

# The United Pastorate of Leatherhead

Leatherhead Cobham Effingham

## 2016 December- January 2017





### 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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Our good wishes and prayers are with Lynda and John at this difficult time following bereavement. We pray that 2017 may be a year of blessing for them.

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# The Ministers Write...

### From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

"Waiting is an art that our impatient age has forgotten. It wants to break open the ripe fruit when it has hardly finished planting the shoot. But all too often the greedy eyes are only deceived; the fruit that seemed so precious is still green on the inside, and disrespected hands ungratefully toss aside what has so disappointed them." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).

Have those who have gone searching been disappointed and simply tossed aside that which doesn't seem relevant anymore? The waiting will soon be over, God will enter our world in the unlikeliest manner but will anyone notice?

For many we enter a season that glistens with glitter, tinsel and warm glowing lights. The shops are jam packed with polar bears, deer and penguins in every shape, size and colour, stag heads seem to be all the rage too. Maybe it's me but it seems to be getting harder and harder to find signs that Christmas is all about Christ?

On Monday Colin and I went to Chichester and on our return pulled into a huge garden centre with a sign ' Christmas shop open'. It was a joy to behold and hoping that I might be able to pick some bits and pieces up I entered with great enthusiasm. For quite a while we wandered around the shop enjoying the array of Christmas baubles and all things that sparkled, no sign yet of a baby born on Christmas morn, until we found a book shelf tucked away in a corner. Displaying half a dozen nativity scenes, it did not greet us as we came through the door declaring the joy of Christmas morning, no instead it looked so out of place, almost abandoned by those who had so clearly taken great care over everything else on the shop floor. I felt a deep sense of sadness and in one ridiculous moment felt like buying the lot just to declare that actually these were by far the most precious items the shop could offer. But of course I didn't, I already have several nativity sets and exactly what would it achieve apart from robbing those who may well be searching for the truth of Christmas in this place. It is so easy for us to be swallowed up by the Christmas' of today, and if we're honest neglect the truth of Christmas when others are not so open to our understanding.

We have become so accustomed to the idea of divine love and of God's coming at Christmas that we no longer feel the shiver of fear that God's coming should arouse in us. We are indifferent to the message, taking only the pleasant and agreeable out of it and forgetting the serious aspect, that the God of the world draws near to the people of our little earth and lays claim to us." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

God draws near in the most unexpected way but in doing so we find that in our vulnerability, God overcomes. God overcomes our expectations, overcomes our ideas of wealth and power, he overcomes our ideas of poverty, he overcomes our arrogance and pride. God seeks to replace it with a humility and a dependence on all things Holy. God gives us hope beyond measure that what we see is not all there is to this world and that God will never let us go no matter what we do. Let's put Christ at the centre of all we do this Christmas and let others know the good news!

The Plumpton household would like to wish you a blessed Christmas and may 2017 be a year where peace reigns and God's love is always abundant. Xx

### From Rev. Gavin Hancocks

Dear Friends,

It is my privilege to be writing for the Pastorate Newsletter. For those who have yet to meet me, I am the new Circuit Superintendent and have been in post since October. We are finding our way in the Dorking & Horsham Circuit and are hugely encouraged by the welcome we have received and excited at the prospects for ministry and mission together in the Circuit.

Christmas is upon us once again and with it all the hustle and bustle of the festive season. As always, the challenge is not to let ourselves get lost in the distractions the season generates – the parties and festivities, the lists and things to do, the presents and bills to pay! – but perhaps to make an effort to focus on the heart of it all, Immanuel, God with us! (Mt 1:23)

It isn't easy to always recognise that. The season is so mixed. For some of us it is a joyful time full of eager anticipation and expectation. For others it is filled with the emptiness of those we miss so dearly. Yet, for each of us there is the opportunity to be reminded that no matter what our circumstances, God is here, in the midst of it, with us, now.

This is the essential message of Christmas for me. It's easy to look around and see what's lacking and how broken things might be. It's even easier to take all of that as evidence of God's disinterest but to do that is to miss the message of Christmas. The Angel tells Joseph that the child's name will be Immanuel – God with us and in doing so declares a message we cannot ignore. The incarnation is the sign of God's eternal presence in our midst. For God this is not a throw away world he has made. It's not some project of which he has grown tired. No, Christmas reminds us that God's place is right here in the heart of it. This is, after all, God's world. God created it, God sustains it and God is drawing to himself so that it might reflect the fullness of God's glory intended in that creation.

So, let us each one look for the signs of God's presence amongst us. Or perhaps let us each one learn to be the signs of that presence manifesting itself in our midst. It's not rocket science, as they say, it's really quite simple. It's about self-sacrifice, it's about compassion, it's about hope, it's about love – all the things that ultimately define us as truly human, as altogether divine that we may be in every way children of our Father who is in heaven. Wouldn't that be the best Christmas present ever!

Every Blessing Gavin

### Surprises

I really love surprises! (Well, those that are quite nice) And Christmas time disguises Some pearls of treasured price!

People's faces when they smile As they loose those wrapping sheets Now *that's* the Christmas style, And that is hard to beat!

May your Christmas be surprised by joy, Put a smile upon your face; But don't forget that baby boy – God's great surprise of grace!

