

the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

April 2012



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Linking:

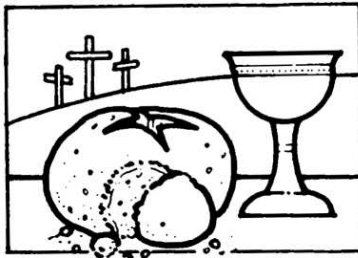
**Christ Church (United Reformed) Leatherhead
Cobham Methodist Church
Cobham United Reformed Church
Effingham Methodist Church
Leatherhead Methodist Church**

The Methodist Church



CONTENTS:

| | |
|--|---------|
| Ministers' Letters | 3 - 4 |
| Mission Aviation Fellowship | 5 |
| Cobham Methodist Church | 6 - 7 |
| Cobham United Reformed Church | 8 - 9 |
| Effingham Methodist Church | 10 - 14 |
| <i>Leatherhead Pages:</i> | 15 - 18 |
| "The Living Room" (LYP) | 15 |
| Messy Church | 15 |
| Time for Tea (at LMC) | 16 |
| Happy Child International | 17 |
| Leatherhead Youth Project | 18 |
| Leatherhead Methodist Church | 19 - 23 |
| Christ Church (United Reformed) | 24 - 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



The Ministers Write...



From Rev. Ian Howarth

Dear friends,

The celebration of Easter lies at the very centre of our Christian life. The power of God to bring new life out of death that we see in the stories of the resurrection of Jesus is cause for joy and hope. It challenges us to live as Easter people, recognising that power in our own lives and sharing that joy and hope with others. It is a wonderful message.

But we have to recognise that it doesn't always feel like that, even for the most faithful Christian people. In Lent we have been reflecting on the other side of the Christian life, the journey of Jesus on the way of the cross. We have seen how he takes seriously the pain and the suffering of the world, and how he keeps on loving through his own trials and sufferings that lead to the horror of the cross.

At Easter we don't just flick a switch and forget the suffering of the world. The glory of the Easter message is that it takes that suffering seriously, it takes the pain of the world seriously, and dares to claim that it can be transformed through the resurrection power of Jesus.

Our Easter joy is not an unthinking escape from the problems of the world, but a challenge to us to engage with reality, in ourselves, in others and in the wider world, and in faith to discover the power of God to bring new life and hope, with the risen Christ at our side.

May we all share in the joy of Christ's risen life,

Yours in Christ, *Ian*

From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear friends,

3

In [Matthew 27:45-46](#), it says: "Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth

hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"

The idea that God appears to abandon Christ only moments before his death was not something I found easy to grasp early on in my Christian journey. Somehow I have come to realise that this kind of forsakenness was not the kind of abandonment I had once believed it to be. It was not the act of a God who relinquishes all responsibility, who plays no part in the events unfolding or who turns his back on Jesus as though an uncaring parent. Jurgen Moltmann gives an interesting reflection:

"People who suffer without any reason always think first that they have been abandoned by God and that all the good things in life are in eclipse. People who cry out for God in their suffering can find they are joining in Christ's death cry. They discover in the suffering Christ the God who understands them and suffers with them. Once we sense this, we perceive that God is not cold, remote force of destiny whom we have to accuse and cry out against, but that in Christ he has become the human God who cries out with us and in us, and who intervenes on our behalf when torment makes us dumb. The God who has become human has made our lives part of his life, and our sufferings his suffering."

The mystery of the cross to a certain extent is unfathomable, the greatest theologians we have will never be able to reach the depths of its mystery. But this one small moment signifies for me the very moment when Christ's humanity is found. When God appears to be absent, Jesus becomes connected directly with the humanness of our lives, not just our suffering but that of God's too. In this moment when Jesus cries out, God cries out with us at the injustice in our world and the pain and suffering we inflict upon each other. It is recognition of the sin of humanity, with God at the very heart of it all.

Easter morning will reflect the divinity of Christ more than at any other moment for me. A Christ who overcomes suffering and pain and offers us all the hope of a future.

With excitement and joy may we celebrate this Easter with the knowledge that we serve a God who meets us in our humanness and offers us a taste of the divine. Life in all its richness, with God at the very heart of all we do.

With every blessing, **Kim**

In the March 2012 edition of the magazine "Flying for Life" there is an appeal: "Have you ever wondered what to do with all those POSTCARDS you get sent every year? Perhaps you have kept them for years, but now no longer need them. Rev. Ken Thom (of Sevenoaks URC) has been collecting cards from churches and supporters of MAF for years, and with the help of a small team, sells them on to collectors, raising thousands of pounds for our work".

