

the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

December 2011



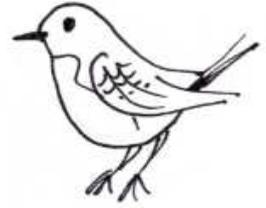
Linking:
Christ Church (United Reformed) Leatherhead
Cobham Methodist Church
Cobham United Reformed Church
Effingham Methodist Church
Leatherhead Methodist Church

The **Methodist** Church



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*To all readers and contributors ...
All good wishes for a very happy Christmas and
a prosperous, fulfilling and happy New Year.
Thank you to those who have supported The Link
for the past twelve months.*

Editor

Please note that Maureen and I moved to our new home on 11th November. Our new address is shown below.

Editor

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



The Ministers Write...



From Rev. Ian Howarth

Dear Friends,

When historians look back at the year 2011, I wonder what they will write. Even without the benefit of hindsight the events of the year suggest a time of major change and uncertainty for our world.

Some of the changes hold signs of hope for freedom and progress. The Arab spring that has seen the end of the regimes in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya has challenged dictatorship and corruption, but the questions remain whether what replaces it will in the long term live up to the hope and optimism that first greeted the demise of the leaders. Meanwhile in Syria and Yemen opposition movements have been brutally put down.

Closer to home, the financial crisis of Europe and the move away from democratic governments in Italy and Greece, serves to increase anxiety for many. Will our banking system survive and safeguard our savings? Will our jobs be secure and will our children and grandchildren be able to get the careers that they have worked hard for through their education? What does it mean for the main financial power in the world to move towards China?

It does seem we are on the verge of significant shifts of power and wealth in our world, over which we have no control, and whose outcomes are uncertain at best.

As Christians how do we engage with this? We cannot withdraw into a spiritual bubble and pretend it will go away, or claim it is not our concern.

There are no easy answers, but as we move into Advent we remember that Jesus came into a world that was also at a time of deep uncertainty, with a new Roman empire taking over from Greek dominance. He came into a Roman colony which was maintained by a corrupt puppet King Herod, and vicious proconsuls like Pontius Pilate.

He came into that troubled world as a vulnerable child who grew up to proclaim God's kingdom of love, justice and peace in his words and in his actions and to offer new life and hope to all.

In Advent we pray 'Come, Lord Jesus, Come' in the faith that God has not abandoned His world, and in Christ, in ways beyond our understanding he will come again to redeem it.

continued on the next page

Meanwhile, we have to live out our prayer and be ready for his coming, working in our uncertain world for the values of God's kingdom, confident that through the Holy Spirit, God still offers us new life and hope to enable us to live purposefully for him as God's people in God's world.

Have a blessed Christmas,

Yours in Christ,

Ian



From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

Looking through my advent resources I came across an article I had chosen to keep for further reflection and thought I might share it with you. It is part of a sermon written by Barbara Brown Taylor, American theologian and preacher.

"What better way to live than in the grip of a promise? To wake in the possibility that today might be the day. To remain wide awake all day long, noticing everything - the shade of the olive tree, how the smell of the fields processes from east to west, and how the smell of the fields changes from green grass to yellow hay and the sun heats up overhead. To search the face of every stranger in case it turns out to be the angel of God. To take nothing for granted. Or to take everything as granted, though not yet grasped. To handle every moment of one's life as a seed of the promise and to plant it tenderly, never knowing if this moment, or the next, may be the one that grows.

To live in this way is to discover that God is always blessing us. It does not come in the future if we only have the patience to wait. It has not already come to those of us who are older and have lived more of life than what is to come. The blessing and the promises of God are now. It may not be fully realized or fully in hand, but we are called to live with a laughing hope in God's promise today."

It is so beautifully written and it reminded me that within the intensity of Christmas preparations we often forget that we serve a God who continually breaks into our world by offering us the promise of hope, peace, joy and love. The anticipated arrival of a messiah caught many by surprise, off guard, unprepared, unaware of the consequences. But we can anticipate with excitement and joy the arrival of God in the everyday, the world around us, in our encounters, that the world is transformed daily by the presence of Christ with us. It is so easy to be swept away by the commercialism of Christmas, to spend huge amounts of money on unwanted presents. I love Christmas like most people, but we shouldn't need Christmas to remind us of God's goodness and graciousness in sending Christ to be with us. We should live in a perpetual state of thankfulness, recognising that God continually meets us with a promise of so much more than we can imagine.

