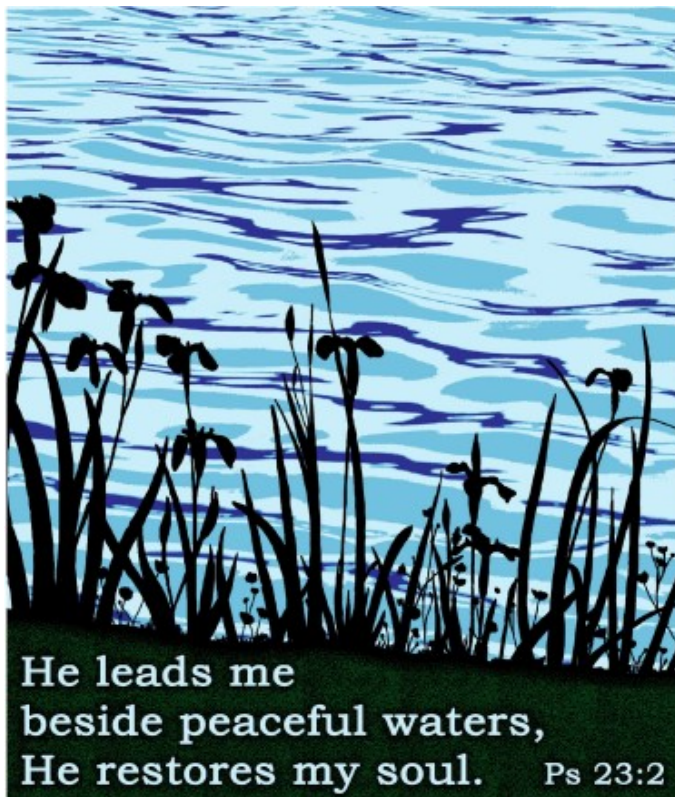


the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

July/August 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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Note: Starting with the September issue the editor will be Rhonda Frost. The email address will remain as above.

All copy for the September issue to the editor by August 19rd



The Ministers Write...

From Rev Jan Hofmeyr

Dear Friends,

A church group were starting off a week-long stay at a retreat centre. The priest welcoming them said, 'I'm sure you will find that you have all you need for a comfortable stay. If there is anything else that you want, let us know and we will teach you how to do without it.'

We have all had a similar kind of experience over the past while, haven't we? We have had to get by without some things that were part of our day-to-day lives; even some things we would have considered necessities. But we have all survived. As we begin to emerge from our lockdown, we have all heard the calls to establish a 'new, better normal'. Yet, my guess is that it is going to be all too easy to slip back into the 'old normal' of our lives. If we don't intentionally plan for new habits and routines, we will quickly find ourselves in the same groove as before.

I think the secret to establishing a better 'new normal' is to make clear plans of what we want things to look like before our previous lifestyles have a chance to take hold again. Someone has said, 'We don't automatically learn from experience; we only learn from experience that we have reflected upon.' We would do well to take time to reflect carefully on our experience over the past months and then write down some 'New Normal Resolutions'.

What are some of the things that you and I have realised we can do without? One obvious one is the whole area of fashion and appearance. We've all got by without new clothes for our wardrobe; we can probably all go for longer between haircuts; the women have had to get by without manicures and pedicures and the men have had to get used to living without live sport. (Include me there!)

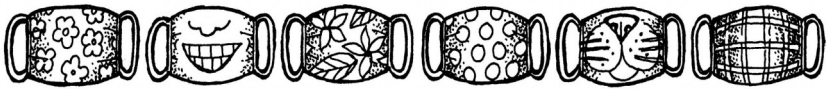
I am not wanting to put hairdressers and clothes shops out of business or say we should never be watching sport. It is more about moderation. As Christians we have generally got caught up in the consumerism and customs of our society as much as the rest of humanity. As Christ followers, we should be distinguishable from the world around us. If we are following the example of Jesus, then should we not be evidencing a simpler way of life? Dr Ron Sider once said, 'We should live more simply, so that others may simply live'. John Wesley said,

'Earn all you can; save (reduce) all you can; give all you can'. If we can develop a more frugal lifestyle, there will be more to give to God's work and God's needy world.

On the positive side, this time has brought out the creative side in many of us – gardening, baking, sewing, walking or learning a new skill. God is a creative God and we are made in God's image. So, when we are being creative, we are fulfilling an important part of who we were made to be. Unfortunately, our digital world has led many of us to spend rather too much time in front of screens, where the element of creativity is often missing.

May God help us all to find a new, better 'normal' - one that reflects more of the abundant life that Jesus came to bring us, and one through which we can help others to know more of that life in all its fulness.

With love in Christ,
Jan



From Rev Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

A trip to Yorkshire was always a possibility as soon as we were able to. I wanted to see Dad after he lost his best friend John because of the virus. Knowing that they were inseparable, and that John was his companion on numerous trips around the world, I wondered how well he was managing.

When we arrived at the house, we found him in good spirits, thrilled to be able to see more of his family. At 84 self-isolating seemed to be the last thing dad was going to do, he was regularly out and about going on walks with other friends or calling for a chat in their garden. However, I couldn't help but notice he had tried to cut his own hair. It wasn't too long before we discovered he had been cutting his hair with a beard trimmer and clearly without a guard. If you have ever seen those videos on Youtube where a child has been let loose with hair trimmers, you might begin to gain a picture of what greeted us when he opened the door.

I of course couldn't leave him without offering to trim his hair (yes, I know I broke the rules for which I am truly sorry), I just couldn't let him go out looking like he did. Somehow, I felt like I was being neglectful if I didn't take care of it for him. With little else to cut his hair with and without the guard, I used the beard trimmer and took all his hair off. With his permission of course. And ridiculous as it sounds, he did look so much better, of course his hair grew quickly enough for him to look pretty reasonable in no time at all.

In some ways that will be an amusing memory of dad during these times, but for many this time will be full of distressing memories and we come to realise that the nation may be feeling far more fragile than we might first think. There will also be many who will be feeling very tentative about coming out after shielding for so long. The date of the 1st August for the most vulnerable may not always be met with relief. Even ministers may be finding it difficult to adjust especially if they have their own underlying health conditions.