Now, we keen readers of the Link knew that and, having garnered and sent to Rev Thom 6029 cards since 25th May 2000, scarcely needed to be told again. In his last letter to me, Pastor Ken says he had collected "over £10,000 in Year 2011", including of course for those we had sent. He doesn't say what his target is for this year, but we have got him off to a flying start.

Already in 2012, members of the URC in our Joint Pastorate have sent to me for onward transmission two large boxes containing respectively 317 and 627, so 944 postcards which, with another 35 from Methodist sources, adds up to 999 we shall have contributed this year! Some of these will prove very collectible - judging by their stamps alone from the early 1900's, from many different countries overseas, and with memorable scenes and subjects. That will make a total of 7028 POSTCARDS from us to Pastor Ken in aid of MAF.

Mission Aviation Fellowship is a worldwide Christian organisation operating over 135 light aircraft in more than 30 countries. Around 280 flights every day transport patients, relief teams, medical supplies and Christian workers in the world's remotest regions and places of deepest human need. Places where flying is not a luxury but a lifeline.

John Rogers



Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary - April



| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--|
| Sun 1st | 11.00am | Palm Sunday - Jay Dunning |
| Thurs 5th | 7.00pm | Maundy Thursday - Commemoration of the Last Supper at Cobham URC |
| Fri 6th | 10.00am | Good Friday Service (United at Cobham Methodist) |
| Sun 8th | 11.00am | Easter Day - Rhys Frost |
| Sat 14th | 10.00am 2.30pm | Time 4 You Platinum Service |
| Sun 15th | 11.00am | Juliet Fuller |
| Sun 22nd | 11.00am | Rev. Robert Davey, then Frugal Lunch in aid of Salisbury Spinal Unit (see page 7) |
| Tues 24th | 7.30pm | House Fellowship at the Manse |
| Fri 27th | 4.30pm 7.00pm | CYC at URC Up for GRABS (activities and discussion for 13-16s) |
| Sun 29th | 11.00am 6.30pm | Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion Circuit Easter Offering Service at Cobham Methodist |
| May | | |
| Sun 6th | 11.00am | David Cappitt |



**Next "Time 4 You" -
Saturday 14th April
10.00am - 12noon**

Frugal Lunch - 22nd April

We will be holding a Frugal Lunch after the morning service on Sunday 22nd April. This is in aid of Salisbury Hospital's Spinal Injuries Unit. At the same time, Shane will be abseiling down the UK's tallest public viewing tower, the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth, also in aid of the Salisbury Hospital's Spinal Injuries Unit, so please look out for sponsorship requests!



Cobham Methodist Family News

Thank you so much to everyone who called in, or sent cards and flowers to me after my operation and hospital stay. It was warmly appreciated.

Rhonda





Cobham

United Reformed Church

Cobham URC Worship Diary - April



Palm Sunday:

| | | | |
|-------|-----|---------|--|
| Sun | 1st | 9.00am | Early Bird Service |
| | | 10.30am | Derek Wensley |
| Thurs | 5th | 7.00pm | Maundy Thursday at URC Cobham |
| Fri | 6th | 10.00am | Good Friday at Cobham Methodist Church |

Easter Day:

| | | | |
|-----|------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Sun | 8th | 10.30am | Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion |
| Sun | 15th | 10.30am | Roy Bones |
| Sun | 22nd | 10.30am | Vivien Gerhold |
| Sun | 29th | 10.30am | Norman Edsall |

May

| | | | |
|-----|-----|---------|--------------|
| Sun | 6th | 10.30am | Sydney Shore |
|-----|-----|---------|--------------|

Prayers at the Manse

at 9.30am on

Wednesdays: 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th April

(Please note that on 11th April, prayers will be at the Church)

Cobham URC Events - April

| | | | |
|-------|------|---|--|
| Sun | 1st | 3.00pm to 6.00pm | Special Needs Group |
| Tues | 3rd | 9.45am 8.00pm | Church Walk Elders' Meeting |
| Thurs | 5th | 12.30pm | Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW |
| Thurs | 19th | 7.30pm | House Group at Margaret's, Churchfield House |
| Fri | 27th | 3.00pm 4.30pm to 6.30pm 7.00pm | T @ 3 at church CYC meets at the URC Cobham (8 - 13 year olds) GRAB at St. Mary's Church (ends 8pm) |

The brow that bore the crown

Unblemished and innocent was the brow that bore the crown
 With a broken but pure heart his life he laid down
 On that day when the world turned dark

Unwavering with acceptance he took the pain for sin
 And opened heavens gates that we may enter in
 Pierced for a world that day in that lonely place

The love poured forth as his life blood drained away
 Drawing his last breath he was heard to say
 "Father, why have you forsaken me?"