May God bless us all this Christmas with an awareness of his activity in the world in greater and more exciting and unimaginable ways.

Merry Christmas,

With every blessing

Kim





Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary - December



Fri	2nd	4.30pm	CYC at St Mary's
Sun	4th	11.00am	Simon Lucas
Sat	10th	10.00am	Time 4 You
Sun	11th	11.00am 6.30pm	Rhys Frost United Pastorate Service at LMC
Fri	16th	4.30pm	CYC Christmas Party
Sun	18th	<u>3.00pm</u>	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Carol Service (with Cobham URC at Cobham MC) followed by tea
Sat	24th	4.00pm - 6.00pm	Crib Service at Cobham URC Christmas Eve Communion
Sun	25th	<u>10.30am</u>	United Service at Cobham URC - Rev. Kim Plumpton
	Christmas		

TIME 4 YOU
'A place and space for You'

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

10-12noon
2nd. Saturday in the Month
Cobham Methodist Church
Cedar Road Cobham

01932 423100

Next
"Time 4 You" -
Saturday
10th December,
10.00am -
12noon



In Cobham and Stoke D'Abernon

All the believers were together and had everything in common. (Acts 2:44)

Lent Study 2012

The Graceful Life – Paul's letter to the Romans

- Study with Christians from across our local Churches.
- Discuss & understand Christ's teachings & how we should live.

Join one of our warm, friendly groups.

Suitable for people who are new Christians and those who have been Christian for years!

Discover together, what God wants us to learn from Romans.

Set aside a little time each week, over the six weeks of Lent.

Meet together, draw closer to God, understand the Good News of Christ's teaching and have a greater confidence to live the Christian life.

(Daytime & Evening Groups. Transport for those who need it.)

For more details, please contact Rhonda Frost,

Tel: 01932 423100

E-mail: rhondajane frost@yahoo.co.uk



Cobham

United Reformed Church

Cobham URC Worship Diary - December



Sun	4th	9.00am 10.30am	Early Bird Service led by Liz Derek Wensley
Sun	11th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion United Pastorate Service at LMC
Sun	18th	No Morning Service 3.00pm	Carol Service at Cobham Methodist Church - Rev. Kim Plumpton
Sat	24th	4.00pm 6.00pm	Crib Service United Communion Service at Cobham URC
Sun	25th	10.30am	Christmas Day Service - Rev. Kim Plumpton (United with Cobham Methodist Church)

Prayers at the Manse

at 9.30am on

Wednesdays: 7th, 14th, 21st December

Marriage Course

at Church on

Fridays: 2nd, 9th, 16th December at 7.30pm

Cobham URC Events - December

Thurs	1st	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
Fri	2nd	4.30pm to 6.30pm	CYC meets at St Mary's Church
Sun	4th	3.00pm to 6.00pm	Special Needs Group
Tues	6th	8.00pm	Elders' Meeting
Tues	13th	9.45am	Church Walk
Fri	16th	4.30pm to 6.30pm	CYC meets at St Mary's Church
Tues	20th	8.00pm	Evening House Group <i>(please check and confirm before you attend)</i>
Thurs	22nd	10.30am	Morning House Group at church
Fri	23rd	3.00pm	T @ 3 at church





Effingham

Methodist Church

Effingham Methodist Diary - December



Sat	3rd	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall - 11.00am
Sun	4th	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Sun	11th	10.00am	Martin Ellis
		6.30pm	United Pastorate Service at LMC
Tues	13th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	14th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Sun	18th	10.00am	Robert Pitt
		6.00pm	Carol Service with Rev. Kim Plumpton
Sun	25th	<u>9.00am</u>	Christmas Day with Rev. Kim Plumpton
Wed	28th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church

January

Sun	1st	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Sat	7th	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall - 11.00am



Birthday Dates to celebrate this month



Happy 90th Birthday to Joan Dawson on 20th
And a happy 50th birthday to our minister, Kim, on 29th

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



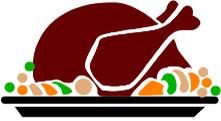
Dates for your diaries

Come and sample Coffee and Croissants, and some food for thought at **Saturday Morning Live** - alternative worship at King George V Hall on Saturdays 3rd December and 7th January from 10.00am - 11.00am



Please bring a brolly, warm coats and join us on Tuesday 20th December at 7.00pm for our annual Churches Together **Carol Singing** around Effingham in aid of the homeless charity, **CRISIS**. We meet at the Methodist Church and finish around 9.00pm with mince pies in our hall.

