

the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

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

The Methodist Church



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UNITED PASTORATE EVENING SERVICE

The next United Pastorate Service will be held at
5.00pm on Sunday 13th May at Effingham
Methodist Church, followed by tea. **(See page 5)**

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The Ministers Write...



From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

Camping on the Isle of Wight over the Easter period was perhaps not one of my most inspired decisions, dreamt of in brighter days when the warmth of the sun was welcome and summer didn't seem so far away. Instead the order of the day was more about wrapping up warm and making sure you had a rain mack handy. I consoled myself that it was not about the weather but about the fact we could share some quality time together as a family and that was priceless.

It was a delight to be somewhere we hadn't been before but one of the pleasures of camping is the closeness to nature and I had forgotten the delights of the dawn chorus. Woken by the sound of what seemed like the entire bird population beckoning a new day, was without question the most amazing way to welcome in the morning. This cacophony of noise is of course not to everyone's taste and many I know find it difficult to grapple with at the crack of dawn, but there is something quite wonderful about that sound of praise first thing in the morning.

In light of the Easter season, the dawn chorus recognises that every day is something to get excited about. As Easter people who have welcomed an open ended invitation to begin again, we might well have much to sing about: an awakening to promises fulfilled and an awareness to endless possibilities.

But the reality is sometimes we begin a day with trepidation, uncertainty, fear and sadness. All that has gone on in the days beforehand still burdens and weighs us down, there seems little to praise God for. In our hearts we know that we are called to praise God in all circumstances, one of our biggest challenges, to hold onto the hope of the Easter morning no matter what we face. I have recognised over the years that something amazing happens when we praise God, something is broken within us that connects quite profoundly with the heart of God, resourcing us with peace, strength, forgiveness, discernment, love and compassion. Beginning the day with a heart for God no matter where we find ourselves may well be the resource we need to face up to the challenges the day brings.

Whether on awakening you thank God for this new day, or spend time in prayer, or simply sing some favourite hymn, our hope and strength is found in the dawning of the Easter morn, our praise is in recognition that God is with us in all we do and we are not alone.

With every blessing

Kim

From Rev. Ian Howarth

Dear Friends,

I always find it strange going back to Cambridge. I studied there for three years, and left 35 years ago, and don't go back very often. I was back there just after Easter for a course at Wesley House, the Methodist theological college there, and I took the opportunity to wander down to my old college. As I walked through the gates it was as if 35 years just disappeared. Except for a lovely blossoming tree on one of the lawns that wouldn't have even been a seedling then, everything else seemed almost exactly the same. I have to say it felt very weird. Here was I on a training course for my future ministry, being dragged back into that past, to a world I thought I had left long behind.

It was a strong reminder to me that we are shaped, for better or worse by the past. But we cannot live in the past. There was part of me that wished I could go back, do the great things again, and perhaps redo the things I didn't do as well, with the benefit of the knowledge and experience I now have. But I know that is not only impossible, but actually spiritually unhealthy. We are called to use our experiences of the past to go forward into the future.

In the stories we have been hearing over the Easter period of the risen Jesus appearing to his disciples, Jesus takes the experiences that the disciples have had in the past, and works with them so that they can see them in new ways, to go forward into the future. Think about the couple on the road to Emmaus, where Jesus affirmed their past experience and understanding, but helped them to see it in new ways in the light of his new life. Think of Peter, where Jesus deals with his past denials by helping him affirm his love and then equipping him for ministry.

As we travel with the risen Jesus through reading the Bible stories, through our prayer and worship, we will discover that when we look at it with him, he helps us to see the past in new ways. He helps us work with it, building on the positive, transforming the negative, so that we can go forward in hopeful faith with our risen Lord, who loves and affirms us every step of the way.

Yours in Christ,

Ian

Pastorate Evening Services

It has been some time now since we began the joint pastorate service (Cobham, Leatherhead and Effingham). We agreed that after a short while we would discern whether the church community were happy with it or whether there were other avenues we might want to consider.

After informal discussions with the churches it has been noted that the service is valued but we might like to offer an opportunity for more fellowship as well.

With all this in mind, we would like to invite you to a service on **Sunday 13th May at Effingham, beginning at 5.00pm.** The early start will enable us to share in a light tea together.

Because of the nature of this kind of gathering, we would suggest that it will not be every month but every two months.

The following dates for your diary are:

- 13th May (Effingham)
- 8th July (LMC)
- 9th September (Cobham URC)

all starting at 5.00pm

We look forward to gathering together as a pastorate on 13th May, where we can not only enjoy worship but table fellowship too.

See you then -

Every blessing,

Kim

Methodist Homes Association



Who Cares?... MHA does
Why do we care ?... **Because they are worth it!**

And this will be the theme for our 2012 Methodist Homes Sunday Appeal on 10th June. The slogan 'because you're worth it' is a well-known advertising phrase which seeks to persuade people to buy a company's products, not primarily because they need such treatments but because they deserve them. At MHA we believe that older people both need and deserve good quality care.

Our services are founded on love, compassion and respect and we care passionately about empowering older people, by offering choice for a fulfilled later life with a range of quality services to meet different needs. The last ratings of the Care Quality Commission showed 97% of our care services were classed as 'good' or 'excellent', the highest of any care provider and we intend to continue to rise to the challenges of the current environment.

