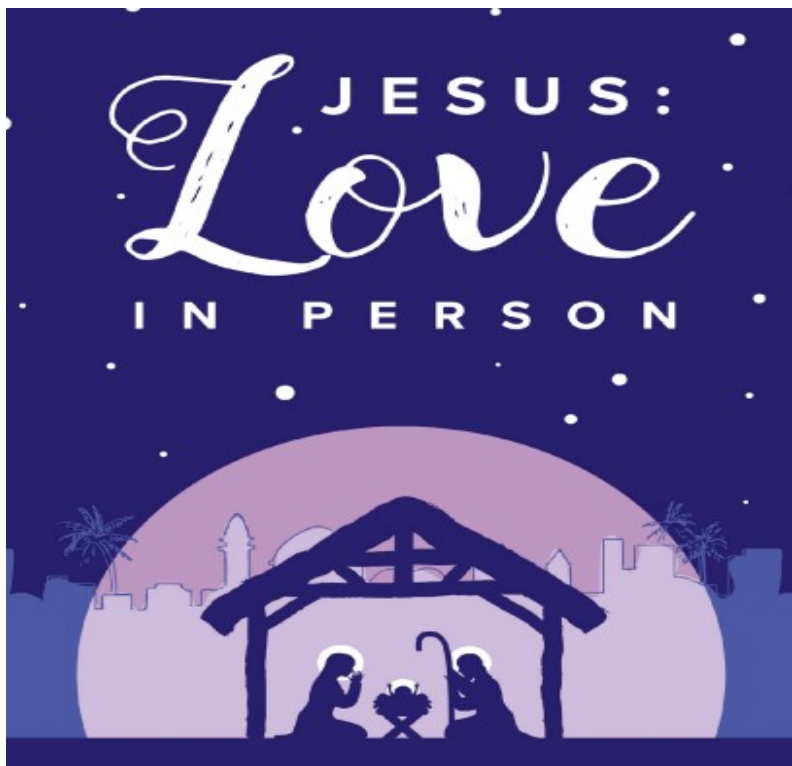


the Link

The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham

December 2017 - January 2018



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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All copy for the Feb issue to the editor by January 15th



The Ministers Write...

From Rev Lynda Russell

Dear Friends

Last week I was fortunate to go on a gathering for women ministers in the Methodist Church. The leader was a woman who had been my tutor when I was doing my Foundation Training. She is now the Arch-deacon of Boston. I fully expect her to be a Bishop before too long since she is immensely talented and wise. She has written a book called "The Resilient Pastor", and led our thoughts under the title: Broken, Breathing, and Beautiful. She is particularly interested in how we can be strengthened as human beings and as Christians through our experience of adversity.

It was both interesting and helpful, so I thought that I would share some of our thoughts with you as we approach the season of Advent, Christmas and the New Year: preparation for incarnation and new beginnings.

Psalm 34: 18 says "The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit." We are all broken in some way, for pain and struggle are normal parts of life, and it's not a sign of failure to be or feel broken or bruised. And many do feel this way, particularly at this time of year. In order to be strengthened and to allow ourselves to be changed and even transformed, we can start by acknowledging our broken-ness, both for ourselves and before God, because to acknowledge something can be a trigger for growth.

"Ring the bells that still can ring,
Forget your perfect offering.
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in."

These are lines from a song called "Anthem" by Leonard Cohen. It's particularly interesting to reflect on these words in the context of broken-ness. Cohen tells us to concentrate on what we can do, rather than those things we can't, and to put aside our striving to be perfect – we can't achieve it anyway, for we are all 'cracked jars of clay'.

Continued next page

"Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the **clay**, you are the **potter**; we are all the work of your hand." Isaiah tells us. But it's through the cracks in the pot that the light gets in. At this time of year when we are thinking about Jesus as the Light of the world, then we can see that it's even more meaningful – the light of Jesus can shine through the cracks in our lives so that others can see him.



Perhaps you might have heard about the Japanese art of Kintsugi? For the Japanese, a broken vase, plate, dish etc is not ruined when it's been broken, quite the opposite. The cracks and breaks are filled with gold, and the restored item is considered to be of far higher value than the original. What an amazing image –

God can restore the cracks in our lives and make something even better and more beautiful.

May we all be "cracked pots" this Christmas, and may the light of Jesus shine through us and bless us and all we meet, for "there is a crack in everything, That's how the light gets in".

Christmas blessings,

Lynda



From Rev Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

The sweeping passage of time brings us once again to the season of Advent, Christmas and the New Year. Advent has always reminded me of how dissolute the world would be without the presence of God within it. Long before Jesus begins his public ministry, the old testament texts about a new king affirm the importance and significance of Jesus *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* (Isaiah 9:6).

The eagerness by which the Messiah is awaited after what would seem to be a prolonged period of perceived inactivity on Gods part, cannot be understood in light of the world we exist in, where waiting for anything seems unfamiliar territory. It is only the few who welcome the Messiah, the full reality of his birth unseen and hidden from many. Yet in the pursuing years of Jesus' ministry the significance of his birth becomes even more remarkable and notable; a God who breaks through, who reaches all who would receive him. Receiving and welcoming Christ, learning from Jesus' example, recognising that the fulfilment of the law is a gospel etched on our hearts. Right from the very beginning the Christmas narrative challenges us all to engage with the reality of ordinary people making extraordinary choices. It's their example, the choices they make that reveal to us the devotion they have to God and the lengths they will go to, to serve him.

Many of us know the expression 'do as I say not as I do' but I invite you to read the Christmas narrative from 'do as I do.' The whole narrative of Jesus' ministry can be seen through this lens.

I offer you a piece of poetry, and when you read this poem I invite you to look through the lens not just of preacher, but of disciple.

