

the Link

**The Methodist Church of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

February 2011



Family Link



A Warm Welcome to...

...the Wild, Edgley and Davies families who have been worshipping with us recently at LMC.



Our thoughts and prayers are with...

...all those folk who are, or have recently been suffering with colds or 'flu.



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All copy for the March issue to the editor by 15th February



The Ministers Write...



From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear friends,

How fast the last six months have gone since we moved to Cobham. When I reflect back on the time we have spent together in these last few months I cannot help but feel a warmth deep inside as I consider the new friends that we have made, the challenges that we have faced and the constant source of support we have encountered in those around us.

I have enjoyed the richness of having one foot either side of the door so to speak, with one foot in Methodism and the other in the URC. The similarities are extensive but there remains some distinction between the two and a heritage that both can draw great strength from. There have been moments in both traditions where we have taken models of one form or another and entwined them together so that all may benefit from this partnership. For instance, being invited to hold the covenant service in the URC as a joint venture was an experience greatly valued, challenging all those present to recommit themselves to God. It led to some thought provoking conversations afterwards which testified to the gravitas such a service holds, inviting those of us in the URC to participate in something which is not within our own tradition. Yet recommitting our lives, allowing ourselves to be used for God's purpose is something every follower of Christ will wrestle with on a daily basis as we discern how God speaks to us and what our response will be to such an invitation.

Our challenge will always be to encounter Christ and fulfil his calling upon us and when I reflect upon this over the last six months I have found ministry in Cobham and Effingham engaging and rising to the challenges that we face as church in diverse communities. As we prepare for a wide range of differing events in the coming months from Elders/Stewards away days - days where we consider how best to serve the community and opportunities to contemplate biblical material, we search for the voice of Christ in and amongst our gatherings. Recommitting ourselves to working for God, exploring new avenues in which the Kingdom may come just that little bit closer so that we and others may experience the gracious touch of God in everyday living.

continued on the next page

I realise that after six months of being a 'fully fledged minister', the more I learn, the more I realise how little I know and how much more there is still to learn. I am sure as more of Christ is revealed to us in the coming weeks, we begin to realise that although we learn something more, there is still so much more to understand. May our desire to come ever more closer overwhelm the inclination that we have all the answers neatly parcelled up, so that our eyes may be opened to see more clearly and our minds understand more deeply.

With every blessing,

Kim

From Rev. Ian Howarth

Dear friends,

I write this in the middle of January on what I am told is 'the most depressing day of the year'. The joy of Christmas and New Year is over, the weather is dull and dreary and spring seems a long time away. Some churches will have celebrated Candlemas on the 2nd February, (hence the picture on the front of the Link), but that is not part of our tradition, and in terms of the Christian year we are now into the Sundays after Epiphany, which some church calendars call 'ordinary time'. It seems there is little to get excited about. This year with Easter being so late, it can feel that we really are in for the long haul.

While our personal spiritual journeys will not necessarily match the feeling of the seasons, or even the Christian year, these sort of periods remind us that there are times when we have to work out what it means to be faithful through the hard times. In some ways it is more difficult to sustain our spiritual life in periods of dullness and routine than times of deep sadness and tragedy. I have found that when people map their spiritual highs and lows, they are often most aware of God at times of joy and excitement and also at times of deep sorrow, but it is those flat times in the middle when spiritual life has been more difficult.

It is in such flat times that our spiritual discipline becomes important. As an enthusiastic young Christian, I used to decry spiritual discipline. I would say: 'I pray when I feel like it' and that was frequently. As I got older, caught up more in routine and the ordinariness of the day-to

-day, I realised that I was praying less and I had to work out a discipline of prayer. Such routine prayer doesn't always make me feel the presence of God in an exciting way, but there is a sense in which it seeps into the blood stream and hopefully orients my life in a more Godward direction.

