

the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

March 2013



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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Women's World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer is this year on **Friday 1st March**. Services are being held as follows:

Eastwick Road Church (URC), Bookham at 10.30am - see page 14 for details.

All Saints Church, Little Bookham at 7.30pm - see page 14 for details.

St. Andrew's, Oxshott at 11.00am

Leatherhead Methodist Church at 2.30pm - see page 25 for details.

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The Ministers Write...



From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

In these coming weeks we move ever closer to Easter but it is not just a journey that we make towards the cross but a journey towards God. For each of us lent will provide us with an opportunity to come ever closer to God.

"Lent is an invitation to be reborn, an invitation to die. An invitation to allow ourselves to be overwhelmed with God's love for us. An invitation to journey deep inside ourselves and come face to face with the wonder of our hidden being. An invitation to discover the mystery of who we are that Christ should gladly sacrifice himself for us. Lent is an invitation to face up to our fears, a time to respond to Gods call." Joan Brown.

It is in the moments of quiet contemplation or in study or in the times of fasting that we deliberately confront who we are in light of the cross. It is at the cross and the resurrection that God reveals the extent of his love for us. Engaging with this kind of love I find very challenging because it rises beyond any concept that I can grasp.

Every year I find myself buried in a swathe of lent material and as I come towards my preparations for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter morning I find myself almost overwhelmed not by the extra work that it might entail, but by the intensity of the event. How I can come even conceivably close to representing the love that is poured out for each of us on the cross and at the resurrection. I am made abundantly aware not just of my frailty but of God's grace and the depth of God's love for his creation. No amount of words however well they are liturgically crafted can even come close to representing such love.

Yet the journey towards Easter confronts us in such a way that we cannot overlook it, we cannot walk around it or ignore it, this love is too strong, it is a love that shouts out to us that no one is beyond redemption.

continued on the next page

As we journey towards Easter this transformative love challenges us, reforms us, holds us, equips us and offers us hope beyond our expectations. What can we offer in return? Only ourselves but I suspect that is exactly what God requires of us, to offer as much of ourselves as we possibly can.

May you be truly blessed this Easter.

Yours,

Kim

From Rev. Ian Howarth

Dear Friends,

For me, Lent and Passiontide is perhaps the most meaningful time of the Church's year.

It offers us a time for space and reflection, in groups, in worship and on our own, and at its heart is that incredible story of the last days of Jesus' life. That story, so full of meaning still touches me deeply, as it confronts the stark reality of our world.

Our reflection on the passion story challenges those who say that religion is an escape from the real world. As we travel with Jesus those last days, we realise that Jesus himself had to confront conflict and suffering, doubt and fear, and in our devotions we can acknowledge the conflict and suffering, doubt and fear in our own lives, and reflect on how they are shaped and transformed through our relationship with Jesus, who is beautifully described in a new hymn in Singing the Faith, as wounded Healer, hated Lover and broken Victor.

There is a real temptation in religion to put up barriers to help us escape from the pressures of the world, but that is not the way of the cross. The healing, the love and the victory that Christ brings, come through the wounds, the hate and the brokenness, not from running away from it.

This challenges us as his followers to live in the real world with all its ambiguities, with all its pain and suffering, and to seek to be his agents of healing and love within it, despite our weakness.

Sadly, the evidence is that when religious people put up barriers to protect themselves, they tend to cut themselves off from those in need, and in the name of orthodoxy can find themselves discriminating against others on grounds of gender, race or sexuality.

Jesus cut through the barriers, but it cost him. However, it is through bearing that cost, that he opens the way out for us to his healing, love and victory.

I pray that as we reflect on the passion of Jesus this Lent and Holy Week, we will again be inspired to follow him out in the real world, acknowledging the reality of conflict and suffering, of doubt and fear, but confident that as we face them with Jesus, his sacrificial love will bring real transformation and new life.

Yours in Christ,

Ian

A letter from Lynda Russell (your incoming Minister)

Your stewards have asked me to write a personal introduction, so that when I arrive you will already know a little about me. So as we journey through this season of Lent, let me tell you something of my life journey with God which brings me to this point.

The Journey begins...

I grew up in Chessington and then New Malden (in the Kingston Circuit), where I attended Chessington Methodist Church for most of my 'formative' years. Through the love and care of people there I encountered Jesus and heard his call to commit my life to him at the age of 15. After three years at University at Warwick I went to France to teach English in a primary school for a year, sadly a difficult and unhappy time other than my involvement in a church with a lively youth group! However while there, I decided to go to study the Bible (since I knew very little!), so I went to a Bible School near Paris. It was during this time that I heard God's call to follow and serve full time. I thought then that this would entail staying in France as a missionary, but after a painful broken engagement not long before the wedding this didn't happen!

The Journey continued...

For some time I continued working and doing lots of things in the Church. I taught in Sunday School, I served on the Church Council and so on, but I also knew that God had a plan for my whole life which was working itself out in all I was doing. The Easter People event (which I went to for many years, and now ECG [*Equipping, Calling Going - the National Christian Conference. Ed.*]) was again and again a time when God spoke to me through the Holy Spirit and confirmed not only His intimate and deep love for me, but also His hand on my life. During these years God also called me to become a Local Preacher. I worked for two years in the DHSS, and then in a manufacturing company as a team leader, production manager, and translator. Somewhere along the way I met my husband, John and we moved to Wallington, near Croydon. I left the manufacturing company and retrained in IT and became an IT software trainer.

Surprises on the Journey...

In 2003 I was working as a trainer in a charity when I was made redundant. Although this had been expected (the usual 'downsizing') I found it difficult and wondered what to do next. I put all my energies into trying to get a new job, but then to my surprise suddenly realised that God was telling me to stop and wait for new direction. I waited for a few months, and then went to see the Superintendent to offer my temporary services in the circuit for whatever needed doing (I thought).

However what came out of that meeting was indeed a new direction, since he suggested I consider candidating for the Ministry. As he spoke I had a real conviction this was the right path for me, a continuation of God's call to full-time ministry and service in the church begun all those years ago. So I offered to the Methodist Church as a candidate for Presbyteral ministry and after many interviews was accepted.