In the tomb where he lay, a darkness all around
 Sealed from all life, not an earthly sound
 All done in death the full sting he bore

Then with the keys to darkness a conqueror he rose
 Into the light of life where his Father's grace flows
 Overcoming sin for then and all time to come

In him we have the victory over death and hell.
 He is risen. Jesus is alive



Effingham

Methodist Church

Effingham Methodist Diary

- April

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



| | | | |
|------------|-------------|----------------|--|
| Sun | 1st | 10.00am | Palm Sunday - Rev. Kim Plumpton |
| Tues | 3rd | 2.30pm | Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall |
| Wed | 4th | 8.00pm | Christian Meditation in the church |
| Thurs | 5th | 7.00pm | Maundy Service at Cobham Methodist |
| Fri | 6th | 5.00pm | Good Friday Walk of Witness |
| | | 6.00pm | At the Foot of the Cross Service @ EMC |
| Sat | 7th | 10.00am | Café Church at KGV Hall (until 11.00am) |
| Sun | 8th | 9.00am | Easter Day - Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion |
| Sun | 15th | 10.00am | John Oborn |
| Tues | 17th | 2.30pm | Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall |
| Wed | 18th | 8.00pm | Christian Meditation in the church |
| Sun | 22nd | 10.00am | Alex Cloke |
| Mon | 23rd | 12.30pm | St George's Day lunch in the hall |
| Sun | 29th | 10.00am | Ecumenical Service - Rev. Kim Plumpton at All Saints |
| | | 6.30pm | Circuit Easter Offering service at Cobham Methodist |
| May | | | |
| Tues | 1st | 7.30pm | Church Council meeting |
| Sat | 5th | all day | Chapel Anniversary events (see page 13) |
| Sun | 6th | 10.00am | Rev. Kim Plumpton - Church Anniversary - Holy Communion |

Birthday Dates to celebrate this month

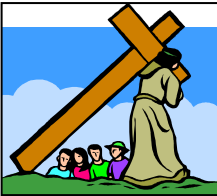


Two ladies celebrate birthdays this month:
5th Rachel Reed,
and Rosemary Roberts on 19th

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

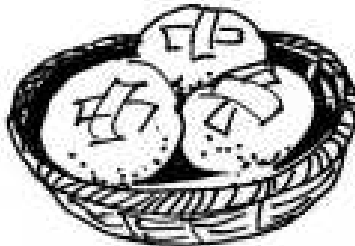
AJP

Easter Week



On Thursday 5th, **Effingham Churches Together** will be giving away hot cross buns in the village, then at 7.00pm, **Rev. Kim Plumptre** will be leading a **Maundy Service** at Cobham Methodist Church.

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.





St. George's Day Lunch **at Effingham Methodist Church**

Monday 23rd April

12.30 to 2.00pm

Tickets @ £5.00

Ring Pat McElhill on 01372-457979
In aid of World Mission's Mali Project

Cherry trees to mark extent of Tsunami



Japan is slowly recovering from the devastating earthquake and tsunami which killed about 20,000 people in March last year. A project has begun to plant cherry (sakura) trees in areas affected by the disaster, to show future generations the extent of the damage.

Sadly it was not until after last year's tsunami that it was discovered that tsunamis of similar size had struck the area in previous centuries. No-one realised that a tsunami large enough to overcome the breakwater could happen, and more lives could have been saved if only this vital information had been handed down through the generations. ...So the SAKURA PROJECT was born, and is being run by people from Rikuzentakata, one of the coastal towns almost completely destroyed last year. There is a website but it's in Japanese so for more information use **savetakata.org** and select "giving and helping" to donate. SAVE TAKATA hopes to rejuvenate the town's economy by supporting the development and entrepreneurship of local companies.

Another project in the area, "3.11 Memorial Project," aims to preserve the surreal sights of ships that ended up in unimaginable places and public signage twisted and distorted by the tsunami, as a warning for the future.



