

# the Link

**The United Pastorate of  
Leatherhead  
Cobham  
Effingham**

**December 2018 - January 2019**



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

**Linking:**  
**Christ Church (United Reformed) Leatherhead**  
**Cobham United Church**  
**(Methodist and United Reformed)**  
**Effingham Methodist Church**  
**Leatherhead Methodist Church**

The **Methodist** Church



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### **News of Rev Val Ogden**

Val Ogden was formerly a much loved minister in our circuit, based in Dorking. She left four years ago to take up a teaching post in the Pacific Theological College, Fiji. Now she is back in the UK, taking up a ministerial appointment in Boston, Lincs. She will be welcomed on 2nd December at 2.30pm at a service at Boston Centenary Methodist Church. There will be uplifting music; inspirational words; prayers for the future; guests local and global and a Big Celebration Tea.

She will be delighted to see any old friends who happen to be in the area, or if you can't be there, be with them in spirit and in prayer. Messages of greeting will be welcomed by [rev.val.ogden@gmail.com](mailto:rev.val.ogden@gmail.com) .

**Editor: David Cappitt**  
**17 Downsview Close,**  
**Downside, Cobham, KT11 3NS**  
**Tel: 01932 862661**  
**E-mail: [pastorate.link@gmail.com](mailto:pastorate.link@gmail.com)**

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



## *The Minister Writes...*

**From Rev Kim Plumptre**

Dear Friends,

We've had well over 18 months to prepare for our son's wedding on Saturday, yet I still left so many things to the last minute. I didn't purchase my outfit until 4 weeks ago, thanks to the amazing diligence of my sister who endured hours of dragging me around the shops in Newcastle.

The anticipation and the excitement is palpable of course, the final preparations are underway, there have been the inevitable tensions but I think we're almost there. Krisstion is remaining remarkably calm with no suggestion of nerves. However, I have presided at too many weddings to believe that will remain the case.

With 8 bridesmaids to organise on Saturday morning, hairdressers booked in and makeup to be done, as well as organising the two children, it will be a crazy time. But I'm so so excited, I can't wait for Saturday morning and then the moment when they will say those faithful words to one another.

So much time and energy has been spent in preparing for the wedding, after 10 years of being together this will be a timely reminder of the love they have expressed for one another during that time, but also the importance of making an ongoing commitment to each other.

But when Monday morning comes around, people will return to their homes and of course many will return to work. The focus of much of our attention this last 18 months will leave us with a smile upon our faces and wonderful memories, but for others the jubilation felt at the beginning of last week may well leave some feeling a sense of deflation at the beginning of the next. I suppose it says something about the joy of the moment and then the reality of settling back into your daily routine. For Krisstion and Charlotte it is the beginning of a different chapter on their journey through life.

I wonder sometimes whether there may well be a comparison between my reflections on the wedding and our engagement with Christmas and the New Year. I have dear friends who begin their

*Continued next page*

preparations for Christmas in January, and sometimes, when I am left with so little time to organise my gift giving, I might even wish I had done the same. Life is different at Christmas, some get quite excited, our calendars are bursting with Christmas activity. Then we come to the New Year, it doesn't always begin with a sense of excitement, more like trepidation and apprehension.

At this time of the year I often wonder about the sense of anticipation that must have filled the air with expectation, one day a messiah would come. It had been centuries in the making, the long-awaited answer, the yearning for a mighty saviour, with the mighty arm that would overturn injustice. In that air of expectation, I wonder whether some felt their hopes and dreams slip through their fingers at the sight of this little bundle wrapped in swaddling cloth, more dependent and more vulnerable. Their jubilation giving way to a depreciation of their hopes for the future.

However, Dietrich Bonhoeffer's reflections in 'God is in the manger' suggests, *"it is God himself, the Lord and creator of all things, who is so small here, who is hidden here in the corner, who enters into the plainness of the world, who meets us in the helplessness and defencelessness of a child and wants to be with us. And he does not do this out of playfulness or sport, because we find that so touching, but in order to show us where he is and who he is, and in order from this place to judge and devalue and dethrone all human ambition. The throne of God in the world is not on human thrones but in human depths, in the manger."*

Our humanness is so fickle, governed by the generosity of our world view and the unique lens we often look through as we come to the Christmas manger. What we think we see is not what we get, what appears to be the fragility and vulnerability of the infant Christ, will be the very glory by which Christ reaches out to us. We cannot deny his divinity nor his humanity. The living God in human form, who understands us from the inside out.

Yet it is not one moment in time which we celebrate, it is the recognition that the journey does not stop at the manger but carries on and witnesses to an extraordinary God who reveals himself constantly around and through Jesus Christ in every moment. The New Year offers us fresh opportunities to encounter Christ and that is surely something to celebrate all year round.

May you experience the joy of encountering Christ this Christmas and beyond as well as the hope that 2019 may be filled with rich blessings of all that can be -

- with our love Kim & Colin and family x

## ***From Rev Jan Hofmeyr***

We have just recently celebrated (or endured!) Guy Fawkes and we are heading towards Christmas. It struck me that there are some interesting similarities between these events. There are the outward similarities of festivities like crackers and sparklers. But there are also the far more important deeper significances.

The origin of Guy Fawkes was far deeper than fireworks and such like. Guy Fawkes was a militant Catholic, who, although born in England, went to fight for the Catholic Spanish King against the Protestant Dutch. Later he returned to England and headed up a plot to assassinate James 1 of England, and have him replaced by a Catholic monarch.

In a similar way Christ's birth is far more than the outward festivities of crackers and such like. As with Guy Fawkes it involved religion and politics, kings and killing. As with Guy Fawkes there are major events leading up to the event and major consequences flowing from it.

Christ's birth at Bethlehem has links back to the very beginnings of time and the creation of humanity. After Adam and Eve had been tempted by the devil and had sinned, God says to the snake, representing Satan, 'Your offspring and the woman's will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head and you will bite their heel.' The offspring that crushed Satan's head, defeating Him for all time, was that baby in the manger in Bethlehem.

Ever since the time of Herod, evil has sought to destroy the Lord of Light, but has not succeeded and never will. But nonetheless that battle continues to rage, as the Evil One seeks to destroy the followers of Jesus.

So we are speaking about a war – a war between the Lord and the Devil; between good and evil; the forces of darkness and the people of light. The birth of Jesus was a turning point in that war. It was a bit like D-Day in WWII. On that day the Allies established a bridgehead -they landed in enemy territory.

That's what God did on Christmas Day - C-Day. He landed in enemy territory. He landed in disguise – in the form of a baby. He created a firm foothold which gradually extended. First there were the 12 disciples - perhaps we can call them the Dirty Dozen! After all they weren't angels, were they? And after them others joined the

*Continued next page*

battle, coming all the way down to you and me.

Have you enlisted?

All of us are like prisoners of war whom Christ has come to set free. But the war is still going on and He calls us to get involved with Him. In this war you can't be neutral – you have to choose one side or the other. Jesus once said, 'Those who are not for Me are against Me.'

The church is His army on earth. But sadly sometimes there's fighting going on there too. There's that euphemistic term, 'friendly fire' – getting injured or killed by one's own comrades. Sometimes we have 'friendly fire' in the Church. We cannot afford to weaken our advance by divisions within our own ranks.