Although others may enjoy the idea of eating out and meeting in the local pub there are those who may still feel the need to remain away from others and we must respect each and every view.

The guidelines from the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church require us to set a number of things in place before we are able to open our churches fully; it may be some time before we are able to function in the familiar ways we once used to. Safeguarding all who enter the premises and offering a safe and secure environment will take a little time, but we can be sure that if we do so people will feel more comfortable to enter our premises. It may mean we see reduced numbers for a short while until people feel confident to return, but regardless, we find new and accommodating ways of making sure people remain connected. This has for all of us remained crucial during this time, the importance of retaining links with one another.

Worship on our premises will for some time not be our usual offering, there are certain elements that must wait until there is a vaccine, but we will find ways to make sure that our worship is still nourishing and edifying. The important thing amongst it all is something we have seen for the last few months and that is that God works outside the church walls as well as within them, we need not be in a hurry.

"The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Every blessing Kim

From the Editor

You will notice that this issue of The Link does not contain a "Wanted: New Editor" notice. That is because, I'm delighted to say, we have a new editor. Starting with the September issue, Rhonda Frost will be taking over. Please give her all the help and support you have given me over the past four years.

Thanks to all who have contributed while I have been editor, particularly to Les Prescott, from whom I took over, and whose help and advice have been invaluable, and to the ministers who have always been supportive, even if they occasionally needed reminders about deadlines.

God bless the Link and all who sail in her!

David Cappitt

Listening Service

The listening service to which we can all contribute, run by Churches Together, continues. If you feel someone you know would benefit from this service the number to call is:

Cobham 01932 910184
Effingham 01483 385120

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

Thank you!

Dear Friends,

It is with great sadness that we see David Cappitt leave us in September to move closer to his family. It is the right time for David to move. I know that David had graciously delayed his move while we were going through the processes of becoming a United Church for which I am incredibly grateful. It does mean that this will be his last Link before he leaves, and we welcome Rhonda Frost as our new editor. We do of course wish Rhonda every blessing as she takes on this task.

I cannot let David leave without saying in this 'final' link magazine how much David will be missed. I have known David for 10 years and there are many who have known him an awful lot longer than I. I know I bring thanks from the many churches across the circuit who have been blessed by David's preaching during that time. His preaching has always offered great depth, relying on his knowledge and profound personal faith. I know many have felt they were in trusted hands when David was leading the service or when leading bible study. David has gained a huge amount of respect.

David and I have shared many meetings together; as part of the leadership and latterly as trustee and treasurer, his contributions have always offered us great wisdom and warmth. I have always found David to be someone who gives a very measured and considered opinion on matters when needed. David has kept me on the straight and narrow at many a meeting when it comes to all things Methodist, and on many other issues too. Thank You!

Recent ventures into the Bereavement Café also enabled us to learn from David's considerable experience in areas of counselling and he has been a valued member of the team. Your face was often the first face many saw when they came to the church and you will be missed.

As editor of the Link Magazine David has been resourceful and accommodating, it has been a pleasure to write the minister's letter knowing that it forms part of a magazine that David takes such great care over. Thank you, David. You now leave the Link in Rhonda's very capable hands.

There are many other things I'm sure we could give David thanks for but it comes down to one thing, David will be missed and I know we all wish David a safe journey and that his move runs smoothly. As David begins a new chapter in his life we send with him all our prayers and love, and the hope that he will visit us on occasion to see what we're up to.

I know I speak for many when I say 'Thank you David' for all you have done, go with God's blessing and of course with ours too. Hopefully we will be gathering at some point soon to say a more formal goodbye.

Every blessing Kim

Pandemic in the Pastorate

Aren't people being nice to each other these days!
(Part 2)

Even though I'm neither old nor vulnerable, people have been so nice to me!

None of my immediate neighbours has ever asked if I needed anything. So the others are valued all the more. I always say yes to offers; a) because I eventually realised that people really enjoy helping each other, as I do too, and b) because when they bring whatever it is, then I get to see a human being and enjoy a doorstep chat. (In the early days of lockdown I did the stoic "I'm fine" thing, determined to be independent, which was really pretty stupid!)

The tree surgeon rang to ask if he could get me anything from Waitrose. I asked if he was ringing all his older customers. 'No' he said, 'just you, because since your husband died recently I thought you might need looking after.' How heartwarming is that!

The young man who keeps his vintage car in my spare garage has been round several times to check on me. I have a sneaking feeling I may have been "adopted". So sweet!

Then there was the lovely chap from my house insurance, who not only arranged a super-speedy drain clearance when the bathroom flooded, but then rang back the next day to check if I was okay and if there was anything else they could do for me, even if it wasn't an insurance matter.

Another delightfully smiley young man is the one from the Plough, who brings fish and chips to the over-70s on Thursdays. We do the doorstep dance where he puts the little box down on the mat, steps back, I put the money in an envelope on a nearby bush, step back, and he steps sideways to take it, grinning all the time ... it's hilarious!

Now look, Lord, I really can't make my mind up about this. Do You "send" these people? A few might be real Christians, or just plain churchgoers like me; most of them are probably atheists, agnostics or just don't-care-ists. All that really matters (to me) is that all over the land there are thousands of good, kind, decent, honourable, caring people who see a need and go out of their way to help their fellow man, sometimes in quite astonishing ways. They are inherently good. Like my rescuer in part 1, they don't need to be "sent" by you, do they?

Rachel Reed

[All made in the image of God, and at times like this that "God-ness" will come out. Ed]



Cobham United Church

Life in our church

As lockdown is eased, we look forward to the time when we can again meet for worship in the church. However there is a lot to be sorted out about distancing, cleaning, and continuing to provide for those who are not yet comfortable to meet in groups. This will be a major item on the agenda of the Trustee Meeting on July 2nd. Meanwhile, online worship will continue for the time being.

**July 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th,
August 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th**

Sunday morning worship

continues and can now be found on our website where you will find a link, or on facebook:

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

Cobham facebook:

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

[I'm afraid you will have to provide your own coffee and biscuits after the service!]

Daily Reflections can be found on the website, Monday—Friday.