158th Chapel Anniversary Weekend 5th & 6th May 2011

Saturday: Coffee morning from 10.00am - 12 noon with an exhibition on the Chapel's History.

2.30pm - If weather fine? - Meet at the Chapel for a walk of 2 or 3 miles - back about 3.30-4.00pm

If weather bad? - Chapel's history by Dave & Ange

4.00pm - Fun quiz

TEA at 4.30pm: scones, sandwiches & cake,
then

6.00pm - Folk singing led by Kim & Morag (to be confirmed)
with Sing-Along & poems until 7.30ish

On Sunday 6th May at 10.00am we welcome Kim and her family to celebrate our Chapel Anniversary.

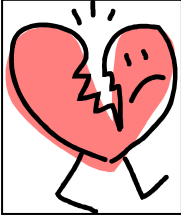


The service will be followed as usual by a Faith Lunch in the hall at 12.00 noon.

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

Everyone Welcome

Donations please for World Missions (Mali)



People shouldn't be bought and sold !

"Trafficked" is a newly released paperback which tells the true story of Sophie Hayes, a British girl who is betrayed by her lover and "best friend", and callously sold on the streets in Italy, to pay off his debts. She thought it was a dream holiday but it became a living nightmare. Isolated from her family and friends over a period of several years, this man's lies destroyed her life. Turning ten "tricks" a night she realised that everything had been a lie. He was a violent thug who'd never loved her. His debts were non-existent, but if she didn't keep working he'd betray her to the Italian authorities. He kept all her earnings and her passport.

Fortunately she was eventually able to contact her family and escape back to the UK. Here she was befriended by Bex Keer, from the charity, **Stop the Traffik**, and has turned her life around. The man who trafficked her has been to prison for his crime. He tried to contact her on his release but she is a much stronger person now. She has a good job, the support of her family and better friends. She has also found God. Proceeds from the book go to the *Sophie Hayes Foundation* which aims to increase awareness and raise funds for organizations including **Stop the Traffik**, who are working to support survivors and combat this terrible crime.

We heard Sophie's story from Bex Keer, who was the speaker at Effingham's *Women's World Day of Prayer Service* which was written by the women of Malaysia, where human trafficking is a large problem. She used Sophie's story to illustrate that this trade is not just one way. Men, women and children used in the sex trade, but also domestic and low paid agricultural workers, are here in the UK, trafficked from all over the world.

Stop the Traffik works with the United Nations to build strong communities who can resist this insidious global trade. People are trafficked for profit.... 31.6 billion US dollars. For more information see website www.stopthetraffik.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

The Living Room

The Living Room opened for the first time on Sunday 11th March and welcomed over 20 young people to Costa Coffee for live music and an inspirational talk. The new event (run by Leatherhead Youth Project) aims to attract young people from all over Leatherhead and enable them meet new friends and have an introduction to faith.

"The Living Room was a great place to hang out on a Sunday and learn a bit more about other people's lives, I'll definitely invite my mates to the next one", Matt age 16.

The Living Room will be back on Sunday 13th May. Doors open at 6.00pm and is aimed at young people age 14 and over.



Next Messy Church:

Thursday 19th April
3.30pm to 5.30pm at



Time for Tea



COME for TEA and COMPANY

From 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Friday 13th April

then every first Friday in the month at

LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

EVERYONE WELCOME

If you need transport please contact:

Margaret Meynen on 372930

or

Gill Harris on 458518

(Suggested donation ¹⁶£1)



Happy Child International is one of two charities being supported this year by both Christ Church and LMC (the other is Age Concern - Mole Valley North). The following is an extract from Happy Child International's March Newsletter. A copy of the full newsletter is on the LMC noticeboard.

2012 Campaign Update

News on Happy Child's 2012 Campaign for raising funds to treble our work in Recife is now fully under way! We want to thank you, our faithful Supporters, for your contributions throughout February. We are always amazed by your commitment and generosity. So far the Campaign has raised just over £6,000. We still need £18,000 to reach our first quarterly target of £24,000 by the end of March (£96,000 this year). We need to open three new centres in Recife this year, in partnership with the local Government, in north-east Brazil. We know that you can be part of making this possible and help us in this crucial phase of expanding Happy Child Recife. THANK YOU!