Shop Local



Please try to support Effingham's late-night **Christmas shopping** evening on **Tuesday 6th December** from 5.00pm to 8.00pm, which has been encouraged by the **Churches together in Effingham and Little Bookham** committee.

The children from St. Lawrence School will be singing carols, so come and join us for a glass of mulled wine and a seasonal hot-dog!



Advent Talks

This year Art historian **Iain McKillop**, who was ordained earlier this year and is now a curate at St. Lawrence and All Saints, will be talking about

Art and the Christmas Story

in the Catholic Hall
at 7.30pm on

**Monday 28th November -
Meaning of Christmas**

**Monday 5th December -
Message of Christmas**

then on

Monday 12th December there will be an ecumenical gathering for a **Christmas Feast.**



Happy 50th Birthday Kim

In Roman numerals you've reached the big L
That's not much comfort I know
But enjoy the coming years like L
Happy Birthday on your big Five-O

The 32lb Turkey



Apparently there's only a 15% chance of a white Christmas this year, according to netweather.tv . Hmm! Cue another bout of nostalgia for Christmases past! In 1962 it was my family's turn to host three visitors - not Magi or wise men but still visitors from the East - East Anglia. My Auntie Joyce, my granny, and my 10-year old cousin from King's Lynn. Which meant seven of us in a small semi-detached in West London.

My Dad was working on Christmas Eve and planned to go to *Leadenhall Market* for a "bargain bird" after the office party! When he hadn't arrived home with a turkey by late afternoon we began to panic and made another foray to the local shops. No turkeys or chickens but a nice leg of gammon. Phew! That would make a nice change!

After 7.00pm my Dad arrived home a little worse for wear, (he hardly ever drank alcohol so he was a bit merry), and triumphantly produced the largest turkey we'd ever seen, 32lbs, but still with head and feathers. Speechless, both my grannies grabbed the bird and rushed into the tiny kitchen to pluck it and remove the "innards" and get it oven-ready. A bird that big was going to take all night to cook, so the sooner it got in the oven the better, except there wasn't a pan big enough. The parson's nose stuck out so Dad jammed another pan in sideways, then it only fitted in the oven with all the shelves removed. Dad stayed up most of the night basting it. Nightmare! Would it cook in time for lunch? Yes. Absolutely delicious and enough to feed an army. What would happen to all those leftovers as we didn't have a freezer?

Well, we woke up on Boxing Day to at least a foot of snow, which meant Auntie couldn't drive home. In fact everyone was snowed-in for over a week as we lived in a cul-de-sac. The turkey and gammon sustained us throughout the arctic freeze, and were re-hashed as turkey sandwiches for lunch, turkey fricassee, turkey fritters, turkey curry and finally turkey soup.

Truly a case of God will provide.

Eventually Dad managed to walk the mile to the station and returned to work, and our visitors braved the trip back home.

continued on the next page



At the weekend Dad and I took my sledge to a frozen golf course for a rare treat, with dozens of other local families. The only problem was dodging the gorse bushes half-way down the slopes! We had so much fun that he decided to try it again on his way home from work, using his Civil Service brief-case as a sledge, and arrived home with gorse in his hair and a bruised nose, and laughing fit to burst. Thank God he didn't break his neck! Happy Days...

AJP

A few Cracker Jokes !!



Q: What do you get if you swallow Christmas decorations ?

A: Tinselitis !

Q: What does Santa use to weed his garden ?

A: A hoe - hoe - hoe !

Q: Why is Cinderella a terrible football player ?

A: Because she always runs away from the Ball.

Q: What kind of money does Santa use at the North Pole ?

A: Ice Lolly !

