

the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

March 2014



LENT



The
United
Reformed
Church

Linking:
Christ Church (United Reformed) Leatherhead
Cobham Methodist Church
Cobham United Reformed Church
Effingham Methodist Church
Leatherhead Methodist Church

The **Methodist** Church



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All copy for the April issue to the editor by 15th March



The Ministers Write...

From Rev. Lynda Russell

Dear Friends,

Easter this year is just about as late as it can be, and so Lent begins on Wednesday 5th March. This year again maybe you will be one of the many thousands giving up something for Lent as part of the tradition. Will it be chocolate? – perhaps the most popular (well, unpopular, depending on how you look at it!) item to give up, signalling as it does depriving ourselves of something we love, and at the same time perhaps helping us to eat more healthily and even lose weight! A double whammy if there ever was one! I read a statistic a while ago which said that on average each person in Britain eats 3kg (6lbs) of chocolate every year. I'm not sure if that's a lot or not – I think I know quite a few people who eat more than that!

However, maybe this year as well as giving up something, we should think about the opportunity to make the period of Lent more meaningful in a different way. Christian Aid has as its campaign again this year the slogan 'Count Your Blessings (2014) Make Lent Count'. Each day during Lent we are challenged to reflect on the good things in our lives, even the smallest blessings, and to turn our thoughts to those in need around the world for whom life can be a daily struggle. We're also challenged to literally 'count our blessings' and then to take action, for example, by saving a small daily amount as suggested in creative ways. If you're interested in joining me in doing this let me know and I'll order more copies.

However, depending on whether you are a 'glass half-full' or 'glass half-empty' kind of person, it can sometimes be quite a challenge to count your blessings, and certainly some of us find it a lot easier than others of us. But this is something that we can get better at if we put our minds to it. For example, we could start on the 5th March at the beginning of Lent by writing down one or two small things we're thankful of God for, and then end our day by giving thanks for them. If we add one more to the list the next day, and then continue through Lent, the list will soon grow, and it might just surprise us when we look back over it at Easter.

In our Sunday worship both at LMC and Christ Church we have a time for giving thanks for how God has blessed us during the week.

continued on the next page

This is another way that we're learning together to watch out for both the small and more obvious ways we've been blessed. Perhaps after Easter we could have a Sunday when we bring our lists of thanksgiving/blessings – what an amazing time of sharing that could be!

God's love is there for us all, and so are his blessings. So let's give thanks and count those blessings to MAKE LENT COUNT!

Lynda

From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

We are fast approaching Easter but of course we make the journey through Lent first. Lent is often marked by fasting, both from food and festivities. In some senses it's supposed to replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days and of course Lent recalls the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion.

We might say that the desert is a place of absence, an absence of water, an absence of people, an absence of life and is for those reasons a place of challenge and vulnerability.

I have to say that Col and I have felt a real sense of vulnerability recently. In one week the drains packed up, the kitchen floor got flooded by an incompetent plumber, the dishwasher stopped working and then the freezer full of food decided to follow in sympathy. Even the post wasn't kind to us and one morning a parking ticket for stopping in a loading bay fell on the mat (entirely our own fault). Then amongst it all we received a phone call from Birmingham telling us that our 27 year old daughter was in hospital and that she had taken an overdose. Talking her through the depression that had resulted in her taking such drastic measures to find some kind of release, was a very vulnerable place to be, especially for Lianne, but as a mother and a minister it was not a place I ever expected to find myself. Sadly it is a place that many people find themselves in.

Sometimes we wander into the desert by our own accord and other occasions we find we are thrust into desert places desperately trying to find a way to the quickest exit. Yet it seems to me that the example Jesus gives us in the heart of the desert is the answer that we need, so that the desert is not quite the inhospitable place we might think. Thankfully the desert is a place where God is not absent; it is a place where we find Jesus challenged by 'Satan' but not overcome, a place where faith is refined and strengthened, not lost.

It is a place where we can come ever closer to God and not a place where God walks away from us. Jesus stands firm in his belief that his faith in the Father transcends any circumstances.

Lent will challenge us most certainly because we are called to make ourselves vulnerable before God. In those moments of vulnerability we will wobble, we may even fall down, but we can trust that God will lift us up, that he will walk with us and when needed help us out of those desert places even stronger than when we first encountered such a place.

With every blessing,

Kim



Flooding...

A special prayer from **The Arthur Rank Centre**, a charity supporting rural communities and churches, written for those affected by the recent flooding: -

"Gracious God,

We commit to you all who are affected by flooding and the severe weather.

We pray for those who are suffering through loss of their homes and everyday lives.

We remember those whose livelihoods have been damaged, whose businesses cannot operate and farmers whose crops have been destroyed and livestock evacuated.

We give thanks for the many people who have worked together to help one another.

We remember the physical hardships, stress and distress of all those working in difficult conditions and pray for the perseverance and stamina required to carry on.

We ask your blessing on the work of all organisations and initiatives that are seeking to provide relief to people, prevent further flooding and ensure livestock are well cared for.

Bless the work of all those who caught up in this severe weather and its aftermath.

All this we ask through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."



Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary - March



Sun	2nd	10.30am	David Cappitt
Fri	7th	11.00am	Women's World Day of Prayer at Cobham URC (<i>see opposite</i>)
Sat	8th	10.00am 2.30pm	Time 4 You (to 12 noon) Platinum Service
Sun	9th	10.30am	John Oborn
Thurs	13th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Partridge Green
Fri	14th	4.30pm	CYC at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Sun	16th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion
Sun	23rd	10.30am	Tina Andrews
Thurs	27th	3.45pm	Messy Church at the URC (to 5.45pm)
Fri	28th	4.30pm	CYC at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Sun	30th	10.30am	Joint Service at Cobham URC - Rev. Norman Edsall
April			
Sun	6th	10.30am	tba





Next "Time 4 You"

Saturday 8th March

**10.00am - 12 noon
Cobham Methodist Church**

"Why not stop and rest awhile, recharge your batteries, find the space for you to enjoy a chat and a free cup of coffee".



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

at Cobham United Reformed Church

'Streams in the Desert'

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

Please come and join us.



