

the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

March 2016



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 Friday 4th March

Women's World Day of Prayer services are being held around the Pastorate area as follows:

For Oxshott, Cobham & Stoke D'Abernon:

10.30am St Andrew's Parish Church, Oxshott

For Effingham & the Bookhams:

10.30am St Lawrence Parish Church, Effingham

7.30pm Bookham Baptist Church

Editor: Les Prescott
22 Yarm Court Road,
Leatherhead,
KT22 8PA
Tel: 01372 375596

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



The Ministers Write...

From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear friends,

After a whole month of preparation in worship, our combined church meeting between Cobham Methodist Church and Cobham United Reformed Church on 31st January yielded far more than I had anticipated. We began the local mission and ministry review back in 2013 and had our internal review last year. We recognised that one particular objective would need further attention. A lengthy discussion took place concerning the objective which asked us to consider the resources that exist in the URC and the Methodist Church. We were invited to consider whether we were using the resources that God has given us in the most effective manner. Might God be calling us to look at our relationships, and how we can further the Kingdom of God? In particular, we need to make the best use of our resources - human, material and spiritual - in carrying forward God's work in Cobham.

We shared in a fruitful conversation and came to a position where proposals were brought by the meeting. They were concerning sharing more worship together and making movements towards becoming one congregation. There was a clear majority in favour of the proposal to work towards a future together rather than independently and the meeting voted unanimously in favour of sharing more worship.

It was an exciting moment for the churches but of course there is inevitably an element of apprehension about the journey ahead but I don't believe we can speak of growth without speaking about sacrifice too. We may discover that pruning is not always a comfortable task but it is a significant process if growth is desired. It will require many conversations, much prayer and discernment. There will be a need to listen earnestly for the voice of God and at times it will also require compromise. We

In March we are moving towards the cross which speaks so much of sacrifice, but I would also wish us to be reminded that we experience the resurrection at the end of such difficult times. There is new life which blossoms and grows beyond the tomb but we must at times travel through Good Friday before we can experience the beauty of the garden on Easter morning and the significance of a risen saviour. New life is costly but it seems to me that the best things don't come cheap. My father always said to me "Kim if you want anything decent in life it will come at a cost."

We serve a risen saviour, he has already paid the price for us, surely our response is to seek the Kingdom of God with all our hearts, minds and souls and create communities that offer a taste of the Kingdom too.

With every blessing, Kim

P.S. Thank you to all those who offered words of support after February's Link, they were very much appreciated.

From Rev. Lynda Russell

I wonder how many of you are attending Lent Groups during this period of Lent? Or are you perhaps following your own particular Lent Bible reading plan?

Here in Leatherhead in our joint Lent groups (attended by 'Churches Together in Leatherhead') we are following a book called "The Long Road to Heaven". It is based on the film "The Way", which stars Martin Sheen as Tom, a bereaved father whose son Daniel died as he began to walk a pilgrimage called the 'Camino de Santiago de Compostela'. The Camino is an ancient pilgrimage, starting from a number of different points, but the 'French Way' and perhaps most popular today, begins on the French side of the Pyrenees at St-Jean-Pied-de-Port. The distance of the pilgrimage from there to the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela is 762km – no small distance! Perhaps you will know someone who has walked it? My tutor at Cambridge had walked it – I have the book she wrote! It is said that

However, as he is told, he cannot do a pilgrimage for someone else, only for himself. During his walk, he becomes aware of what it means for his own restoration, and also that he can't make his journey without others, although initially he tries hard to shut them out.

Lent is a time when we are encouraged to think about our own journey. Can we compare our own faith journey, or even our lives to a pilgrimage? We cannot make either of these journeys for someone else – only for ourselves, however much we might want to at times. Pilgrimage is also a journey into ourselves with God. Sometimes the road is pleasing to walk and the path straightforward; sometimes the road is difficult and we are pausing continually, looking for landmarks or guides to help us find our way. At other times we can be so consumed by our own feelings that we are blind even to the signposts that are there.

Yet the Christian life is an ongoing journey in which Christ is always calling us to turn towards that which gives us life. The Emmaus story, for example, shows us the way of Christ. He seeks us out, even as we walk in the wrong direction, accompanying us, listening to us and helping us understand that to follow him is the path to life.

Christ our companion,
you walk with us on the journey of our life;
you accompany us even as we are walking away;
you stand with us in our confusion
and refuse to let us go.
Open our eyes to your presence
and our hearts to your good news.
Guide our feet in the ways that lead to life.
Amen.

Alex Cloke

We are sad to report the death on 17th February of Methodist Local Preacher Alex Cloke. Alex preached at all three of the Methodist Churches in the Pastorate regularly over many years.

Editorial

After over five years as your editor, I have decided to put my pen down for the last time after the May edition is published. We are therefore seeking a new editor, or editors for the June edition onwards.

Editing the magazine has been an interesting and enjoyable journey. It has been good to get to know people from across the five churches in the Pastorate, and I hope that the magazine has helped to keep everyone informed and helped in some way to unite our Christian family.

