

# the Link

**The United Pastorate of  
Leatherhead  
Cobham  
Effingham**



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

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

The **Methodist** Church



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**Editor: David Cappitt**  
17 Downsview Close,  
Downside, Cobham, KT11 3NS  
Tel: 01932 862661  
E-mail: [pastorate.link@gmail.com](mailto:pastorate.link@gmail.com)

**All copy for the April issue to the editor by March 20th**



## *The Minister Writes...*

### **From Rev Kim Plumpton**

Dear Friends,

What do you most treasure? The theme of our Messy Church in Effingham was hidden treasure; we reflected on the precious nature of the Kingdom of Heaven. As part of the conversation I brought with me a treasure box with some precious items, precious to me. My treasure box contained the first book anyone ever bought me, a paperback version of *One Hundred and One Dalmatians*, it was much loved, the tattered edges of each page was evidence of the number of times I had thumbed through it. Another was a beautiful white shell from the shores of Malaig which reminded me of Colin and the children. My candle from my ordination which reminded me of my faith journey, also a semi-precious geode stone, which I thought was treasure itself (as a child) it was so beautiful.

One of the scriptures I was drawn to was *Matthew 6:19-21*. *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

Lent invites a conversation, one which may well ask us to explore what we value most, whether the things we value are things which will help us to grow in our faith, or whether they are the very things that hinder us.

Lent begins in testing times in the wilderness so for me Lent is surely a time when we are invited to unearth things that lie hidden within. Sometimes it is not that we deliberately hide such things, sometimes they merely become hidden beneath the very challenges of life, we lose sight of them, until suddenly if we allow them to, they come into view once again. Sometimes however we choose to overlook them,

*continued*

they may require more attention than we want to give them. More energy we don't feel we can give. Lent if taken seriously and earnestly can be the very avenue that allows us to take the time we need for self-examination.

I found this wonderful reference to treasure:

*"I have been finding treasures in places I did not want to search. I have been hearing wisdom from tongues I did not want to listen. I have been finding beauty where I did not want to look. And I have learned so much from journeys I did not want to take." — Suzy Kassem*

I suspect if we search deeply enough we will unearth treasures that are of great value. It is after leaving the wilderness that Jesus is able to pursue ministry in its fullest measure. Perhaps that may say something about the need for us to find out who we are truly are before we can fulfil our calling. It may not be an easy journey facing ourselves and looking inwards, but God is not absent through such a process, in fact that may be the very place you find him, or draw closer to him.

Every blessing, Kim



## ***From Rev Jan Hofmeyr***

Dear Friends,

Our personalities determine a fair deal of who we are and how we behave. Extroverts enjoy being with people and socialising; their psychological 'batteries' get charged in their interaction with others. Introverts charge their batteries by being alone and often find themselves becoming drained through too much time with others. Our personalities also influence our spirituality. Extroverts like to connect with other believers. They tend to be 'joiners' – joining groups and activities where they benefit from connecting with other Christ followers. Introverts tend to prefer activities where there is opportunity for quiet and reflection.

In a book entitled 'Quiet' and subtitled 'Being an introvert in a world that can't stop talking' the authoress makes the point that much in the church is geared towards the more extrovert types – activities tend to be within groups and include a great deal of talking and interaction. Extroversion is often equated with a higher level of spirituality, and introverts who do not love God 'out loud' are sometimes considered spiritually deficient.

Within the church we therefore need to ensure that different personality types are catered for. We need to provide activities such as silent retreats where introverts feel more at ease.

As individuals we also need to consider our personality type when we think about our service within the church and the world. Introverts tend to be more suited to activities where they operate on their own or within a small group, for example packing food parcels, doing some administrative task or arranging the church flowers. Extroverts fit better into bigger groups where there is lots of interaction with others such as running a children's group or a soup kitchen.

In a recent sermon I mentioned an article by Gordon MacDonald in which he speaks about the different worship 'languages' or 'instincts' that people tend to have. Some have an 'aesthetic instinct' for their worship. They find it most meaningful to worship in an atmosphere of beauty and grandeur, such as a great cathedral. They find meaning in the time-honoured traditions and liturgies of the church.

Some possess an 'experiential instinct' – they appreciate experiencing a real sense of God's presence and being able to express their worship through the channels of their emotional and physical being – singing, raising hands, clapping, crying. Many in this category will be extroverts.

There is the 'contemplative language' of worship where people find meaning in quiet and reflection, something suited to the introvert personality.

MacDonald also talks about the 'study instinct'. For such people the watchword is 'truth'. Their priority is on discovering more and more of the truth about God and the Bible. They are drawn close to God as they enter more deeply into God's nature and the truth of God's Word.

A fifth 'instinct' is the activist instinct. Such a person is passionate about the needs and injustices in the world. They find great fulfilment and feel close to God when they are addressing such issues in God's name.

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A final one is the 'relational instinct'. This is all about fellowship and harmony within the Body of Christ. This type of person finds the greatest spiritual meaning in bringing people together and deepening unity amongst God's people.

What is your personality? What is your 'worship style' or instinct. We operate best when we work 'with the grain' of our nature, rather than against it; when we fit the 'square peg' of who we are into a 'square hole' rather than trying to force it into a round one!

With love in Christ  
Jan

### **Rev Michael Meech**

As we go to press we learn of the death of Rev Michael Meech. Michael was at one time a Methodist minister in Epsom, before he took up a post with the BBC. During this time he often took services in the Dorking and Horsham circuit; he also came to Cobham on one occasion to talk about his role as county chaplain to the Boy Scout Movement. When we looked for someone give independent advice on the future of Cobham Methodist Church, Michael agreed to come and discuss this with each of the members individually, and produced a report on the way forward. Then, in 2008, after his retirement from the BBC, he was appointed as our part-time Associate Minister, in which role he continued until the reorganisation which saw the formation of the pastorate and Kim's arrival. Despite deteriorating health, Michael continued to be interested in all we were doing, and managed to attend services from time to time, even in a wheelchair. As Charles Wesley wrote, we "rejoice for a brother deceased; our loss is his infinite gain".

