

# the Link

**The United Pastorate of  
Leatherhead  
Cobham  
Effingham**

## February 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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## Women's World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer is this year on Friday 2nd March.  
Services are being held as follows:

Effingham Methodist Church at 7.30pm -  
see page 15 for details.

The Parish Church of St Mary & St Nicholas, Leatherhead at  
2.30pm - see articles on pages 23 and 25.

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



# *The Ministers Write...*



## ***From Rev. Ian Howarth***

Dear Friends,

In Leatherhead it has been good to share in some inspiring joint activities between LMC and Christ Church over the Christmas and New Year period, from our Christmas Day service, through the New Year social and the Covenant service. The two churches are now considering how we build on that sharing as we look to the future. We have had the first of our joint sessions on Radical Welcome and a small group from both churches is considering how we conduct the Local Mission and Ministry review which United Reformed Churches have to undergo, and see how we can use it as a tool for planning our way forward.

More generally, colleagues in the Methodist South East District have pointed to me to some work by a German evangelist, Christian Schwartz, which proposes eight qualities that go to make up a healthy church, and which all churches ought to be working towards. I am quite suspicious of such formulae, but think this might be a helpful framework for us to bear in mind.

The eight qualities are (in no particular order of priority):

- Empowering leadership
- Gift-orientated lay ministry
- Passionate Spirituality
- Functional Structures
- Inspiring worship services
- Holistic small groups
- Need-orientated evangelism
- Loving relationships

Schwartz stresses that the important word in each quality is the first one, the adjective which describes the quality of what is going on. He also says that the strength of the weakest quality is what determines the overall health of the church.

*continued on the next page*

Seven of them can be wonderful but if one is not in place, then the church is not healthy and will not grow. It challenges us to work out the priorities we need to work on in our churches over the coming year.

I say that in the context of believing that the Holy Spirit is moving all our churches on, in creative and positive ways, as we go forward into the future. May we be open to go where God leads us in the days to come.

Yours in Christ,

*Ian*

### ***From Rev. Kim Plumpton***

Dear Friends,

I took a trip to Windermere on a training course recently (I know a minister's life is never easy). Going through the dales after visiting mum in Harrogate, the ground was covered in that icy frosting but the scenery was just beautiful, with the sun blazing through the clear blue sky. It took me back so many years before when the scenery had been the same but far less inviting. Back in the late 70's, I had made part of this journey by bicycle on one that had taken me nearly two years to save for. With 5-speed gears, this men's racing bike had caught my eye at an exhibition and I was determined that one day I would own it.

On the day I bought it, even though I had not ridden a bike since I was 12, I announced to my father that I intended to take a trip to York, a 42 mile round trip. As far as I was concerned this bike would enable me to explore the very countryside I had come to love. My father really didn't know what to make of me but had far more to say when I suggested that I make a trip to Skipton the following week. A longer journey, this would take me through the dales, through a terrain that was markedly different from the relatively flat road to York.

Long and winding roads, literally up and down dale, with some difficult hills to climb, it would mean the journey would not be an easy one, but I was up for the challenge. I set off with enough money to buy a drink at Skipton and very little else. It took me over two hours to get there and after a short walk around I decided it was time to return home.

The weather got increasingly worse with dark clouds looming and the threat of a downpour. The dales are a wild place when the weather turns and before I knew it I was cycling in a storm with wind and heavy rain. There's one place along the way which is particularly bleak in those conditions and I stopped at the top wondering how on earth I would ever get home. Thunder bounced noisily across the dales followed by bright flashes of lightening; there seemed to be no break in the storm. Fewer and fewer cars seemed to pass me by until it seemed as though I was out there all alone. Huddled at the side of the road curled up in my mack, with the rain bouncing off my legs, a car pulled up. I realised it was my dad who had come searching for me knowing that the weather had turned so stormy. I was so glad to see him and as he strapped the bike to the top of the car, I was grateful that someone had cared enough about me to come searching for me when things had become so difficult.

It strikes me that we can trust in a God who searches for us when we are lost, who holds us when we struggle with difficult and complex situations. We are not abandoned but held, carried until we can stand again. This is our God, one that wishes to protect us from all that might harm us, who negotiates the journey through life with us and never leaves us alone.