The Church, like a successful army must be united and each one must play their part – from the generals down to the youngest private. Each of us has a contribution to make. So as we think about gifts at Christmas time, perhaps we can think about the gifts that we have each been given and ensure that we are using them for the wider 'war effort'.

Christina Rossetti wrote these lines:

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give Him.

Give my heart.

Christmas is a time to give our hearts anew to the one who has given us so much. And it's a time renew our commitment to the cause of light and truth and love. So don't pack away the truth of Christmas when you pack up your decorations. For the battle continues, and will continue till the second Christmas Day – the day of Jesus' second coming. On that day He will come, not as a baby but as King, triumphant and victorious – V-day – Victory Day – Hallelujah.

With love and prayers that you may know anew the joy, hope and peace that the Christ child brought.

Jan Hofmeyr

# ***Moderator's Christmas Letter***

Dear Friends,

A recent survey revealed that one in three children had no idea that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Other religious blank spots included the role of the Archangel Gabriel, with more than a quarter having no idea that Gabriel brought God's message to Mary at her home in Nazareth to say that she would give birth to a son.

As Moderator I rarely get the opportunity to interact with children as I did when I was in pastoral charge. But I was reminded of an opportunity last year when I put my 'teaching skills' to the test. I asked a group of Under 7s some questions about the Christmas story and got some very interesting answers:

Who is Jesus? Jesus was a king and he wore a crown even though he was a baby. It was a really small crown.

Where was Jesus born? He was born in a stable a long way away from here in another country. Bethlehem - it's in England. There were sheep, horses and a crocodile outside the stable.

What gifts did the wise men bring? The three wise men brought Jesus presents of gold, frankincense and murr. But I think he would have liked some Lego.

Who were his parents? Mary and Joseph and they were very happy with the king's gifts.

Why do we celebrate Christmas? (silence) I believe in unicorns and pixies.

At least one answer gave me hope that what we have been teaching our children and our children's children might have made some impact.

But the answers also made me think about the true meaning of Christmas and the temptation to preach about the need to dismiss all that distracts us at this time of year from the true meaning of the birth of baby Jesus - the presents and cards and turkey and stuff...

For me, the real meaning of Christmas is that God became human like me because God takes human stuff seriously. In the coming of Jesus, Immanuel, God-with-us, God shows me how important all of my life is to him. In the coming of Jesus, Immanuel, God-with-us, God is real, someone 'with skin on to love'. The real meaning of Christmas is that it is all real (unlike unicorns and pixies), that God comes to us in the ordinary stuff of life. God comes to us and to all the world in overcrowded hotels, squealing babies, rough shepherds and wise men with poor navigation skills that make an unfortunate detour to Herod's palace.

It is Luke who records that God comes to ordinary shepherds. He comes to them through angelic choirs and the song of angels moves the shepherds to belief and action because they are prepared to believe and act. They respond to the song by saying: "Let's take a chance! Let's set aside our usual occupation; let's change our lives and go over to Bethlehem and see if we can find this God-child."

How will God come to you? Where do you find a manger? In their ordinariness the shepherds check out the stables in this village and come across one with a baby sleeping in it. They meet the Holy Family and share with them their story of the angelic visitation. Then they go and tell others what the angels have told them. They make known what had been told them about this child. The angel's announcement of "a Saviour, Christ the Lord" is spread throughout the area, resulting in amazement in the hearers. We don't know what happened to the shepherds after that. The final scene in this passage finds the shepherds climbing back up the hill to where their flocks lie. The angel had told them what to expect and that's just the way they found it. We leave them glorifying and praising, the appropriate response to this unforgettable night. Because God comes to them, they are changed.

God is with us in all of our Christmases. What will our appropriate response be? Weighed down by all the Christmas hype we may not feel like saying with the shepherds: "Let's take a chance! Let's set aside our usual occupation; let's change our lives and go over to Bethlehem and see if we can find this God-child." And that is OK. For in the coming of Jesus, Immanuel, God-with-us, every ordinary person becomes part of the story of God's love. That's the true meaning of Christmas.

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

With Advent and Christmas blessings,

*Diola*





# **Cobham**

## **United Church**

### **Worship Diary**

#### **December**

- Sun 2nd 9.00am Early Bird Service**  
**10.30am Sydney Shore**
- Sun 9th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion**
- Sun 16th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton**  
**6.30pm Carol Service**
- Sun 23rd 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton**
- Mon 24th 4.00pm Crib Service**  
**11.30pm Christmas Eve Service**
- Tues 25th 10.30am Christmas Day: Rev Kim Plumpton**
- Sun 30th 10.30am Beth Little**

#### **January**

- Sun 6th 9.00am Early Bird Service**  
**10.30am Sydney Shore**
- Sun 13th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton: Covenant Service with Holy Communion**
- Sun 20th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton**  
**6.30pm Service of Christian Unity at St Andrew's Parish Church (tbc)**
- Sun 27th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton**

#### **February**

- Sun 3rd 9.00am Early Bird Service**  
**10.30am See Church Notices**

# Cobham Events

## December

Tues 4th	9.45am	Church Walk
	8.00pm	Trustees Meeting
Thur 6th	12.30pm	Men's fellowship:
	1.30pm	Mustard Seed
Sat 8th	3.45pm	Messy Christmas (to 5.45pm)
Thur 20th	1.30pm	Mustard Seed

## January

Thur 3rd	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship: The Queen's Head, E Clandon
	1.30pm	Mustard Seed
Tues 8th	9.45am	Church Walk
	8.00pm	Trustees Meeting
Thur 17th	1.30pm	Mustard Seed
	7.30pm	House Group
Thur 24th	3.45pm	Messy Church (to 5.45pm)

**Prayers at the Manse**  
**9.30 am on Wednesdays**  
**December 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th**  
**and**  
**January 2nd, 9th, 16th ,23rd, 30th**

**Friday 14th December**  
**Christmas Open House**  
**at the manse**  
**2.30 - 4.30 pm**  
**and**  
**7.00 - 9.30 pm**





**Messy Christmas**

Saturday 8th December, 3.45pm - 5.45pm  
Cobham United Church

**Messy Church**

Thursday 24th Jan, 3.45pm - 5.45pm  
Cobham United Church





# Effingham

## Methodist Church

### Birthday Dates to celebrate in December and January:



Joan Dawson on Dec 20th and our minister Kim on the 29th. Then Charles Dawson on 29th Jan  
Please let us know about birthdays and BIG anniversaries!!



**Wednesdays December 12th and January 9th: 3.30 - 5.30pm**

Messy Church will meet at **Little Bookham Village Hall** in December for a Christmas party, and then it's back to **St. Lawrence Church Hall in Brown's Lane** for January and subsequent sessions  
For more info contact Gill on 01372 457987



**Date for your diaries ~ Effingham's Church Council will meet on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January from 10.00-12 noon in the Church.**

Agenda Items to **Gill Walker** asap.