By Nigel Beeton (Parish Pump)





# **Cobham Methodist Worship Diary**



### **December**

Sun 4th 10.30am John Oborn

Sun 11th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion

(Joint Service at URC)

Sun 18th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton (Joint Service)

6.30pm United Carol Service at URC

Sat 24th 4.00pm Crib Service at URC

6.30pm Holy Communion at URC 11.30pm Midnight Service at URC

Sun 25th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton (Joint Service)

### January

Sun 1st 10.30am David Cappitt (Joint Service)

Sun 8th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton

(Joint Service at URC)

Sat 14th 2.30pm Platinum Service

Sun 15th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton - Covenant Service

(Joint Service)

Sun 22nd10.30am \*\*

Sun 29th 10.30am Heather Ward (Joint Service at URC)

### **February**

Sun 5th 10.30am \*\*

\*\*: TBA: See Methodist preaching plan



### Next "Time 4 You"

(not in December)
Saturday 14th January,
10.00am - 12 noon



# **Cobham**

# **Worship Diary**

### **December**

Sun 4th 9.00am Early Bird Service

10.30am Sydney Shore

Sun 11th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion

(Joint Service)

Sun 18th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton (Joint Service at CMC)

6.30pm United Carol Service

Sat 24th 4.00pm Crib Service at URC

6.30pm Holy Communion at URC 11.30pm Midnight Service at URC

Sun 25th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton (Joint Service at CMC)

### January

Sun 1st 9.00am Early Bird Service

10.30am David Cappitt (Joint Service at CMC)

Sun 8th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton (Joint Service)

Sun 15th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton - Covenant Service

(Joint Service at CMC)

Sun 22nd 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton

Followed by Church Meeting

Sun 29th 10.30am Heather Ward (Joint Service)

### **February**

Sun 6th 9.00am Early Bird Service

### **Prayers at the Manse**

Wednesdays at 9.30 am

December: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th\*; January: 4th\*, 11th, 18th, 25th Note that on the 28th Dec and 4th Jan, prayers will be in the church.

### **Cobham Events**



#### December

Thur 1st Men's Fellowship (The Cricketers, Downside) 12.30pm Advent Bible Study at the Manse (to 12 noon) Fri 2nd 10.30am Christmas Messy Morning (to 12.30) Sat 3rd 10.30am Sun 4th 3.00pm Play and Chat (to 6.00pm) Tues 6th 9.45am Church Walk Elders' Meeting (URC) 8.00pm

Tues 13th 2.00pm Open House at the Manse (to 5.00pm)

and 7.30pm ditto (to 9.30pm)

### **January**

Tues 3rd 9.45am Church Walk 8.00pm Elders' Meeting (URC)

Thur 5th 12.30pm Men's Fellowship (The Queen's Head, E Clandon)

Sun 8th 3.00pm Play and Chat (to 6.00pm)

Sat 14th 10.00am Time 4 You (to 12 noon)

Thur 26th 3.45pm Messy Church (to 5.45)



### **Churches Coming Together**

On a recent tour of Southern India, I visited quite a lot of Hindu temples, but also a significant number of Christian Churches. The Church of St Francis, in Fort Cochin, has been there for several hundred years. The body of Vasco da Gama was initially interred there until his son came to take it back for burial in Portugal, and our guide pointed out that it was initially a Catholic Church, later becoming Anglican in the time of British rule, "as it is still" he said. So I pointed out his error: there are no Anglican churches now in southern India. Since 1947 they have been part of the Church of South India, which united Anglicans, Methodists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians (Church of Scotland) and others. Think of the compromises that had to be made for that to happen: for the Presbyterians to accept bishops; for the Anglicans to accept nonconformist ministers and so on.

It was still quite a shock to my system a few days later when, entering the city of Mysore, we passed a prominent building with a sign outside saying "Wesley Cathedral". I made sure I found time to visit it in the next couple of days, sandwiched between visits to the Maharajah's Palace and

a Hindu pilgrimage centre. The taxi driver said yes, he knew where Wesley Cathedral was, and took me to St Philomena's RC Cathedral. When I told him that was the wrong one he remembered two churches; St Philomena's and "the white one".



So I said I wanted the white one, which was the right one. I found an unlocked door round the back and inside was a man who told me he was a senior administrator, though at the time he was dealing with some cobwebs. He welcomed me in and told me they have a congrega-

tion of about 1100. Standing at the front of the church I could imagine myself in many large nonconformist churches of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Then I turned towards the front where there was a large altar with a gold-embroidered cloth. Not very Methodist, I thought. Then I realised it didn't look very Anglican either, because behind the altar/table was a semicircle of "Elders' chairs". Everybody compromised and everybody contributed. The Church of South India has been going strong for nearly 70 years. What will people say in 70 years' time about our efforts at coming together?

DC



# **Effingham**

### **Methodist Church**



### **Birthday Dates to celebrate:**

Happy Birthday in December to Joan Dawson on 20th and our minister Kim on 29th; in January to Philip Beardon on 4th and to Charles Dawson on 29th.

Please let us know about birthdays or BIG anniversaries !!



### Do YOU have room for Mary & Joseph?

Posada is a Spanish word that means 'inn' or shelter, and is a popular Advent celebration around the world, which re-enacts the journey to Bethlehem. Mary, Joseph and Dan the donkey will travel around Effingham and Little Bookham, staying at a different House, School or Classroom every night.

Imagine if they were real? How would you feel?
What would your neighbours and friends think?
What questions would you ask? Would it change your life?

Could YOU offer a Room for the night, or a School Assembly and then write about how it felt to be part of their journey?

Ring Angela on 01372-454850 to book.



A <u>CRIB Service</u> will be held at St Lawrence Church, Effingham @ **5pm** on **Christmas Eve** when **Mary and Joseph** will be placed by the crib ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.



### **Carol Singing**

St.Lawrence school children will be singing at the Effingham shops on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm.

