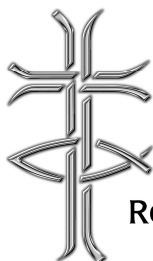


the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

December 2013



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

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

The Methodist Church



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



The Ministers Write...

From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

Colin and I arrived here at this pastorate as a family of four with Samuel and Joel. Three of the children remained in Birmingham: Karl, Krisstion and Lianne. With Karl already having returned home after being made redundant earlier this year, and Lianne now facing the same issues, it looks as though the Plumpton household is about to expand even further. Although it raises all sorts of accommodation issues, someone made the remark *"isn't it wonderful that they want to come home and that they have a home to come to"*. It's true; they will come to a home where they will find security away from the uncertainty that life has presented to them recently.

My mind then wanders to the many we have seen in the Philippines, where a sheet of canvas is the best they might hope for to call home - the aftermath of the storm which raged across the many small islands out in the Pacific. Their homes are gone and for some it will be a while before they can rebuild, or even overcome the sense of loss they feel. For others their livelihoods have also been swept away and life is full of uncertainty. These images are sadly a familiar sight. Over recent months we've seen the devastation that occurs in war torn countries, and we've also seen those who make the precarious journey across deserts and seas who never make it to a place that one day might feel like home. *"There were 28.8 million Internally Displaced People around the world"* (UNHCR figures for 2012).

It is hard for us to imagine that kind of reality; it is far removed from the comfort that many of us experience. I am then led to think of the Christmas story and the way in which Christ is born into the very heart of a displaced community in Bethlehem, for no other reason than the census, and then an [angel](#) appears to Joseph and warns him to take Jesus and his mother into Egypt ([Matthew 2:13](#)). Forced to find a home in a foreign land, I wonder what kind of welcome he received.

continued on the next page

But it is in the very heart of displacement that we find Christ and the beginnings of a journey that will mean hope for humankind. For the darkness shall not overcome the light, for Christ enters our messy world and challenges us to find God wherever we might be and whatever circumstances we are in. For those who we know are struggling, they do not make the journey alone for we are not passive spectators because we are Christ's representatives on this earth. In our giving, our prayers, our loving, Christ is made known this Christmas, giving birth to hope that may not have been seen until now. Love is born this Christmas and the world will not be the same again.

For our families and the warmth of our homes this Christmas we give God thanks. Colin, the children and I send you every blessing this Christmas.

Happy Christmas!!

Kim

From Rev. Lynda Russell

Dear Friends,

The story about the possible closure of the A&E department at Epsom Hospital was on the local news yesterday evening. I'm sure this has been running for some time before I moved here. Apparently GP's have voted against it, and so it's "back to the drawing board", but the NHS bosses still say it must happen. Again both patients and those working there must continue to watch and wait to find out what will happen.

We here in Leatherhead Methodist and Christ Church are waiting – *as I write this, although we are hopeful that by the time you read this our waiting will have ended* – for the report from our architects about the way forward for LMC and Christ Church. We feel as if we have been watching and waiting for a long time now!

Watching and waiting are strong themes in this season of Advent, which we enter into at the beginning of December with our preparations to celebrate again the birth of Christ. Sometimes it seems that our focus on Christmas is so strong that we forget to stop and stay awhile in the waiting place. We so are eager to get on with everything, for there's so much to be done, and so little time to do it all in. It's not always easy to wait, is it?

But Advent, these weeks in the run up to Christmas, is God's "waiting place". It's the time when we can prepare not only our homes, presents and food, but also and more importantly, our minds and our hearts for the coming of Jesus anew into our lives. I challenge you to make time to stop and take a few minutes here and there during this time of Advent preparation to reflect on the amazing truth that God loves each of us enough to make all things new. This begins in us, as we welcome the baby who came at Christmas, and we will find that we too can experience God's love, helping and freeing us to be the people he wants us to be. One of my favourite Advent carols puts it like this:

Come thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set your people free,
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.

Let me add my prayers and wishes for a blessed Advent and Christmas,

Every blessing, Lynda



Southern Synod
Synod Office East Croydon URC Addiscombe Grove Croydon CRO 5LP
Telephone 020 8688 3730 Fax No 020 8688 2698
Website - www.urcsouthern.org.uk

12th November 2013

Dear Friends,

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in the land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.



**Letter continued
on the next page**

Continued from the previous page

Last night as I was driving home from Church (in mid-November) I was struck by the number of homes that had Christmas lights strung and brilliantly lit. There were houses with Santas (more than one!) and houses with stars and bells and reindeers and a plethora of angels, all flashing like beacons in the darkness. It gives new meaning to the phrase 'your Christmases have come early this year'.

As I drove on I wondered why there are so many lights so early this year? And what kind of people live in the houses behind those lights? Did those lights illuminate the homes of both those who did and did not proclaim Jesus as the Christ-child?

I would like to believe that the lights that I saw were expressions of defiance in the face of dark times whether it be poverty at home, or earthquakes in China and flooding in the Philippines not to mention war and rumours of war that still encircle our world. I would like to believe that they are tangible statements that when all is increasingly dark there is always hope. I would like to believe that they are an attempt on the part of believers and non-believers alike to affirm that, at this Christmastime, there is goodness and tidings of great joy to be had.

We all need to defy the darkness. We all need hope. For me, the lights of Christmas provide this. Even as I get older the anticipation of the birth of the Christ-child grows. I find it so exciting to prepare for Christmas by hanging lights and decorating trees and preparing gifts for those you love. I drive my husband mad! But I find it even more exciting knowing that the reason for my eagerness is that a time is coming when the whole world will have hope. It is because of the birth of the Light of the World at the first Christmas. It is because of his life, death and resurrection and his promise to come again. It is because he is present in the hearts of all those who believe in him through his Spirit that the world can have hope and change and be at peace.

The growth of food banks in our local Churches working in co-operation with local authorities, the increasing numbers of people involved in Street Pastors, those supporting the homeless through night shelters are all testament to the fact that our world is hopeful. The light of the world has truly come!

May His light shine from your homes this Christmastime and in all the seasons of your days.

