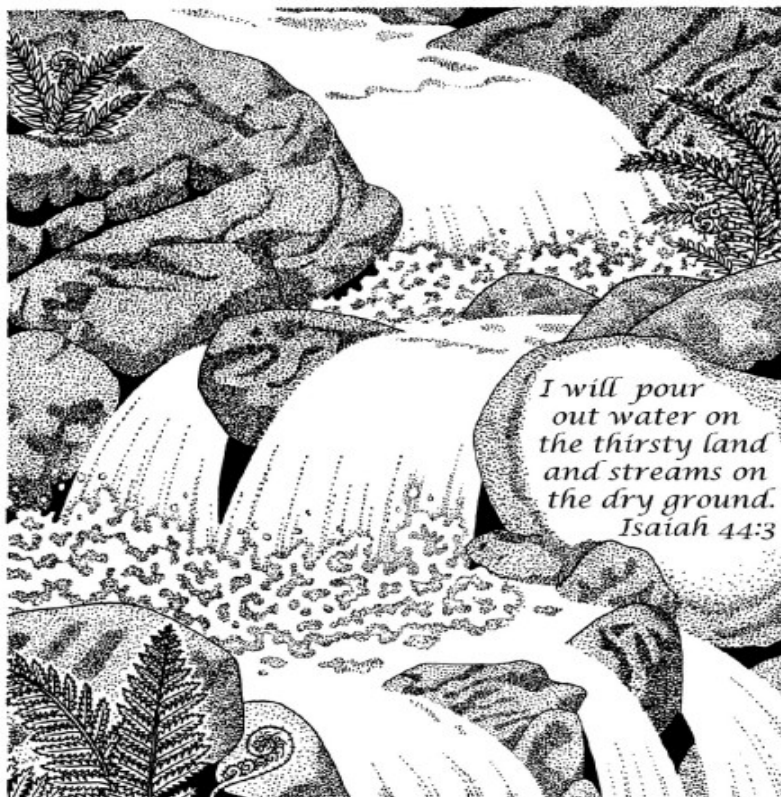


the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

March 2020



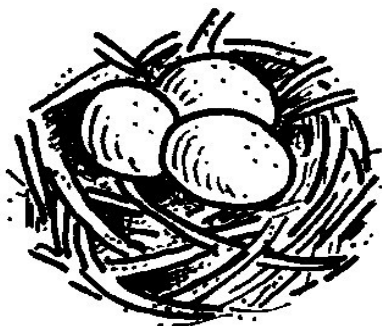
The
**United
Reformed
Church**

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

The Methodist Church 

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All copy for the April issue to the editor by March 18th



The Ministers Write...

From Rev Kim Plumpton

Dear friends,

I was busy cleaning out the office, my goodness how quickly it gets into a mess. With messy church materials spilling from numerous bags, banners and posters awaiting a call to be used once again, not to mention the ever-increasing pile of papers waiting for a response or an action, the office was beginning to make me feel claustrophobic. A good sort out was warranted before a much needed clear out during the sabbatical. But could I summon up the enthusiasm to do it? It came in dribs and drabs until eventually I decided there were far more important things I could get on with, which was clearly my way of procrastinating yet again. The little bit I did manage to do revealed one tiny bit of paper which fluttered to the floor, it was only a small piece of paper no more than the size of a small mobile phone.

On the paper were written the words "*This is your lifetime guarantee. Lifetime support, replacement and refund. See attached documents.*"

To which item it belonged to I had no idea, no attachments were nearby, neither did it have any branding on it. It's true to say that any guarantee is only valid as long as the company who offers it is still in existence. We know sadly that even the most established businesses have succumbed to the rigours of economic instability.

"*Lifetime guarantee, lifetime support.*" Any guarantee generally comes with some kind of conditions that you have to accede to if you wish a replacement. I think we have all encountered those moments when you've checked your guarantee and discovered the very things that you hoped were covered, are not. Or that something you've done has made the guarantee void.

Most of us would agree that few things in life can be guaranteed, and it seems at times as though we have little control over what happens to us, we live in the moment, none of us knows what tomorrow brings.

However, as we begin our journey through Lent and we consider where that journey will lead us, we do so with a guarantee that God's love will endure forever, his faithfulness continues through all generations, and when needed he will offer to be our refuge in times of trouble. God gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. God has plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. We are guaranteed that whoever follows Jesus will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. Anyone who believes in him will live, even after dying. And so much more.

Finally, that God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Not only can we trust in God and his promises but he invests in us constantly offering us his grace, mercy, forgiveness and love.

Now that is a lifetime guarantee we can trust in. Whatever we unearth during life's journey, we are guaranteed that God has already forgiven us and offers us more than we can imagine. Lifetime support, definitely. Any conditions, he takes us we are. Attached documents, read the bible!

Every blessing Kim

From Rev Jan Hofmeyr

Dear Friends,

As mentioned elsewhere in this edition of *Link*, recent weeks have seen the decision by Christ Church members to close their premises at the end of this year. Such a decision is always sad, and not one that the members of any church like to see happening. But like most things, churches tend to have a lifecycle of birth, growth, a levelling out, then a decline and ultimately an ending. This process can often be the inevitable result of changes in the world and community around us, over which we have no control. However, it behoves us as churches to do everything which it is in our power to do, in seeking to extend the life and fruitfulness of our congregations.

In a book, *Church Next*, the authors, Eddie Gibbs and Ian Coffey, give a list of things which, according to research, are common to churches in England which have experienced growth, against the prevailing trend of decline. These items include:

- A strong, high quality leadership
- A clear emphasis on mission and service
- An approach to evangelism centred on people and their needs
- A willingness to embrace change and manage it skilfully
- Well-planned worship services that are attractive to and accessible to people
- A good network of small groups within the life of the church
- An excellent standard of work among children and young people

The Calling of the Methodist Church in Britain is 'to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.' The Church's four main areas of ministry are Worship, Service, Evangelism, Learning and Caring. These tie in well with the list above, particularly in terms of the 'What' of ministry.

But in that list there are also two important 'Hows' of a healthy church – quality leadership and a willingness to embrace change. Those are vital if the 'What' of ministry is going to flourish.

The one of embracing change is a vital one, but also a difficult one often. Churches are by nature conservative institutions, and change is often fiercely resisted. There is the joke that says, 'How many church leaders does it take to change a light bulb?' The answer, 'Change! – what's that?' But often the true issue is not change as such, but rather the loss that will result from change. Change implies the loss of something in favour of something different. Loss is often painful and so change needs to be managed skilfully and sensitively. But it needs to happen to avoid a church stagnating.

Think of the church in John Wesley's day. Wesley realised that some drastic changes needed to happen if the church was to be renewed, but he was strongly opposed by many in the established church. Think of Jesus, and the opposition He encountered from the Pharisees and other religious leaders.

