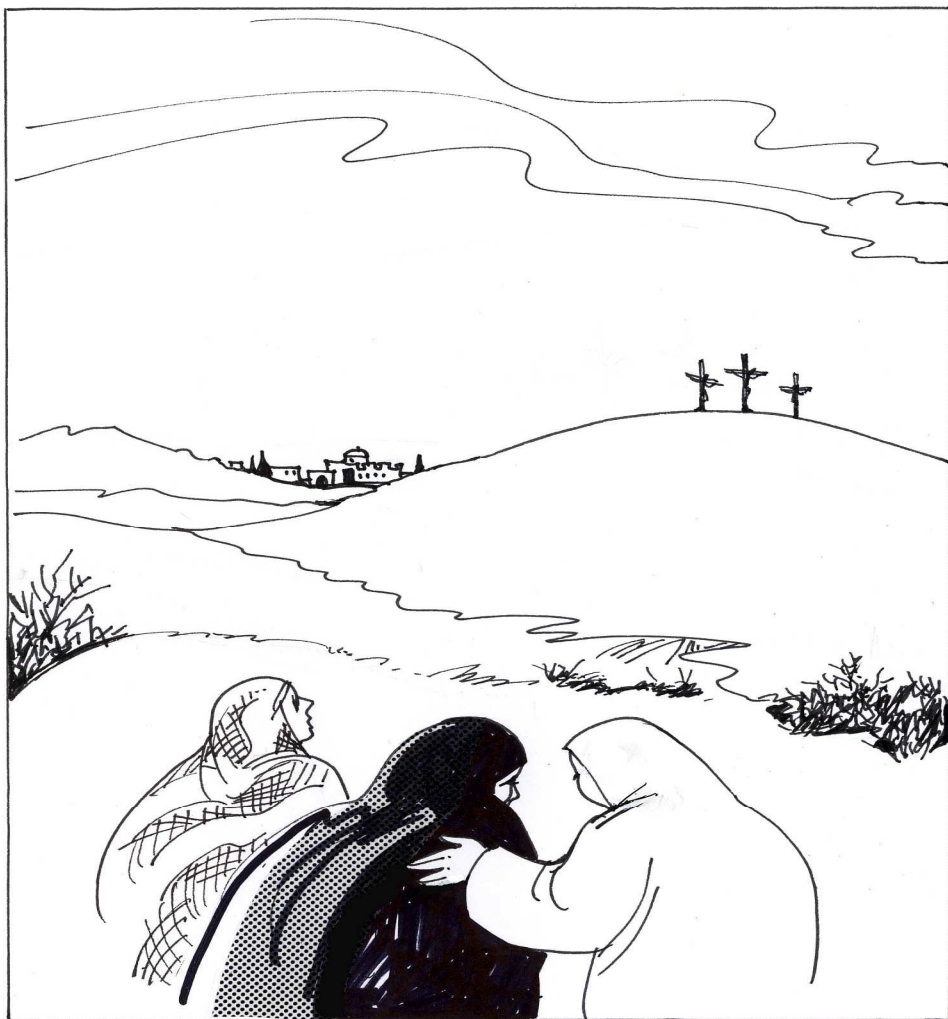


the Link

**The Methodist Church of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

April 2011



Family Link



Our thoughts and prayers are with...

...Yoshie Adachi and her family from Yokohama, and the terrifying situation faced by the Japanese people.

(See Freddie's article on page 11, and the Methodist Church appeal on page 5)

Our thoughts and prayers are also with...

...Marjorie Maynard and Harry Robinson who have each had a short spell in hospital recently. Also Tony Hierons as he recovers from surgery on his shoulder.

Our best wishes to...

...Sam Crome and Joanna King who are to be married at St. Michael's Church, Ashted on 16th April



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The Ministers Write...



From Rev. Ian Howarth

Dear friends,

We observe Lent this year against the sombre backdrop of the pictures of destruction from Japan, and the uncertainty and violence of the situation in Libya and other places in the Middle East. When we look at those situations, at people desperate for food and water, at people terrified about their future, it makes thoughts of giving up chocolate or alcohol seem trivial.