# Effingham Methodist Diary



## December

<b>Sun 2nd</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Rev Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion</b>
Tues 4th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea at St Lawrence Church Hall
Thur 6th	10.00am	Connect at St Alphege Hall
	2.15pm	Christian Meditation in the chapel
<b>Sun 9th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>John Bees</b>
Tues 11th	2.00pm	Precious Moments Service at the chapel
Wed 12th	3.30pm	Messy Church at Little Bookham Village Hall (to 5.00)
Thur 13th	2.00pm	St Lawrence School children singing at the shops
Sat 15th	2.00pm	Nativity film at the chapel
<b>Sun 16th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Waseem Haq</b>
	<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Carol Service</b> with tea at 5.00pm
Tues 18th	2.30pm	Tuesday Teas in St Alphege Hall
<b>Wed 19th</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Living Nativity starts at Earl Haig pub</b>
Thur 20th	10.00pm	Connect with a pantomime
	2.15pm	Christian Meditation in the chapel
<b>Sun 23rd</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Rhys Frost</b>
<b>Mon 24th</b>	<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Crib Service at St L's with the Posada</b>
<b>Tues 25th</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Christmas Day with Rev Km Plumpton</b>
<b>Sun 30th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>United Service at St Lawrence</b>

## January

Thur 3rd	10.00am	Connect at St Alphege Hall
	2.15pm	Christian Meditation in the chapel
<b>Sun 6th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Rev Kim Plumpton: Covenant Service</b>
Wed 9th	3.30pm	Messy Church at St Lawrence Hall (to 5.30pm)
<b>Sun 13th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<i>see circuit plan</i>
Tues 15th	2.30pm	Tuesday Teas
Thur 17th	12.30pm	Oasis bible group lunch
	2.15pm	Christian Meditation in the chapel

# Effingham Methodist Diary (continued)



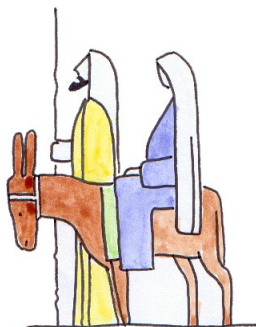
## January

- Sun 20th 10.00am** *see circuit plan*  
4.00pm Scones of Praise at All Saints
- Sun 27th 10.00am** **Rev Will Fletcher**  
**(Janet Garnham's nephew)**
- Tues 29th 10.00am Church Council in the chapel  
2.30pm Tuesday teas at St Alphege Hall
- Thur 31st 10.00am Connect at St Lawrence Hall  
2.15pm Christian Meditation in the chapel

## February

- Sun 3rd 10.00am** *see circuit plan*

### 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 **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December** at **2.00pm**.

## **Film**



In preparation for Christmas a Nativity Film will be shown at **Effingham Methodist Chapel** on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec** at **2pm**. **This is an ecumenical event so do come along if you can.** The film will be followed by tea and cake at 4pm.





**Connect**

## **"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, often for tea at local garden centres. Refreshments, friendship, chat and a good range of activities are on offer for all.

Next meetings are December 6th when Grace Notes will be playing for us, and 20th, with a pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, by the Rah Rah Company. January dates are 3rd, 17th and 31st.

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***

### **Tuesday Teas**

We meet fortnightly from 2.30pm to 4pm, in St Alphege Hall, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Lower Road, Effingham (and occasional outings).

Our November meeting featured the Phoenix Singers, who entertained with "Beware the satnav", with a play and in song. Next dates are December 4th and 18th, when we shall be entertained by Mike Davies on his guitar, and Irene Copp. January dates are the 1st (to be confirmed) and 15th.

Some car transport can be arranged.

Contact Keith or Gill on 01372 457987 for more information.



## Precious Moments

Short service  
with hymns, poetry and readings  
Followed by afternoon tea

For those living with and caring for those with De-  
mentia, as well as friends in the community

Effingham Methodist Church

Held at 2pm on

28th November

11<sup>th</sup> December

For more information Contact: 01372 457987

### Messy Church

Our November  
Messy Church was  
about listening and  
learning and re-  
membering that  
Jesus loved little  
children and want-  
ed to hear them.





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 **events** from the

Methodist website : [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

## **December 2018**

### **1st December is World Aids Day > Rock the Ribbon**

We're winning the fight against HIV, but losing the fight against ignorance ! There are still thousands of people living with HIV in the UK. There is no cure. Show your support with one simple thing ! #ROCKTHERIBBON see World Aids Day website

**4th Advent Sunday > Mission in Britain** ~ This year's theme is '**Overflowing Love**: supporting Mission in Britain to give a warm welcome to those in need'.

The **Advent Offering** is a Connexion-wide event that raises prayer and money for the **Mission in Britain Fund** to support many amazing projects across Britain. If you represent your church or circuit, save the date for an Advent Offering service between 2 and 24 December.



You can use our Advent Offering worship resources flexibly. Use for a pre-planned All Age service, or adapt elements and add your own ideas. Everything is provided for you to make your Advent Offering service suitable to your local context

Download **Advent Offering Service** resources and posters  
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/support-our-work/advent-offering/>



## January 2019

**6<sup>th</sup> Covenant Sunday** ~ download study guide [rootsontheweb.com](http://rootsontheweb.com)

**18-25th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** ~ [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk)

Order or download resources > Material for 2019 originates from the churches of Indonesia, where there is a strong emphasis on need for unity alongside the nation's ethnic and religious diversity. The resources also highlight issues of economic injustice and how religious pluralism can face challenges in the face of radicalisation. The theme is based around Deuteronomy 16:18-20, 'Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue...

**27th January is Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD 2019)** ~ The theme is **Torn from home**. This will encourage reflection on how the enforced loss of a safe place to call 'home' is part of the trauma faced by anyone experiencing persecution and genocide. 'Home' usually means a place of safety, comfort and security.

Holocaust Memorial Day will reflect on what happens when individuals, families and communities are driven out of, or wrenched from their homes, because of persecution or the threat of genocide, alongside the continuing difficulties survivors face as they try to find and build new homes when the genocide is over.



HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY TRUST

**See more at :** [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk)



**Bah Humbug!**

### **The Redemption of Scrooge !**

The story of Scrooge, muttering his infamous "Bah, humbug" has been retold countless times on stage, film, and tv. Charles Dickens' anti-hero in a "Christmas Carol" has become an indelible part of our seasonal festivities, but why is the tale of an old miser and three ghosts still so relevant today ?

Charles Dickens was a Christian and while his story doesn't once mention stables, or shepherds, or stars, or wise men, or even Jesus by name, it is nonetheless a parable about the true and deepest meaning of the Christmas story.

Scrooge is a bitter and cynical man, but he's the product of a bitter and cynical age. When the charity committee calls on him, he retorts, "Are there no prisons, are there no workhouses?" And when he snarls that the deaths of the poor would best serve to "decrease the surplus population", he merely reflects the harsh realities of life in Victorian England. Poverty, child abuse, addiction and injustice were rife. Our world is much like the world of Scrooge. We know the face of evil. Terrorism and war are part of our experience. Drugs, murder, abuse, broken homes, personal tragedy. We, too, can feel hurt and overwhelmed.

But, that's why Christmas came. That's why Christ came. We still see the harsh realities of life, which so embittered Scrooge, yet, like Dickens, we also see the daily miracles. The child of Bethlehem is born again every time one of us speaks his words, or does his deeds. We are Christmas! Every day, all year round.

The story of Scrooge is about salvation. One soul at a time. If Scrooge can be saved, then so can we, with all our faults.