*I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.
The eye is a better pupil, more willing than the ear;
Fine counsel is confusing, but example is always clear,
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,
For to see a good put in action is what everybody needs.*

*I can soon learn how to do it if you will let me see it done;
I can watch your hand in action, but your tongue too fast may run.
And the lectures you deliver may be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do.
For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give,
But there is no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.*

*When I see a deed of kindness, I am eager to be kind.
When a weaker brother stumbles, and a strong man stands behind
Just to see if he can help him, then the wish grows strong in me
To become as big and thoughtful as I know that friend to be.*

*And all travellers can witness that the best of guides today
Is not the one who tells them, but the one who shows the way.*

Continued next page

*One good man teaches many; men believe what they behold;
One deed of kindness noted is worth forty that are told.
Who stands with men of honour learns to hold his honour dear,
For right living speaks a language which to everyone is clear.
Though an able speaker charms me with his eloquence, I say,
I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day.*
-- Edgar A. Guest

Christ comes into the world that we might be changed and transformed, by the promise of peace, love, hope and joy. It is by our example and Christ working through us that others will come to experience a living Christ this Christmas and beyond. The world needs to see Christ, 'do as I do.'

Colin, Kim and family wish you a blessed Christmas and a New Year full of purpose and joy X

And there were shepherds

Luke's story of the birth of Jesus is brilliantly told – the angel's visit to Mary to tell her she would be mother of the long-promised Messiah, and then Mary and Joseph making the 60 mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, as required by the Roman census. When they got there, no room at the inn, and they settled instead for a convenient stable, where Mary gave birth to a boy child.

Suddenly, Luke changes the tone. 'And there were shepherds ...' – that's what he actually wrote, just like that. 'And there were shepherds', doing exactly what shepherds do, looking after their flocks by night. But this night was different: yet another angelic message – a call to abandon their sheep and go into Bethlehem to see the baby Messiah. They were given directions and a 'sign' to identify Him. He would be lying in a feeding trough. Well, at least they would recognise that.

And why the shepherds? Because the event needed witnesses, and the chosen witnesses would be this bunch of scruffy, smelly shepherds straight from the sheep-pen. Nothing could speak more eloquently of God's purpose than that. This was not a Saviour for the strong, rich and powerful, but for everybody. The carpenter and his wife guarded the Saviour of the world, and the very first witnesses were not kings or priests but a handful of shepherds.

David Winter (Parish Pump)



Many of you have been following the journey that we have been making in Cobham, between the United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church. As you know we have been exploring becoming a united church. I thought this was a good opportunity for you all to know the most recent news as we missed the November Link.

In October we had two meetings, the first on October 28th to present a proposal, that we become a united church situated at Stoke Road. The second consisted of two separate meetings on the 29th to vote on the proposal. The vote was received and counted with an overwhelming majority (in both churches), in favour of the proposal. Therefore, we move towards becoming a united church. It was by no means a joyous moment but a recognition that although we are looking forwards to an exciting future, we are also aware of loss. You cannot close a church building without the feeling that you are losing something precious too. It will be important to recognise this when we gather to worship in the building for the last time. When might that be? Discussions will need to take place yet but we are looking at the possibility of May, when Revd Ian Howarth is leading the Church Anniversary, which is also Pentecost Sunday. It seems like a gift we cannot miss.

With a constitution in hand, sharing agreements to draw up, and the issue of enabling lettings to continue in one building, not to mention the sale of one building and potential refurbishment of another, there is much work to be done in this coming year.

My thanks continue to go the Joint Leadership Team for their wisdom and guidance and of course to the two congregations who have grabbed hold of a vision for a new church in Cobham with such generous hospitality.

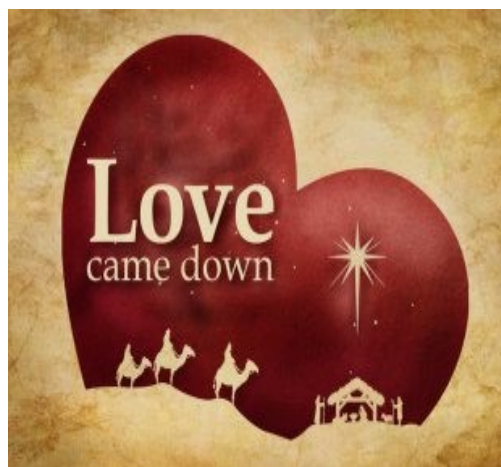
We would value your continued prayers for the journey ahead.

Kim

From the Moderator, Southern Synod

Christmas 2017

Dear Friends,



"Fake news" has been named Word of the Year by Collins Dictionary and will be printed in the next edition. The phrase, which is often used by Donald Trump, has seen a 365 per cent rise in use since 2016. It is often defined as false, often sensational, information disseminated under the guise of news reporting. There's a lot of it about and even if everyone spots it and dismisses it, it still manages to sow doubt causing us to question nearly everything in order that we may find a lie. Of course, questioning

can be healthy as our attitude to exploitation in the workplace attests to. But I've also seen comments on videos from war-torn countries that suggest the news is fake and dead children and grieving mothers are just actors. Evil is made even worse by the denial of its existence.

As Christians, we believe in the good news which claims to tell a truth that can seem to contradict what we know to be scientific truth: some two thousand years ago, an angel appeared to a young Jewish girl and told her that she would carry the son of God. The baby grew up preaching and teaching, making the blind see and the lame walk amongst other things. Then at thirty-three years old, he was crucified and, three days later, he rose from the dead.

To us today this might be considered fake news. But this is real news. And it is real, not just because of historical evidence from Josephus or Pliny but because of Love. Philosophers and biologists will say that love is just a concept or an evolutionary quirk. Society doesn't seem very interested in talking about it. And so, the news, fake or otherwise, is dominated by evil.