*"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honoured in my sight, and because I love you." (from Isaiah 43).*

How wonderful!!!

With every blessing,

**Kim**

# Introducing Ministerial Development Review

As disciples we all want to offer our best to God. As part of a community of disciples we all want to encourage and support one another in becoming the best we can be for God.

That is why this year your minister will be taking part in a new process of Ministerial Development Review. It will probably happen without most of you knowing when it is happening, but it's important that you should be aware of the ways in which the church tries to support your minister and what you can do to offer support as well. This is what Martyn Atkins, the General Secretary of the Methodist Church has written:

Ministerial Development Review has its roots in the Church's responsibility to support its ministers, and in the Conference's specific desire to provide a structured means for ministers to reflect on and review their ministry.

A key feature of Ministerial Development Review is the annual review meeting – a significant event which provides an important opportunity for ministers to share their reflections, insights and hopes with others who have a responsibility for their well-being and for their growth in ministry (one other minister and a lay person). But whilst the organisation and facilitation of the review meeting is a key task, Ministerial Development Review is about much more than this. At its core, it is not an annual event but an ongoing process of collaborative reflection and learning, of reshaping ministry in the light of experience and feedback, of sharing and addressing blockages to progress and growth, and of celebrating successes and affirming gifts and graces.

It is my hope that Ministerial Development Review will strengthen the Christian ministry in which we share, and help us all as we focus on our prayerful and active intention to be a discipleship movement shaped for mission.

You can all help by regularly praying for the ministers in your circuit and their families. To realise that you are being prayed for by someone, sometimes without asking, can be very affirming. You may be asked to give some feedback about some area of your minister's work. You will have been asked because your minister and those helping them in the review value your insights. If you are asked, it's an opportunity for you to encourage your minister to be the best they can be for God.

If you want to know more about Ministerial Development Review you can find out from the Methodist website going to [www.methodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurch.org.uk) and typing "ministerial development review" into the search box.

John Hellyer  
District Chair

The Methodist Church, South East District



# Cobham

## Methodist Church

### Cobham Methodist Diary - February



<b>Sun</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Rob Pitt</b>
Fri	10th	4.30pm	CYC at URC
Sat	11th	10.00am 2.30pm	Time 4 You Platinum Service
<b>Sun</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>11.00am 6.30pm</b>	<b>Alex Cloke</b> <b>United Pastorate Service at</b> <b>Christ Church, Leatherhead</b>
Tues	14th	7.30pm	Church Council
<b>Sun</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Rev. Kim Plumptre -</b> <b>with Holy Communion</b>
Wed	22nd	7.30pm	House Fellowship at the Manse
Fri	24th	4.30pm 7.00pm	CYC at URC Up for GRABS (activities and discussion for 13-16s)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>26th</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Rhys Frost</b>
<b>March</b>			
<b>Sun</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Angie Choat</b>



**Next "Time 4 You" -**  
**Saturday 11th February**  
**10.00am - 12noon**



**In Cobham, Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon**

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

# **Lent Study 2012**

**The Graceful Life – Paul's letter to the Romans**

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

**Join one of our warm, friendly groups.**

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

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

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

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

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

**For more details, please contact Rhonda Frost,**

**Tel: 01932 423100**

**E-mail: [rhondajane frost@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rhondajane frost@yahoo.co.uk)**





# Cobham

## United Reformed Church

### Cobham URC Worship Diary - February



Sun	5th	9.00am	Early Bird Service
		10.30am	Roy Bones
Sun	12th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
		6.30pm	United Pastorate Service at Christ Church (United Reformed) Leatherhead
Sun	19th	10.30am	Derek Wensley
Sun	26th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton

#### March

Sun	4th	10.30am	Ian Stewart
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### Prayers at the Manse

at 9.30am on

Wednesdays: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th February

### Lent Course Study

Starting the week of 20th February for six weeks.

