

the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

April 2014



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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Next United Pastorate Service

5.00pm on Sunday 29th June at Cobham URC,
followed by tea.

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



The Ministers Write...

From Rev. Kim Plumptre

Dear Friends,

With friends from Cobham Methodist Church I travelled over to Woking for 'Poverty Amidst Affluence', a presentation by speakers gathered together by Surrey Churches Together. Speakers from 'Church and Society', the Surrey Credit Union, 'Sanctuary', and 'Christians Against Poverty', as well as reflections on a community Foodbank, made for a very informative morning.

Rev. Prof. Andrew Bradstock (Secretary for Church and Society at the URC), spoke eloquently about life in all its fullness. *"At the root there's a failure on the part of many – whether wilful or otherwise – to recognise that the Christian gospel is about showing, yes, God's love for all who are in need, but also God's deep concern for justice, for an end to those factors which keep people from enjoying life in all its fullness. The gospel is about both doing good to our neighbour and asking why our neighbour is in need of our 'good works'... because if our gospel as Christians is about anything, it is about wanting people to know 'life in all its fullness', the message of hope that was at the very centre of Jesus' own ministry and which is therefore at the heart of ours. And many are not, which makes us and our society poorer."*

It seems to me that as we come towards the cross of Christ and Easter morning itself, neither can be taken in isolation but jointly present a Christ who endures suffering so that on Easter morning we might experience what it means to have life in all its fullness. As John Wesley suggests: *"created anew in Christ Jesus; when the love of the world is changed into the love of God; pride into humility; passion into meekness; hatred, envy, malice, into a sincere, tender, love for all mankind."*

So my prayer this Easter is that all of us may not only experience life in all its fullness, because Christ goes to such lengths so that we might be able to do so, but that we might ask a question of ourselves this Easter: In what ways might we be able to affect the lives of those who don't experience the fullness of life?

Have a very blessed Easter - Kim

From Rev. Lynda Russell

Dear Friends,

So are you off on a journey around Easter time? Will you be going on holiday? When I was young we travelled on holiday by car, and so it was a very special treat to go somewhere by train, to be able to watch the different places flash by out of the window. There were always much more interesting places to see through the train windows than through the car windows, and we didn't have to worry about the route or getting lost. Neither did my parents have to endure the perennial children's refrain, which I'm sure is still part of today's journeys: "Are we nearly there yet?" Usually of course said for the first time about ten minutes into a five hour journey!

The journey that we have made through Lent together towards Easter is one of the most meaningful times of our Christian year. Here in Leatherhead we have had the privilege of meeting together in ecumenical groups. We sometimes give up things in order to help us reflect on our own spiritual lives and where we stand before God. We try to ask ourselves hard questions and hopefully to be honest before God in our answers. At times through the weeks of Lent I sometimes want to ask with the child I once was in those car journeys "Are we nearly there yet?", so eager have I been to get to the light and joy of Easter Day.

And so we have journeyed with Jesus towards Jerusalem, to the Cross and beyond. A journey through death into life, and at last now as we have come to Easter Day we stand at the end of the journey. Or is it at the beginning? Together we celebrate the glorious truth of the resurrection, the very heart and cornerstone of our faith. As we enter into this truth again, and as the light of the risen Christ illuminates our lives, we can know with absolute certainty that each of us find ourselves loved beyond measure for the person we are, because we serve a Saviour whose love knows no limits. Not only that, but this love is the same yesterday, today, tomorrow and always, in a very real way in our lives.

Alleluia Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Every Blessing,

Lynda

"Good Deed Feed"

Do you see the free newspaper "Metro" at all? Those travelling by train to work will probably see it daily, and those of us who occasionally travel up to London may pick up a copy at the station. One of the daily bits of good news which is printed in the Metro is called the "Good Deed Feed". Gill Walker (Effingham) has suggested that we might try a "Good Deed Feed" for the Link. What do you think?

Gill's idea led me to think about other Good News stories and also about hearing "Thank You, God" comments. Apart from in the Metro, the Good Deed thread is followed each Saturday morning on "Saturday Live" on BBC Radio 4. In this programme, people thank strangers who did them a good deed, often many years ago. At LMC and at Christ Church we have a "Thank You" session at each morning service where members of the congregation are encouraged to say "Thank You" to God for a particular reason, or perhaps to mention those who need our prayers.

So, if you have a Good News story, or wish to say "Thank You" for something or to someone, why not drop me a line, email or telephone with the details? Maybe we could start a monthly page with your contributions? My contact details are on page 2.

