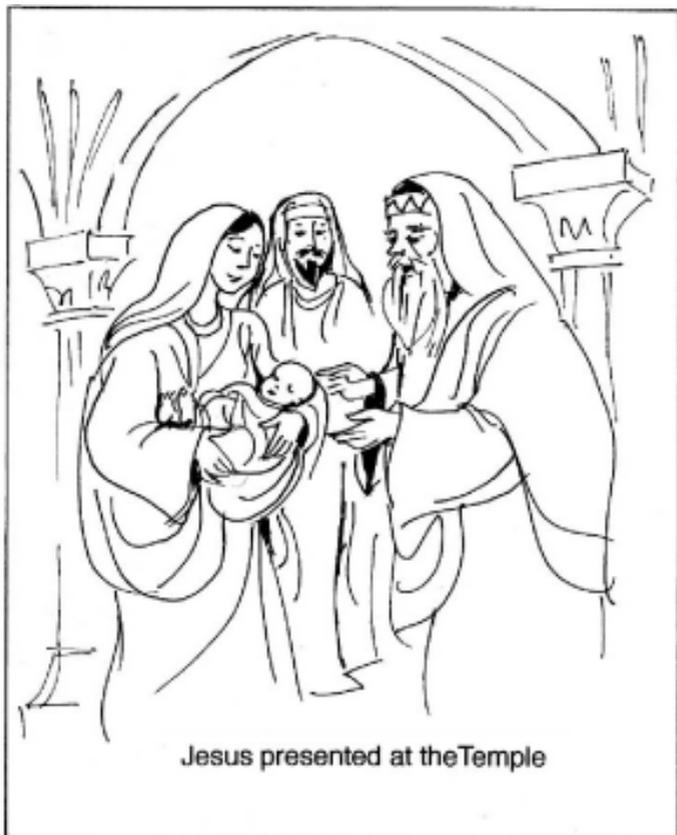


the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

February 2016



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

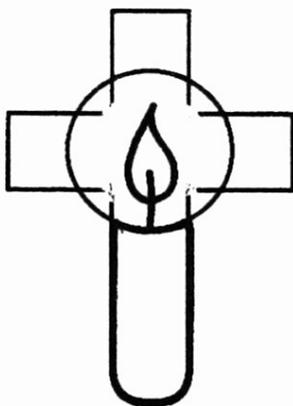
Linking:
Christ Church (United Reformed) Leatherhead
Cobham Methodist Church
Cobham United Reformed Church
Effingham Methodist Church
Leatherhead Methodist Church

The Methodist Church



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



The Ministers Write...

From Rev. Lynda Russell

During the month of January both at LMC and at Christ Church we have had our 'Back to Church' Sunday. Yes - I know it's usually held in September, but we weren't ready then, and there's no time limit on when we invite friends, family and neighbours to church, particularly those who have in the past been church goers and might have drifted away.

I spent a long time thinking and praying about what to focus on in the morning service. Should we just go with the usual lectionary readings, or was there another, relevant theme we could reflect on which might be appropriate both for us and our (expected and invited) visitors. Eventually I felt that it was right to look at the area of worry and anxiety - something which can be a problem for all of us, not only those outside the church.

We thought about what makes us anxious, the resultant brain waves (those pesky churning beta waves) and what Jesus said - and did - on the subject. And what we could do to help calm those beta waves down to lovely relaxed alpha waves! We acknowledged that it wasn't at all easy, even though some tried to make it sound as if it should be, and that we would probably be with the disciples most of the time!! However, putting our trust in Jesus, who understands where we're coming from, and starting with the small things, is the only way to leave all these things behind. And often we need to do it every day!

I've written before about the ECG (Equipping, Calling, Going) Conference in Scarborough that takes place the week after Easter. A group from LMC & Christ Church went last year and everyone had a great time. This year the theme is very much connected to what we thought about at our Back to Church Sunday:

AUTHENTIC *as the maker intended*****

"What is it that wakes you up in the night, that plays on your mind in the darkest hours? We worry about the past, we worry about the present, we worry about today and we worry about the

What does it mean to be an authentic disciple? What is authentic worship?

How do we build authentic community? How do we engage in authentic mission?

**THE WORLD INVITES US TO BE REAL –
DARE WE BE AUTHENTIC WITH THEM?**

Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference!

We would love to take a bigger group with us this year. Most of those who went last year had never been to something similar but came back telling everyone what a fantastic time and experience they had. To prove it we're all going again this year!

There are different price ranges of hotels, flats etc. to suit everyone, even kibbutz (churches) to stay in. You can go to the website to find out more. <http://www.ecgevent.org.uk>

Or speak to Norma or Ron Shaw, Carol or David, John or me.

So hoping to see you there (you don't have to belong to LMC or Christ Church to come with us!).

Blessings,

Lynda

From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

If I take a glance at the year ahead, 2016 is looking to be an interesting year full of change and challenge. This year is a significant year for each of our five children. Not only is Lianne expecting our first grandchild at the end of March but Krisstion is also expecting our second grandchild in August. I know, who would have thought when I uttered the words 'I'm not quite ready to be a grandma yet' that I would be looking at 2016 with such joy and excitement.