Just as in the natural world, during this 'dull' time the seeds are germinating under the earth and the buds are beginning to develop on the trees, in our spiritual life these times can be really important for allowing spiritual growth that is not based on the extremes, but on God's faithful presence with us in ways that allow us to develop new understandings and indeed our own faithfulness.

The theme of the Sunday bible readings through this period is 'discipleship' and as we seek to be 'growing disciples of Jesus Christ', I pray that through faithfulness in prayer and our worship this period will not be a dull or flat one for us spiritually, but a time when we recognise God at work deep within us to inspire us in lives lived as disciples of Jesus our Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Ian

Pastorate Evening Services

At a meeting of representatives of the five churches in the Leatherhead, Cobham and Effingham URC/Methodist Pastorate, it was decided that we would inaugurate a joint evening service for the five churches on the second Sunday of the month.

It will be jointly led by Rev Ian Howarth and Rev Kim Plumpton, and will be hosted in turn by the different churches. We hope it will be a time to deepen our fellowship and give us a sense of belonging to and supporting one another across the area.

The style of the services will be prayerful and reflective.

The first service is on 13th February at Effingham at 6.30p.m. and then at Cobham URC on 13th March.



Cobham

Cobham Diary - February



Sun	6th	11.00am	Mrs Lavinia Hicks
Sat	12th	2.30pm	Platinum Service
Sun	13th	11.00am 6.30pm	Mr John Oborn United Pastorate Service at Effingham - Rev Ian Howarth & Rev Kim Plumpton
Tues	15th	7.30pm	House Fellowship at the Manse
Thurs	17th	8.00pm	Church Council
Sun	20th	11.00am	Rev Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion
Sun	27th	11.00am	Rev Val Ogden

Lent Groups

Advance Notice: Starting on 10th March at 7.30pm, we shall be joining with Cobham URC for weekly Lent Group meetings.

Cobham and Effingham Together

Social Committee at the Cobham URC Manse
at 7.30pm on 10th February.

All welcome from Cobham MC, Cobham URC and Effingham MC.

This is for anyone who has any ideas on how we can come together;
not just for worship, but also fellowship and fun.

Using a Christmas Tree to Build an Ark

Each year at Cobham we ask our members to spend a little less on those (family and friends) who have plenty in order to give something to those in need, and each year there is something to hang on the Christmas tree to symbolise the gift. This year, just at the time when we were discussing where the gifts should go, there were serious floods in Cornwall, so we had arks to hang on the tree. Thanks to the generosity of members (and visitors) we have been able to send £250 to the St Austell Christian Resources and Education Trust, one of whose objectives is to bring relief from suffering to local people.

The scale of the flood was as nothing compared with what we have seen recently in Australia and Brazil, but those affected still suffered anxieties, trauma, loss and shock, and we have been able to help build an ark of help and protection. As a footnote, the Methodist minister to whom the donation has gone was also a trustee for the Boscastle Flood in 2004. He expects that when he next moves, his new church members will start building arks as soon as he is appointed.

DC



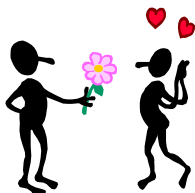


Effingham

Effingham Diary - February



Sun	6th	10.00am	Rev Kim Plumptre with Holy Communion
Tues	8th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the R. C. Hall
Wed	9th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Thurs	10th	2.00pm	Bible Study Group with Kim in Church Hall
Sun	13th	10.00am	Mr Rhys Frost
		6.30pm	Rev Ian Howarth & Rev Kim Plumptre - United Pastorate Service at Effingham
Thurs	17th	8.00pm	House Group at Freddie's
Sun	20th	10.00am	Mrs Clair Fisher
Tues	22nd	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the R.C. Hall
Wed	23rd	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Thurs	24th	2.00pm	Bible Study Group with Kim in Church Hall
Sun	27th	10.00am	Mrs Lavinia Hicks



Please note ALL morning services
at the Chapel are now at 10 o'clock

Dates to celebrate this month?

