As we pray, we can ask God to deepen our awareness of situations, people or stories which might guide us to show God's love deeper to all.

It's also an opportunity to pray for those for whom the election period might be challenging. Political discourse has been particularly volatile in recent months, which will make some candidates feel more vulnerable. We can hold candidates standing in elections, and their families, in prayer during a busy time. For both those that we agree and disagree with, we can pray for peace and safety.

We are invited to engage deeply in love with those around us in this election. By doing so, we can use this opportunity to seek peace, challenge injustice, and enable the flourishing of all.
<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/love-pray-vote/>



Precious Moments

**Short service
with hymns, poetry and
readings
Followed by afternoon tea**

**For those living with and caring
for those with Dementia, as well
as friends in the community**

Effingham Methodist Church

**Held at 2pm on
20th Dec and 24th Jan**

For more information Contact:01372 457987

Dorking and Horsham Circuit

NEWSLETTER

**December
January and
February 2020**

Dear Friends,

As we move into the Christmas season we do so amidst some significant turmoil at all sorts of levels.

The horrendous discovery in the back of the lorry in Grays in Essex, the turmoil on the Turkish/Syria border, the political posturing on the other side of the Atlantic, an election just before Christmas for us and a challenging conversation in the life of the church.

Sounds about right for Christmas!

It's so hard not to look back on the birth of the Christ Child from the place where we stand, 2000 years later, but, as he did then, he continues to come in the midst of political upheaval, hopeless despair and dubious circumstances.

I don't think it is any accident that two Gospel writers completely ignore his birth and the two who do tell it, tell it so differently. I mean, after all, how do you tell the waiting world that God has come near, not just for a passing glance at what is going on but to be born as one of us, to enter into our human experience in the fullest possible way or is that it?

Does Jesus come to enter our experience of life or does he come to draw us into his? There's a question I'll leave you to ponder as you contemplate the Incarnation this Christmastide: 'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us ... and we beheld His glory' Jn 1:14.

Angela and I wish you a truly blessed Christmas which we will be celebrating with our family in South Africa this year. I will be on sabbatical as from the 28th November and back in the office on 3rd March 2020. Kath and the CLT will be at the helm over these next few months and we pray God's blessings on you all.

Yours in the Gospel.

Gavin

DORKING

A quiz in October raised £288 for the Centre and Christian Aid. Our Chaplain has run another course on Prayer. A Defibrillator has been purchased and awaits installation just outside the Centre. Once again there will be a Christmas lunch and all the trimmings, especially for those who might otherwise be on their own. Our busy work is maintained, especially with the endeavours of the Managers and volunteers. Do hold this work in your prayers, and visit us if you are in Dorking for refreshments.

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

EFFINGHAM

The new cross on the roof and a re-cut date plaque were fortunately finished in time for our 165th Chapel Anniversary and the visit of the new District Chair, Rev. David Hincliffe. We had a great service remembering our heritage and rededicating our building and ourselves to God's service and then we shared lunch together. A lovely day!

Tuesday teas, and **Connect** continue to thrive. Both events are run by a mix of helpers from our local churches and community who organise indoor events and outings throughout the year. Kim continues her monthly dementia friendly Services called **Precious Moments** which have proved so popular, particularly with those who attend **Connect**. They are of course followed by tea and cake as you would expect!

Churches Together organised an ABBA film evening for **Christian Aid** in October, raising £394.15 with Gift aid, for this very worthy cause. **Churches Together** provide funding for the **Bibles in Schools Scheme** which allows every pupil at our local primary school to have their own bible, which they can take with them to their secondary school.

There are now at least three **Posada** figures which will be visiting homes and schools around Effingham this Advent, to remind everyone about the real meaning of Christmas. **Messy Church's** kids will be getting an Advent calendar shortly.

Casting of key roles, and plans for this year's **Living Nativity** have begun. Together with families and children we'll be donning appropriate costumes for shepherds, magi and angels for a torchlight procession around the village with a tableaux telling the Christmas story; then on to the local pub for food, mulled wine and more carols!

