

the Link

The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham

February 2018



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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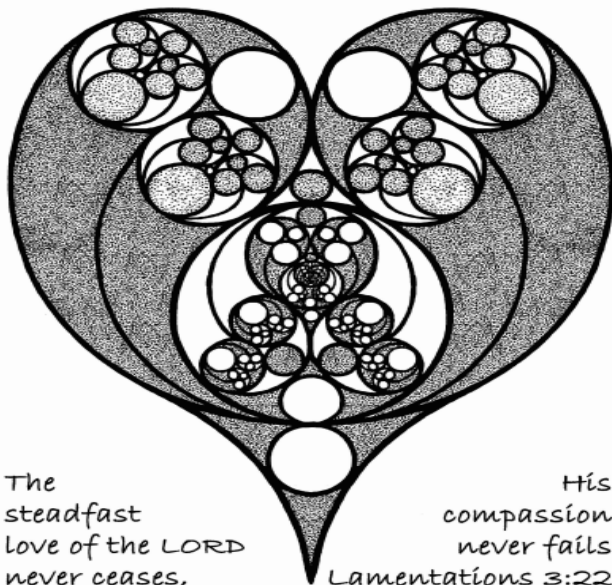
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The
steadfast
love of the LORD
never ceases,

His
compassion
never fails
Lamentations 3:22

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All copy for the March issue to the editor by February 14th



The Ministers Write...

From Rev Lynda Russell

Dear Friends

How are the resolutions looking at the beginning of February? When I asked the congregation on Covenant Sunday only 1 person had made any resolutions (or at least admitted to it!)

Surveys show that among the most common new year's resolutions are: the determination to enjoy life more; lose weight; get fit; learn something new; find true love; get a better job; pay off debts; and reduce stress - presumably not all at the same time! However, I think those pretty much cover everything! And yet, ongoing research confirms something we already suspect - perhaps from personal experience - that the majority of us will abandon our resolutions even by mid-January, with many of us not making it beyond the first week!!

How can we think differently about resolutions to make them more relevant/helpful? It's suggested it could be with the help of Paul's letter to the Galatians - which reminds us that Christ has set us free (5:1, 13). But the freedom Christ gains is a freedom to live in the Spirit.

We who *walk* by the Spirit (5:16) and are *led* by the Spirit (5:18), who *live* by the Spirit and *keep in step with* the Spirit (5:25) are no longer under the authority of tradition; it's no longer a foregone conclusion that we will always 'gratify the desires of the flesh' (yes, I can refuse that extra piece of cake!). Instead, the death and resurrection of Christ and the giving of the Spirit show us that the Spirit renews and enables our ongoing **covenant relationship** with God.

Of course, as Paul says, there is conflict and struggle - we aren't perfect! Fruit needs to be cultivated; lasting change does not arrive overnight, although we might like to hope it would!!

Continued next page

And that's why Paul's 'walking' comparison is so appropriate. Unlike the dramatic moments of decision or fresh resolve we sometimes make at this time of the year, walking suggests a more regular pattern – ongoing, mundane even – a process which takes place in the everyday where we live and where we work – on the commute, in the home, at the office, in the gym (?), in the checkout queue, with our family and friends...

In these contexts, we can discover that it's the consistent, everyday actions that make a difference, as we continue to walk step-by-step – our lifelong process of transformation into the likeness of Christ through the ongoing work of the Spirit.

And that's the reason we are looking at the 'Holy Habits' at LMC. New habits become life-long behaviours, bringing with them that transformation.

Let's make those Holy Habits our 'resolution'. Not for this year, but for life!

Every Blessing

Lynda



From Rev Kim Plumptre

Dear Friends,

It's funny to think the last time I wrote a letter for the Link was November in preparation for the December and January issue. My goodness so much has happened since then.

Can you believe our new grandson is 6 weeks old already, almost 2 months old by the time you receive this. The joy of delivering my own grandson in the back of my car will surely remain unsurpassed in terms of both the scariest and most joyful moments of 2017. Yet here we are about to launch into the second month of 2018, who knows what lies ahead.

Interestingly as I write this I find myself somewhat diminished by ill health so I apologise if this letter is less than it could be. Like so many fending off a chest infection I also contend with laryngitis. It's been almost a week since I lost my voice and I have been unable to return to 'active' duty yet but I'm sure it won't be too long before I feel well enough to do so. Yes, before you say anything, the house is indeed quiet.