Editor



See page 15 for News from the Circuit Archivist



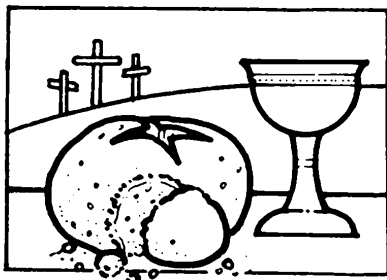
Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary - April



| | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------------------|--|
| Fri | 4th | All day | Day of Fasting with service at 6.00pm at St Andrew's Cobham |
| Sun | 6th | 10.30am | John Oborn |
| Fri | 11th | 4.30pm | CYC at the URC (to 6.30pm) |
| Sat | 12th | 10.00am 2.30pm | Time 4 You (to 12 noon) Platinum Service |
| Sun | 13th | 10.30am | David Cappitt |
| Thurs | 17th | 7.30pm | Maundy Thursday service at Cobham URC |
| Fri | 18th | 10.30am 10.30am - | Good Friday service at Cobham URC onwards: silent vigil round the cross in the centre of Cobham (<i>see opposite</i>) |
| Sun | 20th | <u>11.00am</u> | United Easter Communion Service with Rev. Kim Plumpton |
| Sun | 27th | 10.30am | Beth Little |
| May | | | |
| Sun | 4th | 10.30am | Clair Fisher |





Next "Time 4 You"

Saturday 12th April

**10.00am - 12 noon
Cobham Methodist Church**

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



Easter in Cobham

Good Friday,

18th April

10.30am Service at Cobham URC

A silent vigil will be kept around the cross in the centre of Cobham from 10.30am*

Easter Sunday,

20th April

11.00am A United Service with Holy Communion will be held at Cobham Methodist Church

* The silent vigil has been a successful way of engaging with the community as people out shopping seem struck by people surrounding the cross who are simply reflecting quietly. It has a profound impact and yet so simple. It is organised by Churches Together.



Cobham

United Reformed Church

Cobham URC Worship Diary: April



| | | | |
|---------------|------|-----------------------|---|
| Sun | 6th | 9.00am | Early Bird Service |
| | | 10.30am | Thelma Roberts |
| Sun | 13th | 10.30am | Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion |
| (Palm Sunday) | | | |
| Thurs | 17th | 7.30pm | Maundy Thursday service |
| Fri | 18th | 10.30am | Good Friday - United Service at the URC |
| Sun | 20th | <u>11.00am</u> | Easter Day service at Cobham |
| | | | Methodist Church - Rev Kim Plumpton |
| Sun | 27th | 10.30am | Sydney Shore |
| May | | | |
| Sun | 4th | 10.30am | Rev. Roy Bones |

Prayers at the Manse

at 9.30am on

Wednesdays: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th April

Cobham URC Events - April

| | | | |
|-------|------|------------------|---|
| Tues | 1st | 9.45am 8.00pm | Church Walk Elders' Meeting |
| Thurs | 3rd | 12.30pm | Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW |
| Sun | 6th | 3.00pm | Special Needs Group (to 6.00pm) |
| Tues | 8th | 11.00am | Coffee for Carers at the URC |
| Fri | 18th | 10.30am - | onwards: Good Friday silent vigil round the cross in the centre of Cobham (<i>see page 7</i>) |
| Tues | 22nd | 11.00am | Coffee for Carers at the URC |
| Fri | 25th | 3.00pm | T@3 at Church |

See also "Easter in Cobham" on page 7





Effingham

Methodist Church

Effingham Methodist Diary - April



| | | | |
|------------|-------------|----------------------|---|
| Tues | 1st | 2.30pm | Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall |
| Wed | 2nd | 8.00pm | Christian Meditation in the Church |
| Sat | 5th | 10.00am | Café Church - St. Lawrence Church Hall (to 11.00am) |
| Sun | 6th | 10.00am | Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion |
| Thurs | 10th | 2.15pm | Bible Study Group in the Hall |
| Sun | 13th | 10.00am | Palm Sunday with Will Fletcher |
| Tues | 15th | 2.30pm | Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall |
| Wed | 16th | 8.00pm | Christian Meditation in the Church |
| Thurs | 17th | 9.30am | Hot Cross Buns at Effingham's shops |
| | | 7.30pm | Maundy Service at Cobham URC |
| Fri | 18th | 5.00pm | Walk of Witness starts at All Saints Church |
| | | 6.00pm | Good Friday Service at EMC with Kim |
| Sun | 20th | <u>9.00am</u> | Easter Sunday with Rev. Kim Plumpton |
| Wed | 23rd | 12.30pm | St. George's Day lunch in the hall (<i>see p. 13</i>) |
| Sun | 27th | 10.00am | Juliet Fuller |
| May | | | |
| Sat | 3rd | 10.00am | Café Church, St Lawrence Church Hall (to 11am) |
| Sun | 4th | 10.00am | Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion |

Prayer Meetings...

...are held at the home of Freddie Jenkins every Friday at 9.15am.

