

the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

November 2012



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



CONTENTS:

Ministers' Letters	3 - 5
A message from the Editor	5
L'head, Oxshott & Horsley Choral Soc. Concert	6
Cobham Methodist Church	7 - 8
Cobham United Reformed Church:	9 - 12
<i>Introduction to Old Testament</i>	
<i>by Rev Dr Janet Tollington</i>	11
Effingham Methodist Church	13 - 17
Leatherhead Pages:	18 - 21
<i>Songs, Arias & Duets at LMC</i>	18
<i>Age Concern</i>	18
<i>L'head Trinity School Open Morning</i>	19
<i>A New Minister?</i>	20
<i>Church Projects Ltd, Messy Church</i>	21
Leatherhead Methodist Church	22 - 26
Christ Church (United Reformed):	27 - 31
<i>Scandinavian Music Concert</i>	31
Pastorate Details	32



Editor: Les Prescott
22 Yarm Court Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8PA
Tel: Church Office - (Tues & Thurs a.m.)
01372 362145

E-mail address for The Link:
pastorate.link@gmail.com

**All copy for the December issue to the editor by 15th November
but please see note on page 5**



The Ministers Write...



From Rev. Ian Howarth

November is a time of remembering, which will be focussed on our Remembrance Sunday services, which this year occur on the 11th November itself. I find it interesting that the further we get from the First World War the more we seem to want to make of it, with plans now being put into place for a major commemoration in two years time for the 100th anniversary of the start of that world changing conflict.

I have to confess I find this rather strange in several ways. I was brought up on tales of my two grandfathers, one of whom was a carpenter with the Royal Flying Corps, helping mend the wooden airplanes behind the lines in France. The other was a conscientious objector, who only escaped jail because he was an agricultural worker, and who instead was sent into internal exile, forbidden to go within 100 miles of his home village for the duration. Their different stories, set alongside the more famous ones from the war poets like Siegfried Sassoon and Robert Graves from an early age taught me the complexity of the issues surrounding that conflict that brought tragedy to so many across Europe.

I also find it strange in that for me, with my experience of Headley Court, Remembrance Sunday is a much more contemporary thing. There are several Grenadier Guards at Headley at the moment whose regiment has just come back from Afghanistan having suffered considerable casualties, who are grieving the loss of their mates while coping with their own injuries. Of course the numbers are tiny compared with 1914-18, but both conflicts continue to raise the questions we have to grapple with as Christians, whether such violence is likely to be the best route to a just and long-lasting peace. One retired Army chaplain told me recently that he is doing a doctorate on the settlement of 1945, to see what we can learn from one of the few examples in history when a nation, indeed a continent, was rebuilt peacefully after war. Perhaps that is something we should concentrate on more than repeatedly going back to the Somme.

Remembering war is important to express our solidarity with those who have suffered, but from a Christian perspective it has to go

hand in hand with learning the lessons about how we build the peace, which include hard questions about justice and respect for those who are different. While we may learn some of those lessons from a hundred years ago, our current Christian concern has to be for how we help build a just peace in places like Afghanistan and other trouble-spots in the world today.

Yours in Christ,

Ian

From Rev. Kim Plumpton

I attended an on-going training day on 3rd October with one of the elders from Cobham United Reformed Church. It was entitled 'Being Church in the 21st Century'. The theme was presented to us by John Bradbury, lecturer at Westminster College Cambridge. The morning session began by asking us to identify the notable differences between a particular church in the centre of London in medieval times and the same church today. The picture from medieval times showed the church at the very centre of a housing estate, with this magnificent building quite clearly at the very core of all that went on in the community. A reflection on the same church today makes the clear point that the church no longer sits neatly in the centre of a housing community, but competes with the high-rise financial institutions which surround it in the 21st century. No surprise then that the church is no longer at the centre but in need of finding a way back into the public square.

I was then challenged when John went on to say that the church began to decline at the time of the Reformation. I had only ever seen this as a time of great enlightenment and it had never occurred to me that the introduction of the printing press, the possibility of interpreting scripture for oneself could be seen as anything other than liberating. The need to gather with like-minded people saw the Church become more and more fragmented. Of course over time it has enabled people to make choices about where they worship, if at all.

On reflection we cannot deny that the church is no longer at the centre reaching from the inside outwards. Actually a new model is evolving with the help of those looking from the outside inwards.

It is helping us to see ourselves in a new light, one which can be critical of itself, one which asks very relevant questions about the existence of church and its relationship to society. Fresh expressions of church may well provide us with some of the answers we need to reach others but I suspect it is only the beginning of a whole new way of being church in the 21st century.

We are going through the refiner's fire but it can only make us stronger, the gospel message will not be lost, it may be parcelled up in a different way but the heart of God's love for his children will live on. We just have to remember the way we do it might not be in the same way we first imagined it.

With every blessing,

Kim

the Link

***A message from
the Editor***

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE DECEMBER "LINK"

Owing to unavoidable circumstances, I will not be contactable from 16th to 24th November. Consequently, the December "Link" will be delivered to churches one week later than usual - it will be in churches on 2nd December.

Will contributors please note that copy should be with me well before the deadline of 15th November, if possible. Late contributions will be accepted up to Saturday 24th November.

Apologies, and thank you for your understanding.