Cobham

United Reformed Church

Cobham URC Worship Diary: March



Sun	2nd	9.00am 10.30am	Early Bird Service Derek Wensley
Sun	9th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Sun	16th	10.30am	John Stewart
Sun	23rd	10.30am	Tom Zachariah
Sun	30th	10.30am	Rev. Norman Edsall (United Service)
April			
Sun	6th	10.30am	Thelma Roberts

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

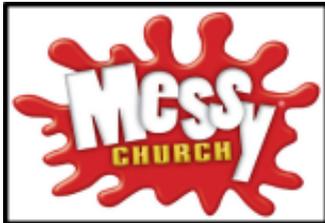
Date:

Thursday 27th March

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

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

All are welcome



Cobham URC Events - March

Sun	2nd	3.00pm	Special Needs Group (to 6.00pm)
Mon	3rd		Ecumenical Lent Study begins
Tues	4th	9.45am	Church Walk
Thurs	6th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
Fri	7th	11.00am	Women's World Day of Prayer (<i>see p.7</i>)
Tues	11th	11.00am 7.30pm	Coffee for Carers at the URC Elders' Meeting
Fri	14th	4.30pm	CYC meets at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Tues	25th	11.00am	Coffee for Carers at the URC
Thurs	27th	3.45pm	Messy Church (to 5.45pm)
Fri	28th	3.00pm 4.30pm	T@3 CYC meets at the URC (to 6.30pm)



*Congratulations to
Des and Jean Magill who will
celebrate their 60th Wedding
Anniversary during the morning
worship on Sunday 9th March*

Prayers at the Manse

at 9.30am on

Wednesdays: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th March



Effingham

Methodist Church

Effingham Methodist Diary - March



Sat	1st	10.00am	{ Café Church - St. Lawrence Church Hall to 11.00am { <i>see 'Saturday Morning Live' on page 12</i>
Sun	2nd	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion
Tues	4th	2.30pm	Tuesday tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	5th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Fri	7th	10.30am	Women's World Day of Prayer (<i>see page 15</i>)
Sun	9th	10.00am	Alex Cloke
Wed	12th	3.30pm	Messy Church at St. Lawrence Church Hall (to 5.30pm) (<i>see opposite</i>)
Thurs	13th	12.30pm	Bible Study Group lunch with Kim in the Hall (to 3.00pm)
Sun	16th	10.00am	Juliet Fuller
Tues	18th	2.30pm	Tuesday tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	19th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Sun	23rd	10.00am	John Oborn
Sat	29th	10.00am	World Missions Coffee Morning (to 12 noon)
Sun	30th	10.30am	Mothering Sunday at St Lawrence with Kim
April			
Sat	5th	10.00am	Café Church, St Lawrence Church Hall (to 11am)
Sun	6th	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion

Prayer Meetings...

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



Dear Friends of Effingham Methodist Church

Thank you to all who are on the cleaning and flower rota. You all do a great job, as well as saving the church having to pay for a cleaner.

I know it is difficult for some of us, as we all get older, but I am happy to ask someone to share the work. Please don't give up! You are all very important. It's good to see God's house looking so nice.

Do you sometimes wonder where your donations for our tea/ coffee and cake on Sunday mornings go? Well it's amazing how far this money stretches! It pays for all the kitchen towels, toilet rolls and cleaning materials, as well as coffee, tea, sugar etc. It even goes towards flowers or refreshments when there is a special event. We never seem to run out of funds! Maybe God has a hand in it!

Thank you for your generosity and please keep it up.

With love from **Pat McElhill**

Get Messy! Very, very, Messy! FUN! FUN! FUN!



**St. Lawrence Church Hall in Brown's Lane
Wednesday 12th March - 3.30pm-5.30pm**

Birthday Dates to celebrate this month



We wish a very Happy Birthday to four of our ladies:

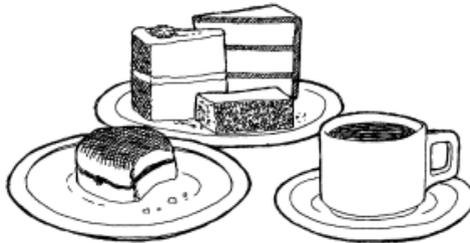
Pat Steer on 17th, Janet Garnham on 19th,
Elaine Moran on 24th, Angela Putland on 29th

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 12 noon on 29th March** in aid of *Mission Aviation Fellowship*.



Saturday Morning Live



Our monthly Café Church offers coffee, croissants and food for thought at St. Lawrence Church Hall from **10.00am to 11.00am** on **Saturday 1st March** when we'll be discussing "**What use is the Bible?**" with a speaker from the **Bible Society**.

Tuesday Teas

Instead of our usual fortnightly meeting at the Catholic Hall, at one of our meetings in February our guests met at the Methodist Church for a fish and chip lunch. This was well attended by both members and helpers. The fish and chips were voted delicious and this was followed by several sweets contributed by some of the helpers. It was a very convivial gathering and as always, there was much chatter and laughter. We were back in the Catholic Hall for our usual afternoon tea session on Tuesday 18th February.

We extend an invitation to anyone who wishes to join us, either as a guest or as a helper (on the tea rota, driver or both), do come along - the cakes are always delicious. Telephone Gill and Keith Walker - 01372 457987.

Mary Brooks

Memory-Memories

"Memory, thou art a sorry knave, I trust thee not!"

This was the exasperated quotation of our drama teacher when we forgot our lines! Nowadays, it is my exasperated quotation to myself and to many of my age group, so much so that some of us are hoping to embark on a course of memory training.

But what a difference there is between the words "memory" and "memories". Memories conjures up all kinds of happy experiences of the past. This morning I was bemoaning something I had forgotten to do yesterday, and then I saw a lovely picture of a Scottish loch where Wallace and I had spent a happy holiday in years gone by and my mood changed. Memories are the main thing old people can relate to, and their eyes light up when they talk about their memories of years gone by. For many of us in the later stages of life it is good to sing:

"Lord for the years your love has kept and guided,
Lord for the years we bring our thanks today".

Freddie Jenkins

Changing Attitudes



Those who attended Effingham's Saturday Morning Live on 1st February were encouraged by Revd. Colin Coward's meaningful presentation. He travelled from Devizes to share his insights into the issue of homosexuality within churches. Colin heads up the organisation 'Changing Attitude', which strengthens people damaged by this issue and campaigns for more loving and positive dialogue.

Originally trained as an architect and then a psychotherapist, Colin felt called to ministry within the Church of England and was ordained, and ministered for 19 years in inner-city parishes in the Diocese of Southwark. He described his own journey with conviction and emotion. Many, like him, have encountered knocks and disappointments through the process of coming to terms with their sexuality in a society and church which wasn't always understanding or sensitive. He wants to bring change so that others will have more positive experiences.