What other changes face us in 2016? Samuel is hoping to go to university to study human rights. Of course his A levels are pending but all indications suggest he should be okay. Joel will also be taking his GCSE's and has a conditional offer at the Academy of Contemporary Music, which is his dream. Each of them is anticipating a year of real adjustment and both Col and I will adapt

Almost four years ago our son Karl began an extraordinary journey, having lived with gender dysphoria, he made the decision to face it head on and seek a full transition from male to female.

His name became Carmel and we began the process of seeking professional support. It was a difficult journey to begin and at times it felt like an uphill struggle. Yet at the heart of this journey I am reminded of the words she once said when she first realised she was different from those around her: "Will God still love me mum?" My response for the person I had come to love was that her physical appearance was of little importance to God, but her inner soul was. The person that God had created to be a caring, sociable, loving and faithful individual had not changed, only that her shape would be different from that which we had come to know. Of course the experience Carmel has faced this last few years has sometimes been far removed from a loving response (particularly while living in Birmingham). She's been spat on, even worse physically assaulted and verbally abused by complete strangers, Carmel's journey has been one that speaks of our difficulty to face difference. I have sat on countless occasions wiping away the tears from her face, I have wept at the way people can be so cruel and ignorant of the deep difficulty faced by someone who is not comfortable in the body they have been given. 2016 heralds the beginning of many operations to make the transition from male to female with the first in February. I can only walk this journey with my 'new' daughter, I may not understand entirely all the physical or psychological challenges that Carmel has faced or is still facing but I do know one thing - God loves her.

"Will God still love me?" is not just on the lips of some in the transgender community but it rests on the many who still feel ostracised from the church. Somehow in some places and in some ways we have sent out the message that the church only welcomes those who conform to our own image and it speaks less about the love of God and perhaps more about our need to accept and understand.

Our churches also face different seasons in its lifetime and some of those are exciting and joyous, but some seasons raise more questions, more challenges, they make us feel more vulnerable. Whatever season we are in, we do so in God's strength not in our own, we do so with God's love not our own, we do so with God's grace and not our own.



TALK

Supporting Stroke Recoverers with Aphasia



How We Started

TALK was first established in Guildford in 1998 when a group of volunteers took over the running of two aphasic support groups previously organised by the Stroke Association. The volunteers' achievements were recognised in 2005 when TALK was awarded the highly prestigious Queen's Golden Jubilee Award for Voluntary Service to the Community. This recognises society's "Unsung Heroes".

What is Aphasia?

Aphasia (also referred to as dysphasia) is a communication disability caused by damage to the language centre of the brain, usually as a result of a stroke. People with aphasia may have difficulty with speech, understanding, reading and writing. In many cases they will know what they want to say or write but will be unable to form the words or put the relevant letters to paper. Aphasia can affect relationships, work and personality. The resulting frustration and isolation can impact not only on the recoverer's quality of life but also on that of their family and friends. Approximately 250,000 people in the UK live with aphasia.

What is TALK?

TALK is a registered charity 1072526. Grants, fundraising events and donations help fund the service and two part-time employees. We have 5 groups in Surrey which meet once a week during school term time. The groups are situated in **Ashford, Guildford (2), Knaphill and Walton-on-Thames** and are run by volunteers who undertake speech and language therapist led training. All our volunteers have had enhanced CRB checks. We have approximately 80 volunteers and help approximately 80 recoverers in the five groups.

How We Help

We aim to support people with aphasia by enabling them to practise all aspects of communication in a supportive environment thus promoting confidence and leading to increased participation and independence within the community. Recoverers usually work one to one with a volunteer within the group setting. Each session has a different theme and provides a lively, stimulating environment with the emphasis on communication in its many different forms. Everyone participates as much as they can and the sessions are organised with a variety of ideas and input. Activities include quizzes, number and word worksheets, art, music therapy and occasional outings. A home volunteer service may be available for recoverers who cannot attend the weekly workshops.

Can We Help You?

People are usually referred to us by health and social care professionals but if you or somebody you know would benefit from coming to one of our workshops please contact Susan on the details below.

Can You Help Us?

We rely on the support of volunteers to help provide a supportive service. If you could help once a week in term time we would love to hear from you.

Susan Houston, TALK Coordinator

Telephone: 01784 420371 or email: info@talksurrey.org.uk or visit our website: www.talksurrey.org.uk

Joanna Matthews, TALK Fundraiser

For donations or fundraising please telephone: 07718 425952 or email: fundraising@talksurrey.org.uk

...face to face...

Toiletries for the Hospice

Last year you gave very generously in response to my request for toiletries for patients in Princess Alice Hospice, and the nurses (who often supply such items out of their own pockets) were most grateful to you.

Please could I ask you to do the same again this year? Anything you can think of that would help the nurses to make the patients (those who forget to bring their own toiletries, that is) feel more fresh and comfortable, from shampoo to footbalm and everything in between, would be most appreciated.

Feel free to telephone Rachel Reed (Effingham Methodist) in the evenings on 01372 452160, if you need more information.

Thanks a lot!

Rachel Reed



Caring when it matters





Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary



February

Sun 7th 10.30am Angie Choat

Sat 13th 10.00am Time 4 You (*until 12 noon*)
2.30pm Platinum Service

Sun 14th 10.30am Bob Boyce

Mon 15th Ecumenical Lent Groups start this week
(*see next page*)

Wed 17th 11.30am Church Council meeting

Sun 21st 10.30am Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion

Thurs 25th 3.45pm Messy Church at the URC (*to 5.45pm*)

Sun 28th 10.30am Tina Andrews

March



Next "Time 4 You"

Saturday 13th February,
10.00am - 12 noon

Cobham Methodist Church

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

Cobham Page

Information, news, events and happenings in and around
Cobham including news of Cobham Churches events

Churches Together in Cobham, Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon

Ecumenical Bible Study Groups for Lent 2016

A five-week course on the theme: *Handing on the
Torch: Sacred Words for a Secular World*

Starting in the week beginning 15th February.

