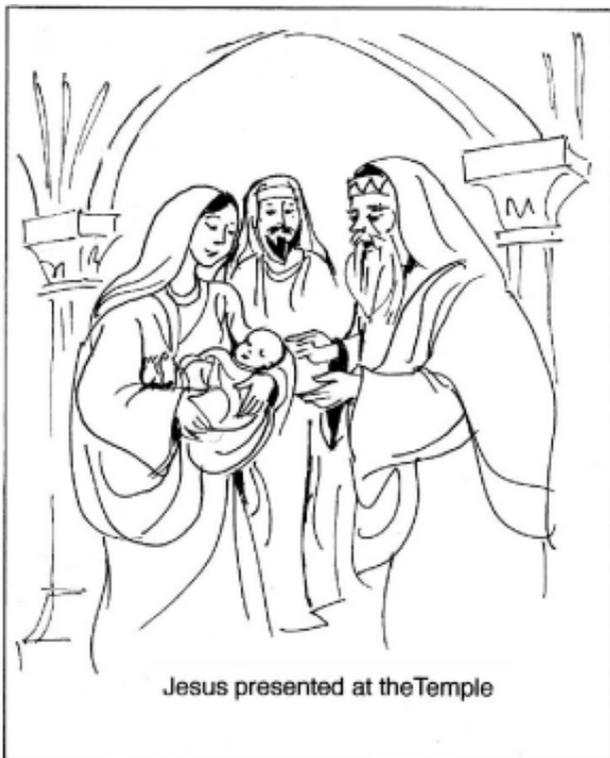


the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

February 2014



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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All copy for the March issue to the editor by 13th February



The Ministers Write...

From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

After falling foul of a dreaded virus when I returned to work after Christmas, I found myself in the position at times when my mind was willing but my body was paying no attention to the idea that I might do anything remotely energetic. On the worst days I found no comfort in afternoon television but found some solace in a rather comical advert. Of course, it's the time of the year when we are inundated with holiday companies trying to grab our attention and this particular one was no exception. It appears to show an ogre away on holiday with his family. His cumbersome body and distorted features suggests he can't interact with his family as well as he would like. Then over the subsequent days of his holiday the ogre begins to change, features of his body and face transform until eventually he doesn't look anything like an ogre but more like you or me. The delight on the family's faces by the end of the advert, as they launch onto a sun kissed beach, on a remote island somewhere in the Caribbean, is that you become more like your old self when you take time away from the stresses and strains of life to relax, otherwise you can become almost unrecognisable.

Of course rest and relaxation are important; scripture teaches us that a Sabbath day is important for our well-being. The advert got me thinking about the way in which God transforms and shapes us from the unrecognisable person we can become (because of life experiences), to the person God intends us to be. It's interesting, although a little scary, to think that God knows us better than we know ourselves. Unlike the advert, which focuses predominantly on rest and relaxation, the business of transformation takes far longer and is often far more subtle than the advert suggests, with God's work within us taking years rather than days. Rather than taking us away from it all, we are encouraged to find God amongst the world we live in, where we find God who meets us and sustains us in that very moment. That in itself is perhaps a huge challenge, for some would prefer not to be in the circumstances they find themselves in, and yet it is in the very heart of it all that God resides;

continued on the next page

it may not feel like it but God assures us constantly in scripture that he will not forsake us.

Transformation implies some kind of interaction too and it implies change and challenge. But there is no better place to be than in the arms of God who enables this transformation to begin, for there we shall find peace even amongst the most challenging circumstances. So rest, rest in God's word *"Don't you know that the LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth? He never grows faint or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. He gives power to those who are tired and worn out; he offers strength to the weak. Even youths will become exhausted, and young men will give up. But those who wait on the LORD will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint"*.

With every blessing,

Kim

From Rev. Lynda Russell

Dear Friends,

Why do January and February seem such dismal months? I really don't know why, but to me at least they often do. There seems to be so much bad news around. Even a cursory glance at the newspaper reveals discussions about spending and benefit cuts; reports on crimes: a story about a boy who stabbed another boy over a dispute about a hat! Terrible and shocking reports about child abuse – both here and in other countries. And of course stories about the weather such as the recent rain and floods, which don't seem to have abated yet: stories of devastation for many people whose houses have been ruined, and so on.