None according to my old list, so please forgive me if anyone has been forgotten. Remember I need your help to update our records of birthdays and important anniversaries.



Dates for your diaries:

Bible Study Group...



...meets with **Kim** in the Church Hall at 2pm to study the Gospel of Matthew for about one and a half hours on 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. Freddie's evening house-group meets at 8pm on 3rd Thursday of each month and also studies Matthew.



Coffee Morning

Effingham will be holding a **Coffee Morning** in aid of **World Missions & MRDF (Mali)** at the Chapel on **12th February from 10.00am to 12noon**. All offers of cakes, things for bring & buy stall and help on the day will be gratefully received by **Joan Hart**.



Pastorate Evening Services

United Pastorate Evening Services will be held at 6.30pm led by **Rev Kim Plumpton and Rev Ian Howarth** on the second Sunday of every month, alternating between each church in our Pastorate. Effingham hosts the first on Sunday 13th February then Cobham URC will host the next one on Sunday 13th March.



Lent Lunches

Our **Lent Lunches** in Effingham will start on **Ash Wednesday** which is not until 9th March this year as Easter is so late. The first will be held at St Lawrence Church Hall. Further details next month.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Women from around the world will celebrate on **Friday 4th March**. This year's service has been written by the women of **Chile**, and is entitled 'How many loaves have you?'. The Republic of Chile occupies a long, narrow strip of land 2,640 miles long and 110 miles wide, stretching from Peru to Antarctica. Of course it has recently hit the headlines for the miracle rescue of 33 miners trapped underground for 69 days at the San Jose mine in Copiapo, in Chile's Atacama desert. The rescue was viewed by 1 billion people on live TV around the world and many were humbled by the obvious Christian faith of these men and their families at Camp Hope.

It is a land of incredible contrasts, but sadly it also has the highest incidence of domestic violence in Latin America and most women suffer from discrimination in some form or other, although equal opportunities are being pursued. Despite the economic growth shown in the past 20 years, the gap between rich and poor is very wide. Further information and resources can be found on the website at www.wwdp-natcomm.org

Women's World Day of Prayer Services on Friday 4th March:

St. Lawrence Church, Effingham at 10.30am.

The Speaker is John Pontifex from **Aid to Church in need** (acnuk.org) an organisation which helps persecuted and oppressed Christians around the World.



The Church of the Holy Spirit, Fetcham at 7.30pm

Speaker yet to be confirmed

Miracles and the simple things of life

Do you get “round-robin” emails, forwarded by a friend for us to read, then pass on to another friend? Sometimes amusing, sometimes just plain irritating, or thought-provoking like this one I received recently.

A group of students were asked to list their Seven Wonders of the World. After some disagreement and discussion they came up with:- 1) Egypt's Great Pyramids, 2) The Taj Mahal, 3) The Grand Canyon, 4) The Panama Canal, 5) The Empire State Building, 6) St Peter's Basilica, and 7) China's Great Wall. But there was one student who had real problems with her list. There were simply too many wonders! “Read out what you have written” said the teacher, “Maybe we can help!”. So the student started her list. “My wonders are:- to See, to Hear, to Touch, to Feel, to Smell, to Laugh, to Love.....” There was total silence in the room. You could have heard a pin drop!

A gentle reminder that the most precious things in life cannot be built by hand, or bought by man. Things we so often overlook as being simple and ordinary and take for granted are truly wondrous. As we drift away from Christmas it is sometimes difficult, if not impossible for us to fully appreciate God's love for us in sending Jesus into our world. By now we have probably all attended a Covenant service. Often a very emotional event, because of its implications for the future and the memories of the past. We realise our frailty and limitations, as we seek to follow Jesus more and re-commit ourselves to him. It will take daily miracles for us to live faithful to our Covenant, and this is where we must trust that God will be with us. He will not leave us to do it on our own. Let us trust, more than we have ever done before, that ‘God will provide’ as we meet together to worship him, study his word and walk the walk with him. He will not let us down, how could he? We mean so much to him, for he has created us, and this wonderful world and redeemed it by his son!