Colin's warmth and knowledge was notable. Through his career he has been fortunate to gain useful contacts with influential figures in the Church. But he showed how, as Western society has become more inclusive and accepting in this area, the Church has unfortunately become more polarised. Vocal, hostile minorities have gained inordinate influence, and more sensitive leaders have lacked the courage of their convictions. Several positive reports in the Church, like the Osborne Report, were repressed. The Press have thrived on reporting inter-church arguments, which have damaged the witness of the Church to the watching world. Rather than being seen as a body that reflects the positivity, love and acceptance of God, some churches have been characterised as homophobic and out of touch with the understanding of society. Some with personal needs have been put off Christianity and not recognised that it may hold answers for them.

It is not so easy a matter to resolve. Those who read the Bible literally find great difficulty in accepting that the sexual prohibitions of the past may be interpreted differently today.

The culture which formed Scripture had a different understanding of sexual mores, psychology and God's involvement with human beings than modern theologians.

Colin's main concern, he said, is "from the heart, not the head". He sees people, truth and the Church being damaged by an issue to which we should be more pastorally sensitive. God formed human beings as we are. He is ready to love, forgive and accept all.

Faith has so much to give. It can form us, resolve uncomfortable issues, and help people feel personal value, to grow authentically and strong. The Church should be a place which is seen to value all with the same love as God.

Colin spoke passionately and encouragingly, but he recognised that it will take more than hesitant dialogue to heal and resolve the issues. It needs loving people, with the courage of their convictions to overcome the negativity which has damaged the way that the Church is seen in society. Primarily it needs us to act like Christ, resolving differences through sensitive and self-sacrificial love of all.

*Rev. Iain McKillop, Curate at St. Lawrence Church, Effingham
and All Saints Church, Little Bookham*

To understand more see the following websites:

<http://changingattitude.org.uk> and <http://religioustolerance.org>



Women's World Day of Prayer (Effingham area)

10.30am, Friday 7th March

at St. Mary's Church, Fetcham

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



LENT in Effingham

Ash Wednesday is on **5th March** when the first of Effingham's fortnightly **Lent Lunches** will be held from 12.30pm to 2.00pm in **St. Lawrence's Hall** in aid of the **Royal Association for Deaf People**, with speakers from the Dorking branch.

Effingham and Little Bookham's Lent meetings - speakers from each denomination - will be taking place in **Our Lady of Sorrows Church Hall** starting on **12th March at 7.30pm with Sue O'Brien**, *Ecumenical Officer for the Catholic Diocese of Arundel & Brighton*.

Then on **19th March** Kim has invited **Janet Tollington**, one of her tutors from Westminster College Cambridge, to discuss Community and the Old Testament. Our final speaker on 26th March is being organised so **look out for full details on posters later this month**.



Mothering Sunday has been celebrated in the UK on the fourth Sunday in Lent since at least the 16th C. Usually we give small bunches of flowers to all the ladies who attend the service at Effingham Chapel on Mothering Sunday, but this year we'll be at a United service at St. Lawrence Parish Church.

So we probably can't use the excellent MRDF resources on their website for this Special Sunday, but perhaps we can still celebrate with flowers! Especially Spring flowers as they're so beautiful.

Ange Putland

Leatherhead Pages

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



To all at Christ Church and LMC:

Talent Auction at LMC

Sunday 2nd March, after Morning Service.

We thank all those who have offered talents for auction and the list is now full. Please come along to support the event and bid for the many excellent offerings - tickets available from each church. There will be a lunch beforehand.

This is our big event in aid of our two outreach charities - Happy Child International and Age Concern (Mole Valley North).

Norma and Ron Shaw

News of 'Time for Tea' at LMC



Because it coincides with the Women's World Day of Prayer (see page 29), **there will be no Time for Tea at LMC in March.** Please contact Margaret Meynen (01372 372930) if you'd like a lift to the Catholic Church on that day. The next Time for Tea will be on **Friday 4th April, 2.30pm to 4.30pm at LMC.**

Leatherhead's Third Year of 12.30 lunchtime concerts

MUSIC
ON
THURSDAYS
at LMC



WEDNESDAYS
at
CHRIST
CHURCH

April 3rd to November 27th 2014

featuring
students of the Royal Academy of Music
former students of London's music colleges and
talented local musicians

Concert Admission Free, with a retiring collection to cover costs

Thu 3rd April - LMC

Alice Bishop, soprano

Thu 10th April - LMC

Yelang Choi, flute, ☉

Snow Wang Silu, piano ☉

Weds 16th April - Christ Church

Anthony Cairns, organ

Thu 24th April - LMC

Emma Halnan, flute ☉

Auriol Evans, cello ☉

Daniel King-Smith, piano ☉

Thu 1st May - LMC

Nicolas Gomez Navel, trumpet ☉

Thu 8th May - LMC

Tritium Trio ☉

clarinet, cello, piano

Weds 14th May - Christ Church

John Sharples organ

Thu 22nd May - LMC

Jacqueline Phillips, cello & piano

Thu 29th May - LMC

Edita Zurauskaite-Durrant, mezzo

Thu 5th June - LMC

Francisco Correa, guitar

Thu 12th June - LMC

Fetcham Trio, violin, cello, piano

Leatherhead Methodist Church
Church Road
Leatherhead KT22 8AY



Christ Church United Reformed
Epsom Road
Leatherhead KT22 8ST

Supported by Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society ♦ HMRC Charities Ref EW02213

Leatherhead Pages continue on page 23

Dorking and Horsham Circuit

NEWSLETTER

March
April & May
2014

Dear Friends,

On this morning's news there was an item about a forged Chagall painting which the French authorities are planning to destroy. (Indeed they may have done so by the time you read this.) That seems to me a drastic way of deterring forgeries.

I was reminded of a youtube clip I saw recently called "Copying is not theft". Through a catchy song and some cute cartoons the following message was presented: if I steal an item then I have it and you don't; if I copy an item then I have it and you also still have it, so everyone's happy; copying therefore is not theft.

I'm guessing that this youtube clip was trying to justify things like copying CDs or DVDs, trying to show that such 'piracy' does no harm and is not wrong. I'm not at all sure I agree. If, for the sake of argument, I spend 100 hours creating, testing and refining a program that helps me to do something useful on my computer – and then you copied it for your own computer, is that fair? I've put in 100 hours of effort and skill. You get the same benefit for nothing.

