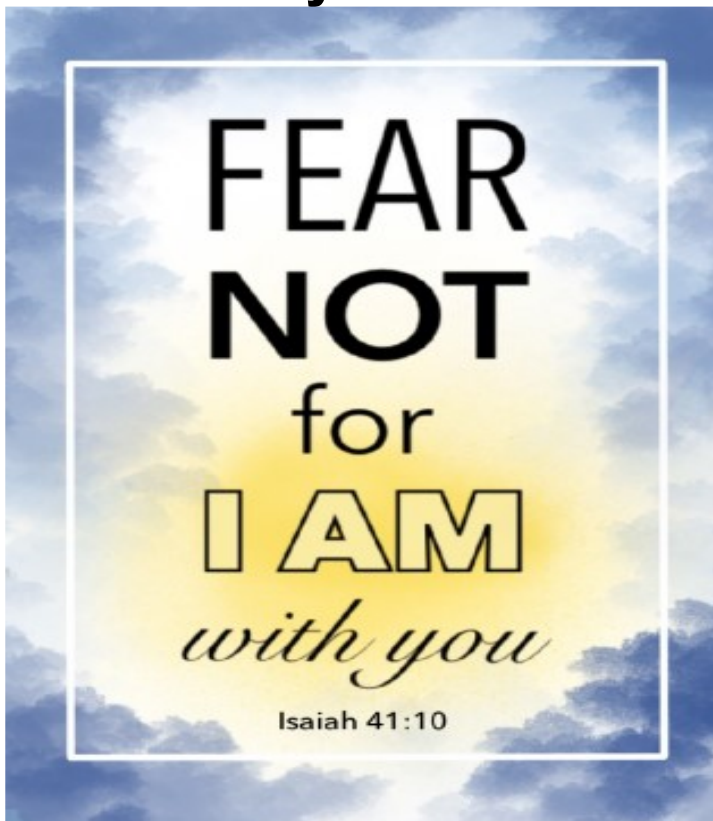


the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

May 2020



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

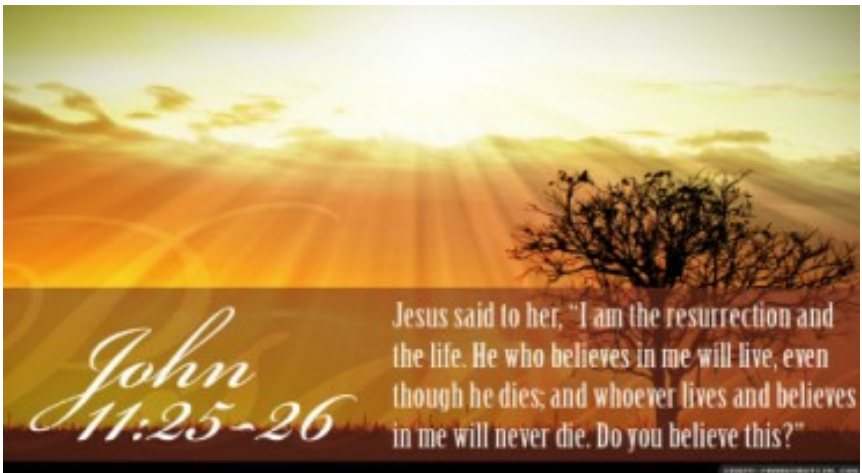
Linking:
Christ Church (United Reformed) Leatherhead
Cobham United Church
(Methodist and United Reformed)
Effingham Methodist Church
Leatherhead Methodist Church

The **Methodist** Church



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All copy for the June issue to the editor by May 20th



The Ministers Write...

From Rev Kim Plumpton

Dear friends,

Firstly, I hope that this letter finds everyone safe and well. This letter carries with it the sincerest wish that this remains the case.

As we think of all the time we have spent in lockdown many people are now beginning to turn their attention towards what life might look like in the near future, with some urging the government for some kind of exit strategy. There are some of course saying that life will never look the same, cannot be the same as it was before the virus came to us.

In a recent seminar we discussed the fact that according to a recent survey, only 9% of brits want life to return back to the way it was, with the vast majority citing the fact that life has changed, more time with family, greater links with neighbours and the community, is something they wish to hold onto.

Yet we too acknowledge that suddenly we find ourselves in a very different place as a community of believers, live streaming our services, gathering for virtual afternoon teas. We too might want to ask, can we return to the way things were before? Or are there some things that we have discovered along the way, that we might want to hold onto.

Without our buildings we are beginning to rediscover that the church is about people, we are no longer 'consumed' by our rotas, meetings, or the need to sustain our buildings. We find that we have a God-given opportunity to find the heart of what it is to be a disciple of Christ. All those things which we have identified as being meaningful to us at this time, fellowship, creating time for people and developing our relationships with family, friends, neighbours and members of the community, as well as meeting peoples needs, must surely enable us to consider what life could look like in the church of the future.