On-going Journey...

I trained full-time at Wesley House, Cambridge for two years, and now have been working and living in East Peckham near Tonbridge for the past 4½ years. I have pastoral charge of the village church, and what I call a 'part-share' in an Anglican-Methodist LEP in the nearby town of Paddock Wood, which occupies 30% of my time, where I work closely with the Vicar and Curate.

I want to encourage us all on our journey with God, who at this time of Lent and Easter calls each of us to follow the way of the Cross through to Resurrection. I have seen this time and again as God has led me onwards over the past years, through the ups and downs, through the 'wanderings' and the 'wonderings', that Christ's way of love and service to others leads to transformation and blessing. I am so looking forward to joining you all in September and to hearing your life stories as well.

With Every Blessing,

Lynda Russell

**Methodist Women in Britain
South-East District Day**



“Head over all things”

at Tonbridge Methodist Church
Higham Lane, Tonbridge, TN10 4JT
<http://tonbridgethodistchurch.org>

Saturday 16 March 2013
10.30am (for 11.00 start) to 3.30pm

**Including worship, Bible study,
speakers on Brain Tumour Research, stalls**

**In support of our project 4Aurora and Brain Tumour
Research's Wear a Hat Day (28 March) you are invited,
if you wish, to bring and wear a decorated hat.**

Bring a packed lunch - drinks provided
£3.00 day charge covers refreshments
and contribution to expenses
Local contact: Daphne Arden 01732 355620
roi.daff@tiscali.co.uk



Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary - March



Fri	1st	11.00am	Women's World Day of Prayer service at St Andrew's Oxshott
Sun	3rd	11.00am	Rob Pitt
Thur	7th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at London Road, Horsham
Fri	8th	4.30pm	CYC at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Sat	9th	10.00am 2.30pm	Time 4 You (to 12noon) Platinum Service
Sun	10th	11.00am	Juliet Fuller
Sun	17th	11.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton
Fri	22nd	4.30pm	CYC at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Sun	24th	11.00am	Clair Fisher
Thurs	28th	3.30pm 8.00pm	Messy Church at the URC (to 5.30pm) An act of Worship for Maundy Thursday at URC
Good Friday -			
Fri	29th	10.00am to 12noon - Churches Together Vigil Round the Cross in the centre of Cobham.	
		10.30am	A Good Friday Act of Worship at URC
Easter -			
Sun	31st	10.30am	United Service at Cobham URC - Rev. Kim Plumpton - with Holy Communion



Next "Time 4 You" -

Saturday 9th March

10.00am - 12noon



Cobham

United Reformed Church

Cobham Lent Groups...

...with Kim continue on:

Wednesdays 6th, 13th, 20th March at 7.30pm

Thursdays 7th, 14th, 21st at 10.30am

at Cobham URC

Coffee for Carers

12th & 26th March at 11.00am



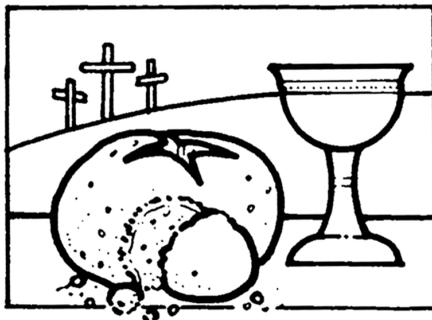
Coffee for Carers is an opportunity for carers to gather at Cobham URC for a coffee and a chat. In creating this space we hope to encourage support and fellowship for those who offer themselves selflessly to care for others. The group meets fortnightly (Tuesdays) at Cobham United Reformed Church and is open to anyone who would just like to meet in a warm and relaxing atmosphere. All are welcome.

Cobham URC Worship Diary

- March



Sun	3rd	9.00am 10.30am	Early Bird Service Rev. Derek Wensley
Sun	10th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton (Mothering Sunday with visiting preacher from Uganda - representing Romans 1: 11)
Sun	17th	10.30am	Rev. Norman Edsall
Palm Sunday -			
Sun	24th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton
Thurs	28th	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Service at the URC
Good Friday -			
Fri	29th	10.30am	Good Friday Service at the URC
Easter -			
Sun	31st	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion (Jointly with Cobham Methodist at the URC)
April			
Sun	7th	10.30am	Sydney Shore



Prayers at the Manse

at 9.30am on

Wednesdays: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th March

Cobham URC Events - March

Fri	1st	11.00am	Women's World Day of Prayer at St. Andrews, Oxshott
Sun	3rd	3.00pm	Special Needs Group (to 6.00pm)
Tues	5th	9.45am	Church Walk
Thurs	7th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
Fri	8th	4.30pm	CYC meets at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Tues	12th	11.00am 7.30pm	Coffee for Carers at the URC Elders' Meeting
Thurs	21st	8.00pm	Evening House Group
Fri	22nd	3.00pm 4.30pm	T @ 3 at church CYC meets at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Tues	26th	11.00am	Coffee for Carers at the URC
Thurs	28th	3.30pm to 5.30pm	Messy Church at the URC

Lent Groups continue... see page 8

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



Date:

**Thursday 28th March
2013**

Time: **3:30pm - 5:30pm**

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

All are welcome



Effingham

Methodist Church

Effingham Methodist Diary - March



Fri	1st	10.30am or 7.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer (see page 14)
Sat	2nd	10.00am -11.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall - a talk by Rev. Iain McKillop on Paintings of the Passion
Sun	3rd	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - with Holy Communion
Tues	5th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	6th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Sun	10th	10.00am	Mothering Sunday - Rhys Frost
Sun	17th	10.00am	Rev. Val Ogden
Tues	19th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	20th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Sun	24th	10.00am	Palm Sunday - John Oborn
Fri	29th	5.00pm 6.00pm	Good Friday Devotional Walk At the Foot of the Cross Service at EMC
Easter -			
Sun	31st	9.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - with Holy Communion
April			
Sat	6th	10.00am - 11.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall
Sun	7th	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - with Holy Communion

Prayer Meetings

Prayer meetings are held at Freddie's every Friday at 9.15am.