Please see church notice board for details

# Cobham URC Events - February

Thurs	2nd	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
Sun	5th	3.00pm to 6.00pm	Special Needs Group
Tues	7th	9.45am 8.00pm	Church Walk Elders' Meeting
Thurs	9th	8.00pm	Evening House Group at Isobel Foster's
Fri	10th	4.30pm to 6.30pm	CYC meets at the URC Cobham (8 - 13 year olds)
Thurs	23rd	10.30am	Morning House Group at church
Fri	24th	3.00pm 4.30pm to 6.30pm	T @ 3 at church CYC meets at the URC Cobham (8 - 13 year olds)
Mon	27th	7.00pm to 8.00pm	Film Club for 13 - 16 year olds at St Mary's Church



"It's either an appeal to youth culture  
or the heating's playing up again"

# Tents are their mansion

When we came to Cobham in August 2010 it was a massive change to where we had lived for ten years in Birmingham. Especially when you consider all the problems a city brings with it - the number of outcasts in society with addiction, health, social and homeless issues.

After a few weeks of our arrival I heard about the Pitstop charity and decided to get involved. Now here we are one year on and I thought it would be good to give you an update. We now have a lot of Christian input at the trustee and volunteer level, people are not preaching the gospel but are living out the gospel in the truest of ways by being there for those in need. People from Pitstop are opening up about their own faith walk, which is a great opportunity to listen and discuss with them at length issues of life and faith. As well as this, I have had discussions with a few homeless people and found that there is a need for tents and sleeping bags as a separate service to that which Pitstop offers.

Due to the love of God working through church people we have so far been able to meet the needs of several people in the area so that they can at least be warm and dry. Just because we are in a fairly affluent area of the UK, there are still many people who are in desperate situations who need our help. Thank you for those who have chosen to support this work; I will write at a later date and let you know how things are going. Your prayers would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you on behalf of all those in need.

*Colin Plumpton*





# Effingham

Methodist Church

## Effingham Methodist Diary - February



Sat	4th	10.00am - 11.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall
<b>Sun</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Rev. Kim Plumpton - Covenant Service with Holy Communion</b>
Tues	7th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	8th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
<b>Sun</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>10.00am 6.30pm</b>	<b>Rhys Frost United Pastorate Service at Christ Church, Leatherhead</b>
Tues	14th	2.00pm	Prayer Walk ( <i>see article by Kim on page 13</i> )
<b>Sun</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Rev. Paul Cockburn</b>
Tues	21st	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	22nd	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
<b>Sun</b>	<b>26th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Rev. Frank Smith</b>

### March

Fri	2nd	7.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Service ( <i>see page 15</i> )
Sat	3rd	10.00am - 11.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall
<b>Sun</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Rev. Kim Plumpton - with Holy Communion</b>

### Prayer Meetings

Prayer meetings are held in the Chapel every Friday at 9.15am.

# Prayer Walking

*"Prayer is an integral element of the Christian faith and permeates all forms of Christian worship."*

In many situations we find that prayer is one of the most precious tools we can use to communicate to God our joys as well as our concerns. A sacred space where we might take time to listen for God speaking to us.

There are all sorts of ways in which we might consider how and where we might communicate with God. One such way is prayer walking. This is simply what it suggests, walking around a particular town/village whilst praying for the community. In Effingham last year a group from Churches Together began prayer walking the village. As an example, it might be that we begin by walking towards the shops, in which case we might consider the struggles and difficulties experienced by all those in the retail industry with particular reference to those in our own community.

You might say I can do this from my home, so why is it important to walk? Actually making the physical movement around the village focuses the mind and will actually allow you to consider areas for prayer which you may well not have thought of had you not been standing right in front of a particular building or communal space.

It is a wonderful opportunity for prayer so if you feel this might be something you would like to experience then please join us on the **14th February at 2.00pm** (meeting at the entrance to St Lawrence Church). We will spend time in prayer and reflection for approximately an hour; all are welcome and we would be delighted to see you.

On another note concerning prayer, we would like to bring to your attention the fact that the village has a **Prayer Box** (on the wall by the entrance to the Methodist Church). The prayers are gathered regularly and offered confidentially in prayer over a period of weeks. There may be many in the community who are unaware that the prayer box exists so please encourage those you know that we are a community that acknowledges the power of prayer and the benefits for those we pray for.

*Kim*



## Birthday Dates to celebrate this month

According to my records, there are no birthdays but we'll celebrate with some cake anyway especially on Valentine's Day!