Christmas Blessings,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nicola', written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Nicola Furley-Smith
Moderator, Southern Synod



Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary - December



Sun	1st	10.30am	Rev. Frank Smith
Thurs	5th	10.30am	Advent Bible Study at the URC (<i>see page 13</i>)
Fri	6th	4.30pm	CYC party at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Sat	7th	10.30am	Messy Morning at the URC (to 12.30pm)
Sun	8th	10.30am	David Cappitt
Tues	10th	2pm to 5pm } 7pm to 10pm }	Open afternoon and evening at the Manse
Thurs	12th	10.30am	
Fri	13th	12 noon	Official opening of Cobham Area Foodbank at CMC by Dominic Raab MP
Sat	14th	10.00am	Time 4 You (to 12 noon)
Sun	15th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton -
			Service of Holy Communion
		6.30pm	United Carol Service at the URC
Wed	18th	7.30pm	House Fellowship at the Manse
Sun	22nd	10.30am	Rev. Paul Cockburn
Tues	24th	4.00pm	Crib Service at the URC
		6.30pm	Communion Service at the URC
		11.30pm	Midnight Communion at the URC
Wed	25th	10.30am	Christmas Day Service at the URC
Sun	29th	10.30am	United Service at the URC - Andrew Gibb

January 2014

Sun 5th 10.30am tba



Fresh

Creative Expression Afternoon

Are you free on Mondays,
a carer, a busy mum, retired,
working part-time or just feel
you need some 'ME TIME' ?

Then **FRESH** could be the place for you - Friendly,
Refreshing, Expressive, Stimulating, Holistic.

All Materials, inspiration and help provided.
OR you can bring your own projects to work on
OR you can just come, have a coffee & chat.
No experience needed, Afternoons are free,
donations towards materials appreciated.

www.cobhamcommunitychurch.org/fresh



DATES

Mon 2 September
Mon 16 September
Mon 7 October
Mon 21 October
Mon 4 November
Mon 18 November
Mon 2 December

All at 1.30-3.30 pm

In Small Hall on right
Cobham Methodist Church
Cedar Rd, Cobham
KT11 2AA

Everyone welcome
- just turn up -



Next "Time 4 You"

Saturday

14th December

10.00am - 12noon

Cobham Methodist Church

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

harrison's fund

fighting duchenne
muscular dystrophy

HARRISON'S FUND

Can I say a *'BIG THANK YOU'* to everyone who:
baked, brought, bought, donated, worked, ran, cleaned
and anything else that I've missed!

You raised an enormous £510.00

Rhonda x



Fri 13th December - 12 noon

Opening of Cobham Area Foodbank
at Cobham Methodist Church by
Dominic Raab MP

TRI UNITY?

How do you celebrate harvest?

How many Churches come together?

Do you fill the Church with shop bought produce?

This year at Cobham we decided NOT to do any of that. Instead we had home grown grapes, oranges, tomatoes and more, and a great selection of every vegetable you could think of. We brought gifts for the Food Bank which is opening on 13th December at CMC; our offering was going to go to the Food Bank as well. However, as there had been an Earthquake in the Philippines that week, we decided to give the money to that instead. We sent £350 via TGCM. The Church had been decorated differently this year with balloons, taffeta and silk flowers courtesy of TGCM (Filipino Church). CCC (Cobham Community Church) joined us and led us in Worship, only it was different too - we had a united choir of (eventually) eight, a Worship Group of two, three drummers and six dancers! There was no “us and them”, we were all followers of Jesus, Praising God for the Fruits of His Creation. We shared the Peace, (which took about 20 minutes and left Kim wondering how to get us all back to our seats!) and we gave each other Communion. Our service lasted two hours but nobody noticed, it was just awesome. We then had lunch and the singing continued. The food was just unbelievable; Filipinos believe that it is their sole purpose in life to feed you! We all had a fantastic time together, check out the Website to see all the photos.

Rhonda x





Cobham

United Reformed Church

Cobham URC Worship Diary - December



Sun	1st	9.00am	Early Bird Service
		10.30am	Rev. Norman Edsall
Sun	8th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Sun	15th	10.30am	John Stewart
		6.30pm	United Carol Service
Sun	22nd	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton
Tues	24th	4.00pm	Crib Service - by SEEKERS
		6.30pm	Communion Service
		11.30pm	Midnight Communion Service
Wed	25th	10.30am	Christmas Day Service
Sun	29th	10.30am	Andrew Gibb - United Service with Cobham Methodist Church at the URC
<u>January</u>			
Sun	5th	10.30am	Thelma Roberts
Sun	12th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion

Prayers at the Manse

at 9.30am on
Wednesdays: 4th, 11th, 18th December

Next Messy Morning for Cobham, Oxshott and Stoke d'Abernon



Date:

Saturday 7th December

Time: **10:30am -
12:30pm**

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

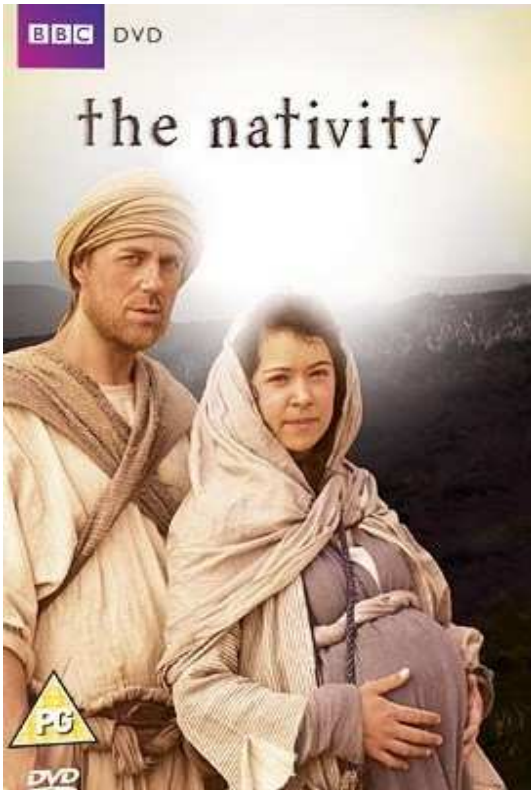
All are welcome



**Open Day
at the Manse for drinks
and nibbles - Tuesday
10th December,
2.00pm to 5.00pm and
7.00pm to 10.00pm.**

All are welcome

Advent Bible Study



Advent Bible Study
begins at 10:30am,

5th Dec
12th Dec

Held at Cobham
United Reformed
Church

It is a familiar story, but over four weeks
with the help of the 'Nativity' we will go
on a journey of discovery.