If you feel you could take over this role in the Pastorate, or would be happy to contribute as part of a team, please speak to your Minister or me. I would be happy to discuss what's involved with anyone who may be interested or would like further information.

A big "thank you" to all those who have contributed articles, sent





Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary



March

Fri	4th	10.30am	Women's World Day of Prayer at St. Andrew's, Oxshott
Sun	6th	10.30am	John Oborn
Thurs	10th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Leatherhead
Sat	12th	10.00am 2.30pm	Time 4 You (<i>until 12 noon</i>) Platinum Service
Sun	13th	10.30am	David Cappitt
Wed	16th	8.00pm	House Fellowship at the Manse
Sat	19th	10.30am	Messy Church at the URC (<i>to 12.30pm</i>)
Sun	20th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton
Thurs	24th	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service at the URC
Fri	25th	10.00am 10.00am	Good Friday Service at the URC Vigil around the Cross in Hollyhedge Precinct (<i>to 12 noon</i>)
Sun	27th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - United Easter Communion Service at CMC



Cobham Page

Information, news, events and happenings in and around
Cobham including news of Cobham Churches events



Next "Time 4 You"

Saturday 12th 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.

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



Date: Saturday 19th March

Time: 10.30am to 12.30pm

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

All are welcome



Cobham

United Reformed Church

Cobham URC



March			
Fri	4th	10.30am	Women's World Day of Prayer at St. Andrew's Church, Oxshott, followed by a light lunch
Sun	6th	9.00am	Early Bird Service
		10.30am	Rev. Iain Stewart
Sun	13th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Sun	20th	10.30am	Rev. Norman Edsall
Thurs	24th	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service
Fri	25th	10.00am	Good Friday Service
		10.00am	Vigil around the Cross in Hollyhedge Precinct <i>(to 12 noon)</i>
Sun	27th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - United Easter Day Communion Service at Cobham Methodist Church



Cobham URC Events

March

Tues	1st	9.45am	Church Walk
		7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Thurs	3rd	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship
Sun	6th	3.00pm	Play & Chat <i>(to 6.00pm)</i>
Sat	19th	10.30am	Messy Church - <i>(to 12.30pm)</i>



Prayers at the Cobham URC Manse:

at 9.30am on Wednesdays:

2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March.



**Tea at Three:
Friday 25th March**



Effingham

Methodist Church

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
and **Angela Putland** is 70 on 29th.

Remember we need your help to update our records



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**

Tuesday Teas...

...meets **1st March** but this time it will be lunch at **The Douglas Haig Pub** instead of tea! Meeting at 12 noon at the pub - booking needed to Gill 01372 457987

After that Teas as usual on 15th and 29th March in **St Alphege Catholic Hall**, Lower Road from 2.30pm to 4.00pm. (On 12th April we will be having a cream tea at The Grange, Bookham in their

Saturday Morning Live:



Coffee, croissants and food for thought at **St. Lawrence Church Hall** from **10.00am to 11.00am** on **Saturday 5th March**.

Effingham Methodist Diary



March

Tues 1st	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea but out to lunch today (<i>see p. 11</i>)
Wed 2nd	7.30pm	Lent Meeting in the Catholic Hall (<i>see opposite</i>)
Thurs 3rd	2.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Fri 4th	10.30am	Women's World Day of Prayer (<i>see opposite</i>)
Sat 5th	10.00am	Café Church at St. Lawrence's Hall (to 11.00am)
Sun 6th	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion
Wed 9th	3.30pm	Messy Church - St. Lawrence Church Hall
Thurs 10th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Leatherhead
Sun 13th	10.00am	Rev. Kath Jones
Tues 15th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Thurs 17th	12.30pm	Oasis Lunch and discussion in the Hall (to 3.00pm)
	2.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Sun 20th	10.00am	Palm Sunday with John Oborn
Thurs 24th	7.00pm	Maundy Service at Cobham URC
Fri 25th	6.00pm	Good Friday Service at EMC (Walk 5.00pm)
Sun 27th	9.00am	Easter Sunday with Rev. Kim Plumpton
Tues 29th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Thurs 31st	2.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church

Prayer Meetings...

...are held at **the Chapel**



Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 4th March

"Receive children, receive me" is the theme for the service this year, and has been prepared by the **Christian women of Cuba.**

Our local services will be held at :

**10.30am at St. Lawrence Parish Church,
Effingham**

7.30pm @ Bookham Baptist Church, Gt. Bookham



LENT in Effingham

Effingham's fortnightly **Lent Lunches** will be held from **12.30 to 2.00pm in St. Lawrence Church Hall.** This year's charities are Lunchbox and Leatherhead Foodbank.

Effingham and Little Bookham's Lent meetings -

Interested? Come and hear **Jay Dunning**, a local preacher from Southwater who will be talking about her work with the *World Health*

Or -



organisation on **Wednesday 2nd March** at 7.30pm at the Catholic Hall.

MESSY CHURCH



Connect

"Connect"...