But change is a part of life. The chrysalis cannot remain in the cocoon forever. That which is not being constantly reborn is actually dying. May God grant us good 20/20 vision, to discern the way forward and the faith to follow that path.

With love in Christ,
Jan

We have recently, in a short space of time, had to say goodbye to three people who had seemed to be fixtures in the local churches.

Firstly Martin Ellis, who has died after a short illness. Martin was organist at St Martin's, Dorking, a Methodist local preacher, and district ecumenical officer, in which role he was very helpful and supportive over the forming of an LEP in Cobham. Martin always seemed so full of life, and so was the organ when he played it.

Then there was Dougie Reed, long-time editor of The Link, and regular member of the congregation at Effingham, until this was impossible due to a debilitating and distressing illness.

Finally Kate Peberdy, for many years a stalwart at Cobham Methodist Church, and very active in the community, though in recent years confined to a wheelchair following a stroke.

All were so full of life, and we believe they now have a life yet richer and fuller. As Charles Wesley wrote *Our loss is their infinite gain*.

We ask God's blessing on their families and friends

God in Love Unites Us

Thirty members from across the Pastorate (and Dorking) met on Saturday 22nd February to hear about and discuss this report of the Marriage and Relationships task group of the Methodist Church. The meeting began with a short video in which the eight members of the task group talk about their work, which stretched across around two years of regular meetings together. All of them spoke of the wonderful way in which they were welded together as a group, despite differences of opinions amongst them.

Rev Kim Plumpton gave a brief overview of the five sections of the report, which seeks to address a variety of matters relating to marriage and relationships, including pointers about good and respectful relating in both mixed and same-sex relationships, the issue of co-habitation and the changing understanding of the main purpose of marriage, which has developed from an emphasis on procreation to one of mutual companionship and support. The meeting then divided up for group discussion and report back.

Rev Jan Hofmeyr then led the meeting through the main proposals from the 2019 Conference. These are:

The elements of good relating – self-giving love, commitment, fidelity, honesty, mutual respect, equality etc. The point is there made that self-giving love should not be seen as an opportunity to take advantage of or abuse one's partner.

A proposal that the Church recognise the love that often exists between committed, co-habiting people, to support such couples and encourage them to respond to the love of God present in such relationships and encourage such couples to a deepening of their commitment, by whatever means.

A proposal that the Church considers producing liturgical resources and guidance for use at the ending of a marriage.

The proposal that the Church consent to the marriage of same-sex couples on Methodist premises and by Methodist ministers. (Linked to this is the proposal that ministers and churches who disagree with this proposal can refuse to be involved with such marriages but should refer the couple to a minister who will officiate at such a service.)

There was again time for group discussion and report-back.

The general feeling of those present was one of agreement with the various resolutions, although some feel uncomfortable with the idea of same-sex marriage and the use of the term 'marriage' where a same-sex couple is involved.

Further discussion will take place at the Circuit Meeting and District Synod, where secret ballot voting will take place and be conveyed to the Conference at the end of June where final decisions will be made.

JH



Editor(s) for the Link
Does your picture fit in here?

I am planning to move to Lincolnshire in September.

If by that time a new editor has not been found then the September issue of the Link will be the last. It doesn't have to continue as now. One suggestion is that it could come out every two months, and/or two people—or a small team—could share the job.

If you want the Link to continue, somebody must take it on.

David Cappitt



Cobham United Church Worship Diary

March

- Sun 1st 9.00am Early Bird Service**
10.30am Rev Stephen Thornton
- Sun 8th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton: Holy Communion**
- Sun 15th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton**
- Sun 22nd 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton**
- Sun 29th 10.30am David Cappitt: Easter Offering Service**

April

- Sun 5th 9.00am Early Bird Service**
10.30am Vivien Gerhold

Prayers at the Manse Wednesdays at 9.30am

March: 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th



World Day of Prayer Friday 6th March

Service at Cobham United Church at 10am,
followed by a simple lunch.

Theme: *Rise, Take Your Mat and Walk !*
Service prepared by Christian women of Zimbabwe

All (women, men and children) welcome.

Cobham Events

March 2020

Tues 3rd	9.45am	Church Walk
	11.30am	Lent Course (to 1pm)
	8.00pm	Trustees Meeting
Thur 5th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship: "The Anchor", Bookham
	2.00pm	Fundraising Meeting (to 4pm)
Fri 6th	10.00am	World Day of Prayer (at CUC)
Tues 10th	11.30am	Lent Course (to 1pm)
Fri 13th	2.30pm	Bereavement Café (to 4.00pm)
Sat 14th	10.00am	Synod Together
	6.30pm	Quiz night (see p12)
Tues 17th	11.30am	Lent Course (to 1pm)
Thur 19th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Dorking Christian Centre
Fri 29th	7.30pm	"Bubbles, Batter and Broadway" Show Choir: Fundraiser for Lunchbox (see p13)
Tues 24th	11.30am	Lent Course (to 1pm)
Wed 25th	2.30pm	Spiritual Committee
Thur 26th	3.45pm	Messy Church (to 5.45pm)
Tues 31st	11.30am	Lent Course (to 1pm)

Mustard Seed:

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



Thur 26th March 3.45 - 5.45pm

Cobham United Church

Cobham, Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon Churches Together

Bereavement *Café*



A place to talk

with people who understand

Cobham United Church
38 Stoke Road
Cobham KT11 3BD

Second Friday of each month
From 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm
Starting 13th September 2019