Then as I listen to people I meet often hear stories of sorrow and pain, and of sadness and illness, particularly at this time of year. The darkness in our season of winter with its long evenings and short days also affects people, (we even have a name for the syndrome – SAD), and can give us the impression that the darkness outside is inside as well.

So what can we make of all this? Where is God in all of this? Is there any good news? As Christians we answer with a resounding 'YES'. We believe that God is not only near, but right alongside us in all of these situations.

For example, Psalm 56 says *"You have counted all my groans; my tears are laid up in your bottle"* and Psalm 23 says *"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will not fear, for you are with me"*.

The light of the presence of Jesus is with us even in the darkest of situations, and this gives us hope that although the world may sometimes seem dark, God's kindness and love can be found in all the many places we as human beings have to walk into. If we look closer at the newspaper we can find stories of hope, human resilience and courage in the face of suffering and danger, but we can also find this out by talking and listening to each other, and sharing our life and faith stories. To visit someone and share stories together is one of the most affirming and life-giving things you can do for them.

I encourage you all to consider how to talk, listen, and share your stories with each other, perhaps even by visiting someone who might welcome somebody to talk to. Wherever we encourage each other, there the light of God's presence illuminates the gloom.

"Those who look to him are filled with light, their faces are no longer downcast. Tell out the greatness of the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." Ps 34

Every Blessing,

Lynda

News of Rev. Val Ogden

Val has been stationed as Director of Theological Education by Extension in Fiji. The role sounds as if it will have a pastoral element as well as academic, and will include responsibility for training ministers and local preachers across a number of islands. I am imagining Val paddling her canoe between tropical paradises!

She will be going out to Fiji this summer (2014) and is likely to be there for six years. She had been prepared to go wherever God and the Methodist Church wanted to send her so she seems perfectly happy with Fiji as a destination.

Rev. Paul Cockburn

the Link

Please note that the closing date for contributions to the March edition of the Link will be **Thursday 13th February** at the very latest.

Thank you to all those who contribute to the magazine, and I would encourage others to put pen to paper and let me have some words of wisdom! My contact details are on page 2.

This month, the Link has been printed by a company based at Merrow, near Guildford, who print the Effingham Churches Together Christmas Services card, and also print several other church magazines. Sadly, the social enterprise firm at Dorking we were using went into administration owing to fraud.

Editor



Women's World Day of Prayer (Cobham area) 11.00am, Friday 7th March

**at Cobham United Reformed Church
'Streams in the Desert'**

Our speaker this year will be Mr David Cappitt.
The Service will be held at Cobham URC, Stoke Road,
Cobham, starting at 11.00am followed by a light lunch of
soup, bread and cheese.

Please come and join us.



Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary - February



Sun	2nd	10.30am	John Oborn
Sat	8th	10.00am	Time 4 You (to 12 noon)
		2.30pm	Platinum Service
Sun	9th	10.30am	Angie Choat
Thurs	13th	10.00am	Church Council
Fri	14th	4.30pm	CYC at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Sun	16th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion
Sun	23rd	10.30am	Alex Cloke
Tues	25th	7.30pm	{Preachers and Worship Leaders' for 8pm
			{Meeting at Effingham
Thurs	27th	3.45pm	Messy Church at the URC (to 5.45pm)
		7.30pm	House Fellowship at the Manse
March			
Sun	2nd	10.30am	John Oborn
Fri	7th	11.00am	Women's World Day of Prayer at Cobham URC (<i>see opposite</i>)



Next "Time 4 You"
Saturday
8th February
10.00am - 12noon
Cobham Methodist Church



Cobham

United Reformed Church

Cobham URC Worship Diary - February



Sun	2nd	9.00am	Early Bird Service
		10.30am	Tom Zachariah
Sun	9th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Sun	16th	10.30am	Sydney Shore
Sun	23rd	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton
March			
Sun	2nd	10.30am	Rev. Derek Wensley
Sun	9th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion



Prayers at the Manse
at 9.30am on
Wednesdays: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th February