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

AJP

## Dates for your diaries



If you're Spring cleaning we'd love to have any bric-a-brac for the Bring & Buy stall at our **World Mission Coffee Morning from 10.00am to 12noon on 24th March** in aid of the Methodist Relief and Development Fund's Mali Project.

## Saturday Morning Live



Come and sample some alternative worship on **Saturdays 4th February and 3rd March** from **10.00am - 11.00am** at **King George V Hall** in Brown's Lane.

Enjoy coffee, croissants, and food for thought.





## Women's World Day of Prayer

**Effingham Methodist Chapel** will be hosting a service prepared by Christian women of **Malaysia** on their theme of justice for all on **Friday 2nd March at 7.30pm**. The speaker will be **Bex Keer**, a UK manager for **Stop the Traffic**, a charity working with the *United Nations* for a global solution to Trafficking.



## STAYING ALIVE !!!

30,000 people have a cardiac arrest out of hospital each year. So the *British Heart Foundation* has launched a campaign to save lives using **Hands-only CPR**. A TV ad starring ex-footballer and "hard-man" actor **Vinnie Jones** shows him demonstrating this simple technique to the legendary tune "*Staying Alive*" by the **Bee-Gees**.

Watch him use this **No Kissing** method on [www.bhf.org.uk](http://www.bhf.org.uk) and follow the link to **You-tube** to learn how to Save a life. Or contact **Angela on 01372 454850** if you're interested in a running a first aid course at your church and learn full CPR to the tune of **Nellie-the-Elephant**.

## YOU TOO CAN SAVE A LIFE



### New Bible a Smash Hit in Norway & Jamaica!

The first BIBLE SOCIETY Newsletter of 2012 reported that a Jamaican Patois translation of Luke's Gospel begun in 1993, was a huge success. Meanwhile the first Norwegian translation of the Bible in over 30 years has become the surprising bestseller of 2011, with people queuing overnight to get their hands on it and bookshops sold out within hours of its launch.



# What the Dickens!

There's been a lot of Dickens on TV over the last few weeks. From several film versions of "Scrooge", a documentary about his marriage to the much wronged Mrs. Dickens, to a new attempt to finish his unfinished novel.

The entertainment world has endeavoured to translate Dickens's immortal stories to the screen since "silent movie" days. The oldest surviving film version is an adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* from 1901. Over a hundred years later, his works are still being adapted for cinema and TV and every one of his 15 novels has been filmed at least twice. This is very appropriate as Dickens believed that enriching people's lives with knowledge and enjoyment of the arts was key to building a fair society and creating opportunities.

On 7th February, Westminster Abbey will celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of **Charles Dickens**, one of Britain's greatest writers, with a wreath-laying in Poet's Corner. On the Abbey's website The Dean of Westminster said: 'Dickens's humanity and compassion made an extraordinary impact on Victorian England through his writings, which remain immensely popular. This bicentenary should help renew our commitment to improving the lot of the disadvantaged of our own day.'

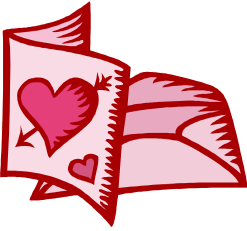
Meanwhile **Occupy**, an international [protest movement](#) which is primarily directed against [economic](#) and [social inequality](#), with 2,773 communities worldwide as of January 2012, set up camps in several cathedrals last year. This week Exeter and Sheffield are again threatening eviction, but the camp on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral drags on, and the dilemma facing the church authorities intensifies. The protest is not against the Church as such but just happens to be located on its doorsteps, so that it cannot avoid taking sides to some degree in the confrontation between the protestors and the City. The protest is forcing an uncomfortable re-examination of every Church's social conscience as the gap between rich and poor widens. Finding answers to this dilemma will require both wisdom and courage.

Can our government and churchmen rise to this?

AJP



# Who was Valentine?

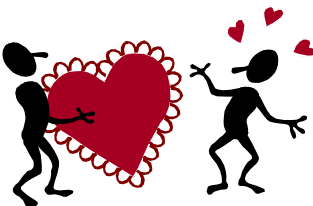


The first official St Valentine's Day was declared on 14th February by Pope Galasius in 496 AD, in memory of a 3rd century martyred priest in Rome. It is believed that this young priest rose to distinction after betraying Emperor Claudius in 270AD by conducting illegitimate wedding ceremonies in the capital.