Cobham United Church Events



Afternoon Tea
There will be virtual afternoon tea on Fridays 10th and 24th July and 7th and 21st August at 2.30pm, using Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9607157823>
Meeting ID: 960 715 7823

Other Dates

Thur 2nd July	3.00pm	Trustees Meeting by Zoom
Tues 4th Aug	2.00pm	Trustees Meeting by Zoom
Wed 5th Aug	2.00pm	Fundraising Meeting by Zoom

Ra Ra Theatre

The RaRa Theatre delighted us in January with their performance of the pantomime Little Red Riding Hood. They will be entertaining us once again at **1.30pm** on **Wednesday 29th July** with an online show. **Don't miss it.**

Prayer Chain

For Prayer Chain requests/suggestions contact Anita Latham on 07969 830083 or email anitalatham1949@hotmail.com

Prescriptions

Cobham Churches Together continues to operate a prescription collection service. If you are able to help with this please let Kim know.



Effingham Methodist Church

Effingham Diary: July-August 2020

Sunday services and **daily meditations** are now on our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/effinghammethodistchurch/>
and on the website <http://effinghammethodistchurch.com>
Dvd's of each Sunday service are available from David Putland



Afternoon Tea via Zoom on July 3rd, 17th & 31st
August 14th & 28th at 2.30pm;



Dates to celebrate this month ?

Happy Birthday to **Gracie Wickham** on the 21st July
and **Gill Walker** on the 3rd August

Remember we need your help to keep our records of birthdays and important anniversaries up to date.



Find some Messy Fun
downloadable sessions @
www.messychurch.org.uk



EMC's stewards continue to have monthly meetings with Kim, our minister, via ZOOM. If you would like to raise any issues for discussion please contact Gill Walker, Church Secretary.

Effingham Update ~ A working party will be cleaning the Chapel shortly, in readiness for a tentative but hopeful opening as soon as Conference gives churches the go ahead to open for worship if they wish. We can then implement the necessary health and safety requirements suggested and have them vetted by the Circuit Leadership Team! We are already in the process of discussing with the congregation how they would like to proceed and how they can help and hope to open as soon as possible for some form of Sunday worship and Private Prayer during the week

www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/property/coronavirus-guidance-for-property/.

Our noticeboard, which Dougie lovingly built, has been renovated and the bench seat will get a make-over shortly. The garden now has more "lawn", after some landscaping, turf-laying and planting. Thanks to so many willing gardeners it is now a lovely space especially as the hollyhocks, roses and fuchsias are all in flower!

Community Store - Effingham

The very successful Community Store in Effingham with volunteers as shop assistants has been a godsend for all kinds of folk. However, the couple who own Layla's Store would understandably like to have it back for their own business as soon as possible. So another home for the Community Store has been found and it will transfer to the Douglas Haig Pub in July. The developers are opening it up for use until September, so all is not lost. This has been a really good community venture with various local people playing shop, including David P.



Caring for carers and partners with dementia

Our Connect families understandably, during the Covid period, have been feeling very isolated with less stimulation and activity despite our buddy scheme and the opportunity with some of our folk to chat on the doorstep. We have now devised a cunning plan we hope! We have been planning a Connect Outdoor Meet Up in due course, when Government rules allow in the garden of St Lawrence Hall with 3 gazebos. We plan to have 2 teams of people, with our members, maybe 3 to 4 couples depending on social distancing and some volunteers and to operate weekly if possible from Thursday July 9th 10am to 12noon. So Team 1 might meet on July 9th and Team 2 on July 16th etc. The loos will be available for us and we will undertake to clean before and afterwards.

We would need to ask those attending to bring the following if possible:-

- garden chairs
- their own flask of tea or coffee or soft drink; something to eat if you wish until we find we can supply people with something safely

If it is really tipping down with rain we would call it off, but hopefully in the summer months to come we should have mainly dry weather.!!

Having erected the 3 gazebos it should be possible to have another group in the afternoon, e.g. our Tuesday Teas group or even our church group before taking down the gazebos at the end of the day.

So we await further Government announcements and hope it won't be too much longer now before we can all meet face to face.

Gill Walker



not quite a gazebo!!



After much discussion and consultation with thousands of local volunteers across England, the main organisers of **Heritage Open Days** have decided that this year's festival will go ahead from 11th to 20th September. As this festival is all about celebrating community and local stories, it feels more important than ever that people have a chance to celebrate their heritage this year. However social distancing and other precautions for the Coronavirus mean that online events will be offered for the first time, as well as any in-person opportunities possible within government guidelines at the time of the festival. Communities will be able to celebrate the stories of the places and spaces that are important to them in new and innovative ways. Visitors will be able to participate in activities much further afield to explore even more hidden places and local gems from the comfort and security of their armchair. So check the website <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/news-desk>

Heritage Weekend ~ Effingham Chapel

We hope that the Chapel will be open for **Heritage Open Days weekend** on **Friday 11th and Saturday 12th September from 10am to 5pm** with an Exhibition about our Chapel's history, some hidden Nature, and Nursing's Nightingales.

There should be a village history trail too, and talks about meteorites and fossils, starring **Baryonyx**, the Surrey dinosaur, online if necessary !!





**2020-2021 Prayer Handbook,
The Earth is the Lord's** Psalm
24:1

The television series 'Blue Planet II' highlighted the way human activities are having a major effect on the life systems of our world. Climate change, species extinction, polar ice loss, sea level rise, land and air pollution and waste disposal are all traced back to aspects of our choices. Tragically, those most affected are the poor who have contributed

least to the problem.

The new handbook has prayers of thanksgiving, penitence, intercession and resolve that, with God's help, we may take responsibility for our actions and, as stewards of God's gift to us, participate in the healing of creation.

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2020/2021

The Earth is the Lord's

Publication date is usually 1st August but this has been delayed due to the virus but hopefully will be available before start of new church year ! Check website:

www.methodistpublishing.org.uk

Single copies will £4.50each

Or order ten or more copies @ £4.15each

ALSO AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT

Copies will be available from Effingham at approx £4.50 each.
Please email theputlands@aol.com if you would like a copy





Action for Children Sunday is on 12th July

Action for Children is the children's charity of the Methodist Church. It was founded in 1869 by Methodist minister Revd Thomas Bowman Stephenson in response to the poverty and danger faced by vulnerable and destitute children and young people living rough on the streets of London.

