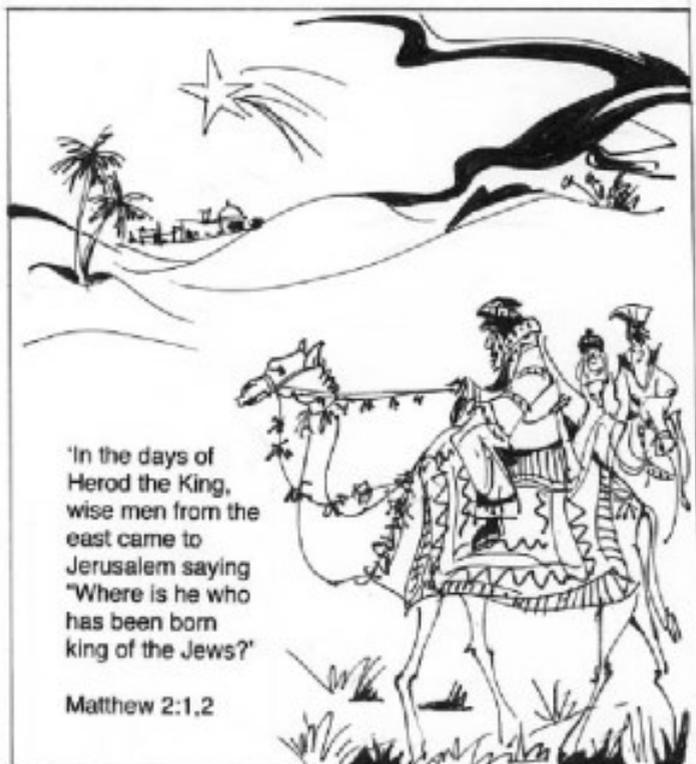


the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

January 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 February issue to the editor by 15th January



The Ministers Write...

From Rev. Lynda Russell

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to you all!

I hope that your Christmas had something of the peace of Christ at the heart of it, and that within the celebrations you found time and opportunity to reflect on the meaning of God's love in Jesus given for you.

At the start of this New Year our thoughts often turn to new beginnings, especially if the year we have left behind has been difficult for us for any reason. Many people will have experienced hardship, pain and sorrow during the past year through different kinds of loss.

There are many kinds of difficulties which can strike at the heart of our sense of identity and shake us to the core of our being. Maybe the past year has been such a year for you or someone you know and love. Perhaps you are thanking God that 2013 is over and hoping and praying for a better year in 2014. We can join together in those prayers. Or maybe it is just the opposite for you – the past year has been so good you are sad it's over.

Whatever your experience has been of the past year, as we stand at the beginning of a new year we cannot help but feel the challenge and opportunities that a new year offers us.

Here at LMC and Christ Church, we stand at the beginning of an exciting time to come, as we begin to reflect on the newly received report from our architects, and to ask ourselves what our mission plan should be over the coming years, and where and how we will join together. *[See the report summary on pages 15 and 16, Ed.]*

As we all move forward into this new year, we do so in faith that Jesus goes ahead of us to prepare the way and walks alongside us as we journey onwards. It is because we can know and trust in the love of Jesus and his presence with us that we can face these challenges and grasp those opportunities.

Every Blessing for 2014.

Lynda

From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

While we were dressing the Church ready for Christmas, I darted off to Squires, a garden centre just off the Stoke Road, to see if I could get some soft white lights to match those already in the Church. Of course the garden centre stock was a little limited, and it became apparent that the lights I had hoped to come back with were not available. As I double-checked the shelves, a lady joined me as she too was looking for lights. It wasn't long before we were enjoying a conversation about lights, Christmas, Church and family. In what seemed like about 15 minutes, we shared our experiences, not on a superficial level but quite deeply, and I was blessed by her openness, her honesty and her warmth. Interestingly I hadn't gone in with my clerical collar on, which can of course work two ways. Some people will open up more and others will do anything to avoid you. But by the time we came to the end of the conversation she wanted the details of the Churches in the pastorate. Funnily enough even though I returned to the Church empty handed, I wasn't disappointed but felt uplifted and grateful for what seemed like a God ordained encounter with this lovely lady at Squires.

