

# the Link

**The United Pastorate of  
Leatherhead  
Cobham  
Effingham**

## February 2013



# LENT



*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 1st March. Services are being held as follows:

**Eastwick Road Church (URC)**, Bookham at 10.30am - see page 13 for details.

**All Saints Church, Little Bookham** at 7.30pm - see page 13 for details.

**Leatherhead Methodist Church** at 2.30pm - see page 17 for details

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## *The Ministers Write...*



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

Dear Friends,

On 8th February Barbara and I set off to visit our friend Rev. Jeyapaul in South India for two weeks. Jeyapaul has been a regular visitor to us over the last 20 years, and it has been a joy to hear of his developing community work with disadvantaged children and older women. It is 27 years since we first met him and since we last went to India, so it will be fascinating to see how much things have changed there since 1985.

We are looking forward to the privilege of seeing India not as tourists but as guests, and I am sure there will be insights to share when we return.

For me at the moment it is good to be going now for it sets everything that is happening here in a broader perspective. With all the changes that we face this year it is good to look outward and to be reminded that we belong to a world church. We are not just isolated congregations, but part of a world-wide body of people who acknowledge Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord.

That is both a privilege and a challenge. It is a privilege to share our faith with people from around the world, and a joy to share our faith with those who come from very different places and cultures from our own. However, there are challenges. Because of our different cultures we can see the faith differently and find different expressions of the faith hard to relate to.

Some of these we face in Britain, as we try to work out how to relate to Christians from other parts of the world who have settled here, but don't find our expression of Christianity one they are comfortable with. What can we share? At Epsom, the Chinese Methodist Congregation that began as a separate group at LMC twenty years ago, is now an integral part of the Methodist Church there, with Rev Hazel Yu, formerly of Christ Church, sharing in the ministry in a successful partnership.

*continued on the next page*

As we focus on the future of the churches here, I hope that we can keep our vision wide, remembering that we belong not just to wider denominations, but to churches that span the world.

Learning to work across cultures is not easy, and many of our partner churches face their own problems. But in our fast changing, mobile world, we have much to learn by engaging with Christians from other cultures, with other perspectives, praying that God will bless the encounter, and with greater understanding will help us to work across the barriers to share his love and his grace.

Yours in Christ,

*Ian*

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

Dear Friends,

I returned from a silent retreat early in January. The silent retreat would be for four days at the Ladywell Convent in Godalming. I knew that it would be challenging for me as I had never experienced it quite on this level before. But I had decided it was time to centre myself, to remove myself away from the busyness of the world and spend some time with God alone.

On my retreat there would be no conversations with anyone, however, I could attend prayer morning and evening, as well as Mass which I readily did. I was blessed by the richness of their liturgy and the contemplative nature of worship.

At the meal table I was separated from the 26 nuns and a group of 25 people who were on another programme. I was positioned squarely in the middle away from both parties. At the first meal I was astonished by the overwhelming sense of isolation. My days were normally filled with conversations in one form or another, or listening to others talk about issues they needed to share. I did not like this feeling of separation one bit. By the end of the retreat I came to understand how you could feel so alone in a room full of people, but more importantly how I had not been content simply to be in the company of God.

By the end of the three days I loved to sit at my table, I was far from alone. Yet it required me to recognise that I often go into my day without comprehending what it means to have God walking with me. It is only within this atmosphere of hospitality that you can welcome others into your day.

We are never alone, God promises to stay close to us but sometimes we do need to discover a way of finding God again.

Discovering God is not always easy. I sat in the church for over an hour contemplating the frescos on the wall. In that time the fire alarm went off, and the cleaner came to do the hovering. I joked with God, how is it that I come for a silent retreat and the moment I manage to find a space with you noise abounds. I was reminded that it was a reflection of my own day and that I would need to find God not just in the silence, but in the hustle and bustle of life. My challenge would not only be to find God amongst it all but how I might resolve to stay close to God, keeping hold of the inner peace that only God can give.

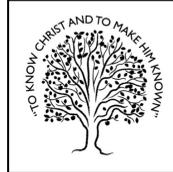
If anyone ever asks whether you would like to go on a silent retreat grab it with both hands, because God delights when we take time out to be with him alone.