Cobham URC Events - December

Sun	1st	3.00pm	Special Needs Group (to 6.00pm)
Tues	3rd	9.45am	Church Walk
		8.00pm	Elders' Meeting
Thurs	5th	10.30am	Advent Bible Study (<i>see page 13</i>)
		12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
Fri	6th	4.30pm	CYC meets at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Sat	7th	10.30am	Messy Morning at the URC (to 12.30pm)
Tues	10th	11.00am	Coffee for Carers
Tues	10th	2pm - 5pm } 7pm - 10pm }	Open afternoon and evening at the Manse
Thurs	12th	10.30am	
			Advent Bible Study (<i>see page 13</i>)
Fri	27th	3.00pm	T@3



We've got online carol-singers again!



Effingham

Methodist Church

Effingham Methodist Diary - December



Sun	1st	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Sat	7th	10.00am	Café Church at the KGV Hall (to 11.00am)
Sun	8th	10.00am	John Oborn
Wed	11th	12.30pm 8.00pm	Christmas Lunch for Tuesday Tea regulars Christian Meditation in the Church
Sun	15th	10.00am	James Cameron
Tues	17th	2.30pm	Tuesday tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Sun	22nd	10.00am 5.00pm	Rhys Frost Tea followed by Carol Service at 6.00pm
Tues	24th	5.00pm	Crib Service at St. L's with our Posada
Wed	25th	9.00am	Christmas Day with Rev. Kim Plumpton
Sun	29th	10.30am	Ecumenical Service at All Saints - Martin Ellis

January

Sat	4th	10.00am	Café Church at the KGV Hall (to 11.00am)
Sun	5th	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Wed	8th	3.30pm	Messy Church at St Lawrence Church Hall

Prayer Group

Prayer meetings are held at Freddie's
every Friday at 9.15am.

**Churches Together in
Effingham & Little Bookham**



**is starting monthly beginning
Wednesday 8th January
Venue: St Lawrence Church Hall
Time: 3:30-5:30pm**

**For further information please ring:
Annette on 07971 552139 or
Gill on 01372 457987**

**If you would like to pre-register your child then please send for
further details by e-mailing Gill at gillianmwalker@gmail.com**



Advent Meetings

This year **Churches Together in Effingham & Little Bookham** are discussing the issues raised by the Bible readings for each Sunday in Advent in **The Gift of Scripture**, a series of Ecumenical meetings organised by the Roman Catholic Church.

The meetings will be held at **Our Lady of Sorrows' Church Hall** on **Wednesdays at 7.30pm** starting on **27th November** and weekly until **18th December**.



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. Nativity figures will travel around **Effingham, Little Bookham and**

Cobham, staying at a different place every night. Several local schools have asked for the figures as part of an Advent Assembly, or YOU could have them.

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**

Mary and Joseph will be placed in the stable ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day, at the **Crib Service at 5.00pm** on Christmas Eve at **St. Lawrence Parish Church**.

Angela Putland

So when does Christmas start?

Christmas
starts with
Christ

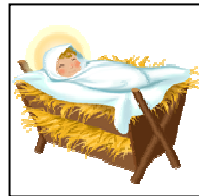
In department stores it starts in mid-July! By October 'festive tunes' are everywhere and the doors open on Santa's grotto. Then Christmas ads on the telly, but retailers are out of step with customers because for most people the season starts on 1st December. That's when it's OK to start writing cards and dig out the decorations from the attic.

Don't let the High Street set the agenda. Let's stop the spread of "**Winterval**". In Churches, the season starts on Advent Sunday. That's when we light the first candle on the Advent wreath and when we start thinking about Christ's first and second coming.

Let's hold *Christmas Starts Sunday* on Advent Sunday and make it the 'official' start of the season. That way the Church can start to reclaim ownership of Christmas and remind people that *Christmas Starts with Christ*. Because the statistics are shocking:

Just 12 per cent of adults know the nativity story in any detail and more than one third of children don't know whose birthday we are celebrating. And 51 per cent of people say that the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas. We need to send a message to our nation.

There are 40,000 Churches in the UK. 40,000 jigsaw pieces. Imagine if we could put them all together. What a picture that would make! A giant, Christ-centred Christmas card. One that could be seen by our whole nation. That's what the *Christmas Starts with Christ* campaign is all about: the Reason for the Season... So use the posters on the web-site to advertise your events this Christmas.



www.christmasstartswithchrist.co.uk



Dates to celebrate this month

Happy Birthday to **Joan Dawson** on 20th
and our minister, **Kim** on 29th

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

Dorking and Horsham Circuit

NEWSLETTER

**December
January &
February 2014**

Dear Friends,

At a Sunday School party the teacher had put out a plate of chocolate biscuits with a notice saying "Take only one. God is watching." On the other end of the table was a plate of fairy cakes by which one of the children had placed the notice, "Take as many cakes as you want. God is watching the biscuits."

One of the many differences between we human beings and God is that we cannot focus our attention on more than a few things at once, whereas God is aware of everything at the same time. Or is he...?

Do you ever have that experience of being so absorbed in an activity that you are oblivious to everything else? It may be a hobby that requires your utmost concentration. It may be a compelling story (in a book or on TV) which draws you away from everyday life into a different world of adventure or romance or history. It may be that you enter the vast world of the internet with its online chats, its social networking and its virtual realities.