In 1755 there was an earthquake and tsunami in Lisbon, Portugal with similar effects to the one in Japan. It was a major crisis for the Christian church. How to make sense of all this? Some Christians saw it as the judgment of God on a sinful world, and Charles Wesley wrote a sermon that I struggle to relate to in that vein. Some philosophers saw it as proof that there could not be a loving God. Voltaire, in his book *Candide*, lambasts those Christians who said that 'All is for the best in the best of all possible worlds.'

I think I have more sympathy with Voltaire than with Wesley here, and it reminds us that situations such as this do not make faith easy and our faith does not provide easy answers.

The discipline of Lent and Passiontide does not ask us to look for explanations, but to recognise that Jesus identifies with people in their suffering, in their wilderness, and asks us to do so too in his name, being alongside to listen, to share and to help as far as we might be able.

But we also recognise that Lent and Holy Week are not the end of the story. The darkness is real, the suffering is real, and nothing can take that away. Jesus never loses the scars of the nails. But we know that darkness and suffering are not the whole story. We know that the world is shot through with light and love, and even out of darkness things can be transformed.

At the heart of our faith is a Saviour who overcame the darkness of death, as a sign that God brings hope even against the greatest of odds. As Basil Hume, the late Archbishop of Westminster wrote: 'The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake.'

3

May we know the joy of that hope in the risen Jesus, this Easter,

Yours in Christ,

Ian

From Rev. Kim Plumptre

'Hope' is such a tiny word and yet set in the context of everyday life and our journey towards Easter this tiny word is vast in its offer of something beyond the moment. Hope we are told 'is the feeling of expectation and the desire for something to happen'.

Undoubtedly as the search goes on for lost loved ones in Japan, hope will undoubtedly be the word found on everyone's lips: that from amongst such tragic circumstances there will be some glimmer of a life beyond a moment, a moment when the world seemed to deal a harsh hand and the cost was great. There are hopeful scenes as I watch with wonder on the television, as people are pulled from the wreckage of mangled cars amidst the debris of the tsunami - a man was found floating on a roof some 80 miles out to sea - but these are few and far between. The hope now will be that they can find the strength to rebuild their lives and that all those displaced and grieving will find a way of moving forward in the hope of a different reality, away from the images they have before them. Hope is the driving force that compels us to consider that life can go on in a different way. Walking with people in their time of need must of course never lose sight of real tragedy but embrace it and work within it.

We talk about hope in different ways don't we: light at the end of the tunnel; every cloud has a silver lining; but what we mean to say is that things will not remain as they are. In the context of journeying with Christ, the disciples would have had great expectations. The optimism and hope seen in Jesus' ministry would have brought with it the offer of so much more before everything seems brutally cut short. The humiliating death of Christ on the cross drives the disciples to go into hiding, after what appears to be all their hopes and dreams shattered in a moment of madness. Yet it is precisely in this moment that God offers us the hope of something so much bigger. On the morning of the resurrection we encounter hope in all its richness, the realisation that what was once lost is now found, the new found implications of living a life with the risen Christ and the joy of experiencing the intimacy of our relationship with an eternal God. This is hope at its best, that God will surpass our own expectations, continually offering us new possibilities beyond the very moments of our suffering, that we and the world can be changed.

If Lent is a time when we give things up then surely Easter should be a time when we take things up, when we engage with life in a different way, when the reality of hope breathes through us. May Easter be a time of new encounters with the risen Christ, new discoveries and new possibilities. The offer of something precious beyond any moment in time and space. With every blessing,

Kim

Methodist Church responds to cries for help from Japan

The Methodist Church in Britain's World Mission Fund has launched an appeal on behalf of its Partner Church in Japan following the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami. Reports from the United Church of Christ in Japan (UCCJ) reveal that the 8.9 magnitude earthquake, which has left more than 10,000 people missing, has damaged at least 36 churches in the affected Sendai region. Steve Pearce, the Methodist Church's partnership coordinator for Asia and the Pacific, said, "It is not possible to comprehend the scale of this disaster. Our hearts go out to our brothers and sisters there. Our Mission Partners in Japan are safe and well, but they are worried about people they know in the north and on the coast. I have assured my colleagues at UCCJ that Methodists in Britain and Ireland are praying for them and that we will respond to their financial appeal." The Rev. Makoto Kato, the executive secretary for ecumenical ministries at UCCJ, said, "We truly appreciate your deep concern and encouraging prayer following the gigantic earthquake which we have never ever experienced before. Churches in Tokyo are OK, but we are still not able to get contact with people in Sendai where the earthquake hit most severely. Please keep on praying for us."