We could not do this without our:

- Dedicated staff who have both the necessary skills and the right values and attitudes to provide a very special service to older people;
- Committed volunteers who give their time and talents to enhance the lives of the older people in our Homes, Housing and Live at Homes Schemes or act as our Representatives to raise awareness and funds at Church, Circuit and District level;
- Generous supporters who give personal donations, bestow grants or organise and take part in fund raising events.

Our charitable income makes a significant difference to the service we offer. It helps us to expand and improve our services and underpin the quality of our services through Chaplaincy and Spirituality and wellbeing initiatives such as Music Therapy and Reflexology.

We began with one care home in 1945. Today we have 91 care homes, 54 retirement housing schemes, some of which have the option to buy, rent or part own, 52 Live at Home community schemes and Live at Home style services such as lunch clubs and activity groups from 18 of our existing projects. What a journey, and one which members of the Methodist Church have shared, so we thank you all for your continuing support.

We hope you will join us on our special Sunday and help us to celebrate ageing, value older people, learn from their wisdom and experiences, offer them the support they need and prove to us all that **they are indeed worth it!**

John Moon
Dorking & Horsham Circuit MHA Representative



Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary - May



Sun	6th	11.00am	David Cappitt
Sat	12th	10.00am 2.30pm	Time 4 You - First Birthday Platinum Service
Sun	13th	11.00am 5.00pm	John Oborn United Pastorate Service at Effingham, followed by tea (see page 5)
Sun	20th	11.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion ...followed by the Annual Church Meeting
Tues	22nd	12.30pm	Prayer Lunch at Cobham URC (ends 2pm)
Wed	23rd	7.30pm	House Fellowship at the Manse
Fri	25th	4.30pm 7.00pm	CYC at URC Up for GRABS at St Mary's (activities and discussion for 13-16s)
Sat	26th	10.00am to 12noon	Cake 'n' Coffee at Cobham URC organised by CYC to raise funds for 'Make a Wish' and 'Water Aid'
Sun	27th	11.00am	Church Anniversary - Hugh Bryant, followed by lunch in the hall
June			
Sun	3rd	11.00am	Rhys Frost (United with Cobham URC)



**First Birthday of
"Time 4 You" -
Saturday 12th May
10.00am - 12noon**

In looking at the updated and attractive Cobham Methodist Church website (www.cobhammethodistchurch.com) I came across a potted history of the Church which I thought might be of interest to the wider readership of the Link.

Editor

Short History of Cobham Methodist Church

1770-1790

Between 1770 and 1790 John Wesley records in his journal three visits to Cobham. In each case the visit was for relaxation in beautiful surroundings. He would leave Portsmouth at 2.00am, and, travelling through the night on dark, rough roads, reach Cobham about 10.00am. Here he would meet the leaders of his London churches, receive news from them and no doubt give them his instructions, while strolling in the beautiful scenery of Cobham Landscape Garden (now known as Painshill Gardens). Business done, and all being refreshed, he then continued his journey to Wolverhampton, or wherever else his missionary work took him.

1850's

Samuel Wesley Bradnack, son of a Methodist minister, set up a school at Pyports (then known as "The Cedars"). A barn on the premises was registered as a place of worship for a Methodist congregation, which not only grew rapidly, but soon expanded to missions in several neighbouring villages.

1862

A Methodist Chapel was built in Cedar Road, and was for a time in the 19th century the lead chapel of the Cobham Methodist Circuit.

1930's

A Sunday School Hall was built adjacent to the chapel in Cedar Road.

1964

Having become difficult to maintain and being in a poor state of repair, the old chapel was demolished and the hall was converted into the main place of worship.

1994

The old church hall having become the church, a new hall for church and community use was built.



Cobham

United Reformed Church

Cobham URC Worship Diary - May



Sun 6th	9.00am 10.30am	Early Bird Service Sydney Shore
Sun 13th	10.30am 5.00pm	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion United Pastorate Service at Effingham Methodist followed by tea (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sun 20th	10.30am	Thelma Roberts
Pentecost:		
Sun 27th	10.30am	Gift Service led by the Worship Group
June		
Sun 3rd	11.00am	Joint Service at Cobham Methodist Church

Prayers at the Manse
at 9.30am on Wednesdays:
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th May

Cobham URC Events - May

Tues	1st	9.45am	Church Walk
Thurs	3rd	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
		8.00pm	Churches Together at St Mary's
Sun	6th	3.00pm to 6.00pm	Special Needs Group
Tues	8th	8.00pm	Elders' Meeting
Fri	11th	4.30pm to 6.30pm	CYC meets at the URC Cobham
Thurs	24th	10.30am	Morning House Group at Church
Fri	25th	3.00pm	T @ 3 at church
		4.30pm to 6.30pm	CYC meets at the URC Cobham
		7.00pm	GRAB at St. Mary's Church (ends 8pm)
Sat	26th	10.00am to 12noon	Cake 'n' Coffee morning in aid of Make a Wish & Water Aid at Cobham URC
Tues	29th	7.30pm	Evening House Group at Anthea's

Community Walk organised by Churches Together in Cobham, Oxshott, and Stoke D'Abernon on Saturday 19th May 2012

This is a circular walk of about five miles via Oxshott Woods and the Ledges with a few short hills. There is some parking on the lane leading to Garsons Farm (KT10 8LS) and we have permission to leave a few cars in the Garsons Farm car park. The Prince of Wales pub and Garsons Farm both serve lunch and there is plenty of room on the green for a picnic. We will meet on the Green at West End, Esher, opposite the entrance to Garsons Farm at 10.00am. All are welcome - hope to see you there. Please contact me if you need further details on 01932 864094.

