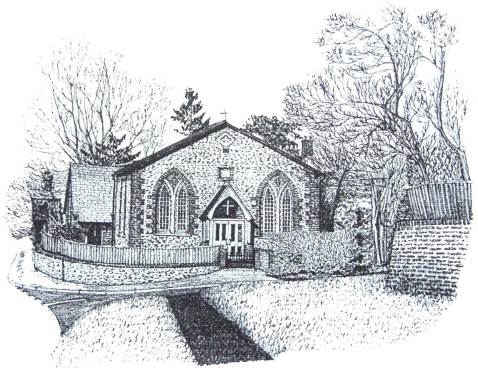
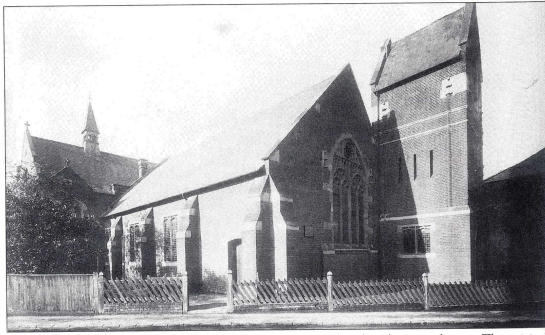


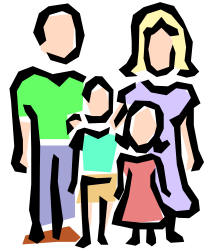
the Link

**The Methodist Church of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

May 2011



Family Link



Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with...

... Yoshie Adachi and her family. They are safe and well and they thank us for our kind thoughts. They ask us to continue to hold the people of Japan in our prayers.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with...

... Rene Parker and her daughter Jean in the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford following an accident.

Congratulations...

... to all those completing the London Marathon including Peter Dry who completed the course in a personal best time of 3hrs 20mins.



Editor: Les Prescott

Tel: Church Office - (Tues & Thurs a.m.) 01372 362145

**New e-mail address for The Link
with immediate effect:**

pastorate.link@gmail.com

All copy for the June issue to the editor by 15th May



The Ministers Write...



From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

Grabbing a few moments contemplating what I might write for this month's magazine, I sit down with the boys and catch a glimpse of Britain's Got Talent on ITV. Watching these acts performing on stage with the total belief that they have something to offer, is so disheartening when the crowds boo them off or their nerves become so overwhelming that they can't perform. It's interesting, that without fail it's those people who the judges seem to have a low expectation of, that suddenly excite them. Those that came onto the stage looking the complete opposite from what one might expect from the finely coutured celebrities the kids are used to being fed in the media. I find that such a refreshing change when the world demands perfection and the suggestion that success is only possible when we fit a particular image or when we perform in a particular way.

The pressures our young people face are immense and having begun a youth group in Cobham, it is obvious that there is a deep need to begin to offer an alternative view of the world. Allowing them to realise that there is potential in each of them, that satisfaction does not come in the adulation that status brings, but in the dignity that comes from being a child of God, where potential exists and our worth is not set down by the world but by the love God has for each of us.

Interestingly, Jamie Oliver's dream school on Channel 4 follows a group of teenagers, brought together because they have previously been excluded or gained little in the way of qualifications. They come face to face with some impressive names from the academic, political and theatrical world. At the end of a very stressful and exhausting term for the teachers and the students, each student comes away not experiencing rejection once again, but the enormity of possible potential and that within each of them is a gift that only they can bring. The gift the teachers possessed was the ability to encourage them and to allow them to believe in themselves, that they have so much more to offer.

It's interesting that it not just the children who need to know this truth but so many in our congregations. The truth, that they are precious in God's sight and that God gives us each a gift, a God who works in all of us to transform us from a rough stone to something finely honed.

continued on the next page

It takes a lifetime of learning and a lifetime of being challenged but our potential doesn't just lie in the gift God gives us but how much we embrace the gifts placed within us. How much we allow them to rise to the surface. Take a risk and see what happens!!!

