

# the Link

**The United Pastorate of  
Leatherhead  
Cobham  
Effingham**

## December 2012



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

### **Linking:**

**Christ Church (United Reformed) Leatherhead  
Cobham Methodist Church  
Cobham United Reformed Church  
Effingham Methodist Church  
Leatherhead Methodist Church**

**The Methodist Church**



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## UNITED PASTORATE EVENING SERVICE

The next United Pastorate Service will be held at  
**5.00pm** on Sunday 9th December at Christ Church  
(United Reformed), Leatherhead, followed by tea.

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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,

As we approach Christmas, we think again about the Advent theme of hope. For me, and for the two Leatherhead churches in the pastorate, that message of hope comes into feelings of both excitement and anxiety.

Personally, I am now having to make plans for my move to Birmingham in the summer, to a post that is both exciting and daunting, with all the implications of moving house to a new area and working with new people. For Christ Church and LMC, the process of looking for a new minister continues with all the thoughts that brings, alongside the consultation with the architects CPL about the building implications should we follow the recommendation of the Christ Church Elders and the LMC leadership team to commit to coming together as one church.

As we look at the wider world, our own anxieties and uncertainties pale into insignificance against the challenges of economic uncertainty and climate change, and the life and death anxieties around the violence in the Middle East and the continuing war in Afghanistan.

In such an uncertain world, what does the Advent theme of hope mean? Do we really believe the coming of Jesus into the world makes a difference? Is any thought of the final coming of his kingdom simply wishful thinking?

There is much in this area where I have to say that I don't know. But what I do believe is that the only way of hope for our world, the only way of hope for our church, the only way of hope for us as individuals, is to follow the way of Jesus, the way that begins with the story of the birth of a baby in Bethlehem.

The Christmas story is of God, in his love, coming and involving himself in the world and in our lives. Love coming to break the barriers that divide people, inviting the shepherds, the social outsiders to the manger, guiding the wise men, the foreigners to the holy child. From the start Jesus breaks barriers for justice and peace. From the start those who meet Jesus are transformed and go on their way rejoicing.

In that Jesus lies our hope as churches, for when we put Jesus at the centre, we too are still transformed and go on our way rejoicing; when we follow his ways, seeking to serve the needs of others and share the hope he brings, our anxieties and uncertainties are put in a different context.

In that Jesus lies our hope for the world, still challenging people to break the barriers that divide, to value each human being of whatever nation and race as a child of God, as the way to peace and justice for all.

May that Jesus be the centre of our Advent and our Christmas, and may his love break through our defences and transform us all this Christmas time.

Yours in Christ,

*Ian*

### ***From Rev. Kim Plumptre***

Colin built the wood pile up over the summer ready for the cold winter nights. We had missed having an open fire since leaving Yorkshire, so I was delighted when we first viewed the manse to see a well used fireplace. It was so bitter one night and the winds were howling, as well as driving rain beating against the window, so we lit the fire. It wasn't too long before I cozied up to the fire, watching the flickering flames lick the sides of the logs and enjoying the warmth it provided. As I sat next to the fire and listened to the wind outside, I was reminded how fortunate I was to have a roof over my head, let alone a glorious fire to warm myself by. I wondered what it must be like to be outside right now, no home to go to, trying to find a shelter out of the rain to keep dry. No family to offer a safe place. Carrying all that I had in a rucksack or two. With Colin as a trustee at Pitstop, I often hear the tragic stories of those who have so little and I wonder how the Christmas narrative might speak into their circumstances?

*"Liberation theologians, keen to trace God's working in places of oppression and suffering, have found ready inspiration in the Christmas narrative. Through this child God identifies himself with troubled humanity: with a subject people, among whom he came; with homeless families and with communities who lack decent health care by his birth in an animal's stall; with the refugees of the world, for he fled helpless to Egypt; and with the vulnerable, poor and persecuted of every land."*

*It is admittedly difficult to know the exact socioeconomic status of the home in Nazareth where Jesus grew up. But the birth narratives indicate that his family were no strangers to the harshness of human existence. When Jesus said, 'blessed are you who are poor' (Luke 6:20), this poverty had come very close to home." (Grove Series: The Christmas Stories in Faith and Preaching by John Proctor).*

Christ enters the world, so that those who once felt rejected by the world have the hope of an intimate and transformative relationship with Christ. As light enters our world we are enlightened by love. Where Christ lights up the darkened corners, we catch glimpses in the shadows of a love that reveals the likeness of Christ staring back at us. The grace of God knows no boundaries, I hope and pray that during this Christmas season we might discover what that truly means.

Colin, the children and I send you every blessing this Christmas and may you also find a Christ who meets you in your need whatever that might be.

Happy Christmas!!

**Kim**

## **STOP PRESS!**

I was asked by Christ Church if I could put something in The Link about our son Samuel who went off to audition for *Britain's Got Talent* yesterday, Sunday 25th November, (soooo brave especially at 15). They wanted to know the results. Just to say he had a brilliant audition and the producers loved him. The results will be known before the end of February when he will receive a letter.

Every blessing, Kim

*Happy to include this news about Samuel, Kim. I'm sure the whole Pastorate will want to wish him the very best. Keep us in touch with progress. Editor)*



## **Christmas Carol Concert in aid of The Grange Centre:**

An evening of traditional and modern  
carols with festive music, brass ensemble  
and hand-bell ringing on

**Saturday 8th December 2012  
at 7.30 pm at  
The Yehudi Menuhin Hall,  
Stoke d'Abernon, Cobham, Surrey  
KT11 3QQ.**

Tickets - £16,  
Under 18/student in full - time education - £8.

Telephone the box office: 08700 842020  
( Monday to Friday 10.00am – 12.30pm &  
1.00pm – 3.00pm)  
or email:

[boxoffice@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk)

The Grange Centre is situated in Book-  
ham and provides housing and training  
opportunities for adults with disabilities.

Reg. Charity No 207740



# Cobham

## Methodist Church

# Cobham Methodist Diary - December



Sat	1st	10.00am	Christmas Craft Day at Cobham URC (to 12noon)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>John Oborn</b>
Sat	8th	9.00am	Time 4 You Coffee Morning in aid of Cobham Community Fund
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>11.00am</b> 5.00pm	<b>James Cameron</b> United Pastorate Service at Christ Church, Leatherhead, followed by tea
Fri	14th	4.30pm	CYC Christmas Party
<b>Sun</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>11.00am</b> 6.00pm	<b>Rev. Kim Plumpton. We shall be joined by Cobham Community Church</b> United Carol Service at Cobham URC
Wed	19th	7.00pm	Open evening at the Manse (to 10.00pm)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Rob Pitt</b>
Mon	24th	4.00pm 6.00pm	Crib Service at Cobham URC Christmas Eve Communion Service at Cobham URC
<b>Tues</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>United Christmas Service at Cobham Methodist - Rev. Kim Plumpton</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>30th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Martin Ellis at Cobham URC</b>

**January**

**Sun 6th 11.00am tbc**

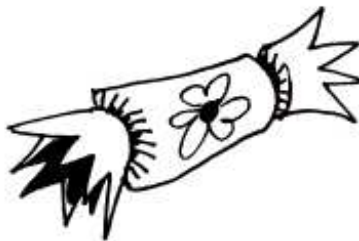
# **"Time 4 You"**

## **Saturday 8th December**

### **9.00am - 12noon**



This month, "Time 4 You" will be having a 'Coffee Morning' in aid of the Cobham Community Fund. There will be baked goods, cards, jams, chutneys etc. on sale for Christmas.