As Tiny Tim says: **"God bless us, every one!"**

## **10 best Christmas cracker jokes !**

They're corny and seldom improve with the telling, but Christmas lunch wouldn't be complete without the chorus of groans that corny cracker jokes always provoke.....Enjoy !

**What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?**

Claustrophobia!

**What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?**

A Holly Davidson!

**How did Scrooge win the football game?** ☐

The ghost of Christmas passed!

**What do reindeer hang on their Christmas trees?** ☐

Horn-aments!

**How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?** ☐

One that's deep pan, crisp and even!

**What carol is heard in the desert?** ☐

O camel ye faithful!

**What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?** ☐

Tinsilitis!

**What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?**

Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

**What's green, covered in tinsel and goes ribbet ribbet?** ☐

Mistle-toad!

**How did Mary and Joseph know that Jesus was 7lb 6oz when he was born?**

They had a weigh in a manger!

Merry Christmas



*Dorking and Horsham Circuit*  
**NEWSLETTER**

**December**  
**January and**  
**February 2019**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER**

As you can see we have a jam-packed edition of our Circuit News this time around, so please take in all the news from around the Circuit. For my part I am thrilled to be able to announce the appointment of Brian Frogley of the London Road Church as Circuit Steward – Finance (Treasurer) with immediate effect. We welcome Brian on board and pray God's blessing in this role. All that remains is for me to wish you all a truly blessed Christmas and New Year. As you celebrate the Incarnation ponder this: how vulnerable love truly is and, as you consider Covenant, think on where God can use your vulnerability to demonstrate that love afresh in the world today.

*Gavin*

**DORKING**

We were very pleased to have a brief visit from Revd Val Ogden one Saturday morning. Val is on furlough, having finished her work on Fiji. She will shortly be welcomed as the Minister at Boston Centenary Methodist Church in Lincolnshire. We are also delighted that Rowan (our lay chaplain) will be working with us for another two years. She provides an important pastoral ministry, and gave a useful presentation of the Centre's work at a Churches Together in Dorking service recently. We are grateful to the team who serve and look after the premises, but we would be pleased to hear from qualified "listeners". Generous funding has enabled the installation of CCTV. And it is good, thanks to helpers from another local church, that the Christmas Day festivities in the Centre will be on offer to the lonely again this year.

## ST ANDREWS

We are happy to be using our newly refurbished building for community events.

For example on Wednesday mornings (10 – 12am) the community café is going from strength to strength. Everyone is welcomed and offered a choice of delicious cakes and hot beverages. Heart to Heart, a free listening service runs alongside the café as well as a foot health specialist available for a fee.

We have also had several garden open days with a cream tea.

Twice a month Susan Halliday leads 'Take time'. This is a relaxing guided meditation based on the stories of Jesus and the tradition of St Ignatius. Feel free to come along on the second Sunday of each month 6-7pm and on the fourth Thursday 10-11 am followed by refreshments for those who wish to stay.

We are pleased to have Rosemary Johnston as our new part time Children and Family Worker. She now runs 'Little Stars' on a Tuesday morning and is running seasonal Messy Church sessions. The last one being based on a 'light party' to counter Halloween parties in the area. We hope to have a Messy Church Christmas at the beginning of December.

We are thrilled to see new faces from the community in worship on Sunday, Take Time and at other events. We pray that our links with the local community continue to grow.

*Sue Randell*

## SOUTHWATER

**Harvest @ SCMC** saw the launch of this year's fundraising efforts for **Tear Fund**, with a tasty, ethically & sustainably sourced harvest supper, reminding us how we can all eat well for less. The use of torches/candles highlighted how much we take electricity for granted, further emphasised the following week when because of works being done at the school we had to worship without lights, heat or power! We also learned how the gift of a sewing machine transformed one woman's family & community in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We are proud of our association with Tear Fund & hope to inspire people not only to give but also to act & pray. A great start to the fundraising year.

**Happiness Course** (see [Livability.org.uk](http://Livability.org.uk)): 16 people joined us for this course, which is not explicitly Christian or evangelistic but utilises psychological & social research which cohere well & witness to significant biblical principles. It helps identify different types of happiness, encouraging & equipping people to pursue deeper, meaningful happiness. It was fun & deep, & we look forward to running it again.

**Children & Family** work kicked off with Messy Autumn activities & a Light Party, fun opportunities to share our faith & the love of Jesus for all people through creativity & food. Now blessed with more opportunities to work with our 3 local schools, we are able to provide a Christian presence of one sort or another in each school. Your prayers for these relationships to grow & be fruitful would be appreciated.

Finally, do you struggle to use Creative Arts in your worship? Try **ARTSERVE!** 6 of us attended the **Artserve Festival** at Highleighs in Hertfordshire. It was an amazing weekend - including the weather! We took part in workshops on dance, singing (for those who think they can't!), music (with Simeon Wood), drama, journaling & song writing. We came back with many useful ideas & tools to try in our worship, including a new song written by Robert Gardner & two fellow delegates. We can't wait to try some of them during our Sunday worship & are already looking forward to next year! If you think you would be interested in going next year do get in touch - we already have the date!

*Tina Andrews, Shirley Gardner, Juliet Fuller*

## **COBHAM**

We are getting used to our church life together, with joint rotas for stewards/elders, lesson readers, door stewards, and so on. Since we are legally two churches in one congregation, the Trustees Meetings convene for part of each session as the Methodist Church Council, including circuit representation. Not everything runs smoothly all the time, but we are getting there.

Arrangements for the sale of the Cedar Road premises have been taking up time and effort, including meetings with surveyors and solicitors, but we are now just awaiting the final approval from the Methodist Property Office in Manchester before it is put on the market. We have had a lot of help from the Circuit Property Secretary, Paul Bradley, for which we are most grateful.

*David Cappitt*

## **PARTRIDGE GREEN**

As we move towards the season of Advent, it is good to reflect on our recent successful Messy Church mornings and Harvest Toddler service. We are greatly encouraged with our strong ecumenical links in the village, and our increasing opportunities to reach out to children and parents at the local primary school.

In August our church hall was redecorated, and the result is very pleasing, and more welcoming.

During November, we will be holding our Annual fund-raising pre- Christmas Coffee Morning. Fundraising is most important for us, as we address the issue of refurbishment to our church porch, which when done will provide a more welcoming entrance to our church as well as giving us a good disabled access. The point of patching up the paintwork is no longer an option, with so much rotten wood!

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Waseem, in his role as family worker. It's been good to have him on board to support us in our activities with the young families, but we will continue to welcome him to Partridge Green for Sunday worship.

In early December we have been invited to join St. Michael's at their Christmas tree festival weekend, when all churches and organizations from the village have been invited to contribute a decorated tree. Plans are in progress for our decorated tree!

On Saturday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 3pm, we will celebrate our Carol Service, when everyone is most welcome to join us, and share in refreshments to follow.

An enjoyable Advent is wished to everyone within our Circuit from all here in Partridge Green.

*Alison James*

## **LONDON ROAD, HORSHAM**

Waseem Haq has been our Family worker since 2015, and he and his family have contributed greatly to the spiritual and material life of London Road Church. Sadly his contract came to an end in November, and we were pleased to express our thanks to him for all he has done for families at London Road. However it is not goodbye as Waseem remains a member at London Road.