Remember you can donate by Text Giving:

Text HCIN12 £XX to 70070

or

online - www.happychild.org

or

straight into the Happy Child International bank account::

HSBC, sort code 40-27-07 a/c 81485504

Leatherhead Youth Project



BFree is open every day after school

**Weekly Triumph cell group for Year 9+
and
Youth Alpha group for Year 7&8**

10-12 April

Youth Alpha Holy Spirit trip

**The Youth Alpha group is going to Wales for fun,
friendship and to find out more about the Holy Spirit**

Saturday 21 April

MTB

A trip round the local countryside on Mountain Bikes

Sunday 22 April Triumph AM

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

**For more information on all these events contact
jay@leatherheadyouthproject.com**

www.leatherheadyouthproject.com



Leatherhead

Methodist Church



Diary - April



Palm Sunday:

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|--|
| Sun 1st | 10.30am | Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion |
| | 6.30pm | Local arrangement (to be confirmed) |
| Mon 2nd | 7.00pm | Lent Groups' Supper at LMC |
| Thurs 5th | 3.00pm | "The Lion, the Witch... and the Easter Egg?" - Family event for Holy Week (ends 6.30pm) |
| Fri 6th | 10.00am | Walk of Witness beginning at the Catholic Church and ending at the Parish Hall |

Easter Day:

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--|
| Sun 8th | 8.00am | Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion |
| | 10.30am | United Service at Christ Church with Holy Communion |
| Thurs 12th | 8.00pm | Leadership Team at the Manse |
| Fri 13th | 2.30pm | Afternoon Tea and Company (until 4.30pm) |
| Sun 15th | 10.30am | Rev. Ian Howarth |
| | 6.30pm | Annual Church Meeting after morning service Rev. Ian Howarth jointly at Christ Church |
| Thurs 19th | 3.30pm | Messy Church |
| Sun 22nd | 10.30am | Martin Ellis |
| | 6.30pm | New Fire |
| Wed 25th | 2.30pm | Pastoral Visitors' meeting |
| Sat 28th | 8.00am | Men's Breakfast Fellowship at Christ Church |
| Sun 29th | 10.30am | James Cameron/David Cappitt |
| | 6.30pm | Uniting Churches Service at Christ Church |

May

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|--|
| Sun 6th | 10.30am | Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion |
| | 6.30pm | Rev. Kim Plumptre - jointly with ChCh at LMC |

The Approach

The last travellers to our little village came from Jerusalem. They brought news that Gran was not too well. She is in her eighties and getting very frail. Mum insisted I went to visit.

Two days it had taken me! Two long, hard days just to get to the outskirts. My feet were killing me! One of my sandal straps had broken - my left foot seemed to be all blisters. I so looked forward to a rest at Gran's.

But that was not to be. As I approached the City, there was an atmosphere - almost physical, tangible, a great feeling of anticipation. Nearer and nearer I came. Such noise, so many people singing, shouting, waving palms. Some so emotional they were crying, both women and men. Children whooped around enjoying an unexpected freedom.

Then a cry, so loud it split the air, "Hosannah, hosannah in the highest! Make way, make way!" Then 'He' came by on a donkey, the man I had heard so much about. The King, some said. In spite of all the excitement, there was this feeling that I could not quite comprehend, sending wonderful shivers down my back. He, this man Jesus, was so ordinary. Nothing royal. No bowing and scraping. Just a man on a donkey, but such presence! I forgot my sore feet, my exhaustion, and followed, pulled by an invisible string. I shouted with the rest of them!

I got to Gran's eventually. "What kept you?" she asked. "Will she believe me?" I thought.

Jean Plant

Housegroups - All Welcome

Monday House Fellowship meets fortnightly - contact Carol Stoves 377125

Wednesday House Fellowship meets monthly -

contact Winifred Ashbrook 276776

Friday Daytime Fellowship meets fortnightly - contact Jane Smith 372919

A Bible Question

Who was Hadassah?

A Bible Clue

Who does the following clue refer to?
"Although there was something fishy about his parentage, this man was by no means a ruthless person".

Answers on page 29

A Quote (via Wycliffe Bible Translators)

"If you want to keep people subjugated, the last thing you place in their hands is a Bible. There's nothing more radical, nothing more revolutionary, nothing more subversive against injustice and oppression than the Bible". - Desmond Tutu

A Story

The following story is told about the early days of the Salvation Army. A man was converted and started coming to the meetings who could neither read nor write. At the meetings he noticed that many of the people there were wearing signboards and so he decided to get one that he could wear as well. As he was passing a shop one day, he noticed a signboard that he thought would be suitable, so he asked the shopkeeper if he could have it and he was given permission, but of course he had no idea what it said. However, when he came to the meeting wearing it, everyone there could see what it said - "Under New management".