Birthday Dates to celebrate this month

Happy Birthday to four of our ladies:
Pat Steer on 17th, Janet Garnham on 19th,
Elaine Moran on 24th and Angela Putland on 29th

Remember we need your help to update our records of birthdays and important anniversaries.

Dates for your diaries



If you're Spring cleaning we'd love to have any bric-a-brac for the Bring & Buy stall at our **World Mission Coffee Morning from 10.00am to 12noon on 9th March** in aid of *Mission Aviation Fellowship*.

Saturday Morning Live



Come and sample some alternative worship on **Saturdays 2nd March and 6th April** from **10.00am - 11.00am** at **King George V Hall** in Brown's Lane.

Enjoy coffee, croissants, and food for thought.





Women's World Day of Prayer

On Friday 1st March the **Women's World Day of Prayer** service "**I was a stranger and you welcomed me**", which has been prepared by the Christian women of France, will be held in churches all over the world. Our local committee have arranged services and chosen two well known speakers:

Eastwick Road Church (URC) at 10.30am

Speaker: Myfanwy Tohill from LeatherHEAD Start

(Chairwoman of the board of trustees for the renamed charity)

All Saints Church at Little Bookham at 7.30pm

Speaker: Christopher Butler from Royal Holloway College,

which is part of the University of London, where he is **Head of Support & Advisory Services** for students. (He and his wife Morag are part of the **Saturday Morning Live team**, organising monthly Café Church sessions here in Effingham).

Easter in Effingham



If you are interested in joining our **Lent meetings** please look out for full details on posters or talk to **Dave Putland**.

Lent Lunches in aid of the *Alzheimer's Society* will be held from 12.30pm to 2.00pm in St. Lawrence's church hall on **Wednesdays 28th February and 13th March**.

Once again on **Maundy Thursday**, the Easter message will be given to Effingham's shoppers when **Kim** and a few helpers will be handing out locally cooked **hot-cross buns** wrapped in serviettes with a special Easter message and details about how to find out more about Jesus.

Good Friday is on **29th March** and there is a **Devotional Walk** at 5.00pm starting from **All Saints Church** and ending with an **At the Foot of the Cross Service** at 6.00pm at our Methodist Chapel.

Immoral, Impossible

Immoral, impossible, God only knows
How tenors and basses, sopranos, altos
At service on Sunday are rarely the same
As those who on Wednesday to choir practice came.

Unready, unable to sight-read the notes,
Nor counting, nor blending, they tighten their throats,
The descant so piercing is soaring above
The melody only a mother could love.

They have a director, but no-one knows why,
No-one in the choir deigns to turn him an eye.
It's clear by his waving, he wants them to look,
But each of them stands with his nose in the book.

Despite the offences, the music rings out.
The folks in the pews are enraptured, no doubt.
Their faces are blissful, their thoughts are so deep,
But it is no wonder, for they are asleep!

Charles Dawson



Beware the Ides of March!

Who can possibly forget that dire warning given to Julius Caesar by the Soothsayer in Shakespeare's play? And the warning was justified because his enemies were plotting against him and he was stabbed to death on the steps of the Senate House that very day in spite of another encounter he had with the Soothsayer in the morning, when he pointed out to him that the day had come and he was still alive, and the Soothsayer replied that the day had not yet gone!

But what is significant about the Ides of March? In my family it was significant because it was my mother's birthday, but what about Roman times? Apparently it was just part of the Roman calendar founded by Romulus the founder of Rome and the ides marked the middle of every month, and the one in March was no more intimidating than any other ide. So the Soothsayer was simply telling Caesar to watch his back, as people were plotting to kill him. That is a relief to me, as I am planning to go by train to visit my friends in Sheffield on that day, so I turned to my Bible notes for that day, "Words for Today" and looked at the reading from Job 26: 5-14. It contains these words:

"What a fine help you are to me, poor weak man that I am! You give such good advice! Who can know how truly great God is?"

What a pity Caesar didn't feel this about the Soothsayer! Let us hope that we can pray this prayer on March 15th:

"Praise be to God for nesting boxes, crocus bulbs and butterflies, for tadpole ponds and window boxes and trellis by the door. Praise be to God for grass that's cut and grass gone wild, for trees that tower, leaves being raked and soil to be dug. Praise be to God for seedlings and cuttings, hedges and patios, bushes in bud and hedgehogs. Praise be to God for a world on our doorsteps."

Freddie Jenkins



Dorking and Horsham Circuit
NEWSLETTER

March
April & May
2013

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Early in January I heard on the radio of a vicar who insisted on not putting up the Christmas tree in the church until Christmas Eve and then leaving it up for the full forty days of Christmas – much to the amusement and sometimes annoyance of the villagers. ("When are you going to get rid of that Christmas tree, vicar?")

The fact that Christmas lasts forty days was news to me. I always thought it lasted twelve days, finishing on Epiphany (6th January). But in some high church circles it seems that it lasts right through to 2nd February, known as Candlemas, the day which commemorates the presentation of the baby Jesus at the temple.

The great truths of the Christian faith are actually timeless. The fact that God became a man in Jesus; that Jesus died for our sins; that he conquered death and was raised to glorious new life; that he sent the Holy Spirit as our guide and strength – all these things are part of our day to day experience of God. They are reasons for constant celebration and thanksgiving. We shouldn't remember them only on Christmas Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Pentecost and then forget about them for the rest of the year.

But having a whole season when we can focus our thoughts on particular aspects of our faith is a good idea. It means that over the course of the year we have chance to think through the major themes and really appreciate them.

By the time you read this, the Lent will have started – forty days in which we think about the passion and suffering of our Lord. It's important to have such an extended time to do this, especially with Good Friday occurring midweek. These days some people are committed to work and not able to take time to mark the day Jesus died.

As a minister I am usually involved enough in various services and events over Holy Week that I find myself living through the passion narrative in reasonable detail. But those who only come to church for the Sunday services find themselves leaping from the celebrated arrival of Jesus on Palm Sunday to the joy of the resurrection on Easter Sunday. One day to mark the death of Jesus is not nearly enough. Blink and you miss it. Lent gives us the time we need to absorb what Jesus did for us on the cross.