There are times when we know in the back of our mind that we are in reality sitting in a chair at home, but it feels as if we are somewhere else. Our minds are on the quality of the sunlight on the hills as we try to turn one of our holiday snaps into a watercolour painting. Our hearts are stirred by the plucky heroine as she boards the train which will take her towards her long-lost love. Our thoughts are with our friends as we reminisce about last night's party and share our photos on Facebook.

For a brief while, these things which absorb our attention seem to be 'reality' and who is to say that such a view is wrong. After all, whenever we talk to someone on the phone, what is the reality? Are we really having a conversation? Or are we each just responding to noises produced by a tiny loudspeaker in a plastic case? Telephones really do bring distant people right into our homes!

So it makes me wonder how 'real' it was for God to focus his attention on our world when he became human in Jesus. Being God, did he regard his visit to our planet as only a kind temporary focus of his attention, whilst all along still being absorbed in the business of being God and keeping the whole of creation ticking over?

(continued overleaf)



The Methodist Church

(continued from front page)

Surely, the whole point of Christmas is that God coming to earth as one of us was a real event. From God's perspective as well as from our's. Jesus certainly seemed to be aware of his divine nature. (If the events surrounding his birth weren't enough to go by, there was the voice at his baptism – "this is my Son.") But I am sure that Jesus didn't go through life with the kind of awareness that God has of all things spread throughout time and space. In Jesus, God focused his attention on the human race. He entered into our story. He became one with us. He lived life from our perspective.

Trying to imagine things from God's viewpoint isn't easy. It's enough to blow our minds. But accepting the wonder of God becoming a man only requires us to pay attention to the Christmas story and to become absorbed in it. The story of the baby in the manger is a familiar one, but don't let it become just a background to the celebrations of Christmas.

Take the opportunities offered through carol services and nativity plays to enter into the story, to focus on what really did happen long ago, and to respond to God in wonder and praise.

Paul

WATCHNIGHT

Have you been looking for such a service to attend on New Year's Eve?

You will be welcome at one on
December 31 at 11.15 pm
at St Martin's, Dorking.

More details from Martin Ellis.

st martin's DORKING

Since October, Dorking Methodists have joined with the Anglican congregation for combined worship every Sunday at 10.00 am. The transition has not been easy as there has been pain on both sides over loss of tradition and sense of community. However, on the positive side, we are hoping that together we will be in a stronger position for mission and outreach in the town. Over the autumn we have been enjoying the presence of Juliet, our new Chaplain in the Christian Centre. Her cheerful and friendly face has been very warmly received by visitors to the Christian Centre, and her skills and wisdom have been much appreciated. The Centre has recently been given some funding by Mole Valley District Council to provide activities which will encourage participation by people who would otherwise be isolated in their homes. Juliet has started a crafts afternoon, and we have new classes in such things as armchair aerobics, beginners' bridge, table tennis and sequence dancing. We are also planning to extend our weekday lunch service to Saturdays, so if you are in the area, do pop in for the best reasonably priced home cooked lunch in town. This all makes the Centre very busy, and it is a pleasure to see so many people of all ages coming through the doors. As in previous years there will be a lunch and entertainment on Christmas Day. We were delighted when our prayers were answered and another Church in Dorking offered to prepare and host the event this year.

Sue Jamieson

The next issue will be published in
late February.

Please send contributions by
Tuesday February 4 to:
j.oborn671@btinternet.com

Messy Church is coming to Effingham!

A couple of weeks ago we had a very successful meeting at the Chapel which showed there was real local interest and some expertise to enable us to run a **monthly Messy Church** in Effingham village, hopefully starting in January 2014. A steering committee has been formed and there are already enough volunteers to get started. So our fingers are crossed and we would appreciate lots of prayers for the right venue and funding.

Saturday Morning Live, our village's monthly Café Church, continues to grasp some thorny issues. In November we're discussing **Women's Role in the Church**, and our speaker is a **Chaplain at Royal Holloway College**, who has followed many of her family into the Ministry. Then in December it's **Doing Christmas differently?**

Churches Together have arranged Advent meetings, and our carol-singing will be in aid of CRISIS as usual. We also hope our Posada figures of Joseph and a very pregnant Mary on her donkey will be in local schools and homes to remind them of the real meaning of Christmas.

Meanwhile several ideas from our **Vision Day** are already being implemented. The Church Council supported a proposal for more stewards to run the Chapel as a team, more like the URC's Elders. The Bible Study group is now meeting with Kim for lunch, followed by a discussion of topical Christian issues, and how the Bible can often help us to resolve problems. We have also formed a sub-committee to decide how to celebrate our **160th Chapel Anniversary**, and the **170th Anniversary of our Society in 2014**.

Ange Putland

LONDON ROAD, HORSHAM

We will be holding our Advent Lessons & Carols evening service on 1st December, and our Gift & Parade Service at the morning service on 8th December.

On 22nd December we will have a special Nativity Service in the morning when our Posada will join us. This is the second year for our Posada. During Advent these cute figures of Mary and Joseph (and their donkey) travel around Horsham to spend every night journeying to families connected to various Church activities including Toddlers and Messy Church. It is a great opportunity for people from across the Church family to get to know each other and share refreshments during the handover, when a candle is lit and some simple words said – something the children in the household like to do. Carols by Candlelight follows at 6.30 pm

On Christmas Eve we have our Christingle and children's carols at 4.00 pm, and on Christmas morning our service at 10.00 am.

Following a presentation at our recent Church Council it was agreed that we should pursue a new venture namely Emmaus Companions. In the story of the disciples walking on the road towards Emmaus, Jesus drew alongside as their companion. The aim will be to encourage that same kind of relationship – people journeying together and exploring their faith together in mutual trust and friendship. We hope to identify and commission a small team of people who will be released from other Church responsibilities in order to focus on building up relationships with the under-40 age group. These "companions" should not hold any major office in the Church, and be free from any other large responsibilities working and supporting each other as a team. We seek your prayerful support.

Lorna Manwaring

DORKING CHRISTIAN CENTRE

In the short time I've been working at the Centre, I have been amazed at the range of activities and the number of people who visit. There is Zumba, bridge, ballet and much more. Most recently Transition Dorking put on a traditional 'Pop up and play' session for children to play creatively using cardboard boxes, glue and material. I've never seen so many happy families and the dads especially seemed to enjoy it. What a lot of money you could save if cardboard boxes were on Christmas lists!