For more information please contact
01932 586988

In partnership with

Princess Alice
Hospice



pah.org.uk/bereavement 01372 461808

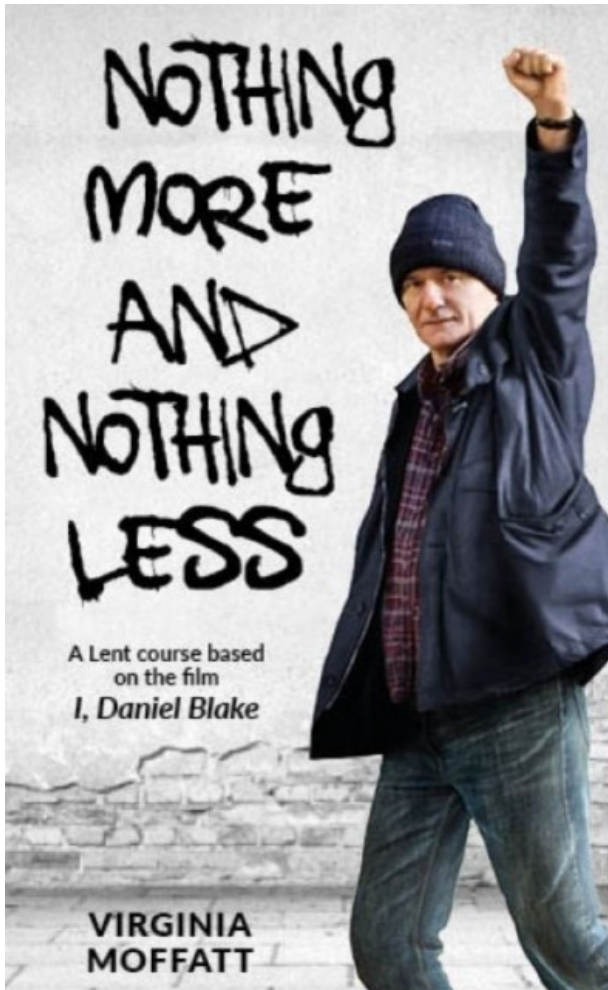
pah.org.uk



Join us @PAHospice



Lent Bible Study Course



A moving award-winning film focusing on the journey one man makes: Daniel Blake, who after suffering a heart attack, has to navigate through the benefits system.

‘Nothing more and Nothing Less.’

Sessions include:

- Systems of oppression
- Staying human
- Compassion in the darkness
- Fighting back or giving in
- The suffering servant

Watching the film on 29th February 2pm @ Church

Sessions: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st March

from 11:30am to 1pm

Cobham United Church

For more information ring: 01932 586988



**Cobham United Church
Fund Raising for our
Re-generation Project
Saturday 14th March 2020
6:30pm**

2 Course Supper included. Donations for Drinks.
£12 per Adult, Children £5 (12 and under)
Please buy your tickets from Richard Langtry asap

Come and join us for what should be a
fun evening.

BUBBLES
BATTER &
BROADWAY

Show Choir and soloists invite you to enjoy an evening of fabulous show songs, fuelled by fish & chips & fizz!

7:30 - 10pm Friday 20th March

£15
Includes Fish n Chip supper, + Prosecco

Cobham URSC 34
Stoke Road
Cobham
KT11 3SD

Email: minister@cobhamurc.org.uk

All profits to Lunchbox

Tickets and enquiries: 01932 586988



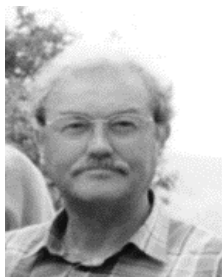
Effingham

Methodist Church

Birthday Dates for March:



We wish a very Happy Birthday to 7 of our ladies in March: Elizabeth Blankson, Pat Steer, Janet Garnham, Dorothy Grieves, Rhona Elliot, Elaine Moran and Angela Putland



Effingham is sad to announce the death of Dougie Reed who died recently in a nursing home after having suffered from Parkinson's and other complications.

Dogie was not only a tennis player but he loved walking, table tennis and both real and model trains. He also loved music and even made his own guitar.

He and Rachel have been loyal members of Effingham Methodist Church for the many years since they moved here from Surbiton. During that time Dougie showed his love for our church and building. His talents will be greatly missed! He was a very able woodworker and decorator and amongst other things built our attractive church notice board.

Dogie was also editor of The Link for ten years and Rachel did the proof reading.

We miss you Dougie

Effingham Methodist Diary



March

Sun 1st 10.00am Rev Kim Plumpton: Holy Communion
 Tues 3rd 2.00pm Lent Course in the Chapel
 Fri 6th 10.30am World Day of Prayer @ Our Lady of Sorrows
 7.30pm World Day of Prayer @ Bookham Baptist

Sun 8th 10.00am David Cappitt
 Tues 10th 2.00pm Lent Course in the Chapel
 2.30pm Tuesday Tea in the RC Hall
 Wed 11th 12.30pm Lent Lunch in St Lawrence Hall
 3.30pm Messy Church at St Lawrence Church Hall
 Thur 12th 2.15pm Christian Meditation in the Church

Sun 15th 10.00am Jay Dunning
 Tues 17th 2.00pm Lent Course in the Chapel
 Thur 19th 12.30pm Oasis lunch with Kim in the Hall
 Fri 20th 2.00pm Precious Moments service with Kim
 Sat 21st 10.00am World Mission Coffee Morning at the Chapel
 (to 12 noon)

Sun 22nd 10.00am Rev Sue Conroy: Mothering Sunday
 Tues 24th 2.00pm Lent Course in the Chapel
 2.30pm Tuesday Tea in the RC Hall
 Thur 26th 2.15pm Christian Meditation in the Chapel

Sun 29th 10.00a.m. United Service at St Lawrence with Kim
Followed by Church Council Meeting at EMC at 11.45
 Tues 31st 2.00pm Lent Course in the Chapel

April

Sun 5th 10.00am John Oborn
Sun 12th 9.00am Easter Communion with
Rev Jan Hofmeyr

Prayer meetings are held at the Chapel every Friday at
 9.30 am

World Day of Prayer on Friday 6th March



This year's service *Rise, Take Your Mat and Walk!* has been written by Christian women of Zimbabwe
10.30am @ Our Lady of Sorrows, Effingham
7.30pm @ Bookham Baptist Church



Lent Lunches

Lent in Effingham

This year Effingham's Lent Lunches will be held fortnightly at **St. Lawrence Church Hall** from 12.30 to 2pm, starting on **Ash Wednesday ~ 26th February then on 11th & 25th March.**

Donations for a light lunch will be for **Crossroads Care Surrey**, a local charity providing respite care in your own home. We hope to have a speaker organized for each week.

Les Misérables



Lent Course at the Chapel

This year **Churches Together** have chosen a 6 week Lent course "**Another Story Must Begin**", based on Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*. This bible study course uses the book, film, and play to tell a message of hope, and explore the grace of God.

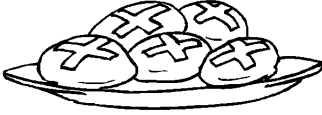
There are two choices for venues! **Weekly on Tuesdays @ 2pm at Effingham Methodist Church from 25th Feb.** Alternatively, Revd Mandy will be running the same course on Thursday evenings at The Rectory, starting on 27th Feb. for those who can't make it during the day. The course will be led by Rev Kim and Rev. Mandy MacVean.

Please ask Gill or Dave for details or see signing-in sheet in hall.