But the good news is that Love came down at Christmas. The power of love here on earth is immense. We cannot buy love because it must be a gift given freely. When we are embraced in love, we know it is because others truly care for us, not because of a good they hope to get from us. We are secure because we know that we are cherished by others for what we are. God's gift to us is a gift of love. God so loved the world that He gave....so says John's Gospel. It is a giving love, a generous love. It is grace love, gift love; free and unconstrained. God doesn't make a list and check it twice to find out who's naughty or nice before He gives His Christmas gift. His gift is free and undeserved and unsolicited and unlooked for love. The love-gift of God is ours. We need only take it by faith in Jesus Christ. That's the message of the Scriptures. That is the good news for Christmas. The greatest gift ever given, offered free, unconditionally to all who believe.

At this time of year, people head to midnight services only in part because it's something to do or they're drunk or they do it because it gives them a lovely feeling. Carols have the best-known tunes. By candlelight, the church glows. But here must also be a transformation of the heart – and there generally is. Charity will be provided this year, as every year, by millions of Christians because love is tangible. It is a full stomach (a Christmas day lunch at church for those on their own). It is a bed for the night (in the Winter Night shelter). It is a friendly phone call or even just a smile. We do this big Christmas festival thing for a reason: because Love teaches us to walk the way of the Christ-child in humility and service.

Some people have found 2017 disappointing and depressing. But then evil trades in doubt and we should resist it. The fake news is that humankind is lost. The good news is that, because Love came down at Christmas, it can be saved.

Come, Lord Jesus.
Be born in us this Christmas.
With Advent and Christmas blessings

Pivola

Future training sessions for your church



&



Led by Revd Andy Twilley Training Officer for Southern Synod

Where: Cobham United Reformed Church,
38 Stoke Road, KT11 3BD

When: 19th Jan & 16th Feb

Time: 10:30 am – 12:30pm

To book a place please contact: Revd Kim Plumpton 01932 586988
or email Kimp_822@hotmail.com



Don't forget that the fourth session on small group leadership: Growing Your Group, is at 10.30am on December 8th at Cobham URC.



Cobham Methodist Worship Diary



December

Sun	3rd	10.30am	Beth Little
Sun	10th	10.30am	Rev Kim Plumptre (Joint Service at URC)
Sun	17th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev Kim Plumptre (Joint Service) United Carol Service at URC
Sun	24th	10.30am 4.00pm 11.30pm	Rev Darlene McCarley - Holy Communion Crib Service at URC Christmas Eve Service at URC
Mon	25th	10.30am	Rev Kim Plumptre—United Christmas Day Service at CMC
Sun	31st	10.30am	Sydney Shore (Joint Service at URC)

January

Sun	7th	10.30am	tba (see circuit plan)
Sat	13th	2.00pm	Platinum Service
Sun	14th	10.30am 12.00noon	Rev Kim Plumptre (Joint Service at URC) Shared Lunch with talk on the Verni Institute (India)
Sun	21st	10.30am	Rev Kim Plumptre - Joint Covenant Service with Holy Communion
Sun	28th	10.30am	tba (see circuit plan)

February

Sun	4th	10.30am	tba (see circuit plan)
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Cobham

United Reformed Church

Worship Diary

December

- Sun 3rd 9.00am Early Bird Service**
10.30am John Stewart
- Sun 10th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumptre (Joint Service)**
- Sun 17th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumptre - Joint Service at CMC**
6.30pm United Carol Service (at CURC)
- Sun 24th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumptre - Holy Communion**
4.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm Christmas Eve Service
- Mon 25th 10.30am Christmas Day Service at CMC**
- Sun 31st 10.30am Sydney Shore (Joint Service)**

January

- Sun 7th 9.00am Early Bird Service**
10.30am Andrew Gibb
- Sun 14th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumptre (Joint Service)**
12.00noon Shared Lunch with talk on the
Verni Institute (India)
- Sun 21st 10.30am Rev Kim Plumptre - Joint Covenant**
Service at CMC with Holy Communion
- Sun 28th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumptre**
Followed by Church Meeting

February

- Sun 4th 9.00am Early Bird Service**
10.30am Sydney Shore

Cobham Events

December

Tues 5th	9.45am	Church Walk
	8.00pm	Elders' Meeting (URC)
Thur 7th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at The Jovial Sailor, Portsmouth Road, Ripley, GU23 6EZ
Fri 8th	10.30am	Training session at URC: Your Group Can Grow
Sat 9th	10.00am	Messy Church at URC (to 12.30)

January

Tues 2nd	9.45am	Church Walk
	8.00pm	Elders' Meeting (URC)
Thur 4th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at The Queen's Head, East Clandon
Fri 12th	7.30pm	Joint Leadership Team at CMC
Thur 18th	7.30pm	House Fellowship
Fri 19th	10.30am	Training Session at URC: Welcome
Thur 25th	3.45pm	Messy Church at URC (to 5.45)

Prayers at the Manse Wednesdays at 9.30am

December: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th
January: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st

House Groups

The next House Group meeting will be at 7.30pm on January 18th, continuing the study of Mark's gospel.
For further details contact Brian Manners.



Effingham

Methodist Church

Birthday Dates to celebrate in December and January:



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

Please let us know about birthdays and BIG anniversaries!!

Tuesday Teas

Fortnightly from 2.30pm to 4pm, for fellowship, chat, tea and cakes in St Alphege Hall, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Lower Road, Effingham (and occasional outings).

A recent performance by the Phoenix Singers with drama and song provided lively entertainment (see photo below)

Next dates: December 19th, January 2nd and 16th.

Some car transport can be arranged.



Contact Gill on
01372 457987
for more information.