# Tanzanian Ramblings

## ***On the Buses***

I worked in Tanzania (at the University of Dar es Salaam) from 1970 to 1980, and since that time I've been back to visit friends roughly every six years. For previous visits my friends and their families, with one exception, lived within easy reach of Dar es Salaam. Now the "children" – in their 20s, 30s and 40s – have completed their education and moved away from home to take up jobs in different parts of the country, so visiting them all involved a lot more travelling, mostly by bus.

Some of the journeys were long (up to 14 hours), some of the roads were rough (not all have a tarmac surface), and the quality of the buses was variable. I was always assured when I booked my ticket that this bus company was one of the best. This included the one where I had a window seat, but the window was missing, and it rained. Then there was the one which was stopped by the traffic police from leaving a bus station, and not allowed to continue until a bald tyre had been changed. In fact it had two bald tyres, but only one spare. With one changed it was allowed on its way. That was the same bus where more passengers were crammed in by having five seats across instead of the usual four – quite a squeeze (for 14 hours).

I believe that on some routes there are super-luxury buses with toilets, but that didn't apply to any which I took. So if there's a long distance between stops, at some point the bus will stop by the roadside, passengers will all pile out, and as they descend from the bus women go left and men go right, take a few steps into the bush and do what they have to do. On such an occasion it is necessary to ignore the possibility of snakes being there!

## ***Fish and Bananas***

I don't know why it was, but on this visit I was served more fish than on any other previous trip. One of the things I discovered, after making a real mess of separating fish from bones on my first evening, was that it was much easier to follow my hosts and separate the fish from the bones with my fingers. In Swahili fish don't have bones, they have thorns. The tastiest fish was that we had when my godson David took me to Rubondo Island in Lake Victoria. This is a National Park and we took a boat trip round the island, looking at big crocodiles, hippos, and a variety of bird life. At one point the ranger who was driving the boat stopped and beckoned David and his friend Jackson to follow him up the bank.

*continued on the next page*

A boat was hidden there, left by men who were fishing illegally. The boat was confiscated, as was the bag of fish in it, the nets which were still in the lake, and some fish in the nets. We were given a share of the fish for our supper.

One of my Tanzanian friends came originally from the far north-west of the country, near the town of Bukoba on Lake Victoria. It's one of two areas particularly noted for the growing of coffee and bananas. Last time I visited him, he was showing me the different types of banana growing in his back garden. There were the bananas we had roasted for breakfast; bananas which were cooked in a stew; bananas which, when cooked, had the consistency of mashed potatoes; bananas for making beer, and three different varieties of sweet bananas. This time he proudly showed me the new hybrid bananas he was growing. For him a meal is not complete if it doesn't include bananas.

### ***Taking the Collections***

My last day in Tanzania was a Sunday, and I was asked on the Saturday if I would like to go to church on the Sunday morning. Knowing that I should have to leave for the airport before mid-day, I thought there would be time and said "yes". That is when I was told there was a choice of 6.15 or 7.45 service. I opted for 7.45. My friends are Catholics, and I've been to church with them before. We arrived just about at 7.45, reckoned to be quite early, and my friend ushered me in quickly, so that we could get a seat inside. It's quite a plain building, and holds about 250, sitting on wooden benches with no backs. Outside, under corrugated iron roofing, are chairs for about the same number again, and most of them were taken.

The service lasted for about 2 hours, all in Swahili. I used to be able to pick some of it up if I concentrated hard, but my concentration is not what it was. Towards the end of the service – as you would expect – came the collection, or in this case the collections. First there was the general collection – a chest was opened at the front of the church, and everybody went forward to put in their contribution. Then there was the collection for the poor. After that Father Bernard received gifts for the building fund. Then there were thank-offerings from those who had something special to be thankful for, and finally, there were gifts from the children.

This just summed up what I had found throughout my trip: the generosity of those who have so little. (Mark 12: 41-44)

*David Cappitt*



# Cobham

## United Reformed Church

### Cobham URC Worship Diary December



Sun	2nd	9.00am 10.30am	Early Bird Service led by Anita Rev. Roy Bones
Sun	9th	10.30am 5.00pm	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion United Pastorate Service at Christ Church Leatherhead followed by tea
Sun	16th	10.30am 6.00pm	Rev. Norman Edsall United Carol Service
Sun	23rd	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton
Mon	24th	4.00pm 6.00pm	Crib Service Christmas Eve Communion Service
Tues	25th	11.00am	United Service at Cobham Methodist
Sun	30th	10.30am	Martin Ellis (jointly with Cobham Methodist at Cobham URC)
<b>January</b>			
Sun	6th	10.30am	Sydney Shore

### Prayers at the Manse

at 9.30am on Wednesdays:

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th December

## Cobham URC Events - December

Sat	1st	10.00am	Christmas Craft Day (to 12noon)
Sun	2nd	3.00pm	Special Needs Group (to 6.00pm)
Tues	4th	9.45am 7.30pm	Church Walk Elders' Meeting
Thurs	6th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
Tues	11th	10.00am	Coffee for Carers at URC Cobham (to 12noon)
Fri	14th	4.30pm	CYC Christmas Party
Wed	19th	7.00pm	Christmas Open Evening at the Manse (drinks and nibbles) (to 10.00pm)
Fri	28th	3.00pm	T @ 3 at church

**Messy Church Comes to Cobham,  
Oxshott and Stoke D'abernon !!!**



Date:

**Thursday 24th January  
2013**

Time: **3:30pm - 5:30pm**

Venue: **Cobham URC,  
38 Stoke Road,  
KT11 3BD**

**All are welcome**

# Children in Need



## **‘Going round the bend’**

**That’s what we were doing on 16th November as members from CYC and helpers were trying to see how many laps around the church car park we could notch up for charity. After 1,169 laps we raised over £600 and I cannot tell you how thrilled the children are, having really strived to do the best they could. Thank you so much for your support.**

**Kim x**





# Effingham

## Methodist Church



### **Birthday Dates to celebrate this month**

Joan Dawson on 20th and our Minister, Kim, on 29th

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

### **Dates for your diaries -**

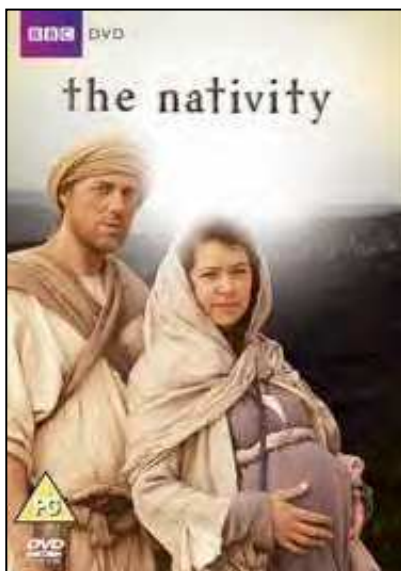
Come and sample coffee & croissants, and some food for thought at **Saturday Morning Live** - alternative worship at **King George V Hall** on **Saturdays 1st December and 5th January** from **10.00am to 11.00am.**



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

**See page 23 for full December Diary**

**Prayer Meetings are held in the Chapel every Friday at 9.15am**



### **Study BBC film of The Nativity**

This year **Churches Together in Effingham & Little Bookham** are organising Ecumenical meetings for Advent around "**The Nativity**", the BBC's film about the events leading up to Christ's birth. We'll be discussing the issues raised, and singing some Advent carols.