Every blessing

Kim

From Rev. Ian Howarth

Dear friends,

As you probably know 2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, what most of us still call 'The Authorised Version'. Even though we don't use it in our churches any more, the influence of its language and thought pervades the English speaking world. I have to confess that when I am searching for a text in my on-line concordance, I often find myself doing it in the King James version because that was how I originally learnt it in Sunday School.

The churches in Britain in wanting to celebrate this anniversary, however, do not want to be looking at the Bible as a sixteenth century artefact, but as a living text that still can speak to us today, and we are being encouraged to look at the Bible in new ways, under the banner of an organisation called Biblefresh, and it is worth looking at their website if you can, (www.biblefresh.com). The Methodist Church in Great Britain is producing a handwritten version of the Bible contributed to by church members around the country, and it was good to be part of that at Leatherhead, writing out Hosea Chapter 8, and a report on that appears later in the Link. After Easter, in the Leatherhead churches we will be having a specific focus on the Bible in the coming months and further details also appear later in the Link.

The Bible is one of the few things that all Christians of whatever denomination, whatever nation, whatever tradition, hold in common. However, it is also a cause of division between Christians because it is read in different ways and given different levels of authority. Those difficulties, and the fact that other Christians see it differently sometimes means that we don't take the Bible seriously enough as the core source document of our faith. However we view it, Christians need to be familiar with the Bible and immerse themselves in it.

It is also good for Christians with differing approaches to the interpretation of the Bible to engage with each other and argue through how the Bible should be applied to issues in our contemporary world.

I hope this special year of the Bible will encourage us all to get to know the Bible better, and to see how we can best use it to allow God to speak to us through our tradition in fresh ways for the twenty-first century.

Yours in Christ,

Ian

“The Link”

This is the last edition of “The Link” covering just our three Methodist Churches. We now have five churches in our new Pastorate and our friends in Christ Church and also at Cobham URC have agreed that it would be good to share a magazine together. They have also agreed to be part of a new “Link”, so that next month’s edition will also incorporate news from the two URC churches.

I hope you also agree that the new magazine will help to create a sense of unity in the Pastorate and that you will enjoy reading news from all the churches.

From a practical point of view, for the time being we will continue to have the deadline for copy as the 15th of the month preceding publication. We will then endeavour to provide copies of the magazine in each church on the Sunday before the month of publication.

We will also have a new e-mail address for the magazine:

pastorate.link@gmail.com

Please can you use this e-mail address for all submissions to the new Link.

Finally, please consider submitting family news, short articles or other information you think might be interesting for others to read.



Cobham

Cobham Diary - May



Sun	1st	11.00am 12.30pm	Rhys Frost Annual Church Meeting
Wed	4th	7.30pm	House Fellowship at the Manse
Fri	6th	4.30pm	Youth Group at Cobham URC
Sun	8th	11.00am 6.30pm	Clive Haines United Pastorate Service at Cobham MC: Rev. Ian Howarth & Rev. Kim Plumpton "Time 4 You" (see next page for details)
Sat	14th	10.00am	
Sun	15th	11.00am	Church Anniversary - Holy Communion - Rev. Kim Plumpton & Rev Ian Field, followed by lunch together
Fri	20th	4.30pm	Youth Group at Cobham URC
Sun	22nd	11.00am 6.00pm	Alex Cloke Easter Offering Service at Dorking
Thur	26th		Church Stewards' Retreat
Sun	29th	11.00am	United Service (with Cobham URC) at Cobham MC - Rev. Derek Lindfield



Time 4 You

'A Place and Space for You'

TIME 4 YOU

'A place and space for You'

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

01932 423100

10-12noon
2nd. Saturday in the Month
Cobham Methodist Church
Cedar Road Cobham

"Time 4 You" starts on Saturday 14th May,
10.00am to 12noon.

All welcome.