You can donate to the World Mission Fund appeal via the Methodist Church by sending a cheque payable to the "World Mission Fund" to Steve Pearce, World Church Relationships, at Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR. Postal donations should be labelled "Japan Appeal".

A prayer for Japan

God of love,
Be with the people of Japan as they cope with this earthquake,
God of peace
Be with those in fear of aftershocks and tsunami,
God of hope
Be with those who grieve and those waiting for news
God of all
Be with the island nations at the mercy of the sea,
God of the Church
Be with your people as they show your love and care.
We pray especially for our brothers⁵ and sisters in the United Church of Christ in Japan.



Cobham

Cobham Diary - April



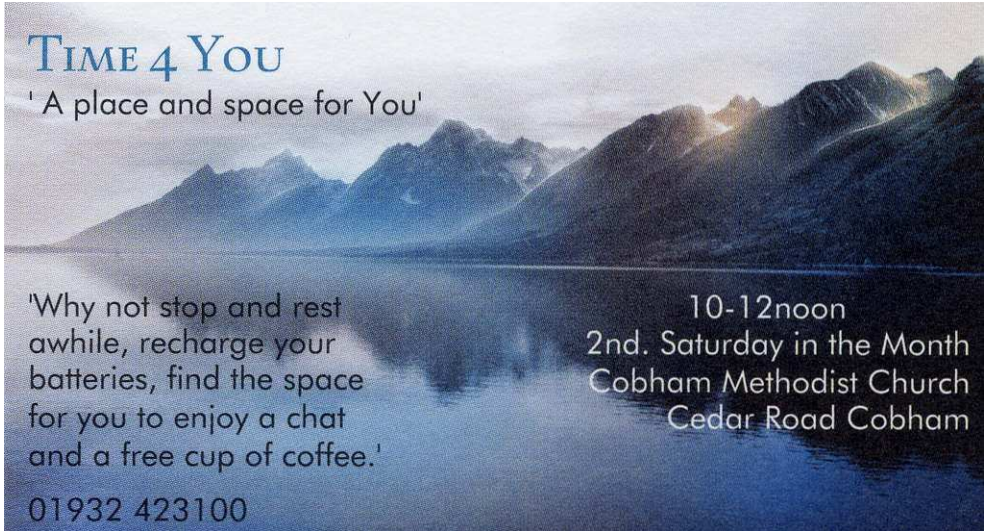
Sun 3rd 11.00am	Jon Fisher
Sat 9th 2.30pm	Platinum Service
Sun 10th 11.00am	Angie Choat
6.30pm	United Pastorate Service at LMC -
	Rev. Ian Howarth & Rev. Kim Plumptre
Sun 17th 11.00am	Rev. Kim Plumptre - Family Service
Maundy Thursday	
21st 8.00pm	Commemoration of the Last Supper
Good Friday	
22nd 10.00am	United Service at Cobham URC
10.15am	
- 11.30am	Hollyhedge Road, Silence Round the Cross
6.00pm	Good Friday Service at Effingham
Sun 24th 11.00am	Rev. Michael Meech - Holy Communion

Advance Notices

Sunday 1st May	12.30pm	Annual Church Meeting
Saturday 14th May	10.00am	"Time 4 You" (See next page for details)
Sunday 15th May	11.00am	Church Anniversary with Rev. Ian Field

Time 4 You

'A Place and Space for You'



TIME 4 YOU
'A place and space for You'

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

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

01932 423100

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

All welcome.





