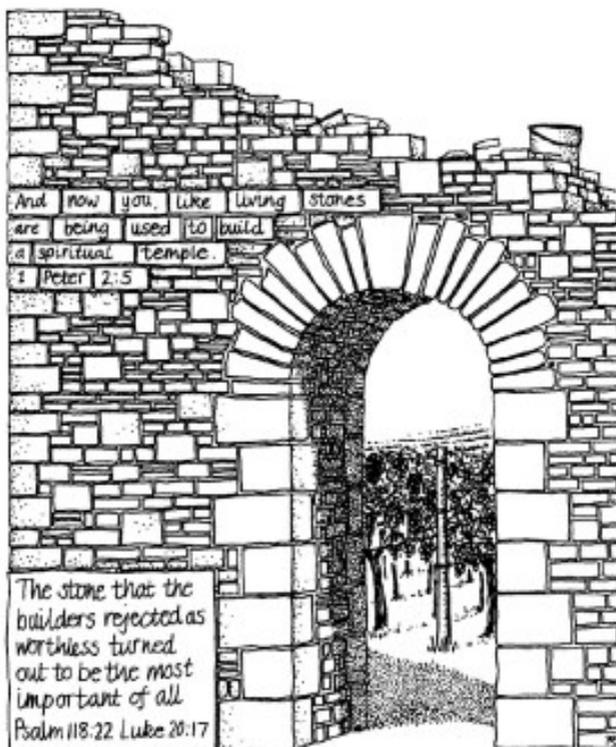


the Link

The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham

October 2016



The
United
Reformed
Church

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

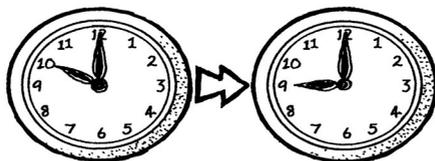
The **Methodist** Church



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October 31st: Don't forget



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All copy for the November issue to the editor by 15th October



The Ministers Write...

From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear friends,

One night, pouring my heart out in prayer, standing before the foot of the cross in church, I recounted my week in conversation with God and concluded after some reflection that instead of doing a few jobs well I had in fact done a lot of jobs poorly. My closing remarks ran along the lines of *'You must despair of me Lord, when will I ever get it right, maybe one day I'll be the perfect minister you want me to be.'* Yet as I stood there I suddenly became aware that perfection is not what God was seeking from me, if it was he could be waiting a long time.

Perfection is often something we strive for, but I wonder if it's quite what God intends for us. To be perfect is to reach 'the highest degree of proficiency, skill, or excellence.' It's not that I think God is not interested in us getting things right but I do think he's interested in what we do when we get it wrong and how we perceive our achievements or lack of them.

C.S. Lewis once said *'God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain.'*

Our need for God is not in seeking perfection that somehow our troubles will be whisked away or that we will no longer make mistakes, but that in our weakness God will still work, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."* 2 Corinthians 12:9.

There's a verse from a song called In My Weakness by Christy Galvin which also adds another useful dimension:

*When failures in my human strength have weakened all my pride,
And ruined hopes in fallen dreams have crumbled me inside;
It's then by grace I finally see the strength of Jesus Christ,
His victory is real in me when weakness fills my life.*

continued on the next page

It is often our own pride, our own ideas of perfection that makes us feel we have somehow fallen short, we measure our success by our own standards or by the standards that the world sets. Yet Jesus Christ has already paid the price, it is a costly grace we have been offered. God merely desires that we keep seeking him, we keep calling out to him, for a graceless journey made in isolation is doomed, governed by anything other than God.

God knows we are not perfect, God knows the frailty of humankind, all he desires is that we come a little closer and that we allow him to work through us, mistakes and all - that each day we might grow in the grace of God.

Every blessing
Kim

From Rev. Lynda Russell

Some of you may know that the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Church have chosen Justice and Holiness as their themes for the year. These are such important subjects for us as Christians at this time, particularly when justice is denied to many.

I'm sure most of us have noticed that children have a great sense of fairness. How often do you hear a child say, "It's not fair!" They seem to be able sense the injustice or at least the perceived injustice in many situations. To a child it's not fair that they have to go to bed when they would rather be watching TV, or that they have to do their homework before they can play, or that their friend can have the latest gadget for Christmas when they can't. But they can also see that it isn't fair when someone is overlooked when choosing teams or when sweets are divided unequally, or somebody cheats in a game.