Or if I am an experienced photographer and spend hours setting up a studio shot, or days travelling to inhospitable climes to capture some wonder of nature in a photograph – and then you simply copy my work (easy enough to do these days with digital photography), is that fair? I've put in the work, you get the pleasure of the result for free.

Obviously this is why copyright laws exist. They are not intended to outlaw copying. They try to ensure that the original owner of the product, who put in the time, effort and creativity, is properly compensated (usually financially) when others benefit from his or her work.

In our Bible Studies at London Road we are looking at the book of Acts. Beginning on the day of Pentecost the disciples were fired up to take out a message to all who would hear. God had sent his Messiah; the Jews had crucified him; God had vindicated him through resurrection. They didn't want this message to be kept secret. They didn't want to be paid for passing it on. They wanted the news to be told and re-told as much as possible.

There are two reasons why I might be happy for my work to be copied and spread around. One is that people pay me for the privilege and therefore I make money from my initial efforts.

(continued on the back page)

The **Methodist Church**



SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

MARTIN ELLIS

As many know in the Circuit, I am retiring from St Martin's Dorking at the end of August. We hope to be moving away to Suffolk in the last quarter of the year, once we have sold 22 Church Street and purchased a new home – probably in Woodbridge. By the way – I am open to a private sale at market price; if you know anybody who is looking for a two bedroom period cottage in a prime location in the centre of Dorking, then please get in touch! It would suit a single person, a couple or a small family.

Before then there are a few dates when you might care to join us in St Martin's:

Saturday 17 May, 3.00 pm:
He who sings prays twice – exploring and comparing *Singing the Faith* and *Ancient and Modern*. Tea will be provided and the session will end at 6.30 pm.

Saturday 14 June, 7.00 pm:
RCO 150 - my final Organ Recital in Dorking in aid of the Royal College of Organists' 150th Anniversary appeal.

Saturday 12 July, 7.00 pm:
'Farewell to Dorking' Concert. I am gathering together singers and instrumentalists whom I have taught or worked with over a period of 50 years.

Sunday 27 July, 10.00 am:
Farewell to St Martin's.

Deadline for the next issue:
Monday May 5

St Andrew's News

For over 137 years St Andrews has had a relevant and ongoing mission in Roffey, one of the more challenging parts of Horsham where "proclaiming & living out the Good News of God's endless, transforming love" is a real and urgent challenge. We are incredibly grateful to the Circuit for your love, prayers and committed financial support as we engage in some long planned and fervently hoped for transformation. As a result of this support, and our various fundraising efforts, we hope that we will soon have the builders in! Our refurbishment project is going ahead in April and we will be moving into our temporary worship space at a local school for about 6 – 7 months, making new friends in the process!

So what is being done? When we did our mission audit some 5 or 6 years ago now, we realised that a great deal goes on at St Andrews but from the street front it often appears to be "dead" - all the activity beyond Sunday happens in the hall, hidden at the back. When we revisited the original mission aim of the church, to be a mission hall to the local community, we saw that there was a real need to "turn St Andrews inside out". An important aspect of this is now bearing fruit in our building and refurbishment project which aims to create a more contemporary, multi-functional building as a basis from which we can continue to make better connections with our local community. There will be a whole new frontage to the church, with a new café area on the ground floor, and an upper floor leading to a new balcony over a multipurpose, modernised sanctuary with under-floor heating, as well as a new kitchenette to enable separate use from the hall. A brand new atrium will connect the sanctuary to the hall via a shallow set of stairs and a wheelchair lift – no more running around the building in the rain! The atrium will provide new social space, a place for parents to wait when collecting kids from the different groups using the hall, and a crèche area for Sundays. It will also have new toilets which will enable both hall and sanctuary to be used at the same time by different groups. Along with an AV system connecting all the different areas and enabling each one to be used as discrete meeting spaces, we hope that there will also be a new church office, an admin room and & a completely refitted hall kitchen. Phew!

Finally, while this project will bring us bang up to date, we will also retain some of the best "old" features of the church, restoring our long hidden stained glass windows, as well as reinstating two of the original chapel windows at the front!

Please pray for us as the tenders come in and as we seek to find the last bit of the monies needed to make all of this vision a reality.

Kath

EFFINGHAM

In January our first ecumenical **Messy Church** was very successful, and very messy; paint comes out eventually! Interestingly a number of the volunteers are also Café Church regulars to our monthly Saturday meetings tackling controversial subjects.

Effingham's commitment to ecumenical activities in our village was one of the very positive outcomes of the recent **Local Ministry & Mission Review**, which assessed the work of our minister, **Rev. Kim Plumpton**, and her churches in Cobham and Effingham. Our **Churches Together** committee has organised Lent meetings, lunches, monthly prayer walks, and the **Good Friday Devotional Walk**. We'll also be helping **Kim** give away **hot-cross buns** to help people remember the real meaning of **Easter**. Meanwhile the Chapel has a **World Missions** coffee morning on 29th March, with a bring and buy stall, and our annual **St. George's Day lunch** on 23rd April, which is a very popular village event.

We've recently discovered that our Chapel was opened on **4th October 1854**, so have moved the Chapel Anniversary weekend from May to October, and plan to hold a Barn Dance and a Flower Festival to celebrate our **160th Anniversary**. Our Society is 170 as it was founded in 1844, when meetings were held on the local common but moved to Mrs Cook's house because local workmen used to hurl abuse and more!! **Dorking and Horsham Circuit** was also founded in 1844, so would anyone be interested in helping me with some research in our archives - or organising a Circuit event? Contact theputlands@aol.com *Ange Putland*

LONDON ROAD, HORSHAM

As I write this, the Winter Olympic Games are about to start, and as a skier myself it will be good if, for the first time, the UK can gain a medal on snow.

A well deserved Gold medal certainly goes to our Drama Group for their recent production of the pantomime *Dick Whittington*. Three full houses. The cast included some very talented young people within our extended church family, including our brownies and guides.

Another Gold medal goes to Chris Currie, our Family Worker, who has produced – with the help of all our young people “*Generation Z at London Road*”. (G-Z is loosely described as those born between the mid-1990s and the present day). This twenty page booklet is to be produced twice a year, and gives a glimpse of what is going on for Generation Z in and around our church.