To join a group (morning, afternoon or evening) sign
up on the sheet displayed in your church, or contact
the coordinator Karen Banks:

Next Messy Church for Cobham, Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon



Date: Thurs 25th February

Time: 3:45pm - 5:45pm

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

All are welcome



Cobham

United Reformed Church

Cobham URC Worship Diary



February			
Sun	7th	9.00am	Early Bird Service
		10.30am	Thelma Roberts
Sun	14th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Sun	21st	10.30am	Rev. Bruce Stuart
Sun	28th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton <i>followed by Pot Luck Lunch - see below</i>
March			
Fri	4th	a.m. (tbc)	Women's World Day of Prayer (venue tbc)

Pot Luck Lunch

A "Pot Luck Lunch" is being organised for after the Morning Service on Sunday 28th February where Samuel Plumpton will talk about his trip to Geneva and his work with the UN there. Keep the date free and watch for more news on this.

Cobham URC Events

February

Tues 2nd 9.45am Church Walk
7.30pm Elders' Meeting

Thurs 4th 12.30pm Men's Fellowship

Sun 7th 3.00pm Play & Chat (to 6.00pm)

Mon 15th Ecumenical Lent Groups start this week (see page 9)

Thurs 25th 3.45pm Messy Church (to 5.45pm)



Prayers at the Cobham URC Manse:

at 9.30am on Wednesdays:
3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th February.



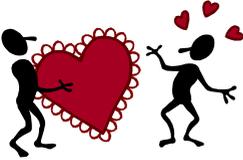
**Tea at Three:
Friday 26th February**



Effingham

Methodist Church

Birthday Dates to celebrate this month:



No birthdays, but we'll celebrate with some cake or choccies! Especially on 14th which is

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 12 noon** on **9th April** in aid of *Habitat for Humanity*.

Prayer Meetings...

...are held at **Janet's**

Saturday Morning Live:



Come and sample some alternative worship, and enjoy coffee and croissants and food for thought on **Saturday 6th February** from 10.00am to 11.00am at St. Lawrence Church Hall in Brown's Lane. Our speaker is **Nabil Hawa**, the Islamic Chaplain at Royal Holloway College, who will tell us about:

"The everyday life of an English Muslim".

Effingham Methodist Diary



February

Tues 2nd 2.30pm Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall

Thurs 4th 2.30pm Christian Meditation in the Church

Sat 6th 10.00am Café Church at St. Lawrence's Hall
(to 11.00am)

**Sun 7th 10.00am Rev. Kim Plumpton - Covenant Service
with Holy Communion**

Wed 10th 3.30pm Messy Church - St. Lawrence Church Hall

Sun 14th 10.00am Rhys Frost

Tues 16th 2.30pm Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall

Thurs 18th 12.30pm Oasis Study Group Lunch
with Kim in the Hall

2.30pm Christian Meditation in the Church

Sun 21st 10.00am Robert Pitt

Sun 28th 10.00am Waseem Haq

March

Fri 4th 10.30am WWDP at St. Lawrence (*see next page*)

7.30pm WWDP at Bookham Baptist (*see next page*)





Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 4th March

The theme of the service this year, which has been prepared by the **Christian women of Cuba** is "**Receive children, receive me**" and is based on St. Mark's Gospel, (10 v 13-16) which reminds us that everyone is a child of God and equally worthy of our love and respect.

The service has been translated into over 60 languages and 1000 dialects, and an estimated 3M people in over 170 countries will observe the day of prayer. There will be thousands of services throughout the world.

Remember it's not just for women - everyone is welcome.

Our local services will be held on **Friday 4th March:**

10.30am at St. Lawrence Parish Church, Effingham

7.30pm at Bookham Baptist Church, Gt. Bookham



LENT is early this year.

Ash Wednesday is on **10th February** when the first of Effingham's fortnightly **Lent Lunches** will be held from **12.30 to 2.00pm** in **St. Lawrence Church Hall**. This year's charities are Lunchbox and the Leatherhead

LENT  2016



St. Lawrence Church Hall in Brown's Lane
Wednesdays 10th February and 9th March - 3.30 to 5.30pm

Easter treat made in UK now



Easter eggs will be given to children at Messy Church again this year, to remind them and their families about the true meaning of Easter. You may be interested to know that production of the **Real Easter Egg** has moved to Banbury due to the high level of demand for eggs! So it's now a fully UK manufactured product. The blend of chocolate is better than ever! Which is good news for chocolate lovers, as a popular rival brand has seen sales plummet, when the American owners tampered with the taste!

Increased sales of the *Real Easter Egg* also means a bigger **Fairtrade Premium** is paid to farmers who grow the sugar and Cacao used in the egg's production. Cash from the premium is used to invest in their communities, where everything from schoolbooks to solar panels has been purchased.

The Real Easter Egg began its public life in 2009 encouraged by individuals, churches and schools in Oxford Diocese, so it is fitting that sales are sufficient to warrant *Fairtrade* chocolate being moved to Banbury.