(continued overleaf)

The **Methodist Church** 

(continued from front page)

And one day of Easter is not nearly enough either. The presence of the risen Christ should be a constant source of joy and wonder through the seven weeks after Easter, right up to the day of Pentecost when we shift our thinking to the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Over the coming few months may you find time to appreciate and wonder at all Christ has done for us – firstly in his willingness to die for us, and secondly in his triumphal victory over the grave.

Paul

COBHAM

$1 \div 3 = ?$

No, 0.333333 recurring is not the answer!

If you were to come to Cobham on a Sunday Morning you will be in for a BIG surprise. We at Cobham can make $1 \div 3$ into an equal number. How, you ask?

As from February 3, we will have not just one Christian community worshipping on a Sunday but three. The Methodist Church starts the day at 11 am, followed by the Filipino Church at 1 pm, and rounding the day off we have Cobham Community Church at 4 pm.

We are entering a new way in which Christians can, will, and are working together, bringing the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus to as many people as we can. Three in One, the Body of Christ.

Rhonda Frost

CIRCUIT STEWARD TRAINING

There will be a training day for Circuit Stewards and anyone interested in becoming a Circuit Steward at Leatherhead Methodist Church on Saturday March 23 from 10.00 - 3.00. (Please bring your own packed lunch.)

It is an opportunity to reflect on the duties and responsibilities of being a Circuit Steward, as well as a chance to meet with other circuit stewards across the District and learn from each other.

The day will be led by Revd Ian Howarth.

If you are interested in coming please let Wendy Cory know at the District Office on 01293 813970 or by wendy.cory@methodistsoutheast.org.uk

ST ANDREW'S, HORSHAM

We are delighted that the plans for our building project have gained full planning permission. We continue to fundraise and be challenged in our giving to enable these to become a reality. We are grateful to the Circuit for offering its generous support. A murder mystery evening (!) including a meal is planned for Saturday 20 April. Teams of 6-8 people are needed to come to a fun evening and seek to solve the crime. Lent Reflections and soup lunches will be held on Wednesdays following the Open House coffee mornings. Whilst we shall miss Kath during her three months sabbatical (which begins in May), we are looking forward to some of our past ministers visiting us (Dale, Peter and Catrin). It is hoped that many of us will again enjoy the Big Church Day Out at Wiston House, Steyning (25/26 May).

Rosemary Johnston

EFFINGHAM

Our Posada was a great success, with Mary & Joseph and the donkey visiting homes in Effingham, Bookham and Cobham, and even an assembly at a local junior school, which was so successful they want to do it again next Christmas.

In February **Saturday Morning Live**, our ecumenical café church, doubled its congregation when 45 people came for a talk by Bea Green, about how she and her Jewish family survived Hitler's Nazi Germany. We're praying everyone will come back next month for a talk on "Art for Easter".

Lent meetings and lunches, monthly prayer walks, and a **Good Friday Walk of Witness** have been organised by the local **Churches Together committee**, and our Chapel has a **World Missions** coffee morning in aid of MAF and a St. George's Day lunch.

On 19 May, **Aldersgate Sunday**, we'll celebrate our **159th Chapel Anniversary** with **Revd. Ian Field**, who was our minister in the early '90s when he instigated extensive modernisation of our little Victorian Chapel. There will be an exhibition on "**Wesley's Warmed Heart**" on **18 and 19 May** to celebrate **Aldersgate's 275th Anniversary**.
Perhaps you'd like to join us?

Sadly there is no mention on the Methodist website of any special celebrations planned for this key event in the history of Methodism. Perhaps we'll celebrate the **300th Anniversary** in **2038** but it seems a long time to wait !

Contact theputlands@aol.com if you'd like this exhibition at your church.

Ange Putland

st: martin's DORKING

Although Christmas now seems quite a while ago, it was a busy period for us at Dorking. After the Christmas Day service, around 40 people enjoyed the dinner and afternoon's entertainment, in the Centre, which shows that this is well worth doing and is appreciated by those who would otherwise spend the day alone.

In addition to all the 'usual' Christmas services, Val led a particularly reflective and atmospheric Watchnight Service by candlelight on New Year's Eve which attracted people from a wide area. We started the New Year off with a rousing rendition of 'Guide me, O Thou Great Redeemer' in Dorking High Street!

Sadly, as many of you will already know, we learnt of the death in November of our former, much-loved Minister, Revd Bill Murphy. Bill had been ill for some time, and a few members from St Martin's attended a very moving Thanksgiving Service for him in Aylesbury.

For our next Café Church on 10 February we have invited the families and friends of those who have been baptised at St Martin's in the last six years to join us for a short service, followed by tea and cake as a way of 'keeping in touch'. Then on 17 March we have planned a St Patrick's Day-themed Café Church at 3.00 pm which will be led by Revd Derek Tighe.

Evelyn Wolvey

LONDON ROAD, HORSHAM

Messy Church continues to attract young families on the third Thursday afternoon of each month, to take part in activities, worship and refreshments. The February session will follow on February 21- but in the morning, as that week is half-term for local schools. On March 31, the afternoon programme will follow an Easter theme.

Tim Casey, who has grown up at London Road and served the church well in scouting, drama and as Youth Worker, has moved on to Sandhurst for a year's training, after which he hopes to become an officer in the Royal Engineers.

The drama group on the first Friday and Saturday of February performed a pantomime, "Rumpelstilzkin", before packed houses. The cast included a number of talented young people recruited from outside the church whose contribution was a large factor in the success of the production, although mention must be made of a certain Paul Cockburn as the dame. Congratulations are due to Helen Currington, making her debut as director.

John Woodward

PARTRIDGE GREEN

We continue to improve our premises with the redecoration of the vestry during February.

Our youth work continues to flourish with support from our Family Worker, Chris Currie.

Plans are well in place for our February Messy Church, with a "Noah and the Ark" theme, and the next one will be on April 9: an enjoyable opportunity to share activities, worship and lunch with young families from the village.

We continue with monthly Junior Church, and quarterly Toddler Services, supported by the local playgroup and children's nursery.