# **Effingham Methodist Diary**



	V. V. V.			~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~		
	Dec	December				
	<b>Sun</b> Tues Thur	6th	7.00pm <b>10.00am</b> 2.30pm 2.30pm 2.30pm	Folk evening for CRISIS in St Lawrence's Hall <b>Rev Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion</b> Tuesday Teas: Christmas Lunch at the pub Christian Meditation in the Church St Lawrence School Carol Singing at shops		
И	Sun	11th	10.00am	Rev. Darlene McCarley		
И	Juii		4.00pm	Carol Service, with tea @ 5		
Ì	Tues	13th	2.00pm 7.30pm	Open House at the Manse (to 5.00pm) ditto (to 9,30pm) (see p8)		
	Wed	14th	3.30pm	Messy Church at St Lawrence's Hall		
	Sun	18th	10.00am	David Cappitt		
	Tues	20th	2.30pm 2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the R. C. Hall Christian Meditation in the church		
	Sat	24th	6.00pm 5.00pm	Living Nativity starts at Earl Haig pub Crib Service at St Lawrence's with our posada		
	Sun	25th	9.00am	Christmas Day with Rev Kim Plumpton		
	Jan	uary				
	Sun Tues Thur Sun	3rd 5th	<b>10.00am</b> 2.30pm 3 2.30pm 0 <b>10.00am</b>	** Fuesday Tea in the R. C. Hall Christian Meditation in the church **		
Ş	Wed	11th	3.30pm	Messy Church @ St. Lawrence's hall (to 5.30pm)		
	Sun 15th 10.00am `**					
	Tues	17th	10.00am	Church Council meeting in the Chapel		
<b>\</b>	Thurs	s 19th	·	(to 3.00pm)		
K	C	22-4	2.30pm	Christian Méditation in the church		
N			10.00am			
	Sun	∠4ա <b>29th</b>	10.00am	Prayer Lunch (see p15) <b>Ecumenical Service: St. Lawrence Church</b>		
N	February					
M	Sun	5th	10.00am	<b>Rev Kim Plumpton</b> with Covenant Service		

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\*\*: TBA—see circuit plan



# Join Effingham's Living Nativity



# **6pm Thursday 22nd December**

Dress up as a shepherd, king or animal and sing carols on our journey round the village

to the Parish Church

Start and finish at the Sir Douglas Haig car park

( Where refreshments will be available after the event )

Parking is available at the Catholic Church



#### Dates for your diaries ~

Church Council will be meeting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January from 10.00-12noon in the Church. Agenda Items to Gill Walker asap.

Rev. Gavin Hancocks our new Superintendent, will be at the OASIS bible lunch group on January 19<sup>th</sup> from 12.30 to 3pm. Please join us.



# The United Methodist Church has offered President-elect Donald Trump congratulations & prayers.

Following his election as the 45th president of the United States the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church has sent a congratulatory letter to President-elect Donald Trump with a

prayer and a plea for the nation to come together.

"We are a deeply divided nation in a world community marred by division, war and unprecedented forced migration," writes Bishop Bruce R Ough. "This is a time for all Americans, particularly our political leaders, to put aside divisiveness and rancour and come together for the common good of this nation and the world."

He further pledged that the Council of Bishops will work to "build bridges to understanding that will lead to overcoming the gulfs that divide the nation and the world. We live under God; we are indivisible; and liberty and justice extend to all,"

The Council of Bishops has also presented Mr Trump with a bible, just as **Bishop Francis Asbury** presented one to **President George Washington in 1789**. This 225-plus-years tradition of giving a Bible signed by the bishops to each subsequent U.S. president, has been maintained by The UMC ever since.

And so, I pray for you and our nation: Holy God, creator of us all, Send your Spirit of peace, justice and freedom upon us;

Break down the walls of political partisanship and economic disparity, and make us one.

Give us wisdom to walk in your ways.

Remind us that your ways are not our ways;

That your power and might transcend the plans of every nation. Teach us again to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God. Amen.



www.umc.org

### **The Power of Prayer**

Prayer is God's initiative, a gift which enables us to be attentive to the presence of God in our lives and in the world. It is also a means of expressing what we believe about God and can prompt us to act to change the world as we respond to God's love.



Here are some of the forthcoming Special Sundays and Ecumenical Special events from the Methodist website : www.methodist.org.uk

#### **December**

1st World Aids Day www.worldaidsday.org
4th Mission in Britain www.methodist.org.uk

### January 1st Covenant Sunday

**6th Epiphany** Arrival of the Magi and Jesus's baptism

18-25th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity www.ctbi.org.uk

**22nd Homeless Sunday** www.homeless-sunday.uk

**27th Holocaust Memorial Day** The aftermath of the Holocaust and of subsequent genocides continues to raise challenging questions for individuals, communities and nations. The theme for 2017 is How can life go on? - See more at: www.hmd.org.uk



A Churches together Prayer Lunch will be held at Effingham Methodist Chapel on 24<sup>th</sup> January at 12noon.



St. Lawrence Church Hall in Brown's Lane Wednesdays 14th December and 11th January 3.30 -5.30pm



## "Connect" the fortnightly group for carers and partners with dementia

"Connect" continues to meet fortnightly for carers and partners with dementia in St Lawrence Church Hall Browns Lane Effingham KT24 5LX 10am to 12noon. Additional outings are arranged monthly. A visit for tea was arranged for the top of Box Hill as well as cream teas at The Grange. An exercise session was part of one regular Thursday meeting and Mike sang with his guitar at another and Sue came to inspire and lead a second creative art session, much enjoyed the first time she came.

Next dates - December 8th when Grace Notes will be giving us some music and Christmas songs and carols then Dec. 22nd, Jan. 5th and 19th. Contact Gill on 01372 457987 or Kim on 01932 586988 for more info.

**Tuesday Teas** for people who enjoy tea, cake, chat and friendship - as well as occasional entertainment. A visit from The Phoenix singers gave us songs from the shows with a story line "they seek him here, they seek him there...." and the recorder group also visited with their selection of music. We meet 2.30pm to 4pm in St Alphege Hall Lower Road KT24 5LX for tea, cake and chat as well. Come and join us Next dates Dec. 20th, Jan.3rd and 17th; transport may be arranged. Contact Gill for more information on 01372 457987

### Churches Together - Christian Aid - Singing-Along to The Sound of Music

A very enjoyable evening was recently held with cheese, wine and cake to enjoy as well as The Sound of Music. Some of us sang, others enjoyed just watching as they had never seen the film before . is that possible? We raised an amazing £435 plus an additional £70 in Gift Aid. Well done everyone! Huge thanks to all those who helped in whatever way on the evening as well as those who came to support to make it such a fun and enjoyable time.

### A Messy Church Harvest

Picture shows Pat Hammond telling the story of the sower with Rector Mandy and some of our parents all listening attentively. Harvest song sung to the tune of Sound of Music's tune "do re mi" was learnt by us all H for hops and HP sauce! Hm.....Crafts included making bread, a fishing game, making flower arrangements and printing with fruit. Thanking God for tea preceded the delicious tea for the children as usual.