*DC*

### **John Rayner**

John Rayner, a well-loved and long-standing member of Christ Church, passed away on Friday, 15th February. He had been living in a care home in Cobham for a few years. We send our sincere condolences to Alison and David and their families in their loss, and assure them of our prayers at this time.

*Anne Cairns*



# **Cobham United Church Worship Diary**

## **March**

**Fri 1st 10.30am World Day of Prayer Service  
At St Andrew's Oxshott**

**Sun 3rd 9.00am Early Bird Service  
10.30am Sydney Shore**

**Sun 10th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion**

**Sun 17th 10.30am Rev Jan Hofmeyr**

**Sun 24th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton**

**Sun 31st 10.30am Rhys Frost**

## **April**

**Sun 7th 9.00am Early Bird Service  
10.30am Rev Stephen Thornton**

**Prayers at the Manse  
Wednesdays at 9.30am  
March: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th**

**Lent Course  
Led by Rev Andy Twilley  
Fridays, 10.30 - 12 (coffee from 10.00)  
from 8th March**

*See p 9*

# Cobham Events

## March

Tues 5th	9.45am	Church Walk
Thur 7th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship: The Anchor, Bookham
Tues 12th	8.00pm	Trustees Meeting
Thur 21st	7.30pm	House Fellowship
Thur 28th	3.45pm	Messy Church (to 5.45pm)



### ***Mustard Seed:***

Bible study meeting every Thursday,  
1.30 - 3.00pm at the home of  
Yoke Lan Palmer.  
All are welcome.

Your invitation to:



Activities

Songs

Food

Crafts

Games

Stories

### ***Messy Church***

Thursday 28th March, 3.45pm - 5.45pm  
Cobham United Church

## **World Day of Prayer**

(formerly known as Women's World Day of Prayer)

**As usual this will be marked on the first Friday in March, which this year is March 1st. It will be hosted by St Andrew's Oxshott, starting at 10.30am, followed by refreshments.**

**The service has been prepared by the women of Slovenia.**



# God's Grand Design: 21st century lessons from the Church at Ephesus

Led by Revd Andy Twilley

Lent course

Venue: Cobham United Church

Stoke Road, Cobham

Dates: 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>

March & 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> April

Time: 10am Refreshments

10:30-12 session

*The letter to the Church at Ephesus stands as a wonderful declaration of the eternal purposes of God in Christ worked out in His Church. This series of studies will be an exciting journey as we discover a host of practical implications for our lives as believers, both individually and corporately. We will discover again the value that God sees in us, as well as the amazing ways God chooses to work within even the most challenging of contexts. A truly inspiring vision for the church.*



Please contact Revd Kim Plumpton for further details on 01932 586988 or e-mail [kimp\\_822@hotmail.com](mailto:kimp_822@hotmail.com) to book a place.



# Effingham

## Methodist Church

### Birthday Dates for March:



**We wish a very Happy Birthday to seven of our ladies:** Elizabeth Blankson, Pat Steer, Janet Garnham, Dorothy Grieves, Rhona Elliott, Elaine Moran and Angela Putland.

Please let us know about birthdays and BIG anniversaries!!



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 to 12 noon on 23<sup>rd</sup> March**. There's also a **Cake Sale** ! Money raised will be divided between **World Mission & Wycliffe Bibles**.

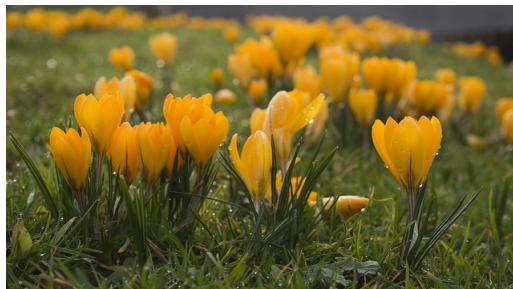
### World Day of Prayer on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March



This year's service: Come, everything is Ready!  
has been written by  
**Christian women of Slovenia.**

**10.30am @ Church of the Holy Spirit,  
Fetcham**

**7.30pm @ All Saints Church, L. Bookham**



# Effingham Methodist Diary



## March

**Fri 1st 10.30am World Day of Prayer at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Fetcham**  
**7.30pm World Day of Prayer at All Saints**

**Sun 3rd 10.00am Rev Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion**

**Sun 10th 10.00am Beth Little**

Tues 12th 2.30pm Tuesday Tea at The Grange for tea

Thur 14th 2.15pm Christian Meditation in the Chapel

**Sun 17th 10.00am Jay Dunning**

Wed 20th 12.30pm Lent Lunch in St Lawrence Hall

Thur 21st 12.30pm Oasis lunch and bible study with Kim

**Sat 23rd 10 - 12 noon World Mission coffee morning at the Chapel**

**Sun 24th 10.00am Christine Lawley**

Tues 26th 2.30pm Tuesday Teas in the RC Hall

Thur 28th 2.15pm Christian Meditation in the Chapel

Fri 29th 2.00pm Precious Moments in the Chapel

**Sun 31st 10.00am Mothering Sunday  
with Rev Kim Plumpton**

## April

**Sun 7th 10.00am Rev Kim Plumpton with Sacrament**

**Prayer Meetings** are held in the Chapel every Friday at 9.30am.

**Please Note: There will be a Traidcraft stall at church on Sunday 10th March.** Please save your pennies to make some purchases.



## **LENT in Effingham**

Effingham's **Lent Lunch** is on **20<sup>th</sup> March** from **12.30 to 2pm** at **St. Lawrence Church Hall**.

This year's local charity is **Cherry Trees** at East Clendon, the respite care home for children.