With every blessing,

***Kim***



**Methodist Women in Britain  
South-East District Day**



**“Head over all things”**

**at Tonbridge Methodist Church**  
Higham Lane, Tonbridge, TN10 4JT  
<http://tonbridgethodistchurch.org>

**Saturday 16 March 2013**  
**10.30am (for 11.00 start) to 3.30pm**

**Including worship, Bible study,  
speakers on Brain Tumour Research, stalls**

**In support of our project 4Aurora and Brain Tumour  
Research's Wear a Hat Day (28 March) you are invited,  
if you wish, to bring and wear a decorated hat.**

**Bring a packed lunch - drinks provided  
£3.00 day charge covers refreshments  
and contribution to expenses  
Local contact: Daphne Arden 01732 355620  
[roi.daff@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:roi.daff@tiscali.co.uk)**



# Cobham

Methodist Church

## Cobham Methodist Diary - February



|              |             |                   |  |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>3rd</b>  | <b>11.00am</b>    | <b>Rev. Frank Smith</b>                            |
| Fri          | 8th         | 4.30pm            | CYC at the URC                                     |
| Sat          | 9th         | 10.00am<br>2.30pm | Time 4 You<br>Platinum Service                     |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>10th</b> | <b>11.00am</b>    | <b>John Oborn</b>                                  |
| Wed          | 13th        | 2.30pm            | Church Council                                     |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>17th</b> | <b>11.00am</b>    | <b>Rev. Kim Plumpton -<br/>with Holy Communion</b> |
| Wed          | 20th        | 7.30pm            | House Fellowship at the Manse                      |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>24th</b> | <b>11.00am</b>    | <b>Rhys Frost</b>                                  |
| Thurs        | 28th        | 3.30pm            | Messy Church at the URC (to 5.30pm)                |
| <b>March</b> |             |                   |  |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>3rd</b>  | <b>11.00am</b>    | <b>Rob Pitt</b>                                    |



**Next "Time 4 You" -  
Saturday 9th February  
10.00am - 12noon**



# Cobham

## United Reformed Church

# Cobham URC Worship Diary - February



|              |      |                   |   |
|--------------|------|-------------------|---|
| Sun          | 3rd  | 9.00am<br>10.30am | Early Bird Service<br>Rev. Iain Stewart |
| Sun          | 10th | 10.30am           | Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion   |
| Sun          | 17th | 10.30am           | Rev. Roy Bones                          |
| Sun          | 24th | 10.30am           | Rev. Kim Plumpton                       |
| <b>March</b> |      |                   |   |
| Sun          | 3rd  | 10.30am           | Rev. Derek Wensley                      |

## Prayers at the Manse

at 9.30am on

Wednesdays: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th February

## Lent Study with Kim starts...

Wed 20th at 10.30am

Wed 27th at 7.30pm

Thurs 28th at 10.30am

Please see church notice board for details

## Cobham URC Events - February

|       |      |                               |  |
|-------|------|-------------------------------|--|
| Sun   | 3rd  | 3.00pm<br>to 6.00pm           | Special Needs Group  |
| Tues  | 5th  | 9.45am                        | Church Walk  |
| Thurs | 7th  | 12.30pm                       | Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile,<br>Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW |
| Fri   | 8th  | 4.30pm<br>to 6.30pm           | CYC meets at the URC   |
| Tues  | 12th | 11.00am<br>7.30pm             | Coffee for Carers at the URC<br>Elders' Meeting                        |
| Thurs | 21st | 8.00pm                        | Evening House Group at Isobel's  |
| Fri   | 22nd | 3.00pm<br>4.30pm<br>to 6.30pm | T @ 3 at church<br>CYC meets at the URC                                |
| Tues  | 26th | 11.00am                       | Coffee for Carers at the URC   |
| Thurs | 28th | 3.30pm<br>to 5.30pm           | Messy Church at the URC  |

## Messy Church Comes to Cobham, Oxshott and Stoke d'Abernon!!!



Date:

**Thursday 28th February  
2013**

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

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

**All are welcome**



# Effingham

## Methodist Church

### Effingham Methodist Diary - February



|              |             |                |  |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|--|
| Sat          | 2nd         | 10.00am        | Café Church at KGV Hall<br>- 11.00am               |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>3rd</b>  | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Rev. Kim Plumpton -<br/>with Holy Communion</b> |
| Tues         | 5th         | 2.30pm         | Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall            |
| Wed          | 6th         | 8.00pm         | Christian Meditation in the church                 |
| Thurs        | 7th         | 2.15pm         | Bible Study Group meet with Kim in the hall        |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>10th</b> | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Jon Fisher</b>                                  |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>17th</b> | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Freddie Jenkins</b>                             |
| Tues         | 19th        | 2.30pm         | Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall            |
| Wed          | 20th        | 8.00pm         | Christian Meditation in the church                 |
| Thurs        | 21st        | 2.15pm         | Bible Study Group meet with Kim in the hall        |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>24th</b> | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Martin Ellis</b>                                |
| <b>March</b> |             |                |  |
| Sat          | 2nd         | 10.00am        | Café Church at KGV Hall<br>- 11.00am               |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>3rd</b>  | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Rev. Kim Plumpton -<br/>with Holy Communion</b> |

### Prayer Meetings

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

# Praising and Trusting

One of my tasks in January is to cut up some of my Christmas cards to make tags for my next year's Christmas presents. The thought, of course, comes to me that "will I still be here next Christmas?" Only God knows! But I feel sure that he wants me to be positive, and to make the most of every day I continue to inhabit this fascinating world of ours.

My I.B.R.A. Bible reading for today is entitled "The path of life", part of a series on life's changes and challenges. Today's reading was from the book of Ruth and tells of her willingness to leave her own village to go with her beloved mother-in-law to start a new life in Bethlehem amongst strangers and so through her marriage to Boaz, become an ancestress of Jesus! If we follow what we feel is God's guidance, who knows where it will lead us !

So let us, in the words of Charles Wesley's New Year's Eve hymn , "Praise him for all that is past, and trust him for all that's to come."

*Freddie Jenkins*

## A record Fairtrade Christmas! Thank you!



We have had a monthly Fairtrade stall at St Mary's Fetcham for 10 years now and have marked that with record sales over the three month period to Christmas. Sales reached just over £1844, representing a half of the total sales for 2012. Of that three month total, Christ Church URC and Effingham Methodist Church sold £770 worth of goods, and St Mary's nearly £1075. What a fantastic achievement for Fairtrade, and what that means to producers in the developing world. Our sales during 2011 and 2012 enabled me to send a cheque for £500 to Traidcraft Exchange. This is possible due to the difference between the bulk buy price I pay for goods I order, and the catalogue selling price.

*Sheila Hill*



## Birthday Dates to celebrate this month

According to my records, there are no birthdays, but we'll celebrate with some cakes and choccies! - Especially on 14th which is Valentines 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 9th March** in aid of *Mission Aviation Fellowship*.

## Saturday Morning Live



Come and sample some alternative worship on **Saturdays 2nd February and 2nd March** from **10.00am - 11.00am** at **King George V Hall** in Brown's Lane.

Enjoy coffee, croissants, and food for thought.





## Welcoming Strangers and listening to friends

This year's **Women's World Day of Prayer service** will be held on **Friday 1st March**, and has been prepared by **Christian women of France**, on the theme "**I was a stranger and you welcomed me.**"

The *Bookham, Fetcham and Effingham WWDP* committee have arranged services locally and chosen two speakers who will be well known to many of us, so choosing a service may be difficult !

### **Eastwick Road Church (URC) at 10.30am**

#### **Speaker: Myfanwy Tothill from LeatherHEAD Start**

(Chairwoman of the board of trustees for the renamed charity formerly known as *Leatherhead Night Hostel*)

### **All Saints Church at Little Bookham at 7.30pm**

#### **Speaker: Christopher Butler from Royal Holloway College,**

**which is part of the University of London**, where he is **Head of Support & Advisory Services** for students. (He and his wife Megan are part of the **Saturday Morning Live team**, organising monthly Café Church sessions here in Effingham).

## Preparing for Easter in Effingham



**Ash Wednesday on 13th February** sees the first of Effingham's fortnightly **Lent Lunches from 12.30 to 2.00pm** in **St. Lawrence's church hall**. In aid of the **Alzheimer's Society** this year. It's our turn **to organise the food on 27th February**, so **please contact Pat McElhill or Janet Garnham if you can help.**

**Lent meetings** are still being organised and should begin **at 7.30pm** on **Monday February 18th** in **Our Lady of Sorrows church hall** and continue each Monday in Lent, with a different speaker each week, as we're not using a York course this year.

**Look out for full details on posters later this month.**

# Using Valentine's Day to highlight a Massacre?



It's not very British is it, asking people to get up and dance as part of a mass protest movement organised for **Valentine's Day**? But the cause couldn't be any more important – a call to end violence against women and girls. Violence that affects 70% of women around the world, according to the **United Nations**: Women aged 15-44 are more at

risk from rape and domestic violence than from cancer, car accidents, war and malaria.