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

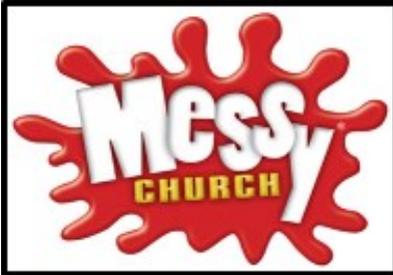
Date:

Thursday 27th February

Time: **3:45pm - 5:45pm**

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

All are welcome



Cobham URC Events - February

Sun	2nd	3.00pm	Special Needs Group (to 6.00pm)
Tues	4th	9.45am 7.30pm	Church Walk Elders' Meeting
Thurs	6th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
Sun	9th	Lunch	Pot Luck Lunch (after Service) with Speaker from Gideons
Tues	11th	11.00am	Coffee for Carers at the URC
Fri	14th	4.30pm	CYC meets at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Thurs	20th	8.00pm	Evening House Group
Tues	25th	11.00am	Coffee for Carers at the URC
Thurs	27th	3.45pm	Messy Church (to 5.45pm)
Fri	28th	3.00pm	T@3

March

Fri	7th	11.00am	Women's World Day of Prayer (<i>see p. 6</i>)
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Effingham

Methodist Church

Effingham Methodist Diary - February



Sat	1st	10.00am	{Café Church - St. Lawrence Church Hall to 11.00am { <i>see 'Saturday Morning Live' on page 12</i>
Sun	2nd	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Covenant Service
Tues	4th	2.30pm	Tuesday tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	5th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Sun	9th	10.00am	Clair Fisher
Wed	12th	3.30pm	Messy Church at St. Lawrence Church Hall (to 5.30pm) (<i>see opposite</i>)
Thurs	13th	12.15pm	Bible Study Group lunch with Kim in the hall
Sun	16th	10.00am	Beth Little
Tues	18th	2.30pm	Tuesday tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	19th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Sun	23rd	10.00am	Rhys Frost

March

Sat	1st	10.00am	{Café Church - St. Lawrence Church Hall to 11.00am { <i>see 'Saturday Morning Live on page 12</i>
Sun	2nd	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion
Fri	7th	10.30am	Women's World Day of Prayer (<i>see page 19</i>)

Prayer Group

Prayer meetings are held at the home of Freddie Jenkins every Friday at 9.15am.

**Churches Together in
Effingham & Little Bookham**



**has started and runs monthly. The
next one is on**

Wednesday 12th February

Venue: St Lawrence Church Hall

Time: 3:30-5:30pm

For further information please ring:

Annette on 07971 552139 or

Gill on 01372 457987

**If you would like to pre-register your child then please send for
further details by e-mailing Gill at gillianmwalker@gmail.com**



Dates to celebrate this month

No birthdays this month, but we'll celebrate with some cake or choccies! Especially on 14th which is **St Valentine's Day!**



Dates for your Diaries



If you're Spring cleaning we'd love to have any bric-a-brac for the Bring & Buy stall at our **World Mission Coffee Morning from 10.00am to 12 noon on 29th March** in aid of *World Missions and MAF.*

Saturday Morning Live



Come and sample some alternative worship, and enjoy coffee, croissants, & food for thought on **Saturday 1st February** from **10.00am - 11.00am** at St. Lawrence Church Hall in Brown's Lane. The topic is **Changing Attitudes to Gay People**, with speaker **Rev. Colin Coward** who is a priest who originally trained as an architect and then a psychotherapist, and ministered for 19 years in inner-city parishes in the *Diocese of Southwark*. Next month on **1st March** we hope to have a speaker from the **Bible Society**.

Churches Together welcomes “Messy Church” - A flavour of what it is!

Messy Church is a new venture for Churches Together which began on Wednesday 8th January at 3.30pm in the St. Lawrence Church Hall. Prompt it was too, with some children and their parent or carer queuing at the door to get in and be registered.

The theme was “The Creation” and craft tables reflected the theme: making bird feeders with cones and squishy lard and seed; seed heads with eyes that rolled; decorating delicious animal shaped biscuits; making tea light holders, and a really messy splatter paint creation of the universe. Singing and storytime about creation then ensued followed by a wonderful tea for the children, comprising baked beans and chipolata sausages with bread and butter and cake as well, all served by our efficient volunteer catering team. Parents and Carers also received a cup of tea and a biscuit.