...group for carers and partners with dementia meets fortnightly in St. Lawrence Church Hall, Effingham, 10.00am to 12 noon.

Dates for March are 3rd, 17th with some exercise in addition led by Sheila, and 31st when we also have Paddy with his guitar to sing for us. Come for refreshment, friendship, chat and activities.

A Date for your diaries:



An evening of **Folk Music** with **Morag and friends**, our Saturday Morning Live group on **21st May at 7.30pm at St. Lawrence Church Hall** in aid of **Habitat for Humanity**, the charity which Effingham Chapel will be supporting for the next two years.

Habitat for Humanity Great Britain, a leading international non-governmental organisation focused on shelter, helps the poorest and most vulnerable people lift themselves out of poverty by partnering with them to build their homes and communities. With a home comes protection from the elements, from disease and from violence. A decent and secure home provides the foundation for health, education and employment. Habitat for Humanity works with established partners in over 70 countries to offer a simple, sustainable solution, helping low income families, orphans and vulnerable children, people with HIV/AIDS, the elderly, single mothers, ethnic minorities and internally displaced groups.

Knowledge and resources are shared across the global Habitat family and with partner organisations, aiming to restore

Leatherhead Pages

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



All Saints, Kingston

A SPECIALITY COFFEE SHOP AND SANDWICH COMPANY

Open Mon-Sat, 8am-3pm

OPEN TO ALL

*the very best coffee +
the very best sandwiches =
the very best support*

Good Friday, 25th March

9.15am to 9.50am

Stations of the Cross

Catholic Church of Our Lady & St. Peter

We extend a warm welcome to our brothers and sisters from other churches in Leatherhead who have attended this service



Good Friday Walk of Reflection

Friday 25th March

We will have a walk in silent prayer and reflection, starting with prayer at Christ Church at 10.00am, walking into town, down the High Street, up Church Street past the Theatre, and ending

Wednesdays at Christ Church

2016 series • monthly organ concerts • 12.30 lunchtime

12.30 Weds 16th March
Anthony Cairns
Director of Music
Christ Church (United
Reformed) Leatherhead

12.30 Weds 20th April
David Oldfield
Organist & Director of Music
All Saints Church, Banstead

12.30 Weds 18th May
Mark Brafield
Concert Organist

12.30 Weds 15th June
John Eagles
Organ Recitalist & Teacher

12.30 Weds 20th July
Jonathan Melling
Director of Music
All Hallows by the Tower
London EC

12.30 Weds 17th August
Wednesday at St John's
Florence Rousseau
Rennes Cathedral, Brittany
Loïc Georgeault
Rennes & St Malo Cathedrals
*French cathedral organists
play the 2015 Tickell organ in
St John's School New Chapel*

12.30 Weds 14th September
Gary Seiling
Director of Music
St Mary the Virgin Church
Henley-on-Thames

12.30 Weds 19th October
John Sharples, Organist
Charlwood Parish Church

12.30 Weds 16th November
Ed Sutton, Organ Recitalist
& Teacher

Christ Church (United Reformed)
Epsom Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ST

Free entry to lunchtime concerts, with retiring collection to cover costs
Plenty of on-site parking • level access throughout
tea & coffee available afterwards at Christ Church

musiconthursdays.org

Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society • HMRC Charity Ref: EW 02213
We reserve the right to make changes to this programme

Leatherhead Pages continue on page 21

Dorking and Horsham Circuit
NEWSLETTER

March
April & May
2016

Dear Friends,

I recently heard someone describing the difference between American and British humour. I'm not familiar enough with American culture to know if this is an accurate analysis but here goes.

Americans are optimistic people. They are brought up with the idea that anyone can become president. Just work hard and there is nothing you cannot achieve. So American comedians are wisecracking heroes. They rise above the problems of life and conquer them with a positive attitude and good humoured banter.

The British expect to fail. We are the fading remnants of a once great empire. When things go wrong we shrug our shoulders and stiffen our upper lips and muddle through somehow. So our British heroes of comedy are downtrodden failures. We sympathise with the underdog. We find humour in seeing people spiral slowly downward into tragedy. Think of Tony Hancock, Basil Fawlty, Del Boy, Frank Spencer, David Brent to name but a few.

Whether or not this is a true distinction or just a sweeping generalisation I think that the attitude of expecting failure has become part of the church culture in Britain. We have only to look at the history of the traditional churches (including Methodism) over the last couple of centuries. Numbers are in decline. Buildings are closing. Young people are staying away in droves.

It doesn't mean we are in state of despair. We struggle on regardless, and we find fulfilment in the struggle. We may even get excited about occasional signs of growth. But we don't expect major changes. We don't expect that over the next generation the church will take the British nation by storm and transform it into a deeply spiritual Christian country. We don't expect to impact our world in the way the early church did – or indeed in the way that Christians in some other countries are doing right now.

(Continued on the back page)

So with the approach of Easter I have two thoughts to share. The

The Methodist Church



DORKING

In the Christian Centre, since having the Ladies and Disabled toilets upgraded, we have been making plans for the Gentlemen's facilities to be improved likewise. We are in the process of fundraising and seeking the necessary consents for this.