Anthea Willis

Invitation to our Cake 'n' Coffee morning 26th May

If you can cast your minds back to last year around about the same time you might well remember the youth group CYC holding a coffee morning for Teenage Cancer Trust. It was a very successful morning raising well over £300. This year we are holding the same event raising funds for 'Make A Wish', which tries to fulfil the dreams of those children suffering from a terminal illness, and also 'WaterAid' in recognition that we would like to send some money to an international charity.

The children are very excited about holding the event again and we welcome those of you who would like to join us for the morning. A cake and a coffee will cost you £1.50 and there will be a range of goods for sale, with the children growing their own plants. Entertainment once again from the children means that it should be an entertaining morning. We welcome cakes to offer for sale on the day and would be delighted if you could join us from **10.00am - 12noon on Saturday 26th May.**

Please come and support us even if it is only to pop in for a quick cuppa, a warm welcome awaits you.

From all those who attend CYC X





Effingham

Methodist Church

Effingham Methodist Diary

- May

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



Tues	1st	2.30pm 7.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall Church Council meeting
Wed	2nd	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Sat	5th	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall (until 11.00am)
Sat	5th	all day	Chapel Anniversary events (see next page)
Sun	6th	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion - Chapel Anniversary
Sun	13th	10.00am 5.00pm	Rhys Frost United Pastorate Service, followed by tea (see page 5)
13th - 19th			Christian Aid Week
Tues	15th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	16th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Sun	20th	10.00am	James Cameron/David Cappitt
Sun	27th	10.00am	Jon Fisher
Tues	29th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	30th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
June			
Sat	2nd	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall (until 11.00am)
Sun	3rd	10.00am	Trinity Sunday - Rev. Kim Plumpton



158th Chapel Anniversary Weekend

5th & 6th May 2012

Amended Programme

Saturday, 3.30pm

If weather fine? -

Meet at the Chapel for a walk of two or three miles -
back about 5.00pm

If weather bad?

Chapel's history by Dave & Ange

TEA at 5.00pm : scones, sandwiches & cake,
then

6.00pm Folk singing led by Kim & Morag

with Sing-along & possible contributions by church
members until 7.00ish

On **Sunday 6th May at 10.00am,**

we welcome Kim and her family to
celebrate our **Chapel Anniversary.**

The service will be followed as usual
by a Faith Lunch in the hall at 12.00.



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

Everyone Welcome



John Wesley, the Physician!!

In the April 12th copy of the Methodist Recorder there was an amusing article about **Wesley and Wellbeing**, an exhibition which is touring the country this year.

John Wesley the preacher can seem rather severe and autocratic, but this exhibition exposes his caring side. *Primitive Physic*, his book on home medicine, published in 1747, was an 18th century best seller, being re-printed 23 times, although his name did not appear as author until 1760. It's not surprising that during his lifetime he should have accumulated ideas for treating some common ailments and conditions, but some of the cures are strange and possibly deadly!

Anyone suffering from gout should take a handful of snails, pick them out of their shells; stamp them in a mortar with salt, soap and sweet oil, then apply this mess as a plaster (poultice). How about trying dried toad crushed into small pills for asthma, or a live puppy held to the stomach for colic. I prefer a hot water bottle myself! Perhaps some orange rind rolled up and inserted into the nostrils to cure a cold in the head? Hmmmm!! Doesn't seem to have done him any harm and he lived to a great age.

So we thought you might be interested in some excerpts from his journal (diary) dated *June 28th 1788* - his 85th birthday.

Sat. 28 *I this day enter my on my eighty fifth year: And what cause I have to praise God, as for a thousand spiritual blessings, so for bodily blessings also! How little have I suffered yet by the 'rush of numerous years'! It is true I am not so agile as I was in times past. I do not run or walk as fast as I did; my sight is a little decayed; my left eye is grown dim and hardly serves me to read; I have daily pain in my right temple (occasioned by a blow I received some months since) and in my right shoulder and arm which I impute partly to a sprain and partly to rheumatism. I find likewise some decay in my memory with regard to names and things past; but not at all with regard to what I have read or heard twenty, forty or sixty years ago. I do not find any decay in my hearing, smell, taste or appetite (though I want about a third part of the food I did once). Nor do I feel any such weariness in travelling or preaching; And I am not conscious of any decay in writing sermons; which I do as readily and, I believe correctly, as ever.*

Wesley gives a short list of reasons why he believes he is the way he is:- First, doubtless to the power of God, fitting me for the work to which I am called, as long as He pleases to continue therein. His list goes on:-

To my constant exercise and change of air.