All the volunteers nobly let themselves in for a busy, fun session, with the children helping them make the craft items ready to take home in the bag provided. This time we welcomed 14 children and their parent or carer. We can welcome even more next time!

Messy Church runs from 3.30pm to 5.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month and is for children up to 10 years of age. The next session will be on 12th February.

If any parents would like more information, please call Gill on 01372 457987 or Annette on 01372 457603.

Gill Walker



My Spare Room

During our time in the Ministry, Wallace and I put up a variety of people from time to time. I could write a book about them! From the transvestite, a scruffy looking man who, when dressed in his woman's clothes and with makeup looked a right little dolly bird! Then there was the curly haired Irishman who had been in care for most of his life for whom we found a job as a kitchen porter, and a room that went with it. He did well for several months until the temptation to resume his former life style grew too much for him, and he drew out all his money and disappeared. He was an inveterate gambler.



Since Wallace died, I have had to be a little more careful who I take in, so for the last two or three years I have put up a Fireman who is a trainee local preacher but now he is changing his job and won't be needing my spare room anymore when he is "on call". I don't want to let the room, but would be happy to have it used if anyone has a need for it. So if any readers of the Link hears of one or two people in need of temporary accommodation, and would not exhibit too much worrying behaviour, (like the girl arrested by the police, rushing round the town centre brandishing a knife), I would be happy to help them out, in memory of the One who had nowhere to lay his head.

Freddie Jenkins

Effingham pages continue on page 19

U.R.C. Southern Synod

Church and Society Newsletter

Winter 2014

In this issue

Don't talk about the war...

Slaves or immigrants?



The centenary of the start of the First World War will be an opportunity for the church to comment and take part in civic ceremonies and events throughout the country over the coming year and especially on August 4th when Great Britain declared war on Germany. The first shot fired by a British soldier in World War One came on August 22nd 1914 in the village of Casteau in Belgium.

But how should we respond?

As David Tatem writes in response to the subject being discussed at the Free Churches Group in April 2013, "The focus of the commemoration is not simply on the educational aspect for children ... it is essential that we approach the forthcoming period with great caution and rigorous theology."

Did the soldiers give their lives, lose their lives or have them taken away?



Some useful websites

Hope hopetogether.org.uk/greaterlove

CTE educationsunday.org.uk

History historylearningsite.co.uk

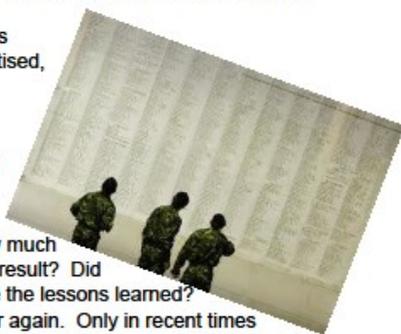
Iona iona.org.uk (but nothing yet)



Edith Cavell was a British nurse serving in Belgium and her hospital became a Red Cross station after the country was occupied. She treated the wounded from both sides because she could not afford to hate or judge those who came to her for help. She was executed for treason and her final words embodied Jesus' commands in the Sermon on the Mount "... standing as I do in view of God and Eternity, she said, "I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."

At the heart of many discussions that will take place will be the question of obedience. Those who fought in the First World War, and any combat situation before or since were required to obey orders, no matter what their personal feelings might be. Others who objected were stigmatised, branded as cowards and even imprisoned.

Is the theology of a Just War 'fit-for-purpose' and has it ever been? In a wave of patriotic fervour many thousands of young men signed up and took the 'King's shilling'. How much did they know about the carnage that would result? Did they return to a 'land-fit-for-heroes' and were the lessons learned? In just another 21 years the world was at war again. Only in recent times can we say that Europe has been at relative peace since N.A.T.O. and the European Union. What would happen if members returned to separate nation states?



We must remember but we should also reflect on the causes of conflict and the politics of war. When language is used to speak of collateral damage rather than dead innocent victims should we not challenge and deliver a prophetic voice in such circumstances? Let us not confine our reflections to just the period of the war but also apply our thinking to the present time.