Suddenly our field of vision has opened up in ways we could never have imagined, our focus honed, sharpened, able to see the need in front of us and recognise that in simple acts of kindness God's love is the gracious gift we can offer, a very real presence in a time of need.

In this time of significant change, we engage in a public and prophetic ministry that might look very different from what it once was. And although we are challenged, we find adaptability and versatility an uneasy road, we can surely rest in the knowledge that the Holy spirit inaugurated and propelled the life of the early church, and can offer us the same enigmatic, energetic and exhaustive assistance.

Do we go back to doing things just as we did before? Or do we see something different on the horizon for our churches? What is God saying to us in these times? They are interesting questions to ask and ones we might want to consider in the coming weeks.

Every blessing

Kim

Listening Service

The listening service to which we can all contribute, run by Churches Together, continues. If you feel someone you know would benefit from this service the number to call is:

Cobham 01932 910184

Effingham 01483 385120

The service is intended to offer our unique gift of listening and praying for others. Guidance is given to all who offer to volunteer and each person operates from 9-5pm for one day only. If you would like to help and have not volunteered phone Kim on 01932 586988 or drop me an email kimp_822@hotmail.com

WARNING:

Beware emails from Kim Plumpton!

A few days ago I had an email which said it was from Kim Plumpton, asking if I was available on email. Without stopping to think I replied "Yes, I'm here". The response to that was a request for me to buy an Amazon gift card for her to give her niece, because she was too busy to do it herself. At that point I paused, thought about it, and checked back. The original email said it was from Kim, but with email address pastor6296@gmail.com and it was addressed to steward@cobhammethodistchurch.com (which is on the old CMC website and automatically comes through to me). I've changed some passwords and hope I shall hear no more. I'm told that scams asking for money to be paid to Amazon are quite common. Lesson: don't reply to an email just because you know the person named on it. Stop and think!

Afternoon tea anyone?



Virtual afternoon tea via Zoom

Effingham: 2:30pm
8th May & 22nd May

Cobham: 2:30pm
1st May & 15th May

Information regarding
Zoom details will be sent
nearer the time

From Rev Jan Hofmeyr

Dear Friends,

The lockdown we are in at present has made me realise afresh the importance of taking responsibility for our own discipleship. Maybe without realising it we can fall into the mistake of 'outsourcing' this area of our lives to the Church. But now we are realising that our gathering together on a Sunday and at other times is an additional extra rather than the core of our discipleship. When such gatherings are not possible, such as in a time like this, or during a time of extended illness, or when we are physically unable to get to church because of growing frailty, we have to rely far more on ourselves to sustain our faith. There are also the extreme cases of people who are imprisoned for their faith, such as Paul and many other believers down the years, who have then been completely on their own in having to sustain their faith.

I think Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish maidens is pertinent here. Those ten women didn't know for sure what the coming days would bring, and when the bridegroom would arrive. When that suddenly happens, five of them are caught unprepared – they have an insufficient supply of oil. That oil could be compared to the spiritual 'oil' of our lives. (Like the old song, 'Give me oil in my lamp keep me burning'.) We all have been thrust, totally unexpectedly and very suddenly, into a situation where we cannot rely on our weekly gathering for worship and fellowship to sustain the 'lamps' of our spiritual lives. Admittedly there is, for most of us, the substitute of 'virtual' worship from our local church and other sources, but it cannot replace fully the types of worship and fellowship that we are used to. As a result, we having to rely more on ourselves. All of this is ultimately a good thing. It is rather like young birds who have suddenly been pushed out of the comfort and safety of the nest and have had to begin to fly by themselves. Hopefully, we are all realising that we can 'fly' better than we thought – that we can pray, read the scriptures and worship on our own outside the 'nest' of the church building. But it does require faith and effort and perseverance. Without it, there is the danger that we will find our 'wings' are not strong enough to keep us flying.

All of this is also very relevant for those with young children. Too often parents 'outsource' the spiritual development of their children to the church or other organisations. Such external agencies are of course important for the spiritual nurture of young people, but the primary place for such development should be the home. If parents are not modelling the spiritual life and assisting their children on that path, any impact from the church and other organisations is going to be much less effective. In the early years of Christianity, worship was very much centred around the home, and perhaps we are being drawn back to the importance of this as the vital primary foundation of our faith.

May the Lord help us all to use these days to grow our spiritual wings, so that when we are able to gather together again, we will be able to soar together to new heights of worship, witness and service, like the followers of Jesus who emerged on the Day of Pentecost from their seclusion, to turn their world upside down.