Easter is early this year so order now to help spread the true Easter story so more people will discover the Good News of hope and new life. See website <http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk/>



'Connect'

A fortnightly group for carers

and partners living with dementia

At St Lawrence Church Hall, Browns Lane, Effingham

Thursdays 10.30 till 12 O'clock

The group for carers and their partners living with dementia continues to meet fortnightly in St Lawrence Church Hall on 4th & 18th February from 10.30am to 12 noon.

We have enjoyed visits from "Grace Notes" who entertained with popular songs and music from the shows, an exercise session with Sheila Donovan, and a delightful visit by year six children from St. Lawrence Primary School singing Christmas songs and carols. The group aims to provide support for carers as well as activities for those with dementia, e.g. snooker, puzzles, bowls, bingo, skittles, a walk and the game "Connect" itself.

For more information contact Gill Walker on 01372 457987 or Kim Plumpton on 01932 586988





"Grace Notes" who visited the "Connect" group to entertain us.



Happy Leap Day!



Let's celebrate an extra 24 hours.
It's a Leap year but WHY ?

When Rome emerged as a world power, the difficulties of making a calendar were well known, but the Romans complicated their lives because of their superstition that even numbers were unlucky. Hence their months were 29 or 31 days long, with the exception of February, which had 28 days. However, four months of 31 days, seven months of 29 days, and one month of 28 days added up to only 355 days. Therefore the Romans invented an extra month called Mercedonius of 22 or 23 days. It was added every second year.

Even with Mercedonius, the Roman calendar eventually became so far off that **Julius Caesar**, advised by the Greek astronomer **Sosigenes**, decided to simplify things and added days to different months of the year to create the 365 day calendar. 46 B.C. was made 445 days long by imperial decree, bringing the calendar back in step with the seasons. Then the solar year (with the value of 365 days and 6 hours) was made the basis of the calendar. The months were 30 or 31 days in length, and to take care of the 6 hours, every fourth year following the 28th day of Februarius (29th February) was made a 366-day year. Moreover, Caesar decreed the year began with the first of January, not with the vernal equinox in late March.

This calendar was named the **Julian calendar**, and is still used by Eastern Orthodox churches to this day. However, despite the correction, the Julian calendar is still 11½ minutes longer than the actual solar year, and after a number of centuries, even 11½ minutes adds up! Astronomers figured this out around the second century A.D., but the calendar system didn't change, and by the 16th century it was nearly 10 days off-track, even with the leap year system.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII made his own reforms to the Julian

This year's Charities for Lent Lunches

The Leatherhead Food Bank and Lunchbox, are to be Effingham's Charities for this year's Lent Lunches, but whilst you will have heard about food banks you may not have heard about Lunchbox so let me explain...

You will all know about **PitStop**, a Registered Charity set up many years ago in Leatherhead to support the homeless, lonely and vulnerable. Well, "The PitStop" temporarily closed at the end of August 2015. Sadly, I and the other trustees had been unable to find permanent accommodation in Leatherhead after the disastrous floods of 2013 - 2014 destroyed our home at the Leatherhead Football Club. So since then we have been using Fetcham Village Hall and the United Reformed Church hall in Leatherhead as temporary homes for which we are very grateful. However, despite entering into negotiations for several properties nothing suitable was acquired.

At the end of August 2015, PitStop left the URC Church Hall, where we had been for a year, and made our staff redundant, because our hiring agreement had come to an end and we had failed to find a suitable replacement property.

At this point Kim Plumpton's husband, Colin, and I felt that we had to do something to replace some of the services previously provided by PitStop and so we set up **LUNCHBOX**. We started in October at Leatherhead Methodist Church to provide support, hot meals and food parcels to needy families once a week. We meet on **Wednesdays** from 11.00am to 2.00pm in LMC's Hall. It is ideal because it's close to the centre of Leatherhead, has adequate parking for volunteers, a small hall which comfortably takes thirty, and has a splendid kitchen and toilets.

Colin and I hope that our **LUNCHBOX** will not be needed for very long, however in the meantime we have to pay our running costs which are around £150 a month, so we are grateful for all the support we can get. We are very thankful to all those who have supported us so far and who have made a difference to the lives of those who come along.

Graham Peddie, who ran PitStop for many years, left about a year ago. He has been doing similar work in Epsom, and, just

Tuesday Teas

A splendid Christmas lunch was enjoyed by 25 regular Tuesday Tea folk and helpers at The Douglas Haig pub in Effingham watched over by the controversial Earl Douglas Haig himself!

Our last actual meeting in the old year was on 22nd December and included some live music with Dennis Wickham and Morag Butler playing some seasonal songs, as well as enjoying tea and cake of course. We meet fortnightly on 2nd and 16th February, 1st and 15th March in Our Lady of Sorrows Church Hall now named the St Alphege Hall, from 2.30 to 4pm. All welcome.



Leatherhead Pages

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



All Saints, Kingston

A SPECIALITY COFFEE SHOP AND SANDWICH COMPANY

Open Mon-Sat, 8am-3pm

OPEN TO ALL

*the very best coffee +
the very best sandwiches =
the very best support*

North Leatherhead Community Centre

A number of you will know the North Leatherhead Community Centre (on Kingston Road at the mini-roundabout opposite Dilston Road) as home to the local Foodbank on a Saturday Morning. Some may know about other users of the building including the St. Giles Play Group or the Brownies or Bingo or as the polling station for a large part of North Leatherhead. It was an Edwardian School building converted in the late 1970's to a Community Centre.