Next Meetings December 14th and January 11th 3.30 - 5.30pm in St Lawrence Church Hall, Browns Lane for children of primary age with an adult. All welcome. For more info ring Gill on 01372 457987







### <u>A Cretan Anglican holiday experience</u> do look at http://www.theanglicanchurchincrete.co.uk/

We were recently on holiday in Crete up in the hills, half an hour from Chania staying in the village of Maza with about 100 inhabitants. It's a dream location with starlit nights and stunning daytime views across the hills to the mountains. Notably Costa and his wife Voules run the the small taverna there, where the menu is small and he will say it's "pork tonight" or "I can get you some fish tonight". The meals are wonderful, all fresh food, Greek salad of course, cheese pies, green beans, chips and and local wine. Costa also is the Cantor when they have a special service in the village church, he has a splendid voice which is heard all around the village through the open doors of the church.

This time in the area I discovered the Anglican church of St Thomas in Kerfalas a 40 minute drive away. Initially a very small church built in the byzantine style in 2007 but too small for many to get inside. The English ex-pat neighbours decided to extend it with a tabernacle roof with removable transparent sides revealing a stunning panoramic view to accommodate more than 50 souls. This



little community was used to warmly welcoming tourists and holds a communion service every Sunday at 11am. There are about 30 ex-pat Brits. who live around there permanently and form the congregation. It was a memorable experience to attend their harvest service up in the hills almost in the open air with the beauty of God's creation all around. They also have a food bank and their gifts were going to local people in need. I was able to attend the next Sunday as well and shall remember this little, active congregation with much affection. The Rev'd Canon Philip Lambert, their Priest has much to be thankful for.



# Dorking and Horsham Circuit NEWSLETTER

# December January & February 2017

It's as well God doesn't need a Supreme Court ruling to implement His plans accordingly, or does He? As I sit to write this page I am somewhat bemused by the furor caused by the Supreme Court ruling over just who has the final say over how we eventually exit Europe. No, I'm not going there, but it did make me wonder about something else.

How exactly does God's will become a reality? Never mind the wisdom or otherwise of whatever decision we think we might have made on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, surely God's decisions are always wise and just and good? That being so God must be quite within His rights to simply hand down the instruction and say: 'Get on with it!' I wish it were that simple.

Just take Mary and Joseph for example. Indeed, God's plan is wise and just and good — we know that (careful now) don't we two thousand years after the fact? But what about at the time? How do you process divine revelation when every fibre in your body and every instinct in your soul is screaming 'You want me to do what, God?' Lest we forget, the pages of scripture are frustratingly truncated and simply reveal the outcome and not too much of the process whereby we arrived at the outcome. Yes, it is an awesome statement of faith to read Mary's unequivocal 'Yes' in Luke's account but I do so wish he would have revealed something of the journey it took for her to arrive at that yes.

Matthew does a little better with Joseph, but not much. At least we see something of Joseph's struggle revealed. Being someone who did break off an engagement, although not for these reasons, before meeting Angela, I can sense some of his angst. It must have all been incredibly messy. In fact, a few years ago, the BBC captured some of that in the series they broadcast on the Nativity. You might recall that the people who researched that discovered that the connection with Bethlehem would also be familial yet when the couple arrive the family don't want to have anything to do with them, making the lack of room at the 'Inn' even more poignant. It's one thing to be rejected by strangers, something altogether different by family.

Yet, in the midst of the mess, including the name calling and disbelief, somehow, God's plan emerges. Isn't it wonderful though, that His plan emerges in co-operation, not coercion, with us! Whatever the extent to which they had or had not comprehended the length and breadth of the plan, Joseph & Mary's perpetual 'Yes' is the key. Note the word 'perpetual'. It never just takes a single moment of capitulation on our part. Instead, our 'Yes' needs to become an inward disposition of humble acceptance of the glorious truth that, with our co-operation, Christ continues to be incarnated in the world today. I know it often doesn't look that way or feel that way but nevertheless it is that way. What an amazing plan – for God to reveal God's self through flesh and blood in Mary & Joseph and in you and me! What an awesome privilege and what a high calling. This Christmas let us learn again with Mary & Joseph to say 'Yes', not just now but every day and in faith let us allow Christ to be revealed in us and through us and amongst us because that, after all, is God's eternal plan. On a different note, Angela and I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome we have received as we have begun our ministry amongst you. Although it is just over a month, at the time of writing, we feel like we've been here a while and feel very much at home. We pray that our time together will be fruitful for the Gospel and that together we will enjoy many adventures in faith and discipleship. Yours in the Gospel, Gavin

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#### **SOUTHWATER**

This time of year we focus on our giving and challenging injustice. We were delighted to meet our increased fundraising target for Tearfund for 2015/16 and have increased it again for 2016/17. Our Christmas event will be going 'retro' to fundraise by carol 'Singing for Syria' around the village. We are also supporting the 'Reverse Advent Calendar' initiative, where each day in Advent an item is added to a box and given to a family in need at Christmas. We will be blessing the boxes at our Christmas Eve communion and distributing them around the village or to Horsham Foodbank.

Revd Kath Jones, Revd Kim Plumpton and I attended the Methodist Church's Reimagine conference in October, looking at ways of reimagining church and mission. We look forward to bringing feedback of this event to the Circuit sometime next year.

Juliet Fuller

#### **DORKING**

We are pleased that Rowan Nunnerley has joined us as our Christian Centre's lay chaplain. Her background is in the NHS, and she has experience of a number of Christian traditions. She has been busy meeting many people before she settles into a more regular pattern of operation.

It was a delight to host a visit by Revd Val Ogden from Fiji. A large number attended, and £270 went to the World Mission Fund from the retiring collection. A quiz evening raised sums of over £300 for both the Centre and Christian Aid.

There will be a live nativity event in church at 6.30 pm on Thursday December 1 (Dorking's Gala Evening). A traditional service of lessons and carols will take place at 6.00 pm on Sunday December 18. There will be a Christmas day lunch and celebration in the Centre. Anyone who would like to share – or even to help – should contact a Centre manager on 01306 886830.