The Editor



Leatherhead, Oxshott & Horsley Choral Societies & Concordia Singers

Conducted by Ian Assersohn

present

VERDI
REQUIEM

Saturday 24th November 2012 at 7.30pm

with

The English Festival Orchestra

Soloists

Jane Streeton - Soprano

Stephanie Lewis - Mezzo Soprano

Ben Thapa - Tenor

Robert Winslade Anderson - Bass



GLive, Guildford GU1 2AA

Tickets: £12, £16, £20

Box Office: 0844 7701 797 GLive.co.uk





Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary - November



Sun 4th	11.00am	David Cappitt
Wed 7th	7.30pm	Bible Study *
Thurs 8th	10.30am	Bible Study *
Sat 10th	10.00am 2.30pm	Time 4 You Platinum Service
Sun 11th	11.00am	Rhys Frost
Wed 14th	7.30pm	Bible Study *
Thurs 15th	10.30am	Bible Study *
Fri 16th	4.30pm	CYC @ URC - Children in Need - "Going Round the Bend" (see page 12)
Sun 18th	11.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion
Sun 25th	11.00am	Alex Cloke
Fri 30th	4.30pm	CYC @ URC

November House Fellowship - to be arranged

December

Sun 2nd 11.00am John Oborn

* Bible Study

The weekly series of bible-based discussions of contemporary issues, held at Cobham URC, is continuing with a morning session repeated in the evening (or vice versa). See page 10.

"Time 4 You"

Saturday 10th November

10.00am - 12noon



[Next month, the December "Time 4 You" will be having a 'Coffee Morning' in aid of the Cobham Community Fund. There will be baked goods, cards, jams, chutneys etc. on sale for Christmas.]

Dateline 19th October, Biharamulo, Tanzania

I had a friend some years ago who always wrote up a diary account of the day, and when we were travelling together he'd often ask "What was today's amusing incident; something to put a smile on your face?"

Yesterday began for me about 3.30am, as I had to catch a long distance bus across Tanzania departing at 5.00am. It was a long and very tiring journey (9 hours by bus and ferry followed by 2 hours by car). Each time we stopped, the bus would be surrounded by people selling soft drinks, cakes, loaves of bread, and a variety of cheap trinkets.

Occasionally one of them was well enough in with the bus crew to board the bus with his or her wares at one stop and get off at the next. One such had a pile of paperback books - some religious, some educational, but mostly what used to be called penny dreadfuls. He handed them round for people to look at, then later collected either the books or the money. When he got to me he offered me the only book in his stock that was in English. The title: "The easy way to learn basic English". I didn't take it but I did smile.

David Cappitt



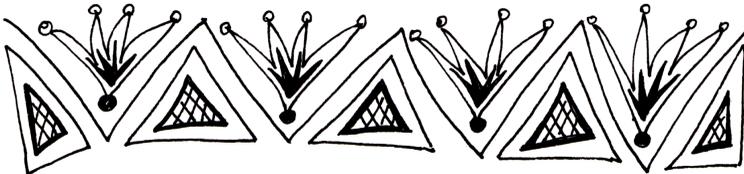
Cobham

United Reformed Church

Cobham URC Worship Diary November



Sun	4th	9.00am 10.30am	Early Bird Service led by Jane Allen Rev. Derek Wensley
Sun	11th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion Remembrance Sunday
Sun	18th	10.30am	Sydney Shore
Sun	25th	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth
December			
Sun	2nd	10.30am	Rev. Roy Bones



Prayers at the Manse
at 9.30am on Wednesdays:
7th, 14th, 21st and 28th November

Cobham URC Events - November

Thurs	1st	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
Sun	4th	3.00pm	Special Needs Group (to 6.00pm)
Tues	6th	9.45am 7.30pm	Church Walk Elders' Meeting
Sat	10th	10.30am	Rev. Dr. Janet Tollington, Cambridge Lecturer on the Old Testament joins us for the day (see page 11).
Tues	13th	10.00am	Coffee for Carers at URC Cobham
Thurs	15th	7.30pm	Evening House Group at Isobel's
Fri	16th	4.30pm	CYC meets at URC Cobham (to 6.30pm). Children in Need 'Going round the bend' - come and support the children as they cycle/skateboard/scooter around as many laps of the car park as they can for charity. (See page 12)
Fri	23rd	3.00pm	T @ 3 at church
Tues	27th	10.00am	Coffee for Carers at URC Cobham
Fri	30th	4.30pm	CYC meets (to 6.30pm)

Bible Studies with Rev. Kim Plumpton

focussing on topical issues such as:
the right to die; immigration; abortion; work and
unemployment; environmental concerns and human rights.

Wednesdays 7th & 14th November - at 7.30pm

Thursdays 8th & 15th November at 10.30am

Introduction to the
Old Testament
By
Revd Dr Janet Tollington
Lecturer at Westminster
College Cambridge

Date:
10th November

Time:
10:30-4pm
*Lunch is pro-
vided*

Venue:
*Cobham United
Reformed
Church
Stoke Road
KT11 3BD*



This a wonderful opportunity to explore the Old Testament. Revd Dr Janet Tollington is a lecturer at Westminster College, Cambridge where she lectures in Old Testament Studies and Hebrew. Come along and enjoy an engaging day; lunch will be provided. There is no cost but donations towards the morning are welcome.