Although we do not have many children currently attending our Sunday morning services, London Road's doors are certainly open to many, many young and older children here in Horsham through all the activities taking place each week on our premises.

As a church we were greatly saddened by the death in November of John Woodward. A member for many, many years, he was one of our Worship Leaders and had a long association with the Drama Group - writing, producing and performing in many of their productions. He is greatly missed. *Lorna Manwaring*

(continued from front page)

Another is that I want people to enjoy the benefits of what I have produced, and don't mind at all how much it is copied and passed on.

The generosity of God is shown in this: that at great personal cost he has achieved a wonderful thing in Jesus – salvation from sin and death – and that he wants us to share the benefits freely. This concept of generous grace is at the heart of our Christian faith. God is not looking for any compensation from us for the pain and heartbreak which Jesus had to suffer to make our salvation possible. He certainly doesn't want financial payment. Neither does he want us to earn salvation by our good works. God had put in the effort. We can enjoy the rewards. No guilt, no cost to us, just free salvation.

That is surely a concept worth spreading around.

Paul

st martin's DORKING

St. Martin's is continuing to develop a shared pattern of worship, taking the best of both Methodist and Anglican traditions to create a St. Martin's style of its own. At a social event, 75 people, dressed in various tartan accessories, came to a Burn's Night Supper. There was haggis a-plenty (there were rumours they had been spotted on Leith Hill), a piper and Scottish dancing. Thanks to our new cook the Christian Centre is able to provide lunches on Saturdays which is proving popular, and sequence dancing has started on Thursday mornings. We are being encouraged to share in CTD's Lent groups and lunches. We have our renowned plant sale on Saturday 3rd May. *Sue Jamieson*

PARTRIDGE GREEN

We continue with our regular activities for youngsters from the village with great success. Our regular "Messy Church" sessions remain most popular with the next one to be held on Friday 11th April. The Easter Toddler service will be on March 25th at 10.30 am, when we welcome little folk and care staff from the local playgroup to an Easter Service, with refreshments to follow. Our continued support from family worker, Chris Currie, is invaluable.

The ecumenical Monthly "Village Café" on the second Thursday afternoon each month is now well established, and we all enjoy this time to get to know many people from our other local churches, and many villagers also participate.

The weekly Lent Lunches will commence on Thursday March 13th at 12.30 pm in the hall, and will continue each Thursday throughout Lent.

Our usual Good Friday walk will commence at 2.30 pm, followed by refreshments with a short service to follow at 4.30 pm, and our Easter Day service will commence at 10.30 am. *Alison James*

LONDON MARATHON

Revd Malcolm Rothwell, a former Superintendent, who has reached a certain "Biblical age" is intending to run in the London Marathon on **Sunday 13th April**, in support of the *Help the Hospices*.

If you wish to support his chosen charity – and of course "mad, stark raving bonkers" Malcolm himself, you may do so through www.justgiving – link through 'search for friends' and enter his name.

Or you can text ROTH 70 plus an amount donated to 70070.

Malcolm commends to us 1 Corinthians chapter 1, and the fact that 13th April is Palm Sunday (we celebrate a donkey ride into a capital city, he runs a long way in a capital city)



Men's Breakfasts

The following Leatherhead Men's Breakfasts will be at 8.00am on the following Saturdays:-

29th March* - Methodist Church Hall - Neil Walker, "Apprendre"

26th April - URC Church Hall - Dr Margaret Birtwistle, "Drug and Alcohol services"

31st May - Anglican Church Hall - Bill Peetz, "A journey"

28th June - Methodist Church Hall (to be notified)

26th July - Catholic Church Meeting Room (to be notified)

August - No meeting

27th Sept - URC Church Hall (to be notified)

25th Oct - Anglican Church Hall (to be notified)

29th Nov - Catholic Church Meeting Room (to be notified)

All men of any denomination or none are welcome. A suggested donation of £4 would be appreciated to cover costs; any surplus is donated to the speaker's preferred charity.

*** This meeting was originally planned for 22nd March. Please note the change of date.**



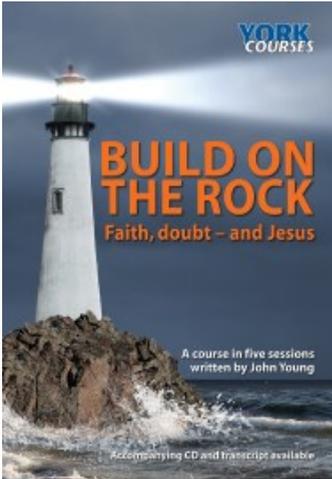
Next Messy Church:

Thursday 20th March
3.30pm to 5.30pm at



Leatherhead Lent Groups

We will be following the York Course:
"Build on the Rock: faith, doubt and Jesus."



BUILD ON THE ROCK

(Matthew 7.24) starts by looking at faith and doubt. Is it wrong – or is it normal and healthy – for a Christian to have doubts? Is there any evidence for a God who loves us? We hear from many witnesses. At the heart of a Christian answer stands Jesus himself. We consider his ‘strange and beautiful story’ and reflect upon his teaching, his death, his resurrection and his continuing significance.

A course in five sessions :

Session (1) Believing and doubting

Session (2) Jesus - our teacher

Session (3) Jesus - our saviour

Session (4) Jesus - conqueror of death

Session (5) Jesus - Lord and brother

This year our Lent Groups start during the week beginning 10th March. Please sign up if you haven't done so already, or give Carol Stoves a ring on 01372 377125. Also put 16th April in your diaries for a Bring and Share meal at Christ Church on the Wednesday of Holy Week.

The Church Times review in January 2014 says of the Course:

"With provocative quotations on every page and plenty of human interest, this course probes more deeply than its gentle, friendly style might suggest. It also makes things as simple as possible for those running it ... John Young wears his thoughtful theology lightly, and the recorded sessions offer an interesting range of insights."

It's a Penalty Campaign



A new campaign called 'It's a Penalty' was launched on 4th February 2014 at the National Crime Agency's CEOP command in London to address the issue of children being sexually exploited in the commercial sex trade around the FIFA World Cup 2014 in Brazil. The campaign is led by **Happy Child International** (www.happychild.org) with 20 years' experience in Brazil of rescuing children living at risk on the streets and in places of abuse in the slums. Happy Child has 13 children's projects operating in the southeast and northeast of Brazil. Happy Child International is currently working in partnership with Jubilee Campaign:

(www.jubileecampaign.co.uk),

a children's rights campaigning charity and with consultative status at the United Nations, the A21 Campaign and also with award-winning marketing company Quick-Thinking (www.quick-thinking.co.uk).