This is a hot topic! Splashed across the media is the Jimmy Savile abuse scandal, the rapes in India which have triggered lethal riots, the Taliban attack on a schoolgirl in Pakistan, the gender imbalance in many parts of the world including the UK, where girl babies have been aborted, as boys are "better", and girls are a drain on family resources. Now Ofsted will monitor schools in the UK checking safeguards are in place to protect vulnerable girls who might suffer illegal female genitalia mutilation as a cultural demand.

**One Billion Rising** is a global campaign by women, for women, which calls for an end to violence, and for justice and gender equality. On 14th February 2013, this one-day event hopes one billion women around the world will walk away from their homes, businesses, and jobs, and join together to dance in a show of collective strength. The "billion" refers to the one billion women who are survivors of abuse. People from more than 160 countries have already signed up to take part in the campaign.



Sadly of course, many will suggest it will change nothing. Violence against the physically weaker sex will continue, just as it has for thousands of years! What's the point as many other charities are working to help find justice for women including **Christian Aid** and **Amnesty International**? But surely creating

a talking point, discussing the issue and celebrating our own physical power is better than doing nothing? **See [vday.org](http://vday.org) for more info.**

*Ange Putland*

# Should we celebrate Aldersgate's 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ?

It's the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of John Wesley's "Warmed Heart" this year, but there's no sign of any plans for a special celebration of his "Aldersgate Experience", not even on the Special Sundays section of the Methodist website! Just the usual Aldersgate Sunday service on 19th May.



## Surely this is a missed opportunity?

Christian travel groups based in the USA are using this anniversary to advertise holidays visiting Methodist Heritage sites around the UK, including Epworth Rectory and the Aldersgate Flame.

There is a close affinity, as the logo of the **United Methodist Church** is a **Cross and a Flame**. Their website explains that it represents God through Christ (cross) and the Holy Spirit (flame).

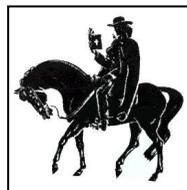


The flame is a reminder of Pentecost but also of a transforming moment in the life of Methodism's founder, when he sensed God's presence and felt his heart "strangely warmed".

We all know what happened from the famous quote in Wesley's journal: "... I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away **my** sins, even **mine**, and saved **me** from the law of sin and death".

Wesley had been dispirited and questioning his own faith, as it was only a few months since his return to London from a disappointing mission to Georgia, when, on 24th May 1738 some of his friends compelled him to accompany them to a Moravian society meeting in a room on Aldersgate Street, near St. Paul's Cathedral. This was a turning point in his life and ministry, and sent him on his travels throughout the British Isles.

So **Effingham** hopes to celebrate our **159th Chapel Anniversary weekend** in May with an exhibition about "**Wesley's Warmed Heart**".



# Leatherhead Pages

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

## Decision Time!

At the Christ Church Church meeting on 24th February, and at the LMC Church Council on 26th February we will vote on the proposal that came from the joint meeting of the LMC Leadership Team and Christ Church elders on 20th October that:

*"Christ Church and LMC resolve to come together as one Congregation working in one place with a common mission to Leatherhead"*

This is an open resolution with no time scale or no proposal about where that one place will be or what building we will have.

Rather, it is a commitment to work together on resolving those issues in the light of the conclusions of the report we are going to receive later in the year from the CPL architects.

I hope all members of both churches will contribute to the discussions. The Church Meeting at Christ Church is of course open to all members to attend, discuss and vote. At LMC all members are welcome to attend and contribute to the discussion at the Church Council, although technically the final vote has to be taken by members of the council.

*Ian Howarth*



### **Next Messy Church:**

Thursday 21st February,  
3.30pm to 5.30pm at





# **Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 1st March**

**"I was a stranger and you welcomed me."**

This is the title of this year's Women's World Day of Prayer (WWDP). The text has been prepared by a group of French Christian women. The ecumenical Leatherhead service will be held at Leatherhead Methodist Church at 2.30pm followed by refreshments .