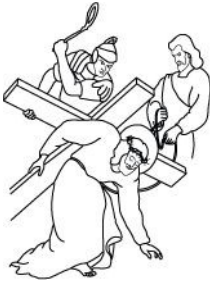


If you're **Spring cleaning** we'd love to have any bric-a-brac for the *Bring & Buy* stall at our **World Mission Coffee Morning from 10 to 12 noon on 21st March.** There's also a **Cake Sale!** Money raised will be divided between **World Mission & Stop the Traffik.**

EASTER in Effingham



Once again **Churches together** have organised for free hot-cross buns to be distributed locally on **Maundy Thursday**. Rev. Mandy and helpers will be at **Effingham's shops** and the station to catch early bird commuters



Good Friday Walk of Witness

Join us at **All Saints Church** at 5pm for a devotional walk around the village with the cross followed by refreshments at the Methodist Church.



Living Easter !

Come and join another ambitious Christian drama, acted out around our churches, starting at the Sir Douglas Haig pub at 3pm on **Easter Saturday, 11th April**. Dress in biblical style or volunteer your help as a **Safety Marshal**.

Talk to Gill, Ange or Dave.





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 carers and for those with dementia.

March dates are 12th with Stevie for some pottery and 26th when we shall be joined by St Lawrence School Theatre Drama Group.

For more information on Connect, contact :
Gill on 01372 457987
or Kim on 01932 586988



Do come and join us for crafts, food and fun, with a story from the Bible.

In February we talked about loving and sharing with reference to St Valentine's Day, and feeding the 5000.

Our March meeting is on the 11th. Please note **NO MEETING IN April**, then May as usual on the 13th.

St. Lawrence Church Hall in Brown's Lane
Wednesday 11th March 3.30 -5.30pm

For more information contact Gill on 01372 457987

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).

We meet in March on Tuesdays 10th and 24th, and fortnightly thereafter in St Alphege Hall.

Come and join us! Occasional outings also arranged.

Some car transport can be arranged.

Contact Keith or Gill on 01372 457987 for more information.

Easter Offering 2020

The theme for this year's **Easter Offering service** is journeys, to mark the 400th anniversary of the voyage of the Mayflower and the 260th anniversary of Methodist Overseas Mission. The service is called **Into All The World** and features the stories of five journeys by people across time who travelled for different reasons : some in obedience to God's call on their lives, and others because they had no choice.

The worship encourages us to reflect and learn from those who travel, and to consider our own journeys – both physical and spiritual.

Into All The World is an opportunity for churches, circuits and districts to celebrate God's mission activity. It includes the dedication of the Easter Offering, all of which goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain, supporting and working with 65 Partner Churches around the world. Leader's Notes give valuable guidance to assist local organisers in the preparation of the service.

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

(Lent reflections on the same theme are available to download)

EASTER OFFERING 2020

Into all the world



Mixed Emotions for Mother's Day

For many women, and men too, Mothering Sunday is a day on which tightly constrained emotions are liable to be ambushed and exposed. Those who have lost children or been unable to conceive a child, or who have recently lost a parent or close relative, may well tread cautiously around this day: perhaps wishing - *trying* - to participate in community joy at the smiles and gifts of children for their mothers; perhaps feeling more than usually isolated.

Read helpful suggestions for hymns on Singing the Faith website

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/posts/for-those-who-experience-loss-alternative-hymns-for-mothering-sunday/>



A Prayer for Mother's Day on the 22nd March

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.

**Effingham Methodist Church
presents**

**A fundraising event
with “VocalEase”**

(Six Guys in Cabaret Style close harmony)



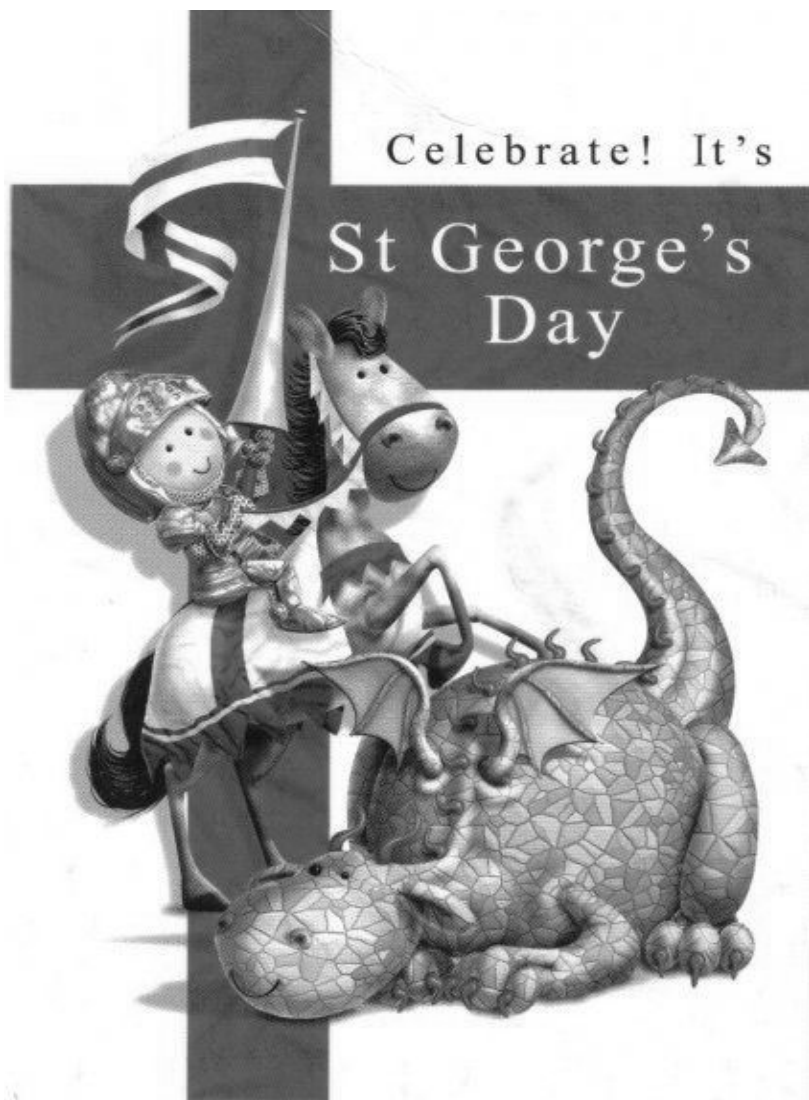
Saturday 14th March at 7pm

**at St Lawrence Hall, Browns Lane,
Effingham KT24 5NL**

Drinks and Raffle

**Tickets £12 each available from:-
Norma@effinghammethodist church.com**

☎ 01372 459354



**St. George's Day Lunch @ Effingham on
Tuesday 23rd April at 12.30**
in aid of **Church Funds**
~ £7.50 per ticket or pay at the door