In November we are starting new activities to help encourage adults who feel stuck at home to be able to get out more, which will include crafts, exercise, social bridge and table tennis, with transport available through Dial-a-Ride.

Christmas lunch will be offered at the Centre on Christmas Day, with waiter service(!), including carols, games, the Queen's speech, entertainment, 'goody bags' and more. Contact us on 01306 886830 before 13th Dec if you are interested. Optional donations of £5 per head welcomed but not compulsory.

We would welcome your continued prayers for all our activities but most of all that we are able to continue to be a safe place where anyone, no matter who they are, can drop in and experience a warm welcome and, that most rare of things in this time-poor world, time to be listened to and valued.

Juliet Fuller

PARTRIDGE GREEN

Our recent Messy Church was well supported by many young children and mothers from the village and, under the leadership of Chris Currie, we all enjoyed an interesting morning learning of the life of Zacchaeus. Many activities, worship and lunch were well enjoyed.

With the arrival of Advent we look forward to many celebrations. Firstly our Christmas Toddler Service will be held on Thursday 5th December at 10.30 am, when youngsters from various village groups will join us for Christmas worship and refreshments following.

Our Village Café, which is run by members of the other village Churches, is now well established in our Church Hall, and is well supported by the young and old! The next ones are on Thursdays 12th December and 9th January at 2.30 pm.

Our Carol Service is planned for Saturday 21st December at 3.00 pm, with refreshments following, and our Christmas Day service will commence at 10.00 am.

An enjoyable Christmas to you all.

Alison James

Lest we forget in 2014

Does your Church have a war memorial? If so, the Editorial Team at **My Methodist History** website would like your help with their latest project at <http://www.mymethodisthistory.org.uk/> where they are recording all war memorials in Methodist Churches. Initially WWI memorials, obviously with next year's centenary in mind, but if your WW2 memorial is on the same plaque, then list those names too. Just follow the instructions on the website about how to create a page in **About Us - How to add a page** and enter photographs of your memorial with the list of names recorded, and anything known about them, especially family or Church stories and any photos. If you have any queries please contact mymethodisthistory@gmail.com

Angela Putland, Circuit Archivist

Dare to Dress Festive for Food Banks?



Last Christmas, Trussell Trust foodbanks gave emergency food to over 20,000 people in two weeks. This year that number is likely to triple. Despite this, thousands more people will go hungry in towns with no foodbank. That's why the charity is hoping to raise money by challenging people to hold a "festive dress down day" at work, or a festive coffee morning to help feed people in crisis this Christmas.

Take action to tackle food poverty in your community?

Pick a date and challenge your colleagues or friends to dress only in red and green for a day or for your Christmas party. For the more adventurous why not spice it up with some tinsel and a crazy Christmas hat! **Dressing festive is fun!** *Don't forget to ask your company if they do matched giving.* Ask your colleagues or friends to make a £2 donation, enough to pay for a hot meal for a foodbank client while waiting for a food parcel. Then email mike.partridge@trusselltrust.org and they'll send a poster to help promote the event or you can donate online at www.justgiving.com/dressfestive

Don't forget to send in your pictures. See website for details of where to send donations.

"Give 10% of Christmas spending to your local Food Banks" says Archbishop of Canterbury, in response to news of a shocking increase in the number of people relying on food handouts.



He's also warned cash-strapped shoppers to beware of overspending and plunging themselves into debt. A survey reported that many UK households intend to spend £822 on their seasonal celebrations - a rise of £54 on last year, spending an average £28.70 per present.

See website for Cobham Area at www.cobhamarea.foodbank.org.uk

Don't forget **Pitstop** in Leatherhead and Dorking 's Christmas lunch.

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 7th December and 4th January** from **10.00am to 11.00am**.

Please bring a brolly, warm coats and join us on **Tuesday 17th December at 7.00pm** for our annual Churches Together **Carol Singing** around Effingham village in aid of **CRISIS**, the homeless charity. We meet at the Methodist Church and finish around 9.00pm with mince-pies in our hall.



Christmas is really for children isn't it?

This comment, overheard during a conversation on a bus coming out of Sheffield, made me want to turn round and disagree with them, but I didn't have the courage!

Of course it is a wonderful magical time for children, and I have many happy memories of hanging up my stocking and my children's excitement as they opened up theirs, always the happiest time of the day because later on some toy had broken, they had eaten too much chocolate and were tired and grumpy. That isn't the real Christmas, but has become people's idea of what Christmas is all about.

I think my happiest memory is of trudging through the snow with a group from our little country chapel in Kent, up the drives of some of the posh houses and bringing the well-loved carols to them, telling of the birth of a baby in the most difficult conditions which brought joy to ordinary people and that is what Christmas is really about. It's good that the Free Trade Co. have produced a Real Advent calendar this year, containing a Christmas story booklet entitled "Christmas starts with Christ".

Freddie Jenkins

Leatherhead Pages

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

Time for Tea

A Christmas Celebration

with Music, Carols, Memories

Everyone Welcome



Friday, December 6th

2.30 - 4.30 pm

with Anne & Anthony Cairns

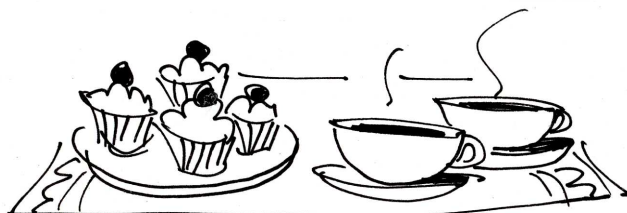
(Cello)

(Piano)

Leatherhead Methodist Church

If you need transport please contact

Margaret Meynen - 01372 372930



Your community bank

SurreySave
Credit Union



‘The fight against Pay Day Lenders & Loan sharks’

Seminar

Monday 2nd December

At

Christ Church (United Reformed) Church

Epsom Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ST

9.30am for 10am – 2pm

www.surreysave.co.uk Tel: 01932 339290

Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and regulated by the
Financial Conduct Authority and the PRA, Firm Reference No. 529447