As we grow, that sense of fairness gets tempered against the reality of life. To the child's cry of "it's not fair" comes the reply, "life isn't fair, get used to it". And so we accept it as the way of the world. We accept that not everyone gets a fair share of the world's resources and that seemingly good people suffer while those we see as bad prosper. This is nothing new; the Bible has a number of passages where the writer speaks out against injustice and unfairness. We see this especially in the Psalms, in Ecclesiastes, and of course the book of Job is all about the unfair things that happen to Job.

Yet those writers all reach the same conclusion, that although life may not be fair, God is. They seem to say that while we may see injustice in all sorts of ways around us it is neither God's will or wish for us. The Bible teaches us that the Kingdom of God is a place of justice and mercy, a place of fairness and of love.

As I write this, I have just come back from the District Synod. We heard from a spokesperson from Christian Aid – despite all the complaints about refugees and migrants lately – they only comprise around 0.25% of the population in the UK.

What can we as a church do to step into this situation to help bring about justice? We heard a few ideas of what others had done. Perhaps it's time that we stop accepting injustice when we can speak out against it. It is the task of the Church to make the Kingdom of God a reality, to work for justice and fairness for all, knowing that, while it may be hard to achieve, it is God's will.

Every Blessing,
Lynda

From the Editor

In the first Link when I took on this job I appealed for an Assistant Editor who would be able to take over from me in three years time. The response was a deafening silence—not even a still small voice. I think the Link is worth continuing. Do you? If so what are you prepared to do to ensure it does continue? If it's something you are unable to do yourself, is there somebody else you can persuade to come forward?

When I agreed to take on this job, I had already booked a holiday for the second half of October. Since there is no Assistant Editor to look after it while I am away, Les has kindly agreed to come back as a "Guest Editor" for the November edition - no change to the arrangements for submission of material. Many thanks Les.

David



Cobham Methodist Worship Diary



October

Sun 2nd 10.30am David Cappitt
6.30pm Welcome to Rev Gavin Hancocks (at
London Road, Horsham)

Sat 8th 2.30pm Platinum Service

Sun 9th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion
(Joint Service at URC)

Sun 16th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton (Joint Service)

Sun 23rd 10.30am Juliet Fuller

Sun 30th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton - with baptism
(Joint Service at URC)

November

Sun 6th 10.30am Tina Andrews



Next "Time 4 You"

Saturdays 8th October,
12th November
10.00am - 12 noon

We hear the roaring water, we see the foaming spray.
The mighty pow'r of nature compels us all to pray
"O Mighty Lord, Creator; O Maker of us all
"The finest work thou makest - the tumbling waterfall!"

The spray refracts the sunlight into the rainbow hues;
We feel the water shaking the ground beneath our shoes!
We gaze into the torrents, unto the Lord we call
"O Praise thee, God our Father for this, Thy waterfall!"

by Nigel Beeton
(Parish Pump)



Cobham

United Reformed Church

Worship Diary

October

Sun 2nd 9.00am Early Bird Service
10.30am Roy Bones

Sun 9th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion
(Joint Service)
Blessing the mugs before coffee in remembrance of Susan Abraham

Sun 16th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton (Joint Service at CMC)
6.30pm Service of remembrance for those we have loved and lost

Sun 23rd 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton
Service followed by a Church Meeting

Sun 30th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton (Joint Service)
Baptism of Eva Shavell

November

Sun 6th 9.00am Early Bird Service
10.30am Sydney Shore



Cobham Events

Sat	1st	10.00am	Visit of Rev Dr Val Ogden to Dorking Coffee Morning (to 11.00am)
Sun	2nd	3.00pm	Play and Chat (to 6.00pm)
Tues	4th	9.45am	Church Walk
		8.00pm	Elders' Meeting (URC)
Thur	6th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship (Sir Douglas Haig, The Street, Effingham)
Sat	8th	10.00am	Time 4 You at CMC
Tues	11th	11.00am	Church Council Meeting (CMC)
Thur	27th	3.35pm	Messy Church (to 5.45pm)

**Prayers at the Manse
Wednesdays at 9.30am
October: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th**

Saints' days in October.