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
Friday 27th March**

For more information Contact:01372 457987

Dorking and Horsham Circuit
NEWSLETTER

**March
April & May
2020**

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

As sabbatical stand-in for Gavin, I extend Easter greetings to you all. I have just visited the Peak District and was surprised to see so many lambs in the fields in January. Some of our fellow walkers expressed concern that these lambs might not survive if weather conditions deteriorate so we were touched to see a shepherd attach little red coats to his new born lambs to keep them warm and render them visible should it snow. A shepherd of God's sheep, each Easter I read the words of the Risen Christ to Peter with deep concern: Jesus asks him "Do you love me?"; Peter replies "Yes, Lord" and Jesus responds "Then feed my lambs". The question is repeated with two further commands given, "Take care of my sheep", and "Feed my sheep". To stay alive the lambs in the Peaks were utterly dependent on the adult ewe's milk and the good care of the shepherd. The ewes, the sheep, needed good food, grass if available or supplements from the farmer. Are we caring for and feeding our sheep and lambs? Do we ensure that people receive the rich nutrition that comes from the "mother Church", from our creeds, doctrine, tradition, and scripture? Or are we content to both feed and be fed a cheaper grace, rooted primarily in the culture of our time? My Easter prayer is that across our Circuit our lambs and sheep will be covered with a love that is rooted in the message of both the cross and the resurrection. *Revd Kath Jones*

SOUTHWATER

Southwater are celebrating the first 30 years of their life and mission together this Easter, and on Sunday April 5th we will be enjoying a Testimony & Mission Sunday, sharing stories from our past and looking forward to the future. We invite you to send any stories which relate to your memories and experiences of Southwater, and we hope that folk from the past years and across the circuit may be able to join us on the day for morning worship and our celebration lunch. Ever mindful that Jesus began His ministry at 30, we are excited for all that He has planned and purposed for us moving forward! As part of this, we are deepening our relationship with Tearfund by partnering directly with one of their projects - the congregation are expressing their project preferences as this goes to print. Easter itself will be a little different this year as we will be supporting Horsham Churches Together's production of "One Good Friday" which is taking place in the Carfax on Good Friday morning rather having our own reflections. Maundy Thursday will see us making Easter Crosses to adorn our front doors (rather like Advent Wreaths in the shape of a cross) while Easter Sunday will start with a shared brunch followed by service of celebration.

Tina Andrews

EFFINGHAM

Spring has sprung in the Chapel garden, with snowdrops and a few primroses against the church wall, and buds appearing on the trees. There are plans for monthly film-shows at the Chapel, so we're completing the blackout of the building by installing a pulley curtain system to cover our beautiful round stained glass window.

At the Chapel on 21st March we will be holding a **World Missions** coffee morning with plants, cakes and a "bring and buy" stall. There's a fundraising concert for our Chapel at St. Lawrence Church Hall at 7pm on March 14th with **Vocalese**, a cabaret style close harmony group. (Tickets £12). Then we'll celebrate **St. George's Day** on 23rd April with ye olde English grub: Shepherd's pie followed by apple pie and custard. Yummy !! Do come and join us.

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 Lent Lunches will be in aid of **Crossroads Care Surrey**, a charity providing respite care for carers. There's also a six week ecumenical Lent course, based on Victor Hugo's masterpiece **Les Miserables** which we'll be hosting at the Chapel.

On **Maundy Thursday, 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 the Chapel, but without Kim as she's on sabbatical! On Holy Saturday we'll be donning dressing-gowns and tea-towels for a **Living Easter** pageant event, with more free eggs for the children! Then, after the service on Easter day, we'll decorate the Cross in the Garden with flowers and declare Christ is risen!!

Please check our new website

<http://effinghammethodistchurch.com/>

Ange and David Putland

PARTRIDGE GREEN

With Easter fast approaching, we will be commencing our Ecumenical Lent lunches each Thursday throughout Lent in our Church hall at 12.30 pm, the first one being on 27th February. All monies raised during the 6 weeks will go to The Chestnut Tree House Charity at Arundel. This charity cares for children with life-threatening conditions, who live in the Sussex area, and provides amazing support for their families also.

A 4 week Lent course is to be arranged for all, by our friends at St. Michael's church. Date to be announced soon.

During the children's school Easter holidays, we will host yet another of our extremely successful "Messy Church" mornings, when we welcome many young families who are keen to share our mornings of crafts, activities, worship and lunch together. Date to be confirmed on Gavin's return to office.

Our Easter Communion Service will commence at 10.30 am on Easter Sunday.

Alison James

LEATHERHEAD

LMC, Christ Church and the Parish Church worked together to knit hundreds of small angels, bells and stars for the Leatherhead community. They were attached to the metal railings in the town centre, and in North Leatherhead just before Christmas. They represent the Churches Together gift to the community.

“God in Love Unites Us”. We will be hosting a discussion at LMC, with our friends from Cobham, Effingham and Dorking, regarding the possible redefining of marriage to include same-sex partnerships.

Nic Joyce, our Youth and Children’s Worker, and his team continue to provide activities aimed at young people in Leatherhead. These include Messy Church and work in local schools.

We look forward to a visit in May by Revd Jeyapaul from South India. Ian Howarth introduced us to him. Jeyapaul opened “Kathryn’s Mercy Home” as residential accommodation for orphan boys from the untouchable caste. Jeyapaul has also established a project to support girls and elderly widows in “Joan’s Grace Home”. Many from LMC sponsor girls from the Grace Home. Jeyapaul visits the UK every two to three years to give us, and other churches with sponsors, an update on his good work and to provide us with an insight into the Christian vision of the Church of South India.

Les Prescott

DORKING

It was very sad to learn of the death of Martin Ellis, and we share that sadness with Miriam his wife. Before he retired to Ipswich, he served several decades as Dorking Master of Music and as a Circuit Local Preacher.

Christmas Day at the Centre was another joyful and appreciated occasion. Sharp observers may have noticed that at long last a defibrillator has been installed just outside the main doors of the Centre. The Centre has had a useful fire inspection, and there was a week’s closure in February for new flooring to be fitted through most of the building. We are pondering the challenge and cost of some repairs to the Centre’s roof.

Our organist, Stephen Hope, is planning a “Come and Sing” on Good Friday afternoon/early evening - John Rutter *Requiem* – and singers and audience will be welcome. We will celebrate our Church Anniversary on Wesley Day (Sunday May 24), and will welcome our District Chair, Revd David Hinchliffe, to lead our worship

LONDON ROAD, HORSHAM

The Leadership Team has spent the last 18m studying a book about church in the 21st Century where the authors offer an understanding of Paul’s description of the model of ministry and leadership of the early church in Ephesians 4: 11-13. In this he sets out a variety of gifts and skills expressed in the roles of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd (Pastor) and Teacher (‘APEST’). In response, we have developed a year-long APEST programme to help us recognise, rediscover and rebalance these 5 aspects in our LRMC ministry and life.