After being back at the Church for about twenty minutes another lady appeared in the vestibule. This time a conversation was almost impossible as she was Mexican and spoke very little English. Amazingly only the night before, at a small party at Rhonda's, I met a lady who was also Mexican (who would believe it!) and I knew that if I contacted her she would be able to communicate with this lady. After some hasty phone calls we managed to begin a telephone conversation, as I asked questions and it was translated into Spanish and vice versa. We began to learn a little bit more about one another. I was delighted when she returned the following day at the Carol Service where she received a very warm welcome, even being invited to share Christmas dinner with a Church family. It felt to me by the end of that Saturday morning that God had been very much present in these encounters, knitting together all the pieces without me even being remotely aware of it.

As we begin this new year 2014 we look to new beginnings as we always do, but Christ comes into the world so that every day might be precious, regardless of the timeline we have created for ourselves. It seems to me that the encounters I have mentioned above are great examples of God working in the ordinary to create something extraordinary. So don't look too far ahead or you might miss something wonderful today. God is always working.

May God bless you this day and every day in 2014.

Kim & Colin and family



Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary - January



Sun	5th	10.30am	Rhys Frost
Sat	11th	10.00am	Time 4 You (to 12 noon)
		2.30pm	Platinum Service
Sun	12th	10.30am	Beth Little
Tues	14th	7.30pm	CMC/CCC leaders meet at The Bear
Fri	17th	4.30pm	CYC at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Sun	19th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Covenant Service
		4.00pm	Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity led by CCC at CMC
Thurs	23rd	3.45pm	Messy Church at the URC (to 5.45pm)
		7.30pm	House Fellowship at the Manse
Sun	26th	10.30am	Rev. Frank Smith
Fri	31st	4.30pm	CYC at the URC (to 6.30pm)
February			
Sun	2nd	10.30am	John Oborn



Next "Time 4 You"

Saturday

11th January

10.00am - 12noon

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 - January



Sun	5th	9.00am	Early Bird Service
		10.30am	Thelma Roberts
Sun	12th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Sun	19th	10.30am	Rev. Roy Bones
Sun	26th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton
		12 noon	Church Meeting
February			
Sun	2nd	10.30am	Rev. Iain Stewart
Sun	9th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion



Prayers at the Manse
at 9.30am on
Wednesdays: 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th January

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

Date:



Thursday 23rd January

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

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

All are welcome

Cobham URC Events - January

Sun	5th	3.00pm	Special Needs Group (to 6.00pm)
Tues	7th	9.45am 7.30pm	Church Walk Elders' Meeting
Thurs	9th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
Fri	17th	4.30pm	CYC meets at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Thurs	23rd	3.45pm 8.00pm	Messy Church (to 5.45pm) Evening Housegroup
Fri	24th	3.00pm	T@3
Fri	31st	4.30pm	CYC meets at the URC (to 6.30pm)



Effingham

Methodist Church

Effingham Methodist Diary - January



Sat	4th	10.00am	Café Church at the KGV Hall (to 11.00am)
Sun	5th	10.00am	David Cappitt
Tues	7th	2.30pm	Tuesday tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	8th	3.30pm	Messy Church at St. Lawrence Church Hall (to 5.30pm) (<i>see opposite</i>)
		8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Thurs	9th	2.15pm	Bible Study Group meet with Kim in the hall
Sun	12th	10.00am	Robert Pitt
Sun	19th	10.00am	Rev. Paul Cockburn with Holy Communion
Tues	21st	2.30pm	Tuesday tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	22nd	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Sun	26th	10.30am	Tina Andrews
Tues	28th	10.00am	Church Council with Rev. Kim Plumpton
February			
Sat	1st	10.00am	Café Church at the KGV Hall (to 11.00am)
Sun	2nd	10.00am	Covenant Service with Rev. Kim Plumpton