‘God so loved the world that he gave us his only Son so that everyone who believes in him should not be lost but should have everlasting life’. *St John's Gospel chapter 3 verse 16.*

Comparethebible.com

Sometimes advertising campaigns create a character that takes on a life of its own, much bigger than the original product! Think of Coca-Cola and Santa, the jolly man in the red suit, or Ronald Macdonald, or Roland Rat who “saved” TV-am. More recently a bulldog and a meerkat are fronting media campaigns for car insurance. Churchill’s catchphrase of “Oh! Yes!” and Sergei’s squeaky cry of “Seemples!” have entered our daily language. That famous meerkat, Aleksandr Orlov, even has a best-selling biography, “A Simples Life” which became a popular Christmas stocking-filler. Yes, you’ve guessed! I bought one for Dave and he got one for me! Great minds... Ho! Ho! Fortunately one of Dave’s work colleagues is meerkat mad, so that book has found a new home.

This year is the 400th anniversary of the King James version of the Bible. Much loved and familiar to some but considered “old-fashioned” and formal to others, it was the third official translation into English, the first being commissioned by Henry VIII in 1539. William Tyndale, a 16th century scholar, translator and Protestant martyr, first printed the New Testament in English in 1525, having been inspired by an illegally obtained copy of Luther’s German translation.

The Bible continues to be the most translated book in the world, and is available in whole or in part to some 98 per cent of the world’s population in a language in which they are fluent. The **Bible Society** exists because millions lack the Bible in a language they can understand, in a form they can use or at a price they can afford. At the same time millions still have no understanding of the Bible’s value for them and their communities.

So a huge raft of Christian organisations, including Wycliffe and the Methodist Church, set up **Biblefresh**, an ecumenical website, to encourage churches to celebrate the scriptures and focus on the Bible in fresh life-changing ways, hopefully creating a new movement with “Bible Champions” as advisors and spokespeople. So no meerkats but lots of inspired ideas which should encourage us to really value the Bible and support events that are being planned.

An evening in the Galapagos



with Andrew and Emma Walker

on Saturday 5th February at 7.30pm

Catholic Church Hall, Lower Road, Effingham

See the wildlife as it really is
through their photos and videos

Refreshments - Donations welcome for Age UK Surrey
(formerly Age Concern Surrey)

Please RSVP to Gill Walker 01372 457987 for catering

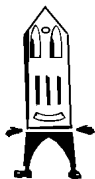


Healthy Eating for Men

The 'fit as a fiddle' project and Age UK Surrey are offering a healthy eating course for men - every Tuesday, 1.30pm-3.00pm from 5th April to 24th May 2011 at Westcott Hall Reading Rooms, Institute Rd, Westcott, Dorking RH4 3NW.

Living more healthily improves your quality of life. You'll feel better, sleep better and increase your resistance to stroke, heart disease, high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes.

**For details contact Age UK Surrey on 13
01483 446623
alex.welford@ageuksurrey.org.uk**



Leatherhead

Leatherhead Diary - February



Sun	6th	10.30am	Rev Ian Howarth - Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Rev Ian Howarth
Sun	13th	10.30am	Rev Frank Smith
		6.30pm	United Pastorate Service at Effingham - Rev Ian Howarth & Rev Kim Plumpton
Thur	17th	3.30pm	Messy Church (ends 5.30pm)
		8.00pm	Church Council
Sun	20th	10.30am	Rev Ian Howarth
		6.30pm	Rev Ian Howarth - Holy Communion
Sat	26th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast Fellowship at Christ Church URC
Sun	27th	10.30am	Mr David Cappitt
		6.30pm	New Fire - Rev Ian Howarth

THE CARNIVAL BAND and the METHODIST CHURCH SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Present

Sing Lustily and with Good Courage

A weekend workshop exploring the hymns of Charles Wesley
and his contemporaries

For singers and instrumentalists (number of places limited to 50)