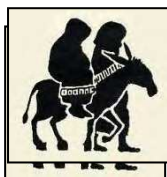
The meetings will be held at  
**Our Lady of Sorrows'**  
**church hall**

on **Mondays at 7.30pm:**

**26th November - The Promise**

**3rd December - The Visit**

**10th December - The Birth**



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

Posada is a Spanish word that means 'inn' or shelter, and is also an Advent celebration, now popular around the world, which re-enacts the journey to Bethlehem. Our idea is that nativity figures will travel around **Effingham, Little**

**Bookham and Cobham**, staying at a different house every night.

Imagine **Mary & Joseph** staying with **YOU** for one night - How would you feel ?

What questions would you ask ?

How would you entertain them ?

We need people to offer a room for the night, and to write about how it felt to be part of their journey. **Ring Angela on 01372-454850**

A **Crib service will be held at 2.00pm** on Christmas Eve **at Effingham Methodist Chapel** when Mary and Joseph will be placed in the crib ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day.

# Memories of Christmases Past

When Wallace and I moved into our first manse at the top of a hill in the beautiful village of Brenchley near Tunbridge Wells we decided that Christmas was all about offering hospitality to strangers, so we began the habit of inviting overseas students who had nowhere to go. This became a part of our Christmas for many years until there was no longer a need for it. Then our children became very disappointed because there were no longer any black faces round the table on Christmas Day, until we moved to a manse in Stockwell where we had two successive Nigerian families living in a large room at the top of the house, including delightful black babies. On Christmas Day there were as many black faces as white faces round the table!

But one of the exciting things about the Brenchley days was seeing who would get off the bus in the village and turn out to be our Christmas guest. They were generally Africans and very fond of children, so our children were frequently given gifts. The most unusual were two enormous woollen vests! Mick and Val immediately dressed up in them, found candles and rushed round the house pretending to be "Wee Willie Winkee".

One year one of the Africans was longing to see snow. Fortunately some flakes began to fall on Christmas night so the next day we took a photo of him with an enormous snow ball on his head to send to his folk back home. Another year when we had moved to Chessington, two young Indian girls had a great time tobogganing down Box Hill. Eventually the students had so many friends from their home villages in England that they were able to hold their own celebrations. The first time that happened the children said "it won't seem like Christmas without someone from another country!" Exactly the lesson we wanted them to learn!

*Freddie Jenkins*





## Godbaby - controversial Christmas poster campaign for 2012

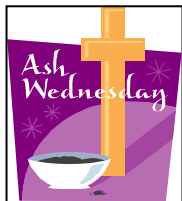


This year's idea for **ChurchAds'** long running poster campaign, **Christmas Starts with Christ**, will be hitting billboards and bus shelters in December, reminding Britain of the real meaning of Christmas. Will it resonate with passers-by searching for that 'must-have' Christmas gift? It has the enthusiastic

support of church leaders. "It's another strong and arresting image. It will surprise some and disturb others. Which is exactly what the real Jesus did. And it forces us beyond the tinsel to the human reality of 'God among us', says the Bishop of Bradford.

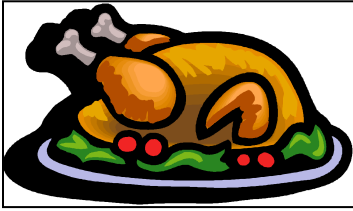
We know Christmas is about God and Jesus, not toys, gizmos, gadgets and the other trappings of the consumerist Christmas, but Britain is growing ever more secular, and Bible stories unfamiliar. God arriving on earth in human form as a baby called Jesus is apparently news to a lot of people, particularly kids who have not been brought up in a church environment. No poster can convert anyone into a new belief system, but it can provoke deeper thinking. Jesus is already on the margins of the modern Christmas retailfest. If this poster gets people talking about Jesus, their work is done. Or is it a bit desperate ! What do you think ?

**Ange Putland**



It's a bit early to be thinking about Easter, but Effingham's **Lent Lunches start on 13th February** which is **Ash Wednesday** and will then be held every fortnight, in **St. Lawrence's church hall from 12.30 to 2.00pm**, with proceeds in aid of the **Alzheimer's Society** this year. **Each church takes a turn to organise**

**the food, so please contact Pat McElhill or Janet Garnham if you can help on 27th February.**



## Can YOU help spread some HAPPINESS?

Money worries mean that this Christmas may not be very merry for many families, even here in leafy Surrey.

Graham Peddie, manager of **Pitstop in Leatherhead**, a day-time drop-in centre for the homeless, unemployed & socially isolated, has featured in two local papers with information about 10 to 12 local families in need using his food bank every week.

He says "We've been giving food out to homeless people for years but now we're getting families with benefit trouble, and it's going to get worse as the benefits system is tightened even more".

Plans are under way for the annual **Pitstop** Christmas Day lunch. This will be held at Fetcham Village Hall from 10.30am with the meal at 12.30pm and there will be cards and presents and entertainment.

Graham says it's part of his campaign to make sure nobody is alone on Christmas Day and wants to hear from anyone facing this prospect or who can offer help. He's hoping for 100 people to attend and is appealing for both volunteers and offers of food. Contact Pitstop on 01372 363003 or email: [pitstop.leatherhead@btconnect.com](mailto:pitstop.leatherhead@btconnect.com)

### **Meanwhile Helping hands needed!**

**Dorking Christian Centre & St Martin's Church** are inviting people to join them for Christmas Day.

Everyone welcome but they need help **beforehand, on the day and transport**. Please register with Janette or Christine on 01306-886830 by **Friday 14th December** latest.

**10.00am Church service then 11.00am welcome drinks.**

**12.30pm Festive Christmas Lunch** followed by gifts, games and entertainment. **3.00pm The Queen's Speech** followed by tea, cake and conversation: from **3.45pm 'goody bags' and departures**.

**Suggested donation £5.00 per head.** Come alone, come with friends, bring a neighbour, bring the whole family.

*Effingham pages continue on page 23*

*Dorking and Horsham Circuit*  
**NEWSLETTER**

**December  
January &  
February 2013**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

Last night I saw a film in which someone was attempting to escape from the villains across a darkened moor. I don't want to give away too much of the plot, so I won't tell you which film. (No doubt some of you could make a good guess.)

Given that staying out of sight was so important it struck me as reckless for the fleeing person to use a torch. Sue and I (we were watching this together) agreed that it would have made more sense to hunker down behind some grass tussock and let the darkness protect you from the eyes of the enemy.

The flaw in our plan was that all the enemy had to do in that case was wait until morning. The darkness can't hide you forever. Sooner or later the dawn will break and all will be revealed. As Jesus once said, "There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed."