Effingham and Little Bookham Messy Church



We are delighted that our Messy Church continues to grow. Our February session surprised us all as the weather was truly awful, raining yet more of the watery stuff that we've experienced so much of this year, leading us to believe that no one would actually turn up. Surprisingly 15 youngsters arrived with their parents or carers in tow to take part in our Jesus the Good Shepherd activities, and a good time was had by all. Maybe a warm dry venue with some hot food was a really welcome stop off too. In March we warmly welcomed 18 children with a theme of Jesus the true vine.

Thanks to all who helped prepare crafts, cook the food, make the delicious cakes or help the children with their crafts, or sing songs during the afternoon. All volunteers are very welcome.

Special thanks to our lovely sponsors, in particular the local I.C.E. Improving Communities in Effingham (with profits from recent Village Days set aside for work with young people) and Churches Together in Effingham and Little Bookham.

The next Messy Church will be on 9th April and will take place throughout the year (except August) on the second Wednesday of every month from 3.30pm – 5.30pm in St Lawrence Church Hall for young children mainly of primary school age. A donation of £3 per session would be welcome. Easter will be our next theme.

We can welcome some more children – do come and join us!

Gill Walker
01372 457987 – for more information



Birthday Dates to celebrate this month

Two of our 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

The Chapel will be open on Friday 11th April from 11.00am to 12 noon for "Kim's Surgery", when anyone can just drop-in for a chat. It's really just for passers-by, as lots of people use the local shops, and may like to pop-in for a prayer, questions, or just a cup of tea and a biscuit.

Church Council

There is a Church Council meeting in the Chapel on Tuesday 27th May from 10.00am to 12 noon. All items for inclusion on the agenda should be sent to our Church Secretary, Gill Walker.



Effingham's 160th Chapel Anniversary

Our celebrations have moved this year as we've recently discovered that the Chapel was opened on 4th October 1854. So far our plans for the weekend include a Flower Festival and exhibition in the Chapel followed by a Barn Dance at KGV on Saturday night. Kim will lead our service on Sunday and we'll have lunch in the hall. We welcome your ideas too - Talk to Ange or Dave P.

April

When April comes I am always reminded of the words of my favourite poet Robert Browning:

"O to be in England now that April's here",

because although Browning appreciated the warmth of Italy, mainly because of his wife's health, he had nostalgic feelings for his native land especially in springtime.

But the month of April also reminds us of other things, and soon we will be experiencing the thoughts of death as we come to Good Friday. In another poem "Prospice", Browning talks of a battle:

I was ever a fighter, so - one fight more,

The best and the last!

I would hate that death bandaged my eyes, and forebore,

And bade me creep past.

He regarded life as providing the thrill of a challenge and the excitement of a battle, and is content to leave the final result to God. His poem enthusiastically celebrates death as a final battle whose favourable result to the brave can be confidently predicted. In the case of Jesus it resulted in the resurrection, so we too can have hope when the time comes for us that as Jesus won the battle, so will we.

Freddie Jenkins



St. George's Day Lunch
at Effingham Methodist Church
Wednesday 23rd April
12.30 to 2.00pm

Tickets @ £5.00
Ring Pat McElhill on 01372 457979
In aid of World Mission & MAF



EASTER in Effingham

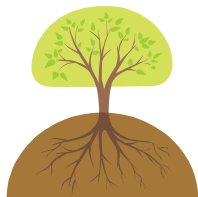
The last of our **Lent Lunches** in aid of *The Royal Association for the Deaf* will be held from 12.30 to 2.00pm in St. Lawrence's Church Hall on **Wednesday 2nd April** with a speaker from the local Dorking branch.

Once again on **Maundy Thursday**, the Easter message will be given to Effingham's shoppers when **Kim** and a few helpers will be handing out locally cooked **hot-cross buns** wrapped in serviettes with a special Easter message and details about how to find out more about Jesus.

Good Friday is on 18th April with an ecumenical **Walk of Witness** starting from **All Saints Church** at 5.00pm and ending at the Methodist Chapel at 6.00pm with an **At the Foot of the Cross Service** with **Rev. Kim Plumptre**



News from your Circuit Archivist



Our Circuit began in 1844, so this year will be our 170th Anniversary, and I'd like to celebrate this with an exhibition about our Circuit's early history.

So I recently met with some of the team who, a few years ago, wrote **"The Story So Far"** - the history of **London Road**, and we've agreed to co-operate on an exhibition, which will travel around the Churches from about September. **Effingham Chapel will also display this exhibition over Heritage Open Days weekend on 12th and 13th September. Leatherhead and Dorking will also be open** over this weekend as usual, as it's a popular free event throughout Surrey and most of UK but somehow very low-profile in Sussex! So it's difficult for our churches in Horsham to get involved, but we're still keen for an exhibition about our roots and branches to circulate around the southern end of the Circuit.