With love in Christ
Jan

PS The idea of a 'Methodist Way of Life', based on the Methodist Church's understanding of our calling as Christ followers, has been developing over the last number of years. It focuses on four disciplines – Worship, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism. All four of these are very relevant during these days. For more information you can go to:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/16918/mwol-commitment-card-220420.pdf>

Jean Radley

Many will remember Jean Radley coming to preach at Cobham, Effingham and Leatherhead Methodist Churches, and in recent years those of us who are preachers always looked out for her smiling, welcoming face whenever we visited St Andrew's, Roffey. Sadly, Jean had to go to hospital for treatment and while there caught the coronavirus, leading to her death. As she approached the end of her earthly life, she was able to talk to her minister, Rev Kath Jones on the phone, and she said "You must tell them, Kath, you must tell them all!" Kath asked what she must tell and Jean said she had been aware of a man at her bedside, holding her hand, saying her name and saying "It will be all right", and she could hear other voices in the distance saying "Jean, it will be all right; it's time to come home".

Lunchbox

In February, Lunchbox received an unexpected boost of £700 when it was voted "Charity of the evening" at CUC's new **Cobham Soup** event ! Sadly, within weeks, Government Corona virus restrictions came into force and Lunchbox could no longer provide Wednesday mid-day meals. **BUT** since the 'Lockdown', due to the hard work particularly of Colin and Julian who have collected and bagged food from local sources, Lunchbox has distributed food to over sixty families each week. On Wednesdays, bags have been available for collection from the LMC car park; observing the necessary distancing rules of course! Unable to provide a social meeting place, but at least still able to provide food to those who need it !

Over the last four years Lunchbox has provided not only a safe meeting place for those who come along, but a regular pattern to their week ! It is really difficult for everyone at the moment when we all fear getting Corona virus, but when you are short of money or find life generally quite difficult, this can be a particularly stressful time! Alone, confined to your home and unable to buy the things you need !

Luckily, most people seem to have smart phones these days and these amazing devices really can help you to cope, enabling contact with your friends and families. However there is nothing like a good chin-wag, sharing your thoughts and concerns over a meal or a cup of tea or coffee! So, we look forward to things getting back to normal as soon as possible.

Please pray that Colin, Julian, Anne, Pete, and myself will be kept safe as we try to meet the needs of those we come into contact with through Lunchbox. As we look around, we are amazed at the kindness and concern being shown throughout our country. Along with many other charities we are caring for each other as we know God would want !

Please continue to donate food to us, particularly tins.
Keep safe !

Dave P

Easter 2020 in the Pastorate

There have been many positive things about my Easter and we did find new and creative ways to celebrate. We found ways to share Easter greetings with neighbours and friends who I normally wouldn't communicate with on Easter Sunday because I'm so busy 'doing church'. And the abundant spring flowers made my heart soar. But I will admit to times of feeling very low - frustrated and anxious about the enforced separation from people I love. I really missed gathering to celebrate and sing songs of praise. And there were times when the beautiful sunshine felt like it was mocking us in our restricted and fearful world. More than ever this year I found it important to remember that Jesus faced suffering and went through the darkest times in order to bring lasting hope. And that seems very relevant to our world right now.

Jane Smith

"The greatest things come out of situations that seem hopeless. But isn't that what Easter is all about?"

Rev Stephen Cotterell, Archbishop Designate of York

The greatest triumph in history came out of the most desolate event on that first Easter Day. It shook the world and nothing would ever be the same.

We are being shaken again, albeit in a different way. Before the pandemic, money ruled—no question. Now the nation's health has priority over economic health.

For the first time hospital workers, refuse collectors, postmen, delivery men are the heroes. Priorities have changed. We have been forced to slow down.

In this period of self-isolation and self-distancing I experience a stronger sense of community. Greetings from strangers. Flyers through the letterbox offering help with shopping and prescriptions. Phone calls and emails from distant friends and relatives. Applauding the NHS by clapping, shouting and banging wooden spoons against saucepan lids for one glorious minute on Thursday evenings. Captain Tom Moore raising £20 million for NHS charities with his determined garden walk, and the overwhelming generosity of complete strangers.

Easter 2020 will be remembered. Hopefully a reminder of how brilliantly unselfish our community can be.

God rules! No question! Alleluia.

Chris James

Easter is surely and usually about the resurrected Jesus and New Life. This year, to state the obvious, it seems so different and surreal. A time to reflect as well as keeping in touch with a number of folk both within the church family and beside it with Tuesday Teas, Connect and Messy Church. One of our members, now mainly at home, said how blessed she felt with the internet, with television and radio offerings throughout the Easter period. Many had also really enjoyed Kim's services over Easter and of course it raises questions for the future as to how we continue to provide a service weekly for those always at home without the internet.

A number of us have been experimenting with Zoom or Houseparty, and school governing bodies have held their governing meetings through "Team", and I have had my exercise session with Zoom. I do thank God at this time that we are so blessed with this technology for good—think what it would have been like without TV or internet or phone or radio. How would we have been able to communicate safely with everyone and keep body, mind and soul in one piece.

