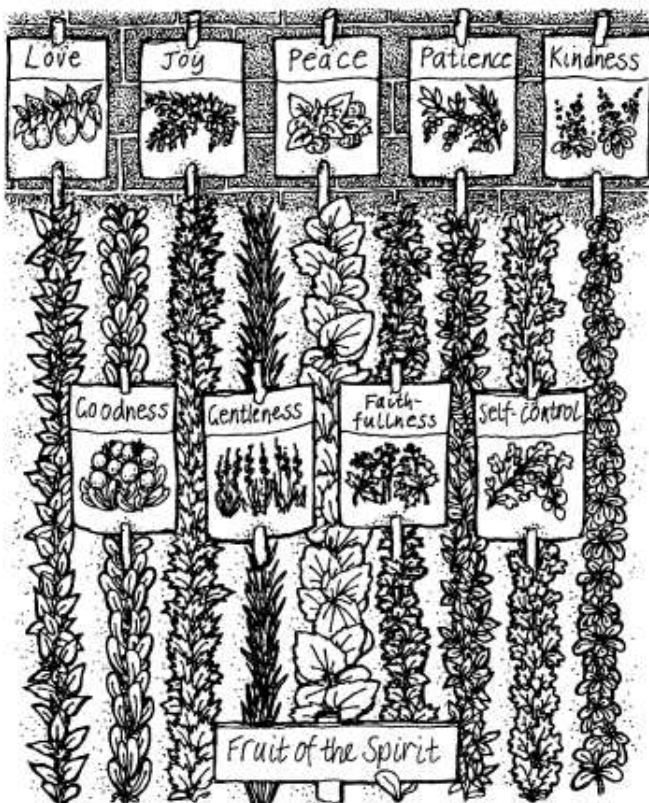


# the Link

**The United Pastorate of  
Leatherhead  
Cobham  
Effingham**

## April 2013



*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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## **A Prayer for Easter-tide, by Daphne Kitching [from "Parish Pump"]**

Dear Father, Life can be difficult. Sometimes it feels as though the sun has stopped shining, just as it did on that first Good Friday. Sometimes it can feel as though we are stuck in the darkness and it seems impossible that the light will ever shine again. And yet the reality is that Friday did move on, into the most glorious Sunday. The Son did rise - and his light shines on, transforming the darkest of times, holding out hope and peace and life to all who will turn and look into his face.

He is alive. He will help us. Thank you Father, for Jesus.

Amen.

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**All copy for the May issue to the editor by 15th April**



# *The Ministers Write...*



## ***From Rev. Ian Howarth***

Dear Friends,

The Easter period is a time to celebrate the new life and the new hope that God gives us through the resurrection of Jesus.

On a personal level, as Easter passes I become aware that I enter the last phase of my ministry here. I am conscious that over the next three months the focus of both my ministry, and the life of the churches, will be to look to a new future as I start my ministry in Birmingham, and the churches look forward with Lynda Russell as the new minister.

The future is never a repeat of the past, it offers opportunities and challenges. The promise of Easter is that through the risen Jesus, God goes with us into that future and if we travel with him, he will be faithful to us and bring us the new life and new hope that we long for.

The message of Easter is that this is not an easy process. For Jesus the joy of resurrection came through the pain of the crucifixion. As we look to our futures we know there are hurdles to face, difficult choices to make and perhaps some painful decisions. We need to go forward trusting our faithful God, who leads us to new life.

At the end of February, the Church Meeting of Christ Church and the Church Council of LMC, both voted with no votes against, to join together as one church in one place, with a united mission to Leatherhead. This is a significant decision. What that one church will look like, where that one place will be are yet to be decided, and there will indeed be some difficult choices and painful decisions to face. But I pray that having made that decision of principle, the two churches can now begin to address those choices and decisions confident that our work together will help to release that new life we celebrate at Easter. A life that opens people to God's love in new ways, a life that shows care for those in need, a life that gives hope to all.

*continued on the next page*

May God bless us as we move forward into the future, and give us the confidence we need as we face new situations and new challenges.

Yours in Christ,

*Ian*

### ***From Rev. Kim Plumpton***

Dear Friends,

I was delighted to be invited to an ordination and induction of a dear friend earlier in the year. I met Susan not long after I began my own journey towards ordination and I was abundantly aware that ill health and personal circumstances had meant that her journey had been a difficult one. All sorts of sacrifices had been made and at times of great frustration much patience had been needed. Yet here we were recognising the call upon Susan's life to serve the church as an ordained minister.

It was a wonderful service paying tribute to a ministry that had begun so long ago and made even more poignant because of the struggles that Susan had faced to get to this point on her journey.

In her statement of faith, Susan acknowledged the love that had been poured upon her not only by a gracious God but the support from family and friends. I cannot help but be reminded of a scripture that we have heard recently in our own churches in the lead up to Easter.

*Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.*

*But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." - John 12: 3-5*

Why does the gesture mean so much? Because Mary gives Jesus the very best that she has, no expense is spared when she comes to anoint Jesus. It's the very fact that the oil is valuable that makes this story so poignant. This is an act of 'extravagant love', or some might say it is an act of 'radical hospitality', a love that gives the very best.

That's what I saw when I looked upon my friend. Susan had given the very best of herself and it had come at a high cost but one she was prepared to make even though others might have thought it was too costly.

I wonder what we might consider to be the most precious thing we can offer Jesus as a way of marking our love for the one who has given us so much?

With every blessing,

***Kim***



**Next "Time 4 You"**  
**Saturday 13th April**  
**10.00am - 12noon**  
**Cobham Methodist Church**



# Cobham

## Methodist Church

### Cobham Methodist Diary - April



<b>Sun</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Rev. Paul Cockburn</b>
Sat	13th	10.00am 2.30pm	Time 4 You (to 12noon) Platinum Service
<b>Sun</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>11.00am</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Rhys Frost</b> <b>Circuit Service at Horsham St. Andrews</b> <b>for dedication of Easter Offering</b>
Fri	19th	4.30pm	CYC at the URC (to 6.30pm)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>11.00am</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Rev. Kim Plumptre</b> <b>Circuit Service at Southwater for admission</b> <b>of Tina Andrews as a Local Preacher</b>
Tues	23rd	7.30pm	House Fellowship at the Manse
Fri	26th	3.30pm	Messy Church at the URC (to 5.30pm)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Rev. Frank Smith with Holy Communion</b>
<b>May</b>			
Fri	3rd	4.30pm	CYC at the URC (to 6.30pm)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>James Cameron</b>





# **Cobham**

## **United Reformed Church**

**Coffee for Carers**  
**Tuesdays 9th & 23rd April**  
**at 11.00am**



Coffee for Carers is an opportunity for carers to gather at Cobham URC for a coffee and a chat. In creating this space we hope to encourage support and fellowship for those who offer themselves selflessly to care for others. The group meets fortnightly (Tuesdays) at Cobham United Reformed Church and is open to anyone who would just like to meet in a warm and relaxing atmosphere. All are welcome.

# Cobham URC Worship Diary

## - April



Sun	7th	9.00am	Early Bird Service
		10.30am	Sydney Shore
Sun	14th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Sun	21st	10.30am	Thelma Lucas
Sun	28th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton
		12noon	Church Meeting

### May

Sun	5th	10.30am	Andrew Gibb
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## Prayers at the Manse

at 9.30am on

Wednesdays: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th April



## Cobham URC Events - April

Thurs	4th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
Sun	7th	3.00pm	Special Needs Group (to 6.00pm)
Tues	9th	9.45am 11.00am 7.30pm	Church Walk Coffee for Carers at the URC Elders' Meeting
Thurs	18th	8.00pm	Evening House Group at Mary Langtree's
Fri	19th	3.00pm 4.30pm	T @ 3 at church CYC meets at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Tues	23rd	11.00am	Coffee for Carers at the URC
Fri	26th	3.30pm to 5.30pm	Messy Church at the URC

### May

Fri	3rd	4.30pm	CYC meets at the URC (to 6.30pm)
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## Next Messy Church for Cobham, Oxshott and Stoke d'Abernon

Date:

**Friday 26th April 2013**

Time: **3:30pm - 5:30pm**

Venue: **Cobham URC,  
38 Stoke Road,  
KT11 3BD**

**All are welcome**



# **Rock "n" Soul**

**7.00pm to 9.00pm  
Good Friday 29th March  
(and then monthly)  
at Cobham URC**

This is a new initiative to give teenagers a space to perform musically and vocally, no matter what the skill level or music genre, so that they may be given the opportunity to perform and if they wish to talk with like-minded people about music, vocals and instruments.

This will be a place where people can get together for a couple of hours in an environment of mutual interests almost like a cross between an open mike night and a jam session. All are welcome from songwriters, vocalists to bands. There are no exclusions. Bring yourselves, your voice and your equipment and let's rock. For more information contact Colin on 07931 522855.





# Effingham

Methodist Church

## Effingham Methodist Diary - April



Tues	2nd	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	3rd	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Sat	6th	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall
<b>Sun</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Rev. Ian Howarth - with Holy Communion</b> followed by lunch in the hall
Thurs	11th	2.15pm	Bible Study Group in the hall
<b>Sun</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Tina Andrews</b> <b>Circuit Service at Horsham St. Andrews</b> <b>for dedication of Easter Offering</b>
Tues	16th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	17th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
<b>Sun</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>John Oborn</b> <b>Circuit Service at Southwater for admission</b> <b>of Tina Andrews as a Local Preacher</b>
Tues	23rd	12.30pm	St. George's Day lunch in the hall
<b>Sun</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Rhys Frost</b>
<b>May</b>			
Sat	4th	10.00am - 11.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall
<b>Sun</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Rev. Kim Plumpton - with Holy Communion</b>
Tues	7th	10.00am	Church Council meeting (to 12noon)

### Prayer Meetings

Prayer meetings are held at Freddie's every Friday at 9.15am.