Contact details: 01932 586988



**Children in Need
16th November
4:30pm - 6:30pm**

‘Going round the bend’...

That’s what we will be doing on 16th November as members from CYC and helpers (nice try but no-one gets out of it!!), will be trying to see how many laps around the church car park we can notch up for charity. If you see a sponsor form heading your way please support this amazing event, or even come on the night to rally them along - Thank you!!



Effingham

Methodist Church



Dates to celebrate this month

Happy Birthday to Freddie Jenkins on 4th November, Barbara Rombach on 18th and Pat McElhill on 19th.

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

Dates for your diaries -

Advent meetings start on 26th November at the Catholic Church Hall - details to be confirmed.

Churches together in Effingham & Little Bookham are holding another **Café Church** at **King George V Hall** on **Saturday 3rd November** from 10.00am to 11.00am.

Coffee and croissants = food for thought!



KGV's Fireworks Spectacular on 3rd November at 6.00pm.

Advance tickets £3 from the Post Office or Parker & Son in The Street, Effingham. £5 on the gate, under 12's free.

See page 15 for full November Diary

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

What does it mean to be rich?

This is the question that I am asking myself at present. The main reason is that my daughter Helen and her husband Steve are spending the whole of October travelling round India, stopping at palatial hotels and seeing all the places they want to visit. She sends me fascinating emails of what they are seeing and doing. At the same time, there are TV programmes entitled "Visit India" showing a different side of that great continent, poor families living in shacks on the beach which are periodically bulldozed by the authorities (only to be rebuilt!), and young men digging out bucketfuls of revolting mud to try and find minute traces of gold to sell.

Then there are the constant requests from charities for donations for any number of worthy causes. Yes, I am rich, not really financially, but in all the good things of life. A comfortable home, enough food, friends and family, but still I have to refuse to take on any more charities as I already support 14. But Jesus tells us to give all that holds us back from God, and Paul reminds us that "the more you leave behind, the more all things are yours" and "as having nothing and yet possessing all things". But does that mean supporting even more charities, including "providing music for Methodist Dementia Homes"? Please tell me, Lord!

Freddie Jenkins



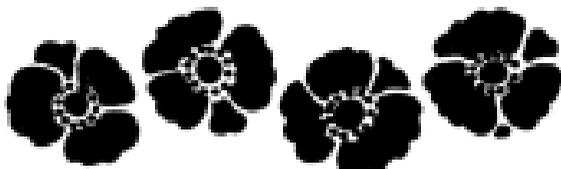
Effingham Methodist Diary- November



Sat	3rd	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall (until 11.00am)
Sun	4th	10.00am	Rev. Frank Smith - Holy Communion
Thurs	8th	2.00pm	Bible Study Group meet with Kim in the hall
Sun	11th	10.00am	Remembrance Sunday - John Oborn
Tues	13th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	14th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Sun	18th	10.00am	Mrs Jay Dunning
Thurs	22nd	2.00pm	Bible Study Group meet with Kim in the hall
Sun	25th	10.00am	David Cappitt
Mon	26th	7.30pm	Advent meeting in the Catholic Hall (1 of 3)
Tues	27th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	28th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church

December

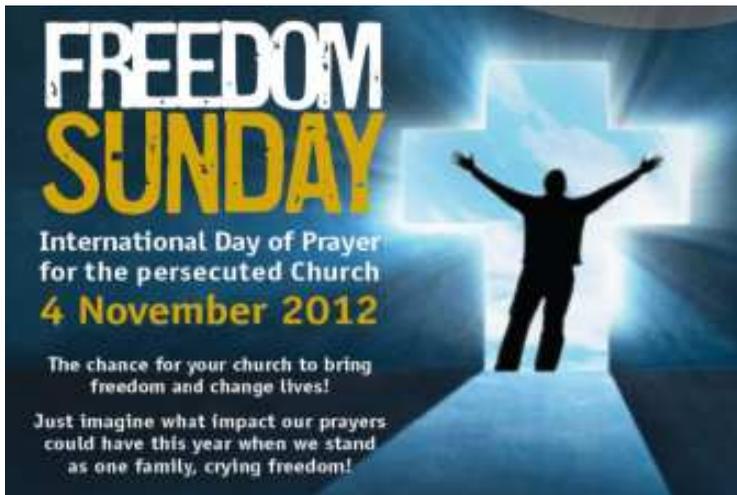
Sat	1st	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall (until 11.00am)
Sun	2nd	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion



Be a voice for the voiceless on
Freedom Sunday - 4th November

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church 2012

An imprisoned church leader in Iran is desperately ill and is being denied adequate medical treatment. On 4th November, join churches around the world to pray for him and others around the world who suffer for their faith.



Pastor Behnam Irani has been beaten severely and regularly by the prison authorities and other prisoners since he was jailed last year. He has difficulty walking, is barely able to speak, and urgently needs intestinal surgery. He may have only months to live, but is serving a combined six-year sentence for “action against the state” and “action against the order.” But the written verdict describes him as an apostate (someone who has left Islam) and states that apostates can be executed. Unfortunately, he’s not the only one. More and more people around the world are experiencing harassment, imprisonment, torture, or even fatal attacks, simply because of what they believe.