'The Fight against Pay-day Lenders & Loan Sharks'

A Seminar on Poverty, Debt and the Credit Union

Monday, 2nd December 2013

Christ Church (United Reformed Church) Leatherhead

Agenda

9.30 - 10.00	Registration, tea or coffee (Fairtrade)
10.00 - 10.05	Welcome <i>Heather Ward, Board member, SSCU</i>
10.05 - 10.25	Loan sharks and illegal lenders <i>Ted Smith, Staff Member, SSCU</i>
10.25 - 10.40	The effects of poverty on health <i>Sue Bond, Retired Senior Social Worker</i>
10.40 - 10.55	Poverty in families <i>Jenny Moore, Manager, B@titude Leatherhead</i>
10.55 – 11.00	Quick update on the Leatherhead Food Bank
11.00 – 11.20	Coffee/tea break (Fairtrade)
11.20 – 12.00	How can the credit union help? <i>Michelle Boundy, Chief Executive, SSCU</i>
12.00 – 12.30	Questions
12.30 – 2.00	Discussion over sandwiches

LEATHERHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING MONTHS:

The meetings are held on the third Friday of each month, except as noted.

Location : The Letherhead Institute.

Time : 8.00pm. Coffee served from 7.30.

Admission : £2. Non-members are welcome.

-
- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| December 2013 | There will be no meeting this month. |
| 17th January 2014 | Lecture : <i>"Surrey History, 1760-1832 ; The Manning and Bray Bicentenary"</i> by Julian Pooley from the Surrey History Centre. |
| 21st February 2014 | Lecture : <i>"Leith Hill Place"</i> by Gabrielle Gale. |
| 21st March 2014 | Annual General Meeting followed by a lecture. |
| 11th April 2014 | (Note the date – NOT 18th April) <i>"Donald Campbell's Water Record"</i> by Donald Stevens. |



Men's Breakfasts (Doors open 8.00am.)

There will not be a December meeting

25th January at the Anglican Parish Hall

22nd February at the Catholic Church Hall

Cost £4. (Proceeds to speaker's nominated charity).



Next Messy Church:

Thursday 19th December
3.30pm to 5.30pm at





Leatherhead

Methodist Church

LMC

Diary - December



Sun 1st	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Lynda Russell with Holy Communion Informal 'Bring & Share' Advent Service - poems and thoughts
Mon 2nd	9.30am	Surrey Save Credit Union Seminar (<i>see page 26</i>)
Fri 6th	2.30pm	Time for Tea (ends 4.30pm) (<i>see page 25</i>)
Sun 8th	10.30am 4.00pm	Clair Fisher Ecumenical Christingle at the Parish Church (<i>No Evening Service at LMC</i>)
Sun 15th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Lynda Russell - Toy Service incl. Children's Nativity Play Rev. Paul Cockburn with Holy Communion
Thurs 19th	3.30pm	Messy Church (to 5.30pm)
Sat 21st	10.00am	Churches Together in the Town Centre - Carols with guest performers (to 1.00pm)
Sun 22nd	10.30am 6.30pm	Rob Pitt Ecumenical Carol Service - Parish Church
Christmas Eve		
Tues 24th	4.00pm 11.30pm	Crib Service at the Parish Church Midnight Communion at the Parish Church
Christmas Day		
Wed 25th	10.30am	Joint LMC/Christ Church Service at LMC - Rev. Lynda Russell
Sun 29th	10.30am	Joint LMC/Christ Church service at Christ Church - Dr. Graham Campling (<i>No evening service at LMC</i>)
January		
Fri 3rd	2.30pm	Time for Tea (to 4.30pm)
Sun 5th	10.30am 6.30pm	Joint LMC/Christ Church Covenant Service - Rev. Lynda Russell tba

Sam's Story

"The Sycamore Tree course was not only the most relevant and important part of my rehabilitation; it was, without a doubt, the vital step on my journey towards Jesus. My life was an emotionless, asocial, dark tale of criminality, heroin addiction and prison. I never concerned myself with the consequences of my lifestyle; my victims were faceless and without feelings. I failed to acknowledge their existence; they became mere objects to be ignored or perhaps hated. Before Jesus, I never experienced love.

"My childhood was one of poverty, violence and drug abuse. My mother was too busy battling her own demons to worry too much about me or my sisters. I quickly learned that I was better off alone. I isolated myself and soon found the warm intimacy of heroin addiction. I was totally addicted by the time I was 12.

"I quickly climbed the criminal ladder and am now serving an IPP for robbing a security van. Although I had spent 10 years in various prisons, I never contemplated a normal lifestyle. I had done a number of offending behaviour courses, but they had no real impact on me. Human logic is no match for Satan, and he had me firmly in a mentality of bitterness and hatred.

"The seed of the Sycamore Tree course took a while to germinate, but it flourished quickly. There was a lovely courageous woman who suffered from cerebral palsy. I experienced real compassion for this woman when she described the ordeal of being burgled. That could have been me. I could have caused all that pain, made this amazing woman cry like that. Suddenly the full weight of my sin and its consequences came crashing down on top of me. She became all my victims, all the people I have burgled, the guy that got pistol-whipped, his mother, his children. They all suddenly became real people and they all condemned me for what I had put them through. The Sycamore Tree course brought into vivid reality the impact of my crimes and my addiction, and it nearly broke me.

"With that self-awareness came self-hatred and a realisation of the person I had become, and I knew I could not continue like that. The Sycamore Tree course showed me that I needed to think and act in new ways. The facilitators of Sycamore Tree are always in my prayers. I will never forget the people I met there as they have changed my life. Thank you."

The above article comes from the summer 2012 edition of "Cellout" the magazine of "Prison Fellowship"

(www.prisonfellowship.org.uk).