## Birthday Dates to celebrate this month



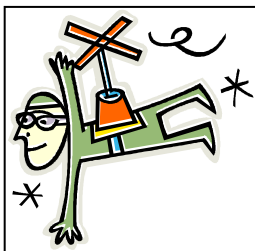
Two ladies celebrate birthdays this month:  
Rachel Reed on 5th, and Rosemary Roberts on 19th

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

## Dates for your diaries

There is a **Church Council meeting** in the Chapel on **Tuesday 7th May** from **10.00am to 12noon**. All items for inclusion on the agenda should be sent to our Church Secretary, Gill Walker, by 17th April, please.

## Rev. Ian Howarth...



...will be moving to Birmingham at the end of July to take up his new post as District Chair.

He will take his last service at Effingham on 7th April at 11.00am, then he and his wife Barbara will join us for lunch in the hall. For further details please talk to Pat McElhill or Angela Putland.

## Immoral, Impossible

Charles Dawson tells me that the poem "Immoral, Impossible" in last month's Link (which, if you were so inclined, could be sung to the tune of the hymn "Immortal, Invisible") and which was attributed to him, was not in fact written by him at all, but given to him many years ago by a Jewish friend at Golders Green Synagogue. Our thanks, nevertheless, to Charles for submitting the poem.

*Editor*



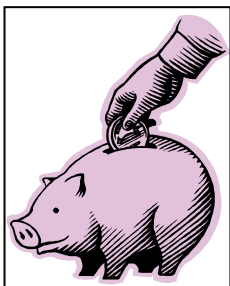
## St. George's Day Lunch at Effingham Methodist Church

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

12.30 to 2.00pm

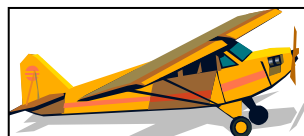
Tickets @ £5.00

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



**Effingham's Lent Lunches**, organised by our three local churches, have raised £455 for the **Alzheimer's Society**. The organisers would like to say a big thank you to everyone who attended, and were moved to dig deep by the three speakers, who described their work, support for carers, and the research into this cruel type of dementia.

Thank you to everyone who attended the **Coffee Morning** that helped to raise £260 for **Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)** our World Missions project.



## All spruced up for Spring!

Effingham's church hall has had a bit of a makeover recently, courtesy of Kim's husband Colin, who wields a handy paint-brush and roller. Thank you Colin, it's now looking a lot brighter and tidier.

Then we were just arranging for a gardener or tree surgeon to lop the trees beside the front gate, when the local council came and did the job for us, because they were overhanging the road. So the garden should get more sun when Spring finally arrives.



# **159th Chapel** **Anniversary Weekend**

**18th & 19th May 2013**

## **Saturday:**

**Coffee morning from 10.00am - 12noon with an exhibition on Wesley's Warmed Heart and our Chapel's History.**

**2.30pm - If weather fine? - Meet at the Chapel** for a walk of two or three 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.

Followed by **"WESLEY – a heart Transformed can change the World"**, an award-winning feature film about the young John Wesley's spiritual struggle and search for genuine faith.



On **Sunday 19th May at 10.00am**, Rev. Ian Field and his wife Doreen will help us celebrate our 159th Anniversary, and 20 years since the refurbishment of our little Victorian Chapel.

The service will be followed by lunch at a local pub at 12.30pm.

Please contact Ange or Dave if you would like to see a menu.

**Donations please for World Missions (MAF)**

## How do you feel about Flesh and Blood ?



A new survey suggests that while individual church members may have a significant interest in donating blood and organs, the bigger picture shows that it is not encouraged by UK churches as part of their committed Christian giving.

The survey was conducted by Christian Research, on behalf of "Kore", as part of the [flesh-and-blood campaign](#) launched earlier this year in partnership with NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT). The survey found that 12% of Methodists gave blood in the last year, and that 50% are registered organ donors. However, despite these strong levels of engagement, the overall findings reveal that many churches in Britain do not yet see blood and organ donation as a part of their giving, with an extremely low 0.3% of respondents stating that either blood or organ donation was a frequent part of their Church's teaching and over 75% saying that neither blood nor organ donation was ever mentioned or encouraged by their Church.

The campaign aims to mobilise all the churches to increase the number of blood and organ donors in the UK. 7000 units of blood are needed every day to meet hospital demand, with approximately 225,000 extra blood donors needed per year. 1000 people die each year waiting for a transplant. The Church is made up of millions of people, who share in a rich tradition of giving, practice a rhythm of generosity and say YES to a life lived generously. The campaign aims to raise the profile of donation within the church and to encourage donation as a personal gift. It seeks to equip individuals and churches as advocates for donation, helping them engage with their family, friends and community, and potentially save thousands of lives each year. So why not use the resources on the website [www.fleshandblood.org](http://www.fleshandblood.org) to download awareness information today?