At the Chapel, we're continuing to discuss life's thorny issues at **Oasis**, our monthly bible lunch. We look forward to joining our friends at Cobham United Church for the Advent Friday Bible Study. We now have new neighbours, who've just moved into the house next door, and already joining village events, so maybe we can welcome them to a service at the Chapel soon.

Ange and David

SOUTHWATER

SCC enjoyed an amazing Harvest celebration with visiting preacher, evangelist Mario Otero. Our annual fundraising for Tear Fund plus gifts on the day helped us surpass our annual target. Non perishable food gifts for the local Foodbank were received and we also gave food boxes to two local families. Lunch was a sumptuous buffet, a two course extravaganza almost entirely sourced from unwanted food donated by local supermarkets which enabled most of the ticket cost to go to Tear Fund!

We are now very much looking forward to hosting our Soul Space tent as part of the Village Christmas celebrations, giving away Fairtrade chocolate angels as prizes in the Angel Treasure Hunt, a motley collection of whom are being hidden in local shops and businesses! At Christmas we are running our first ever "Light up Southwater", a lantern making workshop followed by a procession of light and carols around the village Christmas tree - hopefully accompanied by a donkey and our Open the Book nativity themed characters!

Tina Andrews

LEATHERHEAD

We were delighted that South African Dave Cape accepted our invitation to join us for an evening service to talk about his prophetic call to walk along the 173 miles of the Pilgrim's Way across south eastern England to call the nation back to the Lord. Dave carried a cross and bowl, meeting many people on the way, and has done so in over 30 countries over 30 years. He says the cross walk in August and September was suggested to him by pastoral friends who drew his attention to the ancient pathway which was used by early Christian believers from 597 AD.

We were also delighted to welcome back Revd Ian Howarth for our Anniversary Service in October. Ian commented – "Lovely weekend going back to Leatherhead to preach and stay in our old Manse thanks to Jan & Angela Hofmeyr. Great to meet up with old friends to celebrate continuity and new life together."

We again opened the church this year for the Heritage Weekend, and visitors could see an interesting display about the church and its connections with John Wesley who preached his last sermon in the town.

Seven members from LMC attended a very interesting and informative seminar on "Transformational Leadership" at Central Hall in October. We heard from inspiring speakers, followed by seminars exploring the sort of leadership that cultivates "healthy and holy teams" and creates disciple-making environments.

Les Prescott

PARTRIDGE GREEN

When visiting our church, one can see our new porch windows, doors and pathway which now offers a safe entrance for all. Hopefully this will be completed in the next few weeks. In our front garden now stands a new Church Notice board, giving us a greater opportunity to inform the public of any future worship and activities.

We have recently enjoyed a very successful "Messy Church" morning, where over 20 children, along with their families participated in the subject "The armour of God". We all enjoyed singing, worship, activities, and our morning was completed with sharing lunch together.

We start our season of Advent by hosting our fund raising pre-Christmas Coffee morning on Saturday 23rd November at 10.30 am.

In December, we will welcome young , and on Saturday 14th December we will have our annual Carol Service at 3.00 pm, followed by refreshments in the hall. Everyone most welcome!

Alison James

LONDON ROAD, HORSHAM

In October our Discipleship Mission Team hosted a quiet morning entitled '**Crampons and Crevasses**' as we set aside time to stop, explore, Imagine, think and listen about what God might want to reveal to us during times of uncertainty, change and challenge and to ask 'How does God help us?'

This month, as we engage with the Conference report on human relationships in Church and our house groups, the Leadership Team have encouraged the Church to immerse the discussions in prayer and to that end we have been invited to join in a **Call to Prayer and Fasting** as, above all else, we listen carefully and in humility to one another and for God's voice in our conversations.

LPMC will again be hosting the Horsham Night Shelter on a Saturday evening, overnight and Sunday breakfast from 1 December to end March. Amongst the Horsham churches and other volunteers participating, this involves upwards of 200 people and we pray that sufficient people will again come forward to cover the various roles so that those most vulnerable living on our streets over winter may find a warm bed, food and hospitality.