Effingham

Effingham Diary - April



Sun	3rd	10.00am	Mothering Sunday with Rev. Kim Plumpton
Tues	5th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the R. C. Hall
Wed	6th	12.30-2pm	Lent lunch at St. Lawrence Church Hall
		8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Sun	10th	10.00am	Martin Ellis
		6.30pm	United Pastorate Evening Service at LMC
Sun	17th	10.00am	Palm Sunday with Rev. Frank Smith
Tues	19th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the R. C. Hall
Wed	20th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Thur	21st	8.00pm	Maundy Service at Cobham Methodist Church
Fri	22nd	5.00pm	Good Friday Walk of Witness starts All Saints
		6.00pm	At the foot of the Cross Service at the Chapel
Sat	23rd	12.30pm	St. George's Day lunch in the hall
Sun	24th	9.00am	Easter Sunday with Rev. Kim Plumpton

**Please note Morning Services at 10.00am except
Easter Sunday which is at 9.00am**

Dates to celebrate this month:



Two ladies celebrate birthdays this month:

5th Rachel Reed, and Rosemary Roberts on 19th.

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

United Pastorate Evening Service



This month's United Pastorate Evening Service will be at **Leatherhead Methodist Church** on **Sunday 10th April** at **6.30pm** and led by **Rev. Kim Plumpton** and **Rev. Ian Howarth**.

Lent Lunches



Our fortnightly **Lent Lunches** in Effingham end on 6th April at St. Lawrence Church Hall from 12.30 to 2.00pm. All proceeds are going to **Combat Stress** the UK's *leading* military charity specialising in the care of war veterans' mental health.

Spring Cleaning



A message from Pat "Thank you to all our friends who clean our little church week by week and fill it with fresh flowers. You all do a wonderful job, but now is the time for some Spring Cleaning. So I'd be grateful if you could help us get ready for Easter on **Saturday 9th or 16th** April from 10.00am".

Services for Easter Week



On Thursday 21st at 8.00pm **Rev. Kim Plumpton** will be leading a **Maundy Service** at Cobham Methodist Church to which we are all welcome. On **Good Friday** she'll be joining us for our ecumenical **Walk of Witness** starting at 5.00pm at **All Saints Church, Little Bookham** and ending with an **At the foot of the Cross** service at 6.00pm in the Chapel followed by hot cross buns in the hall as usual.

Putting Jesus back into Easter



It's hard to believe that, out of the whopping 80 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year, not one of them mentions Jesus on the box. Until now that is. **The Real Easter Egg** is the first and only *Fairtrade* chocolate Easter Egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter on the box. It also supports charity and development projects - buying everything from medical equipment for new mums

here at home, to chickens and securing fresh water for farmers in Africa.

Check this website for free resources and information on where to buy the eggs www.realeasteregg.co.uk PS: I got mine at Waitrose !



St. George's Day Lunch @ Effingham Methodist Church Easter Saturday 23rd April 12.30 to 2.00pm

Tickets @ £5.00

Ring Pat McElhill on 01372 457979

In aid of World Mission's Mali Project

He's back.....back from the dead ! REJOICE



Our Lent course this year is **Rich Inheritance**, a York course focusing on **Jesus' legacy of love**. It begins with a fresh look at the resurrection, the heart of our Christian belief, but emphasises that we must not lose sight of the joy of Easter Sunday in the sorrows of Lent.

So this is **Luke's Gospel** account of that momentous occasion from the modern '**Word on the Street**' translation:

Early dawn, Sunday, the women get to the cave-tomb. Their bags are packed with the burial spices... they've not had time Friday night and Saturday was Flyby Day (Passover). This is the first chance they've had. They get there and the boulder has been shoved to one side. They go in, but Jesus' body is not there. They're stunned. "What could've happened to it?"

Next thing two angels are lighting up the whole place with their dazzling bright clothes. The women hit the deck, petrified. The angels ask "Why are you looking in a grave for someone who is alive and well?" D'you think he'd hang about in a tomb, he's out there. He's back from the dead!