Effingham Methodist Diary



December

Sun 3rd	10.00am	Rev Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Thur 7th	2.30pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Fri 8th	2.30pm	St Lawrence School: carol singing at the shops
Sun 10th	10.00am	Tina Andrews
	4.00pm	Carol Service followed by tea at 5.00pm
Sun 17th	10.00am	David Cappitt
Tues 19th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the RC Hall.
Thur 21st	2.30pm	Christian Meditation in the church
	6.00pm	Living Nativity starts at Earl Haig pub
Sun 24th	10.00am	Beth Little
	5.00pm	Crib Service at St Lawrence's with posada
Mon 25th	9.00am	Christmas Day Service
		with Rev Kim Plumpton
Sun 31st	10.00am	Local Arrangement

January

Tues 2nd	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in RC Hall
Thur 5th	2.30pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Sun 7th	10.00am	Rev Kim Plumpton - Covenant Service
Wed 11th	3.30pm	Messy Church @ St Lawrence's Hall (to 5.30)
Sun 14th	10.00am	tba (see circuit plan)
Tues 16th	10.00am	Church Council in the Chapel (to 12noon)
	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in RC Hall
Thur 18th	12.30pm	Oasis bible group lunch with Super
	2.30pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Sun 21st	10.00am	tba (see circuit plan)
Sun 28th	10.00am	tba (see circuit plan)

Continued

Effingham Methodist Diary

(continued)

February

Sun 4th 10.00am Rev Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion

Prayer meetings are held at the Chapel every Friday at 9.30 am

Do YOU have room for Mary & Joseph ?



Our Posada figurine of Mary, Joseph and Dan the donkey will travel around Effingham and Little Bookham, staying at a different House, School or Classroom every night.

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

Then on Christmas Eve @ 5pm they will be taking part in the CRIB Service at St Lawrence Parish Church.

Living Nativity in Effingham



At 6pm on **Thursday 21st December** ~ Come and join families and friends for a **Living Nativity pageant** complete with donkeys, starting at the **Earl Haig pub** and telling the Christmas story around our village.



Carol Singing

St Lawrence school children will be singing at the Effingham shops on **Friday 15th December at 2.30pm**



St. Lawrence Church Hall in Brown's Lane
Wednesdays 13th December and 10th January
3.30 -5.30pm



Sale of pre-loved
toys in aid of
Messy Church



"Connect" a group for carers and partners with dementia

Come for refreshment, friendship, activities and fun.

We meet in St Lawrence Church Hall, Browns Lane, KT24 5LX in Effingham from 10am to 12noon on alternate Thursdays and also arrange monthly outings. Refreshments, friendship, chat and a good range of activities are on offer for all.

Some members enjoyed a recent outing to "The Dabbling Duck" in Shere for tea and cake

Next dates fortnightly, December 7th and 21st,
January 4th and 18th.

For more info. contact Gill on 01372 457987
email GillianMWalker@gmail.com
or Kim on 01932 586988

You don't have to live in Effingham to come and join us



Dates for your diaries:

Church Council will meet on **Tuesday 16th January, 10.00am to 12 noon in the church.**

Agenda items to Gill Walker asap.

Lent Lunches start on **Wednesday 14th February** at St Lawrence Parish Hall, and this year's charity speakers will be from **Riding for the Disabled**



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 2017

1st World Aids Day > _LET'S END IT CAMPAIGN

Join the fight to end the negative impact of HIV.

End isolation > End stigma > End HIV transmission

This year in the UK there have been the first significant reductions in HIV diagnoses for gay men in London, thanks to frequent testing, rapid treatment and PrEP. This success should include everybody at risk, across the UK. But the fight is not just about the virus. Ignorance and discrimination can still limit opportunities, preventing people from living full and happy lives. HIV means you are more likely to live in poverty, and more likely to have poor mental health.

www.worldaidsday.org

4th Advent Sunday > Mission in Britain ~ this year's theme is **Comfort my people**, which follows 2 chaplains to explore how they are bringing God's comfort to people beyond Church's walls.

Giving the gift of presence - Workplace and Anna chaplains (see Luke 2: 36-38) share their inspirational stories of drawing alongside people.

Download **Advent Offering Service** resources and posters <http://www.methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship/methodist-special-sundays>



January 2018

1st Covenant Sunday ~ download study guide at rootsontheweb.com

6th Epiphany ~ coming of the Magi and Jesus's baptism

18-25th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ~

www.ctbi.org.uk

Order to download resources. Material has been produced in the Caribbean and uses Exodus 15, a song of triumph over oppression, as the motif of the Week of Prayer.

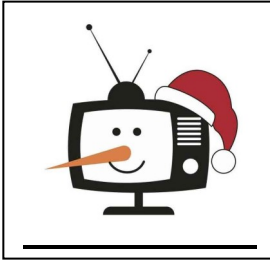
27th Holocaust Memorial Day ~ **The power of words** is the theme for 2018. **Words can make a difference – both for good and evil.** Spoken and written words from individuals, corporations, community organizations or the state, can have a huge impact, whether good or bad. The theme for HMD 2018 explores how language has been used in the past, and how it is used in the present day. See more at: www.hmd.org.uk

28th Homeless Sunday 2018

Each year **Housing Justice** and their sister organisation *Scottish Churches Housing Action* organise *Homeless Sunday*. It's a chance for Churches and Christian groups from across the country to join together to pray, reflect and plan practical action on homelessness, but also for a united Christian voice to offer solidarity and be a prophetic voice for change. They are planning the biggest Homeless Sunday ever, so that Christians across the UK are aware of the growing homelessness crises in Britain, and to send a message to policy makers that Christians are adamant that in the fifth richest economy in world, no one should be without a home that truly meets their needs. **Please remember to register an event or service with the charity.**

See website for ways to get involved www.homeless-sunday.uk





Christmas adverts annoy a lot of people !!

Every retail company knows that they have to pull out all the marketing stops to make their Christmas ad the one you remember, and 2017 has been no exception. An intrepid carrot sets out on a dangerous journey. A small child befriends a monster under the bed. And in a classic

case of mistaken identity, Paddington Bear gets caught up with a burglar. But this year quite a few have upset that bastion of political correctness....social media ! A world gone mad ?

Oh ! dear !!!

A famous delivery firm is in hot water with parents for destroying the myth of Father Christmas by showing Dad coming home and hiding presents from his kids.....no mention of Santa at all !