We look forward to our Church Anniversary on Sunday January 15, when Revd Dr Malcolm Rothwell will lead a service based on his experience of running the London Marathon!

#### PARTRIDGE GREEN

At the beginning of October we were pleased to welcome Revd Gavin Hancocks to lead our Harvest Festival Service, and for him and Angela to share our Harvest Lunch. A great opportunity for us all to become acquainted!

We look forward to our autumn and Advent celebrations with Gavin at the helm.

Our monthly prayer meetings have become a good opportunity for us to share worship with many friends from the other village churches, and are being well supported by many.

Our recent "Messy church" morning proved another successful time with some young families, and we hope to encourage these families to share in our Carol Service on December 17<sup>th</sup>. We also have a pre-Christmas Toddler service in early December, with support from Waseem, our family worker.

A four-week Advent course is now planned for all to attend at St Michael's church in Partridge Green. This will be a York Course entitled "Living in the Light". It will commence on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November in the evening. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Alison James

"Our God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man"

Charles Wesley

### LONDON ROAD, HORSHAM

By the time you read this, Advent will have begun and with much celebration! On 27th November, we welcomed into Church the family and friends of Beth and Jonathan Little for the dedication of Joshua, our newest, youngest and certainly best behaved member! We also welcomed the Posada, knitted figures of the Holy Family, who are visiting homes, nurseries and groups during this season. Finally in the evening we explored the theme of Advent with readings and carols.

On 9th December, all are welcome to Action for Children's Christmas Miscellany in the Wesley Hall from 6.00 pm followed by refreshments. No tickets are required, donations to Action for Children warmly welcomed! Then on Sunday 11th, the uniformed organisations will be joining us for a parade and gift service, in which we will collect food for the Horsham Food Banks.

By this time the Church should be looking truly festive with the tree in place and dedicated 'prayer stations', starting with the Prophets, forming 'A Journey to Christmas'. This is a new venture for this year, and many Church organisations are getting involved in what we hope will be a positive outreach to the community. The Church will be open for the week beginning Monday 12th December so please drop in if you are in Horsham.

While all this excitement is going on, let's not forget that Jesus was born in a cold and draughty stable. The Horsham Churches are again organising a Night Shelter from November 28th to March 13th, to bring those temporarily without shelter in from the cold. We are trying to do our bit by hosting Sunday evenings, overnight and breakfast, with support from members of other Churches. Please pray for this venture, for all the volunteers and for all those whose 'Journey to Christmas' will be troubled.

Carolyn King

#### **COBHAM**

Work continues at Cobham on the bringing together of the two (Methodist and URC) congregations. At the most recent Joint Leadership Meeting (JLM) there was a presentation from the group looking at Communion: the way we both do it; similarities and differences; practice concerning children at Communion; coming forward to the rail or the elements taken to the congregation in their seats; in what circumstances Communion can be presided over by a non-ordained person, and so on. It was clear that the first step is for us all to become aware of the issues, then we can move on to their resolution. At the next JLM, in November, the teams looking at Worship and at Decision Making will be reporting back.

There is, however, an awareness that there is more to coming together than aligning our practices, so we had a day together of Spiritual Awareness, led by Bernard Fidder, Spiritual Adviser to the URC Synod. We prayed together, we discussed prayer together, we meditated quietly together. It was a day when we all grew in faith and grew together. Our new Superintendent will be leading worship at a united service in November, and next year a meeting has been arranged with the Methodist District Chair and the URC Synod

Moderator. Meanwhile the work of the JLM continues.

Last week in Mysore I visited Wesley Cathedral (CSI). The very name was quite a surprise. My first thought inside was that it didn't look very Methodist, having a large altar with a gold-embroidered cloth over it. My second thought was that it didn't really look Anglican either, with the semicircle of elders' chairs behind the altar. Clearly compromises were made when the Church of South India was formed in 1947, and they will be necessary for us too. Please pray for God's blessing on our continued working together.

David Cappitt

#### **EFFINGHAM**

The Churches Together sing-along evening for Christian Aid raised over £450. We had a very enjoyable evening joining in the familiar tunes of the "Sound of Music" and enjoying cheese, wine and lovely cake. Connect, another of our popular, fortnightly ecumenical events for carers and people living with dementia, has organised, along with its regular indoor meetings, a few outings including afternoon tea at a local garden centre, a canal-boat trip on the River Wey, and hearing a Gospel Choir at Guildford Cathedral. Meanwhile Tuesday Teas continues to be a highlight of the village calendar, and we'll have another folk evening in aid of CRISIS in early December.

Bibles in Schools has been very successful in our local primary school, and this year the school has asked for more Bibles, to ensure that every pupil has one of their own, and can take it with them to their secondary school. Messy Church's kids will all get an Advent calendar again this year, to enable them to prepare for Christmas. The **Posada figures** of Joseph, and a very pregnant Mary on her donkey, will be visiting local schools and homes to remind everyone about the real meaning of Christmas. The village is also organising a Living Nativity, involving a torchlight procession with actors taking part in the Christmas story. We hope everyone will dress up, and enjoy singing carols as we journey to the Parish Church, then on to the local pub for food, mulled wine and of course more carols!

At the Chapel we're discussing life's thorny issues during our monthly **Oasis** Bible lunch. We'd also like to celebrate **Charles Wesley's 310**<sup>th</sup> **Anniversary** with several events during 2017.

Next year's Lent lunches will raise money for **Connect**, and our Lent Meetings will be talks about **Art for Easter** by a renowned local art historian. We will also be joining local churches in what is hoped will be a global wave of prayer for **Thy Kingdom Come** which runs from 25 May - 4 June 2017—see <a href="https://www.thykingdom.co.uk">www.thykingdom.co.uk</a> or **Churches Together in Britain & Ireland** for more info.

Ange & Dave Putland

### **LEATHERHEAD**

A new Methodist year arrived and already changes, successes and new challenges emerge.