The Church has got a little better at choosing what to bless and what not to bless. Even our civic services recognise the realities that people are maimed and injured and we now see amputees, paraplegics wheelchairs in the processions. The humanist's request to be represented at the Cenotaph has been considered and there is no doubt that many groups will want to mark this year's significant commemoration.

The Church will have opportunity to play a part and would want the chance to represent the community they serve. Many churches will receive requests from uniformed organisations and may wish to display items and artefacts from their own members.



Since Harry Patch (the last Tommy) died in 2008 we can say that WW1 has passed from living memory. Therefore we have the chance of honouring the dead by telling another story about the world's need for peace and reconciliation. As we collectively remember the tragic event of the last century let us pause to think of how it relates to our faith in Christ's death and resurrection.

Rochester Diocese have produced a helpful pdf entitled "Ideas to commemorate the centenary of world war 1" that might help with alternative ways of remembering.

The Quakers have produced a paper entitled "1914-2014 - How will we remember the First World War?" available through the Churches Together in England website.

It would be helpful to share insights and ideas among the church leaders as we reflect on this matter and I am happy to co-ordinate response. Please contact Peter Stevenson with material on revdpete@btinternet.com, or by phone 0207 708 0294 (office), 07972 790483 (mobile) or by mail at 16 Sutherland Sq., London SE17 3EQ





Some of you may be aware of the latest anti-trafficking legislation highlighted in December 2013 under headlines such as, "Theresa May's modern slavery bill will fail to provide protection to victims" *Guardian 20th December 2013 online*

In part the story of the South London sect that enslaved three women in a house in Lambeth has hastened the need for action. However there is a change to the domestic visa requirements that should alarm us all.

SLAVES OR IMMIGRANTS

On 6th April 2013 the UK Border Agency changed the rules for domestic immigrant as follows, "The 'domestic worker in a private household' category allows overseas employers to bring their domestic workers with them when they visit the UK for up to 6 months. To come here as a domestic worker, you must be an established member of your employer's staff - you must have worked for your employer for at least a year before you apply for a visa." This has resulted in workers being forced to work for their owners for no money and prevented from complaining for fear of being left in the country without recourse to funds and access to help.

The New Internationalist magazine tells the following story,

"An Indian national, Sara was bought to Britain from Kuwait on a domestic worker visa. Living in London, Sara was treated appallingly by her employers. She was not allowed to contact her family, was often locked in the house, not allowed out to go to church and expected to be constantly on call, looking after a small baby 24 hours a day.

Sara had no contacts in Britain, no money and her passport had been taken by her employers. During the five months that she had been working in Britain she had received no pay. Sara was on the original domestic worker visa, so entitled to change employers so long as she only worked as a domestic worker in a private household. However, her visa was soon to expire and if she was to be able to renew her visa it was vital that she was in full-time employment.

She managed to escape, with one week before her visa was due to expire, and secured a job. Sara was able to apply for a new visa and is currently working in Britain as a nanny for a family. She pays her taxes and sends money home to support her family.

Accessed 27/12/13 www.newint.org/

As is often the case, when injustice happens we have to decide whether we are able to respond. This story is just one on many that might move us to righteous indignation. The work of the Church and Society group is to bring things to the attention of the churches and then its up to you!





Prayers answered in Egypt

Egypt's Coptic Christians celebrated Christmas on 7th January and thankfully their festive celebrations passed off without incident – unlike 2011 when 24 people were killed by a car bomb. Government security was tight at St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral in Alexandria, and other high-profile churches, but congregations were larger than normal this year. In an interview with Catholic charity **Aid to the Church in Need**, a media representative for the *Coptic Catholic Bishops' Conference*, said: "There were no attacks [on churches] – no incidents at all. We do feel very encouraged. There was an atmosphere of stability and that is why this year was different. Even though there was a little bit of fear among the people, they were not outright afraid". There were some Christmas trees and carol singing in shopping centres and other venues – in marked contrast to the lack of Christmas symbols under the regime of President Mohammed Morsi, the Islamist leader who fell from office last summer.



**Women's
World Day of Prayer**
(Effingham area)
10.30am, Friday 7th March

at St. Mary's Church, Fetcham

"Streams in the Desert" is the theme of the service this year, which has been prepared by **Christian women of Egypt**, and reflects on the Christian role to be streams for those who experience spiritual drought.

God Ordained Encounter?