Nationally, there has been some concern over the use of the word 'women' in the title, implying to many that the service is solely for women, particularly those who are older. Not so! Each year a group of Christian women from a country around the world affiliated to the organisation, prepare a service, introducing a theme common to all people, men and women, whatever their age. Last year, it was the turn of the women of Malaysia with a focus on 'Justice', and in 2014 women from Egypt will prepare a service entitled 'Streams in the Desert'. Now what could that be about? Drought, and all its problems perhaps? Some countries no longer use the word 'women' in the title, but in this country, there are other days of prayer for organisations, and WWDP does not want to lose its individuality as a worldwide event. The first service begins at daybreak in the far east and continues around the globe until sunset in the west. It is easy to understand why, every year, the service ends with the hymn 'The day thou gavest Lord is ended'.

The local WWDP is part of Churches Together in Leatherhead. It would be good if the one WWDP event of the year, always the first Friday in March, could receive the same recognition and support as other organisations within CTiL.

**FRIDAY 1st MARCH, 2.30pm,  
LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH**

Do come! You will all be made most welcome.

*Leatherhead WWDP Committee*



## **Men's Breakfasts - Saturdays at 8.00am**

|            |            |  |
|------------|------------|--|
| 23rd Feb   | URC        | Lucy Quinnel - "Teazle Wood"           |
| 23rd March | Anglican   | Cheryl Branch                          |
| 27th April | Catholic   | Paul Pickering - "St Benoit"           |
| 18th May   | Methodist  | Tim Hall "Role of a County Councillor" |
| 22nd June  | URC        | to be arranged                         |
| 27th July  | Anglican   | "                                      |
| August -   | No meeting |  |
| 28th Sept  | Catholic   | "                                      |
| 26th Oct   | Methodist  | "                                      |
| 23rd Nov   | URC        | "                                      |

# **Time for Tea**

**COME for TEA and COMPANY**

from 2.30pm to 4.30pm

**Friday 1st February,**

No "Time for Tea" in March

**Friday 5th April**

at

**LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

If you need transport please contact:

Margaret Meynen on 372930 or Gill Harris on 458518

(Suggested donation £1)



# Leatherhead

Methodist Church

**LMC**

## Diary - February



|              |             |                                 |  |
|--------------|-------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Fri          | 1st         | 2.30pm                          | Time for Tea (to 4.30pm)   |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>3rd</b>  | <b>10.30am</b><br><b>6.30pm</b> | <b>Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion</b><br><b>Rev. Ian Howarth</b>                                       |
| Fri          | 8th to Fri  | 22nd                            | Ian & Barbara visit Jeyapaul in India  |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>10th</b> | <b>10.30am</b><br><b>6.30pm</b> | <b>David Cappitt</b><br><b>Rev. Kath Jones</b>   |
| Mon          | 11th        | 10.00am                         | West Hill School café at LMC (to 12noon)   |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>17th</b> | <b>10.30am</b><br><b>6.30pm</b> | <b>Tina Andrews</b><br><b>Rev. Val Ogden with Holy Communion</b><br><b>jointly with Christ Church at LMC</b> |
| Thurs        | 21st        | 3.30pm                          | Messy Church   |
| Sat          | 23rd        | 8.00am                          | CTiL Men's Breakfast at Christ Church  |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>24th</b> | <b>10.30am</b><br><b>6.30pm</b> | <b>James Cameron</b><br>New Fire   |
| Tues         | 26th        | 8.00pm                          | Church Council   |
| Wed          | 27th        | 8.00pm                          | Leadership Team  |
| <b>March</b> |             |                                 |  |
| Fri          | 1st         | 2.30pm                          | CTiL Women's World Day of Prayer at LMC<br>(No "Time for Tea")   |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>3rd</b>  | <b>10.30am</b><br><b>6.30pm</b> | <b>Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion</b><br>James Cameron   |
| Mon          | 4th         | 10.00am                         | West Hill School café at LMC (to 12noon)   |

# Leatherhead Hospital Services

For many years, as far as the memory stretches, local church organisations have been holding Sunday services at our Leatherhead Community Hospital. We have had a cottage hospital in Leatherhead for over a hundred years, the first being in a cottage in Clinton Road with eight beds in 1892. This was followed in 1901 by the Leatherhead Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital in the Epsom Road and then in 1940 by the current hospital in Poplar Road.

From an original 52 beds these have been reduced over the years to 18. The patients are mainly for rehabilitation following surgery, fractures or strokes and are often elderly. The hospital has a busy outpatient department with 30 clinics, an award winning rehabilitation gym, a community assessment unit which avoids hospital admissions and a state-of-the-art gynaecology colposcopy clinic.