Philip Reeves

ST ANDREWS

Having relaunched our Messy Church to a new time of 3 to 5 pm on the third Sunday of the month, we are delighted that 32 children from 13 families attended our first afternoon. We will therefore continue to have Messy Church on the 3rd Sunday of the month except for December when our Messy Christingle is on 1st December. Our harvest service was supported by our branch of the Boy's Brigade who had a parade. They had made the harvest loaf too. (It looked delicious, but of course was not edible). The food donations went to the Food Bank who were very grateful. We held a quiz on 23rd November, and at the time of writing were getting the publicity out. It was a success last year so hopefully it will be/was well attended this year.

Having gained a lot from following the 'Waterfall Journey', led by Angie Coombes, in the summer we are now looking at more material from the waterfall journey in our SALT or home groups. (If your church would like details of this course let us know.) We are continuing to focus on our spiritual journeys during Advent with '**Advent Food For Thought**' which will run through advent on Wednesdays at 12pm. It will involve an advent reflection with a soup lunch - all are welcome to join us after The Cafe @ St Andrews.

Our twice monthly **Take Time** meditations from January to Easter will be focusing on the Passion story - 2nd Sunday at 6pm and 4th Thursday at 10am, again, all are welcome to come.

Finally we are hosting a 'Remaining Faithful' Regional Gathering on Saturday 18th January from 10am-1pm. Do come and worship, hear Methodist Evangelicals Together vision for a way forward, listen to testimony from Sarah Sedgwick of Transformed Ministries, network, pray and share together.

May God bless us all. *Sue Randell*

COBHAM

Three months ago we expressed the hope that we should exchange contracts on the sale of the Cedar Road premises early in September. That was wildly optimistic. We have just reached that stage towards the end of October, and we hope that by the time you read this the sale will have been completed. (Sometimes Brexit has seemed simple by comparison!)

Meanwhile the life of Cobham United Church continues. There have been two successful monthly sessions of the Bereavement Café. Our Harvest Festival was followed by lunch together at which we heard a fascinating talk about Canine Partners, and we were joined by a stroke victim with his canine partner, who was able to describe how his partner helped him.

Looking forward, we shall have the usual busy Christmas with carol service, crib service, midnight service on Christmas Eve, and of course a Christmas Day service. Looking forward further we shall have a Covenant Service early in January, and a little later that month the RaRa Theatre Company will visit with a pantomime. Meetings with architects about building improvements will continue, and we have set up an active fund-raising group. The future looks bright in Cobham. *David Cappitt*

Malcolm Rothwell,
circuit superintendent (1999-03) has written another book. "Behind Enemy Lines". Available from Amazon or from Malcolm.

Leatherhead Pages

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



AllSaints Coffee Shop

Don't forget to visit AllSaints who are open **Mon-Sat 8am-3pm** serving up the best coffee around. You'll be supporting young people in the local community just by treating yourself to a delicious drink making everyone a winner!

AllSaints Coffee Shop, our social enterprise that employ young people as apprentices, turned 5 last month and we had a great time celebrating! Martin, the AllSaints Manager, spoke about everything they have achieved in the past 5 years and the many young people who have completed apprenticeships and been directly impacted by the work they do.

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 AllSaints Coffee Shop. Park in Trinity School.

**Next New Fire -
Sunday 26th January**

Time for Tea



COME for TEA and COMPANY

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

LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

Friday 6th December - "A Christmas Miscellany";

Friday 3rd January - "Japan" : Speaker Jo Koji;

Friday 7th February - "Going but Staying" - Joycey

EVERYONE WELCOME

(Suggested donation £1)

The Time for Tea team would be very grateful for any offers of help, especially with baking, setting up the room and transport. Please speak to Mary Pittam if you feel you are able to help in any way.



Men's Breakfasts



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

The next meeting is on **25th January**, at LMC. 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 Youth Project



We are delighted to announce that Jude Crome (pictured left) has stepped into the position of Interim CEO. Jude has worked in Leatherhead as a Youth Worker and Counsellor for over a decade and has been involved with LYP since its origins. She is fantastic at what she does and a brilliant leader to boot so congratulations to Jude!