Our Easter activities commence with weekly Lent lunches, commencing on Thursday 14 February at 12.30 pm. Monies raised from this will be in aid of World Vision-Hurungwe Project in Zimbabwe.

Come and join us for our Good Friday Ramble at 2.30 pm, followed by refreshments and a service at 5.00 pm.

Future dates for your diary:

- Evening quiz and supper on April 27. More details available soon.
- Spring Coffee morning on May 18 at 10.00 am.

A Happy Easter to you all.

Alison James

CIRCUIT DIARY

Thurs Mar 7	Circuit Meeting at London Rd, 7.30 pm
Tues Mar 12	LPWL at London Road, 7.30 pm
Sat April 20	District Synod at Pembury
Thurs May 9	Ascension Day
Tues June 4	LPWL at Leatherhead, 7.30 pm
Sun July 14	Circuit Service at Dorking, 6.00 pm
Sat Sept 7	Circuit Welcome (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
Tues Sep 10	LPWL at St Andrew's, 7.30 pm
Thurs Sep 19	Circuit Meeting, Leatherhead, 7.30 pm
Sat Sept 21	District Synod

The next issue will be published in late May.

Please send contributions by **Friday May 3** to: j.oborn671@btinternet.com

Leatherhead Pages

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



Join us for an

Easter Eggsploration at Messy Church

Thursday 21 March, 3:30-5:30pm at
Leatherhead Methodist Church
Church Road, Leatherhead

A family-friendly journey through the Easter story,
for children and adults together.

Crafts - competitions - challenges
Celebration ... and chocolate!



News from Leatherhead Trinity

The big news is that Leatherhead Trinity achieved a GOOD Ofsted rating when the Inspectors paid a visit on 30th-31st January. This is a huge achievement, reflecting a lot of hard work and dedication by staff and governors. It represents a step up in the school's ranking, at a time when a tougher assessment framework means that many schools have found themselves heading in the opposite direction.

The report is on Ofsted's website and is well worth a read. Highlights include:

- "Teachers have high expectations of what pupils can achieve. Pupils respond enthusiastically and take a pride in their achievements."
- "The school environment is safe and welcoming. Pupils' behaviour is good."
- "They are highly enthusiastic learners."
- "Behaviour in assemblies was particularly impressive as pupils sang enthusiastically, participated well and listened attentively to teachers and other pupils."

Looking ahead, World Book Week begins on 4th March. Pupils are taking part in a Sponsored Read and there will be other special events to celebrate books and the pleasure of reading.

On 27th March (Maundy Thursday), the whole school will take a break from their regular timetable for an "Easter Pause Day". This is a day when all the children are given time and space to reflect on the Easter story, in a way that is appropriate for them. It's fantastic that the school provides this space to support the children's spiritual development and we pray that every child will find something new to ponder, whatever their faith background.

TriPod takes place from 6:30-7:30pm on 6 March and is an opportunity for friends and church members to meet at the school, alongside staff and parents, to swap news and offer prayer for the life of the school. Do join us if you can.

Jane Smith

HELLO FRIENDS, NEIGHBOURS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS

On the 23rd June, I am going to hold a multi-charity May Fair at the Leatherhead Leisure Centre along with a sponsored motorised treasure hunt on behalf of the *Hawthorn Leslie 3837 Preservation Society*. (See below and also the website <http://www.hl3837.org> for more details).

If you would like to get involved with the event, you can do so by having a stall or pitch in the hall known as the "barn". The cost of a pitch will be £10 for bona fide charities and bric-a-brac or car boot style types. Very small businesses will be £20 and larger ones and local shops are £40. The pitches are 3m x 2m and come with a 6ft x 2ft trestle table. If you wish to bring a larger table of your own, then please do so. If it goes slightly over the pitch size, we will not be too concerned about that and there will be no extra cost.

If you wish to join in with the treasure hunt, the entry fee will be £5 per car, all of which will go into the prize fund for the winners. The event will take you into the countryside, towns and villages of Surrey and Sussex and promises to be great fun. You can enter for the fun of it or obtain sponsorship for your favourite charity. You may also wish to take someone less fortunate than yourself for a nice day out.

For more details of the event, please contact me via email on: brian.davis1947@btinternet.com or by post at:

63, Cannon Grove, Fetcham, KT22 9LP. Thank you.

Brian Davis

The Hawthorn Leslie 3837 Preservation Society purchased 3837 from Mole Valley District Council where she had been standing for over 25 years behind Leatherhead Leisure Centre. The loco is now based at Isfield, East Sussex at the headquarters of The Lavender Line for restoration. After a working life of 35 years at Corby Steelworks, Northamptonshire and many years languishing behind Leatherhead Leisure Centre, 3837 now requires your help!



courtyard

THE HAPPY CHILD FASHION SHOW

Fashion by Courtyard designer boutique, Guildford

In aid of Happy Child International
Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration for
street children and their families in Brazil.

the Royal Automobile Club
Woodcote Park, Epsom

Monday 11th March
at 12noon



A fabulous opportunity to view the spring/summer collection from the eclectic 'Courtyard' designer boutique

Enjoy a welcome glass of champagne, luncheon, fashion show and an opportunity to buy from a range of designer clothes, designer hats and bespoke jewellery

There will be fundraising during the afternoon and of course.....gentlemen are welcome!



Return with Payment to:

The Courtyard Fashion Show
Happy Child International
The Leatherhead Institute
67 The High Street
Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8AH

For more information:
T: 01372 375848
E: Caroline.Taylor@happychild.org
www.happychild.org

Ticket Order Form

Ticket Includes: Champagne Reception, Luncheon, Fashion Show and Fundraising

I would like tickets @ £45 each

I am unable to attend but would like to make a donation of
£ to Happy Child International.

Make your donation worth 25% more using gift aid. Tick the box below and complete your contact details.

I am a UK taxpayer and would like to Gift Aid my donation

Sign: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Online Donation - Log on to www.happychild.org Click on the "Donate Now" and follow to Just Giving page. Reference the donation FASHION SHOW

Payment

Internet transfer - Happy Child's Bank Account HSBC 61544098 Sort: 40-27-07
Payment Reference: HCFASHIONSHOWTICKET
E-mail us with your address for sending the tickets.