A Twitter storm forced a well known bakery firm to apologise for replacing baby Jesus with a sausage roll in their online Nativity calendar ! Three wise men gathered around a manger but, rather than gazing at the son of God, their eyes fall upon a pork-filled pastry ! What were they thinking ?

A large store whose Christmas specials have a tradition of pulling on the heartstrings with their multimillion pound adverts telling endearing tales and endorsing the spirit of giving. But this year their Monster inspired ad has sparked something of a backlash - with an army of angry mothers taking to social media to blast the advert for scaring children, because it has a young boy befriending a giant monster that lives under his bed, and some parents fear their own children will now be convinced monsters will be hiding in their own homes ! Oops !

Britain's biggest grocer has families busying themselves preparing a Christmas dinner, with a delicious looking turkey roasting in the oven. But there's been an outcry and threat to boycott stores because it shows a Muslim family preparing to get festive ! Hasn't anyone heard of Eid ? The supermarket has said that the Christmas campaign "will celebrate the many ways we come together at Christmas, and how food sits at the heart of it all." Hooray ! As Tiny Tim would say "God bless us everyone! "

AJP

Dorking and Horsham Circuit

NEWSLETTER

December
2017
January and
February 2018

Dear Friends,

Greetings! This edition of the Newsletter anticipates the beginning of a new calendar year and with it Covenant and Lent, our journey to Easter. I am immediately drawn to that wonderful benediction in Hebrews 13:20-21. Here's Eugene Petersen's rendition of it from The Message:

*May God, who puts all things together,
 makes all things whole,
 Who made a lasting mark through the sacrifice of Jesus,
 the sacrifice of blood that sealed the eternal covenant,
 Who led Jesus, our Great Shepherd,
 up and alive from the dead,
 Now put you together, provide you
 with everything you need to please him,
 Make us into what gives him most pleasure,
 by means of the sacrifice of Jesus, the Messiah.
 All glory to Jesus forever and always!
 Oh, yes, yes, yes.*

I simply offer it to you as a focus for reflection and meditation in the coming quarter as you reaffirm your relationship with God in the Covenant and receive the gift of Easter.

On a different note we bid farewell to Frank & Pat Smith. After 24 years of fellowship and friendship, they are moving to Redhill to be closer to family. We wish them every blessing, giving thanks to God for their faithful service amongst us.

Gavin

EFFINGHAM

The **Churches Together** sing-along “South Pacific” evening for Christian Aid in October was very enjoyable event. Lots of well known songs and the chance to watch the whole film through with friends and raise money for a very worthy cause. **Tuesday teas** and **Connect**, the fortnightly group for carers and people living with dementia, continue to thrive. Both are run by a mix of helpers from our local churches who organise indoor meetings and outings throughout the year.

Bibles in Schools has been very successful in our local primary school. Funding from Churches Together has ensured that every pupil has their own Bible, which they can take with them to their secondary school.

Messy Church’s kids will get an Advent calendar again this year, and 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 another **Living Nativity**, with a torchlight procession around the village with tableaux telling the Christmas story, then on to the local pub for food, mulled wine and carols!

Lent lunches, next year, will raise money for a local charity and our **Lent Meetings** will be an ecumenical five week course based around the film “Chocolat.”

At the Chapel, we are continuing to discuss life’s thorny issues at **Oasis**, our monthly Bible lunch. Blinds are going up in the Church to enable us to show films, including a popular American Christian drama in mid-November.....Shhhh! Can’t advertise, but think Hovel!

Meanwhile we’ve appointed a local surveyor to oversee plans for building work next door to our Chapel. **Prayers for our fragile Church building would be much appreciated.**

Ange and David Putland

LONDON ROAD, HORSHAM

London Road Church was very pleased that six people were recently received into membership following a very good membership course.

We are once again taking part in the Night Shelter initiative organised by Horsham Matters. We are grateful to all the people who have volunteered to help host the shelter on our premises on Saturday evenings from December to March and we look forward to welcoming guests onto our premises.

A date to save in your diaries- Sunday 25 February at 6.30pm for “To the Cross and Beyond”. Please join us for a service of Easter music with Dana and Ann de Waal supported by friends of LRMC.

Helen Currington

LEATHERHEAD

Late in August Holiday Club week came and went with massive LMC support for the 65 children attending. A few weeks later LMC and guests from three neighbouring churches at the Harvest Supper enjoyed good food and entertainment in our newly decorated church. The Harvest itself was celebrated at a united service with friends at Christ Church URC. A further united service soon followed at Cobham URC for members of our pastorate of five churches. Lots of LMC families attended the wedding of our Children and Families Worker, Hannah Mulcock to Jack Newton. Philip Jones returned to Leatherhead to conduct our Church Anniversary celebrations (124 years). Plans are afoot to spread the Christmas message across the town. Knitted angels will adorn railings, whilst music and song will remind shoppers of the real meaning of Christmas.

Ron Shaw

PARTRIDGE GREEN

We have just held our Harvest Messy Church when we have been able to share with parents, grandparents and children about Harvest. Our numbers have been slightly lower recently so we are looking at ways to promote future events. Last month we held our Toddler service where we also celebrated Harvest. The children enjoyed a messy craft using seeds and card to make a picture frame to take home.

We are planning a Christmas sale and coffee morning at the end of November which is usually well supported by the local community.

Our regular meetings of Open Door club, Bible study group and monthly prayer meetings are going well. We also join with other Churches in the village with our Village Café when all ages from babies to retired people come along for a chat over tea and cake.

We are small in number but we have a variety of things happening at Partridge Green.