In February David and I visited the **"Who do YOU think you are show" at Olympia** in London, a huge family history exhibition, where **Methodist Heritage** had a stand. Genealogy is big business, and our social history websites were launched here in 2013. Of course many of the stands at the show this year were focusing on the **WW1 Centenary**, and our social history websites are keen to discover if any of our churches have **War Memorials** or stories. Maybe a relative who was a conscientious objector?

The new book by Philip Thornborow, the former Connexional Archivist was on sale at the show - **"A Methodist in the family?" A snip at £4** and full of information about tracing your Methodist family roots, so a useful book to sell in your Church, or put a copy in your library. It's available from Methodist publishing:

<http://www.methodistheritage.org.uk/research-family.htm>

Angela J. Putland

Dorking and Horsham Circuit

The **Methodist Church** 

Leatherhead Pages

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

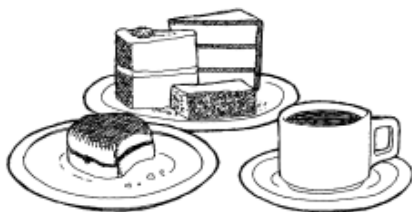


Next Messy Church:

Thursday 17th April
3.30pm to 5.30pm at



News of 'Time for Tea' at LMC



The next Time for Tea will be on **Friday 4th April, 2.30pm to 4.30pm at Leatherhead Methodist Church**. Please contact Margaret Meynen (372930) or Gill Harris (458518) if you'd like a lift to the Methodist Church on that day.

Easter in Leatherhead

Good Friday:

Stations of the Cross

We extend a warm welcome to our brothers and sisters from other churches in Leatherhead who like to attend this service before going on to the Walk of Witness. It starts at 9.15am, ending at 9.45am.

Catholic Church of Our Lady & St Peter

Walk of Witness



Christians across Leatherhead join together to walk through Leatherhead in remembrance of the moments of Jesus leading up to the cross. This year we'll be starting at 10.00am at the Catholic Church of Our Lady & St

Peter, Garlands Road, and ending at the bottom of the High Street. Refreshments with hot cross buns will be provided at the Anglican Parish Hall, Church Road, afterwards. Everyone is welcome!



Easter Day:

There will be United Easter Day Service of Holy Communion led by Rev. Lynda Russell at Christ Church starting at 10.30am. All welcome.



Leatherhead's Third Year of 12.30 lunchtime concerts

**MUSIC
ON
THURSDAYS
at LMC**



**WEDNESDAYS
at
CHRIST
CHURCH**

April 3rd to November 27th 2014

featuring
students of the Royal Academy of Music
former students of London's music colleges and
talented local musicians

Concert Admission Free, with a retiring collection to cover costs

Thu 3rd April - LMC
Alice Bishop, soprano

Thu 10th April - LMC

Yelang Choi, flute, @

Snow Wang Silu, piano @

Weds 16th April - Christ Church

Anthony Cairns, organ

Thu 24th April - LMC

Emma Halnan, flute @

Auriol Evans, cello @,

Daniel King-Smith, piano @

Thu 1st May - LMC

Tritium Trio @

clarinet, cello, piano

Thu 8th May - LMC

Nicolas Gomez Navel, trumpet @

Weds 14th May - Christ Church

John Sharples organ

Thu 22nd May - LMC

Jacqueline Phillips, cello & piano

Thu 29th May - LMC

Edita Zurauskaite-Durrant, mezzo

Thu 5th June - LMC

Francisco Correa, guitar

Thu 12th June - LMC

Fetcham Trio, violin, cello, piano

A concert each week until November

Leatherhead Methodist Church
Church Road
Leatherhead KT22 8AY



Christ Church United Reformed
Epsom Road
Leatherhead KT22 8ST

Supported by Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society ♦ HMRC Charities Ref EW02213



Sisters Get-Together

Saturday 26th April 2014

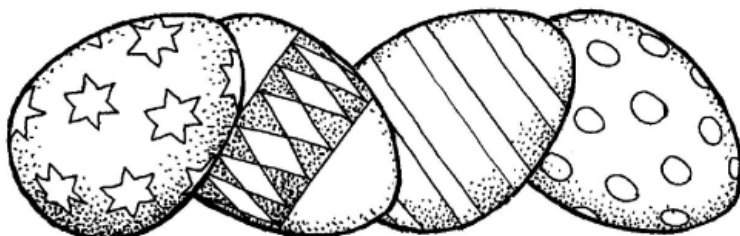
Sisters Get-Together is a new group for women that has been set up as an initiative of Churches Together in Leatherhead. The first meeting will be on Saturday 26th April, and the plan is then to meet quarterly thereafter. The meetings will be held at the BFree Café, All Saints Leatherhead. Doors will open at 8.30am with the main part of the meeting starting at 9.00am.

Refreshments will be available and the meeting will finish promptly by 10.00am. Donations will be requested to cover the cost of refreshments.