As Christians we are (supposed to be) "under new management". No longer are we managing our own lives, but our lives are to be under the Lordship of Jesus. "Ye are bought with a price" - 1 Corinthians 6; 20 and 7: 23.

A Joke

A parent was teaching his three-year old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings, at bedtime, she would repeat after him the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. He listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer. "Lead us not into temptation", she prayed, "but deliver us from e-mail₁ Amen".

Thanks to Bob Greenfield for providing the pieces on this page.

LMC Family News



A Warm Welcome to...

...Pat Dampier and Edward Warren who have been worshipping with us recently at LMC.

Daffodil Day - 5th March

Daffodil Day, a celebration of Spring in 'Praise of Music' at Central Hall, Westminster. It was not possible to hold one last year as the organ in the Great Hall was being refurbished. The only place to put the largest 35ft pipes was on the floor of the Church. So keen were people this year they literally flooded in from the time the doors opened at midday, having just a few empty seats in the far corners downstairs and in the gallery. It was an event worth waiting for!

It is always such a lovely mix of items and this year was no exception. As well as solos, the service was mixed with prayer, Bible readings, talk and laughter.

The powerful tenor voice of Anando Mukerjee singing 'The Holy City' soared right up to the heights taking everyone with it, then the contrast of a quieter soprano solo 'A nightingale sang in Berkeley Square'. The senior choir from Kent College thoroughly enjoyed their spots, singing 'Lord, make me an instrument of your peace' then, later in the afternoon 'Joshua fought the battle of Jericho' nearly bringing down the walls of Central Hall! The musical highlight was an organ solo by Gerard Brooks, the Director of Music. It is difficult to find the right words to describe it - wonderful, marvellous, awe-inspiring and more.

If the choir tried to demolish the walls, then the organist did his best to shatter the glass dome! For some it might have been a sound too much, but I revelled in it.

The congregational singing is always good. There was such sensitivity in singing 'Beauty for brokenness', and then, to be one of some thousands joining in 'O for a thousand tongues to sing' sent shivers down the spine as the words became such a powerful statement of faith. I didn't think singing could get any better, until the last hymn 'To God be the Glory' with its chorus of praise making such a joyous, rich sound.

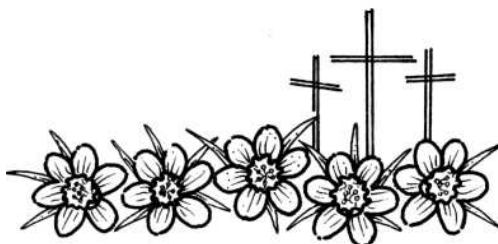
Where did the laughter come in? An item by Rev. Steve Wild, Chair of Cornwall District, with his inevitable puppets causing chaos! Then Steve illustrated how to put on a disposable cape, the kind handed out at Cornish events to protect from the rain. First he got his head through the armhole, then 'helped' by Rev. Martin Turner, Super at Central Hall, got it on back to front with the hood over his face. It was all so stupid, yet had everyone rocking in their seats. They say laughter is as good as any medicine. What a dose we had! Within all the silliness was the message that however much of a mess our lives are in, God will sort it all out so that we can see a clear way ahead.

I go to Daffodil Day because it is so uplifting. I also go because I know there will be 'catch-up' time with many friends from the old London SW District. It was also good to have a five minute chat with Rev. Paul Glass, 'grown' from Leatherhead Youth Fellowship in days gone by. He was accompanying Kent College students as their Chaplain.

If you have never experienced 'Big Church', I can recommend a visit to Daffodil Day. Keep Monday 4th March free next year.

The 2012 motto for Central hall is 'The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy'. How true!

Jean Plant



Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

Christian Aid - Saturday 28th April

Permission has been given for a collection to be made at TESCO Leatherhead

If you are willing to collect, at the entrance to the store, for at least one hour, please contact Anne Ray (376788) as soon as possible.

The collection outside Tesco is a special one day collection and is in addition to our commitment to Christian Aid Week, which this year will be Sunday 13th to Saturday 19th May. Details for this will be in next month's Link.