Revd Jeyapaul and his son Charles visited us with news of their work in South India. They took part in a morning service and were hosted at a Saturday social event. At the end of their UK visit to other supporters of the Kathryn's Mercy Home Trust, they reported a substantial increase in the number of individual sponsors for their homes and school.

At late notice our friends at Christ Church URC hosted a well-attended Harvest Supper. As well as LMC & URC members, Pioneer/Engage was well represented. Hannah organised a Light party for younger people which gave them fun dressing up as super heroes and avoiding the ghoulish overtones of Halloween.

A few "special" services have been held. Our ex-minister, Revd Ian Field returned to lead our Church Anniversary celebration. LMC hosted the periodic service for our Pastorate churches. Worshippers almost filled the building and a significant collection was divided between the aid for Syrian refugees and the Wednesday Lunchbox work. Our young people prepared and led an entire morning service. They formed their own Praise Band and singing group, reorganised the seating layout and gave gifts to all. The monthly ecumenical New Fire service has been invigorated by the leadership of Ian, the new curate of Leatherhead's parish church.

Christmas preparations are in hand, led by the Churches Together organisation. Knitters are being recruited to flood Leatherhead centre with knitted angels for passers-by to take home together with an attached goodwill message.

Ron Shaw



### Are TV adverts ruining Christmas?

According to the media, the battle for the most popular Christmas advert is underway - a war that is expected to cost UK companies around £5.6bn as they compete for their campaigns to be the most effective at pulling on the heartstrings and prising open the wallets.

But one high street favourite is already in trouble! It's cute ad cost about £7m and

features foxes, badgers and Buster, the boxer dog bouncing up and down on a little girl's new garden trampoline. However it also shows Dad putting all the bits together.....so it's obviously not from Santa! Caused quite a storm on social media apparently!

Of course last year I was really annoyed by a skit on the Nativity to sell a £900 handbag, so I suppose I should be relieved this year! So far I've also seen technicolour yetis, a perilous journey from Scandinavia by an intrepid robin, the story of the amazing Christmas Carrot, and a very James Bond-like Mrs. Claus!

The Churches Advertising Network (CAN) which created the **Christmas Starts With Christ** campaign, is urging believers not to unreasonably expect retailers to focus on the true Christmas message.

They told Premier radio: "None of them mention Jesus, obviously, because that's not part of their remit; they're out to make money and bring customers into their stores. It's our job, as Christians, to try and remind the world that it's just not Christmas without Christ. We shouldn't expect retailers to be helping us with our mission, should we really? Their job is to satisfy their stakeholders and they do a good job; they have a very, very tough fight for every pound that we spend. In a politically correct world, people are afraid they're going to offend Jews, Muslims, people of no faith or whatever. So, they're not going to use the Christmas story as a commercial story and probably, if they did, some Christians would criticise them for that as well." Hmmmm !!! What do YOU think?

# **Leatherhead Pages**

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



# A SPECIALITY COFFEE SHOP AND SANDWICH COMPANY

Open Mon-Sat, 8am-3pm
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the very best coffee + the very best sandwiches = the very best support for young people

All Saints, Kingston Road, Leatherhead, KT22 7BT

# Christingle...



Leatherhead Parish Church Sunday 4th December at 4pm

A very special service for children and the young at heart.

All children welcome, accompanied by an adult.

"It's the first tingle of Christmas!"



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

No New Fire in December - Next New Fire - 22nd January



# Next Messy Church for Leatherhead:

### **CHRISTMAS MESSY CHURCH**

Thursday 15th December 3.30pm to 5.30pm at:



### **Christmas Day Service - 10.00am**

This year's joint Christ Church and LMC Christmas Morning Service will be held at **Christ Church** at **10.00am** with our Minister, Rev. Lynda Russell.



### **COME for TEA and COMPANY**

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

### LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

Next "Time for Tea" - Friday 2nd December (Theme: Christmas Miscellany)

The following next Time for Tea will be on 6th January 2017, then every first Friday at LMC.

### **EVERYONE WELCOME**

(Suggested donation £1)





# Leatherhead

### **Methodist Church**

# Please see the Leatherhead Pages (pages 24 - 26) for more news

### West Hill School Community Café...

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

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

### **Prayer Breakfasts**

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

### LMC House Groups

LMC has three House Groups where Church members or friends can meet together on a regular basis. These groups usually meet in someone's home, and are informal ways to get to know

each other better, to share joys, concerns, and prayer requests if desired, and to discuss various subjects, either from the Bible or from other relevant Christian books. Everyone is very welcome to join a group.

Please see Lynda if you are interested.



### **LMC Family News**



### Our thoughts and prayers are with...

... the family of Irene Parker who died at the end of October.

### We remember ...

... those who are in hospital, in nursing care or at home and those who look after them day by day.

### Chessington Methodist Church...

... a Christmas Concert "**Prayer to a Snowflake**" by classical soprano **Mary-Jess** will be held at Chessington Methodist Church on Saturday 3rd December at 7.00pm.

Tickets, £10 from John Harvey, tel: 07904 263290 or at the Church door.

Chessington Methodist Church Church Lane Chessington KT9 2DJ

### **Pastoral Visitors...**

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

No meeting in December. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 24th January.** 



# **Diary**



#### December

Fri 2nd 10.30am West Hill School Café at LMC

2.30pm Time for Tea "Christmas Miscellany"

(to 4.30pm)

Sat 3rd 4.00pm \* Town Festival (see below)

Sun 4th 10.30am Toy Service - Rev Lynda Russell

with Holy Communion (unwrapped presents)

4.00pm Christingle at the Parish Church

Thurs8th 6.00pm Revive Youth Club (to 7.30pm)

Fri 9th 10.30am West Hill School Café at LMC

Sun 11th 10.30am Jay Dunning

Thurs15th 3.30pm Christmas Messy Church (to 5.30pm)

Fri 16th 10.30am West Hill School Café at LMC

Sat 17th 10.00am Town Centre Concerts by schools and

Military Wives Choir (until 2.00pm)

Sun 18th 9.00am Prayer Breakfast

10.30am Rev. Lynda Russell - Nativity

6.30pm United Carol Service at the Parish Church

Sat 24th 11.30pm Midnight Communion at the Parish Church

Sun 25th 10.00am United Christmas Day Service

at Christ Church - Rev. Lynda Russell

### \* Leatherhead Christmas Festival

Carols, bands, games, Christmas Spirit! Lot's of fun in the town centre and **Churches Together** are taking part singing Christmas Carols with the Mole Valley Silver Band, 4.00pm - 4:30pm followed by the Christmas Blessing and Tree Lighting.