Prayer Group

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

**Churches Together in
Effingham & Little Bookham**



**is starting monthly beginning
Wednesday 8th January**

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

Happy Birthday to **Philip Bearden** on 4th
and **Charles Dawson** on 29th



Dates for your Diaries



Saturday Morning Live. Come and sample coffee & croissants and alternative worship from **10.00am to 11.00am** at **St Lawrence Hall** on **Saturday 4th January** when we'll be discussing **Hopes and Dreams for 2014** and on **1st February** we have invited a speaker to talk on **changing attitudes to gay people.**

Effingham's Church Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 28th from 10.00am to 12 noon** - Everyone is welcome although only Church members have a vote, but please try to come. Items for the agenda should be sent/given to **Gill Walker**, our Secretary asap.





Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 7th March An important date for your diary

"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. Our local service will be held on **Friday 7th March at St. Mary's, Fetcham at 10.30am**

Originally written at a time of hope, just after the "Arab Spring", sadly the current political situation means that Egypt remains locked in a protracted process of political transition, deeply divided between Islamist and secular groups, while the military remains the country's chief political broker and decision-maker. Uncertainty and anxiety over the future have generated ongoing political protest, strikes, deep mistrust between Islamist and secular parties, and Muslim-Christian tension and violence. The military has installed an interim government that will lead the process of drafting a new constitution and preparing for fresh elections, which are expected in early 2014, but the situation is highly unpredictable.

Political change affects individual lives and we should all pray with the women of Egypt for peace in their country and throughout the Middle East, where women are being repressed. Just this week a Kuwaiti woman was arrested in Saudi Arabia for driving her diabetic father to hospital. Kuwaiti women are free to drive in their country and enjoy far more rights than those in Saudi Arabia, where women are not allowed to drive, travel abroad, open a bank account or work without permission from a male relative.

Here in the UK respected journalist Yasmin Alibhai-Brown has condemned a recent decision by universities to publish guidelines on gender segregation and sexist dress codes for lectures and meetings as "Shameful concessions to religious bigots".

God please help inter-faith groups to work for the good of all communities.

Angela Putland

Our New Year Resolutions?

As part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, from 18th to 25th January this year, **Churches together in Britain and Ireland** are highlighting some **Go and Do action points**, inspired by the United Nations' Eight Millennium Goals. (<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/CGEAA/659>).

These goals also link into Poverty & Homelessness Action Week which takes place at the end of January every year, and it includes two Sundays which have been marked for many years by UK Churches - Homelessness Sunday and Poverty Action Sunday.

Action Week 2014: Standing alongside people in crisis

“Speak up for the rights of all who are destitute”. There are people who are destitute in today’s Britain. The phenomenal growth of foodbanks has happened because thousands of people have recognised something needs to be in place to fill gaps left by our creaking benefits system. Without them, families are starving. Low wages, zero-hours contracts, outrageous interest charges by doorstep lenders, benefits cuts, benefits delays, ‘sanctions’ on job-seekers – all these and more contribute to a Britain where many are locked out of what the rest take for granted.

And there are plenty who are not destitute, but teetering on the edge. “Just two pay-packets away from homelessness” is how many feel.

So from Homelessness Sunday on 26th January to Poverty Action Sunday on 2nd February, we call on Churches across the UK to stand alongside people in crisis; to give, act and pray for justice.

See <http://actionweek.org.uk/home.html> for resources.



Are you interested in Methodist History?



Effingham Chapel is celebrating its 160th anniversary this year, but the Effingham Methodist Society began ten years earlier in 1844.

This is also when the Dorking & Horsham Circuit was first formed.

Could YOU help discover Methodist roots in this area?

Effingham have been taking part in the Heritage Open Days weekend in September since 2009. Leatherhead and Dorking have been involved for many more years, but the Horsham area doesn't have support from the local council. **Could we do something together for 2014 to celebrate our 170th Circuit Anniversary?**

An interesting article written by **Rev. John Telford** for the **Methodist Recorder** in 1903 says that the Effingham congregation originally met on the common, where they were occasionally pelted with stones and rotten vegetables by local "ruffians". This seems to be the spark that led **Rev. Aaron Langley** to seek permission to worship in a local house, the home of **Mrs. Mary Cook**.