Today, Action for Children, (formerly, NCH - National Children's Homes) has grown to become a leading children's charity running over 500 projects and working with more children and young people affected by poverty, disability and abuse than any other UK charity.

Action for Children Sunday is on 12th July and materials are available to view and download www.actionforchildren.org.uk or call Helpline on 08457 626579

Emergency Coronavirus Appeal

Coronavirus has thrown all lives and communities across the UK into an unprecedented crisis. Families who were already struggling now find themselves unable to afford food and other essentials. Before coronavirus hit there were over four million children in the UK locked in poverty. Now, vulnerable families in all our communities have reached breaking point. They need help right now. Every penny donated will help these families cover the cost of essentials like food, nappies, cleaning products, and gas and electricity.





Methodism GB celebrates Sea Sunday on 12th July 2020

This year, please remember seafarers and their vital role in the fight against COVID-19. They're not just keeping our supermarket shelves stocked through the crisis, but they're also transporting PPE and vital medical equipment to keep the world safe. The sacrifices they're making are greater than ever; with global travel restrictions in force, many seafarers are faced with the anxious reality of being stranded thousands of miles from home when their contract ends, not knowing when or how they will be able to return to their loved ones.

With so many churches in lockdown, the Sailors' Society has made a short video about how the pandemic is affecting seafarers, which you can share with your church on social media or add into your service, whether it's online or in a church building.

<https://www.sailors-society.org/sea-sunday-2020>

Prayer versus Virus !!

For the health workers tending the seriously ill
for the scientists working on a vaccination
for the researchers analysing data and identifying trends
for the media outlets working to communicate reality
for the supermarket workers, hygiene and sanitation providers
for the good news stories of recoveries and effective planning
for the singing from balconies by locked-down communities
for the recognition that isolation doesn't need to mean loneliness
for the notes through letterboxes offering help and support
for the internet and telephones and technology that connects
for the awakened appreciation of what is truly important
Thanks be to God.

For those who are unwell and concerned for loved ones
for those who were already very anxious
for those immune suppressed or compromised
for those vulnerable because of underlying conditions
for those in the 'most at risk to coronavirus' categories
for those watching their entire income stream dry up
for those who have no choice but to go out to work
for those who are afraid to be at home
for those who are more lonely than they've ever been
for those who are bereaved and grieving.
God be their healer, comfort and protection,
be their strength, shield and provision
be their security, safety and close companion

And raise up your Church
to be your well-washed hands and faithful feet
to be present to the pain
to respond with love in action
if even from a safe distance.

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.



A prayer for the church

May your love that never fails
strengthen the weak
encourage the fearful
calm the anxious
heal the sick
through your church –
your washed hands
and feet on earth –
distant but still present
virtual but still connected
apart but still helping.
God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Amen.



<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/churches/coronavirus-prayers>



Black Lives Matter:
A Statement on Racism by
Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler,
Secretary of the Methodist Conference

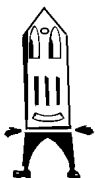
The brutal killing of George Floyd, who died at the hands of police officers in Minneapolis, has prompted a wave of anger

and revulsion around the world. As Christian people, we are appalled that someone could die in such a fashion and appalled also at the continued injustice which many Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people experience in many parts of the world, including the United Kingdom, and in many institutions, including, shamefully, the Methodist Church in Britain.

We therefore welcome and endorse the call of the 'Black Lives Matter' movement for radical action in addressing the causes of this injustice. The Methodist Church in Britain believes that racism is a denial of the gospel. However, we have to recognize that we have not eradicated the problem from our Church, despite the excellent work of many over several decades; in the last year we have redoubled our efforts to do so and are actively working on the implementation of our 'Inclusive Methodist Church' strategy which commits to challenging all forms of discrimination and creating a Church where people from every background are welcome and are safe from abuse and discrimination.

Such a Church will celebrate and not be afraid of diversity; it will be disciplined and uncompromising in its refusal to tolerate any form of racism; it will work to encourage the vocation of those from minority groups to serve in positions of senior leadership; and it will be one in which all people can be confident of the welcome that they will receive as they share in worship and ministry with us. We repent of the ways that we have fallen short of that in the past and of our slowness in changing our ways and we continue to look for ways in which we can witness to the all-encompassing love of God and become the transformation that we long to be. 'Only the Spirit's power can fit us for this hour': we pray, 'Come, Holy Spirit, come!'

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/> Statement on 9th June 2020



Leatherhead

Methodist Church

The “New Normal”

We have become accustomed to new ways of working over these past few months and now the question arises about when we are going to re-open, and what will be the “New Normal”?

The road to re-opening is going to be long and difficult. We have already had pages and pages of advice from Methodist Church House with what we need to consider, risk assessment forms, safeguarding advice and the like. We also have to consider directives from District and Circuit, and our own ideas about what we should do.

To this end, LMC has appointed a team to look into all this, led by Andrew Foster and involving Property Steward Neil Fraser, Senior Steward Les Prescott and Office Administrator Carol Stoves. By the time you read this, they will have met online a few times to get the ball rolling.

Some things may not change at all, but there are other aspects where the lockdown has led to new and positive ways of operating. For example, our weekly prayer meeting in the vestry has been online during this time and the number of folk involved has increased. This may be because some have been working from home and have found the time to join in, but perhaps we could rearrange things so that everybody who wants to can attend in one way or another?

The number of people watching the online Sunday Services seems to be much more than we would usually see in Church on Sunday, so perhaps we should be thinking of doing both?

What do you think? Please can you let one of the team know your views? Andrew, Neil, Carol or me. Let’s use this as a way of improving how we do things.

Les Prescott

What's On at LMC

During the lockdown, we continue with the following online services and meetings:

Sundays: Morning Service

Children's Church (All Age Service)

Preachers: **5th, 12th and 19th July** - Rev. Jan Hofmeyr

26th July - John Bees

2nd August - Rev. Jan Hofmeyr

(check LMC weekly news as circumstances may change)

These can be accessed through the church website www.leatherheadmethodist.org and click on the "LMC Online" box at the top right of the opening page.