Next Messy Church for Leatherhead:

Thursday 23rd January,
3.30pm to 5.30pm at:



Trinity School Christmas Fair

**Saturday 14th Decem-
ber 12noon to 2.00pm at
Leatherhead Trinity School**

The Friends of Leatherhead Trinity would be really grateful for any help with this - setting up, packing away, running a stall, tombola donations, face painting - just one hour would make a difference either before or during and help the church school raise much needed funds. Or you could just come along and spend some money! Contact:

friendsofleatherheadtrinity@gmail.com

The Ark Toddler Group



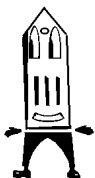
Every Friday
0930-1100
URC Church
Epsom Road
KT22 8ST

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



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





Leatherhead

Methodist Church

Weekly Prayer Meeting

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

Sunday Lunch on the First Sunday each month

On Sundays 1st December and 5th January, there will be a bring and share lunch after the service in the Manse. All are welcome to join us.

LMC House Groups

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



Monday evenings fortnightly: contact **Carol Stoves**

Friday mornings monthly: contact **Norma Shaw**

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

Everyone is encouraged to join a house group

LMC Family News



Our thoughts and prayers...

... are with Peggy Robinson and her family as, sadly, Harry died in early November.

We also remember ...

... Particularly at this special time of the year to include James and Jean Ross in our prayers, together with our members, families and friends. We think especially of any who mourn, those who may be lonely, any who are unwell at home or in hospital, those in residential or nursing care and the people who look after them each day.

Sunday 15th December Family Carol & Toy Service

This Family Carol Service at 10.30am will also be the annual Toy Service.

Please bring unwrapped children's gifts for placing under the Christmas Tree which will then be donated to B@titude. Gifts of money can also be given.





Christmas Angels and Stars

It is time to bring out those knitting needles again in time for Christmas. Help is needed in knitting angels, stars and baubles to be hung around Leatherhead and North Leatherhead. There are knitting patterns at the rear of the church. Happy knitting. Thank you, Norma.





Diary



December

- Sun 1st 10.30am Rev. Jan Hofmeyr- Holy Communion**
12.30pm Bring and Share Lunch at the Manse
- Tues 3rd 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry
- Fri 6th 2.30pm Time for Tea (*see page 27*)
- Sat 7th 10.00am Churches Together event in the
Town Centre
- Sun 8th 10.30am Christine Lawley**
4.00pm Christingle Service
at the Parish Church Hall
6.30pm Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion
- Tues 10th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry
- Sun 15th 10.30am Rev. Jan Hofmeyr -**
Family Carol & Toy Service (*see p 32*)
- Tues 17th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry
- Sun 22nd 10.30am Jay Dunning**
6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols with the Parish
Church and URC at Christ Church
- Tues 24th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry
- Wed 25th 10.00am Joint LMC/URC Christmas Day Service**
at Christ Church
- Sun 29th 10.30am Rev. Jan Hofmeyr -**
Joint LMC/URC Service at LMC
- Tues 31st 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry

January Diary is on the next page



Diary continued

January

Fri 3rd 2.30pm Time for Tea (*see page 27*)

Sun 5th 10.30am Rev. Jan Hofmeyr - Covenant Service with Holy Communion
12.30pm Bring & Share lunch at the Manse

Tues 7th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry

Sat 11th 6.30pm Quiz Night at LMC

Sun 12th 10.30am James Wild
6.30pm Rev Jan Hofmeyr with Holy Communion

Tues 14th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry

3.00pm Pastoral Visitors Quarterly Meeting

Sun 19th 10.30am Rev Jan Hofmeyr

Tues 21st 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry

Thur 23rd 3.30pm Messy Church to 5.30pm

Sat 25th 8.00am Men's Breakfast at LMC

Sun 26th 10.30am John Bees
6.30pm New Fire

Tues 28th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry

February

Sun 2nd 10.30am Rev Christine Millwood with Holy Communion
12.30pm Bring & Share Lunch in the Lower Hall