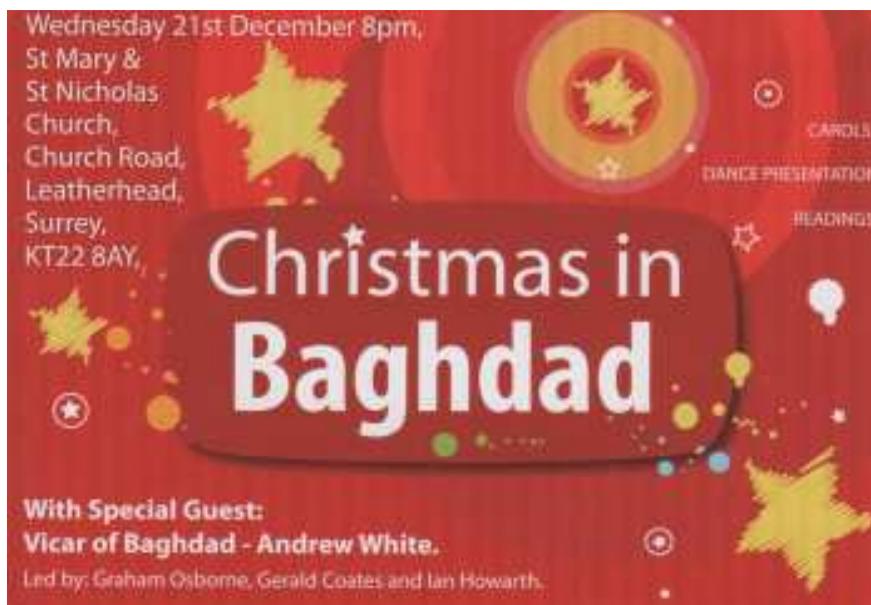
GROAN! Terrible jokes but worth a smile, maybe! I found them in "**Horrible Christmas**", one of the popular Horrible Histories series for kids. It's full of foul facts about this festive time of the year if you'd rather be a Scrooge and say "Bah! Humbug!" We love Christmas, so I'll be reading Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" again to get me in the mood.

AJP

**Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas
and a Joyful 2012**

Leatherhead Pages

Information, news, events and happenings in and around Leatherhead,
including news of the Leatherhead Youth Project.

A red poster for a Christmas event in Baghdad. The text is white and yellow. It includes the date, time, and location: Wednesday 21st December 8pm, St Mary & St Nicholas Church, Church Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 8AY. The main title is 'Christmas in Baghdad'. It lists activities: CAROLS, DANCE PRESENTATION, and READINGS. It also mentions a special guest: Vicar of Baghdad - Andrew White, and is led by Graham Osborne, Gerald Coates and Ian Howarth.

Wednesday 21st December 8pm,
St Mary &
St Nicholas
Church,
Church Road,
Leatherhead,
Surrey,
KT22 8AY,

**Christmas in
Baghdad**

CAROLS
DANCE PRESENTATION
READINGS

With Special Guest:
Vicar of Baghdad - Andrew White.
Led by: Graham Osborne, Gerald Coates and Ian Howarth.

Radical Welcome

Advance notice of three special meetings for Christ Church and LMC to work together and learn from each other about how best to be truly welcoming churches.

12th January

9th February

8th March

at Christ Church at 7.30pm. Book the dates.

Celebrate Christmas

with
Leatherhead
Choral Society
and
Leatherhead
Community Choir

Saturday 17th December

4.00pm

Christ Church (UR), Epsom Road,
Leatherhead

Tickets available on the door

£5 adults, £3 under 12s

Join us for seasonal music
with audience participation
followed by refreshments.





SINGERS NEEDED...

...from LMC or Christ Church for the Town Centre Christmas Festival (see above) for Carol Singing on 10th and 24th December, from 10.30am for one hour, or from 11.30am for one hour.

Please see Rev. Ian Howarth if you're interested.

Christ Church and LMC Together

All members of Christ Church and LMC are encouraged to attend an evening of prayer at LMC on Tuesday 6th December at 8.00pm to pray for guidance on our future together.

Leatherhead Youth Project

Youth Cell group news

On Tuesday 25th October, a group of nine went on a mini-retreat to Worth Abbey. Our trip started with us sitting silently in the Abbey reading over a bible passage (known as Lexio Davina) to help us reflect and focus on listening to God. We also took a walk to the 'Quiet Garden' where we said a prayer about God circling us.

'I enjoyed just sitting in the quiet garden amongst God's beautiful creation – taking it all in and sketching what we saw. It made me realise just how amazing nature is and how not even a true masterpiece can capture its beauty.'

Emily

Jay gave us each a cold, hard stone to hold in our palms; as we held them, each of us thought about how it represented our struggles and problems. We said a prayer, then let go of our problems and gave them to God, by throwing the stone into the pond.

'Worth Abbey is immense! The church building is circular and silent and the atmosphere is totally peaceful. It was lovely to sit and relax, pray to God and read his word.'

Lucie

Since leaving the Abbey, we have all become aware of the sound pollution in our lives. We have concluded that we all need a silent place, a time to reflect and a way to detach ourselves from unnecessary noise and worry.