It's good to remember the great men and women of the church from past years, some of whom are given the title of "Saint", with a special day on which to remember them, but many of whom are not. In October there are feast days for St Francis of Assisi (4th), St Luke (18th), and St Edward the Confessor (13th). There are also days for Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking, and for Hewald the Black and Hewald the White, Saxon priests who were martyred in the 7th century for insisting on continuing with Christian worship when this was opposed by other Saxons. What about St Denys of Paris, who was said to have continued preaching a sermon after he was beheaded at the order of the Roman Emperor Decius? That's dedication as a preacher! Finally, right at the end of the month we come to All Hallows' Eve, or the Holy Evening, later shortened to Halloween (*for more see p 31*).

DC



Effingham

Methodist Church



Birthday Dates to celebrate this month:

Happy Birthday to Jean McMillan on 8th ,
Margaret Warner on 27th & John Rogers on 30th
Please let us know about birthdays or BIG anniversaries !!

Effingham Congratulates David Cappitt on 50 years as a local preacher



David Putland presented David Cappitt with the gift of an olive tree on August 21st when he last came to Effingham, and thanked him for leading our worship on many occasions over the years and for all his words of thoughtful and prayerful preaching. We look forward to many more.



Heritage Weekend

Many thanks to everyone who helped so generously with our Heritage weekend, helping with refreshments and making delicious scones, cakes and dinosaur biscuits ! Despite the wet Saturday it was very successful with a total of 76 adults & 12 children visiting over the 3 days, and about £60 was donated. Lots of feedback including "The church looks quite small but when you get insideWOW !!! "

Ange & Dave Putland

“Connect” the fortnightly group for carers and partners with dementia

Come for refreshment, friendship, activities and fun.

We meet in St Lawrence Church Hall in Effingham from 10 am to 12 noon on alternate Thursdays - forthcoming meetings are October 13th and 27th. If you know someone for whom this sounds of possible interest and benefit, please let us know. You don't have to live in Effingham.

For more information call Gill on 01372 457987 (email gillianmwalker@gmail.com) or Kim on 01932 586988.

“Connect” Outings

There have been two lovely outings recently. The first was to Brooklands Museum where the library service had a stand explaining about their borrowing facilities for books, puzzles and memorabilia for groups such as ours. The group was treated to a delicious tea and cake before a short talk on the history of Brooklands and a tour of the site as our members chose.

The second outing took us on the water in the Surrey Care Trust's Swingbridge boat from Guildford's Dapdune Wharf with a delightful 4 person crew. The two-hour trip was so relaxing on what was a very hot day. The crew even managed to give us a cuppa and a biscuit on board

GW



Effingham Methodist Diary



October

Sun 2nd 10.00am Rev Kim Plumpton - Harvest Festival
and 162nd Chapel Anniversary
6.30pm Circuit Welcome Service for
Rev Gavin Hancocks
(at London Road, Horsham)

Sun 9th 10.00am Rev. Robert Davey

Tues 11th 2.30pm Tuesday Tea in the R. C. Hall

Thur 13th 2.00pm Christian Meditation in the church

Sun 16th 10.00am Waseem Haq

Thur 20th 12.30pm "OASIS" Bible lunch with Kim in the hall

Sun 23rd 10.00am James Wild

Tues 25th 2.30pm Tuesday Tea in the R. C. Hall

Thur 27th 2.00pm Christian Meditation in the church

Sun 30th 10.00am Ecumenical Service at All Saints

November

Sun 6th 10.00am Rev Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion

Your invitation to:



St. Lawrence Church Hall in Brown's Lane
Wednesdays 12th October and 9th November
~ 3.30 - 5.30pm



We celebrate our
162nd Chapel Anniversary on Sunday
2nd October
with a special Harvest Festival service led by Kim @ 10am followed by a pub lunch
At the Sir Douglas Haig
(List in the hall)
Collection for All We Can



Elaine's Big Sing

Life for Elaine Moran, confined to a wheelchair, is often difficult, but recently she joined a five thousand-strong congregation at the **Royal Albert Hall** for the recording of two episodes the BBC's **Songs of Praise Big Sing**, including a special Christmas edition. She enjoyed herself enormously, singing hymns old and new and some traditional Christmas Carols.

The programme's presenters **Aled Jones and David Grant** were there to introduce the star guests, two of Elaine's favourite singers, **Michael Ball and Alfie Boe**, and **The Priests**, a classical music trio of Roman Catholic priests from Northern Ireland. The inspirational **Gareth Malone Choir** were also there along with modern hymn-writers, **Keith & Kristyn Getty**, and **Laura Mvula**, and a soul-singer songwriter from Birmingham. There were also five choirs from around London, including the **Guildford Choral Society**, all backed by the **Big Sing Orchestra**.