On Christmas Day over 60 people gathered together for Christmas lunch in the Centre, hosted by St. Paul's Church in Dorking. Not only delicious food but Christmas presents, entertainment and the Queen's Speech were enjoyed.

In January there was a lively social and fund-raising event: "Sing for your Supper".

The Food Bank which uses the Centre continues its valuable work.

Juliet, our Chaplain, is always busy talking to people in the Centre, but over the last few months she has instigated a very valuable Listening Service with three volunteers, one a qualified counsellor, who regularly attend on a Monday morning and sit with visitors who need someone to talk to. This has been very gratefully received. Juliet has also arranged "The Prayer Course" in the Centre on most of the Tuesdays during Lent. We continue to benefit from money given by Mole Valley District Council to pay for our cook and also for setting up activities such as social table tennis, social bridge, arm chair exercises and sequence dancing which remain very popular.

LEATHERHEAD

LMC took full part in bringing the Christmas message to Leatherhead. Music and choral events were organised for three weekends in December in conjunction with our Churches Together partners in the town centre. A daily "Kart for Kindness" was manned where passers by could buy gift vouchers to assist local charities.

Hannah, our recently employed family and children's worker, organised a fun lunch to bring the church family closer together. Hannah has now taken responsibility for planning and organising the important monthly Messy Church. Jane Smith retired as Messy Bessie after five years! Our long-term member, Jean Jones, has died. Her family organised an informative and sometimes amusing service in her memory. Jean was the

PARTRIDGE GREEN

Ecumenical activities continue well within our village churches. During Lent there will be weekly courses each Wednesday evening entitled "Opening Doors". A course for all, to meet, share and support, and to build on our own strengths and weaknesses. The venue is St. Michael's church room at 7.30 pm.

Our monthly Village café on the second Thursday each month attracts many village folk from young to the elderly, and is run by all the churches.

Lent lunches commence on Thursdays at 12.30 pm from 11th February in our hall. Monies raised will go to the "Save the Children" Charity.

On Good Friday we host our Annual Good Friday Ramble at 2.30 pm, followed by refreshments and a service at 5.00 pm.

Our Easter Messy Church morning is planned for April 8th, when we look forward to a morning of crafts, activities and worship with many young families from our village. We appreciate greatly the wonderful help and support we receive from our London Road

LONDON ROAD

On Covenant Sunday we began a new theme in our worship: 'Becoming Confident Disciples'. In addition to the monthly sermon and follow-up discussion in the week, Paul is issuing us with practical challenges relating to the theme. In February, for instance, we are being encouraged to talk about Jesus outside the Church, to conduct our own research into a question of faith and to bring a friend to Church.

After Easter, we will be running a pilot programme of the Compass Course. This is a course of 8 sessions offered by the Methodist Church which seeks to explore what we think about God, the difference Jesus makes and what it means to be a Methodist. The format of the course will be a communal meal followed by discussion and the sessions will be led by Paul and by Beth Little and Rob Pitt, two of our local preachers.

One of the aims in our strategy document is to provide more ways for people to learn about Jesus and the Christian faith. We hope this Course will be helpful to those taking part and that in the autumn we will be able to offer it to those

PHEW !! Can't believe it's nearly LENT already ! Churches together have organised Lent lunches with a speakers from local charities: **Lunchbox** and **Leatherhead Foodbank**. The Methodist guest speaker at one of our ecumenical evening Lent talks about **Christians @ Work** will be **Jay Dunning**, who will be talking about her work with the **World Health Organization**. On **Maundy Thursday**, Kim and helpers will be at the local shops giving-away **Hot-cross buns** to remind people about the real meaning of **Easter**. The **Good Friday Devotional Walk** will be a visible Christian presence, and will be followed by a service in our Chapel as usual.

Messy Church continues to grow, and is helping us to forge links with the local primary school. Kim led an assembly just before Christmas and the children were each given a bible, and introduced to **Mary and Joseph and Dan the Donkey**. Each class had a lesson based on our Posada figures and the Christmas story, then the whole school sang carols outside the village shops. **Saturday Morning LIVE**, our monthly **Café Church**, continues to tackle the thorny issues of modern life. **Connect**, the fortnightly support group for dementia sufferers and their partners/carers is meeting a real need locally.

There's a **World Missions** coffee morning in our church hall on 9th April with plants, cakes and a bring and buy stall. Then on Saturday 23rd April we'll decorate the Chapel in red, white and blue, for our annual **St. George's Day lunch**.

Meanwhile Effingham's website is looking a bit tired, and old-fashioned! So a small working party met with an expert to give it an overhaul. We were reminded that the website is the front door of our church for many, many people. It's about being welcoming and hospitable. It doesn't need to be cutting-edge, but should show our church life. Perhaps a few more photos, not just Kim! Who's who in the leadership team? An order of service and a recent sermon? How about children? Are we family-friendly? Our

(continued from front page)

Paul wrote in his letter to the Corinthians that it is through our weakness that God demonstrates his strength and through our folly that God shows his wisdom.