## **The Bible Course**



**The Bible Society's 8 week course** is being held at **All Saint's Church**, Little Bookham at 7.30 on Tuesday evenings, led by **Rev.Mandy MacVean**.~ Everyone's welcome ~ It's more than bible study !



**St. Lawrence Church Hall in Brown's Lane  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March ~ 3.30 -5.30pm (and  
NO April session)**

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

For more information contact Gill on 01372 457987



# 'Connect'

A fortnightly group for carers

and partners living with dementia

At St Lawrence Church Hall, Browns Lane, Effingham

Thursdays 10.30 till 12 O'clock

## ***Come for refreshment, friendship, activities and fun.***

We meet in St Lawrence Church Hall, Browns Lane, KT24 5LX in Effingham from 10am to 12noon on alternate Thursdays and also arrange monthly outings, often for tea at local garden centres. Refreshments, friendship, chat and a good range of activities are on offer for all.

**March Dates:** 14th, when we shall have an exercise session, seated or standing, led by Sheila Donovan, and 28th.

For more info. contact Gill on 01372 457987  
email : GillianMWalker@gmail.com  
or Kim on 01932 586988

***You don't have to live in Effingham to come and join us***

## **Tuesday Teas - a social group with tea, chat and fellowship**

We meet fortnightly from 2.30pm to 4pm, in St Alphege Hall, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Lower Road, Effingham (and occasional outings).

At the end of February we enjoyed a fish-and-chips lunch together instead of our usual Tuesday Teas. We have also recently welcomed some new members

Next dates are: March 12th and 26th, and fortnightly thereafter.

Some car transport can be arranged.

Contact Keith or Gill on 01372 457987 for more information.



## Precious Moments

**Short service  
with hymns, poetry and readings  
Followed by afternoon tea**

**For those living with and caring  
for those with Dementia, as well  
as friends in the community**

**Effingham Methodist Church**

**Held at 2pm on  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar, 31<sup>st</sup> May, 28<sup>th</sup> June,  
26<sup>th</sup> July**

**For more information Contact:01372 457987**



## A Prayer for Mother's Day

Lord, we remember the Mothers who have gone before us

**For their love, sacrifice, struggle and joy, we thank you**

Lord we remember the mothers of Scripture who are part of our story, as we are part of your story

**For their courage, faith, love and**

**fierceness, we thank you**

Lord, we remember those who have not given birth to us, but are Mothers to us anyway.

**For the gift of themselves, that they have given, we thank you**

For the women that struggle with fertility, for those women that society labels as less in their childlessness, for those women who have lost children

**For their tears, for their strength, for their wisdom, for their lives, we thank you**

**Mothers Sunday is on 31<sup>st</sup> March this year**



## **Easter Offering 2019** **Longer tables, lower fences**

The EASTER OFFERING 2019 dedication service “Longer tables, lower fences”, features stories of shared hospitality across the world. The worship encourages us to consider how we might build longer tables, rather than higher fences, as we share whatever we have and connect with our neighbours.

This service provides an opportunity for churches, circuits and districts to gather and celebrate God’s mission activity in the wider world. It includes the dedication of the **Easter Offering**, all of which goes to the **World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain**, to be allocated for work in 65 Partner Churches around the world. This money has been used by overseas partners to fund such work as enabling young women in north India to undertake nurse and midwifery training.

Leader’s notes give valuable guidance to assist local organisers in the preparation of the service. All the service and related materials are available to download on Methodist website, together with a full PowerPoint presentation containing photos to accompany the stories.

**<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/easter-offering/>**





## Two books which mean a lot

When we go on holiday or go shopping we invariably end up in a bookshop. If I ever I 'lose' Angela, when shopping I am guaranteed to find her in Smiths or 'another' bookshop searching the shelves for another fascinating read. Those who visit our home cannot fail to notice we like books !!

So I would like to mention two books to you that are my favourites and which were both given to me in the last year. One was published in 1879 and the other in 2005.

The 2005 publication is a study version of the Bible which enables you to read through the Bible in a year and is called 'Grace for the Moment' by Max Lucado. It's a hefty paperback but well worth using. I have tried reading the Bible through in a year before and failed because I used a normal Bible which means you have to follow a list of readings and then find your way around the Bible introducing bookmarks to tell you where you read yesterday and this is a real challenge! What's great about this book is that you have readings for each day grouped together and linked by a brilliant, thoughtful introduction. A good reason for using a book like this is that you are reading from various sections of the Bible each day too and you don't become bogged down in Old Testament books for half the year and leave the books about Jesus and the early church untouched. Why not get a copy, your life will be richer for it !

The second, older, publication I would like to mention is a slim tome compared with the first and is one I value very much and it is called 'The King's Son'. This is a book about Billy Bray a Bible Christian preacher who is a folk hero of Cornwall and a hero of mine too ! Billy was a miner living in the West Country around 1820. He was led by God to build Chapels, preach on the Plan each Sunday, work in the tin mines and pray for and help all those he came into contact with. He was truly a remarkable man who trusted in God for everything.

*continued*

His philosophy was that ' Father would provide '. He believed that if it was God's will that something should be done that He would provide the means for it to happen. Billy was only a poor miner but he could dig, build, paint and so, if materials could be acquired, then a chapel could be built ! Throughout his life he found that God provided for him as he tried to do what he believed was God's will.

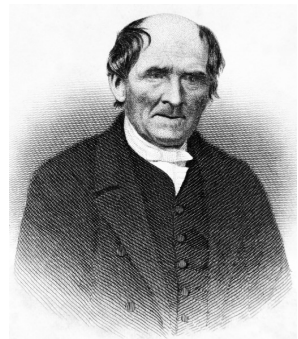
He believed God had created this earth and everything on it. That this was not the devils kingdom but God's. Therefore he was a child of God, a son, and hence the title of the book 'The King's Son' ..... we might like also to consider ourselves to be the King's Sons and Daughters but what a responsibility we take on if we do !