Download a resource pack including a small group Bible study, sermon ideas, children’s activities – and loads more from **Christian Solidarity Worldwide:** www.csw.org.uk/pray

Even top scientists say culling Badgers won't eradicate Bovine TB

A group of professors from leading universities and zoological institutions across the UK have urged the Government to reconsider controversial plans for a badger cull to tackle bovine TB.

More than 30 of the UK's leading animal disease experts, including the president of the Zoological Society of London, and professors from Oxbridge and Imperial College London, wrote an open letter to the Government in October which argues culling badgers could increase the problem of TB in cattle.



Many high profile conservationists are also opposed and have posted comments on www.savethebadger.com

"The evidence is that a badger cull on a scale or level of efficiency that seems feasible will not solve cattle farmers' problem – that problem is truly serious. Understandably, the feeling is that something must be done, but the evidence is that it should not be a badger cull." **Sir David Attenborough**

"Come to Wales, fabulous scenery, great hospitality and the place where we slaughter Badgers. . . Well, that would look good in the tourist brochures wouldn't it? To sanction large scale killing of badgers in Pembrokeshire, when science proves there is no point, is a crime that we should all fight against". **Chris Packham**

Queen guitarist and astronomer Brian May launched the TEAM BADGER Campaign to try and stop the cull and is taking the fight to the EU courts. It's a coalition of organisations that have teamed up to fight the planned cull, and say if it does go ahead as planned, at least 70% of badgers, many of them healthy, will be killed. We don't want to let that happen.

Join the fight and check latest news on www.teambadger.org

Leatherhead Pages

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

Songs, Arias and Duets

Saturday 17th November at 7.30pm
Leatherhead Methodist Church

An evening of song with Ian and Rosie Howarth,
and Jane Searle, accompanied by Judith Flint.

Including songs by Schubert, Faure and Purcell
and excerpts from Mozart operas.

Programmes at the door: £7.00
for Happy Child International
and Age Concern Mole Valley North



Dennis Wickham of Age Concern Mole Valley North wishes to announce another six-week computer course beginning on 7th November. Please contact him on 01372 879083 for more details



Next Messy Church:

Thursday 15th November
3.30pm to 5.30pm at





Leatherhead Trinity School
and Children's Centre



Leatherhead Trinity: a learning community for all

OPEN MORNING

9:30am, Monday 12 November

Leatherhead Trinity is an ecumenical church school, with an ethos built upon three key principles: child-centred, community focussed and achievement for all.

If you are thinking about which school to send your child to in Sept 2013, come along to our Open Morning. Meet staff and parents and see our happy, caring school in action.



If you would like to visit on a different date,
please contact the school office on 01372 813615.

A New Minister?

With my appointment to Birmingham next September, the process has begun of stationing a new minister to LMC and Christ Church, Leatherhead. Under the terms of the Pastorate agreement, my successor will be a Methodist minister stationed using Methodist procedures.

In Methodism all ministers change in August, and, all being well, a new minister should arrive to replace me within weeks of us leaving. Representatives of the two churches together with the Circuit stewards have drawn up a profile of the appointment, and this has now been sent along with the profiles of all the churches looking for a new minister to all the Methodist ministers who are on the move next year.

The representatives of the two churches on the invitation committee, Carol Stoves for LMC and Mike Essex for Christ Church, have also received the profiles of all the ministers who are moving. The ministers will draw up a list of preferences of appointments they feel God may be leading them to, and the Circuit Invitation committee, including Carol and Mike, will draw up a list of ministers they believe could match our needs.

These preferences are sent to the Chair of the Methodist District, who in early November will meet with all the other Chairs across the country to match ministers with circuit appointments. It is like a giant jigsaw puzzle and inevitably compromises have to be made. Some ministers will be on many churches list of preferences, others are very constrained about where they can go for all sorts of good reasons.

After that meeting, on the evening of Thursday 8th November, a minister will receive a phone call saying they have been matched with Leatherhead, and the Circuit Steward will receive a phone call giving them the name of the minister.

That minister must visit Leatherhead within the following 10 days, and Mike and Carol are deputed to work with the Circuit Stewards to arrange as much appropriate consultation as possible during that visit, after which a recommendation will be made from the churches to the Circuit Invitation Committee as to whether an invitation is issued to the minister concerned, which she/he will reflect on prayerfully before deciding whether to accept or not.

If the match does not work, the whole process is repeated again in December, and there is a third round in January, should that not be successful. This year, there are a similar number of appointments available as ministers on the move.

I hope that makes some sense of the complicated process, which is an attempt to be fair to all churches, circuits and ministers. Please hold all involved in your prayers over the coming month, and be prepared to play your part in any consultation.

Yours in Christ,

Ian Howarth

Church Projects Limited

In the summer the Christ Church Church Meeting and the LMC Church Council agreed to engage the church architect/consultancy firm CPL, (Church Projects Limited), to do an options study on the future of the two churches.

This will involve interviewing members of the congregations, the local community and other groups, and a review of our church buildings and their sites, and is going to start in November.

Over six months they will draw up a report which will give us costed options for the future use of our sites, with an emphasis on how they can be used for God's mission and the development of our work for Christ in the community. They will also give us ideas about how their options can be funded.