*Ange Putland*

# Leatherhead Pages

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



## Next Messy Church:

Thursday 18th April  
3.30pm to 5.30pm at



## Men's Breakfasts

- Sat 27th April Catholic Church Hall  
(Speaker Paul Pickering)
- Sat 18th May LMC (Speaker Tim Hall -  
the role of a County Councillor)
- Sat 22nd June Christ Church Hall
- Sat 27th July Parish Church Hall

Doors open 8.00am. Cost £4.  
(Proceeds to speaker's nominated charity).



# **Prayers for Christ Church and LMC**

**Thursday 18th April**

We now reflect on the decisions taken at the Church Meeting of Christ Church and the Church Council of LMC at the end of February where both voted for, with no votes against, to join together as one church in one place, with a united mission to Leatherhead.

We will be holding the last of the series of gatherings for those from LMC and Christ Church to pray for guidance in the work associated with our coming together more closely.

This will be held at LMC on Thursday 18th April at 7.30pm.

**Dates for your diary - more details later**

## **Welcome for Rev. Lynda Russell**

Rev. Lynda Russell's welcome has been set for Saturday 7th September at 3.00pm at Christ Church. Planning is also underway for a Christ Church/LMC joint service at Christ Church on Sunday 8th September at 10.30am followed by a shared lunch.

## **Farewell to Rev. Ian Howarth**

There will be a farewell social event at Christ Church at 6.30pm on Saturday 20th July. Ian's final service at LMC will be on Sunday 21st July.

## **Welcome in Birmingham District for Rev. Ian Howarth**

Ian's welcome service will be held at 5.00pm on 31st August at Methodist Central Hall, Coventry. We want to organise a coach so anyone interested, please get in touch with me or put your name on lists at the back of LMC or at Christ Church.

Many thanks,

*Sue Friend*



As part of Fairtrade Fortnight, Henry Matenda, a smallholder sugar cane farmer from Malawi, visited Leatherhead. He spoke to the members of B Free Youth Café in Leatherhead and to some of the pupils at St Andrews. He also took part in the Family Mothers' Day service at St Mary's Fetcham.

## **African Fairtrade Sugar Cane Farmer comes to Leatherhead**

Dangerous snakes and hyenas lurk in sugar cane fields, so the whole field has to be burnt before harvesting, to frighten them away. Just one of the fascinating facts told by Henry Matenda, a sugarcane farmer from Malawi, when he spoke to members of the B Free Youth Café in Leatherhead.

Henry was visiting the south-east during Fairtrade Fortnight. He farms a small holding of two and a half hectares – as big as three football pitches – in the arid south of Malawi. In the past it was difficult to scratch a living from the dry land. All water had to be carried from the nearest river, where hippos and crocodiles lay in wait. In 1996 the farmers formed a co-operative and installed an irrigation system to pump water from the nearest river. This enabled them to grow enough food to feed their families, as well as sugar cane to sell.

In 2004 they qualified to become Fairtrade certified. This involved them meeting minimum standards of sustainability and being democratically organised. As well as ensuring a fair price for their sugar cane, they also get a Fairtrade premium to spend on benefits for their local community, decided on by their own local committee. With these advantages they have chosen to build brick, iron roofed houses to replace the old mud and thatched huts and sink bore holes for clean drinking water in the village. They have built their own primary school and provided computers and printers for the secondary schools. They have brought in electricity so they have light to study in the evenings and TV bringing them news of the outside world, including Henry's favourite - football. He is a Liverpool fan!!

They have a truck for transport, including for use as an ambulance to the nearest hospital and a tractor to plough the fields. They have big plans for the future – to build their own secondary school, their own sugar cane factory and their own hospital...

For the six months of the sugar harvest Henry works twelve-hour shifts on the weighbridge at the sugar cane factory, while his wife Agnes takes over the farm, as well as looking after their 6 and 1 year old children. He was chosen by his community to represent them in England, when the EU paid for him to travel here. He had never been outside Malawi before, so it was quite a culture shock. He came to Leatherhead near the end of his two and a half weeks in England, giving two presentations a day and staying with a different host each night. I think he worked even harder here than at home. He was happy to do this to spread the word of the enormous benefits of Fairtrade to the producers of our food, their families and their communities. So please – keep a look out for the Fairtrade logo and buy fairly traded goods whenever you can.

*Janet Baker (01372 376642)  
Publicity Officer, Fairtrade Leatherhead*



Henry at  
his house

Harvesting  
sugar cane



CHRIST CHURCH, EPSOM ROAD

## *organ recital*

11:15am on WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL 2013

**Anthony Cairns**

***"centenaries and half-centenaries"***

music by Bull, Stanley, Smart etc.