So you may have become aware from a mixture of social media and the front page of the Leatherhead Advertiser that on Sunday 10th January, Mole Valley District Council took back the management of the Centre from the North Leatherhead Community Association. The Council stepped in due to concerns about the governance, finances and condition of the building. This step was not taken lightly. It involved consultations with both District and County Councillors and several leading figures in the community including Dave Banko of Churches Together and Joe Crome of Leatherhead Youth Project who have formed a reference group.

So why were there concerns? It was discovered that the NLCA had been struck off as a Charity in 2015 due to a lack of financial accounts, which had not been available at the NLCA AGM or submitted to the Charity Commission. The charity also had serious debts estimated as possibly in the range of £30,000 to £60,000. These included over £9,000 to the council for rent, and other debts to HMRC for VAT, the brewery and wholesalers etc. This was not apparent to the organisation's committee, as it seems all documentation went via a single officer who may have been the sole custodian of the bank account.

The three Trustees appointed quite properly in the 1980's were discovered to be no longer active. Sadly one was deceased, another said he resigned a decade or more ago and the remaining one had retired some years ago to Devon. He was in his eighties and was not aware that he was still listed as a Trustee. In addition, the Licensee for the Social Club Bar was also long retired.

The state of the building was also a concern. There was no documentation of electrical testing, boiler checks or water testing for Legionnaires' Disease. A number of small electrical items such as kettles failed "PAT" testing. Also the wiring is a bit of a spaghetti mystery and certain doors and the ceiling are in poor condition.

The council has now held two public "drop in" meetings with about a hundred local residents and building users. After the reasons for the council taking over the centre were explained, many were quite shocked and surprised by the facts. The council are very keen for the centre to offer a revised, more community minded set of activities. A community online opinion poll has already had over two hundred individual responses as to possible future uses.

With some small scale repairs, the building is now safely operational. The council has commissioned a complete surveyors report of the building - very similar to the church quinquennial - to report in the next couple of weeks. This will then be discussed with the reference group, users and others in the community so that a long term plan for the community facilities in North Leatherhead can be worked out. As

Leatherhead Lent Groups 2016

(Last date for signing up is Sunday 31st January)

Our Lent Course will be based on the film "The Way". It is about a father who heads overseas to recover the body of his estranged son who died while travelling the "El Camino del Santiago". The father decides to take the pilgrimage himself which becomes his journey of self-discovery.

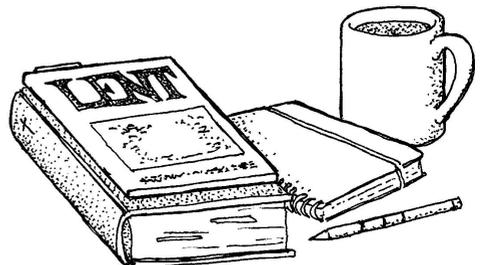
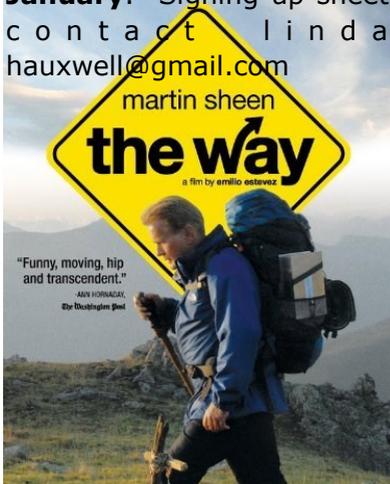
The Course is in a Lent Book by Rev. Tim Heaton, "The Long Road to Heaven". As it follows their journey of inner transformation, the course examines biblical accounts and images of salvation - past, present and future.

Each group leader will have a book and a DVD. If you would like a copy of the book, you should buy one for yourself - each book is approximately £8.

The film will be shown at LMC on Sunday evening 14th February (provisionally at 7.00pm, but this may change). All members of Lent Groups should see this film before the Lent Groups start. It may also be possible to borrow the DVD - speak to your Lent Group leader about this if you're unable to make the showing at LMC.

The last date to sign up for Lent Groups is Sunday 31st January. you don't choose a life, you live one.

Signing up sheets are available at each church, or contact linda-hauxwell@gmail.com martin sheen





**MUSIC
on
THURSDAYS
at LMC**



musiconthursdays.org

**WEDNESDAYS
at
CHRIST
CHURCH**

Thursday February 25th, in
Leatherhead Methodist Church

**2pm - Annual General Meeting of
Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society**
Everyone welcome

3pm - AGM Concert
Great Russian Piano Works
Marios Panteliadis
piano music by
Tchaikovsky, Scriabin, and Prokofiev

All these concerts: free entry, with a retiring collection

12.30 lunchtime, Wednesday 16th March
Wednesdays at Christ Church

John Eagles

12.30 lunchtime, Wednesday 20th April
Wednesdays at Christ Church

David Oldfield, Organist & DoM, All Saints, Banstead

12.30 lunchtime, Thursday 28th April
Music on Thursdays at LMC

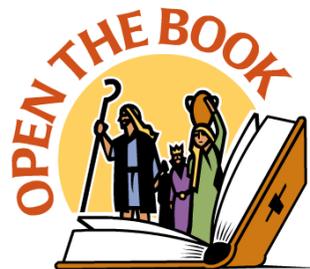
Acacia Duo

*Samantha Pearce, flute
Heather Wrighton, harp*

Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society HMRC Charity Ref EW02213

Open the Book...