The Sunday Service is shared with local church organisations which include the Parish Church, Leatherhead Methodist, United Reformed and Catholic Churches, Ashted House Groups, Christ Church Fetcham and the Bookham Baptist Church. As far as LMC is concerned the service is simple, lasting about 20 minutes and takes place in the dayroom of Leach Ward, a bright and cheerful room overlooking gardens, lawn and trees. After a short introduction we have a reading, two or three hymns/songs, a talk, a prayer and blessing, all based on a theme. Music accompaniment can be provided by a keyboard or guitar. Of great importance is meeting the patients and the chat we have with them afterwards. Memories and reminiscences with stored recollections shared with us benefit us as much as the patients and it is a privilege to be part of that.

Leatherhead Hospital is now at a watershed as the future will be determined by what is happening locally to the NHS this year. Margaret and I are involved with The Hospital League of Friends in planning new services which could be provided for the hospital, an exciting prospect; so watch this space!

In the meantime the Sunday Services and pastoral care provided by outreach from the Churches are much appreciated by both patients and hospital staff. Long may they continue.

*Fred Meynen*

# LMC Family News



## *Welcome to...*

...Janice Garrod who has been worshipping with us for the past few months

## *Best wishes to...*

...Paul Sutherland-Waite who is settling into his new home at 5 Montgomery Court



## **Details of Housegroups - All Welcome**

The **Daytime House** Group meets fortnightly on Fridays and are studying the "Essential 100" Bible stories. All meetings are from 1.15pm to 2.45pm. New members welcome - please speak to Jane Smith for details of venue. 01372 372919.

The **Wednesday House Group** meets on the third Wednesday each month in the summer. **During the winter months** of January, February and March the group will meet on the third Friday afternoon of the month. Please contact Winifred Ashbrook 01372 276776 for further details of venue.

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

## BBC Lent Talks

Contemporary science is a wonderfully collaborative activity. It knows no barriers of geography, race or creed. At its best it enables us to wrestle with the problems that beset humanity and we rightly celebrate when an advance is made that brings relief to millions. I have spent my life as pure mathematician and I often reflect on what physics Nobel Prizewinner Eugene Wigner called 'the unreasonable effectiveness of mathematics'. How is it that equations created in the head of a mathematician can relate to the universe outside that head? This question prompted Albert Einstein to say: 'The only incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible.' The very fact that we believe that science can be done is a thing to be wondered at. Why should we believe that the universe is intelligible?

After all, if as certain secular thinkers tell us, the human mind is nothing but the brain and the brain is nothing but a product of mindless unguided forces, it is hard to see that any kind of truth let alone scientific truth could be one of its products. As chemist J. B. S. Haldane pointed out long ago: if the thoughts in my mind are just the motions of atoms in my brain, why should I believe anything it tells me - including the fact that it is made of atoms? Yet many scientists have adopted that naturalistic view, seemingly unaware that it undermines the very rationality upon which their scientific research depends! It was not - and is not - always so. Science as we know it exploded onto the world stage in Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries. Why then and why there? Alfred North Whitehead's view, as summarised by C. S. Lewis, was that: 'Men became scientific because they expected law in nature, and they expected law in nature because they believed in a lawgiver'. It is no accident that Galileo, Kepler, Newton and Clerk-Maxwell were believers in God. Melvin Calvin, Nobel Prize-winner in biochemistry, finds the origin of the conviction, basic to science, that nature is ordered in the basic notion: 'that the universe is governed by a single God, and is not the product of the whims of many gods, each governing his own province according to his own laws. This monotheistic view seems to be the historical foundation for modern science.'

Far from belief in God hindering science, it was the motor that drove it. Isaac Newton, when he discovered the law of gravitation, did not make the common mistake of saying: 'now I have a law of gravity, I don't need God'. Instead, he wrote *Principia Mathematica*, the most famous book in the history of science, expressing the hope that it would persuade the thinking man to believe in a Creator.

Newton could see, what sadly many people nowadays seem unable to see, that God and science are not alternative explanations, God is the agent who designed and upholds the universe; science tells us about how the universe works and about the laws that govern its behaviour, God no more conflicts with science as an explanation for the universe than Sir Frank Whittle conflicts with the laws and mechanisms of jet propulsion as an explanation for the jet engine. The existence of mechanisms and laws is not an argument for the absence of an agent who set those laws and mechanisms in place. On the contrary, their very sophistication, down to the fine-tuning of the universe, is evidence for the Creator's genius. For Kepler: 'The chief aim of all investigations of the external world should be to discover the rational order which has been imposed on it by God and which he revealed to us in the language of mathematics'.