Waseem and Gavin held a series of preparation classes attended by six young people and they were welcomed into membership of the church at a service in October.

The church is once again pleased to support the Horsham Churches Together Night Shelter project that runs from December to March. On Saturday evenings our premises are open and with help from volunteers we can offer a hot meal, somewhere warm and safe to sleep and friendship to people who would otherwise be rough sleeping.

As well as our usual Christmas services, carols, Christingle etc., the Outreach Mission team has organised carol sing along in our church car park, offering a hot drink and mince pies to the public whilst carols are being sung. The Action for Children support group have organised a Christmas Tree Festival with decorated trees being contributed by the different groups and organisations that meet on the church premises. These activities give us the opportunity to share the wonderful news of the birth of Jesus.

*Helen Currington*



## EFFINGHAM

**Churches Together** organised a film evening for **Christian Aid** in October, raising £366, when Gift aid is included, for this very worthy cause. **Tuesday teas**, and **Connect**, the fortnightly group for carers and people living with dementia, continue to thrive. Both events are run by a mix of helpers from our local churches who organise indoor meetings and outings throughout the year.

Kim started, **in October**, the first of what we hope will become a regular event each month when she led **Precious Moments**, a short dementia friendly Church Service, held at the Chapel and followed by tea.

Annual funding has also been provided for the **Bibles in Schools** scheme, which allows every pupil at our local primary school to have their own bible, which they can take with them to their secondary school.

**Messy Church's** kids will get an Advent calendar in December, and the **Posada** figures will be visiting local schools and homes to remind everyone about the real meaning of Christmas.

Casting of key roles and plans for this year's **Living Nativity** have begun. Together with families and children we'll be donning appropriate costumes for shepherds, magi and angels for a torchlight procession around the village with tableaux telling the Christmas story; then on to the local pub for food, mulled wine and carols! There's a new donkey who is heavily insured and theatre-trained apparently, so hopefully not so messy as last year!

At the Chapel, we're continuing to discuss life's thorny issues at **Oasis**, our monthly Bible lunch. Window-blinds recently installed in the Chapel have enabled us to show films, so we're planning an Advent course based on a popular tv Nativity story in mid-December.

Meanwhile the Chapel now has a very expensive neighbour, a newly built 3 bedroomed house next door for sale at £995K and which has a very attractive front garden. Now that the newbuild is completed, we have been encouraged to plan for a new boundary wall and fence. Tidying up our garden recently, revealed an old memorial stone with the much-loved inscription "Home in time for Christmas".

*Ange and David Putland*

## LEATHERHEAD

The big changes have happened!

Revd. Jan Hofmeyr arrived from RSA together with wife Angela. Nic Joyce (Joycey to everyone) started as the Children and Youth worker. Both Jan and Joycey have already been very active in their respective roles sharing their time between LMC and Christ Church URC. A few months ago the Leatherhead churches were plagued with uncertainty, and now feel well blessed with the new leadership and talent amongst us.

The new Methodist year has been a time for big social occasions. Jan's welcome service was a full house with nobody going short of tea and cake afterwards. We shared the Harvest supper with our Anglican friends (this year's Hosts) who provide food and a live band. We moved quickly on to our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration with another well-organised supper and entertainment evening, when LMC youth talent was on show providing juggling, magic, instrumental and singing performances. Revd Ian Field visited from Chichester to lead the anniversary Communion service.

*Ron Shaw*

# 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***

**AllSaints, Kingston Road, Leatherhead, KT22 7BT**

## Men's Breakfasts



The Leatherhead Men's Breakfast Fellowship meets bi-monthly on the fourth Saturday in the month. No meeting in December.

The next meeting is on **26th January at the Catholic**

**Church hall.**

No meeting in February; the following meeting will be on 23rd March (venue tbc), then on 25th May at LMC.

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



**MESSY**

**CHRISTMAS**

**LEATHERHEAD  
METHODIST CHURCH**

**On 20th December  
@ 1530-1730**

**Come Join us  
for:  
Crafts, Games  
Food, Fun**

**You need to sign up as we plan  
on feeding your family so we  
need to know how many we  
are catering for.**

**Closing Date 14th December**

**Contact Joycey on  
[joycey.lmcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:joycey.lmcyouth@gmail.com)**



**LEATHERHEAD  
PARISH CHURCH**

# 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"

**7th December:** Christmas Special. The Swan Handbell Ringers will be playing Old Tyme and Christmas songs. All are welcome to come for fellowship and those sumptuous cakes.

**4th January:** "My Work with Relate" by Dreda Kitchen

## **EVERYONE WELCOME**

*(suggested donation £1)*



# The Ark Toddler Group



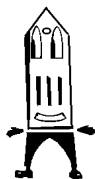
Every Friday  
0930-1100  
URC Church  
Epsom Road  
KT22 8ST

Lots of fun,  
games and  
toys, come  
and join us  
for a tea or  
coffee  
whilst your  
child plays



For More Information  
Contact Joycey on  
[Joycey.lmcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:Joycey.lmcyouth@gmail.com)





# Leatherhead

## Methodist Church

### Pastoral Visitors...

Pastoral Visitors' Prayer Meetings are held at 2.30pm on the 4th Tuesday every month in the Vestry at LMC. All pastoral visitors, stewards and Christ Church elders are welcome to attend these prayer meetings.

*No meeting in December. The meeting on Tuesday 22nd January will be a pastoral visitors' quarterly meeting.*

### LMC House Groups

LMC has three House Groups where Church members and friends can meet together on a regular basis, usually 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.



**Monday evenings fortnightly:** contact **Carol Stoves**

**Friday mornings monthly:** contact **Norma Shaw**

**Friday afternoons (2nd and 4th Fridays):** contact **Sue Friend**

Everyone is encouraged to join a house group



# Diary



## December

- Sun 2nd 10.30am Rev. Jan Hofmeyr with Holy Communion**  
**12.00noon Family Bring & Share Lunch**
- Tues 4th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry  
Thur 6th 2.00pm Knit 'n' Natter  
7.30pm Stewards' and Elders' meeting  
Fri 7th 2.30pm Time for Tea
- Sun 9th 10.30am John Oborn**  
**6.30pm Rev. Jan Hofmeyr with Holy Communion**
- Tues 11th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry  
Thur 13th 2.00pm Knit 'n' Natter
- Sun 16th 9.30am Prayer Breakfast**  
**10.30am James Wild - Family Carol Service and Toy Service (*see below*)**
- Tues 18th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry  
Thur 20th 3.30pm Messy Christmas (*to 5.30pm*)
- Sun 23rd 10.30am Rev. Jan Hofmeyr**  
**6.30pm United Carol Service at the Parish Church**
- Tues 25th 10.00am Joint Christmas Morning Service at LMC**  
**Sun 30th 10.30am Rev. Jan Hofmeyr**

## Sunday 16th December - Family Carol Service at 10.30am

The preacher will be James Wild. This will also be the annual **Toy Service**. Please bring unwrapped children's gifts for placing under the Christmas Tree which will then be donated to B@titude. Gifts of money can also be given.

## House Groups

House Groups are held fortnightly on Monday evenings, monthly on Friday mornings and twice monthly on Friday afternoons (2nd & 4th Fridays) See details on page 30.