...presents the Bible in primary schools in an accessible and enjoyable way. Teams of volunteers from the local churches use drama, mime, props, costume - and even the children and staff themselves - to present the Bible stories in lively and informative ways during an assembly!



We are hoping to set up an 'Open the Book' team that will be able to visit Trinity once a month. It will require a short rehearsal before assembly and about half an hour. We hope to start this soon. Training will be provided; all you need is a

Women's World Day of Prayer "Receive Children, Receive Me"

Friday 4th March at 2.30pm, Leatherhead Parish Church
(Followed by tea in the Church Hall)



This is a service for ALL - men and women

This year's service has been prepared by Christian women in Cuba. Women in Cuba are generally educated, qualified as technicians and in other professional fields. They play an important role in society, family and church, although it is primarily men who hold key positions of authority.

Although mainly about women and children, the message of the service is that we are called to accept every person as unique and equally worthy in the sight of God. Children tend not to discriminate or judge, and that should be our response to God's love and colour our attitude to all people. WWDP follows their motto "informed prayer, prayerful action".

Time for Tea



COME for TEA and COMPANY

From 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Friday 5th February

No "Time for Tea" in March as it coincides with Women's World Day of Prayer at the Parish Church at 2.30pm, followed by refreshments (*see opposite*)

LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

EVERYONE WELCOME



Time for Tea

We had our first meeting of the year on a blustery day in January looking forward to those delicious cakes and fellowship together. Harry said the Grace, reminding us to keep the door open to let Jesus into our hearts.

After we had supped tea and tasted mouthwatering cheese scones, tartlets, chocolate brownie tray bakes and Victoria sponge cake to name but a few we reminded ourselves of those of us who could not be present and had been recently ill or in hospital.

After a demonstration of a robotic car (a Christmas present!) which was viewed with some interest if not amusement we took on a more serious note with the subject of loneliness which had been featured the night before on television. The friendly knock on the door, the unexpected phone call or letter can do so much to lighten the feeling of isolation and we hope that Time for Tea has a role to play here.

Jean then read to us one of her own poems entitled "New":

New Year, new beginnings:
Stretched out like a pristine canvas,
A palate of paint to colour the coming year.
But is it quite as it seems?
Can we really wipe out 'the before'?
Past shades of life
The green of new growth,
The purple of darker spells
Or perhaps indicating right royal times
Blue for the flowing movement of seasons
Mixed with sunshine yellows and rich red
And the bright orange of high days and holidays,
All be combined, blended
To shade in the year to come.
A poised brush waits to curve a rainbow of hope,
The watching and waiting, the anticipation of fulfilment,
With a potful of memories at the base
Each moment that passes,
That speck of time becomes another souvenir
New is so transitory, relish it.

Joy told us that last year Time for Tea had raised £100 through the generous donations made by the people attending and we had decided to donate £50 to the Leatherhead Youth Project and another £50 to the Mary Frances Trust in Church Road which looks after people with social and mental health problems.

NEW FIRE

Don't forget to plan to come along to the contemporary New Fire service at 6.30pm on the fourth Sunday evening each month at LMC. Stay afterwards for coffee and a chat.



Next Messy Church for Leatherhead:

Thursday 18th February,
3.30pm to 5.30pm at:

LMC



Men's Breakfasts

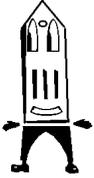
Leatherhead Men's Breakfasts will be at 8.00am on the following Saturdays:-

27th February in the Catholic Church Hall - "The sacred and ancient art of bodging" by Mike King

19th March at the Methodist Church Hall - "What to do after 71 years" by Gerald Coates.

...then on the fourth Saturday each month.

All men of any denomination or none are welcome. A suggested



Leatherhead

Methodist Church

***Please see the Leatherhead Pages
(pages 21 to 28) for more news***

West Hill School Community Café...

...is held at LMC every Tuesday morning at 10.30am, except during school holidays (*so no café on 16th February - half term*).

West Hill School in Leatherhead is an outstanding special school for pupils aged from 11 to 16 with learning difficulties and autism. The café is providing learners with opportunities to develop work-related skills as well as social and communications skills. Please come along on Tuesday mornings to support this



LMC House Groups

LMC has three House Groups where Church members or friends can meet together on a regular basis. These groups usually meet in someone's home, and are informal ways to get to know each other better, to share joys, concerns, and prayer requests if desired, and to discuss various subjects, either from the Bible or from other relevant Christian books. Everyone is very welcome to join a group.