Sundays at 11.45am:

Chat after church (provide your own tea/coffee!). Do join us for a chat on Zoom. We all start together and then go to break-out groups and swap around. It is good to see and speak to different friends. David and Carol can let you have the access number, and speak to them if you need help.

Tuesday mornings at 9.00am:

Weekly prayer meeting via "Zoom". David or Carol Stoves can give you the access code if you would like to join us.

Wednesdays at 5.00pm:

Stewards' Meeting

There are also ad hoc meetings taking place via zoom and members of the various meetings will be contacted separately.

The picture below of the current car park area at LMC was taken around 1900. In 2009, Joy, Peter Dry and I cleared out the loft space at the top of the tower and found the fence folded up among a large amount of accumulated objects from a century of storing things "in case we need them".

Les Prescott





WELCOME TO MOLE VALLEY ARTS E-LIVE 2020!

As many of you are aware, we would normally be opening for registrations now, for inclusion in the Arts Alive Festival Programme for October.

Our commitment to champion the Arts and all our wonderful groups in Mole Valley has not wavered. We do not want to cancel Arts Alive this year. However, due to the current pandemic, we do not know when public venues and meeting places will be open again, nor whether rehearsals can take place in time to perform in October.

In view of this, and feedback from our regular event holders, the Festival Committee has decided that 2020 will be our year of **'Arts E-Live' – a month long programme of arts events taking place in an appropriate way, but promoted exclusively online.**

This will enable us to postpone registrations for 2020 until early September, when we will all have a clearer idea of what can and can't be performed in October.

Currently, Arts E-Live will comprise –

- A month-long programme of art events – but delivered in a way appropriate to the time, either in person if the restrictions have been lifted, or on-line; **and we are working to have the resource to help groups with this;**

- No printed programme – and therefore no print deadline – which enables us to commence registrations far later so eventholders have a good idea of the format for performing in October;

- All events to be promoted more widely and creatively, through the Arts Alive website, facebook page and twitter accounts and general posters/flyers;

- No launch or finale evening, BUT a weekly show on Surrey Hills Radio throughout October detailing the events available throughout the month.

So, the show will most certainly go on! But with us providing as much support as we can to help groups reach their audiences. Watch this space, and thank you so much for your support.

The Arts Alive Festival Committee 12th June 2020

Lockdown

Scrubs for Epsom & St Helier

Early in the lockdown period, a local group was set up on Facebook asking for help in making up items of personal protective equipment for NHS staff. The announcement said:

"This group has been set up to make protective clothing for anyone employed as a health professional or carer within the Epsom & St Helier Hospitals NHS Trust area - it is part of the 'For the Love of Scrubs - our NHS needs you' campaign. Primarily we are making scrubs, gowns, drawstring scrubs bags, headbands and tie back hats for Epsom Hospital and St Helier Hospital but we will accept requests from other hospitals, surgeries and care organisations within the area."

I know of two of our members who have been busy helping - there may be others who have kept their heads down - but here are the stories from our two, Norma and Carol.

Norma says: At the beginning of the restrictions we noticed the peace and quiet. There were no aeroplanes flying overhead and we walked everyday and very few cars on the road. The garden was full of birds. Absolutely perfect.

My niece who lives in the north of England joined the 'Love of Scrubs'. I was interested in helping so I joined 'Scrubs for Epsom & St Helier' and started making different items. I enjoy sewing and this gave me a purpose whilst not being able to see family and friends. My neighbours have been fantastic as at the beginning, the group was short of material so I put a note through their doors and we were inundated with bags of material which was left on the doorstep. At one point we did say "No more please" on opening the door.

All this material we washed at 60°C so that it could be used straight away. This introduced me to someone who lives not far away, Larayne. Larayne was my contact for dropping off the material and the finished goods. I have met Alex who lives in Ewell by going to pick up material to make different items.



I travelled to Banstead to collect buttons. This took a long time as we chatted at a distance about life at this time! I have made a variety of items, Scrubs, Scrub Hats, Headbands, Scrub bags, and now Tabards. The following was put on the Scrubs website on the 10th June:-

Ten weeks in and our group have beaten the 1000 scrubs mark!
Items delivered:

1100 scrubs
318 gowns
120 tabards
3800 bags
4121 headbands / mask adaptors
944 caps

Out of this unusual situation has been added a new dimension to my life.

Norma Shaw



Norma's "Little Helper"

Carol has also been very busy making items for NHS staff. She has given us a few updates in her weekly 'News from the LMC Office'. She says: I started with the Facebook group the first weekend they began at the end of March and have been making firstly wash bags and then scrubs.

I have currently made 29 sets of scrubs for Epsom and St Helier. The group have been great at collecting what I made and dropping off material since we couldn't go out.

Carol Stoves

Brilliant work, Carol and Norma, well done! Thanks also to everyone who has assisted others in so many ways during the lockdown.

Les Prescott



HEALING IN THE PATRISTIC PERIOD (100-600 AD) *(from "The Voice of Healing" website*)*

JUSTIN MARTYR (ca. 100-165)

Justin was a Christian apologist who had studied all the great philosophies of his day. About the age of 32, he was converted to Christianity. In his Second Apology (ca. 153), Justin, in speaking about the names, meaning, and power of God and Christ, writes concerning the exorcism and healing of the demonized:

'For numberless demoniacs throughout the whole world, and in your city, many of our Christian men exorcising them in the name of Jesus Christ, who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, have healed and do heal, rendering helpless and driving the possessing devils out of the men, though they could not be cured by all the other exorcists, and those who used incantations and drugs.'