This is the season of the year when the nights are at their longest. Daylight hours have been growing shorter and darkness seems to be settling around us earlier and earlier. But the darkness will not last forever. There will come a time when the light will start to gain ground once more, the daylight steadily winning over the night.

I know that these days we have enough scientific understanding to realise why this happens. It's all to do with the earth's axis being tilted. We can predict very accurately when the sun will rise and set. But still there is something wonderfully encouraging about that moment when the darkness starts to recede again. And it seems highly appropriate that a few days after this turning point we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.

The presence of Jesus in our lives brings clarity. No longer can we hide away and hope to pass unnoticed. Jesus shows us the truth – about ourselves and about our world. And though some of that truth may be

*(continued on back page)*

## ***LONDON ROAD, HORSHAM***

An Open Forum at London Road produced some enlightening views from children and young people, in completing the sentence "Our Church is great, we love ..."

They included such gems as "Talking to lots of people", "Playing football before and after", "Making friends", "Helping Paul out in church", "Doing the Bible challenge in Junior Church", "Meeting new people", "Spending time with friends", "Junior Church anniversary" - and, simply, "I love church".

Completing the sentence "To make our church even more special", youngsters wrote "More sweets and choc in church", "Easter egg hunt in church", "Better songs", "Youth band/choir", "More family events, the winning team in football to get a pot of Pringles" and "Smoke machine for when the minister walks + lights/disco/spotlight".

So now we know.

This year's Advent Miscellany, in support of *Action for Children*, takes place on December 8th, when the Horsham Children's Choir will make a welcome return and the Horsham Flute Choir will take part for the first time. The programme will also include poetry readings and an opportunity for carol singing.

Looking further ahead, Horsham Methodist Drama Group will be presenting the pantomime "Rumpelstiltskin" in Wesley Hall on Friday and Saturday, February 1st and 2nd. Rehearsals, under the eagle eye of director Helen Currington, are well under way for a cast which represents every age from very young to ... well, much older.

For further information and guidance on when, where and from whom to obtain tickets, ring Helen on 01403 257192 or John Woodward on 01403 261779.

## ***WATCHNIGHT***

**An atmospheric candlelit service  
to look back and look ahead  
in faith as we greet 2013  
will be held at St Martin's  
Dorking on New Year's Eve,  
Monday December 31,  
from 11.15 pm until midnight.  
All welcome.**

## ***DO YOU SENSE A CALLING? CAN YOU OFFER?***

New **Circuit Stewards** are needed, both immediately and over the next few years.

Do you have **fund-raising** knowledge or experience? The Circuit would benefit greatly from someone with the skill to pursue and present claims.

We would also appreciate from next summer the efforts of someone who could serve as the Circuit's administrative link with the **Charity Commission**.

There is also a vacancy for someone to be the Circuit's *Methodist Women in Britain* representative.

Your next step would be to have a word with your Minister and/or the Superintendent.

## CHRISTMAS IN EFFINGHAM

After a very enjoyable **Singalong Mamma Mia** which raised £260 for our ecumenical work in the village, our partners in **Churches together in Effingham and Little Bookham** are busy getting ready for Christmas. There will be three Advent meetings: Café Church will discuss “**Winterval versus Christmas**” themes; there’s a lunch with all the trimmings for the **Tuesday tea** regulars; and we’ll be carol-singing for **CRISIS**.

At a recent prayer lunch we also discussed the possibility of hosting a “Posada” around our churches and linking with Cobham too. The idea came from the article in the *Methodist Recorder* about the scheme run by **Wymondham Methodist Church** last year. See their website at [www.wymondhammethodist.org.uk](http://www.wymondhammethodist.org.uk) for details.

A similar scheme “*Making room for Jesus this Christmas*” has been run by the **Church Army** in the past, but missed our radar ! What is it all about? During the evenings leading up to Christmas Day, 'nativity sets' of Joseph and Mary visit a different family or place every night. The night Mary and Joseph 'stay' provides a great opportunity to invite guests around to share together the true meaning of Christmas, with a prayer evening or Christmas carolling, for example. It's a great way to raise funds for a charity like CRISIS or our local charities **Pit Stop** or **Leatherhead Start** (the former Night Hostel). If we can get it running this year, our Chapel will host a Crib service at 2 pm on Christmas Eve, which our minister, **Rev. Kim Plumpton**, will lead and everyone who has taken part will be invited.

Angela Putland

**st. martin'S DORKING** We had a most enjoyable afternoon at the end of August when the Sydenham Singers came and performed a varied programme of songs and music for around 75 people in St Martin's Church. Afterwards everyone had a cream tea over in the Centre, and the total raised for Church and Centre was £386.

Our third Café Church service at the end of September was led by Sue Shortman, a Methodist Minister in training from Horley. The final Café Church this year will take place on 9 December at 3 pm and will be led by Shirley Kellett. We will review these services in the New Year to see whether any changes need to be made. We feel that the services have been appreciated by those who attend, although it would be wonderful to see more people there.

On 18 November our Church Anniversary will take place. This will be a shared service with the Anglican congregation, and we are delighted that Jill Baker, the President of *Methodist Women in Britain*, will lead our worship and give a talk about her work afterwards. This will be followed by a lunch in the Centre.

The Centre stayed open throughout August, which proved a popular and worthwhile decision. As usual this year we will be holding the Christmas Day lunch in the Centre, followed by presents, games, and the Queen's speech. This is a well attended event and much appreciated by all those who come along.

Sadly we report the death at the end of October of a long-standing and stalwart member, Helen Brigham. She (and her husband who died a couple of decades ago) were active members of the former South Street Church, and she has been loyally involved in St Martin's and the Centre. Val led a lovely and telling service of thanksgiving for her on November 8, which included several references to her being seen frequently riding her cycle in Dorking until a few years ago!

Evelyn Wolvey

*(continued from front page)*

uncomfortable, (certain aspects of our character we don't want to be exposed), it is truth which sets us free. With Jesus we don't have to pretend. We can be open. We can be ourselves, and know that he still loves us utterly.

May the light of Christ dispel the darkness in your life, and may his love shine brightly in you, and through you, so that you become a beacon for others.

*Paul*

### ***SPECIAL CIRCUIT MEETING***

This has been called on  
**Tuesday January 15**  
at 7.30 pm to address  
the candidating  
of James Cameron  
for ordained ministry.  
Members are asked to give  
their prayerful support.  
The venue will be notified.

## ***PARTRIDGE GREEN***

As we approach the season of Advent, I am happy to report on our Autumn events .

The general upkeep of our church and hall has improved greatly this summer, with the installation of new radiators throughout the premises. We are also planning for the vestry to be redecorated in the spring.

Our Harvest Festival Service went well, as we combined this with Back to Church Sunday, and lunch for all following.

Our Harvest toddler service, in early October, proved a happy event, as did our recent "Messy Church". We are most grateful to the folk from London Road who supported us in this venture, as well as to Chris Currie, our Family worker, who masterminded the whole event. Our theme "The Celebration of Light" provided us with a brilliant scope of activities, songs, worship and lunch for all, with 23 children and parents enjoying the morning immensely. Our next Messy Church is planned for February 2013.

Our pre-Christmas Toddler Service will take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

We are now planning our fundraising Coffee Morning for November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Our Open Door Group continues with its regular alternate Tuesday afternoon meetings, and the last one for this year will be our Christmas Party on Tuesday December 11<sup>th</sup>.