Since many folk on foot or on bikes here in Effingham have been passing our gate on the way to the lovely woods, we have set up a collection point for the Cobham Foodbank. Carrier bags of non-perishables are being left on our doorstep for onward transmission to Cobham. It's a good time to raise the profile and to encourage neighbours we don't usually talk to and other exercisers to leave some produce. So what will be the "good out of evil" story post Corona? What should or could our world, God's world, be like for the better? Perhaps we need to sit and think now so that all the good can be preserved and built on for us now and for future generations. Can we do something about climate change? Can we help to bring about a kinder, more caring society as Wesley would have wished, so that "All We Can" really does come to pass for a better world.

Gill Walker



The Easter Garden which I have made in the past for Christ Church was this year displayed on a small verge at the junction of The Mount and Mount Close, Fetcham. Passers by on their daily exercise took a look, and some photographed it. It was a reminder of the real reason we celebrate Easter Day.

Alison Gillott



*A wreath made for a gate on The Mount to thank the NHS.
AG*

On-Line Communion



I am sorry to see that the Methodist Church has reaffirmed the decision of the 2018 Conference to ban what is referred to as Virtual Communion. I believe that the Methodist Church is wrong in this and the United Reformed Church, which allows on-line communion, is right.

For me the most moving and inspirational times over the Easter period were when I sat at my desk on Maundy Thursday evening and again on Easter morning, and joined in as Kim led us in Holy Communion. For me, this communion was in no sense "virtual". It was real. The bread and wine were real; the consecration of them by the minister was real; and above all the presence of Christ was real.

DC



We need your help to make urgent PPE for Surrey's frontline workers who are rapidly running out of items such as gowns, aprons and masks.

Please email ppe.donations@surreycc.gov.uk if you can help our #healthcareheroes.





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

Life in our church

It seems certain that “Lock Down” will continue into May, so the Bereavement Café, Messy Church, Oasis, Church Walks, Men’s Fellowship, House Fellowship, Mustard Seed, and Cobham Soup are postponed until further notice.

However, those are face-to-face groups and our need to either self-isolate or self-distance means that we must continue to explore new and creative ways of being the community of faith.

So what is still happening?

May 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st, June 7th

Sunday morning worship

continues and can now be found on our website where you will find a link, or on facebook:

Cobham website: <https://cobham-united-church.org.uk>

Cobham facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/unitedchurchcobham>

[I’m afraid you will have to provide your own coffee and biscuits after the service!]

May 24th was to have been our Church Anniversary Service when we should have shared the celebration (and lunch) with the Filipino congregation. Sadly that will have to be postponed. Look out for further news. What about a joint celebration of Church Anniversary and restarting services at the church?

Daily Reflections can be found on the website, Monday—Friday.



Afternoon Tea
There will be virtual afternoon tea on Fridays 1st and 8th May at 2.30pm, using Zoom.
Let's give it a go!!
(see p5)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9607157823>
Meeting ID: 960 715 7823

Other Dates

Sat 2nd May	2.00pm	Trustees Meeting by Zoom
Wed 6th May	2.00pm	Fundraising C'ttee by Zoom

Prayer Chain

For Prayer Chain requests/suggestions contact Anita Latham on 07969 830083 or email anitalatham1949@hotmail.com

Foodbank

Cobham Foodbank continues to operate from CUC, though they have had to change the way they relate to those in need.

Don't forget that there is still a need—greater than ever at this difficult time. So if you used to bring a donation of food to church on a Sunday, you will need to find another way of donating (e.g. in the supermarket).

Prescriptions

Cobham Churches Together continues to operate a prescription collection service. If you are able to help with this please let Kim know.



Effingham Methodist Church

Effingham Diary: May 2020



A huge Thank You
to Kim for guiding us through our
struggles with new technology and
helping us to still have Sunday services
and a very special Holy Week
despite Govt's restrictions.

Sunday services are now on our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/effinghammethodistchurch/>
and on the website
<http://effinghammethodistchurch.com/>

Afternoon Tea: May 8th and 22nd, 2.30pm; see p5.

Dates to celebrate this month ?



Wow! What a lot of birthdays this month !

Wishing a very **Happy Birthday** to Jayne & Norma on
3rd , David on 21st and Pauline on 29th



Our Church Council has had to be postponed due to
the virus but **EMC's stewards are having monthly
meetings with Kim, our minister via ZOOM**, an
online video-conferencing app.

If you would like to raise any issues for discussion
please contact Gill Walker, Church Secretary.



The Cleaning & Garden rotas are obviously suspended until restrictions are lifted. However the stewards are checking the Chapel on a regular basis and Dave's seen a robin nesting in the post box by the Hall door !



Find some Messy Fun downloadable sessions

<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resource/messy-church-home-april-june-downloadable-sessions>



Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2020

Christian Aid has provided advice for Christian Aid Week in response to the Coronavirus:

- ◆ Under the current circumstances, sadly, house-to-house collections should not go ahead.
- ◆ In particular, along with many churches, events such as Big Brekkies or Lent lunches, where food is shared, cannot go ahead.