Emperor Claudius claimed that married men made poor soldiers and consequently decreed that all marriages of younger citizens would be outlawed. Bishop Valentine, however, maintained that marriage was part of God's plan and purpose for the world. He continued to conduct marriages in secret between young people, sometimes as young as twelve, in the name of love.

His success gained him unwelcome notoriety, which became Bishop Valentine's downfall. He was jailed and ultimately beheaded, but not before he fell in love with the jailer's daughter. It is thought that on the evening of his execution the bishop passed her a note which read "from your Valentine". This story has blossomed into the defining tradition of Valentine's Day.

An estimated one billion cards are sent each year, making it the second largest card-sending event of the year behind Christmas.



**SO DON'T FORGET**  
**ST. VALENTINE'S DAY**  
**IS**  
**14th FEBRUARY**

# Leatherhead Pages

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

## Radical Welcome

These sessions are an important way of thinking about how we present ourselves to the world, and how we can improve our mission to offer the welcome of Jesus to our community.

We will be using a course called 'Everybody welcome'. It uses a DVD and there is a members' manual at £3.99 that it would be useful for participants to buy.

The meetings continue at Christ Church at 7.30pm on Thursday evenings and the remaining two evenings are as follows:

**9th February: The Premises: making them more inviting**

**8th March: A welcoming God and his welcoming people**

This course also offers us an opportunity for the communities at LMC and Christ Church to get to know each other at a deeper level, and I hope as many as possible will feel able to come.

*Ian Howarth*



### **Next Messy Church:**

Thursday 16th February,  
3.30pm to 5.30pm at



# Leatherhead Youth Project



*Coming soon: Youth Alpha  
for young people in year 7+*

**BFree is open every day after school**

**Weekly Triumph cell group for Year 9+**

**Sunday 12 February Triumph AM**

**10-1.30pm Halfterm trip to the Big Apple Woking  
(school years 5+)**

**Friday 10 February**

**Spirit Break Out**

**KNOW trip to St. Peters Brighton for the Worship  
Central tour**

**Thursday 16 February**

**Naturally Supernatural**

**KNOW visit to a conference at Soul Survivor Watford**

**Saturday 25 February**

**Soul Survivor Saturday Celebration**

**KNOW worship event at Soul Survivor Watford**

**For more information on all these events contact  
[jay@leatherheadyouthproject.com](mailto:jay@leatherheadyouthproject.com)**

**[www.leatherheadyouthproject.com](http://www.leatherheadyouthproject.com)**

# SINGING THE FAITH

## "Singing the Faith"

The New Methodist Collection of Hymns and Songs

### An Introduction

Rev. Ian Howarth is a member of the Methodist Music Resources Group responsible for producing the collection. Ian is leading a series of introductory sessions on Tuesdays at Leatherhead Methodist Church and the remaining two sessions are as follows:

14th February      Worship Songs, learning and using them effectively

13th March          Creative approaches to worship using Singing the Faith including prayers and responses

The sessions start at 8.00pm and will end by 10.00pm. All will be welcome at the sessions, (particularly musicians, preachers and worship leaders).

No need for booking, but it would be helpful to know numbers likely to be attending, so please phone the Leatherhead Methodist Church office (01372 362145) and leave a message, or e-mail [leatherheadmc@gmail.com](mailto:leatherheadmc@gmail.com) if you would like to attend.

## Christ Church/LMC Joint Church Projects Launch

A joint lunch at Christ Church to launch the joint church projects is to be held on Sunday 19th February at 12:00 noon (after morning services).

Caroline Taylor will give a presentation on **Happy Child International** and Dennis Wickham will report on **Age Concern, Mole Valley North**.

Tickets are now available. Adults £6, Children £3. Order yours now!