Elaine said it was wonderful to be singing in the Royal Albert Hall as part of such a huge "congregation". She had never been to a TV-recording session before and said it was fun, although some parts had to be "re-done" as the presenters were not quite on cue !

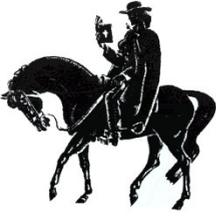
She very much enjoyed hearing the soloists and several modern-hymns, and said that the atmosphere was fantastic.

So a very uplifting and joyful day !

Of course you can share some of this atmosphere when the programmes are broadcast on BBC One on Sunday 9th October and on Sunday 25 December (Christmas Day).

You might even recognise Elaine !

Our Heritage



Despite the amazing support from church members **Heritage Weekend** is quite a challenge for us. We love history and a bit of industrial heritage but we don't want to bore the pants off people, by producing display boards that are of no interest or relevance to them.

This year, as well as dealing with village history, we decided to try and give an idea of what it was like to live around the 1800's, when non conformists decided to meet locally and build a chapel.

In 1842 we know that Methodists met on Ranmore Common in the open, or possibly inside a farm building at Cracknut Lodge. Although it was only for a few years it would have meant tramping some of the local paths we may know, which can be extremely wet and muddy, when the weather is bad. The preachers would have come from Dorking, Bookham or possibly Guildford. They would probably have walked or come by horse (more of this later). The railway had not come to the Effingham area yet!

Our meeting place in 1844 was Mary Cook's home, and, as we can see from copies of the Plan, preachers came significant distances to lead services. From as far away as Horsham, along the old London road through Capel and Dorking. We can only guess at how they made the journey but it is most likely that it was by horse. The journey to Horsham was on a rough road, wide enough for mail coaches and part of a route between London, Horsham and Brighton. Most of the other roads across "the Weald" were farm tracks many of them impassable in the winter because of wet sticky clay. No wonder Preachers often had a meal after the service before making the journey home!

These preachers are an inspiration to us all, for despite distance or bad weather they made the journey to Effingham to lead worship, and yes they sometimes came by horse and tied it to that ring and chain still hanging from left hand corner of the church building.

Thank God for preachers.....and horses !!

DP





We believe in life before death

Christian Aid Sing-along ?



Please come and join us for a **sing-along musical evening** in **Our Lady of Sorrows** hall on **14th October** at **7.15pm.**

Choice of film is by popular vote !

So it could be **Oklahoma, Singing in the Rain (the original version), The Sound of Music, The King and I, Chicago, South Pacific, Dr Dolittle, Carousel or West Side Story** if it's **not too long !**
WOW !

Spoilt for choice ! Some old favourites, like Fiddler on the Roof are sadly too long for a normal evening as it is a marathon of nearly 3hours !

How many songs will you remember ? Let's raise the roof and a few quid for **Christian Aid.**



Leatherhead Pages

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



A SPECIALITY COFFEE SHOP AND SANDWICH COMPANY

Open Mon-Sat, 8am-3pm

OPEN TO ALL

*the very best coffee +
the very best sandwiches =
the very best support
for young people*

All Saints, Kingston Road, Leatherhead, KT22 7BT



Next Sisters' Get-Together

Saturday 8th October 2016

8.30am – 10.00am

Parish Church Hall, Church Rd,
Leatherhead

Why not come along for breakfast and a chat with friends ?

Chance to catch up over coffee, croissants, fruit and more

**MUSIC
on
THURSDAYS
at LMC**



**WEDNESDAYS
at
CHRIST
CHURCH**

musiconthursdays.org

~~ **ARTS ALIVE FESTIVAL** ~~

JAZZ on Thursday at LMC

29th September, 12.30 lunchtime

The Tom Ridout

Acoustic Trio

Thomas Morley Ridout, sax & recorders

BBC Young Musician

Jazz Awards Finalist 2016

Will Barry, piano

Flo Moore, double bass

students of the Royal Academy of Music

Music on Thursdays at LMC

6th October, 12.30 lunchtime

Clare Tunney, soprano

Matthew Ryan, piano

courtesy of the Royal Academy of Music

Music on Thursdays at LMC

13th October, 12.30 lunchtime

Jacqueline Phillips, cello

JS Bach Cello Suites No 2 & No 6

LMC: Leatherhead Methodist Church
in Church Road, please use the town's
multi-storey or Church Street car parks