Effingham

Effingham Diary - May



Sun	1st	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Tues	3rd	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the R. C. Hall
Wed	4th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Thurs	5th	2.00pm	Bible Study Group meet with Kim in the hall
Sat	7th	All day	157th Chapel Anniversary events (see below)
Sun	8th	10.00am	Philip Jones - Church Anniversary
		6.30pm	United Pastorate Evening Service at Cobham Methodist Church
Sun	15th	10.00am	Alex Cloke
Tues	17th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the R. C. Hall
		7.30pm	Church Council Meeting
Wed	18th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Thurs	19th	2.00pm	Bible Study Group meet with Kim in the hall
Sun	22nd	10.00am	Freddie Jenkins
		6.00pm	Easter Offering Service at Dorking
Sun	29th	10.00am	United Service at All Saints with Kim

Dates to celebrate this month:

Wow! What a lot of birthdays this month! Jayne & Norma on 3rd, Trevor on 11th, David on 21st and Pauline on 29th.

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



Dates for your diaries

Church Council Meeting on 17th May at 7.30pm.

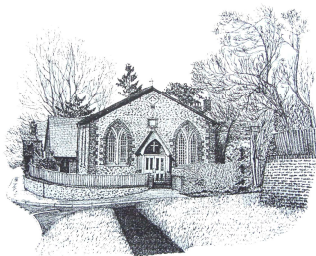
All church members are welcome to this meeting

Prayer meetings are held in the Chapel every Friday at 9.15 am

Our Bible Study group with Kim meets fortnightly in the Hall on Thursdays and re-starts on 5th May at 2.00pm when we continue to explore the Gospel of Matthew. Please come along if you are free.



Vision Day: What do we think God wants for us here in Effingham? **Rev. Kim Plumpton** will be leading a time of prayer, study and discussion where we will be considering our vision for the future of our Chapel in the community on **Tuesday 8th June from 10.30 to 3.30** and includes a faith lunch. Please do your best to come and help us plan for the future.



157th Chapel Anniversary **Weekend**

7th & 8th May 2011

Saturday: Coffee morning from 10-12 with an exhibition on the Chapel's History.

Donations please for World Missions (Mali)

2.30pm: If weather fine? - Meet at Chapel for a walk of 2 or 3 miles - back about 3.30-4.00pm

If weather bad? - A talk on Chapel's history by Dave & Ange

4.00pm: Half-hour of music & a quiz by **The Frivolous Recorder Group** with **Joan Dawson** at the piano

4.30pm: TEA - scones, sandwiches & cake, then more Music with Sing-along & Reading until 5-5.30pm

On Sunday **8th May at 10.00am** we welcome **Philip Jones**, to celebrate our **Chapel Anniversary**.

Philip Jones is the son of **Rev. Kenneth Vaughan Jones** our minister between 1967-71. As a teenager he was leader of the Leatherhead's Sunday Night Youth Fellowship (SNYF), and led a team of young people who re-decorated the inside of Effingham Chapel. He has worked for SPCK (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge) and been sales director of Methodist Publishing House.

The service will be followed as usual by a **Faith lunch in the hall at 12.30**.

Please contact Janet or Pat if you would like to help with food: perhaps make a salad, cake or quiche.



Media-bashing?

As I write this it's nearly Easter, so time for the papers and TV producers to roll out some Christian related stuff. Perhaps even stuff and nonsense! Oops! Sorry my prejudice is showing again!

Last night the BBC had a documentary: "**Does Christianity have a future?**" presented by Ann Widdecombe, a Strictly Come Dancing star, former MP, former Anglican, and now a Roman Catholic.

Apparently, largely thanks to immigrants from Eastern Europe, the pews are not emptying quite so fast! Attendance at Cathedrals is increasing rapidly and many young people are joining the Pentecostal movement. It was interesting but not quite a ringing endorsement of our Faith.

Then another victim of religious persecution! In yesterday's paper an electrician is facing the sack for displaying a palm cross on his van's dashboard. His plight has gained the backing of Lord Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury.