Christian Aid is working on alternative plans that will allow people to take part in **Christian Aid Week** in different, creative ways – by post, by text and online that strengthen communities during this challenging time. Follow this link to donate online :

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

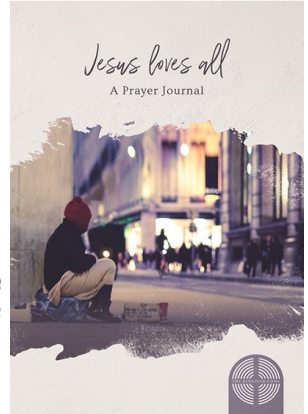
For several years **Effingham & Little Bookham Churches Together** have been organising their fundraising event for Christian Aid in October. So this year it may be another Singalong, or even a barn dance or quiz ? Watch this space !



Thy Kingdom Come

This ecumenical global prayer movement invites all Christians to pray between **Ascension and Pentecost** for more people to come to know Jesus. Find downloadable prayer resources at <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/prayer-resources>

Prepare to take part from 21-31 May and use the prayer journal *Jesus loves all*, written by Methodist Youth President, Thelma Commey. Copies available to order www.methodistpublishing.org.uk



As the situation is changing rapidly, we are being strongly advised to follow the guidance of our denominations re Corona Virus. However there is a useful template to help communication with congregations re the pandemic and for 10 creative ways to worship using digital and other means: www.thykingdomcome.global.

THY KINGDOM COME
Join this global wave of prayer, 21-31 May 2020
Resources now available to order



Aldersgate Sunday on 24th May

Aldersgate Sunday is a great opportunity to celebrate the work of God in our lives, and to reflect on how we should respond to everything that God has given us.

In May 1738, John Wesley "unwillingly" attended worship at a Moravian 'Religious Society' meeting on Aldersgate Street in London not far from St Pauls Cathedral. It was during this service that he felt his "heart strangely warmed", as he experienced God's love in a most personal and life-giving way. Until then he had known God in his mind, but not in his heart. Now he understood the value of a personal experience of God that would bring assurance of salvation to the believer.

To commemorate Aldersgate Sunday, we are invited to plan a **Feast of Faith**, which could be quite a challenge this year as it'll be online because of Coronavirus guidelines !

However it should be possible to have a joyful sharing of food, and inspired by John Wesley's 'Aldersgate' experience, encourage church members to talk about how their experiences of God's love and grace have changed their lives or are inspiring mission in the church or community.

Download everything you need to hold your very own Feast of Faith here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/methodist-special-sundays/aldersgate-sunday/>



Coronavirus has forced cancellation of Methodist Conference.

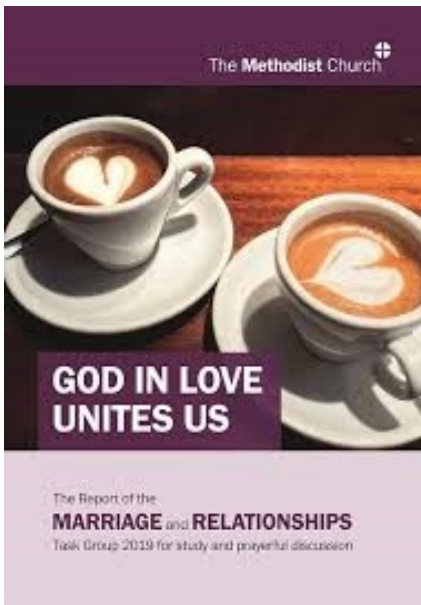
A Statement on the Methodist GB website

"The Methodist Council has agreed that the Conference cannot meet as planned in Telford in June and will look at ways for the Conference to meet in an alternative form. The officers of the Conference will bring

proposals for the functioning of this alternative meeting to an additional meeting of the Council.

The restriction on groups meeting has meant that some Synods have not been able to meet and give full consideration to **God in**

Love Unites Us, and the Council therefore also agreed that the debate and voting on the provisional resolutions will be **deferred until the 2021 Conference**. This also means that any other business (eg memorials) relating to those resolutions will not be considered this year.



We understand that for many people the decision about the Conference may cause uncertainty and worry, but please be assured that we will issue further updates as soon as decisions are made. We will communicate directly with those most affected (eg. ordinands, district reps, and volunteers) as soon as we are able to do so and we shall keep the website updated.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/latest-news/all-news/the-methodist-conference-will-meet-in-an-alternative-form-this-year/>

All Things Hold Together

Every day at 1.17pm, **All We Can** is sharing positive and uplifting content on the theme of 'Colossians 1:17 – All Things Hold Together' – a series of encouraging broadcasts that you can watch and join in with from the comfort of your home.



Methodist
relief and
development

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/all-we-can-1-17-programme-all-things-hold-together/>

A Prayer for Our Uncertain Times by Fr. Michael Graham, S.J.

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health and paying their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools are closed remember those who have no such options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

And during this time when we may not be able to physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours. Amen.