Several Churches in our Circuit have written histories/guide-books about their Churches and I would like to form a working party to research our early history for an exhibition for each Church during **Heritage Open Days weekend from 11th to 14th September 2014**.

See the **Methodist Heritage** website and its sister websites **My Wesleyan Methodists** and **My Primitive Methodists**, for some fascinating insights into the importance of genealogy as a

The **Methodist Church** 

Tuesday Teas - Christmas Luncheon

On Wednesday 12th December, 19 members of the Tuesday Tea Group plus helpers attended our annual Christmas Luncheon held in the hall belonging to Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Effingham. The hall looked very festive with a beautifully laid table. Guests were greeted with sherry or soft drinks and nibbles, before sitting down to a delicious meal followed by a variety of sweets. We were entertained by singer Dennis accompanied by Barry on guitar. They performed a selection of well known songs from the 50's, 60's and 70's and some favourite Christmas songs and carols. After much applause and a vote of thanks and a gift from our organiser Gill Walker, we were served tea and mince pies.

Our first meeting after Christmas will be on Tuesday 7th January, 2014 from 2.30pm to 4.00pm. We meet on alternate Tuesdays from this date. Any older person living in the villages of Effingham or Bookham is very welcome to come along and join us. There are always drivers willing to transport those who are unable to walk to the hall. We have speakers and entertainment, and in the summer months we have a couple of outings.

If anyone is interested, please contact Gill Walker - 01372 457987.

Mary Brooks



Leatherhead Pages

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



CPL Chartered Architects

December 2013

CHRIST CHURCH URC AND LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCHES Summary of Options Study Presentation

The Options Study was first presented on 12th December 2013 and is very briefly summarised as follows:

Early sections set out the demographics in order to provide a statistical background not just for the immediate South Leatherhead Ward, but also to the surrounding areas from which the two Churches draw their congregations and provides a valuable framework when assessing future ministry options.

It also set out the constraints likely to be applied to any development proposals and analyses the planning framework in some detail. The Methodist Church is located within the Town Centre Conservation Area and consequently will be subject to even more controls and demolition would not be permitted.

The brief is clearly set out, together with the results of the briefing meetings with individuals.

It also highlights denominational issues and addresses the levy on any sale of land or buildings which will be applied and encourages early consultation to be made with the relevant bodies.

All of the available sites were identified and eliminated for various reasons apart from the long term strategy for the Barnett Wood Lane allotments which it addresses in detail.

Continued on the next page

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The report suggests detailed possibilities for both the Christ Church URC and Leatherhead Methodist Church sites with a number of options proposed. For the URC site, it highlights the land value occupied by the two tennis courts which cover approximately 16% of the total site and questions the future of the present manse.

It shows how redevelopment options for 3-bed semi detached and terraced properties could provide enabling funding for two different proposals, both of which would bring the Church building closer to Epsom Road and reduce the existing linear form of the Church, providing accommodation more fitting for its purpose which is open and accessible to all. One solution of which involves a new worship space with a two storey conversion of the existing Church and the other a completely new building solution.

It also addresses the Methodist Church site and shows how, with relatively modest extensions within the constraints of the Conservation Area, the building could be better adapted to fulfil the brief and suggested that if the existing manse were to be demolished, parking for a minimum of 18 cars could be accommodated on the site some of which on reinforced grass which could then double as a secure play area.

It analyses the likely income and expenditure on a comparative basis while noting the likely levies to be applied by the Holding Trustees to any income received and made suggestions where any surplus could be applied to invest in new ministries in the more needy north Leatherhead Ward or the possibility of acquiring a town centre shop for a drop-in, coffee or third world/ Fair Trade shop.