Diary



February

Tues	2nd	10.30am	West Hill School Café at LMC - all welcome
Fri	5th	2.30pm	Time for Tea <i>(to 4.30pm)</i>
Sat	6th	5.00pm	Pancake Party <i>(see page 32)</i>
Sun	7th	10.30am	Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion
Tues	9th	10.30am	West Hill School Café at LMC - all welcome
Sun	14th	10.30am	John Oborn
		6.30pm	Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion
Thurs	18th	3.30pm	Messy Church <i>(to 5.30pm)</i>
Sun	21st	9.00am	Bring and Share Prayer Breakfast
		10.30am	Rhys Frost
Tues	23rd	10.30am	West Hill School Café at LMC - all welcome
		2.30pm	Pastoral prayer meeting
Thurs	25th	2.00pm	L'head Concert & Arts Society AGM followed at 3.00pm by a concert <i>(see p.24)</i>
Sat	27th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast - Catholic Church Hall
Sun	28th	10.30am	Joint Service at Christ Church -
			Rev. Lynda Russell
		6.30pm	New Fire

March

Tues	1st	10.30am	West Hill School Café at LMC - all welcome
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Note: The book "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations" by Robert Schnase was one of the resources on the bookstall at the 'Navigating Change' event that five from LMC attended last October. A background to the book was given in the December/January edition of the Link, and we now begin a series looking at the individual chapters:

"Brother, sister, let me serve you"

Five Practices of Fruitful Con- gregations



of Fruitful Con-

Chapter 1. The Practice of Radical Hospitality

Out of genuine love of Christ and each other, we are urged to invite, welcome, include and support newcomers, and the more established of our congregation, and to help them grow in faith. In the Methodist Church this goes back to the days of Wesley, when he preached around the country to all and everyone. The author's experience is wide, and quotes many examples of occasions when a friendly greeting is vital. He advises that our approach should be free of "inside jargon". Hospitality, he says, needs prayer, planning and a purposeful attitude - Radical Hospitality has to change the way we look at aspects of ministry. Ushers, greeters, door stewards - whatever they are called - need to be trained, taught and prepared to make their service an integral part of the whole. It cannot be assumed that everyone is suitable. Declining numbers are not necessarily because people are dissatisfied, but because people grow old and die, or move nearer to family, and that number tends to

Chapter 2. The Practice of Passionate Worship (PW)

This five-part chapter is so full of what PW is, it is almost impossible to pull out what is most important, recognising that each reader will focus on what is considered most relevant to them. It states that PW connects all people to God and to one another.

It is a time to think less about ourselves and more about God's will. Worship can transform lives, heal souls, renew hope, provoke change and inspire compassion. Without passion, worship can become dry and routine. "Worship" is devotion to God. "Passionate" is an emotional and deep commitment that goes beyond that.

PW is not restricted to any one style but should be varied enough to engage all. Some members get most from the music - loud and modern, others the traditional hymns; some need silence and prayer; others the stimulation of a good sermon; others the learning from talking together to express views on a particular point. It does not matter what appeals most as long as the attendance has fulfilled a need. An hour of PW colours all the other hours of the week. Services need flexibility.

PW should not be the sole responsibility of the minister, but a prayerful communication between all who take part, aiming to develop lay people who feel comfortable and confident in leadership roles, encouraging all aspects of church life beyond Sunday, - to

Pancake Party at LMC

**Saturday 6th February
from 5.00pm to 7.00pm**

Food and pancake-related fun for all ages. Bring your favourite pancake topping; the pancakes and some savoury nibbles will be provided. No charge, but please let Jane Smith know if you plan to come so we have some idea how many pancakes to cook. There

Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day

It's odd, really, that confessing one's sins to God should ever have involved making pancakes. And yet the beginning of Lent brings us both – Shrove Tuesday is Pancake Day, and is followed by Ash Wednesday, and so Lent begins.

In centuries gone by, the pancakes were made to use up the milk and eggs before the fasting of Lent. More recently, many readers will have childhood memories of the wonder of watching our mothers break an egg, mix it with milk and flour – and out of that gooey mess, to produce a light and delicious pancake.

These days more and more of us buy pancake mix, or even ready-made pancakes. It seems we prefer the certainty of ending up with pancakes - to the risk of having made nothing BUT a mess of the kitchen.

In many towns and villages they used to hold pancake races on the day. Why anyone would want to run around a field while holding a pancake is not clear, but in Olney, Bucks, they have held a pancake race almost every year since 1445.

Parish Pump



LMC Family News



Jean Knott...

Jean died unexpectedly on 4th December at her home in Bookham. We remember Ken and all members of the family at this time.

Congratulations to...

...Rev. Ian Howarth who has been appointed as Ecumenical Canon at Litchfield Cathedral. This is, of course, in addition to his role as Chair of the Birmingham Methodist District.

Our thoughts and prayers are with...

... Members and friends being looked after in nursing care or at home, and with all those who care for them day by day.

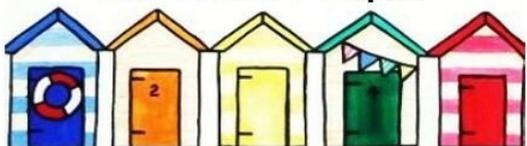
Holiday at Home 2016

We now have an organising committee and are looking for volunteers:

- Transport - drivers
- Helpers to set up/clear away
- Servers for refreshments
- Crafts
- Cooks for lunch
- Hosts
- General Helpers

We are very excited about this mission opportunity and would really appreciate your help. Please let Lynda, Mary P or Norma know if you're able to be with us, **by 4th February**

Holiday at Home for Older People



Monthly Service at The Beeches Care Home

A service is held at The Beeches Care Home in Forty Foot Road at 3.00pm on the third Tuesday every month. If you feel you can assist with running the service, please contact Lynda.