### January

Fri 4th 2.30pm Time for Tea

**Sun 6th 10.30am Covenant Service - Rev. Jan Hofmeyr**  
**12.00noon Family Bring & Share Lunch**

Tues 8th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry

Thur 10th 2.00pm Knit 'n' Natter

**Sun 13th 10.30am) See Circuit Plan or weekly notices**  
**6.30pm)**

Tues 15th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry

Thurs 17th 2.00pm Knit 'n' Natter

**Sun 20th 9.30am Prayer Breakfast**

**10.30am see Circuit Plan or weekly notices**

Tues 22nd 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry

2.30pm Pastoral Visitors' Quarterly Meeting

7.45pm Leadership Team Meeting at Ron & Norma's

Thur 24th 2.00pm Knit 'n' Natter

Sat 26th 8.00am Men's Breakfast at the Catholic Church hall

**Sun 27th 10.30am see Circuit Plan or weekly notices**  
**6.30pm New Fire at AllSaints cafe**

Tues 29th 2.00pm Prayers in the Vestry

Thur 31st 2.00pm Knit 'n' Natter

### February

Fri 1st 2.30pm Time for Tea

**Sun 3rd 10.30am see Circuit Plan or weekly notices**

Tues 5th 2.00pm Prayers in the Vestry

Thur 7th 2.00pm Knit 'n' Natter



## **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 16th December.**

## **Weekly Prayer Meeting**

Prayer meetings are now held every Tuesday morning in the Vestry at LMC. Meetings start at 9.00am and last about 40 minutes. Everyone is very welcome to join us.

## **Review of the Relationship between Christ Church and LMC**

On 25th October a meeting was held between the Elders of Christ Church and the Stewards of LMC, together with our minister, Jan. The purpose of the meeting was to revive the discussions that had begun some years ago about a closer working together between the two churches which could lead in time to a merging of the congregations.

The discussions were fairly broad, looking at whether a closer link and possible merger would better serve our members, our community and our Lord.

The group will be meeting again in December. All members are welcome in the meantime to approach their leaders about this process, including sharing their own ideas and feelings.

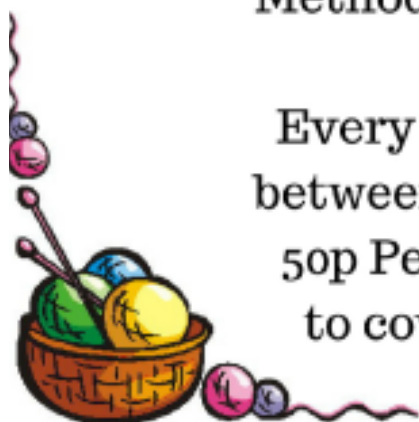
# KNIT AND NATTER



NEW GROUP  
STARTING  
ALL ARE  
WELCOME

Leatherhead  
Methodist Church

Every Thursday  
between 1400-1600  
50p Per Session  
to cover costs



**LMC**

# LMC Family News



*Our thoughts and prayers are with ...*

...Elaine Tomkins as she convalesces following hip surgery in November.

Throughout the Christmas season we remember all our members, friends and relatives - in particular, those who are not in good health and being looked after in hospital, in nursing or residential care or in their own home. We especially think of James & Jean Ross, Harry & Peggy Robinson, Edward Warren and Jeanne Alexandre.

We also remember Ian Howarth, who, at the time of writing, is back in hospital in Birmingham suffering from nausea and fatigue and for rehydration following his intensive course of chemo drugs. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ian and Barbara and the family at this time.

We also think of John Russell still having difficulties following his surgery and we pray that things will improve for him soon. Our thoughts and prayers are with John and Lynda.





## Christmas Angels and Stars

Once again this year, it is planned that Leatherhead and Leatherhead North are to be bombarded with knitted angels and stars with a label saying "Happy Christmas from Churches Together in Leatherhead". People from the Leatherhead churches are again being asked to give their time and join the brigade of knitters.

If you'd like more information, please speak to Norma Shaw. If you would like a pattern sent by email, please email Norma - address in the church directory.



# Book Review



## **The King Has Come**

by James Montgomery Boice.

As the title suggests this book is about the birth of Jesus. However, it is not confined to the accounts of His birth in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke but also covers the Old Testament prophecies. The book is made up of a number of sermons preached by the author during the Christmas seasons from 1983 to 1990.

In the preface to the book the author points out that Christmas is the time that we mark the greatest of the Bible's miracles – taking upon Himself the human nature and body of the second person of the Holy Trinity. He reminds us that no other religion can claim that God Himself, in the person of this unique God-man, paid the price of our salvation by dying to save us from our sins. He says of the title of the book: "It is a good title because the King of all kings has indeed come. That is what Christmas is all about. But this will be of no account to you unless the King also comes to you".

The book is divided into four parts: The Prophecies, The Announcement, The Birth and Coming To Jesus. We are taken on a journey which begins at the beginning, so it might be no great surprise that the first chapter is entitled "Christmas in Eden" (Genesis 3:15). Let nobody doubt that the entire Bible is the story of Jesus. At the beginning of the book's first chapter we are quickly reminded that the first reference to the coming of Jesus is in Genesis and the last is in Revelation 12 and that the reference in Genesis is the occasion of God's judgement upon Adam and Eve for their *sin*.

Isaiah 9:6 is carefully explained and we are told of “the four gifts of Christmas” – Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Then an account of Micah 5:2 opens up the place of Bethlehem in the story and reminds us of its importance in the story of the Magi.

The chapters on the announcement of the birth of Jesus bring us the detail of the visits to Joseph and Mary by the angel Gabriel. The miracles of Christmas are explained along with the so-called absurdities surrounding the story: “For nothing is impossible with God” (Luke 1:37).

The chapters on the birth of Jesus utilise Galatians 4:4-5 (“...when the time had fully come...”) then move on to the account in the Gospel of Luke. The different aspects in this story are treated in an engaging manner and leave us with much information and some interesting ideas to think about.

The final chapters are called “Coming To Jesus”. The first two concern the Magi as told in Matthew’s Gospel. The last chapter is entitled “Those Who Lost Christmas” and, perhaps surprisingly, it is based on Luke 2:41-52 which is the account of the visit to Jerusalem when Jesus was 12 years old. How this relates to Christmas is fully explained. Near the end of this story of Joseph and Mary losing Jesus, readers are challenged to consider whether they have ever lost Jesus and how this possibility might be handled.

No opportunity is lost in this book to relate the events of the first Christmas to the experience of the modern Christian. I particularly like the comparison between the story of the Wise Men (Magi) and what should happen to us when we find Jesus. We are told “Bow down and worship Him and then present your gifts. You need to present everything you are. And then you need to go home another way, which means living a different life to what you have lived before”.

“The King Has Come” makes for easy reading and is very different to anything I’ve read previously on this subject. I recommend this book.