For our Mission weekend 8/9 February we were pleased to welcome Revd Dr Val Ogden to share her Fiji experiences.

For our Lent Course series we will be studying a York Course entitled ‘On the Third Day’ to help us explore the evidence for Jesus’s resurrection.

Philip Reeves

ST ANDREWS

For Advent our CCM organised weekly lunches and reflections alongside the local Homeless charity 'Turning Tides' for whom we raised money in donations. In February, running into March we are holding four Marriage sessions for new and established married couples. On Maundy Thursday we will be holding a Seder meal service and there are plans afoot for a church family breakfast on Easter Sunday. During April, probably after Easter we hope to run another Alpha course. We will keep you posted. In our 'SALT' or home groups we have discussed the conference report on Human Relationships and this has led to a prayer group on Tuesday evening. We are now finishing off material from the Waterfall journey before preparing for Easter. We continue to plan informal Praise Services on the first Sunday of the month at 6pm and Messy Church on the third Sunday of the month. Both are usually well attended. 'Take Time' meditations at St Andrew's continue to be held on the second Sunday (6-7) and fourth Thursday (10-10.3) of the month. 'Take Time' is an excellent opportunity for us to stop and reflect. It is now possible to do an individual 'Take Time' reflection at the Church Café on Wednesday morning, using headphones. Café and day time Take Time is proving popular, especially for those who don't want to go out at night. It works alongside Heart to Heart, a free listening service as well as a foot health specialist available for a fee. The focus for 'Take Time' at the moment is the Passion story. Our heart is for the community of Roffey and we pray that our mission will continue for the next hundred years or more!

Sue Randall

COBHAM

The sale of the Cedar Road property was completed at the end of October, so we can now concentrate on developments of the Stoke Road premises. As seems to be usual in such cases, a meeting with the architects and a quantity surveyor led to dropped jaws when the cost of what we had asked for was mentioned. I recall that when we put forward our plans for building the hall at Cedar Road one of the circuit ministers expressed the view that with such a small congregation we should never raise so much money, but, with grants, loans, support from the circuit and community, hard work and prayer from all the members, and the power of the Spirit lifting us, the money was raised and the hall was built. If it is God's will, the same will happen this time.

Meanwhile the life of Cobham United Church continues. Five members have now been trained by the Princess Alice Hospice for involvement in the Bereavement Café, which continues monthly. We celebrated Christmas together and joined in the Covenant Service. We greatly enjoyed *Little Red Riding Hood* by the RaRa Theatre Company, and we look forward to a quiz night in March (14th; 6.30pm; all welcome), Cake Baking and Decorating in May as part of our anniversary weekend, and a variety of social events and fundraisers beyond that. In Lent we shall be following a study based on the film "I Daniel Blake", and then celebrating Easter in Kim's absence on sabbatical (with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day to be arranged). *David Cappitt*

Leatherhead Pages

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



AllSaints Coffee Shop

Don't forget to visit AllSaints who are open **Mon-Sat 8am-3pm** serving up the best coffee around. You'll be supporting young people in the local community just by treating yourself to a delicious drink making everyone a winner!

NEW FIRE

You'll be very welcome to come along to the contemporary New Fire service at 6.30pm on the fourth Sunday evening each month at All-Saints Coffee Shop. Park in Trinity School.

**Next New Fire -
Sunday 22nd March**

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 "Time for Tea" in March as it's
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**Next Time for Tea: Friday 3rd April -
Speaker: Rhys & Rhonda Frost on
"A Kaleidoscope of Cape Town"**

EVERYONE WELCOME

(Suggested donation £2)

The Time for Tea team would be very grateful for any offers of help, especially with baking, setting up the room and transport. Please speak to Mary Pittam if you feel you are able to help in any way.



6th March 2020



World Day of Prayer

Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk

Women, men and children of all ages are called to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' to join this day of prayer. Women of Zimbabwe have prepared this year's service and they encourage us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years.

Friday 6th March at 2.30pm

Leatherhead Parish Church Hall

All are welcome

Refreshments will be served after the Service

Next Messy Church for Leatherhead:



Thursday, 19th March,
3.30pm to 5.30pm at:



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



Easter in Leatherhead



Good Friday 10th April

- 9.00am Good Friday Service at Christ Church -
Rev. Jan Hofmeyr
- 10.00am Churches Together in Leatherhead -
Good Friday Walk of Reflection starting at
Christ Church and ending at the Parish
Church Hall with hot cross buns

Saturday 11th April

- 3.00pm Service of Memory and Hope at LMC:
Remembering Loved Ones -
Rev. Jan Hofmeyr

Easter Sunday 12th April

- 10.30am United Easter Day Service URC/LMC at
LMC - Rev. Jan Hofmeyr

Bible Month Training *(see next page)*

There will be a Bible Month training day at LMC on Saturday 7th March, streamed live from Salisbury. See separate page for details.

Bible Month is an opportunity for churches and circuits to spend 30 days focussed on a single book from the Bible. Bible Month will focus on the Book of Ruth. Bible Month involves two key elements:

1. Preachers preparing and preaching a series of sermons on Ruth over the four Sundays of June.
2. Small group leaders running a 'Bible Month' group that focuses on Ruth, helping those attending to engage the Bible in fresh and innovative ways.

This day is designed for anyone preparing to preach, lead worship or lead a small group during Bible Month. It is also suitable for those exploring theological study or with a particular interest in theology in general.

Changes in Leadership Structures at LMC

At the Church Council on 13th February, we agreed to change the Leadership structures at LMC. This followed on from the Transformational Leadership Seminar held at Central Hall last October which seven of us attended.

The Leadership Team meeting will cease to operate in its current form and day-to-day matters will be the responsibility of the Church Council which will now meet four times a year, instead of three. Urgent matters between meetings will be dealt with by the stewards or by a special Church Council meeting.

There will be a new group which will focus on the overall vision and direction of the church, rather than day-to-day operational matters and report to Church Council. Some ad hoc groups already meeting, such as the worship group, may also report to the Church Council, and other ad hoc groups (Time for Tea, Messy Church, property, etc.) may also meet and report similarly.

Please speak to Jan, Les or any of the stewards if you have any questions regarding this.

Exploring Ruth: Bible Month Training

*Live in
Southampton
District and streamed
across the
South East &
Channel
Islands Districts*

*Saturday 7th
March 2020*

   @LearningNetSI
learningnetsi.org.uk

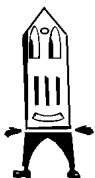
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God for

Leatherhead Methodist Church 9.30am to 3pm

Bring lunch with you

This event is free of charge but please register at:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bible-month-training-tickets-75709728837>



Leatherhead

Methodist Church

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.