Meanwhile Professor Colin Humphreys, a scientist at the University of Cambridge, has concluded Christians have got the **wrong date for the Last Supper** on Maundy Thursday. New "research" suggests that the final meal took place on the Wednesday before the crucifixion, a day earlier than previously accepted.

He believes his findings will cause ripples among millions of Christians and could present a case for finally introducing a fixed date for Easter. Phew! Read his new book for details!

Then while surfing my daily paper on-line an article caught my eye and I just couldn't believe it !



**Roller-Coaster Revs audition for
"Extreme Easter" at theme-parks!**

You couldn't make it up, and it's **not** 1st April either. Yesterday was Palm Sunday but apparently 16 vicars spent the weekend testing out

their nerve on a host of scary rides at Alton Towers and Thorpe Park as they auditioned to conduct a special 'Extreme Easter' service at the parks on Easter Sunday. There were even pictures to prove it!

Screaming or laughing it was difficult to tell, but there were 12 men and four ladies in dog-collars, and no sign of a sick-bag! They were put through their paces on a number of gruelling rides, including Oblivion at Alton Towers in Staffordshire and The SAW ride at Thorpe Park in Surrey. Hair praising!

The joint services are designed to address the problem of falling church numbers in the UK by offering visitors a chance to worship at the popular attractions. "An exciting alternative when it comes to worshipping" said a spokesperson.

Well, they do say God works in mysterious ways, so why not on a roller-coaster! What do you think ? Innovative or desperate.

AJP

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Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012



Gosh! I remember sitting on the floor surrounded by lots of neighbours on Coronation Day on 2nd June 1953, while my grandmother brewed endless cups of tea, because my Dad had bought the only "telly" in our road. It was bigger than me, and the screen was tiny. It must have cost a lot because we didn't upgrade to colour for years, and then we rented it !

Anyway, the Queen came to the throne on 6th February 1952, and the Government has announced "a special four-day Jubilee weekend which will allow communities the time to come together to celebrate and commemorate the events of the last 60 years. This has involved putting back the late May bank holiday to Monday 4th June and adding an additional Jubilee bank holiday on Tuesday 5th June".

What will your Church be doing to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee? It'll be the first Diamond Jubilee since Queen Victoria's in 1897.

I know it's not till next year but a celebration needs planning, especially if you want a street-party.

AJP





Week 15th- 21st May 2011

Volunteer Helpers needed for street collection outside Effingham Post Office.

Churches Together in Effingham and Little Bookham are again holding a street collection outside the village shops in Effingham during the week of Christian Aid. (The appropriate licence has been obtained for this.)

Each church has agreed to provide volunteers to collect from Monday to Saturday. Methodists on Monday and Thursday, Roman Catholics on Wednesday and Friday, and Anglicans on Tuesday and Saturday, from 9am to 4.30pm if possible.

Gift aid envelopes will also be available, please do sign these if they apply to you as it helps to raise so much more for the charity.

Sign up forms to help collect will be available in each church. Just an hour of your time is required. There will be a table outside the Post Office as a base.

If you cannot help on the allotted days but could help on another day please do contact me and I will endeavour to allocate you on a more convenient time and date for you.

Please help us to help Christian Aid.

Gill Walker

01372 457987

email:-- GillianMWalker@gmail.com

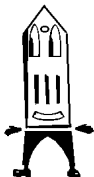
17th Century Nun's Prayer

I found this in my mother's handwriting recently. She thought it was true of her, and it is certainly true of me!

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every occasion and on every subject. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me helpful but not bossy. With my great store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end! Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details, give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

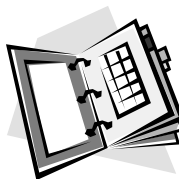


I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains, but help me to endure them with patience. I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give me O Lord the grace to tell them so.