During this time it's amazing isn't it that's it's not until you lose something, do you quite appreciate its value or how significant your voice is when it comes to communication. I can't lead a service, or interact in meetings in any significant way, I can't lead prayers or go visiting, I can't answer the phone. Although I thought it was adorable when my son called and said 'I know you can't answer this call mum but can you give me a sign if you can pick me up from the train station?' Why he didn't text I don't know. However, I'm grateful for emails and texts that have kept me connected. And for the beautiful flowers that have filled the living room, thank you, I've discovered at this time that I'm getting a dab hand at sign language, writing abbreviated texts messages or hurried handwritten notes. My frustrations are also obvious when I realise I've haven't made myself clear, as Col says 'the eyes say it all.' Of course I try every now and again to whisper or to talk but I'm told that's not good so I'm generally left in silence for the moment.

If I reflect upon where I find myself as we go into 2018 perhaps through it all I can learn from the experience to appreciate a number of things, to appreciate the gift of listening. The temptation to jump in with an anecdote or experience when you're listening to someone is so tempting, but attentive listening is a gift I can give and that's not all bad.

I can also learn to appreciate the gift of silence in an ever busy world; silence is not something to be feared and yet we always find ways to fill it.

I can also appreciate the gift of 'touch' in a world that is ever vigilant against its inappropriateness and rightly so at times, but not at the cost of those who appreciate an appropriate way of expressing real care and concern. It's not always about words.

I can appreciate the expressions of love that are important for us to feel that others care, the flowers, the cards, the emails.

I can appreciate the importance of using my voice wisely when it does return and continue to appreciate the real difference our voices can make wherever we find ourselves. Perhaps there are even times when things are best left unsaid.

I can also appreciate the sense of purpose we all need, that makes us feel part of something bigger, where we all have a part to play.

Continued p 6

Continued from p5

So as I journey in 2018 knowing that this ill health is only momentary, this chest infection will go and my voice will return, I am reminded that there are many around us who face the same difficulties day after day and month after month, who won't have the luxury of getting better. Perhaps the very things we can learn to offer those in need is not too far away from those very things we learn to appreciate.

Every blessing Kim

Future training sessions for your church



Led by Revd Andy Twilley Training Officer for Southern Synod

Where: Cobham United Reformed Church,
38 Stoke Road, KT11 3BD

When: 16th Feb

Time: 10:30 am – 12:30pm

To book a place please contact: Revd Kim Plumpton 01932 586988
or email Kimp_822@hotmail.com



Cobham Methodist Worship Diary



February

Sun	4th	10.30am	Rev Gavin Hancocks
Sat	10th	2.30pm	Platinum Service
Sun	11th	10.30am	Rev Kim Plumptre - Joint Service at URC with Holy Communion
Sun	18th	10.30am	Rev Kim Plumptre (Joint Service)
Sun	24th	10.30am	Jay Dunning

March

Sun	4th	10.30am	John Bees
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Sir Kenneth Stuart (1920 - 2017)

Ken and his wife Barbara were for many years valued members of the congregation at Cobham Methodist Church, until just recently when age and infirmity meant they were unable to join us from the care home to which they had moved.

He was born and spent his early years in Barbados, before winning a scholarship to study for a degree in Montreal. The Montreal winter was very different from the Barbados climate. It's no wonder that in more recent years he and Barbara regularly spent part of the cold wet British winter in Barbados.

From Canada he moved on to study in wartime London, and then to Belfast and Edinburgh. After a visit back to Barbados, where he met and married Barbara, he took up a post in the University Hospital of the West Indies in Jamaica, later becoming the first West Indian Professor in the university.

The next move was to London, as Medical Advisor to the Commonwealth Secretariat, and it was as a result of his work there that he was knighted.

He continued to work on medical research, publishing his final academic paper in 2011. He was active physically as well as mentally, playing tennis regularly well into his 90s.

Most of all, to us at CMC, Ken was a good friend and a gentle man. Our prayers are with Barbara, their children and grandchildren.