The 'It's a Penalty' campaign is being endorsed by leading Parliamentarians including the Prime Minister David Cameron, Baroness Anne Gibson OBE of Market Rasen, a Deputy Speaker in the House of Lords and Sir Paul Beresford, MP for Mole Valley, international sporting personalities including the Brazilian footballer David Luiz, who is the Brazilian ambassador of the campaign, and Gary Lineker who is the UK ambassador. Also, Oscar and Ramires, Steve Gerrard, Roy Hodgson, Piers Morgan and Mark Austin from ITN. In addition, directly supporting the campaign are the UK's National Crime Agency, The Metropolitan Police, and the Brazilian Federal Police. The campaign is also being supported by prominent networks in Brazil including SESI, a national semi-governmental agency with a social welfare activities planned in World Cup cities in Brazil and a Strategic Alliance against child sex exploitation (Plan Brasil, Childfund, Childhood, ECPAT Brasil and Happy Child Brasil). In the UK, the following organisations are supporting the campaign: Consortium for Street Children, ECPAT, ABC Trust and others. We believe that a unifying message from leading child protection organisations will enhance and strengthen the impact of our campaign and our ability to communicate this important message.

More information at: www.jubileecampaign.co.uk/ (then click on the 'It's a Penalty' box.)



Surprised by Age?



Wednesday 26th March 2014,
9.30am – 1.00pm*
Epsom Methodist Church
Ashley Road, Epsom KT18 5AQ

A chance to explore how ageing, spirituality and faith are at the heart of the Church's mission, based around the story of Methodist Homes (MHA).

To register for this free event, or for more information, please call Rachel on 0113 272 8471.

**includes lunch*



The Methodist Church
The Church in action for older people

Methodist Homes (MHA). Registered as a Charity – No 1083995.
Company limited by Guarantee – No 4043124

Happy Child International Event



Tickets £50 each to include: Cocktail Reception, Luncheon, Fashion Show and Fundraising

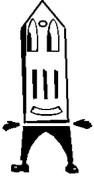
A fabulous opportunity to view a selection of the spring/summer collection from Rock and Robes, smart day and evening wear from Riva, footwear from Accent and men's evening wear from Jeremy Hobbs

Enjoy a lively cocktail, seated luncheon, fashion show and an opportunity to buy some good value designer clothes and shoes. All in the delightful Cedar Room at the RAC club Epsom.

There will be fundraising during the event in aid of Happy Child International, Rescue, Rehabilitation, Reintegration for street children and their families. Read all about the amazing work www.happychild.org

Please see the link below to print your order form

For more information:
website www.happychild.org or
T: 01372 375848
E: caroline.taylor@happychild.org



Leatherhead

Methodist Church

LMC

Diary - March



Sat	1st	8.30am	Lent Group Leaders' breakfast at LMC
Sun	2nd	10.30am	Rev. Lynda Russell - United Service at LMC with Holy Communion followed by Talent Auction (<i>see page 17</i>)
		6.30pm	Martin Ellis
Fri	7th	2.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer (<i>see opposite</i>) <i>No Time for Tea this month (see page 17)</i>
Sun	9th	10.30am	Jon Fisher
		6.30pm	Rev. Lynda Russell with Holy Communion
Sun	16th	10.30am	Rev. Lynda Russell followed by Meeting to consider CPL Report
		6.30pm	Rev. Kath Jones
Thurs	20th	3.30pm	Messy Church (to 5.30pm)
Sun	23rd	10.30am	Robert Pitt
		6.30pm	New Fire
Sat	29th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at LMC (<i>see page 23</i>)
Sun	30th	10.30am	Alex Cloke
		6.30pm	David Cappitt
April			
Thurs	3rd	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays (<i>see page 18</i>)
Fri	4th	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC
Sun	6th	10.30am	tba
		6.30pm	tba



Women's World Day of Prayer (Leatherhead area)

Date: Friday 7th March

Time: 2.30pm

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

Speaker: Gillie Nicholls (Lay Franciscan)

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

A Service for All People

followed by refreshments and chat in the Church Hall



LMC Family News

Our thoughts and prayers are with...

... the family of Joan Rowe following her recent death. She was a loved and faithful member of the Church for many years.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with...

... Enid Wright who has now moved into a care home in Fetcham and is settling in well.

Why Bother?

This is the rather intriguing title of the MWiB Conference at Swanwick in late April. Other than the name of the keynote speaker (Rev. Barbara Glasson) and the title, there is as yet no more information. I cannot help but wonder what reasons will come from speakers and discussion about why we should, or should not bother. But then, what are we to be bothered about? What problem will we be faced with that needs answers? In our everyday life, bothersome situations are often pushed to one side because we haven't the time or the energy to sort things out, or it's too involved or not really necessary to be considered important enough to need a solution.



Sue, Jane and I are all going to the Conference. So, why have we bothered? Sue said she is desperate for some 'me time'. Well, there will be little time to just stand and stare! Our programme will be very full, unless I am much mistaken, but perhaps Sue will find an unexpected

answer. She has had experience of how Women's Network (the previous name for MWiB) works, and how good it can be. For Jane, this will be the unknown. She liked the sound of the title, she said, but there will be two days of more than simply a title.

And me? Well, I have been going for years and years, and what a joy it is to have companions this year! Every year has been so different; I have never been disappointed. MWiB, like Women's Network, believes in well organised quality. It must work, not just for me, because I have been meeting the same core group of women year after year. I call them my Swanwick friends and rarely meet them anywhere else. Swanwick Conferences are stimulating and encourage, equip and enable the whole person.

Look out for a full report of why we should bother in the June Link.

Jean Plant

MWiB District Day

Date: Saturday 15th March from 10.30am
Place: Tonbridge Methodist Church, TN10 4JG
Title: 'Pilgrims and Companions'
Speaker: Linda Crossley, National MWiB President

No need to book - just turn up

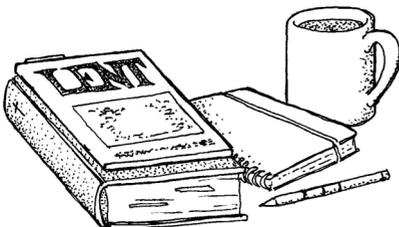


The March Men's Breakfast meeting at LMC is on Saturday 29th March (changed from 22nd). Doors open at 8.00am.