The message is simple - **He is RISEN**. Christ conquered death. He died for us and our sins but on the third day he rose again, that we might too. **REJOICE and pass it on.**

AJ & DP

Yoshie - our Japanese Friend

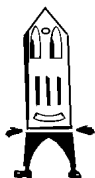
A few years ago a delightful Japanese lady walked into our church at Effingham and we immediately took her to our hearts. She was spending some time in Fetcham with her son and daughter-in-law who were over here on training courses, and being a keen Methodist she had sought us out. She made several visits to us during the times she came over, and visited us in our homes as well, initiating us in the intricacies of tea making, as well as cooking Japanese food as best she could using local ingredients with a lot of apologies, that "it wasn't quite right!".

Eventually her son and daughter-in-law finished training, had a baby, and returned to Japan, so that was the end of Yoshie's visits. But she continued to send us letters, photos, calendars and boxes of biscuits. Her English was very good, but she was always trying to improve it, and what impressed us most was her lively mind. She would make notes on the sermons she heard and ask us what they meant! In her own church (a very big one) she was very involved, including being a Sunday School teacher.

With all the suffering in Japan because of the earthquake and the tsunami, as well as the nuclear fall out, we are very concerned for her and her family. Although they live in Yokohama, south of Tokyo, and not in the worst affected areas she may have friends and relatives who are dead or missing. All we can do is pray for Yoshie, our lovely Japanese friend and be grateful for and challenged by her friendship and enquiring mind.

Freddie Jenkins





Leatherhead

Leatherhead Diary - April



Sun 3rd	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion Rev. Ian Howarth
Sun 10th	10.30am 12.00noon 6.30pm	David Cappitt Lunch at Christ Church United Pastorate Service at LMC - Rev. Ian Howarth & Rev. Kim Plumpton
Sun 17th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion
Good Friday 22nd	10.00am 6.00pm	Walk of Witness starting at Christ Church, ending at LMC with Hot Cross Buns At the Foot of the Cross Service at Effingham
Thur 21st	3.30pm	Messy Church
Easter Day		
Sun 24th	9.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion, followed by coffee Alex Cloke New Fire - Rev. Ian Howarth



Leatherhead Leadership Team

A summary of the meeting held on 2nd March 2011

Finance

The Leadership Team would like to offer thanks to Gracie for all her hard work as she steps down as Treasurer.

David Barnes who will be taking over from Gracie, was welcomed to his first Leadership Team meeting.

Offertory - Dedication cards for offertory, given by other means, are being prepared and will be made available in church soon.

Property

The kitchen has now been completed. The oven, water-softener and water heater have now been installed. Many thanks to the Kitchen Cabinet.

There was a brief discussion on a number of maintenance issues.

Family and Children's Work

Family Friendly Churches Trust – Jane has now completed the paperwork for us to apply for the status of a Family Friendly Church. The Family Friendly Charter was signed by Ian Howarth and Carol Stoves as representatives from the Leadership Team. The cost of the application is £25. Thanks to Jane for all her hard work on this project.

Ian reminded us that both he and Jane are due to finish in 2013 and that we should start thinking about how we are going to continue to provide a Family and Children's worker and also Youth Worker in the future.

Ecumenical

The Good Friday walk of witness will begin at the URC at 10.00am and conclude with hot-cross buns at LMC (22nd April).

Ecumenical Away Day is on 11th June from 10.00am to 3.30pm. It is being held in the Performing Arts Centre at St John's School, Leatherhead. LMC and Christ Church are joining for communion on the 3rd Sunday evening of the month, for the next quarter.

Other Issues

Two of our stewards will be finishing their period of service at Easter so we are asking for nominations for potential stewards to be passed to Carol Stoves before the AGM in May.

A mission collection box co-ordinator is required to distribute boxes to members of the congregation and count the contents on an annual basis. Please see Carol Stoves.

Biblefresh – We have been offered Hosea 8 to copy out as a church project as it cannot get to Malta and back quickly enough for the deadline. On Saturday 26th March, 10.00am - 11.30am we will be holding a coffee morning and Bible scribing session.