# Leatherhead

**Methodist Church**



## Diary - February



<b>Sun</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>10.30am</b> 6.30pm	<b>Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion</b> Rev. Kim Plumpton - jointly with ChCh at LMC
Mon	6th	8.00pm	Leadership Team Meeting
Thurs	9th	7.30pm	Radical Welcome meeting at Christ Church (see page 20)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>10.30am</b> 6.30pm	<b>Angie Choat</b> United Pastorate Service at Christ Church
Tues	14th	8.00pm	"Singing the Faith" session (see page 19)
Thurs	16th	3.30pm	Messy Church
<b>Sun</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>10.30am</b> 12 noon  6.30pm	<b>Rev. Ian Howarth</b> Launch of new Joint Church Projects at Christ Church (see page 20) Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion at Christ Church
<b>Sun</b>	<b>26th</b>	<b>10.30am</b> 6.30pm	<b>David Cappitt</b> New Fire
<b>March</b>			
<b>Sun</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>10.30am</b> 6.30pm	<b>Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion</b> Rev. Ian Howarth - jointly with ChCh at LMC

### Housegroups - All Welcome

Monday House Fellowship meets fortnightly - contact Carol Stoves 377125

Wednesday House Fellowship meets monthly -

contact Winifred Ashbrook 276776

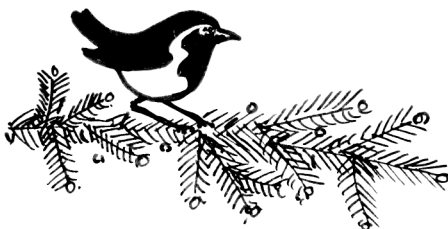
Friday Daytime Fellowship meets fortnightly - contact Jane Smith 372919

# LMC Family News



*Our thoughts and prayers are with...*

...Joan Rowe following her fall at home and subsequent operation. Also with Jean Oakes recovering from a stroke in Epsom Hospital.



*Dovizhdane (Goodbye) to...*

...Dimitrichka Dimitrova (Didi) as she returns home to Bulgaria after several years working at Bellasis House, Headley Heath. Didi has been a regular worshipper with us for all this time. We send our blessings and good wishes to her.

# **Women's World Day of Prayer**

## **Friday 2nd March**

### **"Let Justice Prevail"**

This year's service has been prepared by the Christian women of Malaysia. Malaysia lies just north of the Equator in the South China Sea and enjoys hot and humid climate associated with such regions.

From times BC the peninsula has been inhabited by the indigenous Orang Asli. In the 17th century, under Dutch rule, it became a flourishing trading area, followed by British rule in the late 1800's. After various different forms of government, it achieved independence in 1957, with Singapore, off the southern tip, breaking away to become an independent state in its own right in 1965. During World War II, Japan occupied Malaya, when conditions became extremely brutal and many people were killed. Following the Japanese surrender at the end of the war, Malaya was returned to the British.

The tropical rainforest of the area is the world's largest and most endangered ecosystem. The forest is home to spectacular plants, animals, birds, butterflies and insects.

Malaysia is a multi-cultural society. Although there is acute unemployment, the government is making huge efforts to overcome it, and poverty too. An expanding tourist trade is helping. Primary education is compulsory but not secondary level although five year courses are offered leading up to GCSE standard. All classes are taught in Bahasa Malaysia, with English as a foreign language. Only a very small proportion of the population is Christian (7%), and Roman Catholicism is the dominant denomination. The ecumenical Council of Churches interacts between church and state and organises the Women's World Day of Prayer in Malaysia.

In recent years Malaysian women have made important contributions both socially and financially. They are becoming better educated and many become doctors, dentists, lawyers and politicians. In spite of this progress, women of all races and classes still face discrimination and even violence.

Malaysia's multi-ethnicity forms a rich heritage for its land and people, yet there are still a great many problems and challenges to overcome.

*Jean Plant*

*The Leatherhead Service will be held at St Mary & St Nicholas Parish Church at 2.30pm. Speaker: Gail Partridge. Refreshments available afterwards in the Parish Church Hall.*

# Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

## Christ Church/LMC Joint Church Projects Launch

A joint lunch at Christ Church to launch the joint church projects is to be held on Sunday 19th February at 12:00 noon (after morning service).

Caroline Taylor will give a presentation on **Happy Child International** and Dennis Wickham will report on **Age Concern, Mole Valley North**.