United Church, Crowborough, Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th March 2011

Full details can be found in the leaflets at the back of the Church

Leatherhead Ecumenical Lent Groups

Lent has always been a time to put special emphasis on our personal and spiritual development and Christians often choose this time to take special actions such as fasting, reading, additional giving or following a course of study. So, during Lent we shall again have Ecumenical groups following a York Course (www.yorkcourses.co.uk) called:

RICH INHERITANCE - Jesus' legacy of love

Jesus didn't write a will. He left no written instructions. He didn't seem to have a plan. At the end, as he hung dying on the cross, almost all of his followers had abandoned him. By most worldly estimates his ministry was a failure. Nevertheless, Jesus' message of reconciliation with God lived on. It is the central message of the Bible. With this good news his disciples changed the world. How did they do it? What else did Jesus leave behind – what is his 'legacy of love'?

This course addresses these questions.

- Session 1 – An empty tomb
- Session 2 – A group of people
- Session 3 – A story
- Session 4 – A power
- Session 5 – A meal

There will again be a number of Ecumenical Lent groups and you will be able to sign up for a group on a list in your church until 27th February or contact Linda Hauxwell on 370308 or e-mail: [**lindahauxwell@btopenworld.com**](mailto:lindahauxwell@btopenworld.com)

Around 120 people participated in Lent groups last year and many went on to join small home groups. I would recommend these Lent groups to you.

Linda Hauxwell

Winter Bonus

It might still be early January but today the sky is a bright clear blue, not a cloud in sight, and the sun is streaming down. Not exactly sun-bathing weather but a great lift to the winter weary spirits and just right for a walk round the garden to see what's what. Surely the snow, ice, hard frosts and bitter winds must have taken a toll?

Surprisingly not. The pigeons had feasted on the more exposed cabbages and some other creature had ripped up a few onions but that was soon solved with a bit of extra protection. The little pond, which only a short time ago looked frozen solid, is now ice free and a few fish could even be seen swimming around the bottom. A mental note was made to secure the netting so that the fish did not become a tasty meal for the herons.

Bulbs, established and new, were springing up everywhere. In the front garden a few brave snowdrops were in flower. Winter pansies had their smiley faces to the sun, and the jasmine on the fence was a haze of pale yellow. Hellebores, stripped of the untidy big leaves to encourage growth, were actually growing away with fresh vigour and more flowers than before. And in a little corner there was a splash of colour made by buttercup yellow polyanthus and some red and cream bi-coloured ones.



In the greenhouse, unheated, the only extra protection given to the fuchsias and geraniums over-wintering, was a couple of layers of garden fleece thrown over them. Peeping underneath, new growth could already be seen on the fuchsias and six or so geraniums were defiantly in flower!

As I sit and write, I can even see a small dark red rose bud, and a tiny wren is among the leaves pecking away at some luscious find. There are wagtails busy on the driveway, but what they have found I just don't know. All through the bad weather the hedge sparrows have given us great pleasure as they flit from hedge to feeders hung in the plum tree. Ground feeders have turned over the debris under the big fir tree. The back garden pair of robins have been around all the time as have the front garden pair. And should either intrude into the other's territory, there is a great to-do and ruffled feathers.

I cannot help but be amazed, not only this year but every year, at Nature's ability to survive come what may. The words of the children's hymn "All things bright and beautiful"₁₆ may seem simple, but oh!, so true.

Jean Plant

Dorking Camerata

The Blossoming Vine

St Joseph's Catholic Church, Dorking
Sunday 27th February at 7.00pm

In their first concert of 2011, Camerata perform settings of words from Song of Songs, that most rapturously sensuous celebration of love, human and divine. Padilla's Missa Ego Flos Campi forms the backbone of the concert, being interspersed with settings by early composers such as Bouzignac, Clements non Papa, de Rore and of course Palestrina, with twentieth century composers being represented by Walton, Willan and Skempton.