This is the first of three instalments of a Lent Talk by Professor John C. Lennox in 2012 on BBC Radio 4. He has written various books such as *Gunning for God* and *God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?* He also has a website - [www.johnlennox.org](http://www.johnlennox.org).

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## **Decision Time!**

Please see Rev. Ian Howarth's note on page 16 about the final decision for the coming together of LMC with Christ Church.

# West Hill Community Café at Leatherhead



Methodist Church  
**Mondays 11th February, and  
4th & 18th March,  
10.00am to 12noon**

After a successful first term before Christmas, pupils at West Hill School in Leatherhead will be continuing with the café at Leatherhead Methodist Church. West Hill School is an outstanding special school supporting 100 secondary aged pupils from 11 to 16 with learning difficulties and Autism.

West Hill School values close community links. Our curriculum is creative and innovative to ensure that all our pupils achieve as much as they possibly can to flourish in adult life. The café is providing learners with the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the local Leatherhead community. The café is also providing learners with worthwhile opportunities to develop work related learning skills as well as social and communication skills.

The café will be open on alternate Monday mornings between 10.00am and noon. The café will serve a range of hot drinks, juices and light snacks at very reasonable prices.

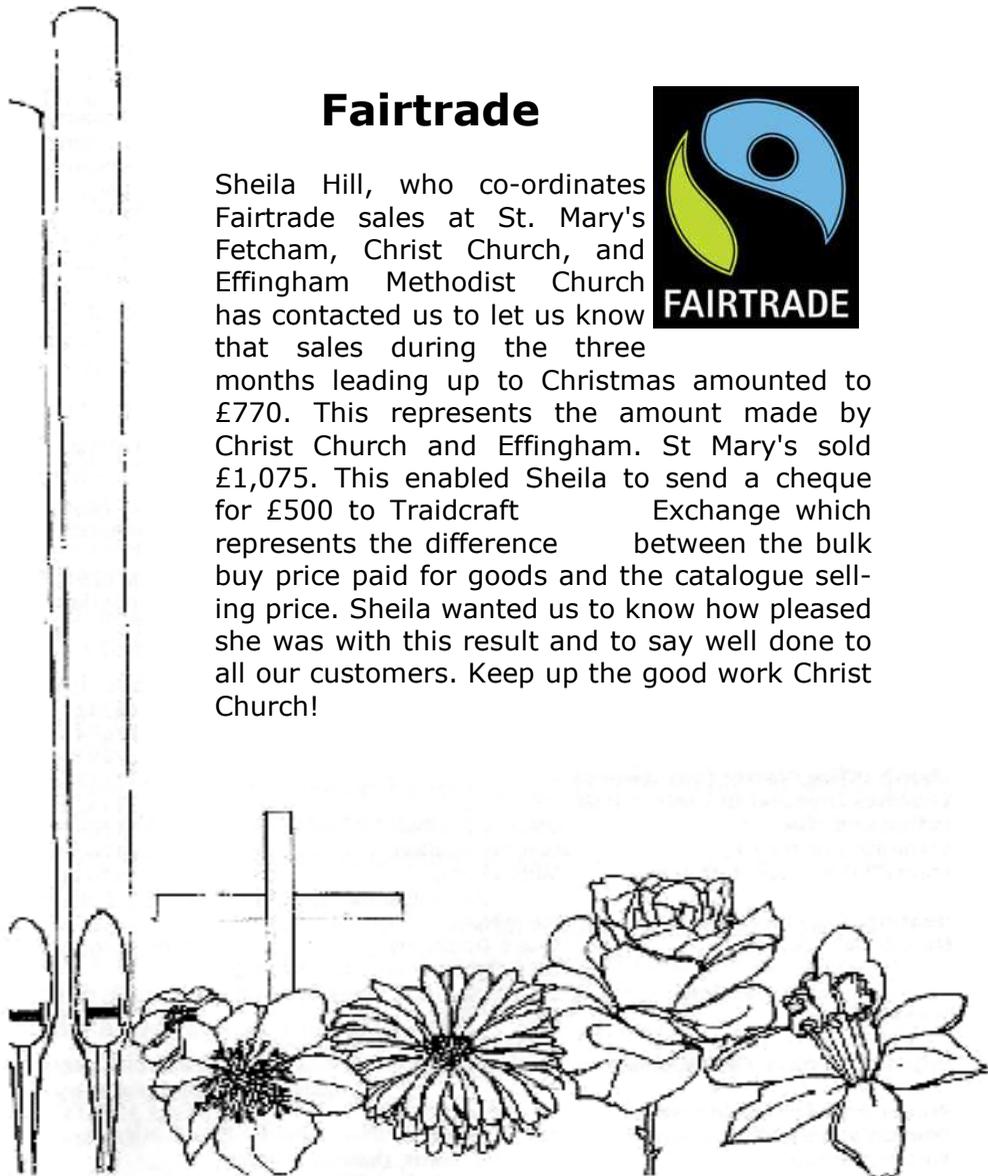
West Hill learners look forward to welcoming all local residents to the West Hill Community café and are extremely grateful to Leatherhead Methodist Church for this exciting social enterprise opportunity.

# Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

## Fairtrade

Sheila Hill, who co-ordinates Fairtrade sales at St. Mary's Fetcham, Christ Church, and Effingham Methodist Church has contacted us to let us know that sales during the three months leading up to Christmas amounted to £770. This represents the amount made by Christ Church and Effingham. St Mary's sold £1,075. This enabled Sheila to send a cheque for £500 to Traidcraft Exchange which represents the difference between the bulk buy price paid for goods and the catalogue selling price. Sheila wanted us to know how pleased she was with this result and to say well done to all our customers. Keep up the good work Christ Church!



# Christ Church Diary - February



|                     |             |                                    |   |
|---------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Fri                 | 1st         | 2.30pm                             | Time for Tea at LMC (see page 18)   |
| <b>Sun</b>          | <b>3rd</b>  | <b>10.30am</b><br>6.30pm           | <b>Rev. Robert Blows</b><br>Evening Service at LMC: Rev. Ian Howarth                    |
| Tues                | 5th         | 7.30pm - 9.00pm                    | Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra<br>rehearse on Tuesdays until 26th February               |
| <b>Sun</b>          | <b>10th</b> | <b>10.30am</b><br>6.30pm           | <b>Mrs Linda Richards - Holy Communion</b><br>Evening Service at LMC: Rev. Kath Jones   |
| <b>Sun</b>          | <b>17th</b> | <b>10.30am</b><br>6.30pm           | <b>Rev. Donald Finnan</b><br>Joint Holy Communion (LMC & URC) at LMC:<br>Rev. Val Ogden |
| Tues                | 19th        | 7.45pm                             | Elders' Meeting   |
| Thurs               | 21st        | 3.30pm                             | Messy Church at LMC   |
| Sat                 | 23rd        | 8.00am                             | Men's Breakfast at Christ Church  |
| <b>Sun</b>          | <b>24th</b> | <b>10.30am</b><br>12noon<br>6.30pm | <b>Rev. Ian Howarth</b><br>Church Meeting<br>New Fire - Ecumenical Service at LMC       |
| <b><u>March</u></b> |             |                                    |   |
| <b>Sun</b>          | <b>3rd</b>  | <b>10.30am</b><br>6.30pm           | <b>Mrs Eileen Lawlor</b><br>Evening Service at LMC: James Cameron                       |



# Christ Church Family News



Members will be sorry to hear that **Sylvia Back** is temporarily in Appleby House Rest Home, Longmead Road, Epsom. She would welcome visitors but please ring the Home first. Tel: 01372 739933.

We send best wishes to **Bob Booker** who hopes to have to some investigation and treatment for his painful hip very soon.

We were pleased to see **Eric Brown** back in church after recovering from a recent fall.

We are glad to know that **Bert Gower** is feeling much better now and we send Florence greetings on her recent birthday.

We wish **Carol Hazell** all the very best for her forthcoming hip replacement.

A number of friends have been suffering with colds and infections and we wish them well. We think of **Frank Farnell, Carol Hazell, Mary Keene, Hilary Porter** and those needing our prayers at this time.

*Anne Cairns*



## Decision Time!

Please see Rev. Ian Howarth's note on page 16 about the final decision for the coming together of Christ Church with LMC.

# 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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01372 362145 (office)  
07590 564544 (mobile)

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KT11 3BD  
**Tel:** 01932 586988

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