The aim of the group is to provide the opportunity for the women of Leatherhead to come together, to get to know each other in order to support each other and all areas of the community. The meetings will be a mixture of informal social gatherings and more formal talks.

Please come and support us and bring a friend with you.

For further information contact Sue Friend (813464) or Carol Stoves (377125).



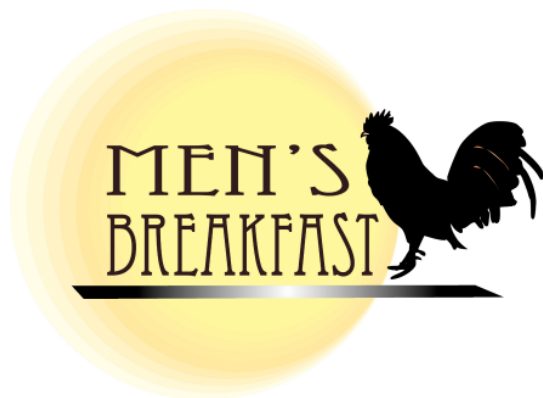


Men's Breakfasts

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

- 26th April - URC Church Hall - Dr Margaret Birtwistle, "Drug and Alcohol services"
- 31st May - Anglican Church Hall - Bill Peetz, "A journey"
- 28th June - Methodist Church Hall (to be notified)
- 26th July - Catholic Church Meeting Room (to be notified)
- August - No meeting
- 27th Sept - URC Church Hall (to be notified)
- 25th Oct - Anglican Church Hall (to be notified)
- 29th Nov - Catholic Church Meeting Room (to be notified)

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



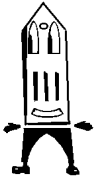


Dr Fred Meynen, in the Catholic Meeting Room, telling the Leatherhead Men's Breakfast attendees at the February meeting about the proposals for Leatherhead Hospital. These Breakfasts are held at each of the local churches in turn. (*See opposite*)

The Churches Together in Leatherhead monthly breakfast group were enjoying their 100th breakfast and their 10th birthday. We also learnt that a Women's Saturday Breakfast is to start soon. (*see page 19*)

Mike Ward





Leatherhead

Methodist Church



Diary - April



| | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Thurs 3rd | 12.30pm | Music on Thursdays (<i>see page 18</i>) |
| Fri 4th | 2.30pm | Time for Tea (<i>ends 4.30pm</i>) (<i>see page 16</i>) |
| Sun 6th | 10.30am | Rev. Lynda Russell - Baptism of Finn Gibbon |
| Thurs 10th | 12.30pm | Music on Thursdays (<i>see page 18</i>) |
| Sun 13th | 10.30am 12 noon 6.30pm | Beth Little General Church Meeting Rev. Lynda Russell with Holy Communion |
| Wed 16th | 12.30pm 7.00pm | Organ Recital at Christ Church (<i>see page 18</i>) Lent Groups 'Bring & Share' Meal at Christ Church |
| Thurs 17th | 3.30pm | Messy Church (to 5.30pm) |
| Fri 18th | 10.00am | Good Friday Walk of Witness (<i>see page 17</i>) |
| Sun 20th | 10.30am | United Easter Day Service at Christ Church - Rev. Lynda Russell with Holy Communion |
| Wed 23rd | 7.30pm | Joint Leadership/Elders Meeting at Christ Church |
| Thurs 24th | 12.30pm | Music on Thursdays (<i>see page 18</i>) |
| Sat 26th | 8.00am 8.30am | Men's Breakfast at Christ Church (<i>see page 20</i>) Sister's Get-Together at BFree (<i>see page 19</i>) |
| Sun 27th | 10.30am 6.30pm | Rhys Frost New Fire |
| May | | |
| Thurs 1st | 12.30pm | Music on Thursdays (<i>see page 18</i>) |
| Fri 2nd | 2.30pm | Time for Tea (<i>ends 4.30pm</i>) (<i>see page 16</i>) |
| Sun 4th | 10.30am | John Oborn |

Evening Services at LMC

Starting in April, there will be a reduced number of evening services at LMC. The regular pattern will be:

2nd Sunday – Evening Service with Holy Communion,

4th Sunday – New Fire (ecumenical contemporary worship).

There will also be occasional special services which will be advertised in the usual ways.

General Church Meeting

There will be a General Church Meeting to which all LMC members are invited to attend, after morning service on Sunday 13th April.



LMC Family News

Welcome to...

- Mary Knevett, and
- Esther and Trevor Dale, and their children James and Leonie...

who have been worshipping with us in recent weeks.

Congratulations to...

... Maureen and Les Prescott on the occasion of their 25th Wedding Anniversary on 15th April.

MWiB District Day at Tonbridge

"Pilgrims and Companions"

This is the theme that runs through Linda Crossley's term of office as MWiB Connexional President. I also thought how apt it was for a District Day when women had travelled by a variety of means from around the SE District, to meet together at Tonbridge to chat and laugh, to listen and learn, to eat and to meet. I journeyed by train with Frances from Guildford, a friendship which goes back to the days of the old London SW District.