Please adjust your diaries, come for a big breakfast and listen to Neil Walker tell us of an amazing educational charity called 'Apprendre'.

See page 23 for a list of future dates.

Ron Shaw



Leatherhead Lent Groups

The Lent Groups start the week beginning 10th March. Give Carol Stoves a ring (01372 274533) if you'd like to sign up for one of the courses.

See page 24 for full details.

Does God exist? Is there evidence for the existence of God?

Answer: The existence of God cannot be proved or disproved. The Bible says that we must accept by faith the fact that God exists: "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). If God so desired, He could simply appear and prove to the whole world that He exists. But if He did that, there would be no need for faith. "Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed'" (John 20:29).

That does not mean, however, that there is no evidence of God's existence. The Bible states, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world" (Psalms 19:1-4). Looking at the stars, understanding the vastness of the universe, observing the wonders of nature, seeing the beauty of a sunset - all of these things point to a Creator God. If these were not enough, there is also evidence of God in our own hearts. Ecclesiastes 3:11 tells us, "...He has also set eternity in the hearts of men." Deep within us is the recognition that there is something beyond this life and someone beyond this world. We can deny this knowledge intellectually, but God's presence in us and all around us is still obvious. Despite this, the Bible warns that some will still deny God's existence: "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God'" (Psalms 14:1). Since the vast majority of people throughout history, in all cultures, in all civilizations, and on all continents believe in the existence of some kind of God, there must be something (or someone) causing this belief.

In addition to the biblical arguments for God's existence, there are logical arguments. First, there is the ontological argument. The most popular form of the ontological argument uses the concept of God to prove God's existence.

It begins with the definition of God as “a being than which no greater can be conceived.” It is then argued that to exist is greater than to not exist, and therefore the greatest conceivable being must exist. If God did not exist, then God would not be the greatest conceivable being, and that would contradict the very definition of God.

A second argument is the teleological argument. The teleological argument states that since the universe displays such an amazing design, there must have been a divine Designer. For example, if the Earth were significantly closer or farther away from the sun, it would not be capable of supporting much of the life it currently does. If the elements in our atmosphere were even a few percentage points different, nearly every living thing on earth would die. The odds of a single protein molecule forming by chance is 1 in 10^{243} (that is a 1 followed by 243 zeros). A single cell is comprised of millions of protein molecules.

This article is reproduced from www.gotquestions.org with permission. We thank Bob Greenfield for arranging for it to be published. The rest of the article may be found at: www.gotquestions.org/Does-God-exist.html



LMC Leadership Team

Principal points arising from the last meeting on 21st January.

Lockable Post: Lynda said parking in front of her garage had not been such a problem since the dance group stopped using the premises. So we will leave it for the time being.

Electrical Inspection: The electrical inspection is still outstanding but finding a company to do the job is proving difficult. It was suggested we contact other local churches to ask them who they use. Action Carol

Finance: We remain in a similar position to this time last year. Income is slightly up but donations are down. We need to continue to encourage giving by standing order so that joint services have no bearing on income. At present we have a deficit of £981.

Lettings: Our lettings are very poor at the moment. We will put a free ad in the 'Leatherhead and Ashted Local' to try and drum up some interest. Action Carol

CPL Expenses: The treasurer asked that we get Church Council to approve a proposal to authorise him to pay any CPL expenses for either LMC or Christ Church.

Pitstop: We raised £60 for Pitstop on Sunday. We have offered them use of our premises on a temporary basis but they have not taken up the offer at the moment. They are looking for new premises as they will no longer be based at the Football Club.

Printer: A new printer is required in the office. It was agreed that this could be purchased in February.

Property: We are waiting for the walls of the church to dry out before Elmer Properties come in and redecorate the damaged area. The quote has been presented and accepted. Elmer Properties are also looking at the locks on the side door to the church as they are not working well at present. (They have now been fixed so both locks are now being used again.)

Lettings Agreement: Does our current lettings agreement cover us properly? Lynda and Carol looked it over and agreed that it is adequate as it is based on a model from the Methodist Church prepared for this purpose.

CPL follow-up: Both our Churches have now had a presentation from CPL. We now need to arrange a session with both Leadership teams and then hold a discussion with the congregations of each church.

We need to set up three groups to look at:

- Clarifying certain details within the report.
- Our Mission
- Joining the two fellowships

Lynda agreed to write a note of thanks to the members of the Steering Group on completion of their role in connection with the CPL report.

Lent Group arrangements: Carol is arranging the Lent groups this year as Linda Hauxwell is away in Australia.

Stewards: Lynda asked if James Wild would become a Prayer Champion/Co-ordinator as he has a gift in this area. James agreed. Carol has agreed to serve as Senior Steward again just for one year. We are currently looking for a new Steward to take over from Harry, who finishes at the end of April. We will make an announcement in Church.

Big Welcome: Lynda suggested we might like a day to encourage others to church, a bit like 'Back to Church Sunday'. There is a training Day on 6th March regarding this - details from Lynda.

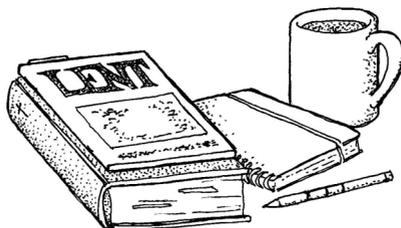
Evening Services: Due to low attendance we need to look at our evening services. We have agreed to talk to those who come to evening services or who may come to something different. We will bring the subject up for discussion at Church Council.