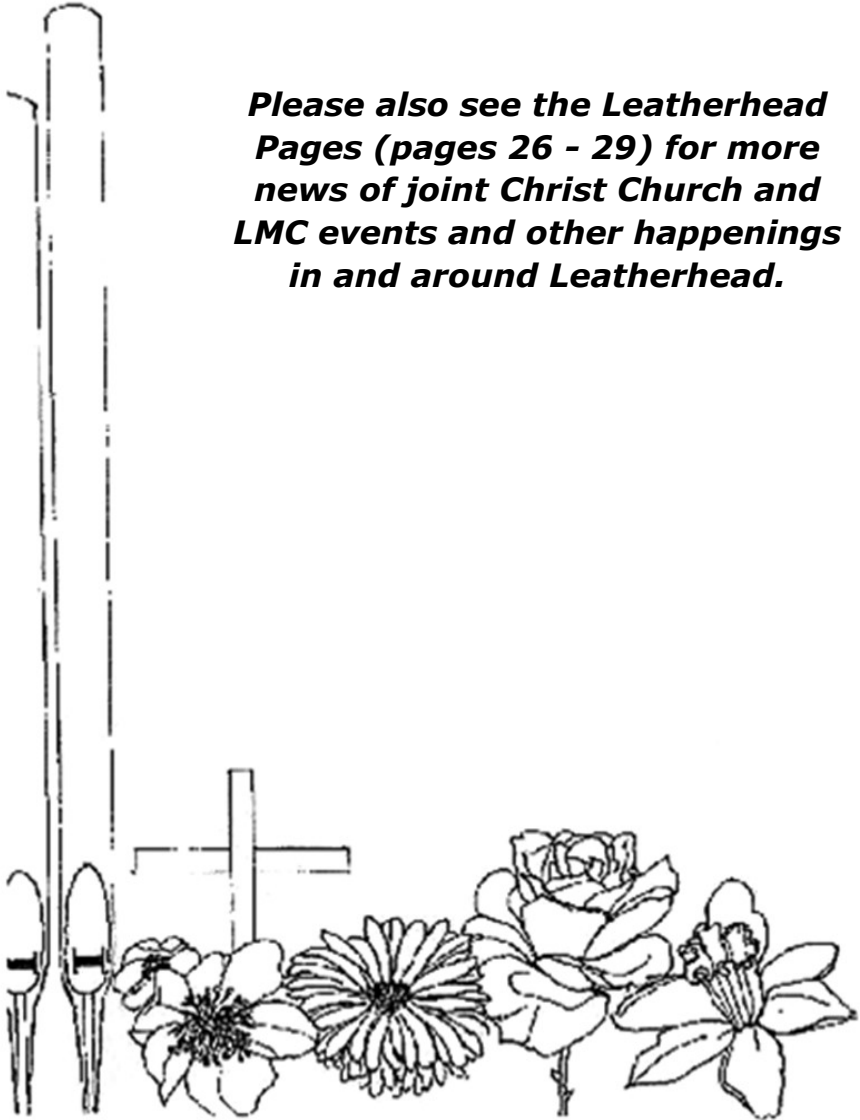
Laurie Williams

**Publisher: Christian Focus. From £5.99 online with used book options.**

# Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

***Please also see the Leatherhead  
Pages (pages 26 - 29) for more  
news of joint Christ Church and  
LMC events and other happenings  
in and around Leatherhead.***



# Christ Church Diary



## December

**Sun 2nd 10.30am Rev Stephen Thornton: Holy Communion**

Thur 6th 2.00pm LMC: Knit 'n' Natter

Fri 7th 2.30pm LMC: Time for Tea

**Sun 9th 10.30am Gift Service: Rev Jan Hofmeyr**

**4.00pm Parish Church: Christingle Service**

Wed 12th 7.30pm House Group at 38 West Farm Avenue

Thur 13th 2.00pm LMC: Knit 'n' Natter

Fri 14th 7.30pm Choir Practice

Sat 15th 4.00pm Leatherhead Choral Society Christmas Concert

**Sun 16th 10.30am Carol Service: the Elders**

**12.30pm LMC: Revive Nation (ages 11 to 18)**

Thur 20th 3.30pm LMC: Messy Christmas

**Sun 23rd 10.30am Peter Bramhill**

**6.30pm Parish Church: Carol Service**

**Tues 25th 10.00am LMC: Joint Christmas Day Service:  
Rev Jan Hofmeyr**

**Sun 30th 10.30am Rev Robert Blows**

## January

Fri 4th 2.30pm LMC: Time for Tea

**Sun 6th 10.30am Gail Partridge**

**10.30am LMC: Covenant Service: Rev J Hofmeyr**

**12.30pm LMC: Revive Nation (ages 11 to 18)**



# Christ Church Diary (Continued)



## January (cont)

Thur 10th 2.00pm LMC: Knit 'n' Natter

**Sun 13th 10.30am Rev Jan Hofmeyr: Holy Communion**

Thur 17th 2.00pm LMC: Knit 'n' Natter

Fri 18th 2.30pm LMC: Time for Tea

**Sun 20th 10.30am Heather Ward**

**12.30pm LMC: Revive Nation (ages 11 to 18)**

Thur 24th 2.00pm LMC: Knit 'n' Natter

Sat 26th 8.00am Catholic Church Hall: Men's Breakfast

**Sun 27th 10.30am Methodist Preacher: see Church Notices**

Thur 31st 2.00pm LMC: Knit 'n' Natter

## February

Fri 1st 2.30pm LMC: Time for Tea

**Sun 3rd 10.30am Rev Stephen Thornton**

**12.30pm LMC: Revive Nation (ages 11 to 18)**



# Christ Church Family News



We are sorry to announce the death of Freda Neal, Steve's wife, on 1st November. She had suffered a fall and broken her arm in August and her health had gradually deteriorated. She moved from Epsom Hospital to Gracewell Care Home in Bookham only a few days before, so her family were very near. We send Steve, and his daughters Stephanie and Andrea our deep sympathy in their loss, and assure them of our prayers and support. Freda worshipped and sang in the choir at Guildford URC for many years. In the '50s and '60s she sang in Christ Church choir and was an active member of the YPF and the 19/40 group. Freda was a great supporter of several greyhound rescue charities, including Wimbledon Greyhound Welfare, Hersham and Celia Cross Greyhound Trust, and she was a gifted maker and repairer of teddy bears of all shapes and sizes

We have recently learnt of the death of Lilian Parsons back in September 2017. She was a faithful member of our congregation for many years, then sadly developed dementia and had lived in a care home for the last few years. Hilary Porter's appreciation of her life is printed below

We give thanks for the faithful Christian service of these friends, and remember them in our prayers. We pray for all who are bereaved, those struggling with health or other problems, friends in care homes, and all carers and the lonely.

*Anne Cairns*

## **Freda Neal**

All are warmly welcomed to a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Freda Neal at 12 noon on Wednesday 28th November at Christ Church (United Reformed), Epsom Road, Leatherhead.

Freda always said she didn't want a lot of black so at her request bright coloured clothing please. Family flowers only please.

We hope that some of Freda's friends from Guildford URC will also be able to join us, and it would be helpful to have an indication of numbers. Please phone Freda's daughter Stephanie on 01643 853298 or email [stephanieblake@hotmail.com](mailto:stephanieblake@hotmail.com)

*Stephanie Blake*

## **LILIAN (Eliza) PARSONS**

### **A Tribute to a Lifelong Carer**

Many of us will remember Lilian as an enthusiastic hymn singer and regular attendee at Christ Church after the death of her husband, for whom she had been a devoted carer and chauffeur after he suffered a stroke which took his voice and later he had to have a leg amputated.