This year's Carol Service will take place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 3 pm. Everyone most welcome!

Our Christmas Day Service will be at 10.00am, taken by Revd. Paul Cockburn.

*Alison James*

### ***CIRCUIT DIARY***

Tues Nov 27 LPWL at 7.30 pm at Dorking  
Tues Jan 15 Additional Circuit Meeting  
Thurs Mar 7 Circuit Meeting at London Rd, 7.30 pm  
Tues Mar 12 LPWL at London Road, 7.30 pm  
Sat April 20 District Synod at Pembury

The next issue will be published in late February.  
Please send contributions by **Friday February 3** to: [j.oborn671@btinternet.com](mailto:j.oborn671@btinternet.com)

# Effingham Methodist Diary- December



Sat	1st	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall (until 11.00am)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Rev. Val Ogden</b> <b>Pastorate Carol Service at Christ Church</b> <b>followed by tea</b>
Wed	12th	12.30pm 8.00pm	Christmas Lunch for Tuesday Tea regulars Christian meditation in the church
<b>Sun</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Martin Ellis</b>
Tues	18th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
<b>Sun</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Rhys Frost</b> <b>Tea followed by Carol Service at 6.00pm</b>
Mon	24th	2.00pm	Posada Crib Service with Kim
<b>Tues</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Christmas Day with Rev. Kim Plumpton</b>
Wed	26th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
<b>Sun</b>	<b>30th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Ecumenical Service at St. Lawrence's</b>
<b><u>January</u></b>			
Sat	5th	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall (until 11.00am)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion</b>



# Leatherhead Pages

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

## 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:

**Sun 2nd Dec, 4.00pm:** expect a full house for the **Christingle** service at the **Parish Church**.

**Sun 9th Dec, 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.

**Thurs 20th Dec, 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.

**Sun 16th Dec, 10:30am:** Another all-age **Family Carol Service**, this time at **Leatherhead Methodist Church**, including a nativity presentation from the children of "LMC Discoverers".

**Sun 23rd Dec, 10:30am:** Expect a festive theme at the regular All-Age Parish Communion, at **Leatherhead Parish Church**.

Finally, at **4.00pm on Christmas Eve** families will gather again at the **Parish Church** for **Blessing the Crib and Carols for the Family**.

If you can't make it to the one at "your" church, why not try somewhere different? It's fun to share the celebrations together!

*Jane Smith*





# News from Leatherhead Trinity

The children at Leatherhead Trinity have been enjoying Maths week, during which they were entertained by a visit from "Mathmagic" – an interactive show which got both children and teachers thinking! Other activities during the week included visiting local businesses to find out how maths is used in the real world, playing a trading game to find out about global economics, dressing up in mathematical costumes and planning and running stalls at the hugely successful Enterprise Fair.

The school is also celebrating academic success, particularly in reading. The youngest children did really well in last summer's new phonics test for pupils in Year 1, with Leatherhead Trinity's results beating both the Surrey and National averages. At the opposite end of the age range, the Year 6 reading test results in were in the top 5% of Surrey schools!

## Forthcoming dates:

Children from Leatherhead Trinity School will be providing Christmas entertainment in the Swan Centre on **Saturday 15th December**, 10.00am to 11.00am. Do come along and support them.

Christmas Church Services: Parents and Church members are welcome to join the infant children on **Wednesday 19th December**, 1:45pm at LMC, or the older children on **Thursday 20th December**, 1:45pm at the Leatherhead Parish Church.



The illustration shows a cheerful angel with grey hair, a halo, and wings, wearing a pink robe. The angel is holding a paintbrush and painting a red, splatter-shaped logo that says 'Messy Church' in white and yellow text. The entire graphic is enclosed in a black rectangular border.

Christmas Messy Church  
20 Dec, 3:30pm to 5:30pm  
at Leatherhead Methodist Church

More info: Jane 07834 051046  
jane.fcw@googlemail.com



*It's beginning to look a lot like  
Christmas....so*

*Come and celebrate with*

*Leatherhead Choral Society  
and All Aboard!*

*Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2012*

*4 pm*

*Christ Church (URC), Epsom Road, Leatherhead*

*Tickets at the door £5 adults £3 under 12s*

*Join us for seasonal music with  
Audience participation*



*Followed by refreshments*

*Registered charity no 116555*





# Leatherhead

Methodist Church



## Diary - December



Sat	1st	4.30pm	Carols in the Swan Centre (see page 30)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>10.30am</b> 6.30pm	<b>Rev. Ian Howarth</b> with Holy Communion Ian Howarth
Fri	7th	2.30pm	Time for Tea (to 4.30pm) (see page 30)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>10.30am</b> 5.00pm	<b>David Cappitt</b> Pastorate Service at Christ Church followed by tea
Mon	10th	10.00am	West Hill School Community Café at LMC
<b>Sun</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>10.30am</b> 6.30pm	<b>Rev. Ian Howarth</b> Family Carol Service Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion
Thurs	20th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sat	22nd	8.00am 1.00pm	Men's Breakfast at the Catholic Hall Carols in the Swan Centre (see page 30)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>10.30am</b> 6.30pm	<b>Rev. Paul Cockburn</b> Carols at the Parish Church
Mon	24th	11.30pm	Christmas Eve Midnight Communion at the Parish Church
Tues	25th	10.30am	Christmas Day Joint Morning Service at Christ Church
<b>Sun</b>	<b>30th</b>	<b>10.30am</b> 12noon	<b>John Bell - Joint Service at Christ Church</b> Christmas Lunch (LMC/URC at Christ Church) No evening Service
<b><u>January</u></b>			
<b>Sun</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>  6.30pm	<b>Rev. Ian Howarth - Covenant Service</b> <b>jointly with Christ Church at LMC with</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> Rev. Ian Howarth

# After 1 Corinthians 13...

*A verse that I discovered recently and thought worth sharing:*

If I bake a Christmas cake and dozens of mince pies, but have not love,

I am just another harassed housewife.

If I decorate my house with outdoor fairy lights and a twinkling Christmas tree, but have not love,

I am just wasting electricity for no reason.

If I write a hundred Christmas cards and stick a newsletter in each one, but have not love,

I only gain writer's cramp.

Love stops baking to phone a friend in need. Love stops decorating to hug a child.

Love stops shopping to visit a lonely neighbour.

Love does not envy the colour co-ordinated Christmas decorations in another's house, nor the neatly wrapped presents under a neighbour's tree.

Love does not write vain Christmas letters boasting of this year's achievements.

Love does not just send cards to those who will send one back.

Love does not only buy presents for those who can return the favour.

Love does not work out how much a friend will spend on your gift and then seek to spend not a penny more. Love knows the joy of giving without counting the cost.

Love is patient when faced with a queue at the post office and smiles at those sharing the experience.

Love does not get angry and shout at the kids to stay out of the way, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. Computer games break, chocolates soon vanish, Christmas trees drop their needles, but the gift of LOVE endures for ever.

Love is not just for Christmas, it lasts the whole year through.

Christ is not just for Christmas, He wants to stay with you for ever.