To my never having lost a night's sleep at land or sea.

To have sleep at my command, it comes day or night.

To my rising at four in the morning for above sixty years.

To my constant preaching at five in the morning for fifty years.

To having had so little pain in my life, and so little sorrow, or anxious care

Those of you have read his journals will realise he seems to have played down some of the difficulties he encountered in his lifetime. Journeys he made up and down the Britain by foot, horse, coach boat and ship. Being attacked and escaping from violent crowds and preaching in the open in all weathers and once in a pig sty! No wonder he despaired at the reluctance of some lay preachers to walk five miles or so to preach or lead a service! His love for people and their problems led him to publish these ideas in a textbook 'Primitive Physic'.

Wesley and Wellbeing will be at Wesley's City Road Chapel in London from 23rd July to 23rd August and we will be organising a visit, so please let us know if you'd like to join us.

Ange & Dave Putland



Birthday 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.

AJP

Christian Aid Week 2012: Small town, big ideas

This Christian Aid Week (13th-19th May 2012) thousands of people will stand together to speak out for change and raise funds to help some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

This year, Christian Aid Week focuses on the story of remarkable change taking place in a community in rural Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is one of the hungriest countries in the world. But, helped by Christian Aid partner the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL), some people there have found the tools to move beyond hunger and speak out for the changes they want to see.



Christian Aid Week: 13th - 19th May 2012 Theme - Teamwork - Sierra Leone Volunteer Helpers needed for street collection outside Effingham Shops.

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. There will be a table outside the shops as a base. We raised over £400 last year.

Gift aid envelopes will also be available, please do encourage the signing of these, if applicable, as it helps to raise so much more for the charity.

Each church has agreed to provide volunteers to collect from Monday to Saturday, 10.00am to 4.30pm. Anglicans - Monday and Tuesday, Catholics - Wednesday and Thursday, Methodists - Friday and Saturday.

Sign up forms for volunteers to help collect will be available in each church. Just an hour of your time is required, (more if you can!)

If you cannot help on the day allocated to your church but could offer on another day then please contact Gill Walker – rest assured there will be a slot for you!

Please help us to help Christian Aid.
Gill Walker 01372 457987
email:-- GillianMWalker@gmail.com

Never Give Up!

Recently I went to visit a member of our church who suffers from that crippling disease known as M.S. Elaine has bravely fought against the restrictions this has imposed on her life for many years. Now she is confined to a wheelchair in which she propels herself about downstairs, but she has not been able to get upstairs without the help of carers. Even a stairlift doesn't solve the problem as she has to be helped on and off it. Well, I was amazed to see how she had solved the problem! In the downstairs sitting room a hole has been made in the ceiling with a wooden cover, and when Elaine presses a switch the cover slides back and a small lift descends (much to the annoyance of her dog Harry) and Elaine in her wheelchair is able to be transported up to the bedroom floor for as long as she likes, and then be brought down again. A modern miracle!

The next morning the service on Radio 4 had as its theme the story of the men who wanted to take their friend to Jesus for healing but couldn't reach him for the crowd in the courtyard of the house, so they made a hole in the roof and let him down on his bed onto the floor below. Jesus was then able to heal him and send him on his way rejoicing. Sadly Elaine hasn't been healed physically, in spite of many prayers for this to happen. But she remains very positive and thankful for all these modern miracles which enable her to lead as fulfilled a life as possible, both at home and in her adapted car in which she also travels in her wheelchair, driven by her husband or a carer, not only to medical appointments but also to have coffee at the local Garden Centre.

Perhaps, in due course, with modern research, a healing for multiple sclerosis will be discovered. What a joy that would be!

Freddie Jenkins

Editor's Note:

My sincere apologies to Freddie, and also to Elaine, for erroneously omitting this article from last month's Link.



Leatherhead Pages

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

Leatherhead Trinity School - News

This is the first of a regular column, bringing together highlights from Leatherhead Trinity newsletters over the previous few weeks, in the hope that church members will enjoy hearing about goings-on in the life of our church school.

Music: The infant choir took part in the Youth competitions at the Leith Hill Musical Festival, led by their conductor, Lindsay Boswell. They were one of the smallest choirs, but sang up confidently and earned a nice, shiny certificate, along with some very positive comments. The older children have enjoyed a visit from students from the Yehudi Menuhin School. As you can imagine, the children were mesmerised by these talented musicians, who were only a few years older than them!

Trips: Year 4 have enjoyed an exciting trip by train into London, to visit Sir Francis Drake's ship, The Golden Hinde. Meanwhile, Year 3 have also been into London, to visit the Natural History Museum, where they were excited to have a trip on the earthquake simulator.

At the end of term, all year groups took part in Easter services, with the infants at Christ Church and the juniors at Leatherhead Parish Church. At both services, the Easter story was told, with readings and prayers by the children, and they raised the roofs with their enthusiastic singing.

During the Easter holidays, work has been underway to extend "The Burrow" - the room occupied by the school's Nurture Unit, who are looking forward to having a bit more space!

This month, please remember in your prayers the children in Year 6 who will be sitting their SATs tests during the week of 14th May - and also their parents and teachers! The following week, there are plans to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee in school - more news next month.