Dorking Camerata is proud to have as their guest conductor, **Eamonn Dougan** - assistant conductor of the Sixteen. As a consort singer he appears regularly with other groups such as I Fagiolini and Cardinal's Musick. He also has an established reputation on the operatic stage.

Here is an opportunity to put aside the cold days of winter and luxuriate in the balmy warmth of the words of the blossoming vine.

'The fig tree puts forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.'

**Tickets, price £12, concessions £10, family ticket £33,
available on the door, or from Elizabeth Dobson
Tel. 01306 881 479 emddh7@hotmail.com**

Report on Christ Church/LMC Joint Meeting: 22nd January 2011 - FORWARD TOGETHER?

About sixty people from the two churches met with Rev Ian Howarth to consider how we go forward in mission together, sharing a minister, and being in a Covenant relationship with each other and the parish.

The purpose of the day was to see what level of shared life we should be seeking to develop in the short and longer terms.

We heard reports on the respective church meetings held in September and October about where we saw ourselves in five years' time.

We looked at what we shared:

1. a minister
2. sponsorship of Trinity School (with the parish)
3. membership of the Leatherhead Youth Project (with the parish)
4. shared employment of Jane Smith as Family and Children's worker, and through that support for Messy Church and the Holiday Club (with the parish)

continued on the next page

We looked at our common goals and vision as churches, using the line 'growing disciples of Jesus Christ' as a guide. We noted our shared desire to live out and proclaim the gospel, and noted that:

1. We shared a commitment to serve the same town
2. We shared a common approach to theology and doctrine
3. We shared similar social values
4. We valued community within and beyond the church
5. We valued lay-leadership
6. We had non-liturgical worship
7. We were both non-conformist churches

We looked at things that we do differently:

1. Communion (coming forward/staying in seats)
2. Music styles and approach to contemporary worship
3. Approach to formality in dress and action
4. Age profile (relative sizes of CCs Children's Church and LMC's Discoverers)
5. Decision making processes
6. Importance of the circuit to Methodists, (Ian is not minister of LMC, but a minister of the Dorking and Horsham circuit, deputed to serve LMC)
7. Length of terms of office for senior lay posts: Senior Church steward at LMC serves for two years, Lay Leader and Church Secretary at CC for much longer
8. Spirituality: perhaps more personal and evangelical at LMC, and more intellectual and cerebral at CC
9. Organisation of preachers

There was a recognition that we mustn't sweep differences under the carpet; we need to recognise them, own them, see them as creative, and work through the ones that could cause conflict.

We considered the advantages and disadvantages of growing closer together:

Advantages:

1. Sharing of resources and gifts
2. Freeing up of people for more creative responses to the gospel
3. Critical mass of some groups gives them more energy
4. Two different, complementary ways of doing things feed off each other

Disadvantages:

1. Different approaches to various things could cause conflict and negative stereotyping
2. The energy in making the changes would be better spent on developing our own mission

3. Means we become inward rather than outward facing
4. Important and valued traditions will be lost
5. Some people are not going to be happy and will leave
6. Anglicans get left out?

We considered what level of togetherness we were aiming for:

1. Sharing things together, as we do now, but no more
2. More joint activities to rationalise our use of resources:

We considered:

- a. Magazine, (further consultation needed)
- b. Sunday evenings, (discussions to be had with the two evening congregations)
- c. Social events (agreed)
- d. Shared community/mission project (agreed, with LYP being the project we would work on raising money together for the rest of this year)
- e. Shared teaching and more integrated house groups (agree: with a programme related to 'Christian Life and the Bible' to be launched after Easter, with House group notes, sermons related to it, and a monthly course led by the minister: people from both churches not already in a House group to be encouraged to join one)

An end in itself or a prelude to more?: There was agreement that this would be a prelude to more.

While points 3 and 4 below were tabled it was felt that while there were thoughts around these issues, we needed to be open to the Holy Spirit to guide us on them as we worked closer together.