*Mary Pittam*

# Volunteering at the Olympics



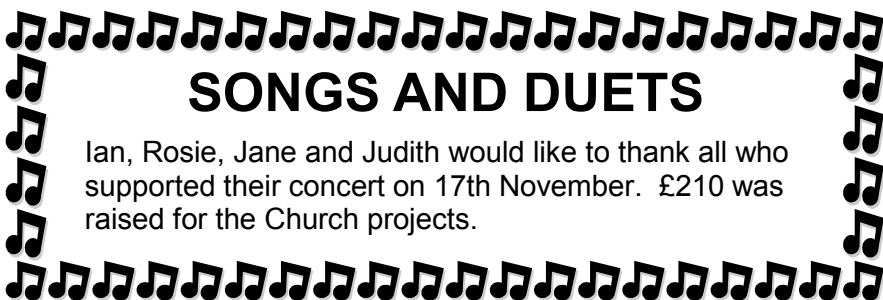
I'm not sure when I applied to help out at the Olympics but it seemed like a long process. After many encouraging emails from LOCOG saying "We haven't forgotten you" I got granted an interview at the Excel Centre in October 2011. The interviewer said "How do you fancy driving a 7 series BMW hot off the assembly line?" An email eventually arrived to say I had been chosen to be part of the Transport team. Another email arrived with our shift patterns - 10 hours long with all times day and night. I blocked out most of July and August in my diary.

At last to work. The first few days before the games were mainly airport runs. One of my first customers was a Norwegian Windsurfer who I drove from Heathrow to Luton Airport so that he could pick up a camper van (left by his colleagues who had arrived a few days previously) for him to drive to Weymouth. If I told you all the interesting people I had in my car this story would be never ending so I'll pick out some of the highlights. On one occasion I had a great chat with an eminent politician's husband when I took him home. Then there were the football officials I took to Euston Station. I was driving a 16-seater at the time and found myself facing the wrong way in a one way street off Park Lane. The oncoming traffic couldn't get by me so I had to back up a hundred metres or so but I took a while finding reverse gear. You can imagine the amusement the three Norwegians, an Englishman and a Venezuelan had at my expense.

Now to the Paralympics. Originally I wasn't down to do this but towards the end of the Olympics I sent an email to my manager saying that I was enjoying the volunteering and would be available for Para's if required. Nothing happened until halfway through the Para's when I got an email inviting me to help out on certain busy days - I was in. Two eminent guests I drove were Bob from California who had organised the Volleyball competition for the last seven Olympics - what a terrible job having to view the bikini clad girls of the Beach variety! Then of course there was the Politician I drove back to Westminster. I tried not to take a wrong turning but I did. She told me not to worry and that I would find my way out of it. To sum up I had a euphoric time. Next stop Copacabana - fancy coming along?

Thanks to Richard, Naval Captain and Helicopter Pilot and generally nice guy, who took the photo.

*Condensed from an article by Peter Dry in "Stragmag",  
the Stragglers Running Club Magazine*



## **SONGS AND DUETS**

Ian, Rosie, Jane and Judith would like to thank all who supported their concert on 17th November. £210 was raised for the Church projects.

## **TIME FOR TEA**

**COME for TEA and COMPANY**

From 2.30pm to 4.30pm on

**Friday 7th December at**

**LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

If you need transport please contact:  
Margaret Meynen on 372930 or Gill Harris on 458518

(Suggested donation £1)

## **Christmas Carols in the Swan Centre**

We have been asked to sing Christmas Carols in the Swan Centre on two dates :

1. Saturday 1st December, 4.30 – 5.00pm –  
with the Mole Valley Silver Band
2. Saturday 22nd December, 1.30 – 2.00pm.

**Please come and swell the chorus !**

# The Journey

"We have to register" said Joseph, "it's the law. We have no option." "I'm pregnant" cried Mary, "all that way on a donkey!" "I'll make the saddle as comfy as possible" Joseph said, and padded the seat with cushions and soft covers.

On and on they traipsed. Mary tried not to grumble but she was so uncomfortable. "Soon be there" said Joseph heartily, as mile followed mile.



In Bethlehem, Mary got stiffly down from the beast. She groaned and stretched. Then, dismay, her waters broke! The baby was coming - and in a hurry too! "My wife needs shelter. The baby is nearly here" said Joseph to the innkeeper. "Sorry" he said "I have no room. But there's a stable at the back. It's basic but warm and dry." And so they found it. The animals inside snuffled and snorted, curious about the intruders disturbing their rest.

Their own donkey lay down in the straw and slept.

One last push, and the baby entered the hostile world with a lusty cry! A boy! A boy! Joseph was delighted. Sensing something wonderful, the animals nudged each other to see for themselves the cause of such joy, and bent down in adoration, breathing their warm, hay-scented breath over the infant.

# LMC Family News



*Congratulations to...*

...Ama Ayensu on attaining her Social Work Degree

## Housegroups - All Welcome

Monday House Fellowship meets fortnightly - contact Carol Stoves 377125

Wednesday House Fellowship meets monthly - contact Dreda Kitchen 200129

Friday Daytime Fellowship meets fortnightly - contact Jane Smith 372919



## A Christmas Carol

We are all familiar with the story of Ebenezer Scrooge. In Charles Dickens' story Scrooge starts off by believing that Christmas is a humbug. "Every idiot", he says "who goes about with 'Merry Christmas!' on his lips should be boiled in his own pudding and buried with a sprig of holly in his heart".

When he is asked to give to the poor of London he says, "Am I a charity? Am I the state? Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses? Let them die and decrease the surplus population. Let the whole world be damned - it has nothing to do with me". Others ask him, "Have you forgotten how to smile?" - and somebody comments that there are none so blind as those who will not see. Then a ghost appears to him - his deceased partner Joseph Marley



and says, "If you don't go forth in life spreading joy and easing pain, you shall wear a chain. He points to the coins weighing him down and says,

"These were coins I hoarded for a rainy day - now with every jingle I'm distressed. Locks and keys that helped me keep the poor away have put these locks and keys around my chest". Marley appeals to Scrooge: "Unlock your heart - it's not too late". But Scrooge says, "I prefer not to think about the past". But Marley says, "Link by link your chain is in the making - it's sooner than you think".

Scrooge's position is perfectly understandable because his father was put in prison for non-payment of debt, yet his mother said, "Above all do not let your heart grow bitter". The ghost of Christmas past exhorts him "To understand the present, learn from the past".

In the past, Scrooge refused to help his former employer, Mr Pennywink. Mr Pennywink says, "I helped you both get started - why won't you help me now? Your heart has hardened Ebenezer". But Scrooge says, "The one thing between us and the grave is money". Mr Pennywink says, "I pity you if that's your attitude".

Emily, the woman who would have been his wife says to Scrooge, "You love nothing so much as gold".

The ghost of Christmas present tells Scrooge that he's not just a sinner - he's an outright fool. Scrooge's nephew says that Scrooge puts wealth over Christmas together and that it's sad when a fellow has nothing to love but his gold. But Scrooge's heart begins to soften and he says concerning his employee's son (Tiny Tim): "Even this child who has nothing has so much to share, and that his gentle spirit was from God". The ghost of Christmas present tells Scrooge that ignorance shall be mankind's doom.