One characteristic of his life was that he was a really joyful person who danced and sang his way round Cornwall. Churches were nearly always overflowing when Billy came to preach. He believed in the power of prayer and saw miracles happen. His services were joyful and noisy for he believed that 'the devil would rather see us doubting than shouting'.

Billy said, ' my best friend is the dear Lord, he has made me glad, no one can make me sad. He makes me shout and no one can make me doubt. He is that which makes me dance and leap and there is no one that can keep down my feet '!

He gave away his money and somehow got more in return. When he needed clothes and food they would be given to him. He loved everybody and spoke to all those he met, rich or poor, of the love of God. May we do the same

Dave Putland



## *A DAY TO EXPLORE THE GOLDEN YEARS*



Come and hear the first Anna Chaplain in the UK tell the story of how this pioneering approach is helping to support and accompany people in their later years.

Key speaker: Debbie Thrower of BRF *The Gift of Years*

*When?*

Wednesday 6th March, 10am - 3.30pm

*Where*

Bookham Baptist Church

*Cost*

£5 (including a sandwich lunch)

*How do I book*

W: [bookhambaptistchurch.org.uk](http://bookhambaptistchurch.org.uk)

E: [reception@bookhambaptist.org](mailto:reception@bookhambaptist.org)

T: 01372 811313

For more information see

*Dorking and Horsham Circuit*  
**NEWSLETTER**

**March**  
**April and May**  
**2019**

Dear Friends,

With Easter occurring a little later this year, we have a small moment of breathing space in our journey between Advent & Christmastide and Lent & Easter. Into that space I want to insert some news about an important piece of work that is taking shape in the Circuit and commend it to your prayerful attention.

When I arrived in the Circuit, I was conscious of the need to review the constitution of The Pastorate. Any Ecumenical endeavour undertaken on a formal basis in the life of the Church needs reviewing every 5-7 years and so this one was due!

One usually approaches these tasks with some degree of trepidation, but I have been greatly encouraged by the group of people who came together representing the Circuit and the four churches of The Pastorate to undertake this task. The group comprised two reps from each church, the two ministers, the URCS Southern Synod Ecumenical Officer and me as Superintendent. We met a number of times in various iterations from October through to January and what has encouraged me most is the enthusiastic way each one has contributed to the conversation and helped shape what I believe is a significant document to aid us in our ongoing journey of ecumenism in this Circuit. We are standing on the threshold of the necessary conversations that now need to unfold in the various churches of the Circuit and Pastorate as well as the Circuit Meeting and other denominational fora that need to approve the document. I believe that as we do so we stand ready to move our ecumenical endeavour that is The Pastorate into a new era of co-operation and mission together. Please do pray for that process and where applicable participate in it in order that you might help us make the most of this opportunity.

As you move into Lent and through it, Easter, may you find opportunity to explore anew the journey that is your own discipleship. At London Road we are exploring a Connexional resource entitled: Talking of God Together. It is a 5 session course with the aim of helping us grow more confident in sharing our faith conversations more widely. We will be exploring: A Present God, A Listening God, A caring God, A Speaking God and Jesus our Teacher and Model. Look out for whatever is going on in your local setting but embrace the discipline our Lenten journey offers us as we move towards celebrating anew the transforming power of love that is the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Yours in the Gospel.

 Gavin

The **Methodist** Church

## EFFINGHAM

Spring has sprung in the Chapel garden, with snowdrops and a few primroses against the church wall. No neighbours yet, in the new property next door, but all the building and landscaping is done. So now we just need to cut back our shrubs, tidy up a bit, and then erect a new fence to the new party-wall to smarten-up the Chapel's appearance. Hopefully just in time for a wedding on Easter Saturday! Then, after Easter Sunday's service, we'll decorate the Cross in the garden with flowers as we normally do to declare to the village that Jesus is risen !!

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March we will be holding a **World Missions** coffee morning with plants, cakes and a "bring and buy" stall. Then we'll celebrate **St. George's Day** on 23<sup>rd</sup> April with afternoon tea and lots of lovely cakes. Yummy !! We're also working on a new website, and a marketing strategy with some more fundraising events planned in May and June, to bolster our funds.

**Churches together in Effingham & Little Bookham** are organising another *Messy Easter* with chocolate Easter eggs and the story of Jesus for every child. This year's there's just one Lent Lunch, rather than three, and it will be in aid of **Cherry Trees**, a local respite centre for the disabled.

On **Maundy Thursday**, **Kim** and **Mandy**, the **Rector**, and lots of helpers will be distributing hot-cross buns at the local shops and railway station, with napkins to tell people about the real meaning of Easter. On **Good Friday** there's a *Devotional Walk* via each of our churches, ending with a service at our Chapel. We're also hosting an ecumenical service during May.

*Ange and David Putland*

## ST ANDREWS, HORSHAM

Life has been busy. We have always been a welcoming and loving church, but our Pastoral System had become difficult to work. That being so we have changed the system so that we all look after each other, for example within Home groups, with 'STAR LINKS' reporting more serious issues to the newly reorganised Prayer Chain or Revd Kath as necessary.

The Community Christmas and Carol service went well, as did the Community Lunch cooked by our own chef Mervin Halliday, and the Messy Christingle with a 'Bring and Share' lunch in true Methodist tradition. The large community Advent Calendar in the church window encouraged all those who saw it to do one good thing each day. Locals seemed to like it!

We are currently holding an Alpha Course and plan to participate in the 'Waterfall Journey' which follows the path of discipleship bringing believers into a closer relationship with God. It will be led by Angie Coombes in the summer. With our Minister on Sabbatical leave over Easter we have lots to plan not least a Messy Easter for the whole family, watch this space as they say.