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 7 February 2012 and would like to report the following:

- We welcomed Jennifer Chalmers to the meeting as she commences as Synod Area Administrator.
- Please remember in your prayers Revd Peter McIntosh, Revd Kim Plumpton's mother, Revd Mark Westerman, Revd Mike Hensman, Mr Ian Chalmers, Revd Derek Richmond and his wife Elizabeth and Revd Peter Elliott and his wife Celia.
- Revd Elaine Dunn was inducted to Horsham on 28 January.
- Mr Ted Bellingham will be commissioned as an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher on 18 March 2012 at Dorking.
- Synod Area General Assembly Representatives for July 2012 are Revd Kim Plumpton, Revd Heather Cadoux, Revd Alex Mabbs, Mrs Linda Richards and Mr John Bunker.
- Revd Michael Jagessar, one of the Moderators Elect for General Assembly, will be speaking at the next Surrey and Sussex Synod Area Meeting 7.30pm 6 March at Crawley URC. Revd Janet Sowerbutts will lead the opening worship.
- Local Mission and Ministry Reviews (LMMR) are due to commence in April 2012.
- Lesslie Newbigin Fund: This fund exists to provide financial assistance to applicants from the Southern Synod to purchase theological books. Application forms are available at Synod Office.
- A Treasurer is urgently needed for the Synod Area.

Christ Church Diary - April



Palm Sunday:

Sun 1st 10.30am

6.30pm

Mon 2nd 7.00pm

Wed 7th 10.30am
11.15am

Thurs 5th 3.00pm

Fri 6th 10.00am

Morning Service: Mrs Eileen Lawlor

Organist: Gina Eason

Evening Service at LMC

Lent Groups Supper at LMC

Coffee & Chat
Organ Recital

The Lion, the Witch and the Easter Egg?
at LMC (ends 6.30pm)

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Easter Day:

Sun 8th 10.30am

Fri 13th 2.30pm

Sun 15th 10.30am
6.30pm

Thurs 19th 3.30pm

Sun 22nd 10.30am
10.30am
3.00pm

6.30pm

Tues 24th 7.45pm

Thurs 26th 7.30pm

Sat 28th 8.00am

Rev. Ian Howarth -

Joint Holy Communion (LMC/URC)

Afternoon Tea at LMC (ends 4.30pm)

Rev. Donald Finnan

Joint Communion Service (LMC/URC)
at Christ Church - Rev. Ian Howarth

Messy Church at LMC

Rev. Ian Howarth

Hospital Service

St George's Day Scout Service
at Christ Church

New Fire - Ecumenical Service at LMC

Elders' Meeting

Church AGM

Men's Breakfast Fellowship:
Christ Church

Diary - continued

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------|---|
| Sun | 29th | 10.30am | Morning Service: Rev. John Whitton (Farnborough) |
| | | 6.30pm | United Service - (3 Churches) at Christ Church |
| <u>May</u> | | | |
| Sun | 6th | 10.30am | Mrs Linda Richards (Walton-on-the-Hill) |
| | | | Organist: Gina Eason |

Christ Church Family News



Congratulations and warmest good wishes to Joyce Cuss who celebrates her 90th birthday on 21st April.

We are sorry to report that Florence Gower was taken ill on 12 March. She is in Britten Ward, Epsom Hospital, undergoing tests and would very much welcome visitors. We send our very best wishes for her speedy recovery.

Olive Rayner is still suffering pain and is having more investigative tests. We send her our sympathy and very best wishes.

On a happier note, we send congratulations to both John and Olive who celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on 28th March, just after Olive's birthday. We look forward to the Diamond next year.

We ask everyone to keep these friends and all those with health and family problems in their thoughts and prayers.

Anne Cairns

Moving performance by choir...

Following a suggestion made during an "Everybody Welcome" meeting, our choir has been trying new positions. The theory was that if the choir came out of the chancel into the nave of Christ Church, their voices would be heard more easily by the congregation, and it would reduce that uncomfortable separation of choir and congregation encouraged by church architecture (and the Oxford Movement, which put robed choirs into chancels originally designed for the clergy).

Moving the organ was the other possibility, but we've tried that already. It was extended in 1995.

On 26 February, the choir popped up in front of the pulpit, in a curved row as before, so that each singer could hear more than two others. At first, we put the basses at the front of the chancel behind the sopranos, but they preferred to be part of the row on the lower level. With a pillar nearby, it was surprisingly cramped. There were a few comments at the church meeting after the service, and nobody seemed alarmed by this break with tradition.