LMC House Groups

House Groups: LMC has four 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**.
Tuesday evenings fortnightly contact **John Bees**.
Friday mornings monthly contact **Norma Shaw**.
Friday afternoons, (2nd & 4th Fridays) contact **Angela Hofmeyr**.

Everyone is encouraged to join a house group.

LMC Family News



Congratulations...

... to Sam Wild who celebrated his 18th birthday at the end of January.

We remember...

... all our young people at the beginning of the school examination season and wish them well in their endeavours.

Our thoughts and prayers...

... are with all our church family members, relatives and friends as we look forward to the season of Spring. We hope it will bring comfort to any who mourn, who may be lonely or have personal worries. We remember too, those who are unwell at home or in hospital, in residential or nursing care and those who look after them each day.

Sunday Lunch on the first Sunday each month

On **Sunday 1st March**, there will be a bring and share lunch after the service in the Manse. All welcome to join us.



Time for Tea

This group meets monthly on the first Friday of the month. We provide tea, sandwiches, savouries and cakes. Please think about joining us. We usually have a speaker, these are the topics we have had the privilege of hearing about:

Running a marathon

St Mary's handbells

Small gifts

Wartime

Mindfulness

Time in Hospital

Tearfund – Tanzania

The story of the Dream of Olwen

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Miracles

Music Influence in Life

Marriage Guidance

Music and Dance

Ladies' Choir

Life in Surrey & Beyond

Moving experiences

Christmas miscellany (Laurie, Elaine, Joy)

Japan

Going but staying (Joycey)

In April we will hear from Rhys & Rhonda about their trip to South Africa called "A Kaleidoscope of Cape Town".

Any money we have after expenses, I am able to donate to others. To date £495 has been given to the following charities:

Sane (for the mentally ill)

Mary Frances Trust

Leatherhead Youth Project

Syrian Refugees

LunchBox

Samaritans

British Red Cross

The Grange

I hope this report will encourage more of you to join us.

Joy Foreman

Friends, family and community opportunities.

We have been approached by one of the County Council's Assistant Team Managers for the local Social Care Team and they are currently looking at what community support is available in the Mole Valley area. They are specifically looking at how they can use the resources in the area to support some of the older or vulnerable residents.

The team are asking if, as a church, we have any groups that are looking for volunteering activities or whether the congregation has any skills that could potentially be used to enhance the lives of others. Notwithstanding some issues which would need to be resolved, at the moment they are trying to establish if there is any support or interest around to look into this in more depth.

Particular areas that support would be needed are:

- • Befriending
- • Social groups/ performances/ arts and crafts etc.
- • Cooking
- • Shopping
- • Garden clearance.
- • Correspondence.
- • IT skills.

If you feel that this is something you would like to offer your time towards, please speak to Les Prescott who will co-ordinate any response with the Social Care Team.

With thanks.





Diary



March

Sun 1st 10.30am Rev. Jan Hofmeyr - Holy Communion
12.30pm Bring & Share Lunch at the Manse

Tues 3rd 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry

Fri 6th 2.30pm World Day of Prayer at the
Parish Church Hall (*see page 30*)
(*No Time for Tea this month*)

Sat 7th 10.00am Bible Training Streamed (*see page 34*)

Sun 8th 10.30am John Bees
6.30pm Communion Service -
Rev. Kim Plumpton

Tues 10th 9.30am Prayers in the Vestry

Sun 16th 10.30am Rev. Jan Hofmeyr

Tues 17th 9.30am Prayers in the Vestry

Thurs 19th 2.30pm Messy Church

Sun 22nd 10.30am Jay Dunning
6.30pm New Fire at All Saints Café

Tues 24th 9.30am Prayers in the Vestry

Sat 28th 8.00am Men's Breakfast: Parish Hall

Sun 29th 10.30am Rev. Jan Hofmeyr

Tues 31st 9.30am Prayers in the Vestry

April

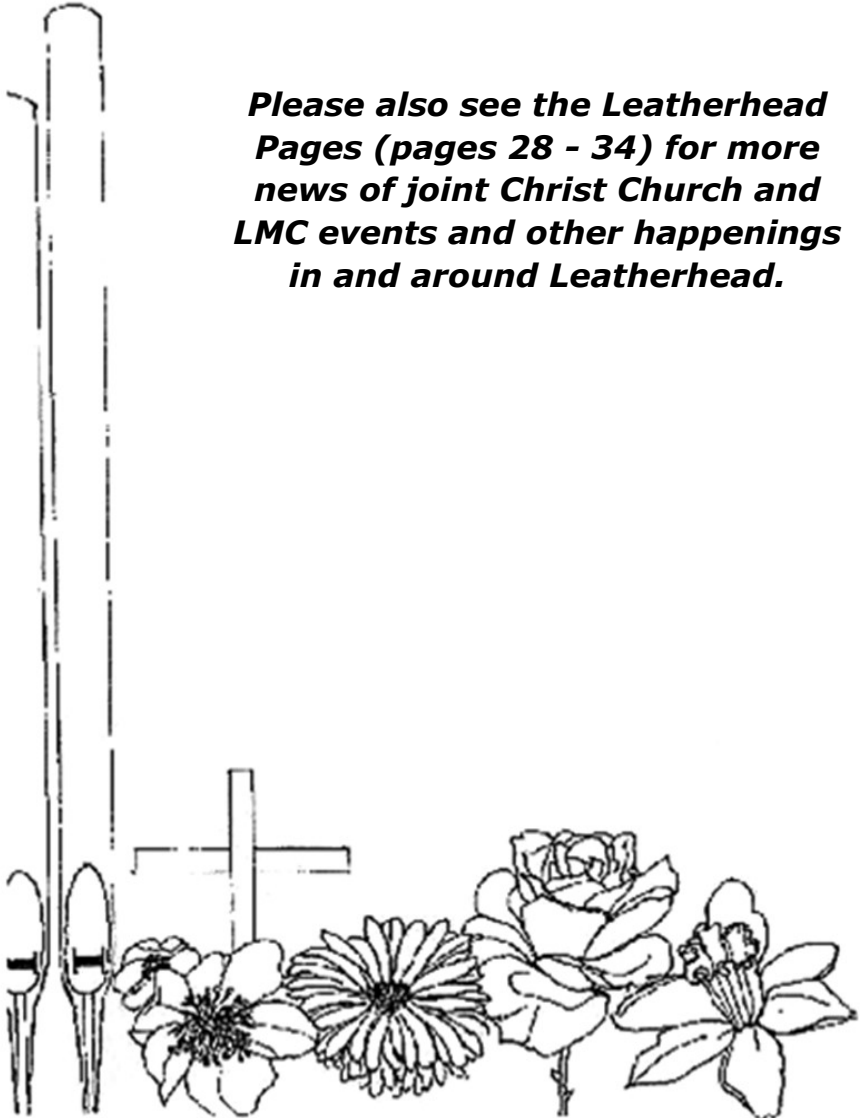
Fri 3rd 2.30pm Time for Tea - Rhys & Rhonda Frost -
"A Kaleidoscope of Cape Town"

Sun 5th 10.30am Palm Sunday - Rev. Jan Hofmeyr

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

Please also see the Leatherhead Pages (pages 28 - 34) for more news of joint Christ Church and LMC events and other happenings in and around Leatherhead.