When the ghost of Christmas future appears Scrooge says that he hopes to be another man from what he was. Scrooge is shown his own grave and told: "Your future lies here". On his grave is written, "Having done no good and given no joy, here lies Ebenezer Scrooge". He is also told to "Listen to the echoes of the voices in the shadows of the people that you never tried to save. Listen to the echoes of the voices of the future as they judge you for the little that you gave". Finally Scrooge is brought to the point of repentance - a U-turn - a complete change of direction and he says, "Re-create me - tell me it's not too late to learn.

*Bob Greenfield*

# Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

## Coffee and mince pies

All are welcome from 10.30am on  
Wednesday 5th December at the home of  
Margaret Dodds-Ely,  
38 West Farm Avenue, Ashted

## Church Garden

Thank you very much to all those who have helped to keep the church garden and grounds looking neat and tidy during the growing season, including Ron Sinden and our grass cutter Dave Smith. We are always looking for volunteers to keep weeds at bay and help with pruning.

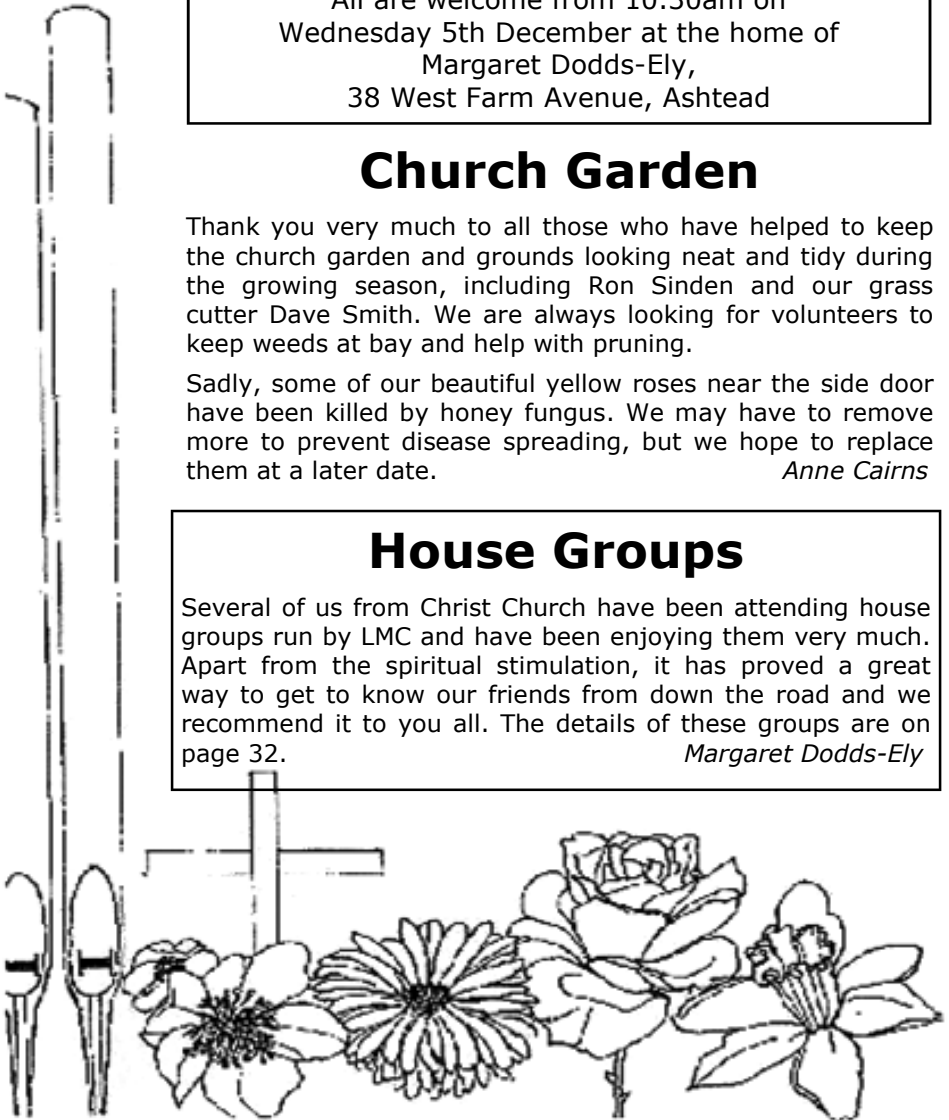
Sadly, some of our beautiful yellow roses near the side door have been killed by honey fungus. We may have to remove more to prevent disease spreading, but we hope to replace them at a later date.

*Anne Cairns*

## House Groups

Several of us from Christ Church have been attending house groups run by LMC and have been enjoying them very much. Apart from the spiritual stimulation, it has proved a great way to get to know our friends from down the road and we recommend it to you all. The details of these groups are on page 32.

*Margaret Dodds-Ely*



# **URC Southern Synod Together Meeting, Orpington, 10th November 2012**

This is not the way I would normally like to spend a Saturday but I did. St John's URC, Orpington has an attractive interior with light wood and stained glass windows but after a couple of hours I realised how fortunate we are at Christ Church to have chairs!

The meeting was sandwiched by some inspiring worship. At the start we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the URC in a party atmosphere encouraged by the minister at Orpington, Revd. Jennifer Millington and some young people who later left us for their own event at the nearby Methodist Church. When we were weary and ready to go home our Synod Moderator, Revd. Nicola Furlley-Smith, ended the day with music and reflections on the same theme.

The morning was taken up with a variety of business items and this is only a selection:

- Synod Council is setting up a Mission Fund with some of the proceeds of the sale of properties and further details will be available soon.
- General Assembly Resolutions (July 2012) were highlighted where the local church or Synod needs to act. Churches who wish to register their buildings for Civil Partnerships should do so via The Synod Trust. The Synod Ministries Committee will offer pastoral support to ministers and churches affected by the raising of ministers' retirement age to 68. In addressing the impact of poverty and inequality the church is urged to pay a living wage. The Synod Finance Committee will be looking at its Ethical Investment Policy.
- From the URC Mission Council Report the decision to ask representatives to arrange and pay for their own accommodation was questioned. Since Mr John Ellis, URC Treasurer, is the Lay Moderator Elect a Deputy Treasurer will be appointed. Materials from the cancelled ZI Campaign cannot now be used.
- The Synod Ministries Committee incorporates many different aspects. Candidates for the ministry will be asked to undergo a 3-month placement in a church very different from their own. Thanks were given to Revd. Jenny Snashall who has completed 7 Years as the Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner and Mrs Jenny Sheehan is taking over this work. LMMR (Local Mission and Ministry Review) is progressing slowly. This process aims to help and encourage the life and vitality of the local church. A policy document concerning the call and care of Local Church Leaders has been produced. Deployment of ministers was clarified. This Synod has 55 full time stipends but is required to reduce to 54 by the end of 2012. The denomination resolves only to pay for the ministry it can afford.

*Continued on the next page*

- Finance always produces some heated debate and the budgeted synod deficit for 2013 is large. A strategic policy will be brought to the next meeting. Churches were thanked for their M&M contributions along with those who had also contributed to the Ministers Pension Fund.