By Cheque - made payable to Happy Child International. Send to address below.

Your Details (FILL IN CAPITALS PLEASE)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____



Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 1st March

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

This is the title of this year's Women's World Day of Prayer (WWDP). The text has been prepared by a group of French Christian women. The ecumenical Leatherhead service will be held at Leatherhead Methodist Church at 2.30pm followed by refreshments .

Nationally, there has been some concern over the use of the word 'women' in the title, implying to many that the service is solely for women, particularly those who are older. Not so! Each year a group of Christian women from a country around the world affiliated to the organisation, prepare a service, introducing a theme common to all people, men and women, whatever their age. Last year, it was the turn of the women of Malaysia with a focus on 'Justice', and in 2014 women from Egypt will prepare a service entitled 'Streams in the Desert'. Now what could that be about? Drought, and all its problems perhaps? Some countries no longer use the word 'women' in the title, but in this country, there are other days of prayer for organisations, and WWDP does not want to lose its individuality as a worldwide event. The first service begins at daybreak in the far east and continues around the globe until sunset in the west. It is easy to understand why, every year, the service ends with the hymn 'The day thou gavest Lord is ended'.

The local WWDP is part of Churches Together in Leatherhead. It would be good if the one WWDP event of the year, always the first Friday in March, could receive the same recognition and support as other organisations within CTL.

**FRIDAY 1st MARCH, 2.30pm,
LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH**

Do come! You will all be made most welcome.

Leatherhead WWDP Committee



LMC

Leatherhead Methodist Church

Diary - March



Fri	1st	2.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer
Sun	3rd	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion James Cameron
Mon	4th	10.00am	West Hill School café at LMC (to 12noon)
Sun	10th	10.30am 6.30pm	John Oborn Rev. Ian Howarth
Sun	17th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion jointly with Christ Church at Christ Church
Mon	18th	10.00am	West Hill School café at LMC (to 12noon)
Thurs	21st	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sat	23rd	8.00am	CTiL Men's Breakfast at the Parish Hall
Sun	24th	10.30am 6.30pm	Martin Ellis New Fire
Tues	26th	8.00pm	Church Council
Wed	27th	8.00pm	Leadership Team
Good Friday -			
Fri	29th	10.00am	CTiL Walk of Witness starting at the Catholic Church, ending at LMC
Easter -			
Sun	31st	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion Jointly with Christ Church at LMC (No evening service)
April			
Fri	5th	2.30pm	Time for Tea (ends 4.30pm)
Sun	7th	10.30am 6.30pm	James Cameron Rev. Ian Howarth

Glimpses of God

The other Sunday morning we were shown some very out of focus pictures. The congregation was asked to guess what they were. Of course, we couldn't, not until they were brought into proper focus, and we could all see they were a lion, the Pope, the Queen, Ian, and lastly, Pippa Pig. The only one we got more quickly than the others was Ian! Perhaps because it was one of the last shown and our eyes had got more used to seeing through the vagueness, or perhaps, because of all those illustrated, he was the most familiar. The visual aids were demonstration of the Transfiguration of Christ and how the disciples could not recognise the Christ they knew so well. The blinding light of his appearance put everything out of focus.

And even today, that is still a problem. Do we always recognise God in unusual circumstances when he is staring us in the face? It is not God's way to shout 'Hey! Here I am, look at me!' He wants us to find out for ourselves.

Early in 2010, Haiti was affected by a violent earthquake, resulting in horrific destruction and the loss of many thousands of lives. The television coverage showed dramatic scenes of those who were lucky enough to escape, sitting silently in wide-eyed bewilderment. Yet the first words of a woman, rescued after being entombed for eight days, were 'Thank you, Lord.' In the midst of the horror, she recognised God's presence. There were similar reports after the rock-fall in a mine in Chile. After many days, the miners were rescued. On being brought to the surface, the miners fell on their knees, and gave thanks. When John McCarthy and Terry Waite were held hostage in Beirut for so long, it was their recognition of God that helped them through their times of despair.

Most of our lives are very ordinary, yet we still have occasions when we experience our own 'rock-fall' that knocks us for six and we cannot think straight. Or there is the 'earthquake' that shakes us to our very foundation and our hold on life seems precarious. Although such traumas are upsetting in their own way, and life is out of focus for a while, can we still catch a glimpse of God listening out for our cries of distress? Or do we accept that He is there all the time and will respond because that is the way we always view our experiences? I hope so.

Jean Plant

BBC Lent Talks 2012 (continued)

As I scientist then, I am not ashamed or embarrassed to be a Christian. After all, Christianity played a large part in giving me my subject.

The mention of Kepler brings me to another issue. Science is, as I said earlier, by and large a collaborative activity. Yet real breakthrough is often made by a lone individual who has the courage to question established wisdom and strike out on his own. Kepler was one such. He went to Prague as assistant to the astronomer Tycho Brahe, who gave him the task of making mathematical sense of observations of planetary motion in terms of complex systems of circles. The view that perfect motion was circular came from Aristotle and had dominated thought for centuries. But Kepler just couldn't make circles fit the observations. He then decided on the revolutionary step of abandoning Aristotle, approaching the observations of the planets from scratch and seeing what the orbits actually looked like. Kepler's discovery, that the planetary orbits were not circular but elliptical, led to a fundamental paradigm shift for science.

Kepler had the instinct to pay careful attention to things that didn't fit in to established theory. Einstein was another such. For things that don't fit in can lead to crucial advances in scientific understanding. Furthermore, there are things that do not fit in to science. For, and it needs to be said in the face of widespread popular opinion to the contrary, science is not the only way to truth. Indeed, the very success of science is due to the narrowness of the range of its questions and methodology. Nor is science co-extensive with rationality-otherwise half our university faculties would have to shut. There are bigger matters in life - questions of history and art, culture and music, meaning and truth, beauty and love, morality and spirituality and a host of other important things that go beyond the reach of the natural sciences - and, indeed, of naturalism itself. Just as Kepler was initially held back by an assumed Aristotelianism could it not be that an apriori naturalism is holding back progress by stopping evidence speaking for itself?