When I read the Rev. Kim Plumpton's account in the January 'Link' of her meetings with two ladies, one in a garden centre and one in the vestibule of her church and how they seemed to her to be God ordained encounters, I thought of two members of my large extended family.

My step-daughter Kathy and husband David were entering into a new phase of their lives. They live in a small village in Devon. David has his own business but decided to sell up and with the proceeds of the sale of the firm and premises and the house in which they lived, buy a larger house and have guests for bed and breakfast. The house had already been sold but on the day of the exchange of contracts on the business the prospective buyers pulled out. When David arrived home he and Kathy decided to go to the local pub for a meal and discuss what to do next. As soon as they arrived they were joined by a friend whose parents also lived in the village.



It transpired that they wanted a quick sale of their lovely thatched house; they had six applicants to see the following day and so Kathy arrived on their doorstep at 9.00 the next morning and knew at once that this was the house of their dreams. The following day, David received two large orders for his products so took the property off the market. Within six weeks they were installed in their lovely new home. Was this just a coincidence that they went to the pub for lunch that day and that they and their friend arrived at the same time, or did God have a hand in this? I know which scenario I like to believe.

Mary Brooks



Preparing for Easter in Effingham

Easter is later this year. **Ash Wednesday** is on **5th March** when the first of Effingham's fortnightly **Lent Lunches** will be held from 12.30pm to

2.00pm in **St. Lawrence's Church hall**.

This year's charity is the **Royal Association for Deaf People**. There will be a speaker from the local branch at Dorking who will explain how the charity can help people locally, discuss the need for deaf awareness and demonstrate some basic sign language.

Lent meetings are being organised by **Effingham and Little Bookham's Churches together** committee with speakers from each denomination and will be in **Our Lady of Sorrows** church hall, starting on 12th March at 7.30pm.

Look out for full details on posters later this month.



Education Sunday - 16th February Going above and beyond... Matthew 5.21-37

For more than 100 years, Education Sunday has been is a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone involved in the world of education in England and Wales (traditionally on the ninth Sunday before Easter).

As 2014 marks the centenary of the start of the first World War, there will be many events around the country, celebrations of heroism in the face of danger and national soul-searching about the justification for war. There will be visits to battlefields and cemeteries; a chance to learn about some of the people, perhaps even relatives who fought and died. At the heart of many discussions will be the question of obedience. Those who fought in WWI or any combat situation had and still have to obey orders, no matter what their personal feelings. Others who objected to war because of faith or conscience were stigmatised, branded as cowards, imprisoned or even shot.

**Resources are available on Methodist website's
Special Sundays.**

Leatherhead Pages

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

Tripod

Tripod are a group of friends from the local churches who come together to pray, once a term, for the children, staff and projects at Trinity School. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 5th February from 6.30pm - 7.15pm at Trinity. All are welcome. (If you are attending the Churches Together meeting at BFree at 7.30pm the same evening, why not come and join us first!)

To all at Christ Church and LMC: **Talent Auction at LMC**

Sunday 2nd March, after Morning Service.

Come along and support the event. Please offer your talent(s) for auction.

Suggestions:

- Baby sit/child mind
- Transport to airport
- Make a cake
- Give a guitar lesson
- Computer skills
- Sewing or knitting
- Gardening
- Walk the dog

These are just a few suggestions. There will be a lunch beforehand, more details to follow. **This is our big event in aid of our two outreach charities - Happy Child International and Age Concern (Mole Valley North).**

Norma and Ron Shaw

LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING MONTHS:

The meetings are held on the third Friday of each month, except as noted.

Location : The Letherhead Institute.

Time : 8.00pm. Coffee served from 7.30.

Admission : £2. Non-members are welcome.

21st February 2014 Lecture : "*Leith Hill Place*" by Gabrielle Gale.

21st March 2014 Annual General Meeting followed by a lecture.

11th April 2014 (*Note the date – NOT 18th April*) "Donald Campbell's Water Record" by Donald Stevens.