Tickets are now available.

Adults £6, Children £3. Order yours now!





# **Women's World Day Of Prayer - Friday 2nd March at 2.30pm Theme: Malaysia - Let Justice Prevail Speaker: Gail Partridge**

On Friday 2nd March over 3 million people worldwide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer, using a form of worship prepared this year by Christian women in Malaysia.

Jean Hackett, president of the National Committee of the Women's World Day of Prayer movement in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, said: "This is always an exciting day as a great wave of prayer sweeps the world, beginning when the first service is held in the Queen Salote Girls' School in Tonga and continuing around the world until the final service takes place, some 35 hours later, in neighbouring Western Samoa. By then the day will have been celebrated in over 170 countries and more than 6000 services will have been held in the British Isles alone.

"Although Malaysia's multi-ethnicity has added to the rich heritage of its land and people, it has also given rise to many problems. In the service those issues of concern are named and the women voice their hope for the future. Justice for all is their hope. And their prayer is "Let Justice Prevail".

Although organised and led by women, this is essentially a day of prayer for everybody, and all are welcome to Leatherhead's service, which this year is to be held at **St. Mary & St. Nicholas Parish Church at 2.30pm.**

Refreshments will be served after the service, giving us another opportunity to mix with friends and acquaintances from other churches.

Please contact Anne Ray if you need transport.

*Anne Ray*

# Christ Church Diary - February



<b>Sun</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Morning Service : Rev. Robert Blows</b>
		6.30pm	<b>Organist: Gina Eason</b>
			Evening Service at LMC: Rev. Kim Plumpton
Thurs	9th	7.30pm	Radical Welcome meeting
<b>Sun</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion: the Minister</b>
		6.30pm	United Pastorate Service at Christ Church
Tues	14th	7.15pm - 10.15pm	Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra rehearse on Tuesdays until 14 February
		8.00pm	Singing the Faith (at LMC)
Thurs	16th	3.30pm	Messy Church at LMC
<b>Sun</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Rev. Donald Finnan</b>
		12 noon	Joint Lunch at Christ Church (see page 24)
		6.30pm	Joint Holy Communion (LMC & URC) at Christ Church: the Minister
<b>Sun</b>	<b>26th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Morning Service: the Minister</b>
		6.30pm	New Fire - Ecumenical Service at LMC

## March

Sat	3rd	7.30pm	AntiphoniA Concert: <b>Hungarian Medley.</b> Kodály <b>Missa Brevis</b> , Lauridsen <b>O mag- num mysterium</b> , Seiber <b>Hungarian Folk- Songs</b> , Gardner <b>Tomorrow shall be my dancing day</b> , and instrumental music by Bartók. Programme £10.00 at the door (students: £3.00). Refreshments. In aid of Joint Church Projects: Happy Child Interna- tional, and Age Concern, Mole Valley North.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Rev. Alistair Hutcheson</b>
		6.30pm	<b>Organist: Gina Eason</b>
			Evening Service at LMC: the Minister

# Christ Church Family News



Congratulations to **Tom Boswell** on achieving the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, which is being presented to him at St James's Palace.

We are pleased that **Margaret Hughes** has recovered well from her hip replacement and is back at her post at Oxfam.

**Mary Keene's** new telephone number is 01372 279715.

**Averil Parkinson** is benefiting from some care at home and attendance at an Epsom Day Centre six days a week. We wish her well.

**Lilian Parsons** is still in Epsom Hospital, happily in much better health.

**Olive Rayner** is beset with back and leg problems and she and John are sorry not to be able to come church at the moment. We hope she soon has some satisfactory treatment.

A number of friends and members have been unwell during the Christmas period, including **Frank Farnell**, **Ron Hazell** and **Alec Scottow**. We remember all these friends in our prayers.

*Anne Cairns*



# 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 -  
Carol Stoves 01372 377125

## **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.org.uk](http://www.cobhammethodistchurch.org.uk)

Contact: Senior Steward -  
Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



## **United Pastorate Ministers**

### **Rev. Ian Howarth**

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### **Website:**

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### **Rev. Kim Plumpton**

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Cobham

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### **E-mail:**

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