It was a well attended meeting with representatives from all three District areas. It began with a service of Holy Communion, led by Rev. Rose Westwood (Assistant District Chair) and the induction of Rev. Elizabeth Dunn-Wilson as District President. This was followed by Linda's first session on her

theme. She told of her own personal Christian journey. Linda has always had a local (Yorkshire) connection with women's work of some kind but that had to be put on hold when both her parents needed age-related care. Linda spent so much time with her parents she felt it became a role-reversal. When they both died within a short time of each other, Linda not only found herself with more spare time but little to fill it. So, in 2011, she became more and more involved in the wider aspect of MWiB. Her revived Christian journey became an important factor. Unlike former Presidents, Linda stressed she is not a minister's wife, local preacher or Worship leader, and brings to the post simply what her heart dictates.

After lunch, Linda spoke again, this time highlighting her Vice-Presidential visit to the Church of North India. During this time she was made very aware of the problems facing Dalit women. Although the caste system is officially no longer recognised, it is still very evident. It is a problem that the whole of the Methodist Church is conscious of.

MWiB in particular is committed to a five year focus on caste discrimination and the worldwide treatment of Dalit people. MWiB has a Dalit Solidarity Resources Pack with information and ideas for action and worship, prayer and awareness raising (I have one). Dalit Solidarity will be the District's new two-year fund-raising project from September. Linda's experience, with excellent slides, really made us aware of the plight of such people.

District news informed us that the present "4 Aurora" Project has raised over £11,000. Hopefully more will come in during its last six months.

There will be a Western Area (that's us!) day at Wokingham on Saturday 14th June. Keep your eyes open for more details. On Saturday 27th September there will be a day at Folkestone, based on "An Experience of South India". Another day is planned for Guildford, just up the road - no details yet. On 25th October another meeting is planned at a church just outside Eastbourne - more details later.

The day at Tonbridge was a success. I am so glad I made the pilgrimage to meet up with like-minded companions.

Jean Plant

Should we thank God for bad things as well as good things?

In our services in the Methodist and URC churches in Leatherhead, we focus quite a bit on thanking God for nice things. But what about bad things? As my readers may know, there are some places in the Bible that seem to suggest we should thank and praise God for bad things as well.

For example in the book of Genesis, Joseph goes through some terrible experiences when he is sold into slavery by his brothers and ends up in prison as a result of a false accusation. Yet the good that eventually results is beyond his wildest dreams when he becomes Pharaoh's second-in-command, and saves his own family and many other people from starvation. As he says to his brothers in Genesis 50:20: "...you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."

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When David says in Psalm 34:1 *"I will bless the Lord at all times;..."*, this would seem to imply praising God when things are going well and when they are going badly.

The prophet Habakkuk begins his book by complaining to God: *"How long, O Lord, will I call for help, and Thou wilt not hear?"* (Hab. 1:2a). Yet by the end of the book he is prepared to praise God even though everything is falling apart around him: *Though the fig tree should not blossom, and there be no fruit on the vines,
Though the yield of the olive should fail, and the fields produce no food,
Though the flock should be cut off from the fold, and there be no cattle in the stalls,
Yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.* (Hab. 3:17-18).

If I had been thrown into prison as Paul and Silas were in Acts 16:23, the last thing I would feel like doing is *"...singing hymns of praise to God..."* (verse 25). But that is exactly what they did and there was an earthquake and the result was the conversion of the jailer.

Romans 8:28 is quite a well-known verse: *"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."*

Paul also says in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 *"...in everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

In James 1:2 we find one of the most difficult commands in the Bible to obey: *"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials"*.

However, the greatest example in the Bible of good coming from bad must surely be the crucifixion of Christ. What could be worse than inflicting such suffering and death on the Son of God and bringing to an end such a wonderful ministry? Yet as a result of that we have forgiveness, salvation and eternal life. As we approach Good Friday, perhaps that would provide an excellent thought to add to our meditations. If we can praise and thank God for something as bad as that, perhaps we should be able to thank God for all other bad things as well?

(Bible quotations from NASV).

Bob Greenfield

Joan Rowe

This is a much-condensed summary of the eulogy given by David Stoves at LMC on Friday 21st Feb., during the Service of Thanksgiving for Joan's life.

"We thank God for Joan's life. It is my privilege to share with you a little about the friend that I have known for the last forty-four years. Joan Elizabeth Mould was born on 27th February 1920. Her father worked in the family ironmongers shop in the High Street in Leatherhead. Joan's Grandfather, Stephen, played a major role in the re-birth of the Methodist Church in Leatherhead.