Freya & Aila Diffey, Karen Fallon, Emily Friend, Holly Brookes,



WWJD?

For the last 4 weeks, the young people's cell group have been focusing on 'WWJD?' (What would Jesus do?). It has been a great journey for us all, working out how to keep Jesus at the centre of our day-to-day lives and involved in all our decision making (teenage girls have a lots of decisions to make!).

The young people gave powerful testimonies of how considering WWJD? had a real impact on some of the decisions they made. They also reported how it had been a great way to witness to friends at school.

While we have now concluded the 30 day challenge, we understand this is just the beginning of a shift in the way we go through our lives with Jesus.

We finished with putting together an alphabet of **what we learnt about Jesus** on the WWJD? course and thought you might like to share it.

A wesome	N othing compares
B old	O pen
C aring	P atient
D ares to be different	Q uestioning
E ternal	R eliable
F orgiving	S elfless
G od's beloved son	T eacher
H ope giver	U nderstanding
I nspirational	V isonary
J ealous for me	W onderful
K ind	X - factor (he's got it!)
L oving	Y ou are the one
M otivating	Z acchaeus (don't be like him!)



December at



BFree is open every day after school

In December we will be running our 'Countdown 2 Christmas'

Weekly Triumph cell group for Year 9+

Contact jay@leatherheadyouthproject.com for more details

Sunday 11 December Triumph AM

10-12pm @ BFree (school years 5+)

Sunday 11 December

KNOW Pride?

6:30-8pm @ BFree for young people in Year 8+

Continuing the series of 12 sessions exploring faith and lifestyle issues relevant to teenagers

Also look out for:

Duke of Edinburgh scheme

MTB trip

Miss Bliss for year 7, 8 & 9 girls

contact Lucie@leatherheadyouthproject.com for more details

www.leatherheadyouthproject.com

Merry Christmas from everyone at LYP!

Christmas services for all ages

Within the ecumenical partnership of Christ Church, Leatherhead Parish Church and Leatherhead Methodist Church, there is plenty on offer for families who wish to help their children remember the real meaning of Christmas. Here are some of the highlights:

Sunday 4th December, 4.00pm: expect a full house for the **Christingle** service at the **Parish Church**. Sometimes referred to as the "first tingle of Christmas", the Christingle is a highly popular start to the Advent season.

Sunday 11th December, 10:30am: enjoy an all-age **Family Carol and Gift Service** at **Christ Church**, along with members of 1st Leatherhead Beavers, Cubs, Brownies, Scouts and Guides.

Thursday 15th December, 3:30pm to 5:30pm: **Messy Church for Christmas** takes place at **Leatherhead Methodist Church**. Messy Church is for adults and children to enjoy together – visitors are very welcome to join us for a mince pie and a cuppa.

Sunday 18th December, 10:30am: Another all-age **Family Carol Service**, this time at **Leatherhead Methodist Church**, including a nativity presentation from the children of "LMC Discoverers".

There will also be special end of term services for the children of **Leatherhead Trinity School & Children's Centre** at All Saints Church (Reception), Leatherhead Methodist Church (Juniors) and Christ Church (Infants). Parents and Church members are welcome – contact Jane Smith for more details.

Finally, at **4.00pm on Christmas Eve**, families will gather again at the **Parish Church** for **Blessing the Crib and Carols for the Family**. A wonderful invitation to pause and focus on God With Us, as we lead into the big day itself!

Make sure you join us at one or more of these services, especially if you have children or grandchildren in tow. If you can't make it to the one at "your" church, why not try somewhere different? It's good to share the celebrations together!

Jane Smith

STREET PASTORS™

On Wednesday, 2nd November, I attended a meeting to learn more about the churches' response to the request from the Police for Street Pastors in Leatherhead. Our main speaker heads up the Street Pastors' work in Kingston, which has been operational since 2003.

Street Pastors are a well established organisation. They send out groups of trained volunteers to help and assist vulnerable people who are using our towns. They are not there to preach or judge, just show the love of Jesus through their caring.

We did not have Police representation at the meeting, so we are not clear which groups of people, or which parts of Leatherhead, Street Pastors would be most useful. However, we learned that each Street Pastor would need to complete 50 hours of training, at a cost of £300, which could begin in March or September. Uniforms bearing a logo consist of a shirt, jacket and peak cap and need to be bought. The scheme needs to be headed by a steering group containing representatives from each participating church.