We have appointed a Steering Group, with four members of each church to brief them, but their individual conversations with church members will be equally important and if you are asked I hope you will be able to make time to talk with them.

The company are a Christian group and come highly recommended from colleagues, both URC and Methodist, for whom they have done work in other parts of the South East.

Ian Howarth

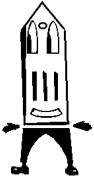
October 18 marked the second anniversary session of Messy Church. Look out for a very special birthday cake display in each church, celebrating this milestone!



This year we are exploring the stories Jesus told and our birthday session was on the Parable of the Talents. Children and adults enjoyed learning new skills, including finger knitting, bubble painting and making peppermint creams. We were challenged to think about the things we enjoy doing and the things we are good at. And we were reminded that God doesn't want us to hide the gifts that he has given us, but use them in his service.

Messy Church takes place on the 3rd Thursday of each month and is run by an ecumenical team from Leatherhead Parish Church, Christ Church (UR) and Leatherhead Methodist Church. Pick up a postcard in church with all the dates and details for 2012/13, or contact Jane Smith for more info:

(Tel 07834 051046, Email janevcw@googlemail.com)



Leatherhead

Methodist Church



Diary - November



Fri	2nd	2.30pm	Time for Tea (to 4.30pm) (see page xx)
Sun	4th	10.30am	James Cameron
		6.30pm	Rev. Paul Cockburn
Sun	11th	10.30am	Alex Cloke
		6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth
Mon	12th	10.00am	West Hill School Community Café at LMC to 12noon
Thurs	15th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sat	17th	7.30pm	Songs, Arias and Duets (see page 18)
Sun	18th	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Joint Evening Service at Christ Church Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion
Sat	24th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at the Catholic Hall
Sun	25th	10.30am	Rhys Frost
		6.30pm	New Fire
Mon	26th	10.00am	West Hill School Community Café at LMC to 12noon
<u>December</u>			
Sun	2nd	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth

Housegroups - All Welcome

Monday House Fellowship meets fortnightly - contact Carol Stoves 377125

Wednesday House Fellowship meets monthly - contact Dreda Kitchen 200129

Friday Daytime Fellowship meets fortnightly - contact Jane Smith 372919

LMC Heritage Open Day

Until this year I had never stewarded at the Church's Heritage Day. My various bits of memorabilia had always been included in the exhibition, but that's as far as my taking part had been. But help was in short supply so I offered my support for Sunday afternoon. I was not sure what to expect, but talking to people presents no hardship for me, so I thought even if visitors were few and far between, I could always natter with the other stewards on duty.

And chat was what I did, and how interesting it was! One lady came in having walked from Effingham! Her interest was in the history of the building, and was keen to compare LMC with the little Methodist Church at Effingham. Fortunately, I had worked with Brian Godfrey on the production of the booklet on the history of LMC, which was part of our Centenary celebrations, and could remember a lot of the lesser known facts.

In the late 1800's Effingham was a flourishing Church community and a group from there, with Mr S. Mould, a leading Leatherhead businessman at the helm, bought the site in Church Road for the great sum of £231! For just under £250, an iron building was erected. It would have been somewhere in the area of what is now Ian's back garden. Methodists worshipped in the Iron Chapel until 1890 when plans were then made to build a brick building. What we see today, at least from the outside, is very little different from those early days. The walls must have some grand stories to tell - if only! We will have to make do with memories recorded in the booklet. The lady visitor would loved to have stayed longer but was off to the Parish Church.

Later a couple came in. They were both Catholics from Epsom and had never crossed the threshold of a Methodist Church before! They admired the open space the building offered, its lightness, the colourful chairs and the simplicity of the front of the Church with the Communion table. They were keen to know what we did - did we have a vicar or a priest? Could everyone receive the elements? When did we stand and sit down? All quite normal for us but unknown to them. They were surprised to know how many lay people actually take part in any service, especially the morning ones. They found our system of what they called 'government' quite hard to understand. To make decisions without having to

ask permission first from our 'priest' was an eye-opener. Their questions were endless, and my eye-opener was having to explain details of how we operate, especially day to day stuff which we do without thinking. They left with profuse thanks, on their way to St. John the Baptist Parish Church at Old Malden. Their questions made me realise how much 'hand holding' strangers need when coming into a new environment, even if they come from a Methodist background.

That Sunday afternoon was time well spent.

Jean Plant

LMC Family News

Our best wishes...

...thoughts and prayers are with Dot Marlow and Jean Knott as they recover from surgery.



Our thoughts and prayers...

...are with Mary, Robin and family following the death of Merry Worsfold on Friday 19th October.

TIME FOR TEA

COME for TEA and COMPANY

From 2.30pm to 4.30pm on

Friday 2nd November at

LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

EVERYONE WELCOME

If you need transport please contact:

Margaret Meynen on 372930 or Gill Harris on 458518

(Suggested donation £1)

Operation Dynamo

As a national day of prayer heralded the nine-day evacuation of Dunkirk, what lessons can we learn from the famous deliverance of 1940?