(Coffee & Chat at 10:30am)



AntiphoniA

the Leatherhead chamber choir

sings music by

# *Britten & Purcell*

BRITTEN: Te Deum in C; Rejoice in the Lamb; Flower Songs  
PURCELL: Hear my prayer; Remember not, Lord; Jehova quam  
plus choral works by R R Bennett and Gabriel Jackson  
and instrumental items

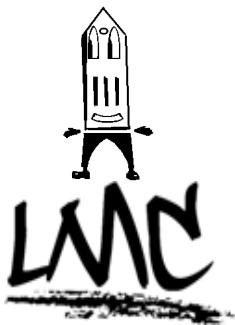
GINA EASON organ, piano      ANTHONY CAIRNS conductor

**7.30pm Saturday 27 April 2013**

**at Christ Church, Epsom Road**

Programmes at the door £10 (students £3)

in aid of Happy Child International and Age Concern (Mole Valley North)



# Leatherhead

Methodist Church

## Diary - April



Fri	5th	2.30pm	Time for Tea (ends 4.30pm) (see page 27)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>10.30am</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>James Cameron</b> <b>Rev. Ian Howarth</b>
Wed	10th	2.00pm	Pastoral Visitors Meeting - Lower Hall
Thurs	11th	7.30pm	Joint meeting of LMC Leadership Team and Christ Church Elders at LMC
<b>Sun</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>10.30am</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Rev. Val Ogden with Holy Communion</b> <b>Circuit Service at Horsham St. Andrews for dedication of Easter Offering</b>
Thurs	18th	3.30pm 7.30pm	Messy Church Prayers for LMC/Christ Church at LMC
<b>Sun</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>10.30am</b> 12noon <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Rev. Ian Howarth</b> Annual Church Meeting <b>Circuit Service at Southwater for admission of Tina Andrews as a Local Preacher</b>
Sat	27th	8.00am	CTiL Men's Breakfast at the Catholic Church
<b>Sun</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>10.30am</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>David Cappitt</b> <b>New Fire</b>
<b>May</b>			
Thurs	2nd	7.00pm	Churches Together meeting at BFree
Fri	3rd	2.30pm	Time for Tea (ends 4.30pm) (see page 27)
Sat	4th	all day	Covenanting Churches Away Day at St. John the Baptist Parish Church, Okewood
<b>Sun</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion</b>

# LMC Family News



*Welcome to...*

...Mrs Christine Edwards and Mrs Hazel West who have been worshipping with us recently.

## Annual Church Meeting

The LMC Annual Church Meeting will be held after morning service on Sunday 21st April.



### Details of House Groups - All Welcome

The **Daytime House** Group meets fortnightly on Fridays from 1.15pm to 2.45pm during school terms and has started a new study course on 'Walking with Gospel Women'. New members welcome - please speak to Jane Smith for details of venue - 01372 372919.

The **Wednesday House Group** meets on the third Wednesday each month in the summer. Please contact Norma Shaw on 01372 274533 for further details of venue.

The **Monday House Group** meets on alternate Mondays. Contact Carol Stoves 01372 377125 for details.

# **Christian Aid Week 2013, 12th-18th May**

This is an important week in the church calendar and one in which thousands of people throughout the nation take part in house-to-house collections. We have been doing this here for many years, and are glad to play our part. Recently, though, we have lost a significant number of collectors and we are keen to replenish our list.

I cannot pretend that this is an easy job, and some of us remember tales of rudeness at the door, and sometimes outright refusals. It is not everyone's (indeed, not anyone's) cup of tea to take on this job. In times of recession, it is even more difficult. There are, however, many occasions when people actually thank you for collecting, and wish you luck. You've guessed it! Yes, I am asking you if you will join the ranks of volunteers on that week, and let us see if we can raise a significant amount for this important charity. This doesn't necessarily involve pounding the streets, as I know many of us can't physically do that any more, but help is sought with administration, and with counting the money received in envelopes. There is also a collection at Leatherhead railway station on Tuesday 14th May, and we are looking for volunteers who can give an hour between 6.30am and 9.30am. In the town centre, too, we are collecting on Thursday 16th May, and would be very grateful if you could give an hour between the hours of 9.00am and 3.00pm.

This year, you will find in your May Link a Christian Aid envelope, and we invite you to put your own contribution in this and place it in the collection plate on Sunday.

Does all this sound attractive to you? I'm sure not, and I know how reluctant people are to volunteer. However, I do assure you that it is a rewarding task, and is also a way of witnessing to God's love. Please do consider joining us, and ring me with your availability.

Margaret Dodds-Ely

Tel: 01372 277415

Email: [mdoddsely@live.co.uk](mailto:mdoddsely@live.co.uk)

## BBC Lent Talks 2012 (continued)

The Jewish ideal was that of a strong, military general, fired with messianic ideals, and prepared to fight the Roman occupation. So when Jesus eventually offered no resistance to arrest, it was not surprising that his followers temporarily left him. He was far from the Jewish ideal leader.