Jane Smith

Time for Tea



COME for TEA and COMPANY

From 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Friday 11th May

then every first Friday in the month at

LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

EVERYONE WELCOME

If you need transport please contact:

Margaret Meynen on 372930

or

Gill Harris on 458518

(Suggested donation £1)



Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration for street children

Treasurer for Happy Child International

Happy Child International is a medium sized local Surrey charity, with offices in Leatherhead, and has been working with street children in Brazil since 1993. We are looking for a new Treasurer to direct all financial planning for the charity. The Treasurer oversees all the charities finances to ensure funds are expended proficiently and fall into policy and standard accounting procedures. It would include producing financial reports for the Board and implementing the annual plans for resources as well as submitting monthly accounts. Yearly tax documents, forms and regulations must be prepared, reviewed and submitted by the treasurer.

We are looking for a pro bono qualified accountant who could take this work on, approximately 1-2 days per week (all expenses paid).

e-mail: contact@happychild.org

Contact: Sarah de Carvalho (CEO) for more information:
01372 375848
www.happychild.org

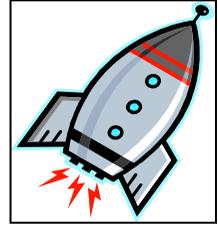


Next Messy Church:

Thursday 17th May
3.30pm to 5.30pm at



Starship Discovery Holiday Club August 20th to 24th



This year's Holiday Club will be blasting off on 20th August for five mornings of fun-filled adventure. We are looking for 100 fearless space cadets, aged 5 to 11, to join our crew. Do **you** know anyone that's brave enough?! Bookings will launch at the end of May. Contact Jane Smith: (janevcw@googlemail.com) for info & to make sure you are on our mailing list!

Ecumenical Family and Children's Work

Easter is always a great opportunity to invite families to hear and respond to the Christian message. This year we were pleased to welcome about 60 guests - children, teenagers and adults - to "**The Lion, The Witch ... and The Easter Egg?**". The Methodist Church was transformed into a cinema venue for one afternoon and we entered the world of Narnia. While we ate our popcorn, we thought about how the death and resurrection of Aslan helps us understand a bit more about the Easter message. I was so impressed by the thoughtful questions that a number of the children asked. And we all enjoyed a splendid tea, complete with plenty of chocolate and egg-shaped items!

Looking ahead, Leatherhead is hosting a "**Messy Fiesta**" on Saturday 26th May. This event will bring together Messy Church leaders and helpers from different churches, to exchange ideas, tell stories, celebrate successes and look ahead to the future. We will be welcoming Andrew Cowie from St Paul's Church in Woking and Charis Lambert from Morden Baptist Church, both of whom have lots of experience helping churches make the most of Messy Church as a new ways to worship and grow.

I am also looking forward to my annual visit to **Beaver Camp** on Sunday 20th May, where I will help to lead the morning act of worship. Please pray for good weather during our open air devotions!

Jane Smith



Leatherhead

Methodist Church

LMC

Diary - May



Sun	6th	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Rev. Kim Plumpton jointly with URC at LMC
Fri	11th	2.30pm	Afternoon Tea and Company (until 4.30pm)
Sun	13th	10.30am	Mrs Jay Dunning
		5.00pm	United Pastorate Service at Effingham followed by tea (<i>see page 5</i>)
Thurs	17th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sun	20th	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth
		6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion jointly with URC at LMC
Sat	26th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at the Parish Church
Pentecost:			
Sun	27th	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth at Christ Church
		6.30pm	New Fire
June			
Sun	3rd	10.30am	Clive Haines
		6.30pm	Circuit Preacher - jointly with URC at LMC
Sun	10th	10.30am	Rev Val Ogden - MHA Sunday
Thurs	14th	8.00pm	Church Council

Housegroups - All Welcome

Monday House Fellowship meets fortnightly - contact Carol Stoves 377125

Wednesday House Fellowship meets monthly -

contact Winifred Ashbrook 276776

Friday Daytime Fellowship meets fortnightly - contact Jane Smith 372919

MWiB District Day

The day was held at Tonbridge Methodist Church. It was so encouraging to see it well attended. The theme throughout the sessions was 'Running the Race'. The day began with a communion service led by Rev. John Hellyer, District Chair, and included the induction of Carol Jewell as the new District President.

Carol has a lot of 'get up and go', very much my kind of person. I have known her since she was a WN officer in the old London SW District. She grew up in the Guildford area and now lives in Eastbourne with her husband Mervyn. With knowledge of the geography and needs in our Western Area, I am hoping MWiB will get the boost it desperately needs.

Later in the morning, after a short break, there was a brief business meeting, bringing us up to date with events around the District. On Saturday 6th October the Eastern Area has an event at Rainham, which will include a session on contemporary women hymn writers, presented by Valerie Ruddle. The Southern Area has an event at Hailsham on Saturday 22nd September (an unfortunate clash with Synod) but I have no details yet of the theme. It was also good to hear that the District Project for Mission Aviation Fellowship has raised nearly £8000. It is a sign of the times that money is tight. We always used to raise double that!