### **January**

Sun 1st 10.30am Rev. Lynda Russell

Fri 6th 2.30pm Time for Tea (to 4.30pm)

Sun 8th 10.30am United Covenant Service -

Rev. Lynda Russell

Thurs12th 6.00pm Revive Youth Club (to 7.30pm)

Fri 13th 10.30am West Hill School Café at LMC

Sun 15th 10.30am tbc (see Circuit Plan or weekly notices)

Thurs19th 3.30pm Messy Church (to 5.30pm)

Fri 20th 10.30am West Hill School Café at LMC

Sun 22nd10.30am tbc (see Circuit Plan or weekly notices)

6.30pm New Fire

Tues 24th 2.30pm Pastoral Prayers meeting

Fri 27th 10.30am West Hill School Café at LMC

Thurs28th 6.00pm Revive Youth Club (to 7.30pm)

Sun 29th 10.30am tbc (see Circuit Plan or weekly notices)

### **February**

Fri 3rd 10.30am West Hill School Café at LMC

2.30pm Time for Tea (to 4.30pm)

Sun 5th 10.30am Rev. Lynda Russell (tbc)



### Joseph's Dilemma

Joseph was a worried man. He had been for months, ever since his beloved Mary had told him she was to have a baby! How? All she had allowed him was a chaste kiss - and that doesn't make babies! Mary said an angel told her she was to bear God's son who was to be called Jesus. An angel? Huh! Anyway, how did this angel know the baby would be a boy? And call him Jesus? My son would have a name chosen by me, not an angel. The firstborn in our family is always called Joseph.

Joseph's worry continued. The pregnancy was not an easy one. Normally women expecting babies were advised by their mother, their sisters and other female relatives. But Mary's baby was a shameful event, born out of wedlock to bring disgrace to the family. Her cousin Elizabeth, the only one to support her, lived so far away. What did Joseph know about such things? Very little; it was female territory!

Joseph continued to worry. He know he had to go and register for the census, very close to Mary's time. There was nobody but him to look after her. She would just have to travel with him.

The donkey was so patient. Not once did he baulk at the extra weight he carried. Mary was uncomfortable and Joseph footsore! Bethlehem was heaving with people. Everywhere was full. There was no hope of accommodation. In desperation, with Mary in labour, he accepted the offer of a stable. And there the baby was born.



Never was Joseph so relieved. Little did he know what time would bring for that child.

Jean Plant



V&H Homes are proud to be the main sponsor for the Leatherhead Trinity Christmas Fair.



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107 The Street, Fetcham KT22 9RD 01372 236 896 fetcham@vhhomes.co.uk **London Office** 

40 St James's Place, London SW1A 1NS 02078 390 888 london@vhhomes.co.uk

### Sunday 4th December - Toy Service

The Communion Service on Sunday morning 4th December will also be our annual Toy Service. Please can you bring **unwrapped** presents for B@titude (to give to families at Christmas and throughout the year).

## REVIVE

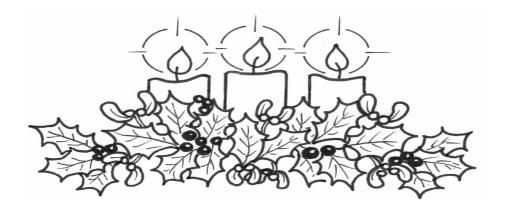
**Youth Club** 

(see next page)...

... Meets on 2nd and 4th Thursday at LMC

**Christmas period sessions:** 

8th December 12th January 26th January



# R E V I V E YOUTH CLUB



Come join us for fun and games, craft and activities, singing and dancing, Bible stories and teaching, tuck shop and new friends!

### THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Leatherhead Methodist Church 2nd and 4th Thursday 6pm-7:30pm Ages 7-11 Cost £1

Email hannahleatherheadfcw@gmail.com

# **Christ Church**

(United Reformed) Leatherhead



# Christ Church Diary



December					
Fri	2nd	2.30pm 7.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC Soundbytes Concert		
Sat	3rd	4.00pm	Churches' Community Choir singing carols with Mole Valley Silver Band		
Sun	4th	10.30am 4.00pm	Rev Iain Stewart - Holy Communion Christingle Service: Parish Church		
		7.30pm <b>10.30am</b>	Choir Practice Rev Lynda Russell :		
41	16th <b>18th</b>	7.30pm <b>10.30am</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	Carol Service: The Elders		
		11.30pm 10.30am	Midnight Communion: Parish Church		
January					
Sun	1st	10.30am	Rev Lynda Russell : Service of Favourite Carols		
Sun	8th	10.30am	Rev Lynda Russell: Joint Covenant Service at LMC		
Sun	15th	10.30am	Rev Robert Blows		
711	22nd		Rev Lynda Russell: Holy Communion		
Sun	29th	10.30am	TBA		
February					
Sun	5th	10.30am	Mrs Thelma Roberts		

# **Christ Church Family News**

Two happy announcements this month.

Congratulations and good wishes to two couples who have become grandparents:

Patricia and Laurence Martin on the birth of their granddaughter Rita Patricia, born on 29th October to their daughter Esther and Adam.

Sue and Alan Huxtable on the birth of their grandson James, born on 12th November to their daughter Helen and Chris.

We are very pleased to report that Margaret Hughes is fit and well again.

We also pray for all who are unwell, bereaved or lonely especially as we approach Christmas.

### **An Important Date for your Diary**

At 10.30am on Sunday 26th February, at Christ Church Leatherhead, Heather Ward is to be commissioned as an Accredited Lay Preacher.

Many months have elapsed since Heather passed her exams with flying colours, and we have finally managed to find a date that is suitable for all.