On Good Friday we celebrate the low point of Christ's life. As far as the world was concerned this was the end. He had been betrayed by friends, rejected by the authorities, spurned by the crowds and put to an agonising and dishonourable death. Yet this lowest point was paradoxically the high point of his ministry. "It is finished!" he cried. He had achieved what he set out to do. He had died for the sins of the world.

My other thought is that our faith is not ultimately about the success or failure of the church over the last few centuries. Our faith is founded on Christ – who died and rose again! That was a real triumph. Greater than any mere church revival.

On the day I am writing this the British press are sympathising with Andy Murray who failed to win the Australian Open. But nobody really expected him to win. And our love for the underdog means we are OK with that. But wouldn't it be great if Djokovic was the British player? Wouldn't it be wonderful to see our hero enter a tennis final with the expectation of glorious victory? That's the kind of hero we have in Jesus. He is not the head of a struggling church. He is the saviour who conquered death itself. So chin

COBHAM

Four Churches, One God.
CMC, CURC, TGCM, CCC.

Over the last year CMC has been running at full steam ahead! We may be the smallest church in the Circuit but I think we must be the busiest, with three different churches all worshipping in our building. Three very different churches with three very different styles of worship. That is our strength, the fact that we 'do' worship God, all of us coming from different angles. This is a true Ecumenical Church, with God at the centre. When I say church I mean the people NOT the building.

We had Revd Conrad Hicks come and lead our Church Anniversary, which was an eye opener. He had us dancing in the aisles and falling about in laughter. Harvest was a joy with an international lunch afterwards, and we shared our usual fifth Sundays with the URC.

In December, we even had Effingham join us, all Kim's churches working together.

We are now at the stage where we are trying to enhance our worship by having even more joint services.

Our Christmas Tree appeal raised over £200 which we donated to MOAS who have their HQ in Malta, where the Methodist Church has been greatly involved with the rescue, relocation and care of migrants. Those initials stand for *Migrant Offshore Aid Station* - look up www.moas.eu for more information.

We are planning a Summer Celebration on 24th July. This will be filled with music, dance, worship, praise and thanksgiving, using the gifts



Sisters Get-Together In Leatherhead

Saturday 9th April - Parish Church Hall



Sisters get Together is a group for women that has been set up as an initiative of Churches Together in Leatherhead. This meeting will be held at the Anglican Parish Hall. Doors will open at 8.30am with the main part of the meeting starting at 9.00am. Refreshments will be available to purchase and the meeting will finish promptly by 10.00am.

For more information, please contact Jane on 01372 362544.

Please come and support us and bring a friend with

NEW FIRE

Don't forget to plan to come along to the contemporary New Fire service at 6.30pm on the fourth Sunday evening each month at LMC. Stay afterwards for coffee and a chat.

No New Fire in March as it's Easter.



Next Messy Church for Leatherhead:

Thursday 17th March,
3.30pm to 5.30pm at:

LMC



Men's Breakfasts

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

19th March at the Methodist Church Hall - "What to do after 71 years" by Gerald Coates.

23rd April at Christ Church...

...then on the fourth Saturday each month.

All men of any denomination or none are welcome. A suggested

Women's World Day of Prayer

"Receive Children, Receive Me"

Friday 4th March at 2.30pm, Leatherhead Parish Church
(followed by tea in the Church Hall)



This is a service for ALL - men and women

This year's service has been prepared by Christian women in Cuba. Women in Cuba are generally educated, qualified as technicians and in other professional fields. They play an important role in society, family and church, although it is primarily men who hold key positions of authority.

Although mainly about women and children, the message of the service is that we are called to accept every person as unique and equally worthy in the sight of God. Children tend not to discriminate or judge, and that should be our response to God's love and colour our attitude to all people. WWDP follows their motto "informed prayer, prayerful action".

Monthly Service at The Beeches Care Home

A service is held at The Beeches Care Home in Forty Foot Road at 3.00pm on the third Tuesday every month. If you feel you

Time for Tea



COME for TEA and COMPANY

from 2.30pm to 4.30pm

No "Time for Tea" in March as it coincides with Women's World Day of Prayer at the Parish Church at 2.30pm, followed by refreshments (*see page 23*)

Next "Time for Tea" - Friday 1st April

Speaker: Peter Dry

LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

EVER



OME



**MUSIC
on
THURSDAYS
at LMC**



musiconthursdays.org

**WEDNESDAYS
at
CHRIST
CHURCH**

Thursday February 25th, in
Leatherhead Methodist Church

2pm - Annual General Meeting of
Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society
Everyone welcome

3pm - AGM Concert
Great Russian Piano Works
Marios Panteliadis
piano music by
Tchaikovsky, Scriabin, and Prokofiev

All these concerts: free entry, with a retiring collection

12.30 lunchtime, Wednesday 16th March
Wednesdays at Christ Church
John Eagles

12.30 lunchtime, Wednesday 20th April
Wednesdays at Christ Church
David Oldfield, Organist & DoM, All Saints, Banstead

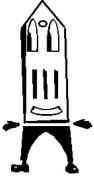
12.30 lunchtime, Thursday 28th April
Music on Thursdays at LMC
Acacia Duo
Samantha Pearce, flute
Heather Wrighton, harp

Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society HMRC Charity Ref EW02213

Extravagant Love of God

We are demonstrating the Extravagant Love of God on 19th March, which is the Saturday before Palm Sunday, in Leatherhead Town Centre. From 11.00am to 12 noon we'll be handing out gifts and there will be a children's treasure hunt.