Christ Church Diary



March

Sun 1st 10.30am Vivien Gerhold

Wed 4th 7.30pm House Group, 3 Orchardleigh

Fri 6th 9.30am Piano tuner in church (to 11am)

2.30pm World Day of Prayer—Parish Church Hall
(see page 30)

Sun 8th 10.30am Rev J Hofmeyr—Holy Communion

Mon 9th 9.00am Music exams in the church: Mon—Fri
(to 2.00pm)

Sun 15th 10.30am Thelma Roberts

Mon 16th 9.00am Music exams in the church: Mon—Fri
(to 5.30pm)

Wed 18th 7.30pm House Group, 3 Orchardleigh

Sun 22nd 10.30am Rev J Hofmeyr

Sat 28th 8.00am Men's Breakfast: Parish Hall

Sun 29th 10.30am Rev Stephen Thornton

April

Wed 1st 7.30pm House Group, 3 Orchardleigh

Sun 5th 10.30am Rev Bruce Stuart

Fri 10th 10.00am Good Friday Walk of Reflection

Sun 12th 10.30am EASTER: Joint Communion at LMC: Rev Jan Hofmeyr

Christ Church Family News



We are sad to report the death of Pat Fuller, Nan's daughter, from cancer on 8th February. We have sent our sincere sympathy to her husband Graham and all the family via email. The Kemp family were active members of Christ Church for many years.

We remember in our prayers all friends who have been wrestling with flu and winter ailments as well as ongoing health problems; and the bereaved in our community.

Anne Cairns

CHRIST CHURCH BUILDINGS TO CLOSE

At a Church Meeting on 16th February, the members of Christ Church decided to close the Epsom Road buildings on 4th January 2021, because our membership is unable to continue to manage them. This decision was reached with sadness, and after a great deal of prayerful thought and discussion.

After closure, management of the site will revert to the Southern Synod of the United Reformed Church. Our thirty current hirers have received more than two terms' notice, which we hope will give them time to find alternative accommodation. They can continue to use our premises until the end of the year. Our members will now have to decide whether to join other churches, perhaps nearer their homes, or to stay together as a church in Leatherhead and find a new place in which to worship and witness.

There will be a Thanksgiving Service at 3.00pm on Sunday 22nd November 2020 to remember our long history of worship and witness at the Epsom Road site, and we will invite all former members and Ministers, and friends from other churches in the neighbourhood, to share in this service with us.

The Elders

Music at Christ Church: Part 2

I have served as organist and Choirmaster at Christ Church under six ministers: James Todd, Brian Treharne (for 25 years, and Brian, Sheena, Joanne and Heather all sang in the choir), Dean Tapley (he and Lydia both sang in the choir), Ian Howarth (who sang occasionally), Lynda Russell and Jan Hofmeyr (sometimes he and Angela have sung with us)

The choir in 1965 was 32-strong and filled the chancel pews. It included Anne Brett (Cairns) and Steve Neal (who, like me, completed 54 years) and Arthur Head, who died in 2008 after 43 years of singing, playing and assistant choirmastering. A Junior Choir of 4 boys and 2 girls was started in 1966, but was only intermittent after that.

By 1972 Diana Dodson and Liz Howes (from the Junior choir) had joined the main choir. José Henderson and Heather Ward came in 1975. There were then 18 singers, including 4 tenors. By 1979 the rich voices of Tom Bush and Richard Johnson were with us (for 1 and 2 years respectively). In 1985 we lost Edna Wakely, the leading soprano when I started, whose piano is still used in the Choir Room; but we gained Anne Scottow, who has now completed 36 years.

In 1985 there were 23 singers, including Brian, Sheena and Joanne Treharne. Barbara Litchfield sang from 1986 to 1995, and Hazel and Ernest Yu from 1986 to 2003. Heather Treharne joined in 1995 and we had an enviable soprano line in our then 15 strong choir until she left in 2007. After Ernest left, there were no more tenors, unless I sang while playing or conducting.

In 2002-4 Robert Blows, Hilary Porter and Julia Rogers came to us. Sue Huxtable joined twelve years ago in 2008, since when there have been no further additions, except for welcome help from Heather Ward, Patricia Martin and others for special musical services.

As time goes by, it only gets harder to organise anthems. With 600 items under our belt, it is no longer possible to tackle most of them since our numbers are down to seven or eight. Nevertheless occasional anthems have been possible even recently, and the value of rehearsing the hymns never goes away. Phrasing, mood, rhythm and, of course, pitch, always need attention, as well as knowing the notes. The dedication of choir members over the years has been extraordinary.

Anthony Cairns

Pastorate Details

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

Leatherhead Methodist Church:

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

Christ Church (United Reformed):

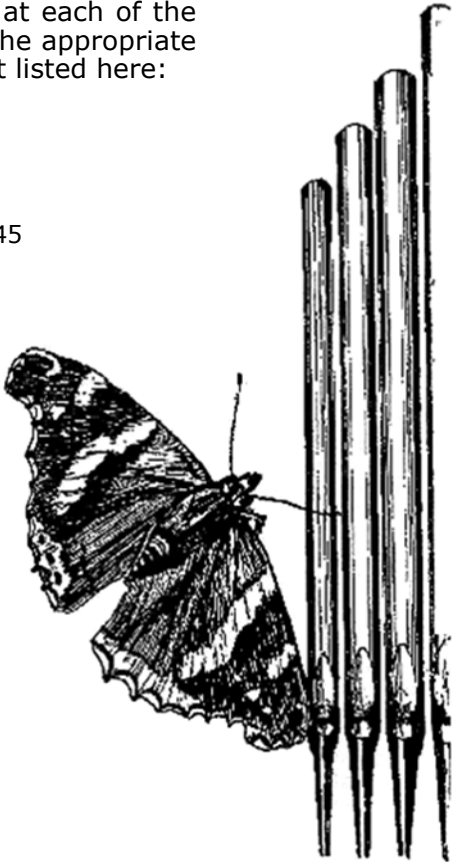
Epsom Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ST
www.chch.org.uk
Contact: Church Secretary -
Mike Essex 01372 273472

Effingham Methodist Church:

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

Cobham United Church:

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



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