As for the Greeks, some favoured the Epicurean avoidance of extremes of pain and pleasure that could disturb tranquility. Others preferred the rationality of Stoicism that suppressed emotion and met suffering and death with equanimity, as Socrates had done. Jesus was utterly different. In such intense agony in the garden of Gethsemane that he sweat drops of blood, he asked God to let Him off the task effacing the cross. No Greek would have invented such a figure as a hero.

And the Roman Governor Pilate found Christ unworldly and impractical when Jesus said to him: 'My kingdom is not of this world...to this end I was born and to this end I came into the world to bear witness to the truth'.

So, Jesus ran counter to everybody's concept of an ideal hero. Indeed, Matthew Parris, an atheist, suggested in the *Spectator* recently that if Jesus hadn't existed not even the church could have invented him! Jesus just did not fit in.

Nor did his message - the Easter message for which Lent prepares us. St. Paul tells us that the preaching of the cross of Christ was regarded by the Jews as scandalous, and by the Greeks as foolish. The early Christians certainly could not have invented such a story. Where, then, did it come from? From Jesus himself who said: '*the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*'. Jesus did not fit in to the world. So they crucified him and tried to fit him in a tomb. But that did not work either. He rose from the dead on the third day.

But, doesn't this go against the grain of the science I was praising earlier? Aren't such miracles impossible because they violate the laws of nature? I disagree. If, on each of two nights, I put 10 pounds into my drawer the laws of arithmetic tell me I have 20 pounds. If, however, on waking up I find only 5 pounds in the drawer, as C S Lewis pointed out, I don't conclude that the laws of arithmetic have been broken but possibly the laws of England.



The laws of nature describe to us the regularities on which the universe normally runs. God who created the universe with those laws is no more their prisoner than the thief is prisoner of the laws of arithmetic. Like my room, the universe is not a closed system, as the secularist maintains. God can, if he wills, do something special, like raise Jesus from the dead.

Note, that it is my knowledge of the laws of arithmetic that tells me that a thief has stolen the money. Similarly, if we did not know the law of nature that dead people normally remain in their tombs, we should never recognise a resurrection. We could certainly say that it is a law of nature that no-one rises from the dead by natural processes. But Christians do not claim that Jesus rose by natural processes, but by supernatural power. The laws of nature cannot rule out that possibility.

Hume's view was that you must reject a miracle as false, unless believing in its falsity would have such inexplicable implications, that you would need an even bigger miracle to explain them. That is one good reason to believe in the resurrection of Jesus. The evidence of the empty tomb, the character of the witnesses, the explosion of Christianity out of Judaism and the testimony of millions today are inexplicable without the resurrection. As Holmes said to Watson: 'How often have I said to you that when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, *however improbable*, must be the truth?'

As Russian Christians say at Easter: *Khristos Voskryes - Voiistinu Voskryes!* Christ is risen - he is risen indeed!

This is the third of three instalments of a Lent Talk by Professor John C. Lennox in 2012 on Radio 4. He has written various books such as *Gunning for God* and *God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?* He also has a website - [johnlennox.org](http://johnlennox.org)

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# **MWiB District Day at Tonbridge**

## **"Head Over All Things"**

Pat, from Effingham, drove a friend from Guildford, and me, to the District Day through the most atrocious weather! It did not dampen our enthusiasm for the day.

The day began with a welcome and worship led so sensitively by our District Chair, Rev. John Hellyer. In his sermon he said far more is known about outer space than the workings of the brain. It is far more complex than chemical and electrical impulses, even more involved than any rocket to the moon!

Our first speaker, Rev. Prof. David Dunn-Wilson gave a Bible related talk, not using a specific text, but drawing on a number of examples to illustrate his words. He connected the brain to the heart - the heart did the reasoning, the brain put it into practice. Our heart, he said, is the real secret 'you', our hidden treasure. Jesus said we are all seeking hidden treasure, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be." And God knows the secret 'us' better than we know ourselves. He went on to say that following Jesus is a pilgrimage of the heart, and likened the pilgrimage to swimming. Do we tread water or aim for the deep end where we will be out of our depth and relying on the buoyancy of our faith to hold us up? He ended by saying "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

David Evans, a specialist in radiotherapy, and currently working at Cardiff University, is looking at the long-term psychosocial impact of radical cancer treatment on certain head and neck patients. There are literally hundreds of different kinds of primary brain tumours, each requiring different treatment. The usual options are surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy, all or any of them. Radiotherapy is the cheapest. The machine 'only' costs £1.5m! 52% of suitable patients would benefit from it but only 28% are offered it. Over the last ten years Proton therapy has been developed, and has been in use on selected patients in limited centres only, during the last two years. Its greatest advantage is that it does not injure healthy areas around the cancer centre. Its disadvantage is the cost - £100m each machine!