In September 1930, Joan moved from the Miss Danks' Preparatory School in Leatherhead to Sutton High School for Girls, where, by all accounts, she had a pretty good time. Joan was received into membership of the Methodist Church by Rev. W. Freeman in 1935, and she remained a member here for the rest of her life.

When Joan and David were married, Joan's father had purchased some land and David helped build their own house on it. 'Sidi Jedh' opened its doors on 28th January 1947, in good time for the birth of Elizabeth in March, and three years later Timothy was also born there.

Sidi Jedh's large sitting room became useful as the venue for the Ashted House Group's regular meetings. Over many years lots of church gatherings were held there in the house which was always an open friendly home.

In April 1966 Joan and David went to live in Kathmandu, Nepal, where David had been seconded from the BBC to work as a Broadcasting Expert to the Kingdom of Nepal. Joan and David were keen supporters of Methodist Holiday Homes and of the separate company, Christian Guild Holidays, and for many years were shareholders in both, and regular patrons of the homes around the country.

Joan organised some wonderful groups to visit "Spring Harvest" at Minehead for a number of years. Even after David's death in 2002, Joan had itchy feet and was pleased to take her entire immediate family on a P&O mini-cruise from Southampton to Zeebrugge in October 2006.

Joan loved to discuss aspects of faith, and she attended several house groups in Ashted and Leatherhead, for as long as she was physically able. The last two years of Joan's life were spent at Rosset Holt, a Christian residential home in Tunbridge Wells.

I wonder how she would like to be remembered? I think there are three overriding things that she would have us remember: Firstly her love of family and the importance of supporting and being supported by her children and grandchildren. Secondly, her friendships that extended her care and concern to so many, who valued her greatly. Thirdly, her faith which guided her life, and inspired her thoughts and I'm sure she would want to commend that to each of you today."

LMC Leadership Team

Principal points arising from the last meeting on 4th March.

Family & Children's Worker: Funding for a Family worker is still available from Circuit for three years. Discussions will begin about what we want our Family worker to do once the Rector returns from sick leave.

Finance: We remain in a similar position to this time last year. We expect to have a deficit of around £3000 by the end of the financial year (end of August). The treasurer will put a paragraph explaining the financial situation in the notices.

Church Directory: Norma is putting together a new church directory. Please check your own details at the back of the church.

Property: We have been contacted about running a Dementia Workshop at LMC.

We have a new letting for karate two evenings a week - they will meet at 5.45pm on Mondays and 6.30pm on Thursdays to allow for Messy Church.

Church Council has agreed that equipment should be installed in the lower hall to enable the use of digital resources with the children. A grant may be available after 1st April.

Ecumenical: CPL follow-up - we need to focus our prayers on our mission. We also need to consider suitable people to join these three groups:

- Our Mission
- Clarifying certain details within the report
- Joining the two fellowships

Stewards: Two new stewards will be appointed at the General Church Meeting this year (13th April). Sue and Carol are stepping down next year. Thanks to Harry for serving as a Steward for the past three years.

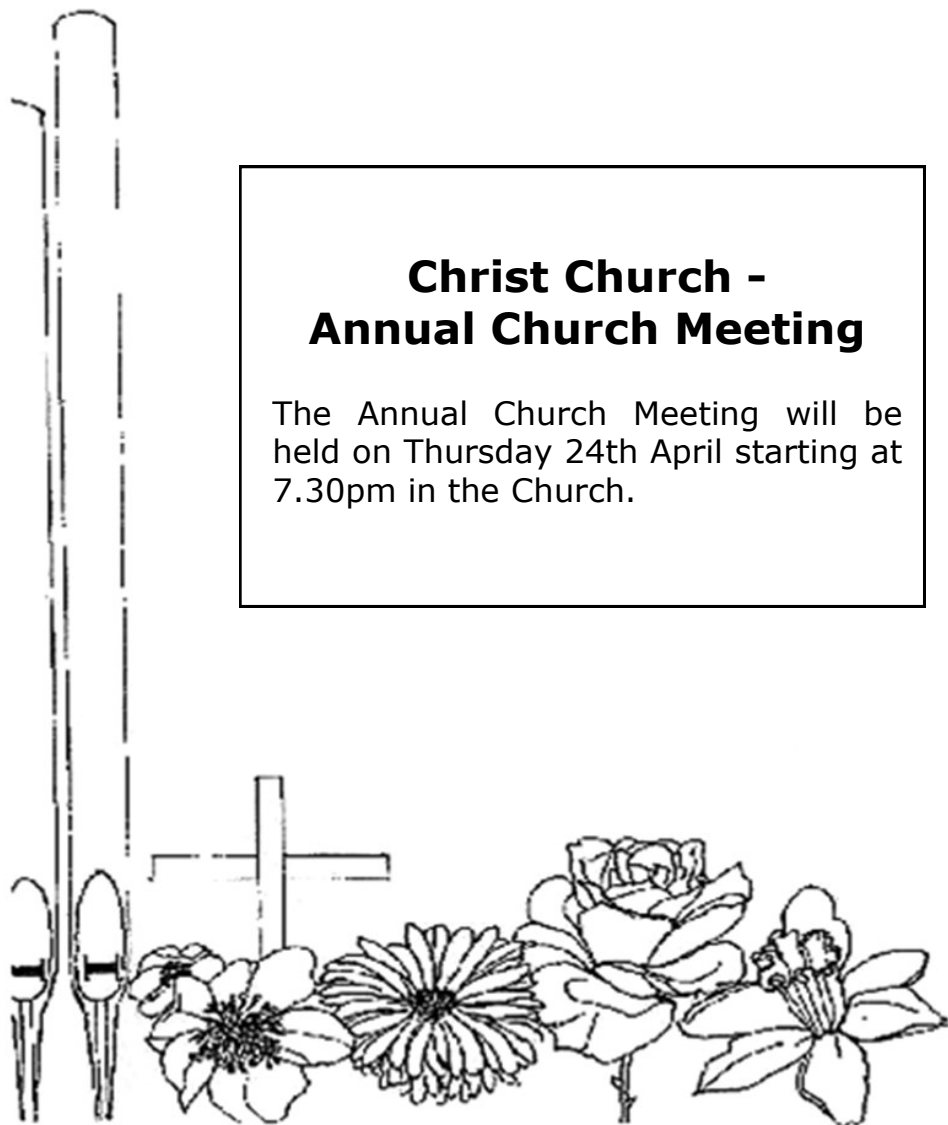
Sisters Get-Together: This is a new women's breakfast type group but open to all women. First meeting 26th April at BFree at 8.30 am. Publicity material has now been received and will be printed for display and distribution.