Margaret Daniell

DORKING

Dorking was where the ceremonies to mark the closure of Headley Court (facility for injured service personnel) took place, and they included a service in St Martin's. Our Women's Fellowship had a special meeting when there was a presentation on the work of the Air Ambulance. Gala Night on December 7 will include a live Nativity in Church (donkeys have been booked too!). There will be the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.00 pm on Sunday December 17. We look forward to the Church Anniversary with Revd Conrad Hicks on January 28. Churches Together plan to ponder the needs of the elderly in Dorking.

In the Centre there is now a Community Fridge and Shelves where people can give and take, hopefully reducing food waste. A Quiz raised £245 for Christian Aid and £115 for the Centre, and the annual Jewellery Sale made a sum in excess of £100. We hosted a collection for the Rohingya refugees which raised £1600. And there will be the usual lunch on Christmas Day where those who might be on their own can gather and celebrate.

Leadership Team

SOUTHWATER

Artserve – Creative Arts in Worship – Do you struggle to use Creative Arts in your worship? Five members of SCMC recently attended the Artserve festival weekend at The Hayes in Derbyshire where this issue was addressed. We took part in Workshops on Dance, Creative Writing, Prayer Walks, Labyrinths, singing, music, labyrinths and paint and pray. It was a very fulfilling weekend – spending time with likeminded Christians as well as learning useful tools to try in our worship. We can't wait to try some of them during our Sunday worship and are also looking forward to next year's festival!

Harvest – SCMC celebrated harvest in our usual way with a Tearfund service where we were challenged to give, pray and act prompted by Tearfund's work in Chad. This was followed by a ploughmans+ lunch, prepared by Martin Fuller, raising a total of over £500 for Tearfund. This was the first of our Tearfund events planned for this year with a Big Issues meal planned for the new year where we will be challenged to think and do something personally about some of the big issues impacting the world's poorest people.

Advent and Christmas – Once again SCMC will be taking part in The Village Christmas at the beginning of advent. We will have two activities – our Soul Space tent, where we offer prayers and blessings and something for the children around the theme of Messy Christmas, using some of our ideas from Messy Church. As usual we will have our family friendly candle lit carols on Christmas Eve (6pm), with a short informal service on Christmas morning. Then on New Year's Eve we plan a Worship walk when we will be walking around our village worshipping with and praying for our community.

Tina Andrews

COBHAM

For most of the past two years, our news from Cobham has been about the steps we have been taking towards forming a new united church from Cobham Methodist and United Reformed Churches, and this is no exception. On Saturday 28th October, a proposal was presented to a united church meeting by the Joint Leadership Team. The proposal was that the two churches should come together in a single congregation LEP, to be located at the premises on Stoke Road Cobham, currently occupied by Cobham URC. After the presentation and some discussion, members went away with 24 hours to pray, think and talk about the issues, before, following the (separate) Sunday services on the 29th, special meetings of Cobham Methodist Church Council and Cobham URC Church Meeting voted in secret ballots on the proposal. In each church the proposal was carried by a very large majority. To those who think we should be able to take a vote and come together as one church the next Sunday, I have to say that there is still a lot of work to be done. Borrowing words from Winston Churchill, this is not the end; it is not even the beginning of the end, but it is the end of the beginning. Please continue to pray for us as we take further steps along this exciting Spirit-led way.

David Cappitt

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

OPEN TO ALL

*the very best coffee +
the very best sandwiches =
**the very best support
for young people***

All Saints, Kingston Road,

SISTERS' CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY

**Saturday 2nd December, 8.30am-11.00am
Parish Church Hall**

Learn how to decorate Christmas Cupcakes -
£3 charge to cover materials.

Limited availability so please email
sallymilner14@gmail.com or call 07703 539872 to
book your place.

If you have already signed up and not paid, please
leave £3 in an envelope marked with your name and
'Sisters' Christmas Activity' in the Parish Office.





There's no NEW FIRE in December, but we'll be back again at AllSaints in January. Everything you love about New Fire plus great coffee! The coffee shop will be open from 6.00pm. Please park at Trinity School.

**Next New Fire - 28th January at AllSaints
6.30pm**



**Next Messy Church
for Leatherhead:**

Thursday 21st December
3.30pm to 5.30pm at:



Time for Tea



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":

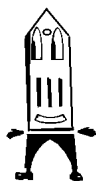
Friday 1st December

Friday 5th January

EVERYONE WELCOME

(Suggested donation £1)





Leatherhead

Methodist Church

Prayer Breakfasts

Prayer breakfasts are held on the third Sunday each month at 9.30am. It's a bring and share (non-cooked) breakfast with a short time of prayer fellowship before the morning service. All very welcome.

**Next Prayer Breakfast is on 17th December,
and then on 21st January.**

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.

There is no meeting in December. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 23rd January at 2.30pm.**

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 contact the church office if you are interested.



LMC Family News



We extend a Warm Welcome to...

... Laurie Williams and Jeanne Alexandre who have been worshipping with us recently.

Our thoughts and prayers are with...

.....members, relatives and friends who are unwell, those in hospital or nursing care, those in residential care and everyone who looks after them on a daily basis. We remember especially James & Jean Ross, Harry & Peggy Robinson and Mary Thorp.



Leatherhead Methodist
Church
Sat 2nd December, 9:15am



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

£1 per person



Let Santa show you the real meaning of Christmas. Follow the Nativity trail and join in with the activities- for all the family!