It is to such things that my mind turns at this time of Lent. In particular, to the person of Jesus, the man, above all others who did not fit in to the pre-conceptions of this world. Just as Kepler revolutionized science by paying close attention to why the observations of the planets did not fit in to the mathematical wisdom of the time, I claim that my life and that of many others has been revolutionized by paying close attention to why Jesus did not, and still does not, fit in to the thinking of this world. Indeed, the fact that Jesus did not fit in is one of the reasons I am convinced of his claim to be the Son of God. For instance, Jesus does not fit in to the category of literary fiction. If he did, then what we have in the Gospels is inexplicable. It would have required exceptional genius to have invented the character of Jesus, and put into his mouth parables that are in themselves literary masterpieces. It is just not credible that all four Gospel writers with little formal education between them just happened simultaneously to be literary geniuses of world rank.

Furthermore, there are relatively few characters in literature that strike us as real persons, whom we can know and recognise. One of them is my intellectual hero, Socrates. He has struck generation after generation of readers as a real person. The reason for that is that Plato did not invent him. So it is with Jesus Christ. Indeed, the more we know about the leading cultures of the time, the more we see that, if the character of Jesus had not been a historical reality, no-one could have invented it, for the simple reason that he did not fit in to any of those cultures. The Jesus of the Gospels fitted nobody's concept of a hero. Greek, Roman and Jew all found Him the very opposite of their ideal.

This is the second of three instalments of a Lent Talk by Professor John C. Lennox in 2012 on Radio 4. He has written various books such as *Gunning for God* and *God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?* He also has a website -johnlennox.org.

This article was submitted for publication by Bob Greenfield who has obtained permission from the copyright owner to reproduce it here. Our thanks to Bob for this.

Time for Tea

COME for TEA and COMPANY

from 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Friday 5th April (No Time for Tea in March)

at

LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

EVERYONE WELCOME

If you need transport please contact:

Margaret Meynen on 372930 or Gill Harris on 458518

(Suggested donation £1)



Details of

House

Groups - All Welcome

The **Daytime House** Group meets fortnightly on Fridays from 1.15pm to 2.45pm during school terms and has started a new study course on 'Walking with Gospel Women'. New members welcome - please speak to Jane Smith for details of venue - 01372 372919.

The **Wednesday House Group** meets on the third Wednesday each month in the summer. Please contact Norma Shaw on 01372 274533 for further details of venue.

The **Monday House Group** meets on alternate Mondays. Contact Carol Stoves

West Hill Community Café at Leatherhead



Methodist Church Mondays 4th & 18th March, 10.00am to 12noon

After a successful first term before Christmas, pupils at West Hill School in Leatherhead will be continuing with the café at Leatherhead Methodist Church. West Hill School is an outstanding special school supporting 100 secondary aged pupils from 11 to 16 with learning difficulties and Autism.

West Hill School values close community links. Our curriculum is creative and innovative to ensure that all our pupils achieve as much as they possibly can to flourish in adult life. The café is providing learners with the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the local Leatherhead community. The café is also providing learners with worthwhile opportunities to develop work related learning skills as well as social and communication skills.

The café will be open on alternate Monday mornings between 10.00am and noon. The café will serve a range of hot drinks, juices and light snacks at very reasonable prices.

West Hill learners look forward to welcoming all local residents to the West Hill Community café and are extremely grateful to Leatherhead Methodist Church for this exciting social enterprise opportunity.

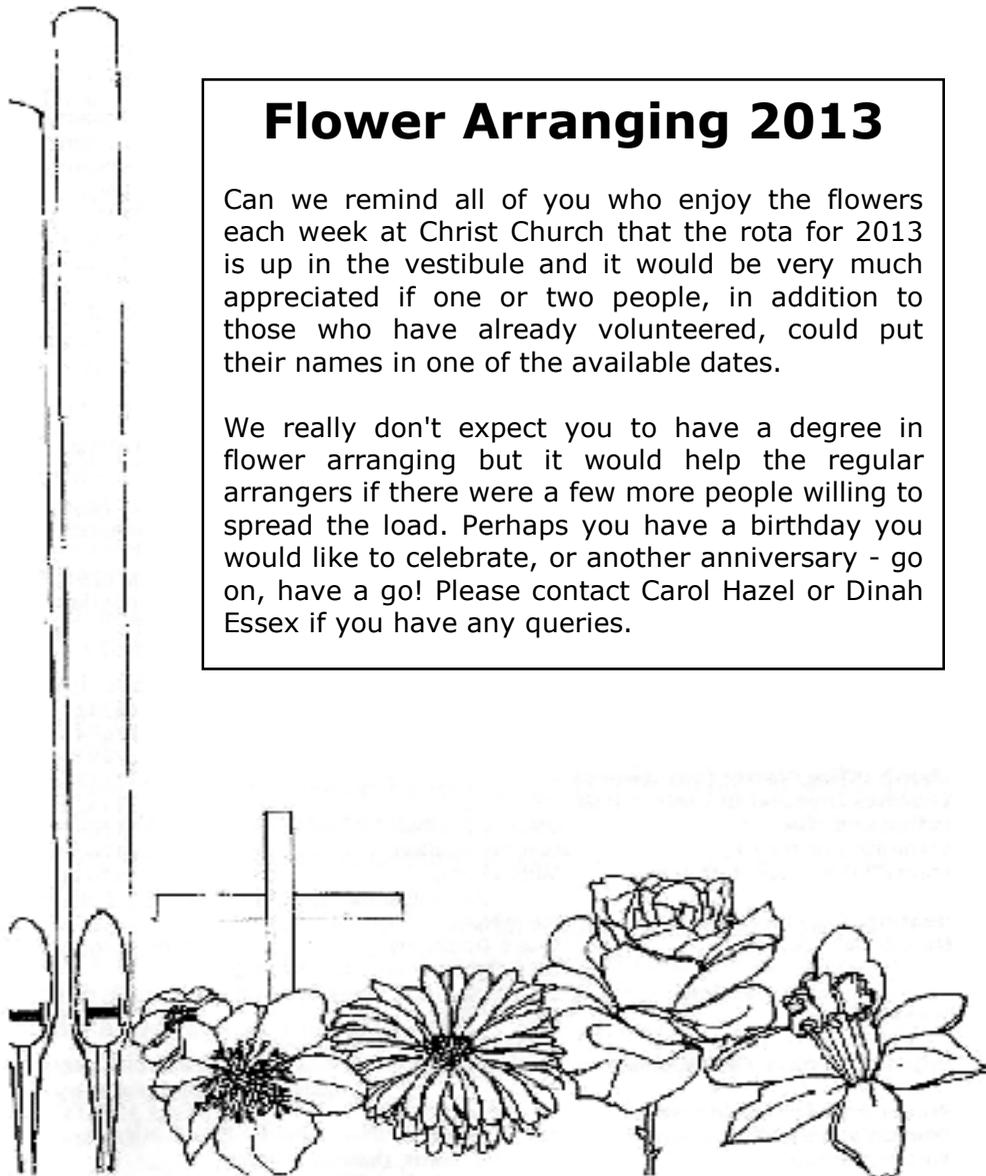
Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