The afternoon session 'The Games and the Bible' was led by Rev. Dr. Janet Corlett, minister at Bermondsey Central Hall. Janet won the silver and bronze medals at the British and World Veterans Championships. Her article 'Be the Best for God' is on p4 of the Spring edition of Magnet - copy at the back of the church. Please take time to read it. Although we heard a little about her own experiences, the talk was Bible based. It was quite an eye-opener to realise just how much instruction there is in the Bible relating to training, self-discipline and control, obeying the rules, rewards and crowns and much more. And all that can, in turn, be related to our own Christian journey.

All told, it was a good day with friends, fun and fellowship. Come with me to Hailsham in September and find out for yourself.

Jean Plant

Wanted - A Good Home for two Garden Benches

Joy Foreman has two garden benches which she no longer needs - one about 4ft and the other about 5ft long. If you're interested, please contact Joy - phone number in the church directory, or contact the editor. You will need to arrange collection.

Our Surprising God

(See Isaiah 53:1, Psalm 8:1, Psalm 19:1)

Life is full of surprises. There are areas of science where we believe things that would have been totally incredible to people a few hundred years ago. For example, one would have thought that the earth is flat, but it's not, it's round. The earth is hurtling through space at 70,000 miles per hour, yet we have no sensation of movement whatsoever. The earth is slowly spinning, but again, we are completely unaware of it. The sun appears to be going round the earth, but it's not, the earth is going round the sun.

Or who would have thought that the moon is so far away that if one were to travel towards it at a constant speed of 100 miles per hour, one would still not have got there three months later? Or who would have thought that the sun is so far away that at a constant speed of 100 miles per hour, it would take about 106 years to get there? So if it had been possible for someone to begin a return trip to the sun in the year 1800, they would just be returning to the earth this year. Or if one could travel to the nearest star at a constant speed of 100 miles per hour, it would take more than 28 million years to get there (I think it works out at about 90,000,000,000,000,000 years to get to the furthest star visible with the Hubble telescope at a speed of 100 miles per hour - maybe 7 million times the estimated age of the universe). One solar flare is said to emit as much energy as 100 million hydrogen bombs.

The vast majority of us haven't got the time, inclination or intelligence to prove these things, and so we just accept what scientists tell us in blind faith.

There are many amazing things in the natural world as well. How can herring find their way back to where they were spawned? How can they leap up to twelve feet up waterfalls? How can they cope with both salt water and fresh? How can some birds stay airborne for five years without touching the ground? Or who would have believed that there are 100 trillion bacteria in one human body or that there may be as many as 100 billion neurons in the human brain and 1000 trillion connections between them?

At one time it would have been considered impossible for planes carrying hundreds of passengers and tons of luggage to become airborne. When I was a child in primary school, I was genuinely surprised when it was demonstrated that metals expand when heated.

continued on the next page

When the Periodic Table was first discovered, scientists scoffed at the idea that the chemical elements could be ordered in such a systematic way like the keys of a piano. How can sub-atomic particles be particles and energy at the same time or be in more than one place at once?

There are many surprising things in the Bible as well. In a sense the Bible is very similar in that respect to some areas of science. God spoke to people, miracles, healings and various supernatural events occurred. The greatest miracle of all was when Jesus rose from the dead, but it is a mistake, I believe, to reject the Bible simply because events are related in it which seem impossible to us.

The most amazing thing of all is that a holy God should be willing to forgive sinners and that He should give heaven or eternal life to those who had rebelled against Him. Yet that is the message of the Gospel which is received by faith.

Bob Greenfield

LMC Family News



Our thoughts and prayers are with...

...Arnold Ashbrook, receiving treatment in Epsom Hospital following a recent heart attack.

...Harry Robinson, as he recovers from a fractured patella, suffered in a fall.

Best wishes to...

...Sherelle Munnis, Christina and Olivia as they settle into their new home.

...Marjorie Maynard, now being cared for in The Red House, Ashtead, and Jean Oakes in Birdcroft, Ashtead.