AntiphoniA

the Leatherhead chamber choir presents

A Wedding and a Birthday

music for a royal wedding by Tomkins,
Sullivan, Walton, Mathias, Holst and Bax,
and a musical birthday:

Richard Rodney Bennett, 75 this year.

ROGER MILLER bass GINA EASON organ, piano

director: ANTHONY CAIRNS

7.30pm Saturday 30 April 2011

at Christ Church, Epsom Road

Programmes at the door £8 (students £3)

For the Leatherhead Youth Project

Easter Special



***Maundy Thursday 21 April 3:30-5:30pm at
Leatherhead Methodist Church, Church Road, Leatherhead***

Family-friendly Easter celebration, including crafts, Easter story, songs and family meal. Children to be accompanied by an adult.

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Info: Jane Smith 01372 372919, janefcw@googlemail.com

Leatherhead Youth Project



April Activities

BFree is open every day after school

Weekly Triumph cell group for Year 7+

Contact jay@leatherheadyouthproject.com for more details

Sunday 10 April Triumph AM

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

Sunday 10 April

KNOW Work?

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

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

12-15 April

Freestyle

Residential trip to Reeds School for crazy fun and activities in partnership with Liquid Connection

Also look out for:

Duke of Edinburgh scheme

MTB

Miss Bliss for year 7, 8 & 9 girls

contact Lucie@leatherheadyouthproject.com for more details

www.leatherheadyouthproject.com

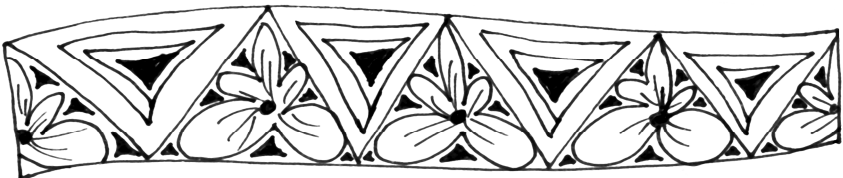
The Gift of Hearing

I was very interested in Angela's article last month on 'the Gift of Speech'. My father did not stutter as hers did, but he was deaf. He was very softly spoken and had perfect speech. Other people's words were his problem. He was not born deaf nor was he profoundly deaf. As a child he had many illnesses. Nowadays measles, scarlet fever and diphtheria are still a threat but controllable with modern medicine. Not so when Dad was a child. Each one was a threat to life. His heart, sight and spine were all affected but it was his deafness we were most aware of. It was not until his middle 50's that medical progress meant that he was able to have an operation which would enable him to wear a hearing aid. He found the world such a noisy place and often switched it off! Up until then - and when he was 'switched off' - we had to communicate by making sure we had his attention when speaking to him. Nothing annoyed him more than being shouted at! All he wanted was clear speech with just a slightly raised or 'sharpened' tone. 'I'm deaf, not daft!' he would say. Of all the family, he could understand me more clearly than others. I can remember long and intense conversations. I can also remember my mother saying 'stop arguing, you two' to which my father would reply that we were not arguing, it was 'animated conversation!'

Those with hearing impairment who cannot use a hearing aid, have an invisible disability. Just fancy, no radio or television (unless the sound was loud enough to rattle the windows), no dawn chorus or children's chatter. Half close your ears with your hands and listen critically to a variety of television and radio programmes, talk to people (if you don't mind looking rather silly) and decide for yourself what determines clear speech. Listen out for voices with little sound, swallowed words and the end of sentences which taper to nothing.

Speech and hearing are God given gifts, use them to benefit both self and others. Don't be shy!

Jean Plant



Messy Church News

- A gaggle of mums, grandmothers, children and toddlers producing a huge painting of the True Vine - each making their own contribution;
- A five year old girl very earnestly telling her Mummy the story of the Good Shepherd, using the little box of treasures she has just made;
- Half a dozen adults taking the opportunity for coffee and chat, while their children are occupied - alongside a man in a dog collar sitting on the floor, reading to a happy toddler, while Dad looks on;
- Anglicans, Methodists and members of the URC happily breaking down barriers over a kitchen full of food and several loads of dirty dishes.