Tickets must be booked in advance from
hannahleatherheadfcw@gmail.com





Diary



December

- Fri 1st 2.30pm Time for Tea
Sat 2nd 9.15am Breakfast with Santa (*see p30*)
Sun 3rd 10.30am Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion
Sun 10th 10.30am John Oborn
6.30pm Rev. Darlene McCarley- Holy Communion
Thur 14th 6.00pm Revive Youth Club
Sun 17th 9.30am Prayer Breakfast
10.30am Rev. Lynda Russell - Toy Service
6.30pm United Carol Service at the Parish Church
Thur 21st 3.30pm Messy Church (*to 5.30pm*)
Sun 24th 10.30am James Wild
Mon 25th 10.00am Christmas Day Service, jointly with
Christ Church at LMC - Rev. Lynda Russell
Sun 31st 10.30am Joint Service at Christ Church -
Rev. Darlene McCarley

January

- Fri 5th 2.30pm Time for Tea
Sun 7th 10.30am Joint Covenant Service at LMC -
Rev. Lynda Russell
Thur 11th 6.00pm Revive Youth Club
Sun 14th 10.30am tba *
Thur 18th 3.30pm Messy Church (*to 5.30pm*)
Sun 21st 9.30am Prayer Breakfast
10.30am tba *
Tues 23rd 2.30pm Pastoral Prayers
Thur 25th 6.00pm Revive Youth Club
Sun 28th 10.30am tba *
6.30pm New Fire

Continued

LMC Diary (cont)



February

Thur 1st 7.30pm Church Council

Fri 2nd 2.30pm Time for Tea

Sun 4th 10.30am tba *

** see weekly notices or new Circuit Plan when published*

LMC Online

Most of you will know that we have a website at LMC:

www.leatherheadmethodist.org

which tells you what's on, lets you catch up on services at home and shows you past and present copies of *The Link*. You can also put in prayer requests, enquire about room bookings and even chat online about Christian issues and personal problems 24/7.

But did you know we are also on Facebook and Twitter? These two links remind you of our services and any special events at LMC:

**<https://www.facebook.com/leatherheadmethodist>
<https://twitter.com/leatherheadmc>**

Also, the following links keep you updated on Children's work at LMC and are managed by Hannah, our Family and Children's Worker:

**<https://www.facebook.com/LeatherheadFCW/>
<https://www.facebook.com/LeatherheadMessyChurch/>**

If you have any more ideas or for help getting to these resources contact David Stoves through the *Contact* page on the church website or speak to him on Sunday.

REVIVE 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

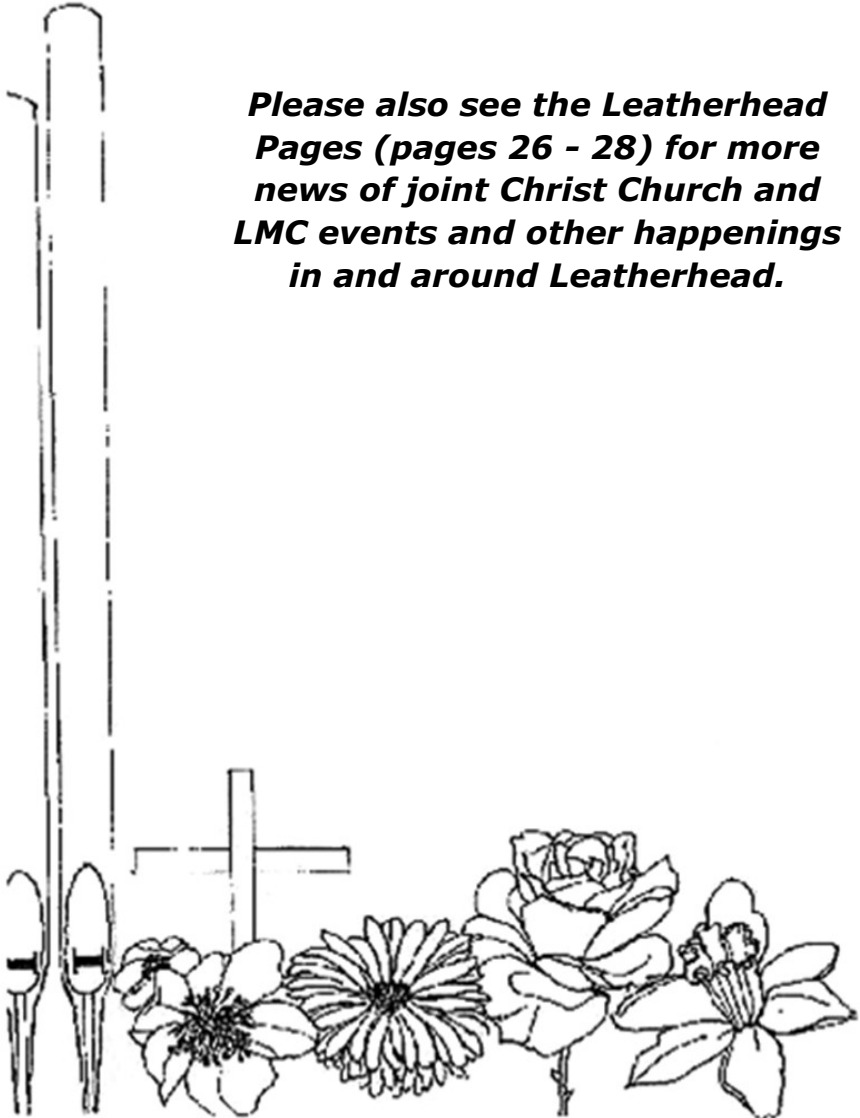
Cost £1

Email hannahleatherheadfcw@gmail.com

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

***Please also see the Leatherhead
Pages (pages 26 - 28) for more
news of joint Christ Church and
LMC events and other happenings
in and around Leatherhead.***