Wednesdays at Christ Church

19th October, 12.30 lunchtime

Guest organist: John Sharples

*Director of Music, St Nicholas Church,
Charlwood, Surrey*

Music on Thursdays at LMC

27th October, 12.30 lunchtime

Amici Trio,

*Gill Herbert, violin, Hilary Taylor, cello,
Lynda Chang, piano*

Music on Thursdays at LMC

3rd November, 12.30 lunchtime

Bennett String Quartet

Leader: Roma Tic, violin

*with Dr Victoria Bernath, viola
courtesy of the Royal Academy of Music*

Music on Thursdays at LMC

10th November, 12.30 lunchtime

Atéa Wind Quintet

*Concerts continue weekly
to the end of November*

*Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society
Registered Charity 1166764*

Time for Tea



COME for TEA and COMPANY

from 2.30pm to 4.30pm
on the first Friday every month at

LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

Next "Time for Tea" - Friday 7th October
(RAF Wartime Experiences by Harry Robinson)

The following next Time for Tea will be on
4th November, then every first Friday at LMC.

EVERYONE WELCOME

(Suggested donation £1)





A Summer to Remember

We've enjoyed a fantastic summer holidays at LYP. As always, we delivered a varied programme of events, trips and social action to engage local young people in positive activities. Read on for some of our highlights...

Romania 2016

Once again, we had the privilege of taking a group of young people from Leatherhead to help run activities and games for children in the villages of Soard and Czekefalva in Transylvania.

Both villages suffer from difficult conditions and poverty, and our role is about bringing fun, building relationships and helping the children to enjoy the summer. Our team did a fantastic job of connecting with local people, despite the language barrier,



and brought so much enthusiasm and energy as we ran games and helped with the local feeding programme. It was a memorable trip for our group of 13 and provides young people from Leatherhead with an amazing leadership opportunity. We're looking forward to hopefully running a much larger trip next year with young people from Leatherhead and Bookham.

Making Good,

our volunteering project, enjoyed a successful week in August, with local young people spending two days tidying the allotment and painting the All Saints church fence. Their reward was a trip to Thorpe Park on 17th August!



Beach Trip

Our annual **beach trip** to West Wittering was great fun, and this time we partnered with Stuart Ryland from Westcott youth club to run a joint outing for Mole Valley young people.



World Première

IAN ASSERSOHN

Dies Irae

A CANTATA

Saturday 26 November 2016,
7.30pm at Dorking Halls

Pre-concert discussion 6.30 – 7.00pm



In Remembrance

**Leatherhead Choral Society, Epsom Male Voice Choir,
Farnham Youth Junior Choir, Camerata of London**

Sarah Leonard *Soprano* Richard Bannan *Baritone* Ian Assersohn *Conductor*

Ticket prices: £16, £14, £12, £5 (under 14s)

www.leatherhead-choral.net/diesirae



Leatherhead

Methodist Church

***Please see the Leatherhead Pages
(pages 15 - 20) for more news***

West Hill School Community Café...

...is held at LMC every Friday morning at 10.30am, except during school holidays.

West Hill School in Leatherhead is an outstanding special school for pupils aged from 11 to 16 with learning difficulties and autism. The café is providing learners with opportunities to develop work-related skills as well as social and communications skills. Please come along on Friday mornings to support this very worthwhile enterprise.

Prayer Breakfasts

Prayer breakfasts are held on the third Sunday each month at 9.00am. It's a bring and share (non-cooked) breakfast with a short time of prayer fellowship before the morning service. All very welcome.

LMC House Groups

LMC has three House Groups where Church members or friends can meet together on a regular basis. These groups usually meet in someone's home, and are informal ways to get to know each other better, to share joys, concerns, and prayer requests if desired, and to discuss various subjects, either from the Bible or from other relevant Christian books. Everyone is very welcome to join a group. Please see Lynda if you are interested.