CHURCH MEETINGS ARE BRILLIANT

Christ Church

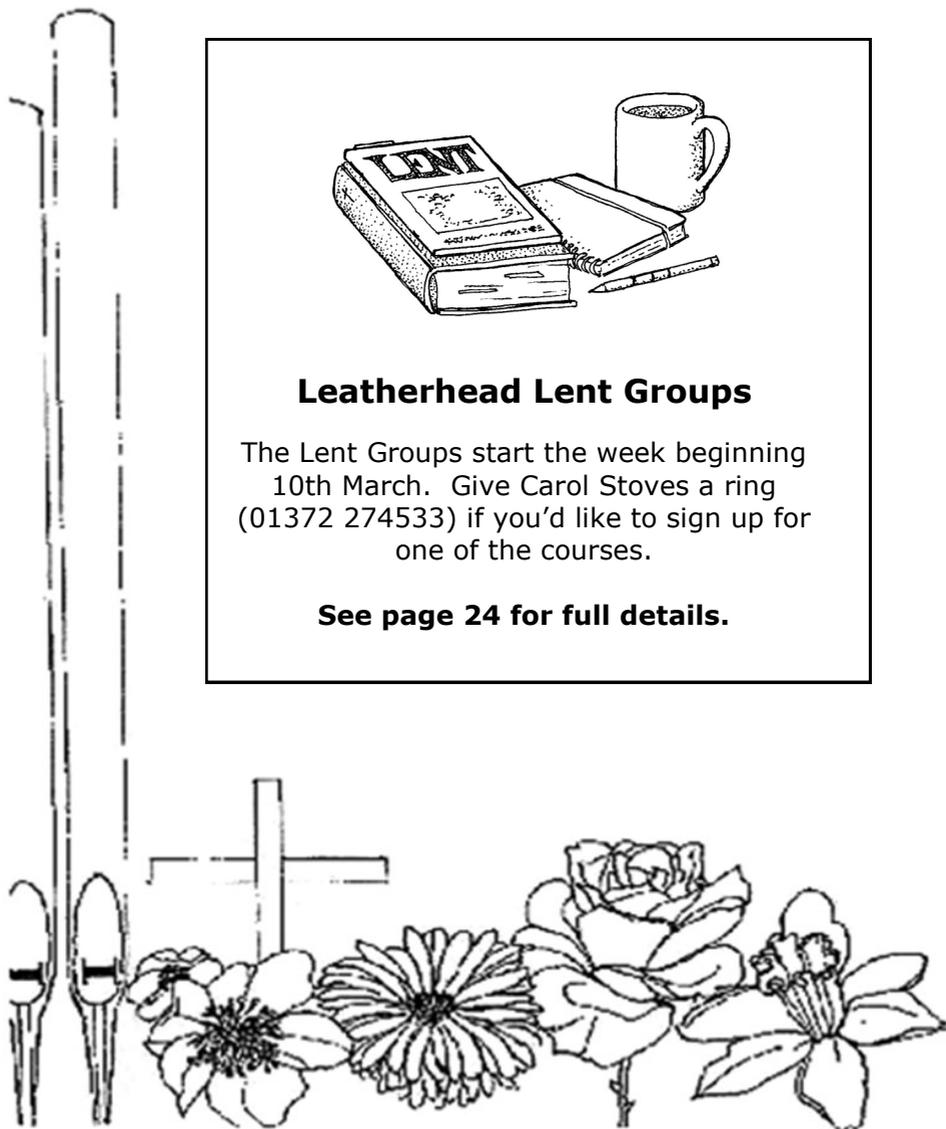
(United Reformed) Leatherhead



Leatherhead Lent Groups

The Lent Groups start the week beginning 10th March. Give Carol Stoves a ring (01372 274533) if you'd like to sign up for one of the courses.

See page 24 for full details.



Christ Church Diary - March



Sun	2nd	10.30am	Joint Service at LMC - Rev. Lynda Russell with Holy Communion, followed by Talent Auction (<i>see page 17</i>)
		6.30pm	Evening Service at LMC - Martin Ellis
Tues	4th	7.30pm	Synod Area Meeting at Crawley
Fri	7th	2.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer (<i>see page 29</i>) <i>No Time for Tea this month (see page 17)</i>
Sun	9th	10.30am	Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Communion Service at LMC - Rev Lynda Russell
Sun	16th	10.30am	Rev. Donald Finnan
		6.30pm	Evening Service at LMC - Rev. Kath Jones
Wed	19th	2.00pm	Elders' Meeting
Thurs	20th	3.30pm	Messy Church at LMC (to 5.30pm)
Sun	23rd	10.30am	Rev. Lynda Russell - Baptism of Rebecca Claire Amos
		6.30pm	New Fire Ecumenical Service at LMC
Sat	29th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at LMC (<i>see page 23</i>)
		7.30pm	AntiphoniA Concert in aid of Church Project
Sun	30th	10.30am	Prof. David Cutler
		6.30pm	Evening Service at LMC - David Cappitt
April			
Thurs	3rd	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays at LMC (<i>see page 18</i>)
Fri	4th	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC
		8.00pm	SoundBytes Concert
Sun	6th	10.30am	Rev. Robert Blows
		6.30pm	Evening Service at LMC - tba

Christ Church Family News



We are very sad to report the death of Florence Gower on 26th January at Milner House after a long illness. The Thanksgiving Service took place on 14th February at Christ Church. We extend our deepest sympathy to her husband Bert and their daughter Jo and family, and assure them of our prayers and support in their loss.

We remember all friends and their families who need our prayers and support at this time.

Anne Cairns



Christ Church Meeting Notes

This Church Meeting was held after morning worship on 9th February. 29 members attended and below are the main items covered.

- We formally received the CPL Report of 12th December 2013 on the future development plans for Christ Church United Reformed and Leatherhead Methodist Churches (LMC).
- Some clarification of the valuation of the Christ Church site and the percentages of sale value available for a new church from the report had been received from the URC Southern Synod Property Officer.
- Most people felt that the options presented in the report were too extravagant and they were quite overwhelmed with the large amounts of time and money involved.

The Elders had requested that the meeting consider three main issues:

1. Are the two congregations still committed to merging?
2. If so what Mission Plan do the churches have for the future?
3. How will we find out the Southern Synod's view on our proposals with such a Mission Plan?

Many members contributed to the discussion on the above points and although no vote was taken, the consensus ("the URC way") of the meeting was that with a great deal of care and consideration the congregations could come together. It was felt that during the past year we had made little progress and the Elders were tasked with moving this process forward.

There is a need for a joint Mission Plan since without one there is no point in developing either site. With such a plan we could approach Southern Synod for financial estimates and forecasts. The meeting authorised the Elders to work with LMC to set up a joint Mission Committee with assistance from Synod and Methodist specialists. The Elders were also authorised to engage in discussions with Synod Property and Finance Committees.

The Elders have been given a massive responsibility and have a great weight on their shoulders. We would welcome your prayers for the journey ahead.

Jeanette Chamberlain

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



United Pastorate Ministers

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