The next Sunday, for a service of Holy Communion, we were back in the chancel, enhancing the sense of gathering round the table.

At the parade service on 11 March, the choir moved to the other side in two rows under the organ pipes, facing sideways. Again, a pillar cut off some from seeing all the congregation (but that has always been the case for others). This worked well otherwise.

By 18 March the choir will have shuffled forward in front of the lectern, leaving access to the organ chamber behind the back row (important for sound engineers). Perhaps this will be best.

Although maintaining choirs in churches has become increasingly difficult, some of us still hope that in future the resurgence of community singing (choir festivals, community choirs etc.) will make an impact on churches, and the use of harmony in worship songs as well as harmonised hymns, demonstrated in Ian Howarth's talks about the new Methodist hymn book, "Singing the Faith", will enrich our worship.

In the next Link, I hope to explore the relationship between "Singing the Faith" and our URC hymn book, "Rejoice and Sing".
Do we still need it?

Christian Aid Week 2012

This year Christian Aid Week is 13th to 19th May and we are hoping you will yet again give this your full support. There is so much media coverage these days, that we are all only too aware that our help is needed, more than ever.

We know house to house collecting is one of the most difficult, but it is an important act of Christian witness - as well as giving non-churchgoers the opportunity to contribute.

Our help is needed in many ways:

- collecting at Leatherhead Railway Station on Tuesday 15th May, 6.30am to 9.30am (hourly stints);
- or collecting in the town centre on Thursday 17th May from 9.00am to 3.00pm,
- and of course house to house during the week.
- If you feel able to deliver envelopes through letterboxes, but not to collect, this too is a great help.

In the vestibule, there is a list of people who have helped in the past and you are asked to tick your availability this year. If your name is not on the list, but you are able to help, in any way, please add your name.

We really do need as much help as possible - please contact me if you have any queries.

Thank you, in anticipation.

Anne Ray

Answer to Bible Question on page 21:

Hadassah was the real name of Esther (see Esther 2: 7). When the Jews were threatened with destruction, salvation came through a woman.

Answer to Bible Clue on page 21:

The answer is Boaz. He was the son of Salmon (see Ruth 4: 21) and he married Ruth (Ruth 4: 10).

ORGAN RECITALS BY ANTHONY CAIRNS IN 2012

at Christ Church, Epsom Road, Leatherhead



on the Hill Norman & Beard organ (1970/1995)
the true sound of pipes in a versatile modern instrument

at 11:15am on Wednesdays
4 April - 6 June - 5 September - 14 November
Coffee from 10:30am

ADMISSION FREE - COLLECTION.
in aid of Happy Child International
and Age Concern, Mole Valley North

Lent Groups 2012

The course subject this year is "The Way To Freedom", and is giving much food for thought. Most importantly is the fact that we are talking/learning together, in groups with members from a wide variety of churches. The following poem, by Isobel de Gruchy, is included in the reading material, and I thought those of you who have been unable to attend one of the groups, might be glad to have the opportunity of reading it, and thus sharing with us some of our thinking.

The Big Fight

The Combatants:

In this corner of the ring,
sitting waiting, ready and still,
Discipline; lean and tough,
stripped to the bare essentials,
plain and unappealing;
of mature years, though some
would claim long past it,
few fans, little publicity;
an unknown entity.

And in this corner of the ring, focus of all eyes,
Indulgence, prancing dancing, posing
to show to maximum effect,
amid the cameras' flashing lights,
stunning looks, copious gold chains,
flamboyant robe: young and self-confident,
the idol of many.

The time: today tomorrow, always
The referee: the arbiters of today's values, whenever it is today
The trophy: freedom
The venue: the world out there and the world within
The duration of the fight: till death - yours and mine
The Winner: all those acting, suffering, disciplined and dying,
for Jesus Christ's sake.

Pastorate Details

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

Leatherhead Methodist Church:

www.leatherheadmethodist.org

Contact: Senior Steward -
Carol Stoves 01372 377125

Christ Church (United Reformed) Leatherhead:

www.chch.org.uk

Contact: Local Church Leader -
Mike Essex 01372 273472

Effingham Methodist Church:

www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk

Contact: Senior Steward -
Dave Putland 01372 454850

Cobham United Reformed Church:

www.cobhamurc.org.uk

Contact: Church Secretary -
Mary Langtry 01483 282421

Cobham Methodist Church:

www.cobhammethodistchurch.org.uk

Contact: Senior Steward -
Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



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