On 10th May 1940, Winston Churchill took over the coalition government from former Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. Just 16 days later, Churchill would face the toughest military and political challenge of his career. The 500,000-strong British Expeditionary Force had set out months earlier, along with volunteers from Canada, France and Belgium, in confident counter-defence against Germany's Blitzkrieg (Hitler's Panzer-led lightning strikes across Europe). But the BEF was soon overwhelmed. The Belgian army capitulated and Nazi tanks moved into Holland and France. Vast columns of the Allied armies were stranded on the beaches at Dunkirk, with the sea before them and the enemy advancing.

And so it was that, on Sunday 26th May, King George VI called for a day of national prayer. In every town, city and village, British people gathered to pray, even those who rarely entered places of worship. In the presence of the royal family in Westminster Abbey, the Archbishop of Canterbury read out prayers for deliverance. In his memoirs, Chamberlain wrote, 'This, the blackest day of all ... the day of prayer'.

Waiting for rescue

Ships from the British Navy gathered at Dover, waiting for the signal. Then, in the early hours of 27th May, Operation Dynamo was launched. The first large ships broke through and under heavy fire rescued just 7,001 men. Altogether some 850 boats from large navy vessels and commercial ships to civilian fishing craft and lifeboats, ploughed through the Channel continuously evacuating British forces. During the evacuation the Royal Air Force lost 474 planes, compared with 132 German planes, as the full weight of the RAF was thrown against the Luftwaffe. Even so, many Luftwaffe bombers pounded Dunkirk, sinking rescue craft and killing soldiers as they waited, waist-deep in water, for their evacuation.

On the Continent the weather remained dire, thwarting the German advance, which was further hampered by the RAF and strong, last-ditch local resistance. But strangely, the final blow was held back by Hitler himself. Some claim he never intended to subjugate, only 'liberate' the 'Germanic' English, for whom he held respect. Whatever the reason, Operation Dynamo was a near-miraculous deliverance. The original British plans had been to rescue 45,000 soldiers within an expected two days' grace before advancing German armies arrived. In the end, a total of 338,226 soldiers (198,229 British and 139,997 French) were rescued over nine whole days.

Miracle of deliverance

In Churchill's famous 'We shall fight on the beaches' speech to Parliament on 4th June 1940, he said: 'A week ago today, I feared it would be my hard lot to announce the greatest military disaster in our long history. The whole root and core and brain of the British Army seemed about to perish or to be led

into captivity... But there was a victory inside this deliverance, which should be noted'.

This 'miracle of deliverance' was ascribed to the RAF, although the nation knew it was not by might of men alone that so many were rescued against such odds. The day of prayer had galvanised people to petition a higher power, one who could turn the heart of the enemy as 'water in the king's hand'. It was a miracle indeed. The prayer had been answered, just as other similar national prayers had worked deliverance - the failed attempt by the Spanish Armada to invade England 300 years previously, for example.

The resonances with the Exodus story are evident. The people of Israel, retreating from Egypt, are locked between the Red Sea and Pharaoh's superior forces. The cloud of God remains behind the people of Israel, protecting their backs and terrorising the enemy ([Exodus 14:24-25](#)); slowing down the Egyptians as Israel goes forward in a march of miraculous deliverance through the parted waters of the sea. 'The enemy said: I will pursue, I will overtake... But you have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed' ([Exodus 15:1-18](#)). But the underlying lesson of that distant event is far deeper than national deliverance from military enemies. It vividly portrays, in typological form, the salvation from sin that is obtained through faith in Jesus Christ.

Today

What if the UK were to gather again in prayer, crying out in repentance to the Lord? The pattern shown in Scripture suggests that God would have mercy on us, as he had on Israel, and as he had, in temporal terms, on those 380,000 soldiers 70 years ago. But who is our enemy? There's no aggressor baying for our blood, no flotilla waiting to invade. Materially, we have probably 'never had it so good' as a nation, recession notwithstanding.

Our real enemies are sin and Satan, manifested in widespread atheism, hedonism, immorality, selfishness and idolatry. Truly 'we wrestle not against flesh and blood' ([Ephesians 6:12](#)), but 'the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds' ([2 Corinthians 10:4](#)). So, would the UK ever again consider a national day of prayer? The nearest we got to it was on 12th September 2001, as we showed solidarity with the USA after its 9/11 atrocities.

The prayers of the remnant - God's people, saved through faith in Christ - must be offered up continually. We must pray for our monarch, heads of state, politicians, those running the media and all our institutions. The enemy is no longer without: he is within our very shores. Pray for another miracle of deliverance!

Written in May 2010, this article is by Simoney Girard and is reproduced from the Evangelical Times website www.evangelical-times.org with permission.