*Sue Randell*

## **DORKING**

We want to report first the deaths of two members who have given loyal involvement over many years. Shirley Kellett moved from Barnes, and gave great service as junior church leader, pastoral visitor and church steward. She also represented us on the Circuit Meeting. A few years ago, as a widow, she moved to Kingston and became part of the Methodist Church there. She enjoyed many cruises in this final stage of her life. Some of us were able to attend her funeral. Very recently Joyce Peters died at the age of 90 after a period of poor health. She and her husband Bob (who died a few years ago) were stalwart members, not only at St Martins, but reaching back to the former Methodist Church in South Street which closed over forty years ago. We thank God for these dedicated friends.

The customary Christmas Dinner for those who were seeking one took place, and we record our thanks to members of another Dorking church who volunteered and marvelously attended to the cooking and the hospitality.

Rowan, our Chaplain, continues her dedicated pastoral work, and has recently organized courses for the Advent season and on "Listening". The worship to close the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this year was held in the Centre and led by the Pentecostal Church which worships weekly in the Centre, giving us a taste of their style of worship. Our managers, volunteers and overseeing committee maintain their dedicated endeavours.

We maintain an annual Church Anniversary service, which this year's is on Sunday March 10 when our preacher will be Revd Peter Hills, our District's Ecumenical Officer for Surrey.

Don't forget that, if you ever visit or shop in Dorking, morning coffee and later a lunch are available on offer in the Centre!

## **PARTRIDGE GREEN**

We commence our six weeks of Lent Lunches on Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup> in the church hall, and monies raised will be given to charity.

An ecumenical four week Lent Course is being arranged by the Minister of St. Michael's church, and we are all welcome to join them with this Easter preparation.

Pre-school children and parents are invited to our Easter Toddler Service on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 10-30 am, and many young families will be joining us for our Easter Messy Church morning on Friday April 13<sup>th</sup>.

We will be hosting another Quiz evening on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>, and look forward to welcoming many of you from other churches in the Circuit, to share this fun evening together. Any monies raised from this event will go towards our ongoing refurbishment fund, to improve our church porch and disabled access.

On Good Friday, we plan to host our annual afternoon ramble from the Church Hall at 2-30pm, followed by refreshments, with a service to follow at 5pm. Do join us if you are able.

*Alison James*

## **Revd Ian Howarth**

*Ian served this Circuit for a long time. He took on the Circuit Superintendency on top of his care of Leatherhead, Cobham and Effingham, and for his final few years with us was also the Assistant District Chair for our Western Area. He left us on his appointment as Chair of the Birmingham District, but was able to return for special occasions. There was sadness when we learned of serious illness, but it is good to hear from Leatherhead that he has been signed off from the cancer clinic. He now just needs annual visits and no medication. Ian has commented that, after eight months, it is great to be back leading Sunday worship!*

## **COBHAM UNITED**

More firsts: although we have shared services before, this was our first Christmas celebration as Cobham United Church, and the Covenant Service was particularly moving as together we renewed our covenant, individually and collectively. We have had to decide whether we shall follow Methodist or URC safeguarding policy and guidelines. We decided on "Methodist" and wonder why in this key area there is not a Churches Together joint document.

In Lent we shall have a series of studies led by Revd Andy Twilley called "God's Grand Design". Then after we have shared Easter together, there will be something special towards the end of May to celebrate the first anniversary of Cobham United Church.

*David Cappitt*

### **REVD MICHAEL MEECH**

*We have learned with sadness of Michael's death. He will be remembered as a Minister, writer, broadcaster and much more. He led and guided the introduction and leadership of Accompanied Self-Appraisal for Ministers in the old London SW District. He was a good friend of our Circuit, not least in his availability to lead worship and preach when needed. He will be particularly remembered by members of Cobham Methodist Church which he served as Associate Minister for several years before poor health made that too difficult for him. He was always anxious to hear news of our Circuit and District. His wife Wendy died a few years ago, and he mourned her loss deeply. He was able to stay in his home at Ashted in his latter years. Our prayers and sympathy for this family.*

## **LONDON ROAD, HORSHAM**

A reunion group for those people who have been on the Walk to Emmaus continue to meet on a monthly basis for fellowship and support. Our numbers are growing as more folk have become "Pilgrims" on these weekends and we hope to further increase the group this year.

Another monthly event is the popular birthday teas. Members of the congregation are invited to the Manse during the month of their birthdays to enjoy a delicious afternoon tea and the company of others who share their birthday month.

It was agreed to hold a study/discussion group during Lent this year. Small groups met over the course of five weeks and used a booklet entitled "Talking of God Together" to inform their discussions. This programme offered the opportunity to meet and talk with people you might not have known very well as well as more familiar faces.  
*Helen Currington*

## **LEATHERHEAD**

Christmas services included a revived Messy Church with a very high attendance. Christmas day itself came close to a full house. We made a big contribution to the covenanted churches' Carols and Lessons held at Christ Church URC.

LMC have formally welcomed 12 new members shortly after the Annual Covenant service. The music and praise band grows from strength to strength.

On April 6<sup>th</sup> we are to host a significant Easter musical event, a modern Oratorio entitled THIS MAN. Look out for publicity and adverts.

*Ron Shaw*

# Leatherhead Pages

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



## 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  
for young people*

**AllSaints, Kingston Road, Leatherhead, KT22 7BT**

## Men's Breakfasts



The Leatherhead Men's Breakfast Fellowship meets bi-monthly on the fourth Saturday in the month.

The next meeting is on **23rd March, at the Mango Bean Café** and the following meeting will be on 25th May at LMC, speaker Dave Banko with a Churches Together update.

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.