Diary



October

- Sat 1st 6.30pm Harvest Supper - Christ Church hall
- Sun 2nd 10.30am Youth led service**
4.00pm Songs of Love & Loss (*see next page for details*)
6.30pm Welcome service for new Superintendent at London Road
- Thurs6th 12.30pm Music on Thursdays (*see p16*)
- Fri 7th 10.30am West Hill School Café at LMC (*see p21*)
2.30pm Time for Tea (*to 4.30pm*)
- Sat 8th 8.30am Sisters' Get-Together at the Parish Church hall
- Sun 9th 10.30am Church Anniversary Service - Rev. Ian Field**
6.30pm Rev. Kath Jones with Holy Communion
- Thurs13th 12.30pm Music on Thursdays (*see p16*)
- Fri 14th 10.30am West Hill School Café at LMC (*see p21*)
- Sun 16th 9.00am Prayer Breakfast**
10.30am Rev. Lynda Russell with Holy Communion
- Tues 18th 3.00pm Service at The Beeches
7.30pm Church Council
- Wed 19th 12.30pm Organ Recital at Christ Church (*see p16*)
- Thurs20th 3.30pm Messy Church
- Fri 21st 10.30am West Hill School Café at LMC (*see p21*)
- Sat 22nd 8.00am Men's Breakfast at Parish Church hall
- Sun 23rd 10.30am United Service at Christ Church - Rev. Lynda Russell**
6.30pm New Fire
- Tues 25th 2.30pm Pastoral prayer meeting
- Thurs27th 12.30pm Music on Thursdays (*see p16*)
- Sun 30th 10.30am Rev. Gavin Hancocks**

November

Thurs 3rd 12.30pm Music on Thursdays (*see p16*)

Fri 4th 10.30am West Hill School Café at LMC (*see p21*)
2.30pm Time for Tea (*to 4.30pm*)

Sun 6th 10.30am Rev. Lynda Russell with Holy Communion
4.30pm Remembering with Thanksgiving Service

An Evening with Rev Dr Val Ogden **Friday 30th September at 7.00pm**

Val is coming to Dorking to the Christian Centre to say hello to old friends and acquaintances and to give a talk. This will be followed by supper and then a chance for a chat. Do come and see her then or alternatively over coffee in the Centre next morning.

To help with catering, if possible please let the Centre know you are coming (01306 886830 or centremanager@dorkingmethodist.co.uk)

Songs of Love and Loss

Sunday 2nd October at 4.00pm at LMC

Alice Bishop (Soprano) and Simon Marlow (Piano) are returning to LMC for a concert on the theme of 'Love and Loss'. It's a lovely programme and includes songs by Respighi, Debussy, Strauss and Korngold and some new compositions including a wonderful setting of Ozymandias by local composer James Francis Brown. And of course, most importantly, tea/coffee and homemade cake will be provided during the interval. Full details of the programme can be found via Alice's website:-

www.alicebishop.co.uk

Tickets £12 (under 19's free) Please contact Alice on 01372 454962 (messaging service) or email: infoabishop@gmail.com

NEW FIRE

Don't forget to plan to come along to the contemporary New Fire service at 6.30pm on the fourth Sunday evening each month at LMC. Stay afterwards for coffee and a chat.

Next New Fire - 23rd October



Next Messy Church for Leatherhead:

Thursday 20th October
3.30pm to 5.30pm at:



Men's Breakfasts



Leatherhead Men's Breakfasts will be at 8.00am on the following Saturdays:-

- 22nd October** at the Parish Church hall
 - 26th November** at the Catholic Church hall...
- ...then on the fourth Saturday each month.

All men of any denomination or none are welcome. A suggested donation of £4 would be appreciated to cover costs; any surplus is donated to the speaker's preferred charity.

LMC Family News



Congratulations to...

... Peggy Robinson who celebrated her 90th birthday in September,

... Ed & Eileen Lambert on their 66th Wedding Anniversary in September.

We think of...

... Members and friends being looked after in residential or nursing homes or at home, and those who care for them day by day.

Pastoral Visitors...

Pastoral Visitors' Prayer Meetings are held at 2.30pm on the 4th Tuesday every month at LMC. All pastoral visitors, Stewards and Christ Church Elders are welcome to attend.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 25th October**.

Monthly Service at The Beeches Care Home

A service is held at The Beeches Care Home in Forty Foot Road at 3.00pm on the third Tuesday every month. If you feel you can assist with running the service, please contact Lynda.

Visit of Rev Jeyapaul and Charles to LMC

Rev Jeyapaul was brought up in South India in the Dalit caste, known as "the untouchables". He was one of the first in his village to be educated, and eventually graduated and became a minister within the Church of South India.