Prayer Breakfasts

Prayer breakfasts are held on the third Sunday each month at 9.00am. It's a bring and share (non-cooked) breakfast with a short time of prayer fellowship before the morning service. All



Pastoral Prayers

Prayer meetings are held at 2.30pm on the 4th Tuesday every month at LMC. All pastoral visitors Stewards and Christ Church Elders are welcome to attend. Next meeting - **Tuesday 23rd February.**

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

***Please see the
Leatherhead Pages
(pages 21 to 28)
for more news***



Date for your diary

I am delighted to tell you that, on Sunday 1st May, our friend Heather Ward will be commissioned as a Lay Preacher, and that Brian Treharne will be leading our service. Heather is not one to blow her own trumpet, so I feel, as one who was a member of her support group throughout her training, I would like to commend her on her achievement and I am sure that I echo everyone's congratulations and thanks.

I know that she worked very hard and I am told that she passed her exams with flying colours. I am sure you will want to put this date in your diary, so I am giving you lots of notice for this important event.

Synod

Jeanette has passed on to me the role of link-person between our church and the Synod. I've already been to a couple of their meetings and enjoyed them. The next one, on 9th February at Crawley, sounds extra special. This is what appears on the agenda:

MAIN ITEM: Felicity Dick and Anna Pincus on the background and human stories of the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group (GDWG) and including mention of "Refugee Tales."

At the bottom of the agenda it is stated that any members of our congregation would be welcome. I will have three spare seats in my car and would love some company on the journey. Never fear about getting lost amid the many roundabouts at Crawley, as I will borrow my husband's little navigating machine. I can even pick you up from your own front door.

Christ Church Diary



February

- Fri 5th 2.30pm Time for Tea at LMC (to 4.30pm)
- Sun 7th 10.30am Eileen Lawlor**
- Tues 9th 7.30pm Synod Area Meeting - Crawley (see page 37)
- Sun 14th 10.30am Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion**
12 noon Church Meeting
6.30pm At LMC - Holy Communion,
Rev. Lynda Russell
- Thurs 18th 3.30pm Messy Church at LMC (to 5.30pm)
- Sun 21st 10.30am Parade Service - Rev. Lynda Russell**
- Tues 23rd 2.30pm Pastoral Visitors' & Elders Prayer Mtg at LMC
- Thurs 25th 2.00pm LCAS AGM at LMC (see page 24)
3.00pm Piano Concert at LMC (see page 24)
- Sat 27th 8.00am Men's Breakfast - Catholic Church Hall
- Sun 28th 10.30am Joint Service at Christ Church -**
Rev. Lynda Russell
6.30pm New Fire at LMC

March



Christ Church Family News



We are very sorry that Bob Booker had an unpleasant fall on the path at the side of the church on 20th December and cut his head and hand badly, ending up in hospital. We are pleased to report that he has made an excellent recovery and is back to his normal cheery self.

We have been very glad to welcome Mrs Gladys Hunt in recent weeks after her move from Sussex. We hope that she will find fellowship and friendship with us.

We are very sorry to report that Jean McDowall suffered a stroke on 22nd November. She is being well looked after in Britten Ward, Langley Wing, Epsom Hospital. Neil, Alison and Ishbel greatly appreciate all kindness, thoughts and prayers. Jean has been visited by Rev Lynda Russell and several friends, and others are welcome to do so.



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:

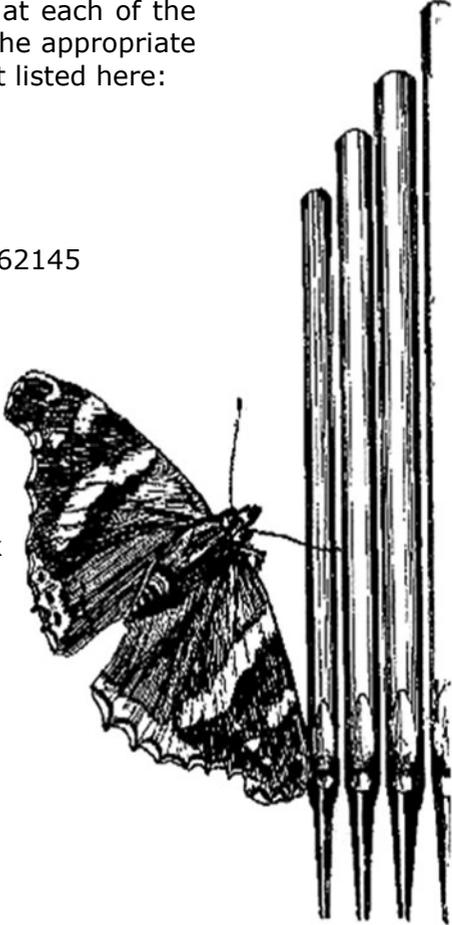
Leatherhead Methodist Church:
Church Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8AY
www.leatherheadmethodist.org
Contact: Administrator -
Carol Stoves 01372 377125; Office 362145

Christ Church (United Reformed):
Epsom Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ST
www.chch.org.uk
Contact: Local Church Leader -
Mike Essex 01372 273472

Effingham Methodist Church:
Chapel Hill, Effingham, KT24 5NB
www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk
Contact: Senior Steward -
Dave Putland 01372 454850

Cobham United Reformed Church:
38 Stoke Road, Cobham, KT11 3BD
www.cobhamurc.org.uk
Contact: Church Secretary -
Mary Langtry 01483 282421

Cobham Methodist Church:
Cedar Road, Cobham, KT11 2AA
www.cobhammethodistchurch.com



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Rev. Kim Plumpton

38 Stoke Road
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Tel: 01932 586988