Just a few snapshots seen at Messy Church over the last couple of months. Notwithstanding the title, it's not all about mess. But it is a different way of doing church. A way which takes risks, lets children be children, and accepts that things will not always be neat and tidy. But which also provides a safe, happy space to build relationships and explore matters of faith.

Please pray:

That the relationships we are building will be strong and supportive ones, that will help people discover God's love for them;

And that we will be able to respond to the demand. Messy Church has grown every month so far, and with 60 children plus adults at the last count, there is a big job to be done!



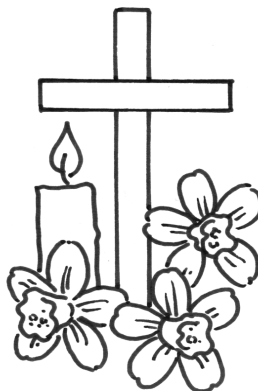
The next Messy Church is on Maundy Thursday. We would welcome visitors from the Uniting Churches, if you would like to see for yourself. Please let Jane Smith know, so that we can plan catering. And if you have children or grandchildren aged up to about 9, do bring them along. We meet at Leatherhead Methodist Church from 3:30-5:30pm on the third Thursday of each month.

Jane Smith

Anguish

The woman joined the crowd.
To be pushed and shoved, this way and that,
Not that she noticed.
Her eyes never left the man carrying the cross.
She could barely believe that, only a few days earlier
The crowd were shouting "Hosanna!" a glorious noise.
The tune now changed to "Crucify him!" an ugly sound.
The man stumbled and fell.
The woman stretched out her arms
Silently crying "Help him somebody".
She watched, powerless, as the man was stripped
And beaten, spat upon and sworn at.
The woman watched
As brutal nails pierced tender flesh,
Each pain felt in her heart.
Vinegar offered to quench a desperate thirst -
A bitter inhuman act.
The unrelenting agony continued as he hung on the cross.
The woman still watched.
"Forgive them. It is finished" he cried, as he died.
The woman sank to her knees and wept,
Arms clasped tight across her body
With its long since empty womb.
She grieved, as only a mother can.

Jean Plant

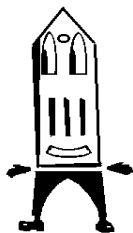


“KNOW”

This month at KNOW we were talking about family. We looked at different types of families within the media and how we are a part of God’s wider family. I really enjoy KNOW as it creates a space where we can chat openly about a relevant topic. It also helps me to see different people’s perspectives on the different issues we chat about. Having both boys and girls in the group helps us to understand how boys and girls can see things differently; this helps us to understand some of the issues that are faced by the opposite sex. I think that sharing feelings with others my age helps me to know that others are going through similar things and that I am not alone. The relaxing atmosphere created by lighting, music, hot chocolate (and cake!), helps us to keep things friendly and fun. I have learnt how different people act in different situations and discussed what we think Jesus would do in these situations.

Karen Fallon





Leatherhead

Activities at Leatherhead Methodist Church

Sunday Services: 10.30am and 6.30pm

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

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

Crèche available for young children during the morning service.

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

LMC Discoverers: Sundays at 10.30am

Contact: Mary Pittam 01372 272658

Messy Church: Third Thursday
3.30pm - 5.30pm

Contact: Jane Smith 01372 372919

House Fellowships

Monday Fellowship: Meet fortnightly

Contact: Carol Stoves 01372 377125

Wednesday Fellowship: Meet monthly during Lent
(fortnightly following Lent)

Contact: Winifred Ashbrook 01372 276776

Friday Afternoon Fellowship:

Meet fortnightly

Contact: Jane Smith 01372 372919

Splatter Box: Thursday mornings term-time
10.00am - 11.30am

Contact: Jane Smith 01372 372919

Tiddlywinks: Friday mornings term-time
10.00am - 11.30am

Contact: Jane Smith 01372 372919

ROOM BOOKINGS Contact: Joy Foreman 01372 378869

ALL BOOKINGS MUST BE ENTERED INTO HER DIARY

United Pastorate Ministers

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