Brian Treharne and Lynda will both be participating in the service, and the commissioning itself will be carried out by Jenny Sheehan, who is the URC Southern Synod Lay Preacher Commissioner.

Heather would like to pass on her great appreciation for the encouragement of the congregations of Cobham URC and Christ Church URC during her training time. Especial thanks go to Rev Kim Plumpton (her supervisor at Cobham) who offered huge support at a challenging time.

Margaret Dodds-Ely

### Southern Synod Moderator's Christmas Letter

# Isaíah 9:2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

#### Christmas 2016 Dear Friends

Last Christmas I was given a Fitbit in the vain hope that I might walk more. Walking is not only good for your health I was told but it has a biblical imperative! The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, so says the prophet Isaiah. The truth is that the people of God did an awful lot of walking. They walked all over ancient Israel sharing the good news of God's love, offering

hope to those who suffer, proclaiming freedom and liberation to all who are oppressed. But the trouble is that often it is hard to walk well when you have a rock in your shoe.

When there is a rock in your shoe, it digs into your foot and makes every step a bit painful. It can cause you to limp; it brings frustration. And so, on a long journey, when you realise that you have a rock in your shoe, what should you do? You need to take that stone out of your shoe. And once it is gone, then you can continue on your way - then you can walk forward free from the stone that causes you pain, and slows down your progress.

The problem is, we often carry stones in our shoes, as it makes it harder to follow Jesus. We are supposed to be on a journey of faith. We are supposed to walk forward in love. We are supposed to stand on our own two feet and travel along the paths of faithfulness. But there are these stones in our shoes, and they cause us to stop. To sit down. To give up. The stones in our shoes made it hard for us to fully follow Jesus.

And, as we approach Advent and Christmas, we are reminded that, in the Incarnation, Jesus, the Christchild, the Light of the world, came to liberate us from the stones in our shoes so that we can work for the liberation of the world. We need to be freed from the stones in shoes so that we can bring freedom and hope and love and peace into a troubled world. We need to find God's liberation, God's freedom in our lives so that we can be messengers of that liberation in God's world. Perhaps, this year, in 2016, we need to hear that especially this Christmas after the year we have had: wars, earthquakes, elections and exits to name but a few.

This Christmas, we will once again sing with yearning hope, for we live in dark and fearful times. Nation invades nation, leaving terror and destruction in their wake. Our hearts go out to the people of Syria. Angry mobs attack each other on streets and give birth to still more bitterness and fear. Parents run themselves ragged trying ensure that it is not them and their families who fall through the cracks into redundancy, poverty and despair. The dark, dark world is constantly divided into winners and losers, and the losers are sacrificed for the security and glorification of the winners. And anyone who shines a challenging light onto the dark violence of it all is denounced as a threat and a loser and

is destroyed. Dark and fearful times. But the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in the land of deep darkness - on them light has shined.

So here we are - living in light or darkness or to use the metaphor of stones in our shoes – living where the sins and lies hold us back from walking in the light. First of all, we need to tell the truth. There is violence and pain in our world. Power is being used in abusive and terrible ways. We are living in systems of injustice and oppression. We need to acknowledge the truth.

Secondly, we need to look at ourselves. Where are the stones in our shoes? Do we have a fear of people who are different than us? Do we allow fear to control interactions with other human beings? Do we allow prejudice, racism, judgement to stop us from offering the Love which came down at Christmas?

Or is it a desire to be liked? We are so afraid of hurting people's feelings that we do not speak truth about injustice, racism and violence. We want everyone to like us, so we refuse to do the radical work of following Jesus. Or is it selfishness with money and time? We don't want to truly invest in the kingdom of God. We don't want to fully offer our time and money to changing the world. Or is it something else? What other stones, keep you from finding the Christ-child?

The story we celebrate this Christmas is not a safe one. From the very beginning there were few who could accept it. Every version of the story attests to this. John says he came to his own but his own people did not accept him. Luke says that even as he was being born, no room could be found for him. Matthew says the very mention of him threw the king into a murderous fit, and the child and his family had to flee.

Perhaps we have stood still in darkness for so long that we need to move out into the light to which Isaiah attests. We need to walk towards those who are oppressed and hurting. We need to walk towards those who are excluded and shunned. We need to walk towards those who are hungry and thirsty. We need to walk towards those who are different from us. And in order to do this walking, we need to get rid of some stones. Then we will find ourselves born anew, born of God, as children of God, full of grace and truth. And if we begin to do that, if we begin to approach the world with the same humility and the same astonishing refusal to meet violence with anything but outrageous mercy and resilient love, then the light will grow brighter and the darkness will retreat a little further. And as we continue to walk in hope on unhindered by the stones in our shoes, we will indeed be hastening the long awaited day when the child born for us will rule in endless peace, with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

Come, Lord Jesus. Be born in us this Christmas.

With Advent and Christmas blessings,

Pirora

# **Pastorate Details**

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

### **Leatherhead Methodist Church:**

Church Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8AY www.leatherheadmethodist.org Contact: Administrator -

Carol Stoves 01372 377125; Office 362145

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

Epsom Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ST

www.chch.org.uk

Contact: Local Church Leader - Mike Essex 01372 273472

### **Effingham Methodist Church:**

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

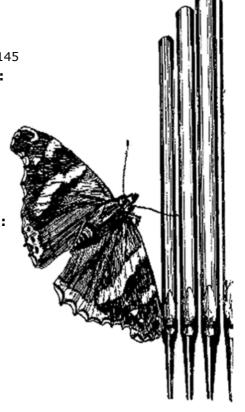
#### **Cobham United Reformed Church:**

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

### Cobham Methodist Church:

Cedar Road, Cobham, KT11 2AA www.cobhammethodistchurch.com

Contact: Senior Steward - Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



### **United Pastorate Ministers**

#### Rev. Lynda Russell

10 Church Road Leatherhead KT22 8AY

**Tel:** 01372 372743 (home)

01372 362145 (office)

E-mail:

lvnda.russell@methodist.org.uk

Rev. Kim Plumpton

38 Stoke Road Cobham KT11 3BD

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