"...all my achievements meant nothing in God's economy. No, the real legacy of my life was my biggest failure - that I was an ex-convict. My greatest humiliation - being sent to prison - was the beginning of God's greatest use of my life...only when I lost everything I thought made Chuck Colson a great guy had I found the true self God intended me to be and the true purpose of my life. It is not what we do that matters, but what a sovereign God chooses to do through us. God doesn't want our success; He wants us. He doesn't demand our achievements; He demands our obedience...Victory comes through defeat; Healing through brokenness; Finding self through losing self."

(Chuck Colson in "Loving God" (1987, Zondervan; page 25) and quoted in "Cellout").

Thanks to Bob Greenfield for arranging for this article to be published.



“All are Welcome”

This was the theme of the MWiB Southern Area Day at Crowborough, at the end of October. Kim and I went.

Using her faithful sat-nav to guide, Kim found the Church. We knew it was the right place because the notice board said so. The place was deserted! We began to think we had the wrong date. The big glass doors into the Church were locked. We could see no-one inside. Eventually we found a side door open and a lady sitting at a table inside said “Please sign in, the day charge is £3!” Oh dear, what a welcome!

It did improve, but was, sadly, poorly attended. It had not been very well advertised. Nevertheless, despite low numbers, there was the usual quality expected at a MWiB event. Rev. Sheila Foreman led the day, and she is a gifted leader of long standing.

The day began with worship (in the rather chilly, unheated Church) led by a local lady. The depth of feeling it contained left us all with a warm glow inside and able to forget the cold exterior. Sheila briefly introduced the theme before we split into discussion groups. Kim and I were together in the much warmer Church hall. Sheila had posed four questions to guide our thinking:

1. How welcoming is my Church?
2. Does the welcome go beyond a handshake?
3. Do we always treat visitors as honoured guests?
4. How far does our hospitality go?

None of this was new to me. At LMC we have had many opportunities to discuss how we welcome people and what we can do to improve. How some could say: “Well, I am not a steward/door steward, so it is not my concern.”? Surely ‘welcome’ and all it involves is a whole Church matter? We did hear other stories of magnificent welcomes received by ministers, local preachers and ordinary everyday folk. It was good to talk together.

For the afternoon session, we were all together in the hall. Still focussing on welcome, we were asked if some people were more welcome than others.

Sheila suggested that perhaps we were too inclined to pre-judge people who are 'different'. At LMC we do not often meet that problem (although I can think of some) so it was not a question that could be answered from experience. Sheila had a vast number of stories of occasions that had cropped up on her travels. At times, she was the one who was different, but was always made welcome, often as 'an honoured guest'. Worship rounded off the day, with a reminder that Christ's invitation was to all.

A reminder of the aims of Methodist Women in Britain:

- Bringing women together to know Christ and make him known.
- Encouraging, equipping and enabling women to serve God in the Church, the community and the world.
- Connecting women in Britain with women worldwide.

Two dates for your diary:

- Saturday 15th March at Tonbridge. District Day 2014, with a visit from Linda Crossley, MWiB National President - all the way from Yorkshire.
- Friday 25th April (from 4.00pm) to Sunday 27th April (ends 4.00pm). Annual weekend MWiB get-together at Swanwick. Leader and Key-note speaker, Rev. Barbara Glasson, Team Leader at Touchstone in Bradford. Always popular - book early!

More info.: www.mwib.org.uk

Jean Plant



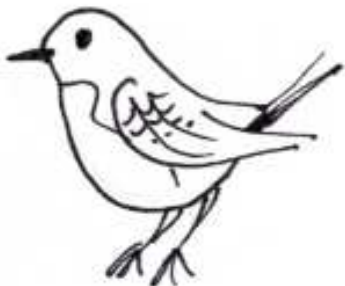
Wednesday House Fellowship

During the winter months the Wednesday House Fellowship will meet on a Friday morning. Everyone very welcome.

For more information please contact Norma Shaw on 01372 274533 or email norma.shaw@talktalk.net

Monday House Group

The Monday House Group meets on alternate Mondays. Contact Carol Stoves 01372 377125 for details. Everyone very welcome.



LMC Family News

Our thoughts and prayers are particularly with...

...May Norris, and her family in the Philippine disaster area, and Ron Platt who is seriously ill at home in Pachesham Park.

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

Used Postage Stamps

A reminder that we still collect used postage stamps, for *Lepra* and *Guide Dogs for the blind*.

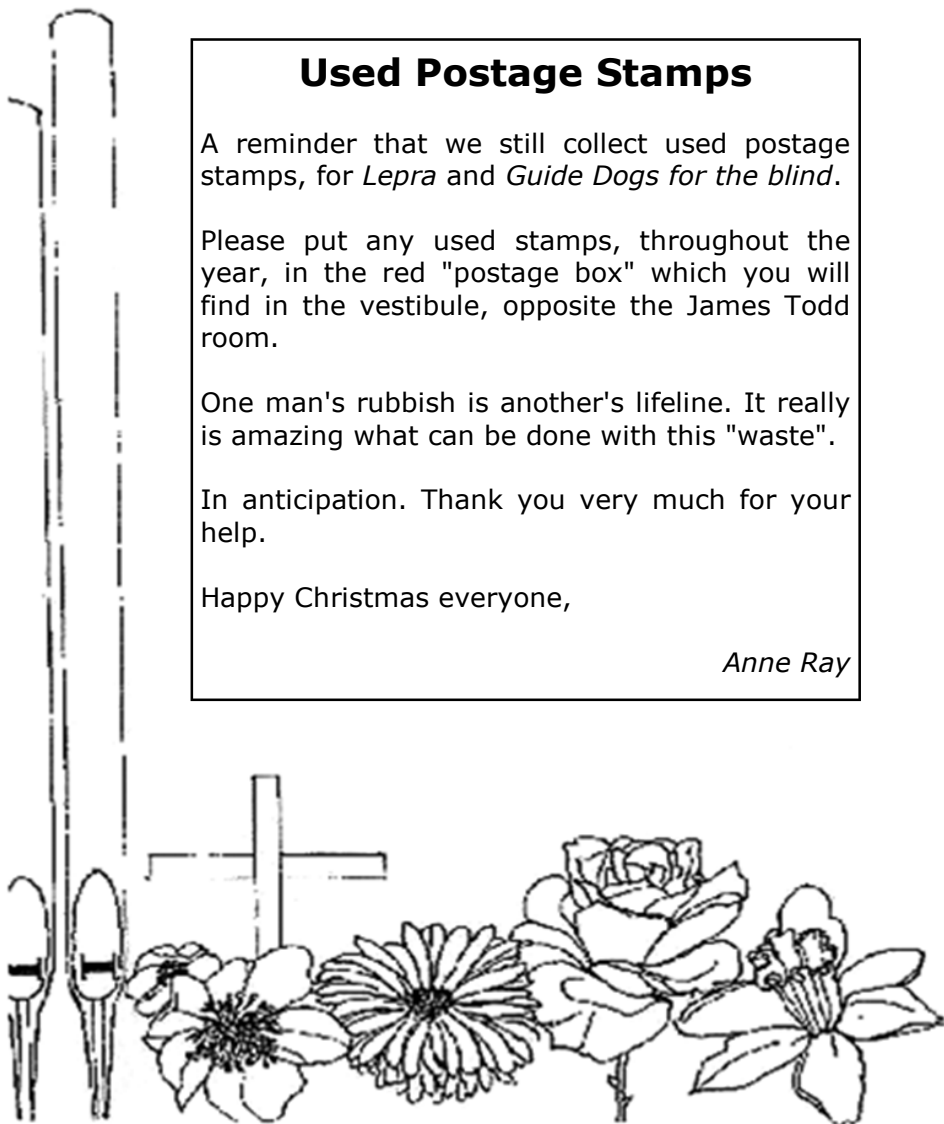
Please put any used stamps, throughout the year, in the red "postage box" which you will find in the vestibule, opposite the James Todd room.