TERTULLIAN (ca. 160 / 170-ca.215 / 220)

Not many details are known concerning Tertullian's life. He was reared in the cultured paganism of Carthage. He became a Christian (n.d.) and joined the Montanist group about 206. He was a prolific writer. In his work *To Scapula*, Chapter 5 he gives this account of expelling demons and healing:

'All this might be officially brought under your notice, and by the very advocates, who are themselves also under obligations to us, although in court they give their voice as it suits them. The clerk of one of them who was liable to be thrown upon the ground by an evil spirit, was set free from his affliction; and was also the relative of another, and the little boy of a third. How many men of rank (to say nothing of common people) have been delivered from devils, and healed of diseases! Even Severus himself, the father of Antonine, was graciously mindful of the Christians; for he sought out the Christian Proculus, surnamed Torpacion, the steward of Euhodias, and in gratitude for his having once cured him by anointing, he kept him in his palace till the day of his death.'

ORIGEN (ca. 185 - ca. 254)

Origen was born in Egypt and raised by Christian parents. His father Leonidas was martyred in 202 when Origen was about 17 years old.

He was devoted to writing, and in his writings, recognizes the Scripture where Paul lists the "charismata", and in another work he speaks of those who obtain the "excellent gifts of the Spirit". In Principles, he also speaks of the Holy Spirit as the one "in whom is contained every kind of gifts".

He then goes on to observe that some have the "word of wisdom", others the "word of knowledge", others "faith" and that this has been bestowed on them "by the Spirit". In Against Celsus, Origen notes that traces of Signs and Wonders are still preserved among those who regulate their lives by the precepts of the gospel. Also in Against Celsus, Origen notes that the Christians were still expelling demons from those "persons possessed with them"

HIPPOLYTUS (d. ca. 236)

Hippolytus was a presbyter and teacher in the Church at Rome. His book The Apostolic Tradition gives one a conservative picture of Roman Church order and worship at the end of the 2nd century and beginning of the 3rd century. The following is a selection from his book:

In the section called "Of a Gift of Healing" we read, "If any one among the laity appear to have received a gift of healing by revelation, hands shall not be laid on him because the matter is manifest." Concerning the demonized, Hippolytus suggests, "But if there be one who has a devil, let him not hear the word from the teacher until he has been cleansed."

"Moreover, from the day they are chosen, let a hand be laid on them and let them be exorcised daily. And when the day draws near on which they are to be baptized, let the bishop [himself] exorcise each one of them, that he may be certain that he is purified.

But if there is one who is not purified let him be put on one side because he did not hear the word of instruction with faith. For the [evil and] strange spirit remained with him.

And laying his hand on them he shall exorcise every evil spirit to flee away from them and never to return to them [henceforward]. And when he has finished exorcising, let him breathe on [their faces] and seal their foreheads and ears and noses and [then] let him raise them up."

ANTONY (ca. 251-356)

Our knowledge of Antony depends largely upon his biography written by Athanasius shortly after his death. Chapter 38-42 of this biography shows Antony's work with the supernatural, especially in dealing with demons.

'We must not boast of casting out devils, not be elated at the healing of diseases, nor should we admire only the man who casts out devils, and account that one useless who does not. A man should observe carefully the discipline of each monk, and either imitate it, strive to excel it, or correct it. To work miracles is not ours; that is the Saviour's work. At any rate, He said to His disciples: "But do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; rejoice rather in this, that your names are written in heaven."



The fact that our names are written in heaven is evidence of our virtuous life, but to cast out devils is but the charismatic gift of the Saviour who bestowed it. To those who boasted of their miracles and not of their virtues, saying: "Lord, did we not cast out devils, in thy name, and work many miracles in thy name?" He answered, "Amen, I say to you I know you not." For the Lord knows not the ways of the unholy.'

* The "Voice of Healing" website and its content is copyrighted to Tony Cauchi The Revival Library, 2019. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Thanks to Bob Greenfield for suggesting the inclusion of this article in The Link.

The Link...

our monthly Pastorate magazine

The Link has been going for several decades. When Maureen and I moved to Leatherhead back in 2001, it was a Methodist magazine covering the then Minister Ian Howarth's three churches - Leatherhead, Effingham and Cobham and was edited by the late Dougie Reed and his wife Rachel at Effingham.

Dougie and Rachel had been editors for many years and their last edition was December 2009. I volunteered to take over, and then in September 2010, the Pastorate was created and Kim Plumpton, the new URC Minister at Cobham, took over Cobham and Effingham Methodist Churches. Ian continued at Leatherhead, taking on Christ Church (United Reformed). I suggested that we had a Pastorate magazine covering all five churches and that came to pass in June 2011.

After over six years as editor, I retired in May 2016 when David Cappitt took on the role "for three years". David has carried on until now, but will be moving in the autumn and we're pleased that Rhonda Frost will be editor from September.

Thank you David for keeping the magazine going so well. It's not an easy task and we are truly grateful to you for all the work you've put in over the four years.

Les Prescott

Lessons learned from Zoom: look what's behind you!

There was a young man called Jack,
Who collected stuffed birds and a yak.
While meeting on zoom,
His friends saw his room,
And were shocked by the view at his back!

Leatherhead's 12.30 Lunchtime Concerts



Music on Thursdays at LMC • Wednesdays at Christ Church musicinsurrey.co.uk

Over the last few weeks we have been enjoying online concerts.

Each concert morning, people on our email list receive a link to the day's concert webpage.

The webpage has

We've had

concerts

for St

George &

Shakespeare,

May Day, and,

of course, VE Day 75.

These, and more, are still available on:

- musicinsurrey.co.uk •

Don't miss the fun!

To join the email list please contact:

musiconthursdays@gmail.com

Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society • Regd Charity 1166764

WE'RE NOW ONLINE

video

links to the

music for that day's

concert and explanations (or a

bit of chat) to go with the musical item.

Remember this?

This is what the church was like before 2008 when we decided to have the church reordered with the chairs we now have, and other improvements which made the space the welcoming place it now is. We look forward to going back!



Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead



Interim Report from the Elders

The elders have not yet had a Zoom meeting but they thought members would like to be brought up to date on the present situation.

We are receiving many documents from the URC with advice on how to open the church again when government advice allows us to do so. John has nobly dealt with this paper work on a daily basis, as well as handling enquiries from hirers and other parties. We are very grateful to Richard Osmond who is making sure that our buildings are healthy and ready for re-opening.