She and her husband had met each other working on different floors as telegraph clerks translating overseas telegrams. On one occasion she led the ladies in her department out on strike, refusing to be sent upstairs to work with the men. Together they travelled the world, and later Lilian was invited to America and went to visit a family with no less than ten children, all of whom she had cared for in England. A similar invitation to Japan she could not accept.

As the youngest of four siblings Lilian had been left to take care of her mother and she wanted to enter the nursing profession. She worked overtime and earned enough money to pay for the mortgage on her home, to make her mother secure for the three years it would take her to qualify as a nurse, but she was struck down by TB and sadly while she was in hospital her mother passed away. Enterprising! On one occasion as a teenager, wanting to buy her mother some flowers, she borrowed the money. Her father was strict and disapproved of the short skirts she wore to play netball. Leaving the house, he called her back three times and asked her if she had forgotten something. Bemused, first she said "No", finally she had to ask "what?" - she had forgotten to shut the door.

Having no children of her own, she was amazingly adept in caring for those of others. As a temporary child minder, I was able to call on her help as a relief carer with an extremely difficult 6 year old, who had almost no teeth and had an amazingly creative imagination which on occasion took her far from the truth. Lilian became a regular attendee at the Harmonies lunch club and art group, entertaining us with many tales of the past. There she met David, who, in the last years before she had to go into a nursing home, visited her every day, coping with her confusion and taking her cakes to share. Calling as usual one afternoon, she opened the door, thanked him for the cakes and said "goodbye I have a visitor".

Her treasured broken tea pot lid became more glue than china, and the electric kettle which blew the fuses went in the bin, only to be rescued frequently. The battle of wits was enjoyed by both and later in the nursing home David's regular gift of a box of chocolates was shared with all, except David - "he doesn't need one, he's too fat"!

It is a joy to know that someone who cared so much for others, was so well cared for in her last years. Her niece calling to complain if there was a lack of attention or expecting to find her confined to her room, was surprised to find that Lilian was away on a coach for a day trip to the seaside.

With love, from David and Hilary.



## The Manger

A simple trough for feeding  
stock  
Had stood, for many years,  
As humble as the wint'ring  
flock –  
Besmirched by filthy smears.

This manger mean inspired no  
thought  
As day succeeded day,  
Save by the stable lad who  
sought  
To fill it up with hay.

And yet this old and dirty thing

That stood unloved, unknown  
Became a bed for God the King  
A trough became a throne!

And men have sung two thou-  
sand times  
About that manger, poor  
And poets build their Christmas  
rhymes  
Upon that stable floor.

For God can use the meanest tools –  
He'll use your heart, or mine –  
He moves outside our human rules  
To work His plan divine!

*by Nigel Beeton (Parish Pump)*

## **A TWO-WEEK TRIP TO TANZANIA WITH TEAR FUND**

I went to Tanzania for two weeks with Tear Fund in the first half of September. There were six people in the team and we were based in Musoma in the north of Tanzania on the shores of Lake Victoria. We arrived on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September.

When we went to church the following day, I was impressed by the fervour and loud singing – the singing group at the front didn't need their microphones! We (or quite a few of us) are weak and compromising in this country by comparison!

On Monday we went to a school in a remote area about an hour's drive from the nearest metalled road, played games with the children and stayed overnight in somewhat basic accommodation! The following day I taught RE to two classes.

On the Wednesday we went to a church in a remote area (also about an hour from the nearest metalled road) and received a most amazing welcome from a procession of singing and dancing church members (maybe that could provide inspiration to be welcoming in the church in this country)! A well had been given to them about an hour before that, which must have made it much easier for them to get water.

On Thursday we visited the Africa Inland Church offices (Tear Fund's partner in this region) and also an AIC clinic. Also an HIV group (as you can imagine, this is a serious problem in Tanzania) and the AIC Agricultural Project. The AIC provides great benefits to many people in terms of both health and help, advice and training to farmers. We also visited a Coptic Orthodox Church (started by Mark in AD42). On that day and the Friday we also did practical tasks – shelling beans and planting trees (or at least preparing compacted soil wrapped in plastic ready for tree planting).

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> we went by Ferry to Ukerewe Island on Lake Victoria and stayed there until Tuesday. Again, the accommodation was rather basic – cold water in tubs for washing and an unlighted outside toilet. The service the following day was about three hours long! I shared with two other members of the team in preaching the sermon.

On the Monday morning we did some hard physical work – digging holes for planting trees. Young trees which had started growing in the compacted soil wrapped in plastic were then placed in the holes. In the afternoon we went to a CCMP meeting (Church and Community Mobilisation Programme) which helps poor people by giving them training and

enabling them to take out loans. It was good to find out first-hand how poor people are being helped and what problems they still have.

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> we went back to the Agricultural Project and did some more practical tasks such as cutting foliage for animal feed, raking up leaves and planting seeds. Some of the team had a go at milking cows!

On the Thursday we went to the Serengeti and saw various different animals. As you may have seen on the TV, the migration of 1.2 million wildebeest across East Africa is one of the greatest wildlife spectacles on earth!

We had our farewell meeting on the Friday evening, and on the Saturday had a look round Mwanza (the city of rocks) before getting back on the plane again.

If you would like to see photos of this trip with more detailed commentary, see the YouTube video I have made. You should be able to find it by typing "Tanzania Tear Fund" into the YouTube search bar. The full title of it is "Tear Fund Tanzania 2018 – with Africa Inland Church in Musoma" and the link to it is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxMLdgkoK4Y> . It is less than 25 minutes long.

*Bob Greenfield*



# **STOP PRESS**

## **Introduction to Understanding and Interpreting the Bible**

**Andy Twilley will be giving a  
seminar on this subject**

**on**

**December 4th from 10.00 to 14.30**

**at**

**St Andrew's, Cheam**

**Drinks provided, bring your own lunch**

**All are welcome**

**To register, contact:**

**Andy Twilley:**

**training@urcsouthern.org.uk**

**07552 751600**

*Wishing all our readers  
a Happy Christmas and  
a Blessed New Year*

# 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](http://www.leatherheadmethodist.org)  
Contact: Administrator -  
Carol Stoves 01372 377125; Office 362145

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

Epsom Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ST  
[www.chch.org.uk](http://www.chch.org.uk)  
Contact: Local Church Leader -  
Mike Essex 01372 273472

## **Effingham Methodist Church:**

Chapel Hill, Effingham, KT24 5NB  
[www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk)  
Contact: Senior Steward -  
Dave Putland 01372 454850

## **Cobham United Church:**

38 Stoke Road, Cobham, KT11 3BD  
[www.cobhamurc.org.uk](http://www.cobhamurc.org.uk)  
[www.cobhammethodistchurch.com](http://www.cobhammethodistchurch.com)  
Contact: Church Secretary -  
Mary Langtry 01483 282421



## **United Pastorate Ministers**

### **Rev Jan Hofmeyr**

10 Church Road  
Leatherhead  
KT22 8AY

**Tel:** 01372 373154 (home)  
01372 362145 (office)  
**Email:** [revjannie@gmail.com](mailto:revjannie@gmail.com)

### **Rev. Kim Plumpton**

38 Stoke Road  
Cobham  
KT11 3BD

**Tel:** 01932 586988  
**E-mail:**  
[kimp\\_822@hotmail.com](mailto:kimp_822@hotmail.com)