<https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/coronavirus-prayers>



Love Yourself - Love Your Neighbour

The Evangelism and Growth team of the Methodist Church is really excited about the launch of a new social media campaign: **#loveyourself #loveyourneighbour**.

Launched by Methodist UK website on 13th April it is hoped that it will engage with the many wellbeing conversations that have recently sprung up. At its centre will be a gentle rhythm of daily contemplation and action for those of faith, those searching, and those who do not know what they believe.

The aims are:

- to share the riches of the Christian faith in a way that is easily accessible.
 - to connect with those who have no prior contact with the church and who don't use or understand religious language.
- to reflect the places and people we hope will encounter God's love during all that is unfolding.
In the moments of stillness, we pray they might glimpse that God is close, more fully appreciate who they are, and increasingly love their neighbour.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus/love-yourself-love-your-neighbour/>



Leatherhead

Methodist Church

The Virus, Easter and Me

"We are living in unprecedented times" is being quoted since Covid-19 started sweeping across our planet from the end of last year. It's not the first time we have had a pandemic. I was working in Barnet General Hospital, North London during the Asian flu epidemic in 1957 when teenagers were dying in hospital within 48 hours and 2 million people perishing world-wide.

Easter was certainly different this year. Staying at home, hand washing and social isolation since 23rd March affected us all and when Easter came we found churches closed. Thanks to technology and the skills of David, Jan and contributors we were able to worship together. Using more skills we had a zoom meeting recently of church stewards and Jan, and after a wobbly start stayed connected, my first time on zoom which was followed for me with a family birthday party, 2½ hours on zoom, not recommended!

From the quiet and stillness of my garden I was able to link the four days of Easter together and follow the Easter message and its relevance to our present situation. Like the disciples 2,000 years ago we are bewildered and confused as to the future and how we are going to get out of this lockdown.

Standing by the empty tomb Jesus said "Who is it you are looking for?". As in previous pandemics we will get through this one and face the challenge of change and look again at ourselves, our faith, humanity and care of people and our precious planet.

We will then be able to answer the question Jesus asked.

Fred Meynen

A letter from our friend Peter...

*(Concert Manager for Music on Thursdays and
Christ Church on Wednesdays)*

Holy Week has been a week of sleep, work, and relaxing in front of the television. The good weather encourages me to catch up on the washing because it is so lovely to be able to dry things outside, naturally.

And then I begin to think about those who don't have their own 'outside', only a communal one, or less than that, a public space. Brixton, Camberwell, even parts of Wandsworth. And similar areas all around the country.

Cooped up in a flat with three children, parents may be learning how tricky it is to cater for two or three children of different ages. If they are lucky, one child may be deemed self-sufficient, the others needing constant supervision and stimulation. Will the phrase 'teachers have it easy' drop out of common use after this?

But this is supposed to be about what I have been doing. I was shamed into mowing the lawn when my neighbour offered to trim the front for me. Was he helping the elderly? It was kind of him, I am grateful, and I did give the back garden its first cut of the year. I love my garden, but garden'-ing' and I are really not pals.

I keep an eye on my almost centenarian neighbour. Just a daily phone call, or a chat at 2m distant (the foot of her front door ramp). And then there are other friends to phone and have a giggle with, which often leads to more serious discussion about their fears, and mine. Others still to exchange text messages or emails with.

I'm a little concerned about Mojmir in the Czech Republic. They are not allowed out without a face mask and then only a fixed distance from their homes. Just one unhelpful factor: there are no face masks. You have to make your own!

If we'd known this virus was coming perhaps Kellogg's or Persil could have printed guides on their packs. Make your own mask with Frosties!

And then we come to the serious part. Prime Minister recovering, likewise a local organist. But we've lost nurses, surgeons, entertainers who might have helped keep our spirits up.

Much closer to home, the Concert Society has lost one of its most regular, though one of its younger, supporters. A terrible shock for his husband to deal with alone, and for their friends and families too.

Remember: more than 99% of us will pull through. But, as I write this on Easter Day, my thoughts are with all those who have lost loved ones and who will lose people dear to them, and with those in health and care who lead the fight on behalf of us all.

Peter Steadman,
Concert Manager • Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society

Easter in Leatherhead

What a strange and difficult time. Whoever would have believed us if we had said "next Easter no-one will be in church"? How we have missed worshipping together in our church building. However, God has blessed us amazingly and has helped us to find new and creative ways of doing things. Thanks to our brilliant IT team, we have continued with Sunday services on-line. Over Easter we had additional on-line services, starting with a Service of Tenebrae (shadows) on Maundy Thursday.



A service of
Tenebrae on the
little screen on
Maundy Thursday

This was followed by a Good Friday service, with a virtual Walk of Reflection through Leatherhead. Then we had our Easter Day service, shared with our friends at Christ Church as all our services are at the moment.

On Palm Sunday this year we couldn't give out our Palm Crosses, although we had a good supply. So instead Jan placed lots of crosses on a large cross outside our Tower Porch door, with an invitation for people to help themselves.