Men's Breakfasts (Doors open 8.00am)

22nd Feb: (10th Anniversary celebration) at the Catholic Church Hall (speaker: Fred Meynen)

22nd Mar: LMC (speaker: Neil Walker)

26th Apr: Christ Church (speaker tba)

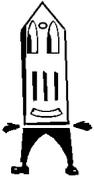
Cost £4. (Proceeds to speaker's nominated charity)



Next Messy Church:

Thursday 20th February
3.30pm to 5.30pm at





Leatherhead

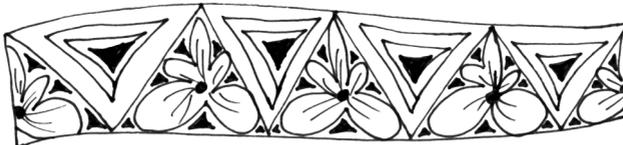
Methodist Church

LMC

Diary - February



Sun	2nd	10.30am	Rev. Lynda Russell with Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Pastoral Visitors Commissioning John Oborn
Wed	5th	6.30pm	Tripod (Prayer Group) at Trinity (to 7.15pm)
Fri	7th	2.30pm	Time for Tea (to 4.30pm)
Sun	9th	10.30am	Tina Andrews
		6.30pm	Rev. Lynda Russell with Holy Communion
Sun	16th	10.30am	Rev. Lynda Russell
		6.30pm	Rev. Paul Cockburn
Thurs	20th	3.30pm	Messy Church (to 5.30pm)
Sat	22nd	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at the Catholic Church Hall
Sun	23rd	10.30am	Martin Ellis
		6.30pm	New Fire
Tues	25th	7.30pm	Church Council
March			
Sun	2nd	10.30am	Rev. Lynda Russell - United Service - LMC/Christ Church at LMC
		6.30pm	followed by Talent Auction (<i>see page 22</i>) Martin Ellis
Fri	7th	2.30pm	Time for Tea (to 4.30pm)
		2.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer (<i>see opposite</i>)





Women's World Day of Prayer (Leatherhead area)

Date: Friday 7th March

Time: 2.30pm

**Place: Catholic Church of Our Lady and St. Peter,
Garlands Road, Leatherhead**

Speaker: Gillie Nicholls (Lay Franciscan)

Theme: 'Steams in the Desert'
(Prepared by Christian Women in Egypt)

A Service for All People
followed by refreshments and chat in the Church Hall

NB. This service does not focus on the horrific political situation in Egypt (see January Link) although it cannot be ignored, but on the healing value of water. In Egypt, the River Nile is the life source within the country. This point was particularly emphasised at the County Preparation Day at Woking last October.

Jean Plant

Wednesday House Fellowship

During the winter months the Wednesday House Fellowship will meet on a Friday morning. Everyone very welcome. For more information please contact Norma Shaw on 01372 274533 or email norma.shaw@talktalk.net

Monday House Group

The Monday House Group meets on alternate Mondays. Contact Carol Stoves 01372 377125 for details. Everyone very welcome.

St. Valentine, the Real Story

By David Kithcart

Flowers, candy, red hearts and romance. That's what Valentine's Day is all about, right? Well, maybe not.

The origin of this holiday for the expression of love really isn't romantic at all - at least not in the traditional sense. Father Frank O'Gara of Whitefriars Street Church in Dublin, Ireland, tells the real story of the man behind the holiday - St. Valentine.

"He was a Roman Priest at a time when there was an emperor called Claudias who persecuted the church at that particular time," Father O'Gara explains. "He also had an edict that prohibited the marriage of young people. This was based on the hypothesis that unmarried soldiers fought better than married soldiers because married soldiers might be afraid of what might happen to them or their wives or families if they died."

"I think we must bear in mind that it was a very permissive society in which Valentine lived," says Father O'Gara. "Polygamy would have been much more popular than just one woman and one man living together. And yet some of them seemed to be attracted to Christian faith. But obviously the church thought that marriage was very sacred between one man and one woman for their life and that it was to be encouraged. And so it immediately presented the problem to the Christian Church of what to do about this."

"The idea of encouraging them to marry within the Christian Church was what Valentine was about. And he secretly married them because of the edict."

Valentine was eventually caught, imprisoned and tortured for performing marriage ceremonies against the command of Emperor Claudius the second. There are legends surrounding Valentine's actions while in prison.

"One of the men who was to judge him in line with the Roman law at the time was a man called Asterius, whose daughter was blind. He was supposed to have prayed with and healed the young girl with such astonishing effect that Asterius himself became Christian as a result."