The benefits seen elsewhere are a reduction in crime and a Church which is welcomed and respected. Being a Christian based scheme, the Church does what the Local Authority and Police cannot do in engaging with people and changing hearts.

There are four roles where people are required:-

1. Those who will train as Street Pastors; wear the uniform and go out in groups of four.
2. Prayer Pastors who will commit themselves to pray while the teams are out.
3. Pray-at-home pastors with a regular commitment.
4. Fundraisers.

At this early stage, let us pray that interested people will come forward to find out more about these four roles. We ask that God will go before us as preparation and training are undertaken and decisions are made about where the need is greatest, to serve Him by caring, listening and helping. For more information visit <http://www.streetpastors.co.uk>

Pam Barton

CHRIST CHURCH and LMC

CHURCH SOCIAL

SATURDAY 7th JANUARY 2012

7.30pm at LMC

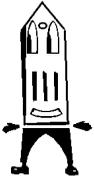
GAMES, QUIZZES, REFRESHMENTS

**Book the date for an enjoyable
New Year evening**



Christmas Messy Church-style!
15th December, 3.30pm to 5.30pm
at Leatherhead Methodist Church

More info: Jane Smith 372919
janefcw@googlemail.com



Leatherhead

Methodist Church



Diary - December



Fri	2nd	1.15pm	Daytime House Fellowship <i>(see E100 note on page 26)</i>
Sun	4th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion Rev. Ian Howarth
Tues	6th	8.00pm	Evening Prayer at LMC. Christ Church and LMC are encouraged to attend to pray for guidance on our future together
Wed	7th	8.00pm	Leadership Team at the Manse
Sun	11th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Val Ogden United Pastorate Service at LMC
Mon	12th	8.00pm	Monday House Fellowship
Thurs	15th	7.30pm	Wednesday House Fellowship - Christmas event
Fri	16th	1.15pm	Daytime House Fellowship
Sun	18th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth - Carol Service Uniting Churches Nine Lessons and Carols at the Parish Church
Wed	21st	7.00pm	Churches Together in Leatherhead - "Christmas in Baghdad", speaker Andrew White, Vicar of Baghdad, at the Parish Church
Sat	24th	11.30pm	Midnight Service at the Parish Church
Sun	25th	10.30am	Joint Christmas Day Service with Christ Church at LMC - Rev. Ian Howarth
January			
Sun	1st	10.30am 6.30pm	Joint Service with Christ Church at Christ Church - Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion Rev. Ian Howarth

LMC Family News



Congratulations to...

Sheila and Laurie Hydes on the birth of a grandson, Thomas Anthony William, on 27th October.

Grace and Dennis Wickham on the safe arrival of grandson Henry James Loftus on 5th November.

Welcome to...

...Ken and Sheila Davies, and James and Jo Cameron who were received into membership of LMC, by transfer, on 6th November.



Best Wishes to...

...Les and Maureen Prescott as they settle in their new home at 22 Yarm Court Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8PA



To all at LMC and Christ Church...

Margaret Dodds-Ely will be delighted to welcome you on Wednesday 7th December from 10.30am on for coffee and mince pies. The address is 38 West Farm Avenue, Ashtead. This will replace the 'Coffee and chat' normally held at Christ Church.

Essential 100 Bible Challenge



Following on from the "Christian Life and the Bible" course, members of the daytime house group have decided to take up the challenge of reading the "Essential 100" Bible stories together. This is the adult version of the Big Bible Challenge that some of LMC's children are doing. Each of us will aim to read five stories per fortnight, which we will discuss at our meetings. If any other members of LMC or Christ Church would like to join us in the challenge, please let us know. Even if you can't come to our meetings, it might be fun to encourage each other in our Bible reading! Jane Smith has a copy of the material, if you would like to see it.

Our first meeting in this new series is on **Friday 2nd December, 1.15pm to 2.45pm**. We meet every fortnight during school terms. More details from Jane Smith, 372919.