Glyn Lewis was the last speaker. He is the Fundraising Manager of Brain Tumour Research. 4Aurora is registered as one of its support groups, as are 21 others around the country. There are few Brain Tumour Centres using the most advanced technology. By 2016, with pressure groups working effectively to get things done, the organisation wants to set up seven Brain Tumour Centres with the most modern equipment available. For - the greater number of patients that could be treated and be given a better quality of life; against - cost, millions of pounds! Our donation was a mere drop in the ocean, but all the little drops will gradually add up.

The whole day was very concentrated, with such a lot to take in, much of it new to us. For those who have 'met' cancer in some way, there is a certain understanding of what already goes on, and for all to appreciate good health. Research costs money whatever field it concerns. Be aware and give generously when you can.

*Jean Plant*

## Time for Tea



**COME for TEA and COMPANY**

From 2.30pm to 4.30pm

**Fridays 5th April, 3rd May...**

...and 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 £1)

# **Christ Church**

**(United Reformed) Leatherhead**

## **Organ Recital**

11.15am on Wednesday 3rd April

See page 20 for details

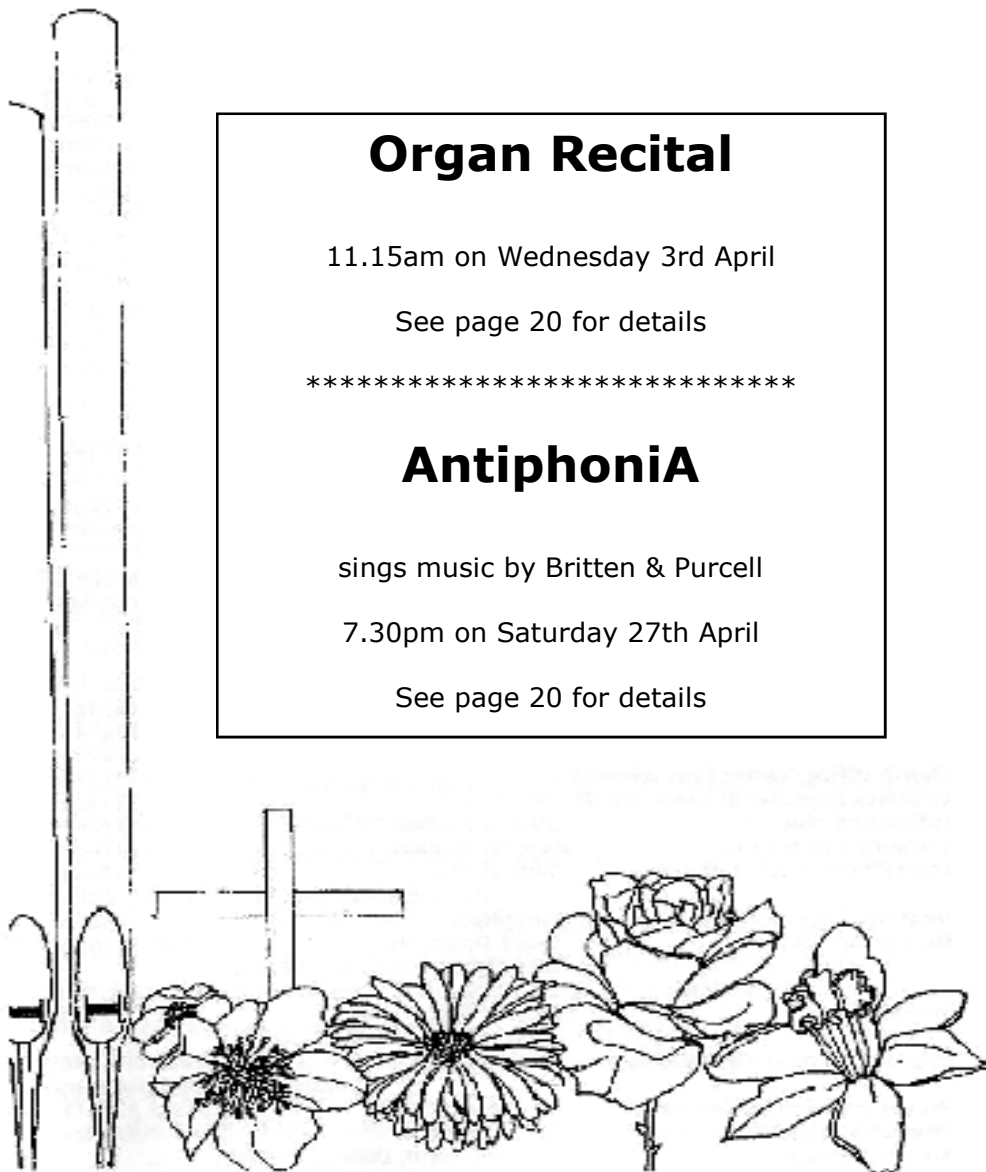
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## **Antiphonia**