# Time for Tea



## **COME for TEA and COMPANY**

from 2.30pm to 4.30pm  
on the first Friday every month at

## **LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH**

**No meeting in March as it's the same time as  
World Day of Prayer at Christ Church at 2.30pm**

**Next Meeting Friday 5th April:  
Speaker - Bob Greenfield on "Miracles"**

## **EVERYONE WELCOME**

(Suggested donation £1)



# The Ark Toddler Group



Every Friday  
0930-1100  
URC Church  
Epsom Road  
KT22 8ST

Lots of fun,  
games and  
toys, come  
and join us  
for a tea or  
coffee  
whilst your  
child plays



For More Information  
Contact Joycey on  
[Joycey.lmcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:Joycey.lmcyouth@gmail.com)





# World Day of Prayer

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

(formerly Women's World Day of Prayer)

Service on Friday 1st March at 2.30pm

“Come - Everything is Ready”

at

Christ Church (United Reformed), Epsom Road

followed by tea and cakes

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

This year's service has been prepared by  
the women of Slovenia.



**LMC**

# "THIS MAN"

**A Modern Oratorio**  
**The Easter Story as you've**  
**never heard it before.**  
**Prepare to be blown away!**

---

**SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH**  
**7.30 PM**

---

**TICKETS: ADULTS £12,**  
**CONCESSIONS/CHILDREN £10**

**Booking Online:**  
**[thismantickets.co.uk](http://thismantickets.co.uk)**  
**Box Office: 07947910002**  
**or**  
**Leatherhead Methodist Church**  
**[leatherheadmc@gmail.com](mailto:leatherheadmc@gmail.com)**  
**01372 362145**





**Messy**  
Church



**Easter**

**THURSDAY  
21ST MARCH  
1530-1730**

**FUN GAMES  
CRAFTS  
FOOD**



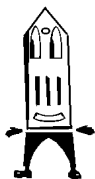
**£3 DONATION  
PER CHILD**



**LEATHERHEAD  
PARISH CHURCH**



**LMC**  The United  
Reform  
Church



# Leatherhead

## Methodist Church

### Prayer Breakfasts

Prayer breakfasts are held on the third Sunday each month at 9.30am. It's a bring and share (non-cooked) breakfast with a short time of prayer fellowship before the morning service. All very welcome.

**Next Prayer Breakfast is on 17th March.**

### LMC House Groups

LMC has three House Groups where Church members and friends can meet together on a regular basis, usually 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.



**Monday evenings fortnightly:** contact **Carol Stoves**

**Friday mornings monthly:** contact **Norma Shaw**

**Friday afternoons (2nd and 4th Fridays):** contact **Sue Friend**

Everyone is encouraged to join a house group



# Diary



## March

- Fri 1st 2.30pm World Day of Prayer at Christ Church
- Sun 3rd 10.30am Rev. Jan Hofmeyr with Holy Communion**
- Tues 5th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry  
2.00pm Knit 'n' Natter
- Sun 10th 10.30am Robert Pitt**  
**6.30pm Rev. Jan Hofmeyr with Holy Communion**
- Tues 12th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry  
2.00pm Knit 'n' Natter
- Sun 17th 9.30am Prayer Breakfast**  
**10.30am Rev. Kim Plumpton**
- Tues 19th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry  
2.00pm Knit 'n' Natter
- Thur 21st 3.30pm Messy Easter at LMC (*see p 29*)
- Sat 23rd 8.00am Men's Breakfast at the Mango Bean Café
- Sun 24th 10.30am John Bees**  
**6.30pm New Fire at AllSaints café**
- Tues 26th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry  
2.00pm Knit 'n' Natter
- Sun 31st 10.30am Rev Jan Hofmeyr**

## April

- Tues 2nd 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry  
2.00pm Knit 'n' Natter
- Fri 5th 2.30pm Time for Tea
- Sat 6th 7.30pm "This Man" - a modern oratorio (*see p 28*)
- Sun 7th 10.30am Rev. Jan Hofmeyr with Holy Communion**  
**12.00noon Bring and share lunch at the Manse**

# Religion's Relationship to Happiness, Civic Engagement and Health Around the World

In the U.S. and other countries, participation in a congregation is a key factor. People who are active in religious congregations tend to be happier and more civically engaged than either religiously unaffiliated adults or inactive members of religious groups, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of survey data from the United States and more than two dozen other countries.

Religiously active people also tend to smoke and drink less, but they are *not* healthier in terms of exercise frequency and rates of obesity. Nor, in most countries, are highly religious people more likely to rate themselves as being in very good overall health – though the U.S. is among the possible exceptions.

Many previous studies have found positive associations between religion and health in the United States. Researchers have shown, for example, that Americans who regularly attend religious services tend to live longer. Other studies have focused on narrower health benefits, such as how religion may help breast cancer patients cope with stress. On the other hand, there are also studies that have not found a robust relationship between religion and better health in the U.S., and even some studies that have shown *negative* relationships, such as higher rates of obesity among highly religious Americans.

Taking a broad, international approach to this complicated topic, Pew Research Center researchers set out to determine whether religion has positive, negative or mixed associations with **eight indicators** of individual and societal well-being available from international surveys conducted over the past decade. Specifically, this report examines respondents' self-assessed levels of happiness, as well as five measures of individual health and two measures of civic participation.

By dividing people into three categories, the study also seeks to isolate whether religious *affiliation* or religious *participation* – or both, or neither – is associated with happiness, health and civic engagement. The three categories are: "Actively religious," made up of people who identify with a religious group and say they attend services at least once a month (sometimes called "actives"); "inactively religious," defined as those who claim a religious identity but attend services less often (also called "inactives"); and "religiously unaffiliated," people who do not identify with any organised religion (sometimes called "nones").



This analysis finds that in the U.S. and many other countries around the world, *regular participation in a religious community* clearly is linked with higher levels of happiness and civic engagement (specifically, voting in elections and joining community groups or other voluntary organisations). This may suggest that societies with declining levels of religious engagement, like the U.S., could be at risk for declines in personal and societal well-being. But the analysis finds comparatively little evidence that religious *affiliation*, by itself, is associated with a greater likelihood of personal happiness or civic involvement.