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

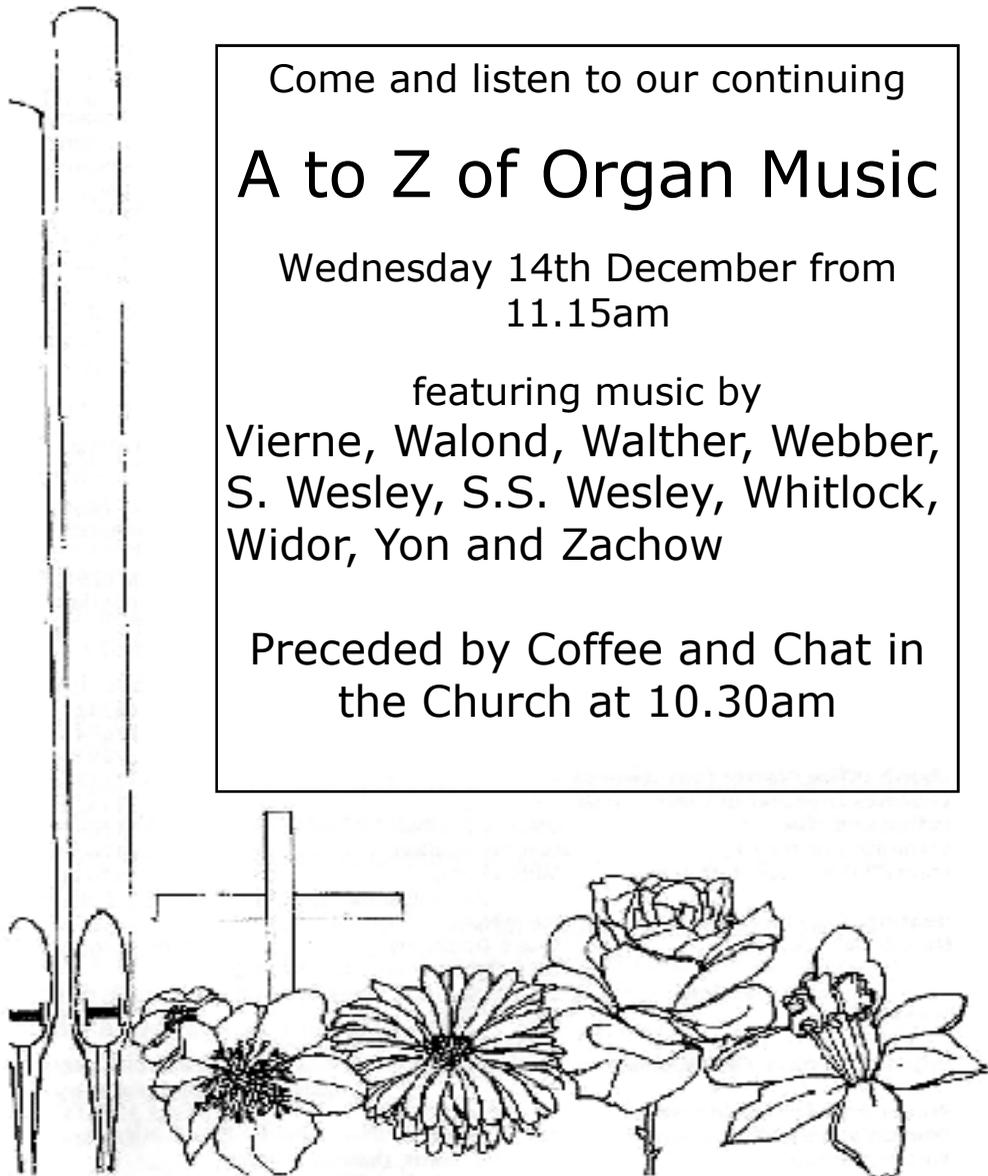
Come and listen to our continuing

A to Z of Organ Music

Wednesday 14th December from
11.15am

featuring music by
Vierne, Walond, Walther, Webber,
S. Wesley, S.S. Wesley, Whitlock,
Widor, Yon and Zachow