Leatherhead

Methodist Church

***Please see the Leatherhead Pages
(pages 15-16 & 21-25) for more news***

West Hill School Community Café...

...is held at LMC every Tuesday morning at 10.30am, except during school holidays (*so no café on 15th, 22nd or 29th March*).

West Hill School in Leatherhead is an outstanding special school for pupils aged from 11 to 16 with learning difficulties and autism. The café is providing learners with opportunities to develop work-related skills as well as social and communications skills. Please come along on Tuesday mornings to support this

Prayer Breakfasts

Prayer breakfasts are held on the third Sunday each month at 9.00am. It's a bring and share (non-cooked) breakfast with a short time of prayer fellowship before the morning service. All

LMC House Groups

LMC has three House Groups where Church members or friends can meet together on a regular basis. These groups usually meet in someone's home, and are informal ways to get to know each other better, to share joys, concerns, and prayer requests if desired, and to discuss various subjects, either from the Bible or from other relevant Christian books. Everyone is very welcome to join a group.





Diary



March

Tues	1st	10.30am	West Hill School Café at LMC - all welcome
Fri	4th	2.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer at the Parish Church followed by tea in the Church Hall
Sun	6th	10.30am	Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion
Tues	8th	10.30am	West Hill School Café at LMC - all welcome
Thurs	10th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at LMC
Sun	13th	10.30am	Tina Andrews
		6.30pm	Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion
Tues	15th	7.30pm	Church Council
Wed	16th	12.30pm	Organ Concert at Christ Church (<i>see page 16</i>)
Thurs	17th	3.30pm	Messy Church (<i>to 5.30pm</i>)
Sat	19th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at LMC (<i>see page 22</i>)
Sun	20th	9.00am	Bring and Share Prayer Breakfast
		10.30am	Palm Sunday: Rev. Lynda Russell
Tues	22nd	10.30am	Trinity School (Key Stage 2) Service
		2.30pm	Pastoral prayer meeting
Wed	23rd	7.00pm	Lent Groups <i>Bring & Share Meal</i> at the URC
Fri	25th	10.00am	Good Friday Walk of Reflection (<i>see page 15</i>)
Sun	27th	10.30am	Joint Easter Day Service at LMC - Rev. Lynda Russell

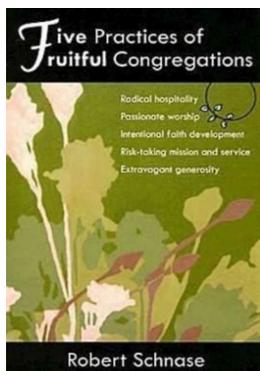
April

Pastoral Prayers

Prayer meetings are held at 2.30pm on the 4th Tuesday every month at LMC. All pastoral visitors Stewards and Christ Church Elders are welcome to attend.

Continuing the Series looking at the individual chapters of the book...

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations



Chapter 3: The Practice of Intentional Faith Development

The chapter begins with three very different stories, from three ages in time, illustrating how faith development can change lives.

The chapter continues by saying that faith in Christ spans a lifetime, especially learning in smaller groups giving support, encouragement and direction by simply talking and praying with each other.

Intentional faith development is a deliberate effort on each person's part to mature in knowledge. In churches there are House Groups, Bible Study, choir, Sunday School, Men's/Women's Fellowships and social opportunities. Some could just be taking part rather than a specific learning group, and some could be beyond church premises. Whatever happens, don't give up, find something to suit. (How long would your LMC list of opportunities be? 12? Or more?)

Chapter 4: The Practice of Risk-taking Mission and Service.

This practice is about the effort and work needed to make a positive difference in the lives of others, whether or not they are part of a faith community. This could involve going to places of disaster to help clean up and reconstruct. Closer to home help can be given in school projects, food banks, ministering to those at risk. The list is endless. (List those locally). Being part of such schemes increases the vitality of a church fellowship. Inward caring congregations lose their spiritual momentum, although recognising churches still need to keep their concerns in order regarding finance and upkeep. Mission helps to turn church service outward reminding all of Christ's mission of grace, mercy and love to the whole world. Risk-taking mission and

people has been successful, regardless of the size of the congregation. Risk-taking is involved in all we do. To be effective it cannot be a separate issue. Question from the end of the chapter: What is the most unexpected place your faith has taken you in order to

HOLIDAY AT HOME...