In the year 269 AD, Valentine was sentenced to a three part execution of a beating, stoning, and finally decapitation all because of his stand for Christian marriage. The story goes that the last words he wrote were in a note to Asterius' daughter. He inspired today's romantic missives by signing it, "from your Valentine."

"What Valentine means to me as a priest," explains Father O'Gara, "is that there comes a time where you have to lay your life upon the line for what you believe. And with the power of the Holy Spirit we can do that - even to the point of death."

This article comes from the website of the Christian Broadcasting Network and is used by permission. The rest of the article may be found at http://www.cbn.com/spirituallife/churchandministry/churchhistory/st_valentine_the_real_story.aspx.

Our thanks to Bob Greenfield for arranging for this article to be published in the Link. Editor



Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead



Christ Church Diary - February



Sun	2nd	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Robert Blows Evening Service at LMC - John Oborn
Wed	5th	6.30pm	Tripod (Prayer Group) at Trinity (to 7.15pm)
Fri	7th	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC
Sun	9th	10.30am 12 noon 6.30pm	Rev. Lynda Russell Church Meeting (provisional) Communion Service at LMC - Rev Lynda Russell
Sun	16th	10.30am 11.00am 6.30pm	Rev. Barbara Pearson - Holy Communion Hospital Service Evening Service at LMC - Rev. Paul Cockburn
Tues	18th	7.45pm	Elders' Meeting
Thurs	20th	3.30pm	Messy Church at LMC (to 5.30pm)
Sat	22nd	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at the Catholic Church Hall
Sun	23rd	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Lynda Russell New Fire Ecumenical Service at LMC
March			
Sun	2nd	10.30am 6.30pm	Joint Service at LMC - Rev. Lynda Russell followed by Talent Auction at LMC (<i>see p 22</i>) Evening Service at LMC - Martin Ellis
Tues	4th	7.30pm	Synod Area Meeting Crawley
Fri	7th	2.30pm 2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC (to 4.30pm) Women's World Day of Prayer (<i>see page 25</i>)



Christ Church Family News



Congratulations and very best wishes to Florence Gower who celebrated her 90th birthday on 15th January. She was visited by our Minister and several friends, and given flowers on behalf of the church. We are sorry that she is so unwell at the moment.

We remember in our prayers all friends who have been bereaved and those who are ill or lonely.

Anne Cairns



Nearly £1000 - thanks to you!

You may remember that Sheila Hill of St. Mary's Fair Traders, at St. Mary's, Fetcham, supplies us with the goods we sell on our Traidcraft stall each month. Sheila has just finalised the accounts for 2013 and has provided details of the contribution Christ Church members have made. Our Christmas orders came to £330.35 and the monthly stalls through the year have brought in another £654.35, making a total of £984.70.



Sheila goes on to say: "This is a wonderful effort towards relieving the poverty through trade in developing countries. I am very grateful for what the congregation at Christ Church do for Fair Trade and I want to thank you on behalf of all the producers you have helped in buying Fair Trade goods this year."

Altogether, the Christmas orders from three churches - Christ Church, St Mary's, and Effingham Methodist Church - have come to just over £1,000. The sales from the regular monthly stalls at St Mary's and Christ Church mean that I gradually accumulate a "profit" from the discount I receive from Traidcraft by buying in bulk. I shall be able to send a cheque for £400 to Traidcraft Exchange this year; this is their charity which finances all the work they do with producers in the third world."

We would like to add our special thanks to all our customers at Christ Church - keep up the good work this year!

Jill and Richard Osmond



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

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:

www.leatherheadmethodist.org
Contact: Senior Steward -
Sue Friend 01372 813464

**Christ Church (United Reformed)
Leatherhead:**

www.chch.org.uk
Contact: Local Church Leader -
Mike Essex 01372 273472

Effingham Methodist Church:

www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk
Contact: Senior Steward -
Dave Putland 01372 454850

Cobham United Reformed Church:

www.cobhamurc.org.uk
Contact: Church Secretary -
Mary Langtry 01483 282421

Cobham Methodist Church:

www.cobhammethodistchurch.com
Contact: Senior Steward -
Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



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