Flower Arranging 2013

Can we remind all of you who enjoy the flowers each week at Christ Church that the rota for 2013 is up in the vestibule and it would be very much appreciated if one or two people, in addition to those who have already volunteered, could put their names in one of the available dates.

We really don't expect you to have a degree in flower arranging but it would help the regular arrangers if there were a few more people willing to spread the load. Perhaps you have a birthday you would like to celebrate, or another anniversary - go on, have a go! Please contact Carol Hazel or Dinah Essex if you have any queries.



Christ Church Diary - March



Fri	1st	2.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer at LMC
Sun	3rd	10.30am 6.30pm	Mrs Eileen Lawlor - Holy Communion Evening Service at LMC: James Cameron
Tues	5th	7.30pm	Surrey, Sussex Synod Area at Crawley
Wed	6th	10.30am	Coffee & Chat
Sat	9th	6.30pm	Cabaret and Fish & Chips - Boswell
Sun	10th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth - Parade & Baptism Evening Service at LMC: Rev. Ian Howarth
Sun	17th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Donald Finnan Joint Holy Communion (LMC & URC) at Christ Church: Rev. Ian Howarth
Thurs	21st	3.30pm	Messy Church at LMC
Sat	23rd	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at the Parish Church Hall
Sun	24th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth New Fire - Ecumenical Service at LMC
Easter			
Sun	31st	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion Jointly with LMC at LMC
April			
Fri	5th	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC (see page 30)
Sun	7th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Robert Blows Evening Service at LMC: Rev. Ian Howarth





The
United
Reformed
Church

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 5 February 2013 and would like to report the following:

- ◆ We welcomed to the meeting Revd Andrew Mills, Synod LMMR Co-ordinator who explained and advocated the Local Mission and Ministry Review (LMMR) process.
- ◆ We also welcomed Mrs Linda Richards and Mr Ian Fletcher as our Lay Preaching Coordinators for Surrey and Sussex respectively.
- ◆ We are grateful to the Revd Kim Plumpton (Cobham) who has agreed to be nominated as Surrey Pastoral Committee Convener and Mr Alan Kirby (Banstead) has agreed to take over as Surrey PC Secretary both from April 2013.
- ◆ It is pleasing that Revd David Skitt has been nominated as Area Leader when Revd Peter Flint finishes his term in June 2013.
- ◆ Please uphold in your prayers Peter and Kay McIntosh and the congregation at Christ Church, Leatherhead.
- ◆ Revd Lynda Russell (Methodist) has accepted the station at Leatherhead to serve Christ Church and Leatherhead Methodist Church from September. Her induction will be on 7 September.
- ◆ Mrs Jean Hensman will retire as Local Church Leader at Tolworth in June. We thank Jean for her 5 years of faithful service.
- ◆ Mrs Rosemary Shirley will be ordained and inducted as Chaplain to the Western Sussex Hospitals and as Advocate for Chaplaincy to the URC's in the area on 16 March, 2.30pm, at Emmanuel URC, Worthing. We wish her well.

- ◆ Sompting, Worthing and Walton on the Hill have all completed their first LMMR, Banstead and Crawley are undergoing theirs but more volunteers are needed to keep these reviews rolling.
- ◆ LMMR Training will be held on 9 March, 10 – 1pm at Bighthelm, Brighton. Please consider whether someone from your church could attend.
- ◆ Revd Jenny Morgan and Mrs Jeanette Chamberlain were thanked at this their last meeting as they retire as Surrey Pastoral Committee Convener and Secretary respectively. Miss Sue Ferguson was also thanked as she steps down from the Surrey PC.

The next Synod Area Meeting is on 5 March 2013, Crawley United Reformed Church at 7.30pm.

Pastoral Committees meet again on 30 April 2013.

Other dates in 2013 for your diary:

Pastoral Committees: 10 September and 12 November

Synod Area: 18 June and 1 October

Christ Church Family News



We are glad to know that **Bob Booker** now has a date for his hip replacement and we wish him well in the meantime.

We are pleased to report that **Carol Hazell** has had her hip operation, but sorry that she has had a number of health problems since then. We do hope that she will soon be feeling very much better.

We send hearty congratulations and good wishes to **Olive and John Rayner** who celebrate their Diamond Wedding on 28th March.

We remember in our prayers all those who are unwell and recovering from winter ailments, including **Gilbert McMillan**. We also remember the recently bereaved.

Pastorate Details

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

Leatherhead Methodist Church:

www.leatherheadmethodist.org

Contact: Senior Steward -
Sue Friend 01372 813464

Christ Church (United Reformed)

Leatherhead:

www.chch.org.uk

Contact: Local Church Leader -
Mike Essex 01372 273472

Effingham Methodist Church:

www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk

Contact: Senior Steward -
Dave Putland 01372 454850

Cobham United Reformed Church:

www.cobhamurc.org.uk

Contact: Church Secretary -
Mary Langtry 01483 282421

Cobham Methodist Church:

www.cobhammethodistchurch.com

Contact: Senior Steward -
Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



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