Leatherhead

Leatherhead Diary - May



Sun	1st	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion Rev. Ian Howarth
Sun	8th	10.30am 6.30pm	John Oborn United Pastorate Service at Cobham MC- Rev. Ian Howarth & Rev. Kim Plumpton
Sun	15th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth <i>(The church Annual Meeting follows the morning service)</i> United Service at Christ Church - Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion
Thur	19th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sat	21st	8.00am	Men's Breakfast (Churches Together) at LMC
Sun	22nd	10.30am 6.00pm 6.30pm	Rhys Frost Easter Offering Service - St Martins, Dorking New Fire - Rev. Ian Howarth
Sun	29th	10.30am 6.30pm	Tina Andrews Uniting Churches service at the Parish Church



From the Minister...

'What do we make of the Bible?'

To mark the Year of the Bible at LMC and Christ Church we are going to make the Bible the focus of our study for the coming months. The house groups have available to them a DVD course from the London School of Theology called 'Christian Life and the Bible' and to supplement on the first Sunday of the month at LMC and the second Sunday of the month at Christ Church, I will preach a related sermon, and then at the end of the month on a Tuesday evening I will run a course, using the same titles, but approaching them more from a teaching point of view. The study evenings will all take place at LMC at 8.00 p.m.

The subjects are:

- May: 'What do we make of the Bible?'
Study evening: Tuesday 24th May
- June: 'A multitude of books'
Study evening: Tuesday 28th June
- July: The Old Testament
Study evening: Tuesday 26th July
- September: The New Testament
Study evening: Tuesday 27th September
- October: 'A multitude of approaches'
Study evening: Tuesday 18th October
- November: 'What is the Bible to make of you?'
Study evening: Tuesday 15th November

Annual Church Meeting

The LMC Annual Church Meeting will be held after the morning service on Sunday 15th May. It is where we elect our Stewards for the year, and nominate people to Church Council.

It is also a chance to discuss matters of general concern within the church, to review the past year and set our priorities for the coming year. I hope people will make an effort to attend.

If you have a particular issue that you would like discussed at that meeting, it would help if you were able to let me know beforehand, to ensure that we make enough time for it.

Ian Howarth.

'Biblefresh - 'Scribe-In'

Saturday morning 26th March was the time LMC allocated to the hand-writing of Hosea 8, as part of the Connexional event to produce the whole of the Bible written by hand. Sections had been given to all Districts, and from there to Circuits. All the separate pieces are being collected, bound, and presented to Conference in July. It will not exactly be pocket-sized!

Talking to people prior to the 26th, I did not get the feel of any great enthusiasm nor did I detect any enthusiasm to just come and support the writers. I was not sure there would even be enough people to write out the 14 verses of the set chapter!

What a lovely surprise to be proved wrong!



People appeared from the beginning, to chat over coffee and be willing to write. So many wanted to put pen to paper and be part of what could well be an historic event, that only a few words each was possible. Observers gave scribes well meant advice and cheeky comments. 'Oh, I didn't know you did joined-up writing' was heard, and 'In English, please' (although the Welshman admitted his Welsh background is only evident in his accent now). Then an agitated 'No, no, no, not there, there!' To another 'Doctor, this is not a prescription! We need to be able to read it!' It was all good fun and there was such a lovely relaxed atmosphere of a congregation come together for a particular purpose.

Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB)

I have just returned from the first MWiB Conference entitled 'Passion Road: Prayer and the Way to Peace.' It was very little different from previous Women's Network (WN) Conferences - it was just a different mix of women in the Leadership Team.

As usual it was very well prepared, perhaps in such fine detail that the freedom to veer away from that set, meant 'extras' from the floor, as the days progressed, could not be included. Yes there was plenty of opportunity to talk together in our small groups, but little time given to feedback. This meant you just heard what came up there. A great pity, as the Conference was unusually large - probably 200 voices strong!