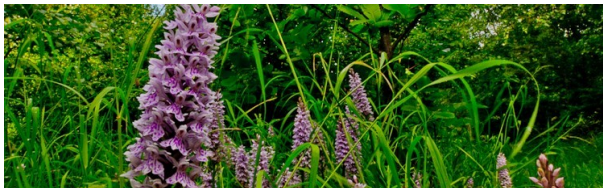
We are aware that, as our membership is mostly elderly, when our doors do open it will be an individual decision as to when it is safe to attend services in church. We have lots of room for social distancing! We have to make sure that all surfaces are clean, which will be a challenge.

No decision has yet been made about welcoming back our many hirers, as we would also have responsibility for their safety. We know that some are actively looking for different premises for the new year.

Synod estate agents are in the process of showing interested parties round our church building and grounds. We hope that the eventual use will benefit the community as a whole.

We all feel the loss of our weekly traditional worship in Christ Church and pray that we may be able to meet again by the time the next Link is issued in September. In the mean time we are extremely grateful to Jan and the LMC team for providing us with an excellent service each week. We are also well served by URC services on-line and on the television.

We hope that all members, their families and our friends keep well and positive. We look forward to meeting again before long and particularly to the Thanksgiving Service planned for 22 November at 3pm.



Christ Church Family News



We are sorry to report that Mike Essex has been in St Helier Hospital and will be having dialysis at home in the near future. We pray that this treatment will improve his general health. We send him and Dinah our very best wishes.

We send warmest congratulations and all good wishes to Jill and Richard Osmond who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 11th June,

Belated birthday greetings and good wishes to those of our elders who reached 85 recently: Margaret Dodds-Ely in April, John Henderson in May and Mike Essex in June.

We are pleased to report that Dean Tapley is out of hospital and back at home with carers in place. We send our best wishes for his full recovery.

We give thanks to all those involved in providing us with online worship every week, especially Jan, Angela, David and the team.

We pray for all those in our church community and the wider community with health problems, thinking especially of Mike and Dinah Essex and their family, all who live alone, the bereaved and those with concerns and fears for the future in these difficult times.

Anne Cairns

I am only one

I am only one, but I am one.

I cannot do everything, but I can do something.

What I can do, I ought to do,

And what I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.

- *Anon*

Parish Pump

Dorking and Horsham Circuit
NEWSLETTER

**July
2020**

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

I trust this newsletter finds you well as our journey through these difficult days continues. Inevitably the conversation is turning towards taking the next tentative steps towards a resumption of life as we knew it before all this landed upon us. This in and of itself is going to be a challenging task for us all not least because it is going to ask of us changes that will go against the very grain of what we take for granted. We need to be careful in our preparations and thorough in our execution as we bear the burden of acting responsibly towards all those we have a duty of care towards and that's not going to be easy. However, we are not alone. We have just travelled through the season of Ascensiontide and Pentecost and as we think of the challenges the early church faced as it emerged from the shadows, we have the promise of that same force for change and new life flowing through us – God's Spirit of life, love and power enabling us to do more than we might even dare to dream possible.

Yours in the Gospel,

Galvin

Easing Lockdown in Effingham

Since our last report our Robin turned into a blue tit and several little ones have flown the nest in our post-box. Lockdown is easing and weather has been ideal so our garden rota members have been busy weeding, re-turfing and refurbishing the bench and notice board. All while social distancing of course. We've also measured up our tiny Chapel to try to work out fit everyone in for services, but think we can accommodate our present congregation by using the hall as an overflow, with a video link.

First steps to opening may start in July when it's being suggested that services will still be recorded and shown in the Chapel each Sunday morning, but also still available on facebook, as they have proved so popular over the last couple of months. Local preachers on the Plan will be asked if they are able to video a sermon or prayers for these services, until Government restrictions on worship change and Churches are allowed to re-open. Meanwhile Zoom meetings have enabled us all to keep in touch with Circuit, District and ecumenically. Churches Together is still manning a helpline for those struggling with isolation and in need of a chat and a prayer.

In mid-April a devastating fire caused the general store and butchers in the village to close. Now a temporary Community Store has been opened, in the still closed coffee shop, selling a wide range of goods. Rev Mandy, the local Rector has organised volunteers to run the shop which is funded by the local Council, the Parish Council, and the Anglican Church.

Ange & Dave Putland

ST ANDREWS

Our STAR Links (Pastoral Team leaders) and the Leadership Team are making sure everyone connected to the church has a phone call or some other communication. Our team of 'posties' have continued to deliver the weekly service sheet and Bible study notes prepared by Kath, as well as the Circuit news and other information to help people cope during this extraordinary time.

Before the lockdown, our Church Centre Manager, Susan Halliday, had been working hard to fulfil her mission to reach out to the local community and this was showing real results. In just one example, a lady who started coming to the café also began coming to church and was finding it a real blessing. This same lady was taken ill and has now survived Corona Virus and a time on a ventilator. We thank God our prayers were heard, and that her new found faith has deepened because of the experience. We were in touch with her and her family throughout, able to offer support because of the links the Café volunteer team had already made and are continuing to sustain with the Café community. Using Café funds and in discussion with St Andrews' Leadership Team, the Café team coordinated a little gift for all those in our Church and café community - a knitted pouch containing a knitted cross, heart and fish, an encouraging Bible verse, the number for the Methodist Prayer Line, and a little chocolate heart. We have had very good feedback on all these deliveries, calls and contacts so our wider church family is staying well connected. The Community Garden is also thriving with two volunteers working on it but at different times during the week.

(Continued overleaf)

LEATHERHEAD

We continue with our services online every week, with the occasional service being led by one of our local preachers. The online Sunday services are proving very popular and each service is well received. These have included the service for Ascension Sunday which coincided with Aldersgate Sunday when John Bees led our worship and the following week, Pentecost, when our Minister Jan led the service with a personal reflection from Heather Ward from Christ Church, opening prayers with Angela Hofmeyr from her "upper room" and prayers of intercession with Norma Shaw. The children read the Bible passages. We have started to have a parallel children's service as well now.

Like most churches, our meetings are online using "zoom"; we have our prayer meetings and stewards' meetings online and a church quiz online. Preparations are in hand to complete risk assessments for when the church can be reopened – currently, the only use of the church premises is for the weekly "Lunchbox" session passing on food parcels at the door to those in need, thanks to Colin Plumpton and David Putland.