Christ Church Diary



December

Fri	1st	2.30pm	LMC: Time for Tea
		6.00pm	<i>Still Reforming: Most Holy Trinity (RC), Dockhead: A Service of Remembrance and Fellowship</i>
		7.30pm	Choir Practice (for am carols, 17th Dec)
Sat	2nd	9.15am	Breakfast with Santa (see p30)
Sun	3rd	10.30am	First Sunday in Advent
			Rev Bruce Stuart - with Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Advent Carol Service at the Parish Church
Mon	4th to Wed	6th	Music exams in the church 9am to 5 pm
Tues	5th	2.30pm	Elders Meeting at 38 West Farm Avenue
		6.30pm	SoundBytes rehearsal in the church
Wed	6th	7.30pm	House Group at 38 West Farm Avenue
Fri	8th	10.30pm	Training session at Cobham URC (<i>see p 10</i>)
		8.00pm	Soundbytes concert in the church
Sat	9th	10.00am	CTiL event in the town (to 5.30pm)
Sun	10th	10.30am	Mrs Anna Crawford - Gift Service and Parade
		4.00pm	Parish Church Christingle Service
Thur	14th	5.30pm	LMC: Revive Youth Club (ages 7 - 11)
Fri	15th	7.30pm	Choir Practice (for am carols, 17th Dec)
Sun	17th	10.30am	Carol Service: The Elders
		12 noon	Christmas Lunch (see below)
		6.30pm	Parish Church; United Service of 9 Lessons and Carols

Continued next page

Sunday 17th December: Christ Church Christmas Lunch in the hall; cost £5.00 per head. Tickets on sale after services from November 26th, or from Patricia Martin (376975)

Christ Church Diary Continued

December

Wed 20th 7.30pm House Group at 38 West Farm Avenue

Sun 24th 10.30pm Rev Robert Blows

4.00pm Parish Church: All-age Crib Service

11.30pm Parish Church: Midnight Communion

Mon 25th 10.00am Rev Lynda Russell:

Joint Christmas Day Service at LMC

Sun 31st 10.30am Rev Darlene McCarley

Joint LMC/URC Service

January

Fri 5th 2.30pm Time for Tea at LMC

**Sun 7th 10.30am United Covenant Service
with Holy Communion at LMC**

Thur 11th 5.30pm Revive Youth Club at LMC

Fri 12th 2.30pm Time for Tea at LMC

7.30 pm Choir Practice

Sun 14th 10.30am tba

Fri 19th 10.30am Training Session at Cobham URC on
"Welcome". (see p10)

Sun 21st 10.30am Rev Iain Stewart

Thur 25th 5.30pm Revive Youth Club at LMC

Fri 26th 7.30pm Choir Practice

Sun 28th 10.30am tba

February

Fri 2nd 2.30pm Time for Tea at LMC

Sun 4th 10.30am tba

Christ Church Family News



Congratulations and all good wishes to Richard Osmond who celebrated his 80th birthday at the end of November.

A number of our members and their families need our prayers in the coming weeks. We ask for your prayers for those who are unwell, those undergoing treatment or awaiting surgery. We remember those in care homes and their families, and especially as Christmas approaches we think of the bereaved and the lonely. Let us all help in any way that we can.

We wish all our members and our friends in LMC a very happy and blessed Christmas.

Anne Cairns

Commitment for Life

By the time you read this, you will have received a letter from your elder inviting you to make a donation to Commitment for Life. Most of you are very familiar with this organisation, and Christ Church has been extremely generous in its giving in the past.

As I said last year, we are no longer involved in Christian Aid house-to-house collections, so by donating to Commitment for Life, we can perhaps make up a little of the shortfall in our church giving.

At the back of our church, you will find up-to-date information on the varied causes in which Commitment for Life is involved.

It is heartening to hear how many people give up time to campaign against injustices. Some of us feel that we are too old to join such campaigns, and it is true that it usually involves a trip to London, and this in itself can be quite tiring. However, here is something we can do while sitting in a comfy chair in our own home, chequebook in hand. Please find it in your heart to be generous with your donation.

Margaret Dodds-Ely

New Year (Psalm 139)

A new year!

We look back to the old,
to the leaving, gladly or sadly.
We look ahead to the unknown,
to days which might bring love, or loss.
In our own strength, with our own wisdom
this is a scary place.
But our God is already there -
ahead and behind.
He created us.
He knows all our days.
So we need not be afraid.
In Him we are secure
for this new year and forever.
He will be with us
if we trust,
lift up our eyes
and walk on.

And, with His help, we can.

By Daphne Kitching
(Parish Pump)





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:

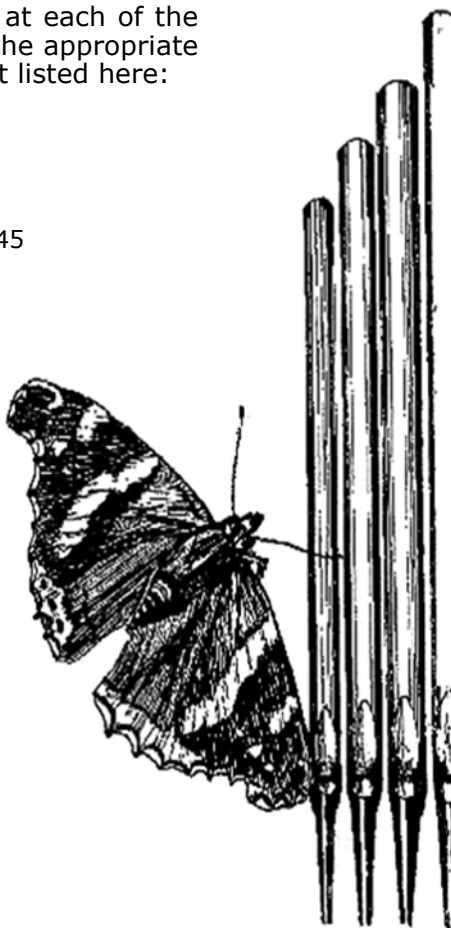
Chapel Hill, Effingham, KT24 5NB
www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk
Contact: Senior Steward -
Dave Putland 01372 454850

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: Steward -
David Cappitt 01932 862661



United Pastorate Ministers

Rev. Lynda Russell

10 Church Road
Leatherhead
KT22 8AY

Tel: 01372 372743 (home)
01372 362145 (office)

E-mail:

lynda.russell@methodist.org.uk

Rev. Kim Plumptre

38 Stoke Road
Cobham
KT11 3BD

Tel: 01932 586988

E-mail:

kimp_822@hotmail.com