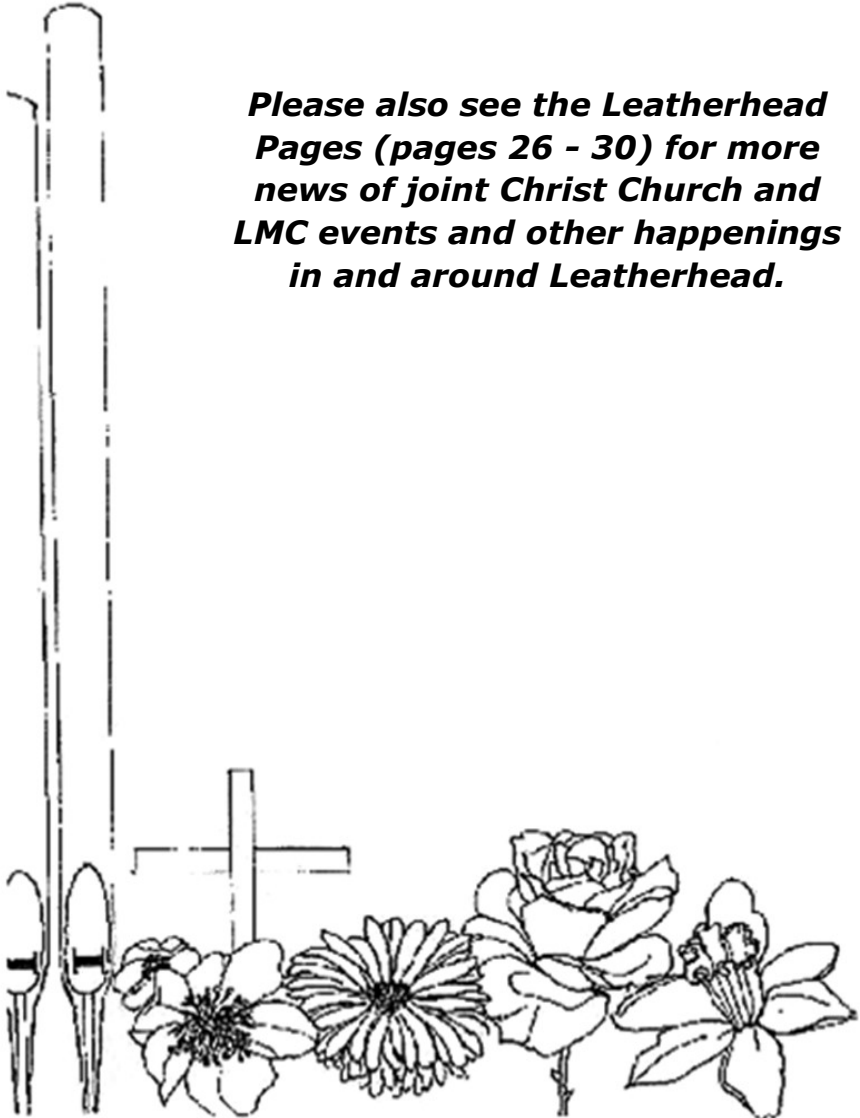
Tues 4th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry

Fri 7th 2.30pm Time for Tea (*see page 27*)

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

Please also see the Leatherhead Pages (pages 26 - 30) for more news of joint Christ Church and LMC events and other happenings in and around Leatherhead.



Christ Church Diary



December

- Sun 1st 10.30am Rev Robert Blows**
followed by a Church Meeting
- Mon 2nd 9.00am Music Exams Monday - Friday, 9 - 5.
- Sat 7th 12 noon CTiL event in town centre
- Sun 8th 10.30am Rev J Hofmeyr with Holy Communion**
- Wed 11th 7.30pm House Group, 3 Orchardleigh
- Sun 15th 10.30am Heather Ward: Gift Service**
- Sun 22nd 10.30am Rev J Hofmeyr: Carol Service**
6.30pm United Parish Service of 9 Lessons
and Carols at Christ Church
- Wed 25th 10.00am Joint URC/LMC Christmas Day**
Service at Christ Church
- Sun 29th 10.30am Joint Service at LMC**

January

- Sun 5th 10.30am Rev Stephen Thornton**
- Wed 8th 7.30pm House Group, 3 Orchardleigh
- Thur 9th 2.00pm Elders Meeting
- Sun 12th 10.30am Rev J Hofmeyr with Holy Communion**
- Sun 19th 10.30am Rev Bruce Stuart**
- Wed 22nd 7.30pm House Group, 3 Orchardleigh
- Sat 25th 8.00am Men's Breakfast at LMC
- Sun 26th 10.30am Rev J Hofmeyr**

February

- Sun 2nd 10.30am Rev Stephen Thornton**

Christ Church Family News



Mike Essex is making some progress and is generally feeling better day by day. We pray for his return to good health.