One man's rubbish is another's lifeline. It really is amazing what can be done with this "waste".

In anticipation. Thank you very much for your help.

Happy Christmas everyone,

Anne Ray



Christ Church Diary - December



Sun	1st	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Robert Blows with Holy Communion Informal Bring & Share Advent Service - poems & thoughts - at LMC
Mon	2nd	9.30am	Surrey Save Credit Union Seminar (<i>see page 26</i>)
Fri	6th	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC (<i>see page 25</i>)
Sun	8th	10.30am 4.00pm	Rev. Lynda Russell - Parade/Gift Service Uniting Churches Christingle Service at the Parish Church
Sun	15th	10.30am 6.30pm	Carol Service - Choir Evening Service at LMC - Rev. Paul Cockburn
Thurs	19th	3.30pm	Messy Church at LMC (to 5.30pm)
Sun	22nd	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. John Whitton Ecumenical Carol Service at the Parish Church
Tues	24th	11.30pm	Midnight Communion at the Parish Church
Wed	25th	10.30am	Joint Christmas Day service at LMC - Rev. Lynda Russell
Sun	29th	10.30am 6.30pm	Joint Service at Christ Church: Dr. Graham Campling No evening service
January			
Fri	3rd	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC (<i>see page 25</i>)
Sun	5th	10.30am 6.30pm	Joint Christ Church/LMC Covenant Service at LMC - Rev. Lynda Russell tba



A Christ Church Update

A Church Meeting was held on 27th October after the morning service, the first one chaired by our minister, Rev. Lynda Russell. Here are just some of the matters discussed:

Church Life: We still await the CPL architects' report on proposals for the future of Leatherhead Methodist Church and Christ Church as we consider coming together. Meanwhile the Elders, Stewards and Steering Group have met to review our life together. Some joint morning services have been planned alternating between the two Churches and Lynda has written a letter outlining this to each congregation.

Elders' elections are due to take place and we hope to see some new faces on the Eldership.

Dorothy Poulton has had to resign from the Eldership and as Church Secretary due to ill health. We thank Dorothy for all her administrative efforts and hard work for this Church. For over five years she has liaised with the wider URC at Synod and Area level along with being involved with Churches Together In Leatherhead, the Covenanting Churches and the five Churches in the United Pastorate. She has also encouraged our giving to Commitment for Life and our support for Fairtrade. We will greatly miss her organisational skills. Having recently resigned from Synod and Area responsibilities, Jeanette Chamberlain has agreed to take on the Church Secretary's role.

Finance: It was agreed to make a financial contribution to the cost of the LMC Administrator.

The Christ Church Ministry and Mission contribution for 2014 was accepted. The fund raising for Church projects will continue until 31 March.

As the Holiday Club has ended it was agreed that the excess funds will be transferred to Messy Church.

Jeanette Chamberlain

Christ Church Family News



We are very sorry to announce the death of Eric Brown on 23rd October. He had been living with his daughter Moira for the last few months. We send her and her family our sincere condolences. We give thanks for Eric's long life and his faithful attendance at Christ Church over many years.

We remember Eric in our prayers and all friends who are unwell and those who have been bereaved or who are suffering any stress.

Anne Cairns





We are very sad to inform you that **Eric Brown** died on Wednesday 23rd October, at his daughter Moira's house in Long Clawson, Leicestershire.

Following a fall in April when he fractured his hip, Eric struggled to get back to his normal independent life and came to live with us in June. He was 93 years when he died – just three weeks off his 94th birthday. In the last few weeks he had become increasingly frail as the prostate cancer he had took hold, but he continued with great dignity and strength until the end.

In accordance with his wishes the funeral will take place on Monday 9th December 2013 at 11.45am at Randalls Road Crematorium, Leatherhead followed by a Thanksgiving Service at St Giles Church, Ashted, Surrey at 12.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to Royal British Legion Weston-on-the-Green (Airborne Signals) or The Horse Trust can be sent to L Hawkins & Sons, Highlands Road, Leatherhead KT22 8ND Tel: 01372 372435.

*Moira and Martin Hart
2 Old Manor Farm
West End, Long Clawson
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire LE14 4PE
Tel: 01664 823551
email: moira@dewpointmarketing.co.uk*

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 -
Sue Friend 01372 813464

**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.com

Contact: Senior Steward -
Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



United Pastorate Ministers

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E-mail:

kimp_822@hotmail.com