Moreover, there is a mixed picture on the five health measures. In the U.S. and elsewhere, actively religious people are less likely than others to engage in certain behaviours that are sometimes viewed as sinful, such as smoking tobacco and drinking alcohol. But religious activity does not have a clear association with how often people exercise or whether they are obese. And, after adjusting for differences in age, education, income and other factors, there is no statistical link between being actively religious and being in better self-reported overall health in any of the 26 countries and territories studied except Taiwan, Mexico and the United States.

Even in the U.S., the strength of the linkage between religion and health varies, depending on measures and datasets used. For example, in some years, the General Social Survey has shown that religiously affiliated people who go to church or other religious services at least once a month are particularly likely to report that they are in excellent overall health, while in other recent years this has not been the case.

The exact nature of the connections between religious participation, happiness, civic engagement and health remains unclear and needs further study. While the data presented in this report indicate that there are links between religious activity and certain measures of well-being in many countries, the numbers do not *prove* that going to religious services is directly responsible for improving people's lives. Rather, it could be that certain kinds of people tend to be active in multiple types of activities (secular as well as religious), many of which may provide physical or psychological benefits. Moreover, such people may be more active partly because they are happier and healthier, rather than the other way around.

*continued*

Whatever the explanation may be, more than one-third of actively religious U.S. adults (36%) describe themselves as very happy, compared with just a quarter of both inactive and unaffiliated Americans. Across 25 other countries for which data are available, actives report being happier than the unaffiliated by a statistically significant margin in almost half (12 countries), and happier than inactively religious adults in roughly one-third (nine) of the countries.

The gaps are often striking: In Australia, for example, 45% of actively religious adults say they are very happy, compared with 32% of inactives and 33% of the unaffiliated. And there is no country in which the data show that actives are significantly *less* happy than others (though in many countries, there is not much of a difference between the actives and everyone else).

When it comes to measuring civic participation, the results again follow a pattern: On balance, people who are actively religious are also more likely to be active in voluntary and community groups. This dovetails with previous studies in the United States.

*"Religion's Relationship to Happiness, Civic Engagement and Health Around the World" © Pew Research Center, Washington, D.C. The full report can be found online at: <http://www.pewforum.org/2019/01/31/religions-relationship-to-happiness-civic-engagement-and-health-around-the-world/>*

Our thanks to Bob Greenfield for arranging for this article to be included in The Link.

## **Weekly Prayer Meeting**

Prayer meetings are now held every Tuesday morning in the Vestry at LMC. Meetings start at 9.00am and last about 40 minutes. Everyone is very welcome to join us.



# KNIT AND NATTER



NEW GROUP  
STARTING  
ALL ARE  
WELCOME

Leatherhead  
Methodist Church

Every Tuesday  
between 1400-1600  
50p Per Session  
to cover costs



**LMC**

# LMC Family News



*Our thoughts and prayers are with ...*

...**James and Jean Ross** as James is currently at the Red House Care Home in Ashted.

...**Jeanne Alexandre** who is in Epsom Hospital, following a minor stroke at the end of January.

*We remember too ...*

...all our members, friends and relatives - especially any who are unwell at home, in hospital, in a residential home and those who care for them. We think of Harry and Peggy Robinson, Barbara and John Bees and Edward Warren.

*Great News...*

...it was good to hear that Ian Howarth has been signed off from the cancer clinic. He now just needs annual visits and no medication. Ian has commented that, after eight months, it is great to be back leading Sunday worship!

## Lunchbox at LMC

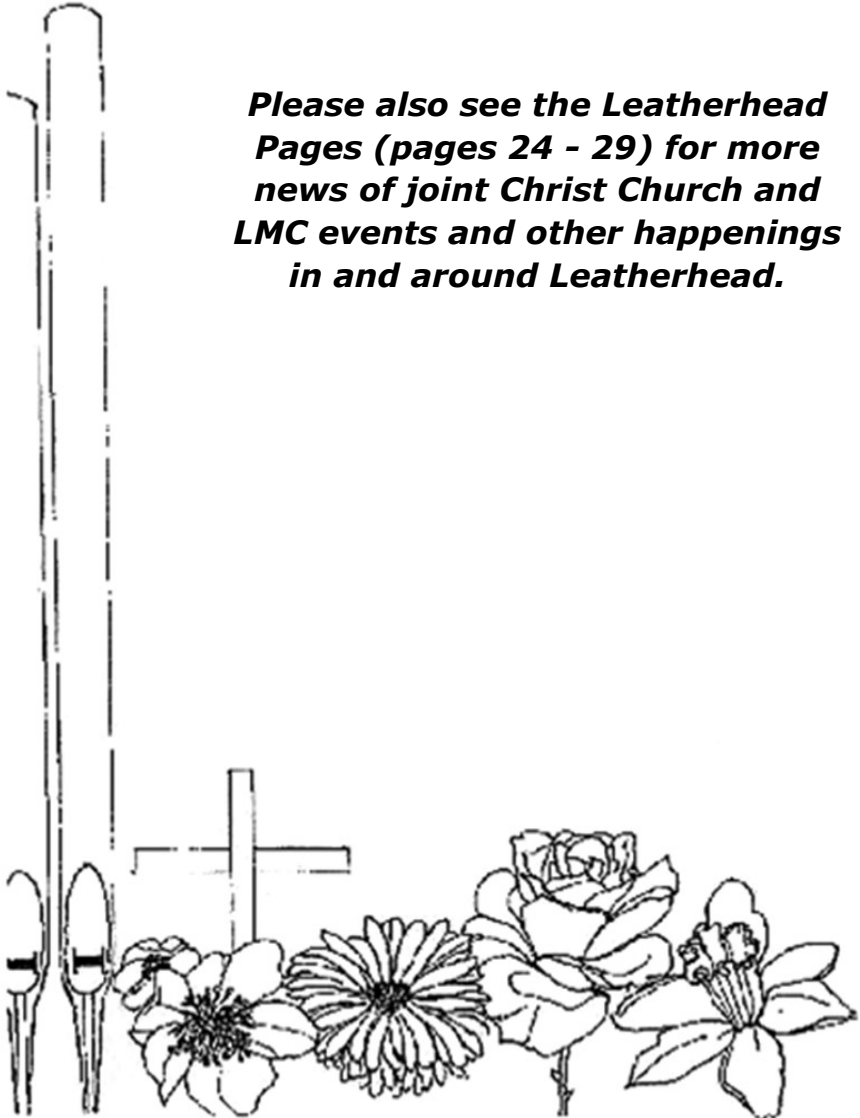
We continue to welcome Lunchbox every Wednesday at LMC, but we need a few more volunteers for washing up and general help, and for helping to prepare meals before the session.