...to be held at Leatherhead Methodist Church on Wednesday 3rd August from 9.45am until 4.00pm. Transport provided.

Do you know anyone who is on their own who we could invite who are outside the church and would like to come and enjoy fun, company, and entertainment?

Gift Aid

This short reminder is for the benefit of all the churches within our pastorate (and maybe useful further afield).

Church goers are generous people who, through regular giving or occasional one-off donations, give vital assistance for our work and mission to continue. That giving can be boosted by 25p for every £1 individuals donate through the Gift Aid scheme. Most members have completed a Gift Aid Declaration which gives your Gift Aid Secretary the permission to claim significant sums of money from "The Tax Man" each year.

New Declaration forms have been prepared for either new donors or those donors whose circumstances have changed. Examples are:-

- want to cancel the declaration
- change of name or address
- no longer paying sufficient tax on income and/or capital gains.

Unless there are any changes, existing and old style declarations

Mystery Worshipper

Over recent months I have noted that there is pressure and comment that we need to improve our welcome as a Church. So being away at New Year in a neighbouring Circuit, I went to a Covenant Service which was a really interesting as it was a medium to small Methodist Church not dissimilar to our own.

The Victorian building has a revamped entrance hall including a ramped entrance for those with mobility problems. It still has its pews, and a screen that somehow seemed smaller than ours. Six light bulbs on the chandeliers were out (the church newsletter records that the church handyman moved away in the late summer), and it had a traditional organ, very similar to our previous one.

So in I went. The two door stewards gave me the order of service for the covenant service, but seemed more interested in chatting to each other. No interest if I was new or a visitor? So I wandered in and found a seat towards the middle.

The service started with the steward's welcome which was a little difficult to hear as he was obviously not plugged into the sound system.

The lady Minister then started. Quite formidable, in black suit with green top, though with somehow a tinge of Geraldine – Vicar of Dibley. The service proceeded at a pace, following the Order of Service, until it got to the commissioning of Pastoral and Class Leaders. This was done well as a procession of mostly elderly ladies came to the front, except that nobody thought to say how this fitted in to the order of service. Impressively hymns on the screen started with a front sheet that had the number in the hymn book on it. It also finished with a footnote. It said "End"!

The four small children left early on for their group in the "Old Vestry". Slightly worrying, as when they returned at Communion only three came back.

The service included a sensible sermon, and a noticeably well-chosen

The service finished and then the welcome started properly... a class leader made an energetic and friendly approach. She had been in the Church since she was a small child, utterly genuine and very welcoming. Something about her smile that was just marvellous. This was closely, followed by a slightly more cautious approach by a lady Steward, who had obviously spotted an outsider. A welcoming coffee team were located in the entrance hall, including in their offering a variety of cakes. There I met the Minister, who turned out to be in charge at Horsley, and covering Walton as part of Guildford's Circuit's support for Walton & Woking Circuit, which is short of several Ministers and was very interesting on Circuits and Stationing and the future.

So could we learn things? Actually we do quite well on many grounds as a direct comparison. So what should we do? Perhaps as a Circuit we should consider a "Welcome Audit" with each Church

LMC Family News



Congratulations to...

... Joe and Jude Crome on the birth of their twin girls on 4th February - Freya Sue and Olivia Faith. Two more grandchildren for David and Carol and great grandchildren for Margaret and Bernard.

Our thoughts and prayers are with...

... Pat Cloke and the family on the sad death of Local Preacher Alex Cloke on 17th February.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with...

Hosanna!

Jesus sitting on a donkey's back,
Trotting, trotting through Jerusalem.
Jesus comes with all his grace!
Into the City I'd follow children waving banners.
Loud hosannas to our King,
Our King victorious, Christ the Son of God.
My song is love unknown!

O sacred head, sore wounded,
With thorns thine only crown.
O love divine, what hast thou done?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Christ is alive, let Christians sing.
Christ the Lord is risen today,
Hail the day that sees him rise!
The strife is o'er, the battle won
This joyful Eastertide.
Jesus lives! Jesus lives!

Up from the grave he arose,
Alleluia, he arose.
Love is come again
Like the wheat that springs up green.
Away with gloom, away with doubt,
O glad was the world at Eastertide.
Earth, tell it out abroad!

Palm Sunday - 20th March

We have been invited to join the Parish Church Palm Sunday procession on 20th March starting at Martins Newsagents at 10.10am walking to the Parish Church. We would then continue

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

***Please see the
Leatherhead Pages
(pages 15-16 & 21-25)
for more news***



Christ Church Diary



March

- Fri 4th 2.30pm Women's World Day of Prayer at the Parish Church, followed by tea in the Church Hall
- Sun 6th 10.30am Heather Ward**
- Sun 13th 10.30am Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion**
6.30pm Holy Communion at LMC - Rev. Lynda Russell
- Wed 16th 12.30pm Wednesdays at Christ Church - Organ Concert - Anthony Cairns (*see page 16*)
- Thurs 17th 3.30pm Messy Church at LMC (*to 5.30pm*)
- Sat 19th 8.00am Men's Breakfast at LMC (*see page 22*)
- Sun 20th 10.30am Palm Sunday: Rev. Robert Blows**
- Tues 22nd 2.30pm Pastoral Visitors' & Elders Prayer Mtg. at LMC
- Wed 23rd 1.30pm Trinity School (Key Stage 1) Service
7.00pm Lent Groups *Bring & Share* meal at Christ Church
- Fri 25th 10.00am Good Friday Walk of Reflection - from Christ Church to the Parish Hall
- Sun 27th 10.30am Joint Easter Day Service at LMC - Rev. Lynda Russell**