Congratulations and very best wishes to Helen Howard who celebrated her 90th birthday on 13th January. Keep up the line dancing!

We pray for these friends, and others in our church community with health problems. We remember the lonely and bereaved, especially those who find Christmas time difficult.

Warmest Christmas greetings to all, and a happy New Year in due course.

Anne Cairns

Who Knew?

Who saw the man and pregnant girl
Pressing through the crowded street
Struggling through the human swirl
On tired legs and aching feet?
Who knew?

Who, listening to an infant's cries
Hearing a birth, they thought it strange?
Expressed an int'rest, or surprise?
Who recognised that awesome change?
Who knew?

Who heard her cries, in labour's pain
Deep within a battered shed?
Who cared for their impoverished
shame
Who thought about her grassy bed?
Who knew?

Who saw the shepherds rush along
Through sleeping streets at dead of
night?
Who heard the angels' glorious song?
Or saw the star that shone so bright?
Who knew?

Who, fighting through the Christmas throngs
Or, settling down to watch TV
Eats Christmas food, sings Christmas songs
Who can the coming Saviour see?
Who knows?

By Nigel Beeton: Parish Pump

New Prayer Group

We have restored the weekly prayer group that we used to have at Christ Church. We meet at 9.30 am on Wednesdays in the Stage Room. This is the last room along the corridor in the church, past the vestry, kitchen, loos and the choir room, just before you reach the stairs down to the hall.

There are usually between four and six of us. One of us leads, with several prayers that they feel are appropriate. Then people can share their own prayers, aloud or in silence. Not everyone speaks up in this group, but we are all part of the group. The prayer meeting comes to a close at 10.00 and those of us who do not have to rush off, have a tea or a coffee and a chat.

Speaking personally, this has become part of my life, in the few weeks we have been meeting so far. It is a precious oasis in the week, when we come close to God, relax in his presence and share our thanks, our praise and our concerns with him. All are welcome, for a one-off visit or to come regularly. There will be a vacant chair for you!

Heather Ward



Pastorate Details

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

Leatherhead Methodist Church:

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

Christ Church (United Reformed):

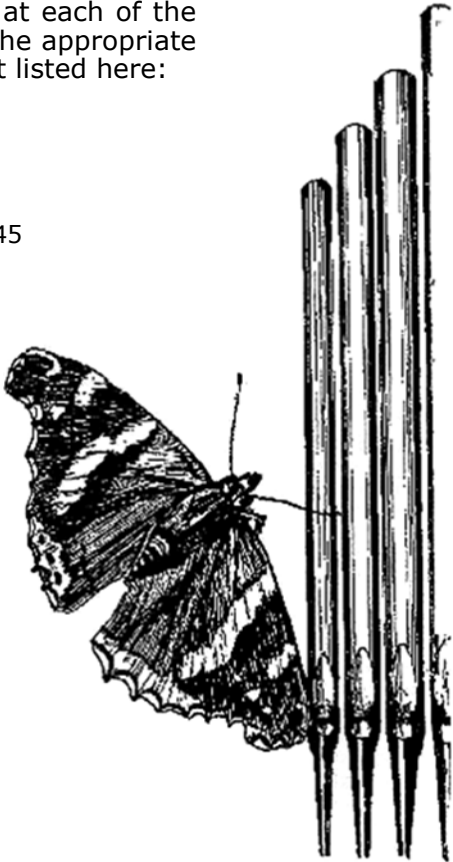
Epsom Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ST
www.chch.org.uk
Contact: Church Secretary -
Mike Essex 01372 273472

Effingham Methodist Church:

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

Cobham United Church:

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



United Pastorate Ministers

Rev Jan Hofmeyr

10 Church Road
Leatherhead
KT22 8AY

Tel: 01372 373154 (home)
01372 362145 (office)
Email: revjannie@gmail.com

Rev. Kim Plumpton

38 Stoke Road
Cobham
KT11 3BD

Tel: 01932 586988
E-mail:
kimp_822@hotmail.com