Every Easter Day in previous years, we have decorated a cross with flowers as part of our morning service. This year we couldn't be in our church for Easter, but we have been able to have a floral cross, thanks to Norma and Ron.

The cross remains outside the church door as a sign of new life. It also shows all those passing that despite our building being closed, our church is very much open and witnessing to our risen Lord.

Also on Easter Day, we discovered that Jan and Angela had been singing resurrection hymns with Premier radio to the neighbours at the church door.



In addition to all the Easter “activities”, we have been mastering the intricacies of using the “zoom” software to communicate. We have a weekly zoom meeting of the stewards and Jan, while on Tuesday mornings we have continued our weekly prayer meeting by zoom, with several others joining us during the pandemic.

We also have a weekly church bulletin, and a weekly church news distributed by email with the principal items passed on by Pastoral Visitors to those without PCs. Pastoral Visitors and other members of the church have been keeping in touch with others through phone calls and emails and, while we have heard of one or two folk with symptoms of the viral infection, thankfully, all have tested negative. We pray for Paul Sutherland-Waite who lost his mother in early April. She was 99 and a regular worshipper at the Parish Church. We think of Paul and the family at this sad time.

Les Prescott

The Empty Cross?

Did you see LMC's on-line service on Sunday 19th April (the week after Easter)? Jan's sermon was based around the Gospel reading from John 20, verses 19-31 and "doubting" Thomas. Jan remarked upon the Protestant Church's tradition of displaying an empty cross - a reminder that Jesus had been raised from the dead with the cross now empty. He compared this with the Catholic tradition of displaying the body of Jesus on the cross - a reminder of His suffering and death. Seeing the body on the cross was, Jan felt, a visible reminder that His love will stop at nothing. Jan wondered whether we should have both crosses in churches.

This reminded me that, at our previous church, near where Maureen and I lived before moving to Leatherhead nearly 20 years ago, there were two crosses displayed.



The church is Christ Church with St Philip, an Anglican-Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) in the former Christ Church (Methodist) building in Worcester Park. For those who remember them, both Juliet Campbell and also Heather & Mark Corderey and family (formerly from Christ Church here) now worship there, having moved nearby. Members of the Parish church of St Philip wanted to keep the cross displaying the body of Jesus (most Anglican churches have this cross) while the Methodists wanted the empty cross. The two congregations couldn't agree on which cross could be used and the problem was solved by having both.

Les Prescott

A Reminder of some Needs of the World – apart from Coronavirus

At a time when the news is so dominated by Coronavirus, it may be useful to remember all the other great needs there are in the world!

Here in Surrey in 2016, there were more than 20,000 families with children who had special educational needs and disabilities according to the "Surrey Matters" magazine.

Although the UK is the sixth largest economy in the world, hunger is a real and daily problem in our communities. In school holidays families struggle to feed themselves, and homeless people are kicked and stamped on whilst asleep.

According to "Age UK" 2.65 million older people feel they have no one to turn to for help and support. Over 1 million older people in the UK are lonely. 200,000 haven't spoken to a friend, family member or neighbour in over a month.

There are problems of disappearing wildlife. A little while ago the Woodland Trust said that hedgehog numbers had halved in just 20 years.

In Bangladesh (Tear Fund said not all that long ago), 60 million people haven't got enough food, 80% of the country is prone to flooding and 31% of all people live in extreme poverty (living on less than £1.45 per day).

In 2017 (Tear Fund say) catastrophic flooding claimed over 1,200 lives across Bangladesh, India and Nepal, affecting an estimated 41 million people. Nearly 750,000 homes were destroyed or damaged and crops and livestock swept away.

In 2018 according to DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee), the earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia left over 200,000 survivors in urgent need. At least 1.5 million people were affected and the lives of 50,000 children were in danger.

A year ago Tear Fund highlighted the plight of the Rohingya people (Myanmar). Over 911,359 people had fled and urgently needed aid, at least 43,000 people were grieving the loss of a loved one and over 7,700 children had been orphaned.

Towards the end of last year, Typhoon Kammuri tore through the Philippines. Two people died, Manila airport was forced to shut, and at least 200,000 residents were evacuated from coastal and mountainous areas over fears of flooding, storm surges and landslides (BBC News).

Mali (Tear Fund have also said) is one of the world's poorest countries – over half of Mali's population live on less than £1.50 per day (2017 information).

As far as the Gospel is concerned, according to the "Africa Inland Mission" out of 3,700 people groups in Africa, 1,000 are still unreached (28% of the African population are unreached). In 2016 they said 344 million people are living in North Africa without knowing Jesus. 200 million are living and dying without even hearing His offer of salvation.

No doubt all these needs must seem overwhelming and many of us are not in a good position to give at the moment, but at least a lot of us have more time to pray!