*The afternoon was much more upbeat - thank goodness!*

- Revd. Fiona Thomas, URC Secretary for Education and Learning, presented the Facilitator's Toolkit, a URC resource for Radical Welcome, and took us through the way this resource might be used. It can be ordered from the Synod Office. Revd. Pauline Sparks and Mrs Hilary Miles from Petts Wood URC explained how they had used the 'Everybody Welcome' scheme to enhance their church premises and modes of working thus encouraging observers to become participants.
- Daniel Gulacsy, a gap year theological student from Hungary, told us about the Fair Isle Project in Kent where people on the fringe of society are supported. He helps immigrants with language issues, teaches some English, helps with church youth work and takes church services.
- Martin Hayward, Synod Mission Officer, reported that 'Back to Church Sunday' had been successful over the last 4 years in this Synod.
- A 'Men and under 5s' group had been so successful in Canterbury that it was now a 'Men and under 8s' group!
- St Andrews, Balham held a 'Knitted Bible' exhibition and hundreds of local school children passed through their doors many returning later with their parents to see it again.
- The Community Worker at Kingston URC had recently successfully housed a rough sleeper who often frequented their premises.
- A food bank has been set up in north Kent.
- By hiring a pub room, offering a meal and holding an 'Alpha Express' course men had been encouraged back into church in Kent.
- Some members at Trinity, Wimbledon are putting 'faith into action' by being part of a night shelter scheme in their area.

*Jeanette Chamberlain*

# Christ Church Diary

## December



Sat	1st	4.30pm	Carols with Band - Town Centre
<b>Sun</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion - Rev. Barbara Pearson</b> Organist: Gina Eason
		4.00pm	Christingle Service at the Parish Church
		6.30pm	Evening Service at LMC - Rev. Ian Howarth
Wed	5th	10.30am	Coffee & Chat (venue tba)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Christmas Family Festival Service: Rev. Ian Howarth</b> <i>(see note on page 38)</i>
		5.00pm	Joint Pastorate Service at Christ Church followed by tea
Mon	10th	3.30pm	Thanksgiving Service for Alex Scottow
Tues	11th	7.45pm	Elders' Meeting
<b>Sun</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Morning Service with Carols - Rev. Donald Finnan</b>
		6.30pm	Joint Holy Communion (LMC/URC) at LMC
Thurs	20th	3.30pm	Messy Church at LMC
Sat	22nd	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at the Catholic Hall
		1.00pm	Community Carols - Swan Centre
<b>Sun</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Morning Service: Rev. Ian Howarth</b>
		6.30pm	United Carol Service at the Parish Church
Mon	24th	11.30pm	Christmas Eve Midnight Communion at the Parish Church
Tues	25th	10.30am	Christmas Day Joint (LMC/URC) Morning Service at Christ Church - Rev. Ian Howarth
<b>Sun</b>	<b>30th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Joint Morning Service (LMC/URC): John Bell</b>
<b><u>January</u></b>			
<b>Sun</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Joint Covenant Service (URC/LMC) at LMC - Rev. Ian Howarth</b>
		6.30pm	Evening Service at LMC

# Christ Church Family News



We extend our sincere condolences to **Mike and Jacqui Ball** on the death of Mike's mother on 2nd November.

It was good to see **Bernard Buckle** back at church on 28th October, after being in hospital for some time.

We are sorry to report that three of our members have suffered falls recently. **Jeanette Chamberlain** cracked a bone in her right wrist, **Margaret Hughes** broke her right wrist and has had a plate fitted, and **Jean McDowall** sprained her right wrist and suffered bruising. We wish all three a speedy recovery.

Many congratulations and good wishes to **Anne and Derek Ray** who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 27th October. We are sad to report that **Alex Scottow** passed away peacefully on 20th November. We send Anne and all her family our heartfelt sympathy and assure her of our support and prayers in the days ahead. The Thanksgiving Service will be at 3.30pm on Monday 10th December at Christ Church, followed by refreshments in the church hall.

We remember in our prayers others who are bereaved and those who are unwell.

*Anne Cairns*

## Christmas Family Festival Service

The Christmas Family Festival Service will be held at 10.30am at Christ Church on Sunday 9th December. Gifts brought to the service will be distributed by Pitstop at their Christmas lunch. Please mark all presents clearly with 'Adult', 'Teenager', 'Child - (age group)' and gender. Presents may be brought on the day or left in a box in the vestibule.

*Mike Essex*

## Alex Scottow

By now I expect you know that my husband, Alex, died on 20th November, at home with me. My family and I are so thankful that he died peacefully. I would just like to thank everyone in the church family for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers throughout his illness. It sustained us to know that we had such loving support. Also, thank you for the lovely flowers from the church, delivered by Nan. It was amazing how long they lasted and cheered us through the last days. Thank you.

*Anne Scottow*

# United Reformed Church Southern Synod

## **Surrey and Sussex Synod Area Pastoral Committees Report**

The Surrey and Sussex Synod Area Pastoral Committees met at Crawley United Reformed Church on 6 November 2012 and would like to report the following:

- Since last we met Viv Baker, former Church Secretary at Ewell URC has died after a long illness.
- Please remember in your prayers Stan Baker, Elaine Dunn, David Littlejohns and the congregation at Ewell.
- Caterham and East Grinstead are on the vacancy list.
- Christ Church, Leatherhead and Leatherhead Methodist Church are considering their future mission together.
- A Local Mission and Ministry Review (LMMR) has taken place at Walton on the Hill. We thank Robin Sanders and David Howell for trail blazing this process for us.
- Revd Gerald Munro will continue as interim minister for Brighthelm, Brighton until July 2013. A director has been appointed to the centre.
- We would like to thank Linda Richards who has agreed to be the Lay Preaching Co-ordinator for Surrey and Ian Fletcher who will take on that role for Sussex.
- The Synod Area will shortly be seeking an Area Leader, and a Convenor and a Secretary for the Surrey Pastoral Committee. Churches are asked to send nominations for these posts to Jennifer Chalmers, Synod Area Administrator, email: [jichalmers@btinternet.com](mailto:jichalmers@btinternet.com)
- Local Church Leaders will be invited to a 'Conflict Management Training' on 9 February 2013. Venue to be announced.

**The next Synod Area Meeting is on 5 March 2013, Crawley United Reformed Church at 7.30pm.**

**Pastoral Committees meet again on 5 February 2013.**

**Other dates in 2013 for your diary:**

**Pastoral Committees: 30 April, 10 September and 12 November**

**Synod Area: 18 June and 1 October**

# 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](http://www.leatherheadmethodist.org)

Contact: Senior Steward -

Sue Friend 01372 813464

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

### **Leatherhead:**

[www.chch.org.uk](http://www.chch.org.uk)

Contact: Local Church Leader -

Mike Essex 01372 273472

## **Effingham Methodist Church:**

[www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk)

Contact: Senior Steward -

Dave Putland 01372 454850

## **Cobham United Reformed Church:**

[www.cobhamurc.org.uk](http://www.cobhamurc.org.uk)

Contact: Church Secretary -

Mary Langtry 01483 282421

## **Cobham Methodist Church:**

[www.cobhammethodistchurch.com](http://www.cobhammethodistchurch.com)

Contact: Senior Steward -

Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



## **United Pastorate Ministers**

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### **E-mail:**

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### **Website:**

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### **Rev. Kim Plumpton**

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KT11 3BD

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### **E-mail:**

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