Quite separately from his pastoral work, he and his family have set up an amazing hostel and community development project in Devakottai, a town in Tamil Nadu, South India. They have been able to educate Dalit children to whom an education would be denied, and provide a Christian fellowship that has helped hundreds of young disadvantaged people, especially girls who are denied so many privileges in India.

Rev Jeyapaul, and his son Charles, spent the weekend with us in September, as their third visit to Leatherhead.

They are seeking financial support for their project, and we have been glad to help them. They are visiting supporters in the UK, and are also seeking new sponsors. A child can receive education, accommodation, clothing and food in their community for about 42p per day. It seems a small amount to us but the results are amazing. For more information please visit their website at:

www.kathrynsmercyhome.org

David Stoves

Celebrating Harvest

In his book "Cider with Rosie", describing growing up in the Cotswolds in the 1920s, Laurie Lee writes that he lived at the end of an era as far as rural life went. It seemed that life had gone on in the same way for centuries, but after that it all changed. I grew up in a Lincolnshire village some 20 years later, and it seemed the same to me, and I guess that those who lived through the coming of the railways, or the land enclosures thought the same. Perhaps we all recognise change and feel nostalgia for what went before. Returning recently to the village where I grew up, and meeting and talking with some of those I grew up with brought on a dose of nostalgia for me, particularly since it is the time of the end of harvest and the time of Harvest Festivals.

Harvest began with men with scythes "opening up" a field. This involved cutting an 8 - 10 foot strip round the edge of the field, and hand-binding the wheat, barley or oats into sheaves with a band of straw. This allowed the tractor-towed binder to do the first circuit of the field without trampling down the crop. The binder was a fascinating, and ingenious machine, which could cut the wheat, bundle it neatly, put a length of string round it, tie a knot and cut the string before dropping it on the field.

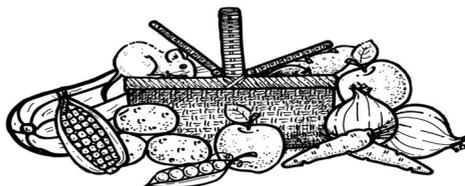


Then came the job that needed all hands, including young ones. The sheaves had to be picked up in pairs, one under each arm, and put into tent-shaped stooks, which stood in the field for a week or two to dry. Then the wagons came, and they were loaded up and taken to the farmyard to be stacked.



Always after the harvest came the Harvest Festival, timed so that there was a reasonable hope that we could truthfully sing "All is safely gathered in". The front of the chapel was piled high with produce, and filled with scent of fruit, vegetables and flowers, and we thanked God for another year's harvest, as we still do.

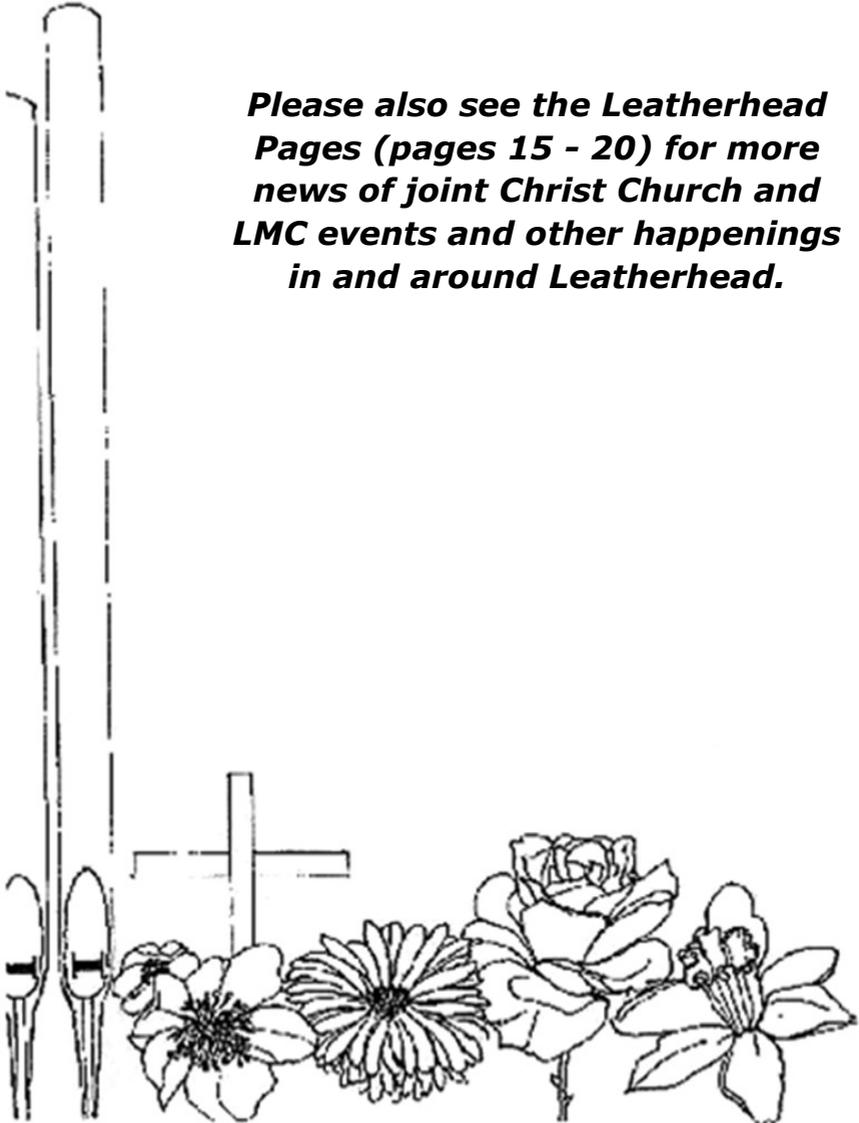
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Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