April

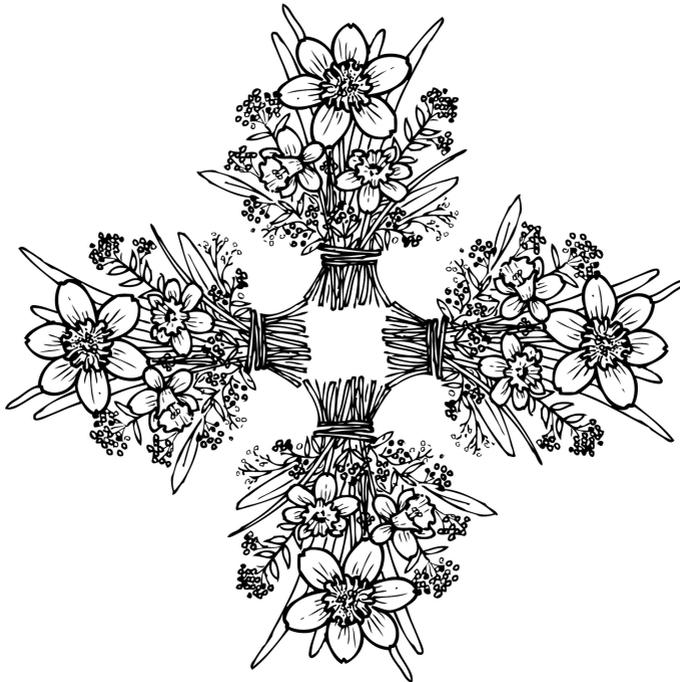


Christ Church Family News



Jean McDowall is still being cared for in Britten Ward, Epsom Hospital, and is visited by the family and friends.

We remember Jean and her family in our prayers and others of our church family who are unwell, lonely or unable to come to church, as well as the carers among our members.



Pastorate Details

Details of the Services and Activities at each of the Pastorate Churches can be found on the appropriate

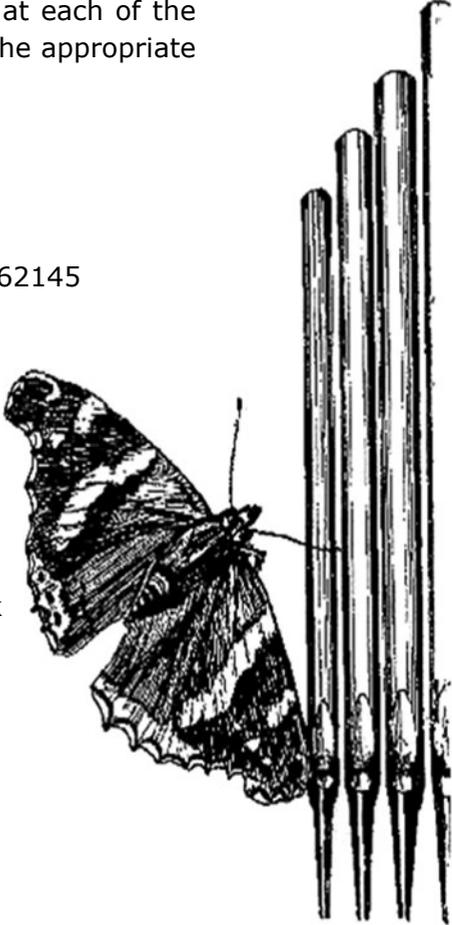
Leatherhead Methodist Church:
Church Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8AY
www.leatherheadmethodist.org
Contact: Administrator -
Carol Stoves 01372 377125; Office 362145

Christ Church (United Reformed):
Epsom Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ST
www.chch.org.uk
Contact: Local Church Leader -
Mike Essex 01372 273472

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

Cobham United Reformed Church:
38 Stoke Road, Cobham, KT11 3BD
www.cobhamurc.org.uk
Contact: Church Secretary -
Mary Langtry 01483 282421

Cobham Methodist Church:
Cedar Road, Cobham, KT11 2AA



<u>United Pastorate Ministers</u>	
<p><u>Rev. Lynda Russell</u> 10 Church Road Leatherhead, KT22 8AY</p> <p>Tel: 01372 372743 (home) 01372 362145 (office)</p> <p>E-mail:</p>	<p><u>Rev. Kim Plumpton</u> 38 Stoke Road Cobham, KT11 3BD</p> <p>Tel: 01932 586988</p> <p>E-mail:</p>