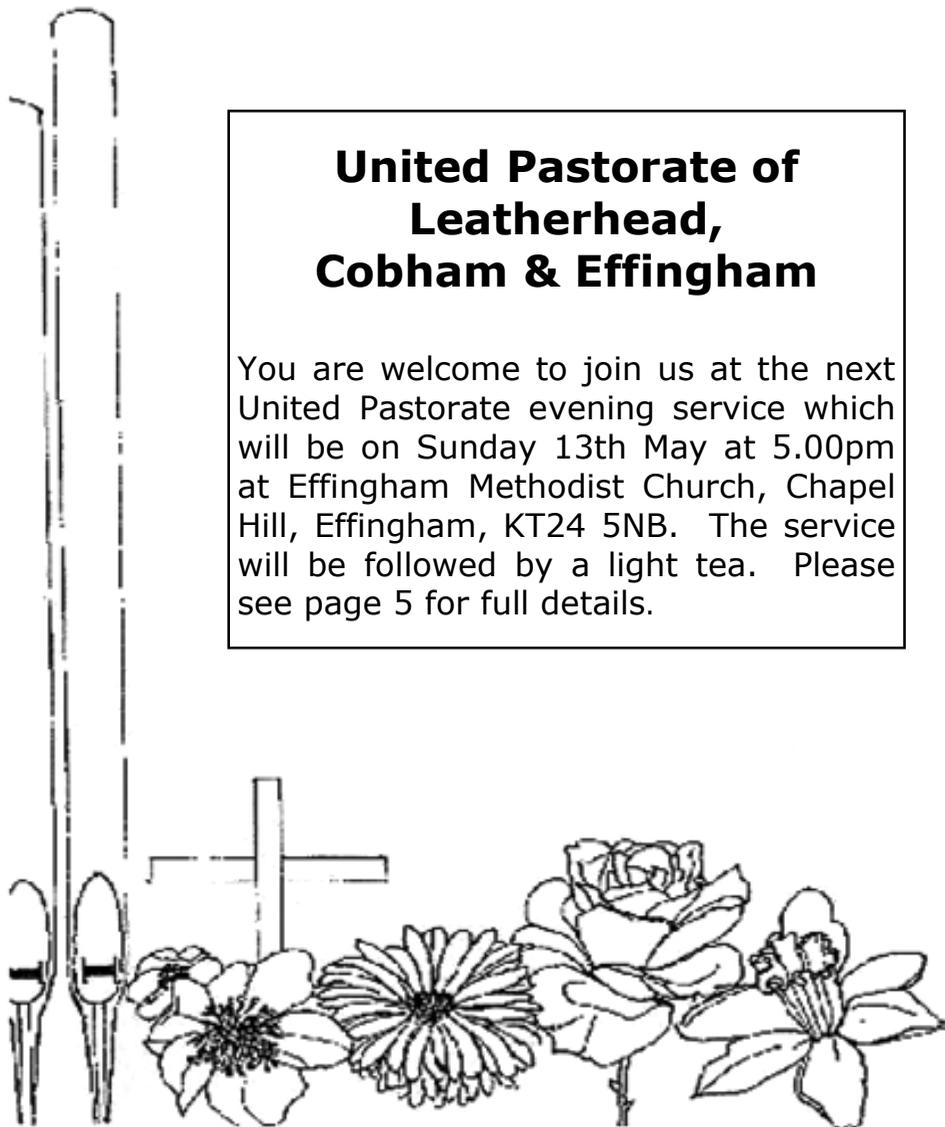
...James Ross, who we were pleased to see at Morning Service again recently.

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

United Pastorate of Leatherhead, Cobham & Effingham

You are welcome to join us at the next United Pastorate evening service which will be on Sunday 13th May at 5.00pm at Effingham Methodist Church, Chapel Hill, Effingham, KT24 5NB. The service will be followed by a light tea. Please see page 5 for full details.



Christ Church Diary

May



Wed	7th	10.30am	Coffee & Chat
Sat	5th	5.30pm	Wedding
Sun	6th	10.30am	Mrs Linda Richards (Walton on the Hill) Organist: Gina Eason
		6.30pm	Evening Service at LMC: Rev Kim Plumpton
Fri	11th	2.30pm	Afternoon Tea at LMC (ends 4.30pm)
Sun	13th	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion
		5.00pm	Joint Pastorate Service at Effingham followed by tea (<i>see page 5</i>)
Thurs	17th	12.30pm	Anthony Cairns plays the Parker organ at the Parish Church
		3.00pm	Messy Church at LMC
Sun	20th	10.30am	Rev. Barbara Pearson
		6.30pm	Joint Holy Communion (LMC/URC) at LMC
Sat	26th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast Fellowship: Parish Church
Pentecost:			
Sun	27th	10.30am	Joint Holy Communion (3 Churches) at Christ Church
		6.30pm	New Fire - Ecumenical Service at LMC
Tues	29th	7.45pm	Elders' Meeting
June 2012			
Sun	3rd	10.30am	Rev. Robert Blows
		6.30pm	Organist: Gina Eason Evening Service at LMC: Circuit Preacher

Christ Church Family News



Jacqui Ball's phone number in the 2011 Directory is incorrect and should be 01372 278593.

Congratulations to **Mrs Elisabeth Dally** (née Henderson) on being awarded (as a mature student) an MA in Landscape Architecture.

Florence Gower is now in Milner House, Ermyn Way, with Bert, who had gone into care there while Florence was in hospital. We send them our very best wishes and hope that they are settling in well.

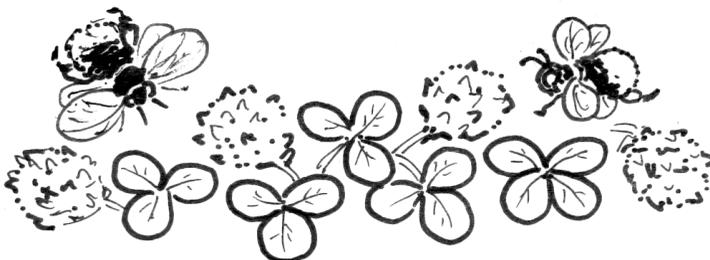
We are sorry that **Patrick Pelham** is not too well and send him our good wishes.

Olive Rayner is at home but undergoing hospital treatment. Unfortunately she is suffering with some side effects. She and John are being well cared for by their family. We will remember them both in our prayers.