Finally it shows a series of steps with any consequent costs in order to move forward, once a decision has been made on the kind of solution proposed. It also leaves the door open for the evaluation of any future sites which may become available which would be carried out as a continuing part of the study within the overall costs agreed.



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.

-
- 17th January 2014** Lecture : *“Surrey History, 1760-1832 ; The Manning and Bray Bicentenary”* by Julian Pooley from the Surrey History Centre.
- 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.)

25th January at the Anglican Parish Hall

22nd February at the Catholic Church Hall

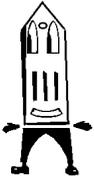
Cost £4. (Proceeds to speaker’s nominated charity).



Next Messy Church:

Thursday 16th January
3.30pm to 5.30pm at





Leatherhead

Methodist Church

LMC

Diary - January



Fri	3rd	2.30pm	Time for Tea (to 4.30pm)
Sun	5th	10.30am	Joint Covenant Service, LMC/URC at LMC - Rev. Lynda Russell
		6.30pm	Rev. Paul Cockburn
Thurs	9th	7.30pm	Church Meeting
Sun	12th	10.30am	Jay Dunning
		6.30pm	Rev. Lynda Russell with Holy Communion
Thurs	16th	3.30pm	Messy Church (to 5.30pm)
Sun	19th	10.30am	Rev. Lynda Russell
		6.30pm	Rhys Frost
Thurs	21st	7.30pm	Leadership Team in the Lower Hall
Sat	25th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at the Anglican Parish Hall
Sun	26th	10.30am	Joint Service at Christ Church - Rev. Nicola Furley-Smith (Moderator, URC Southern Synod)
		6.30pm	New Fire
February			
Sun	2nd	10.30am	Rev. Lynda Russell with Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Pastoral Visitors Commissioning
			John Oborn
Fri	7th	2.30pm	Time for Tea (to 4.30pm)



 His name is Jesus

Resolutions

Do you make New Year Resolutions? I don't. For one thing, I would forget by the end of the first week what they were or, if I wrote them down, where was the list to remind me? The dictionary definition of 'resolution' - a noun I am reminded - is



'a firm decision to do or not to do something'. To me, that is part of day to day life, telling myself I must do or not do a particular job. Give up chocolate or biscuits or cake? No, I don't eat them in excess to begin with, so it would achieve nothing. Perhaps I should give up reading so much, or writing. Both of those would be a tremendous sacrifice! It would achieve nothing, though. It would just mean that

friends would receive no letters, especially those sent each month with the Link, and there would be a space going spare in the magazine that I would normally fill.

I suppose my reading time could be spent doing more around the house, such as re-cleaning clean windows, an extra polish to already polished furniture, or iron the tea-towels. (Whatever for, I ask? Nobody would notice, nor would they dry any more efficiently. One wipe and they are screwed up!)

No, my resolution is to make none, then I cannot feel guilty breaking them! About that I am resolute, which my faithful, overworked dictionary says is being admirably purposeful, determined and unwavering.

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.

What did Jesus mean when He instructed us hate our father and mother (Luke 14:26)?

Answer: First, we must take this verse in the context of the chapter. Jesus is teaching His disciples, and like any good teacher, He begins with a truth statement that is hard to understand in order to get His students thinking. Then, He clarifies the difficult truth statement with a metaphor. The truth statement is the confusing verse 26, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters - yes, even his own life - he cannot be my disciple." So, if we don't hate our family and our own lives, we can't be His disciple. But does He mean we are to have real hatred for our parents?

Next, Jesus relates a metaphor about a man who builds a house without counting the cost and finds that he cannot follow through with what he set out to do. He leaves the house unfinished because he cannot pay what is required. Jesus is showing us the explanation to His difficult statement - that we must count the cost of discipleship. This is the point of the passage. In order to be a disciple, we must be willing to give up everything for Jesus.