Around this time of the year, we would be having our Annual Church Meeting and one of the items on the agenda is to elect new stewards. Three of our stewards are standing down – Norma Shaw, Fred Meynen and Laurie Williams. Although they will be continuing until such time we can hold the ACM, we would like to thank all three for their hard work over their time in office.

Les Prescott

LONDON ROAD, HORSHAM

Since the last newsletter and during the continued lockdown, the pattern of life at LPMC has been mainly unchanged to our previous update in that we have continued to explore different ways of maintaining our pattern of worship, church life and pastoral care of those most vulnerable in our community.

Helping to coordinate this and ensure a consistency of approach, our virus sub group of the LT has continued to meet via Zoom on a weekly basis to consider all aspects of church life and the evolving advice from the connexion that has been mainly related to property management and live streaming of worship, so far.

We continue to issue a weekly update bulletin via email with a message from the Minister that contains both the weekly prayer list and links to prayer, worship resources and any local news, with the few not on email receiving this via post/letter drop.

Our twice weekly prayer groups have continued and we have generally enjoyed a Sunday service via YouTube courtesy of Gavin and various worship leaders recording this. Our LT meetings and next Church Council have been online as has been our voting for new stewards and officers at our 'virtual AGM'.

All this continues to show us that there are many different ways of being church and that some of these will remain relevant 'post lockdown' when we consider what the 'new normal' is for LPMC and how the current circumstances might shape new opportunities in the future.

As we start to consider how Church may look going forward and await connexional guidance, we can already see that there are many challenges and practicalities to overcome to ensure a safe environment for internal and external users of our premises that instils confidence to return.

Philip Reeves

St Andrews (continued)

One of our 3 SALT groups (house group) is meeting together on Zoom, following the 24/7 Lectio Divina resource. It is proving to be a real time of praise and fellowship, so much so that another SALT group has joined in. We anticipate they will organise their own meeting in time. One big question we have discussed is "what will 'Church' be/look like after lock down? What changes do we want to see?" Interesting questions!

St Andrews has joined with SCC for Sunday worship on Zoom and Kath invited both congregations to join her for a fortnightly café style Zoom catch up. This is enabling us to develop our inter-church relationship though it is quite possible that St Andrews will set up a similar Café style get together at some point.

Praise God for technology!

COBHAM UNITED

We continue at Cobham with what has become our (temporary?) “new normal”. We continue to worship together each Sunday on-line, together with our friends at Effingham, and with the participation of several of the members in readings, prayers, dramatic sketches, meditations. More people are involved in the services, and we understand that our congregations have grown. We have been able to take advantage of the URC’s permission for on-line communion services – very moving on Maundy Thursday and very inspiring on Easter Day. We are getting used to Zoom for regular trustees’ meetings and social events, including a very successful cake-decorating competition (classes for Junior, Have-a-go, and Experienced cake bakers) on the Saturday of our Church Anniversary weekend. On the Sunday the Church of the Great Commission, who in normal times use our premises for worship on Sunday afternoons, contributed to our service with prayers and greetings, and we were very pleased to have Gavin as our preacher.

We are starting to look forward to the prospect of being able to meet physically for worship again, and we are working our way through a very useful document from the URC on “The New Normal”, containing everything from encouraging us to ask “Do we still need a church building?” to details of distancing and cleaning. Meanwhile we are thankful for the technology which allows us to meet online for worship, fellowship and administration.

David Cappitt

DORKING

We have to report the sad news of the death of Michael Kent, a long-standing and hard-working member over many years in St Martin’s, and earlier in Horsham as well. We offer our sympathy and prayers to his family in Horsham at this sad time.

The café at the Dorking Christian Centre is still closed and there are no hirings at the moment which severely impacts our income, however the news is not all bad. Thankfully we started the lockdown with good financial reserves and we still have income from the flat and from weekday daily lunches which are being delivered or collected and taken away. Mole Valley District Council have awarded us a grant towards the cost of keeping one manager working whilst the other is on furlough so that the building can remain open for the lunches as well as for the Foodbank and the Community Fridge. This organisation operates mostly from the Centre and has really stepped up, delivering mountains of food parcels throughout the area, consequently on some days, the building is very busy, but at a social distance. As part of the Community Fridge, we have one volunteer who is going round to all the supermarkets to collect the out of date food and bringing that to the Centre which also disappears very fast.

There are still no services at St. Martin’s but there is a weekly Newsletter giving a long list of resources for people to use. *Sue Jamieson*

The **Methodist** Church 

Pastorate Details

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

Leatherhead Methodist Church:

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

Christ Church (United Reformed):

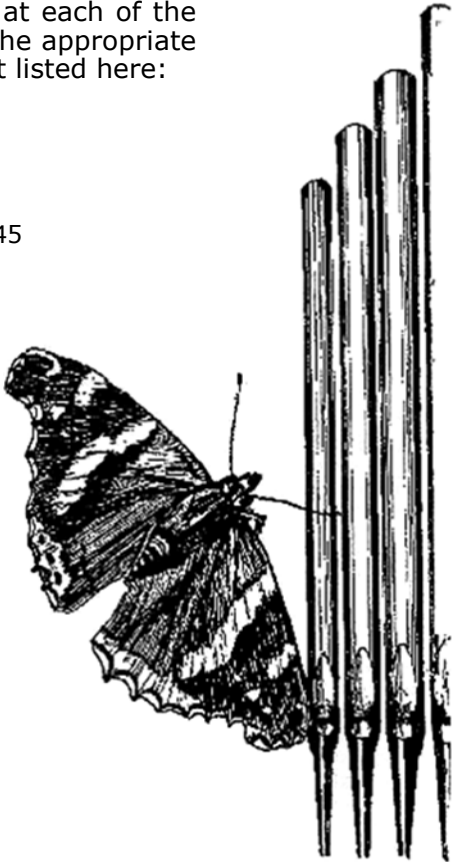
Epsom Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ST
www.chch.org.uk
Contact: Church Secretary -
Mike Essex 01372 273472

Effingham Methodist Church:

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

Cobham United Church:

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



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