3. Serious discussion of greater sharing at an organisational level: one church structure, two sites
4. Sharing a building: which one???

Next steps:

1. To continue specific discussions about bringing the magazines and evenings services together, as noted above
2. To form a group to pray for the process of growing together
3. To invite Peter Southcombe the Synod Regeneration officer to visit us and give us an outsider's objective view of the situation, particularly in terms of our buildings and their relationship to the community we seek to serve
4. To support the Covenanted churches away day on 12th June with the parish, with Rev Stuart Thomas the former ecumenical officer for the diocese.
5. To find ways of continuing the morning's conversations that involve the widest possible group of people

Leatherhead Youth Project



BFree is open every day after school

Weekly Triumph cell group for Year 7+

Contact jay@leatherheadyouthproject.com for more details

Sunday 13 February Triumph AM

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

**Sunday 13 February
KNOW Love?**

6:30-8pm @ BFree for young people in Year 7+

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

Sunday 27 February Triumph AM

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

Also look out for:

Duke of Edinburgh scheme

MTB trip

Miss Bliss for year 7 & 8 girls

contact Lucie@leatherheadyouthproject.com for more details

www.leatherheadyouthproject.com



KNOW is a brand spanking new event which is starting in January in place of Triumph PM. The young people who have been involved with Triumph PM are making amazing advances on their Christian journey and have highlighted a need for a session which is aimed specifically at their age range. The sessions will be designed to 'meet them where they're at' and will be delivered in a relevant and up-to-date fashion that will appeal to teenagers, with the hope that the young people will invite their friends.

KNOW will be on the second Sunday of the month at BFree starting at 6.30pm and finish at 8pm. The first session is on 9 January and is called KNOW DIRECTION? and we will be exploring what it means to have direction in our lives and where we get direction from and how this affects our dreams and aspirations for our lives.



The youth alpha group has been meeting at Jay and Carol's house for the last 10 weeks. The course has covered a number of interesting and challenging sessions such as Who is Jesus? Why did he die? and How can I have faith? The young people have enjoyed sharing a meal together before the sessions and now the course has finished, they have decided to continue meeting as a cell group to continue their journey with God.

Please remember the young people in your prayers, and pray that they will continue to grow in Christ.

Jay Bristow

A Day of Double Unity

Sunday 2nd January for me was a day of double unity. It was the day on which I was confirmed and received into membership of the Church and Leatherhead Methodist Church (LMC) in particular. But more than that - it was the first time that we all joined together in the annual Covenant Service with our friends from Christ Church.

The first part of the double unity was mine. On that day we had present three groups of people. Eileen, Pauline and Mark represented my past. I knew them all at Epsom Methodist Church (EMC) where I was a member some fifty years or so ago. Around that time Michael Meech was our minister. Why you may ask, if I was a member at EMC am I now joining LMC? That is a reasonable question but is another story. My present was represented by all my new friends at LMC who gave me such a genuine and friendly welcome in July 2010. If your welcome and genuine friendships not have continued, then I might not have been here now. So you see it's your fault that you have to put up with me! The third group who represent my future were those who as yet I do not know - our brothers and sisters from Christ Church. I know one or two of the men - their faces were familiar from Men's Breakfast. The service was therefore a united gathering of friends who represented my past, present and hopefully my future.

It is now just over two years now since I lost Jean in December 2008 after forty seven years of marriage. We met at the EMC youth club at the time when Pauline and Mark were members. Why I drifted away is another story. It was just over a year ago now when I did a U-turn and found God, or to be more precise when I was led to God. It was this time last year that I realised that I needed to find a spiritual home and I first went to St Mary's in Fetcham. Paul Boughton is their Rector. It was he who conducted Jean's cremation. I wandered between churches for a while until early July 2010 - I only had one other church to go to after LMC - Christ Church. Every time I intended to move on from LMC something happened to keep me for a while longer. During the past two years my life has been filled with coincidence after coincidence. It was several months before I realised that they were not coincidences at all but all part of a plan to which I was not privy. I never got as far as going to Christ Church - not in the same way that I visited other churches.