Angela Sherratt (née Kerr) has moved from Bookham to 23 Glebe Road, Dorking, RH4 3DS, Tel: 01306 879754, to be nearer her mother Marguerite in the Deepdene Care Centre.

As always, we remember in our prayers all members and friends who are unwell or undergoing treatment at this time.

Anne Cairns



To members of Christ Church

From Jo Crosby

155 Church Green,
Shoreham

11th April 2012

Dear Friends,

On behalf of my parents and myself, I would like to thank you for your support, thoughts and prayers since 12th March, when Mum had her stroke and our lives were turned upside down. Mum had another stroke a week after the first which definitely set her back and last week the hospital discovered a pulmonary embolism which they are treating. Despite this they feel that with close monitoring she would benefit from leaving hospital to join my father, who has been in Milner House since 27th March. Mum realises that she needs help and of course wants to be with Dad. Hopefully she will be discharged and with him on Friday 13th April.

It has been a tremendous upheaval for my father in particular, choosing to leave his home of over 50 years was not a decision that he made lightly.

I am very aware of the ongoing support that the Church has given my mother and father since Dad had his stroke nearly six years ago, and they particularly appreciated the frequent visits from Ian Howarth in spite of his busy schedule. I know Mum and Dad appreciate this and I thank you too. Please continue to pray for them both, and if you are able to spare the time please visit them at Milner House; I know that they will appreciate it.

With my very best wishes,
Jo Crosby (nee Gower)

World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel

28th May - 3rd June

'But they shall all sit under their own vines
and under their own fig trees, and no one will
make them afraid'
Micah 4: 4

Displacement and Dispossession...

...is the focus for 2012's World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel. They have been part of life for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza for 64 years. The demolition of homes and the destruction of olive groves and agricultural lands are a tragic feature of the Israeli government's illegal occupation of Palestine. Displacement and dispossession cause great hardship, instability and stress as we read in the following story of Noah and his family:

Noah's House

It was a modest enough house: a concrete base supporting a flat roof; cement block walls and a surprisingly ornate steel front door. Then one morning in July 2010 the Israeli military arrived and demolished it. The technique, I understand, is a push from a bulldozer at each corner. The house collapsed in minutes. The remains are still there on a bleak hillside to the east of the Palestinian city of Hebron.

In 2010 it was one of over 230 Palestinian houses subject to 'administrative demolition'. That simply means, 'demolished because built without a building permit'. Fair enough, you may say. The outcome is admittedly rather drastic, but surely there has to be a penalty for flouting the planning rules. But what if experience over many years shows that permits are hardly ever given?

The actual statistics are hard to come by, but one human rights organisation reckons that something like 95/96 per cent of applications are turned down, and appeals are costly and nearly always fruitless. In the meantime Palestinians need homes: for growing

families, and, in the case of my friend Noah, whose house was demolished that July morning - to be on the spot to tend his flock of two hundred sheep. Noah did what most Palestinians in this part of the West Bank under direct Israeli control do: he built, and took a chance. The Red Cross provided him with a tent and for the next three months that was home for Noah and his oldest son, while his wife and young children moved into rented rooms in Hebron.

Then one morning in October 2010, the Israeli military returned. They trashed the water-cistern on which his flock depended for water; tore down his tent, scattered clothes and household utensils over the site, and arrested his son. They accused his fourteen year-old son of assaulting a soldier. I was not there, and I can't be sure what happened, but I can well imagine that the young man protested. What are you supposed to do when armed men with heavy machinery come to destroy your livelihood? Make them a cup of tea?

Noah's son was arrested, and taken by the military to an adult military prison. His parents were not informed of his whereabouts. Like most young Palestinians arrested in such circumstances he was advised by both Israeli and Palestinian lawyers to plead guilty, and was finally released many weeks later when the family paid what I can only call a 'release fee'. To raise that money, the family had to borrow. To repay the loan many of the sheep, their only source of income, were sold, but the family remains hopelessly in debt.

A year after that fateful October morning, Noah was sleeping under the stars. With the colder nights he was planning to sleep with the flock - as he did last winter. That's dispossession!

FACTS

Today there are 4.9 million registered refugees living mainly in the West bank, Gaza, Jordan Lebanon or Syria, making Palestinians one of the largest displaced populations. One third of refugees still live in refugee camps, other in cities, towns and villages where many face further displacement through the Occupation.

Ref. United Nations Relief and Works Agency - www.unrwa.org

PRAY

Use the story of Noah and the prayer on the website (address below) as part of worship during WWPPi.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.worldweekforpeace.org

Pastorate Details

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

Leatherhead Methodist Church:

www.leatherheadmethodist.org

Contact: Senior Steward -
Carol Stoves 01372 377125

Christ Church (United Reformed)

Leatherhead:

www.chch.org.uk

Contact: Local Church Leader -
Mike Essex 01372 273472

Effingham Methodist Church:

www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk

Contact: Senior Steward -
Dave Putland 01372 454850

Cobham United Reformed Church:

www.cobhamurc.org.uk

Contact: Church Secretary -
Mary Langtry 01483 282421

Cobham Methodist Church:

www.cobhammethodistchurch.org.uk

Contact: Senior Steward -
Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



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