There were four main sessions with a strong Holy Week emphasis on prayer and peace-making, looking into the relationship between prayer and what needs to be done to create peaceful relationships. Three of the sessions were led by Rev. Julie Hulme, the WN Connexional President. Her time was based on her Presidential visit to Ireland and what she saw and heard there. There are still many difficulties. In places taking photographs of the many paintings of the walls of buildings is viewed with suspicion. Julie's talks were excellent! The second part of Saturday morning was led by Rev. Alison Tomlin, President of Conference. She disappointed me! It was not the content, based on the theme of 'Journeying into the heart of God', but her presentation. She missed a great chance to talk to us for longer, probably a one-off for many, rather than spending a good half-hour talking together in our groups. Deacon Denise Creed, a writer, had produced meditations for each keynote session, helping us see the Passion journey through the eyes of some of the characters in the story. There were three more during the final Communion Service. She was undoubtedly very good, but seven items in the same style from the same voice was a bit top-heavy.

The rather formal general tone of the Conference did not distract from the overall enjoyment and teaching. To compensate from that rigidity there was the great pleasure of meeting so many old friends of many years' acquaintance - and that number increases each year - but the added joy of making new friends.

Roll on Conference No. 2 on 20th-¹⁸22nd April 2012!

Jean Plant

Leatherhead Youth Project



May Activities

BFree is open every day after school

Weekly Triumph cell group for Year 7+

Contact jay@leatherheadyouthproject.com for more details

Sunday 8 May Triumph AM

10-12pm @ BFree (school years 5+)

Sunday 8 May

KNOW Money?

6:30-8pm @ BFree for young people in Year 8+

Continuing the series of 12 sessions exploring faith and lifestyle issues relevant to teenagers

Sunday 22 May Triumph AM

10-12pm @ BFree (school years 5+)

Also look out for:

Duke of Edinburgh scheme

MTB trip on 7 May

Miss Bliss for year 7, 8 & 9 girls

contact Lucie@leatherheadyouthproject.com for more details

www.leatherheadyouthproject.com

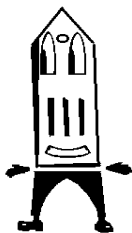
CONCERTS IN CHURCH

Lunchtime Concerts in the Parish Church

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Thurs 12th May | Rev. Michael Stewart at the piano playing "A Touch of Romance - popular romantic piano music from the 19th Century". |
| Wed 18th May | Ewell Ladies' Choir - Spring into Summer. |
| Wed 25th May | Rev. Ian Howarth singing "The Good Song", songs by Faure, Mendelssohn and Copland. |

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All concerts are from 12.30 - 1.30pm and are FREE.
Further information from 01372 375468.



Leatherhead

Activities at Leatherhead Methodist Church

Sunday Services: 10.30am and 6.30pm

Holy Communion is normally celebrated on the first Sunday in the month (morning) and the third Sunday in the month (evening).

Evening Services - The second Sunday is a United Pastorate service at one of the five churches in the Pastorate, while the fourth Sunday is normally "New Fire" contemporary worship with the Leatherhead Uniting Churches held at LMC.

Crèche available for young children during the morning service.

Coffee is served after every morning service - all are very welcome to join us.

LMC Discoverers: Sundays at 10.30am **Contact:** Mary Pittam 01372 272658

Messy Church: Third Thursday 3.30pm - 5.30pm **Contact:** Jane Smith 01372 372919

House Fellowships

Monday Fellowship: Meet fortnightly **Contact:** Carol Stoves 01372 377125

Wednesday Fellowship: Meet fortnightly **Contact:** Winifred Ashbrook 01372 276776

Friday Afternoon Fellowship: Meet fortnightly **Contact:** Jane Smith 01372 372919

Splatter Box: Thursday mornings term-time 10.00am - 11.30am **Contact:** Jane Smith 01372 372919

Tiddlywinks: Friday mornings term-time 10.00am - 11.30am **Contact:** Jane Smith 01372 372919

ROOM BOOKINGS Contact: Joy Foreman 01372 378869
ALL BOOKINGS MUST BE ENTERED INTO HER DIARY

United Pastorate Ministers

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