Therefore, if our parents will not follow Jesus, or even if they disown us for being Christians, we must still choose Him over them. It is in this sense that we are "hating" our family members who reject the Lord or reject us because of the Lord. This is not easy, and of course it is right that we should love our family members and want our family members to love and follow God. After all, *1 John 4:7-8* says "Beloved, let us love one another for love is from God and everyone that loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God for God is love." And that is only one of many passages commanding us to love others. But despite our love for the people we know, here is the key: if they don't love Jesus, He must still be our first priority. We must esteem Him more highly than the people we love here on earth and we must love Him more than our own lives. In fact, we must love Him so much that our earthly loves pale in comparison, even to the point of seeming like hate.

Second, let's take it in context of other places in the Bible. *Matthew 19:29* says, "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life."

So, here is the promise: God has required total commitment from His followers, to the point of heart-breaking separation from any natural family members who reject Jesus, but in heaven we will have a hundred times what we lost - an entire family of believers who love Christ and who love us! Even the material things that we had forsaken in order to follow Him will be given back to us in a form a hundred times better than what we lost! So, He is a good God, after all, and, no, He does not want us to literally hate (viciously despise or wish harm to) the members of our family. All we are required to do is choose Jesus over them even if they force us to do so by rejecting Him.

Jesus may have chosen the word "hate" to show us that this is how a mother or father will perceive the actions of a child who chooses the Lord above them. They will see it as disloyal, especially if we try to witness to them. The love of a Christian for a non-Christian is almost always seen as hatred, intolerance, bigotry, etc. But we must be okay with being seen as "hating." After all, our unbelieving relatives are part of the world, and Jesus said, ""If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first" (John 15:18)

This article comes from the website www.gotquestions.org.

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



LMC Leadership Team

Principal points arising from the last meeting on 26th November:

Finance: LMC has received £18,000 from the estate of Marjorie Maynard.

Pastoral: Enid was in hospital following a fall. Others that need our prayers are Jeane Warren, Alan Thorpe, Dot Marlow and Ron Platt.

Property: Colin Plumpton has been granted free use of the lower hall for an hour or so on a Friday evening in order to run a meditative group for people from Pitstop, subject to safeguards.

Tower guttering work: Rubbish and rubble have been cleaned from the gutters and they have been repaired, cleaned and sealed with weather-proof sealer. The walls below now need to dry out before redecoration can begin.

Car Park Lines: The lines will be repainted with specialist line spray paint in the spring when the ground is dry.

Parking in front of Lynda's garage: Owing to car parking problems, the Circuit will be asked to install a lockable post in the ground in front of the Manse garage.

CPL Report: The CPL presentation which was cancelled by CPL unexpectedly has been rearranged for 12th December at 7.30pm at the URC Church Hall.

Lent Group arrangements: Linda Hauxwell is not available to organise the Lent groups this year. A volunteer to take her place is being sought.

Fair Trade: Since Barbara left we have no one to run our Fair Trade stall. We will read a notice in Church to see if anyone comes forward. Lent begins on 16th March next year.

Stewards: Sue and Carol agreed to continue next year as Stewards. Sue will finish as Senior Steward at the end of April 2014. Harry will step down as Steward next April. We now need to find another Steward and appoint the Senior Steward.