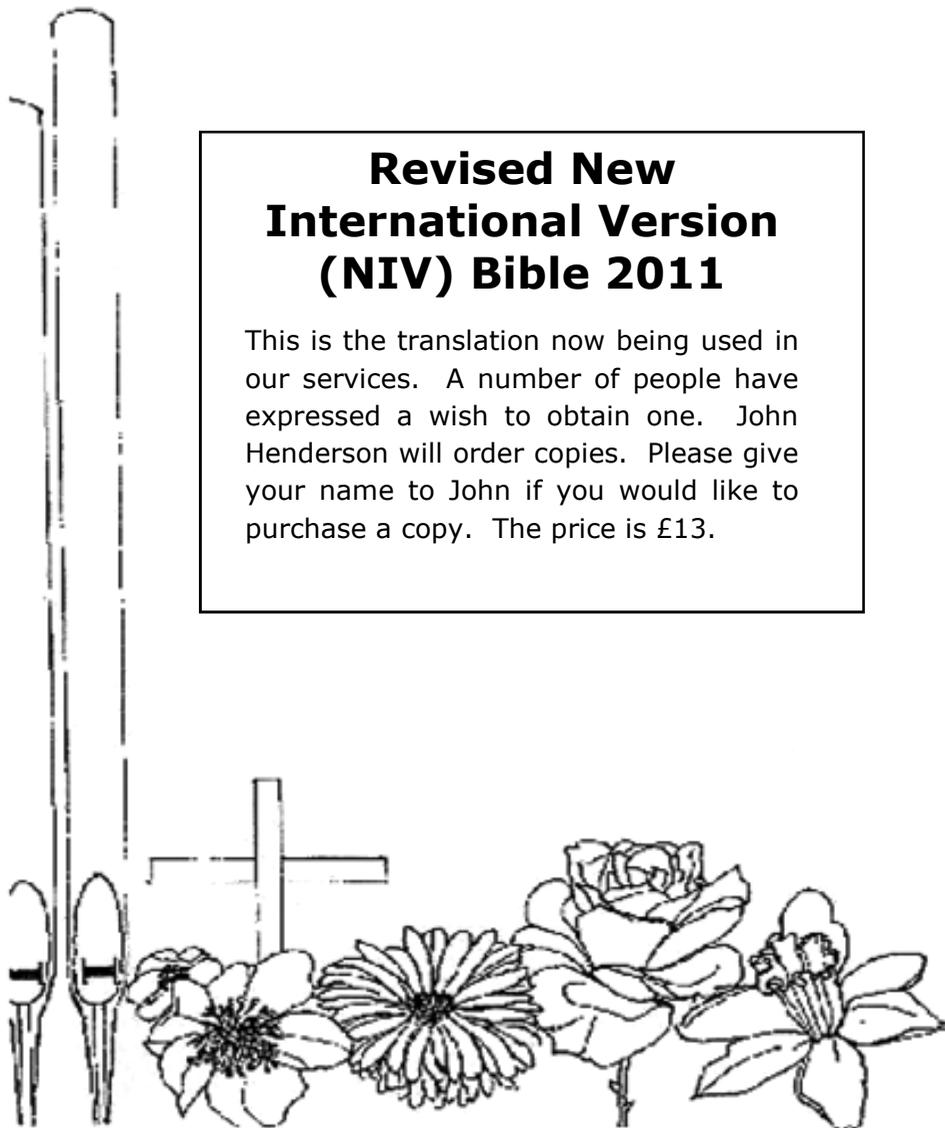
Bob Greenfield

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

Revised New International Version (NIV) Bible 2011

This is the translation now being used in our services. A number of people have expressed a wish to obtain one. John Henderson will order copies. Please give your name to John if you would like to purchase a copy. The price is £13.



Christ Church Diary

November



Sun	4th	10.00am 10.30am	United Morning Praise at Parish Hall Holy Communion: Rev. Geoffrey Dunstan (Retired URC Minister, Epsom) Organist: Gina Eason
		3.30pm 6.30pm	AntiphoniA concert of Scandinavian Music Evening Service at LMC - Rev Paul Cockburn
Tues	6th	7.30pm	Surrey Philharmonic rehearsal
Wed	7th	10.30am	Coffee & Chat at Garson's Farm
Sat	10th	10.00am	Synod Together
Sun	11th	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth - Guides Parade Service
		12.00noon 6.30pm	Church Meeting Evening Service at LMC - Rev. Ian Howarth
Tues	13th	7.30pm	Surrey Philharmonic rehearsal
Wed	14th	10.30am 11.15am	Coffee & Chat Organ Recital
Thurs	15th	am/pm 3.30pm	Police Commissioner election in hall Messy Church at LMC
Sun	18th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service: Rev. Donald Finnan Joint Holy Communion (URC/LMC) at Christ Church - Rev Ian Howarth
Tues	20th	7.30pm	Surrey Philharmonic rehearsal
Sat	24th	8.00am 7.30pm	Men's Breakfast Fellowship at the Catholic Hall Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra Concert
Sun	25th	10.30am 12.00noon 6.30pm	Rev. Kim Plumpton (Cobham URC) Church Meeting New Fire - Ecumenical - at LMC
<u>December</u>			
Sat	1st		Christmas Town Event
Sun	2nd	10.30am	Holy Communion - Rev. Barbara Pearson Organist: Gina Eason
		4.00pm 6.30pm	Christingle Service at the Parish Church Evening Service at LMC - Rev. Ian Howarth

United Reformed Church

Southern Synod

Surrey and Sussex Synod Area

Pastoral Committees Report

The Surrey and Sussex Synod Area Pastoral Committees met at Crawley United Reformed Church on 11th September 2012 and would like to report the following:

- We were pleased to welcome the Synod Moderator, Revd Nicola Furley-Smith, to the meeting.
- Since last we met Ian Chalmers and Alastair Dykes have died.
- Please remember in your prayers Jennifer Chalmers, Grethe Dykes, Peter Elliott, Elaine Dunn, David Littlejohns and Peter McIntosh.
- Revd Howard Rady has completed his successful term as Local Church Leader at Walton on the Hill.
- Revd Kenneth Lynch who was due to retire next year has been given permission to serve his pastorates until July 2014.
- John Corrie and Hilary Redman have completed their training as Lay Preachers.
- Cobham URC will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary on 22/23 September with a Flower Festival and Celebration Service.
- Eastwick Road, Bookham has held its first Messy Church.
- Sompting and Telscombe Cliffs are in vacancy.
- Local Mission and Ministry Reviews (LMMR) have commenced but there is still a shortage of people to conduct reviews. A further training event will be held at Wimbledon on 3rd November.
- The Synod Area is in need of a Lay Preaching Co-ordinator, and will shortly be seeking an Area Leader, and a Convenor and a Secretary for the Surrey PC. Churches are asked to send nominations for these posts to Jennifer Chalmers, Synod Area Administrator, email: jichalmers@btinternet.com
- Following the recent General Assembly resolution concerns were expressed about the registration of Civil Partnerships in church buildings.
- The next Synod Area Meeting on 2nd October, Crawley United Reformed Church at 7.30pm, will include reports from General Assembly.

•Pastoral Committees meet again on 6th November.

Christ Church Family News



Bernard Buckle is in Epsom Hospital again and we send him our very best wishes and hope that he is soon feeling stronger.

We are very sorry to announce the sudden death of **Stan Dodson** on 1st October. Although in poor health for some time, he managed to keep his independence and attend church and all the activities very regularly. We remember with gratitude the faithful service Stan gave to Christ Church over many years in so many capacities, including Elder's duties, Children's Church, care of the gardens, and the Tennis Club. We extend our sincere sympathy to Roger and Diana and their families in their loss.

We are very sorry, also, to announce the death of **Averil Parkinson** on 10th October. Averil had been in a care home for some months and had latterly become very unwell. It was wonderful that she was able to attend the recent wedding of her grandson Ian and to be with all the family. For many years Averil was involved with Scouting along with her husband Geoff, she taught in Children's Church and was Cradle Roll Secretary. We give thanks for her faithful service. We offer our sincere condolences to Brian, Keith and Jane and their families.

Both Stan and Averil will be greatly missed by us all at Christ Church and in the local community.

Steve Neal was suddenly taken ill on 16th October and within 24 hours had been fitted with a pacemaker and is making an excellent recovery. We send him our very best wishes for a speedy return to good health.

We are sorry to announce the death in September of **Peggy Hooper-Smith**. She was a member of Christ Church some years ago and was well known to several members of our congregation.

We remember in our prayers all these friends, also **Alec and Anne Scottow** and others undergoing treatment at this time.

Anne Cairns

CHRIST CHURCH, Epsom Road, LEATHERHEAD

3:30pm Sunday 4th November 2012

Scandinavian Music

from Norway,
Grieg and
Nystedt

Alfven's
Swedish Rhapsody
and music by
Fredrik Sixten
(50 this year)

Danish
choral music
1600 and 1995



AntiphoniA

the Leatherhead chamber choir

Gina Eason, organ

Stella Baylis, flute

Anthony Cairns, conductor

Programmes at the door. £10.00 (students £3.00). Refreshments.

In aid of Happy Child International and Age Concern Mole Valley North

www.chch.org.uk/antiphonia

020 8398 4896

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 -
Sue Friend 01372 813464

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:

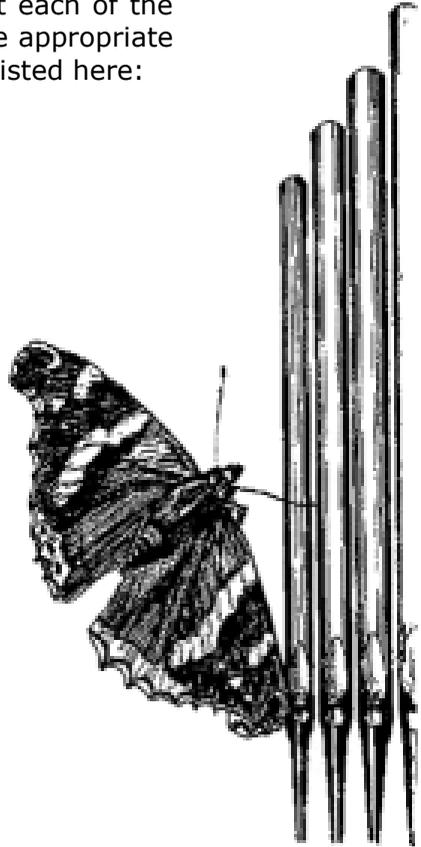
www.cobhamurc.org.uk

Contact: Church Secretary -
Mary Langtry 01483 282421

Cobham Methodist Church:

www.cobhammethodistchurch.com

Contact: Senior Steward -
Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



United Pastorate Ministers

Rev. Ian Howarth

10 Church Road
Leatherhead KT22 8AY
Tel: 01372 372743 (home)
01372 362145 (office)
07590 564544 (mobile)

E-mail:
ian@thehowarths.org.uk

Website:
<http://www.thehowarths.org.uk>

Rev. Kim Plumpton

38 Stoke Road
Cobham
KT11 3BD
Tel: 01932 586988

E-mail:
kimp_822@hotmail.com