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

Christ Church - Annual Church Meeting

The Annual Church Meeting will be held on Thursday 24th April starting at 7.30pm in the Church.



Christ Church Diary - April



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| Thurs 3rd | 12.30pm | Music on Thursdays at LMC (<i>see page 18</i>) |
| Fri 4th | 2.30pm 8.00pm | Time for Tea at LMC (<i>see page 16</i>) SoundBytes Concert |
| Sun 6th | 10.30am | Rev. Robert Blows |
| Thurs 10th | 12.30pm | Music on Thursdays at LMC (<i>see page 18</i>) |
| Sun 13th | 10.30am 6.30pm | Palm Sunday - Rev. Lynda Russell Communion Service at LMC - Rev. Lynda Russell |
| Wed 16th | 12.30pm 7.00pm | Organ Recital (<i>see page 18</i>) Lent Groups 'Bring & Share' meal at Christ Church |
| Thurs 17th | 3.30pm | Messy Church at LMC (to 5.30pm) |
| Fri 18th | 10.00am | Good Friday Walk of Witness (<i>see page 17</i>) |
| Sun 20th | 10.30am | United Easter Day Service at Christ Church - Rev. Lynda Russell with Holy Communion |
| Wed 23rd | 7.30pm | Joint Elders/LMC Leadership Team meeting |
| Thurs 24th | 12.30pm 7.30pm | Music on Thursdays at LMC (<i>see page 18</i>) Annual Church Meeting |
| Sat 26th | 8.00am 8.30am | Men's Breakfast at Christ Church (<i>see page 20</i>) Sisters' Get-Together at BFree (<i>see page 19</i>) |
| Sun 27th | 10.30am 6.30pm | Rev. Lynda Russell New Fire Ecumenical Service at LMC |

May

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|----------------|----------------|--|
| Thurs 1st | 12.30pm | Music on Thursdays at LMC (<i>see page 18</i>) |
| Fri 2nd | 2.30pm | Time for Tea at LMC (<i>see page 16</i>) |
| Sun 4th | 10.30am | Mrs Eileen Lawlor |

Christ Church Family News



We were very pleased to welcome Rebecca Claire Amos, Jacqui Ball's second granddaughter, into the church at her Christening Service on 23rd March. It was lovely to have all the family there.

It was very good to see Joyce Cuss back at church again after some weeks away.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Beryl Turner, whose brother died while she was away in Tenerife. We assure her of our support at this time.

We remember all these people in our prayers, and those who are lonely, unwell or undergoing treatment, and the bereaved, thinking especially of Bert Gower."

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:

Church Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8AY
www.leatherheadmethodist.org
Contact: Senior Steward -
Sue Friend 01372 813464

Christ Church (United Reformed):

Epsom Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ST
www.chch.org.uk
Contact: Local Church Leader -
Mike Essex 01372 273472

Effingham Methodist Church:

Chapel Hill, Effingham, KT24 5NB
www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk
Contact: Senior Steward -
Dave Putland 01372 454850

Cobham United Reformed Church:

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

Cobham Methodist Church:

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



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