The second part of the double unity was I felt ours just as much as I felt it was mine. It was the first occasion in which a Covenant Service was shared with our brothers and sisters from Christ Church. My hope, and I am sure the hope of us all, is that there will be many occasions during the year when we can meet to worship together and indeed meet for recreational purposes as well whether it be at any of God's homes either at LMC, Christ Church or the Parish Church or indeed any other place within the Leatherhead district. After all, we are all members of the same family.

It was a privilege to be part of the service on 2nd January when I was able to be joined in unity with my friends from the past, present and future and in a united service of special significance with our friends from Christ Church. I often remember Ian's words on the morning of Saturday 25th September 2010. "The Church is not in crisis - it is at a time of great opportunity." In many ways I feel that the same is true of my life - the past two years have been two traumatic years for me - the first was to come to terms with and adjust to Jean's loss and the second was to come to terms with being led to and accepting God after so many years of disbelief. I have accepted Jean's loss and am able to talk quite openly about both her and her illness - obviously after all the years we were together I have not forgotten her nor will I ever forget her but as the world moves on so have I - my life is no longer in crisis - I have found God - I am finding a new way of life - a life with God in which all I want to do is to build friendship and happiness with others - I have found so many good friends at LMC - I have other interests elsewhere - if ever I feel that life is not being fair to me then all I need do is think of the sick both young and old, the elderly and the infirm whom I meet each and every week in two different places and then I realise who perhaps life is not being fair to. My life is no longer empty but full - I feel therefore that I am at a time of great opportunity - a time when perhaps I am able to call on my past experiences of life and perhaps in some small way try to help others with theirs.

I have not mentioned in what way my life has changed or what the influence of God has had on it. This was not an oversight. It has been quite deliberate. When something is new to you then you tend to keep it to yourself until the time comes when you feel that you are ready to share it with the world at large. Rightly or wrongly, I feel that this is true of me particularly when you have gone through such a large U-turn as I have done after telling the world for so long that I have no time for the Church, Christianity or God.

To all my friends whoever and wherever you are - thank you all for your welcome, your friendship and your support whether formal or informal. It will not be forgotten.

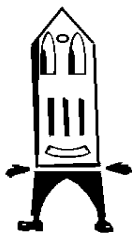
David Barnes



Next Messy Church:

Thursday 17th February,
3.30pm to 5.30pm at





Leatherhead

Activities at Leatherhead Methodist Church

Sunday Services: 10.30am and 6.30pm

Holy Communion is normally celebrated on the first Sunday in the month (morning) and the third Sunday in the month (evening).

Evening Services - The second Sunday is a United Pastorate service at one of the five churches in the Pastorate, while the fourth Sunday is normally "New Fire" contemporary worship with the Leatherhead Uniting Churches held at LMC.

Crèche available for young children during the morning service.

Coffee is served after every morning service - all are very welcome to join us.

LMC Discoverers: Sundays at 10.30am

Contact: Mary Pittam 01372 272658

Messy Church: Third Thursday
3.30pm - 5.30pm

Contact: Jane Smith 01372 372919

House Fellowships

Monday Fellowship: Meet fortnightly

Contact: Carol Stoves 01372 377125

Wednesday Fellowship: Meet fortnightly

Contact: Winifred Ashbrook 01372 276776

Friday Afternoon Fellowship: Meet fortnightly

Contact: Jane Smith 01372 372919

Splatter Box: Thursday mornings term-time
10.00am - 11.30am

Contact: Jane Smith 01372 372919

Tiddlywinks: Friday mornings term-time
10.00am - 11.30am

Contact: Jane Smith 01372 372919

ROOM BOOKINGS Contact: Joy Foreman 01372 378869

ALL BOOKINGS MUST BE ENTERED INTO HER DIARY

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