Preceded by Coffee and Chat in
the Church at 10.30am



Christ Church Diary - December



Sat	3rd	7.30pm	Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra: (afternoon rehearsal) Evening concert in Christ Church <i>(see page 31)</i>
Sun	4th	10.30am	Holy Communion: Rev. Barbara Pearson Organist: Gina Eason
		6.30pm	Evening Service at LMC: The Minister
Tues	6th	8.00pm	Evening Prayer at LMC to pray for guidance on our future together
Wed	7th	10.30am	Coffee and Chat at 38 West Farm Avenue
Sun	11th	10.30am	Family Carol and Carols: The Minister
		6.30pm	Pastorate Service (5 Churches) at LMC - Rev. Ian Howarth & Rev. Kim Plumpton
Wed	14th	10.30am 11.15am	Coffee and Chat in the Church A-Z of organ music (Vierne, Walond, Walther, Webber, S. Wesley, S.S. Wesley, Whitlock, Widor, Yon and Zachow).
Thurs	15th	3.30pm	Messy Church at LMC
Sun	18th	10.30am	Rev. Donald Finnan
		6.30pm	Joint Nine Lessons & Carols at the Parish Church
Sat	24th	11.30pm	Christmas Eve United Midnight Communion at the Parish Church (Uniting Churches)
Sun	25th	10.30am	Christmas Day Joint Morning Family Service at LMC - The Minister
<u>January</u>			
Sun	1st	10.30am	Joint Morning Service with LMC at Christ Church - The Minister
		6.30pm	Organist: Gina Eason Evening Service at LMC

Collision of Worlds

We have all been taken up with the dilemma surrounding St. Paul's in the last few weeks. The cathedral hierarchy have had to rethink their priorities in the wake of unwelcome media coverage. Not that we - URC and Methodists - should be complacent. How would we respond to alien campers brandishing placards saying "Where would Jesus be?" Of course the protesters do not have a coherent solution. But what they have done is to make the church embrace the moral/political/economic issues of the city marketplace. The church has now shown that it can do its daily work and be involved in protest too.

I find a similar possibility of fusion in the debate over evolution. Recent discoveries are pushing our knowledge further back in time. We now know that life has existed for hundreds of thousands of years, and that man himself has evolved through neanderthals to the human being we know today. So where was God in this? If he created the universe, why did he wait so long to form a relationship with man? When exactly did He intervene? Was there meaningful dialogue before Abraham? We may never know, but I sit comfortably with that. Scientific discovery is exciting, and increases our knowledge of who we are. Equally to me, the Christian revelation of a benevolent, loving God, revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, makes sense of the here and now.

Even if the Large Hadron Collider explodes the theory of relativity, with its mystic equation $E=MC^2$, I can live with that too. It never has kept me awake at nights!

The strength of Christianity is its ability to absorb knowledge and respond to situations, however unexpected. We should never try to ignore the truths on our doorsteps.

Mike Essex



Christ Church Family News



Very best wishes to **Mike Chamberlain** for a long and happy retirement.

We are very sorry to announce the death of **Harry Kerr** on Tuesday 8th November, peacefully at Deepdene Care Home. We extend our deep sympathy to Marguerite and daughters Julie, Katie and Angela.

We remember these friends and all those who need our prayers at this time.

Anne Cairns

A decorative border of red poinsettias with green leaves, framing the text below.

To all at Christ Church and LMC...

Margaret Dodds-Ely will be delighted to welcome you on Wednesday 7th December from 10.30am on for coffee and mince pies. The address is 38 West Farm Avenue, Ashtead. This will replace the 'Coffee and chat' normally held at Christ Church.



SURREY PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Saturday 3 December 2011 7:30 pm

Christ Church, Epsom Road,
Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8ST



Mozart Don Giovanni Overture

Mendelssohn Incidental music to
'Midsummer Night's Dream'
Intermezzo; Nocturne; Scherzo

Saint-Saëns Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor
Soloist: Tim Lowe

Schubert Symphony No. 3 in D



CONDUCTOR: MARK FITZ-GERALD
LEADER: MARGARET WHITTALL



Tickets: Adult £13 (under 18/student/UB40 £8) available from:
SPO Ticket Secretary, telephone 01372 276949
Bartons Bookshop, 2 Bridge Street, Leatherhead
Bumbles, 90 The Street, Ashted
Epsom Stamp Company, 23 Waterloo Rd, Epsom
The WOW Gallery, 78 South Street, Dorking



www.surreyphil.org.uk

Surrey Philharmonic Society is Registered Charity No. 1029543

Pastorate Details

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

Leatherhead Methodist Church:

www.leatherheadmethodist.org
Contact: Senior Steward -
Carol Stoves 01372 377125

Christ Church (United Reformed)

Leatherhead:

www.chch.org.uk
Contact: Local Church Leader -
Mike Essex 01372 273472

Effingham Methodist Church:

www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk
Contact: Senior Steward -
Dave Putland 01372 454850

Cobham United Reformed Church:

www.cobhamurc.org.uk
Contact: Church Secretary -
Mary Langtry 01483 282421

Cobham Methodist Church:

www.cobhammethodistchurch.org.uk
Contact: Senior Steward -
Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



United Pastorate Ministers

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