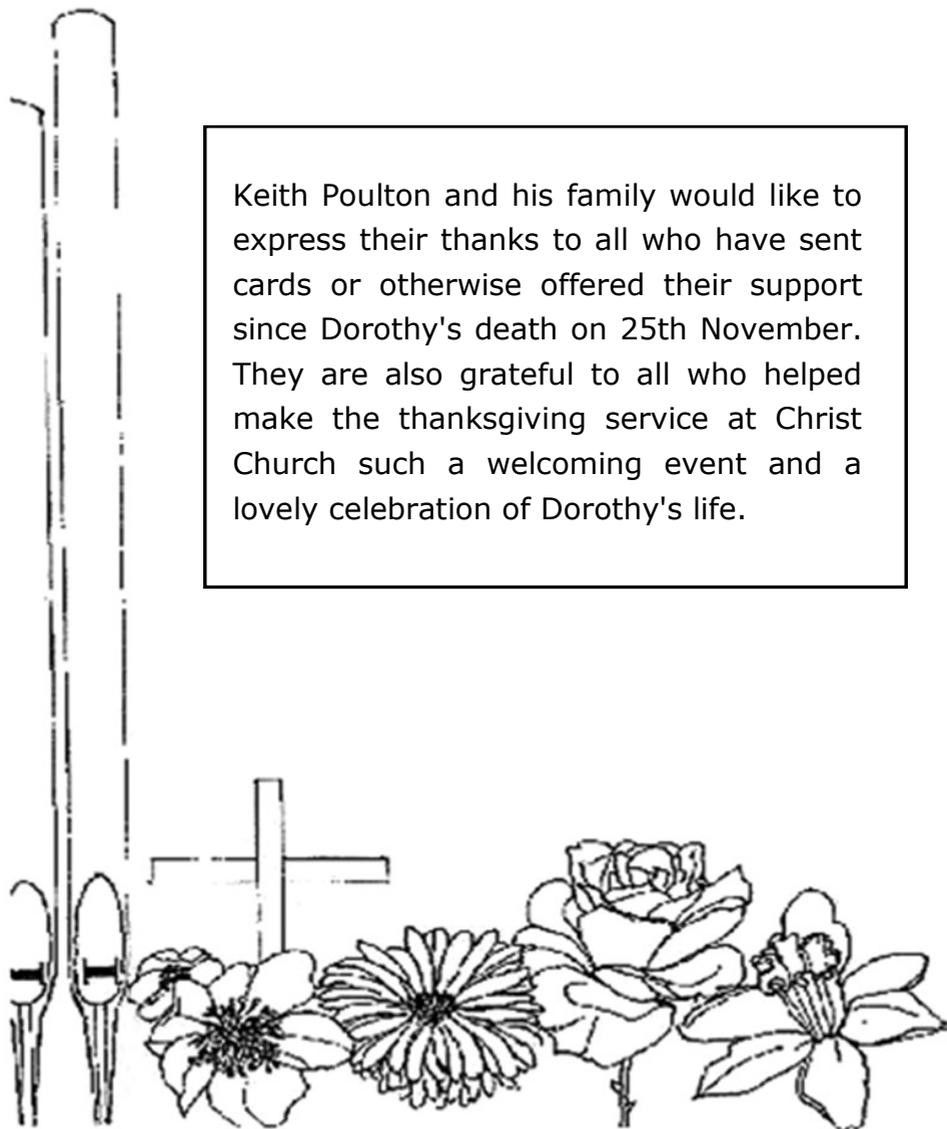
Safeguarding Update: Carol has attended further training as Safeguarding Officer.

'The Link' - Printing: Churches in the Pastorate will be looking at printing costs as the current printing company had gone into liquidation owing to fraud.

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

Keith Poulton and his family would like to express their thanks to all who have sent cards or otherwise offered their support since Dorothy's death on 25th November. They are also grateful to all who helped make the thanksgiving service at Christ Church such a welcoming event and a lovely celebration of Dorothy's life.



Christ Church Diary - January



Fri	3rd	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC
Sun	5th	10.30am	Joint Covenant Service at LMC - Rev. Lynda Russell
		6.30pm	Evening Service at LMC - Rev. Paul Cockburn
Sun	12th	10.30am	Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Communion Service at LMC - Rev Lynda Russell
Thurs	16th	3.30pm	Messy Church at LMC (to 5.30pm)
		7.30pm	Church Meeting
Sun	19th	10.30am	Rev. Bruce Stuart
		6.30pm	Evening Service at LMC - Rhys Frost
Tues	21st	7.45pm	Elders' Meeting
Sat	25th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at the Anglican Parish Hall
Sun	26th	10.30am	Joint Service with LMC at Christ Church: Rev. Nicola Furley-Smith, (Southern Synod Moderator)
		6.30pm	New Fire at LMC
February			
Sun	2nd	10.30am	Rev. Robert Blows
		6.30pm	Evening Service at LMC - John Oborn
Fri	7th	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC (to 4.30pm)





United Reformed Church Southern Synod

Surrey and Sussex Synod Area Pastoral Committees Report

The Surrey and Sussex Synod Area Pastoral Committees met at Crawley United Reformed Church on 12th November 2013 and would like to report the following:

Those remembered were - Revd. Bridget Banks, Revd. Derek Richmond, Alison Skitt, Revd. Peter & Kay McIntosh. Dorothy Poulton the former Church Secretary of Christ Church, Leatherhead has sadly died following our meeting and we hold the Church and the pastorate in our prayers.