sings music by Britten & Purcell

7.30pm on Saturday 27th April

See page 20 for details



# Christ Church Diary - April



Wed	3rd	10.30am 11.15am	Coffee and chat Organ Recital (see page 20)
Fri	5th	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC (see page 27)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>10.30am</b> 6.30pm	<b>Rev. Robert Blows</b> Evening Service at LMC: Rev. Ian Howarth
Thurs	11th	7.30pm	Elders and LMC Leaders' Meeting at LMC
<b>Sun</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion</b>
Tues	16th	7.45pm	Elders' Meeting
Thurs	18th	3.30pm	Messy Church at LMC
<b>Sun</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>10.30am</b> 10.30am 3.00pm	<b>Rev. Donald Finnan</b> Hospital Service St George's Day Scout Service
Thurs	25th	7.30pm	Annual Church Meeting
Sat	27th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at the Catholic Church Hall
<b>Sun</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>10.30am</b> 6.30pm	<b>Rev. Ian Howarth</b> New Fire - Ecumenical Service at LMC
<b><u>May</u></b>			
Wed	1st	10.30am 11.15am	Coffee and chat Organ Recital
Thurs	2nd	7.00pm	Churches Together meeting at BFree
Fri	3rd	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC (see page 27)
Sat	4th	all day	Covenanting Churches Away Day
<b>Sun</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>10.30am</b> 6.30pm	<b>Rev. Hazel Yu</b> Evening Service at LMC: Rev. Ian Howarth

# Christian Aid Week 2013

This year, Christian Aid week is 12th-18th May, and we look forward to the Christ Church family working together again for this very good cause.

Your help can be given in many ways: house-to-house collection; collection at Leatherhead railway station on Tuesday 14th May for one hour between 6.30am and 9.30am; or for an hour in the town centre on Thursday 16th May between 9.00am and 3.00pm.

If you feel able to deliver envelopes through letterboxes, but not collect, this too is a help.

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

Thank you in advance,

Margaret Dodds-Ely

Tel: 01372 277415

Email: [mdoddsely@live.co.uk](mailto:mdoddsely@live.co.uk)





## Christ Church Family News



We are very sad to report that **Frank Farnell** passed away peacefully on 10th March, a few hours after celebrating his 96th birthday. We send our sincere condolences to Monica and the family in their loss. The funeral took place at Randall's Road Crematorium on 28th March.

After a spell in Epsom Hospital, **Florence Gower** is now back at Milner House. We send our very best wishes to both Florence and Bert.

We again send our very best wishes to **Carol Hazell** who is still feeling very unwell.

**Liz Hindman** and her mother **Mimi Howes** are moving back to England from France. From 3rd April the address will be: 28 Challis Lane, Braintree, Essex CM7 1AN. We wish them well for their move and their new life in Essex.

**John Melrose** has been in Epsom Hospital for six weeks but is home at last. We send very best wishes for his continuing recovery. Please add John and Jean's address to the Directory: Tibbets Oak, The Downs, Givons Grove. KT22 8LD. Tel: 01372 373374.

We remember in our prayers all these friends and those still recovering from winter ailments.

*Anne Cairns*

# 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](http://www.leatherheadmethodist.org)

Contact: Senior Steward -  
Sue Friend 01372 813464

## **Christ Church (United Reformed) Leatherhead:**

[www.chch.org.uk](http://www.chch.org.uk)

Contact: Local Church Leader -  
Mike Essex 01372 273472

## **Effingham Methodist Church:**

[www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk)

Contact: Senior Steward -  
Dave Putland 01372 454850

## **Cobham United Reformed Church:**

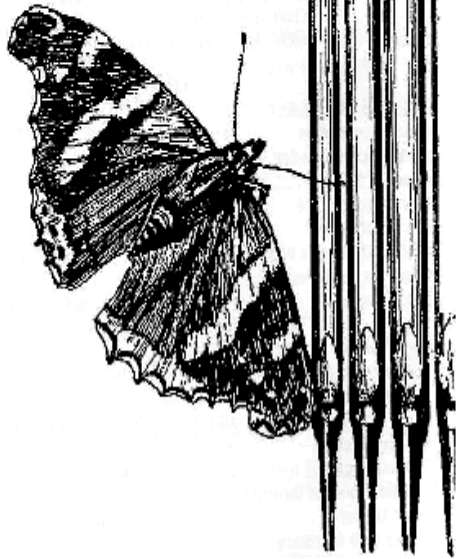
[www.cobhamurc.org.uk](http://www.cobhamurc.org.uk)

Contact: Church Secretary -  
Mary Langtry 01483 282421

## **Cobham Methodist Church:**

[www.cobhammethodistchurch.com](http://www.cobhammethodistchurch.com)

Contact: Senior Steward -  
Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



## **United Pastorate Ministers**

### **Rev. Ian Howarth**

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

### **E-mail:**

[ian@thehowarths.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:kimp_822@hotmail.com)