Bob Greenfield

A prayer in time of distress

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your
love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

*Rev Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference
(Parish Pump)*

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead



Christ Church Diary



All services and other activities are suspended for the time being

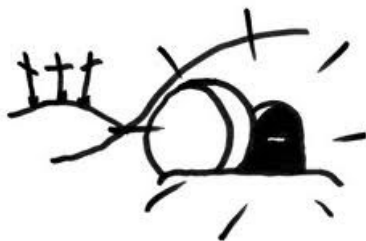
In the absence of our usual services and activities, you are invited to join in on-line worship each Sunday via the church's web site.

If you have any concerns or needs, please contact one of the elders or the Minister. Jan plans to carry on with pastoral visiting, but only if the persons concerned are happy to have him do so, and they are not showing any symptoms of the virus.

Although worship together is an important part of our spiritual life and growth, it is not the only one. We encourage you to spend time on your own in prayer and reading, and trust that, despite the lack of church services, we may nonetheless grow in our walk with Christ in these challenging days. We will keep in touch with you over the coming weeks.

With love to you all,

Jan Hofmeyr



Christ Church Family News



Anthony Cairns would like to thank everyone warmly for their prayers and messages of support while he has been suffering with the coronavirus. He is now mostly recovered, just a bit tired and thin, but enjoying his food again.

A number of people have been celebrating birthdays in March and April, including Mary Keene's 80th. She had a lovely day in the end, as did several others in spite of the lockdown. Mary thanks everybody for their cards, phone calls and beautiful flowers which made a memorable day for her.

We pray for all our members and their families in this period of lockdown, especially those living on their own and those with any kind of worry or health problems. We thank all friends and neighbours who have sustained us in this strange isolated world.

We pray especially for Mark, Jacqui Ball's son-in-law, who is very unwell in the ICU in St Helier, and for his wife Gayle and all Jacqui's family at this difficult time. Mark is fighting his illness with all his might and with great care and support from everyone. The family thank everyone for their prayers and support.

We pray for the safety and protection of all those in our community working in the NHS and on the front line, remembering especially Carol Bristow and her sister in law Alice. We thank those who are busy helping to make PPE and supporting the NHS in any way.

We are grateful to all churches and ministers for providing us with services and prayers on line. We look forward to normal times again when we can worship together in our churches.

Anne Cairns



Ascension Day is Thursday May 21st



Photos (also on p 31) by Alison Gillott.

31st May - Not a Ghost but a Gift

We used to call it Whitsun – ‘White Sunday’ because long ago children marched to church in white on that day, and processed round the towns in Whit Walks. No processions nowadays, and we’ve even changed its name. It’s now ‘Pentecost’, which is more accurate but needs explaining.

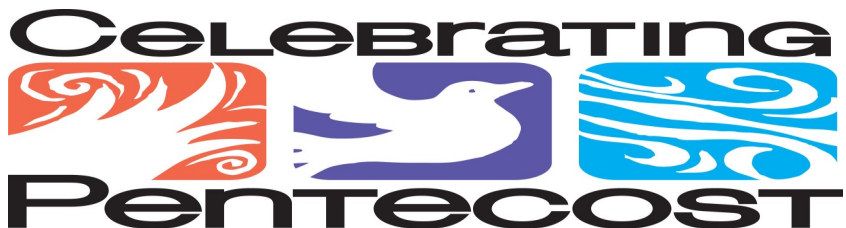
Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated on the 50th day from Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Pentecost they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival. Led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn’t helped by the earlier title ‘Holy Ghost’. The spirit is not spiritually a ‘ghost’ but a precious gift.

By Canon David Winter - Parish Pump



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):

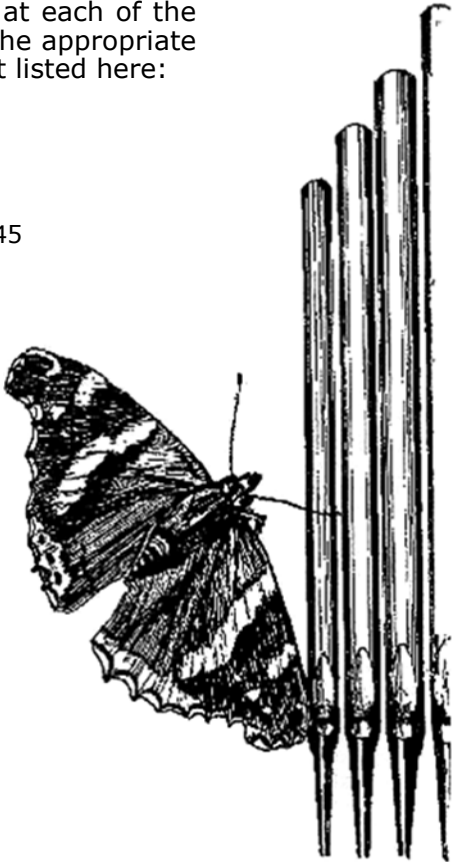
Epsom Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ST
www.chch.org.uk
Contact: Church Secretary -
Mike Essex 01372 273472

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



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