New members of the Pastoral Committees are Revds. Martin Hazell (East Grinstead), John Joseph (Redhill) and Bryan Shirley.

Revd. Kenneth Lynch will retire on 31st August 2014.

Hove Central and Hounsom and Portslade - there will be a vacancy following Revd. Alex Mabbs taking his final service on 5th January 2014. He has accepted a call to Brighthelm Church and Community Centre and is to be inducted there at 2.30pm on Saturday 25th January.

Caterham - Revd. Julian Thomas is to be inducted at 2.30pm on Saturday 1st March 2014. His ministry is to be split 75% at the Church and 25% at Caterham School with the arrangements to be looked at as to how this would work in practice taking into account the academic year being 36 weeks. It was envisaged that Revd. Julian Thomas would take 35 services per year at the Church. An outside person will be asked to review.

LMMR is progressing well in the Synod with a report recently received from Banstead who are have been exploring their vacancy with the scoping group so please hold everyone involved in the process in your prayers for wisdom and discernment as they move forward.

General Assembly 2014 Representatives are Revds. Bridget Banks, Kim Plumpton, John Joseph and Heather Cadoux and Ian Fletcher.

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The paper on Ministerial Working Hours has been circulated to all ministers and secretaries in the Synod and we hope that the paper will offer helpful guidelines.

The June Synod Area meeting has been moved from 17th to 24th June.



Christ Church Family News



We give thanks for the life and faithful service of our dear friend Dorothy Poulton, who passed away peacefully on 25th November. The Church was filled for her Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday 11th December, at which members of the family and friends offered moving tributes. At her request, a collection was taken for Christian Aid which amounted to £420. We extend to Keith and his sons Colin and Alan and their families our deep sympathy in their loss, and assure them of our prayers and support.

We remember also in our prayers those who are ill, thinking especially of Florence and Bert Gower, the lonely and others who have been bereaved, especially at this Christmas season.

Anne Cairns

Christ Church Elders for 2014

A Special Church Meeting was held after Morning Worship on Sunday 1st December to agree the composition of the Eldership. Mike Essex explained that in response to the letter sent out to all Church members, 27 Elders Nomination Forms were returned. From these 15 names had received two or more votes and were eligible for nomination. John Henderson and Mike Essex contacted each of these 15 people but only one person agreed to be nominated as an Elder. However one or two of the others did express interest in helping in other ways.

All the current Elders are prepared to continue and, although Heather Ward is required to stand down as she has completed eight years, she has agreed to be co-opted. Anne Cairns is willing to re-join the Eldership.

The members present were in agreement that from 1st January 2014 the composition of the Eldership would be:

Michael Essex – Lay Leader
Jeanette Chamberlain – Church Secretary
John Henderson – Church Treasurer
Anne Cairns
Anthony Cairns
Michael Chamberlain
Margaret Dodds-Ely
Heather Ward

We thank Heather for forgoing her year off and to Anne for agreeing to re-join the Eldership.

The next **Church Meeting will be on 16th January 2014 at 7.30pm** in the Church Hall.



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



<u>United Pastorate Ministers</u>	
<u>Rev. Lynda Russell</u> 10 Church Road Leatherhead KT22 8AY Tel: 01372 372743 (home) 01372 362145 (office) E-mail: lynda.russell@methodist.org.uk or revlyndarussell@btinternet.com	<u>Rev. Kim Plumpton</u> 38 Stoke Road Cobham KT11 3BD Tel: 01932 586988 E-mail: kimp_822@hotmail.com