If you can help, please contact Anne Marshall on 07961 347093. Thank you.

# **Christ Church**

**(United Reformed) Leatherhead**

***Please also see the Leatherhead  
Pages (pages 24 - 29) for more  
news of joint Christ Church and  
LMC events and other happenings  
in and around Leatherhead.***



# Christ Church Diary



## March

Fri 1st 2.00pm World Day of Prayer Service (at URC)

**Sun 3rd 10.30am Anna Crawford**

12.30pm LMC: Revive Nation (ages 11-18)

Wed 6th  
7.30pm Ash Wednesday: Lent begins  
House Group, 3 Orchardleigh

**Sun 10th 10.30am Rev Jan Hofmeyr: Holy Communion**

Mon 11th Ecumenical Lent Groups begin (5 weeks)

Wed 13th 3.00pm Elders' Meeting

**Sun 17th 10.30am Thelma Roberts**

12.30pm LMC: Revive Nation (ages 11-18)

Thur 21st 3.30pm LMC: Messy Lent

Sat 23rd 8.00am Mango Bean Café: Men's Breakfast.  
Speaker: Gerald Coates

**Sun 24th 10.30am Rev Jan Hofmeyr: Parade Service**

6.30pm New Fire: ecumenical service  
at All Saints café

Sat 30th 10.00am Volunteers collecting for Food Bank (to 2pm)

**Sun 31st 10.30am Rev Brian Treharne**

## April

Sat 6th 7.30pm "This Man": a modern oratorio.

**Sun 7th 10.30am Heather Ward**

# Christ Church Family News



We are happy to report that Sue Huxtable's wrist is much better, though still quite weak, and at last she is able to drive.

We are very sorry that Gilbert McMillan has been ill with mild pneumonia, and had to spend some days in hospital. He is now back home and we send him our warmest good wishes for a full recovery.

We remember him in our prayers, as well as all friends who are unwell, and the lonely, the worried and the bereaved.

*Anne Cairns*

Mike Essex has acted as our Local Lay Leader for the past nine years. He has done the job very well but now feels it is the time to move on.

However, we are pleased to report that instead Mike has accepted the appointment of Church Secretary from 10th February. Our grateful thanks to Mike and also to Heather Ward who has acted as Church Secretary until now.

*John Henderson*

## **Brian Treharne's Celebration Lunch on 21st March**

We are privileged that Brian has chosen Christ Church for his last service and will be supported by his family and friends. We shall be celebrating his long ministry with a lunch for the congregation and guests in the Church Hall following the service.

Tickets, priced £5 each, will be available from Patricia Martin (tel: 01372 376975) in the preceding weeks. Please make known any dietary requirements in advance. Any profit from the lunch will be donated to a charity chosen by Brian.

# Pastorate Details

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

**Leatherhead Methodist Church:**

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

**Christ Church (United Reformed):**

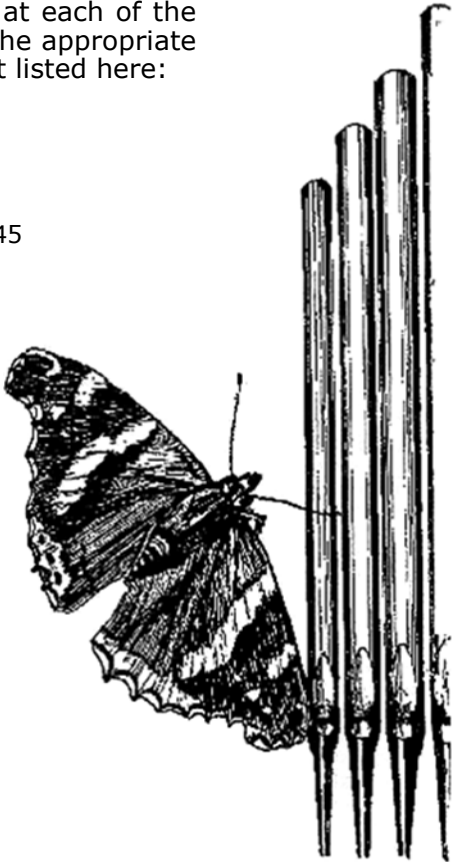
Epsom Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ST  
www.chch.org.uk  
Contact: Church Secretary -  
Mike Essex 01372 273472

**Effingham Methodist Church:**

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

**Cobham United Church:**

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



## United Pastorate Ministers

**Rev Jan Hofmeyr**

10 Church Road  
Leatherhead  
KT22 8AY

**Tel:** 01372 373154 (home)  
01372 362145 (office)  
**Email:** revjannie@gmail.com

**Rev. Kim Plumpton**

38 Stoke Road  
Cobham  
KT11 3BD

**Tel:** 01932 586988  
**E-mail:**  
kimp\_822@hotmail.com