***Please also see the Leatherhead
Pages (pages 15 - 20) for more
news of joint Christ Church and
LMC events and other happenings
in and around Leatherhead.***



Christ Church Diary



October

Sat	1st	10.00am	URC Retreats Fellowship Quiet Day, Swanley (to 4.00pm)
		6.30pm	United Harvest Supper (at Ch Ch)
Sun	2nd	10.30am	Heather Ward
		6.30 pm	Welcome to Rev Gavin Hancocks, new Circuit Superintendent, at London Road Methodist Church, Horsham
Thur	6th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays at LMC (<i>see p16</i>)
Fri	7th	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC (to 4.30)
Sat	8th	evening	Synod Together meeting at Petts Wood
Sun	9th	10.30am	Angie Choat
Tues	11th	2.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Thur	13th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays at LMC (<i>see p16</i>)
Sun	16th	10.30am	Rev Brian Treharne - Holy Communion
Wed	19th	12.30pm	Organ Recital—John Sharples
Thur	20th	3.30pm	Messy Church at LMC
Sat	22nd	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at Parish Hall
Sun	23rd	10.30am	Rev Lynda Russell.
			Talk about Mary Francis Trust: Church Project
		6.30pm	New Fire at LMC
Thur	27th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays at LMC (<i>see p16</i>)
Fri	28th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Sun	30th	10.30am	Gail Partridge

November

Thur	3rd	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays at LMC (<i>see p16</i>)
Fri	4th	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC (to 4.30)
Sun	6th	10.30am	Rev Bruce Stuart - Holy Communion
		4.30pm	Remembering with Thanksgiving (LMC)

Christ Church Family News



We send belated birthday greetings to **Bob Booker** who celebrated his 94th birthday last month.

Greetings and best wishes to **Eunice Paul** on the occasion of her 95th birthday at the end of September.

Apologies to **Lydia Tapley** whose name was mysteriously changed to Linda in the September Link (*entirely my fault—Editor*).

Many congratulations to **Alison Gillott** for gaining first prize for her entry entitled "Line Dancing" in the RHS Flower Show NAFAS (Flower Arranging) Tent. Jay Bristow made the mechanics (see photo). She also won the "Popular Vote" on the Sunday when 20,000 visitors chose their favourite design, and finally she was awarded a "Glitter Ball", the whole theme being "Not Quite Strictly".



We are very sad to inform friends that **Rev Hazel Yu** died on 6th September at the age of 68, peacefully at home with her family. We send our deepest sympathy and prayers to Ernest and all the family.

October 31 All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1 November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

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: Local Church Leader -
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 Reformed Church:
38 Stoke Road, Cobham, KT11 3BD
www.cobhamurc.org.uk
Contact: Church Secretary -
Mary Langtry 01483 282421

Cobham Methodist Church:
Cedar Road, Cobham, KT11 2AA
www.cobhammethodistchurch.com
Contact: Senior Steward -
Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



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