DC



Cobham

United Reformed Church

Worship Diary

February

Sun 4th 9.00am Early Bird Service
10.30am Sydney Shore

Sun 11th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton (Joint Service with Holy Communion)

Sun 18th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton - Joint Service at CMC

Sun 25th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton

March

Sun 4th 9.00am Early Bird Service
10.30am Stephen Thornton



Cobham Events

February

Thur 1st	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at The Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
Sun 4th	12 noon	Church Council Meeting (CMC)
Tues 6th	9.45am	Church Walk
	8.00pm	Elders' Meeting (URC)
Fri 16th	10.30am	Training session at URC: Pastoral Care
Thur 22nd	3.45pm	Messy Church at URC (to 5.45)
Fri 23rd	7.30pm	Joint Leadership Team Meeting at URC

Prayers at the Manse Wednesdays at 9.30am

February: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

House Groups

House Groups will be taking a break to enable all to attend Ecumenical Lent Groups. The next House Group meeting will be at 7.30pm on April 19th, and subsequent third Thursdays, continuing the study of Mark's gospel.

For further details contact Brian Manners.

Women's World Day of Prayer

As usual the Women's World Day of Prayer will be marked on the first Friday in March (2nd March). For details see church noticeboards and the March Link.



in Cobham, Oxshott & Stoke D'Abernon

Ecumenical discussion groups Lent 2018.

Better Together? All about relationships – in the church and within family and society

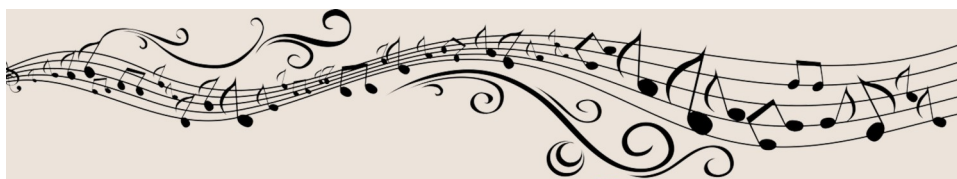
Christianity is not just a private matter. Yes, it is about our own interior life and our personal relationship with God – but it is much, much more. It is concerned with how we treat and relate to one another both inside and outside the church; it is about how we function as families and societies; it is about how broken relationships can be mended and what to do when they can't.

An ecumenical course for discussion groups in five sessions will start during the week commencing 19th February 2018. Please sign up on the sheets in the church. For further details please contact Paul Fisher 07979 755391 (evenings preferred) or email:

paul.m.fisher@hotmail.co.uk



Cobham URC Church, 4th Thursday each month
Next Messy Church: 22nd February, 3.45 to 5.45pm



A mixture of music

Performances

Show Tunes!

Raffle

Refreshments

Photography display

A fun night!

Cobham URC Church

24th February 2018

7:30pm

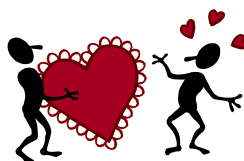




Effingham

Methodist Church

Birthday Dates to celebrate in February:



No birthdays this month, but we'll still celebrate with cake or choccies! Especially on the 14th which is **St Valentine's Day!!**

Please let us know about birthdays and BIG anniversaries!!

Tuesday Teas

Tuesday Teas folk celebrated in style with their volunteers as a group of 20 met for a jolly Christmas lunch early in December at the Sir Douglas Haig pub in Effingham. Following this and at their final meeting before Christmas Mike Davies entertained with his guitar, singing Christmas songs and carols.



Fortnightly from 2.30pm to 4pm, for fellowship, chat, tea and cakes in St Alphege Hall, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Lower Road, Effingham (and occasional outings).

Next dates: February 13th and 27th.

Some car transport can be arranged.

Contact Keith or Gill on
01372 457987
for more information.

Effingham Methodist Diary



February

Thur 1st 2.30pm Christian Meditation in the church
Sun 4th 10.00am Rev Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion
Sun 11th 10.00am Rhys Frost
Tues 13th 2.30pm Tuesday Tea in RC Hall
Wed 14th 3.30pm Messy Church @ St Lawrence's Hall (to 5.30)
Thur 15th 12.30pm Oasis bible group lunch with Kim in the hall
2.30pm Christian Meditation in the church
Sun 18th 10.00am John Oborn
Sun 25th 10.00am John Bees
Tues 27th 2.30pm Tuesday Tea in RC Hall

March

Fri 2nd 7.30pm Women's World Day of Prayer at Eastwick URC
Sun 4th 10.00am Rev Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion

Prayer Meetings are held in the Chapel every Friday at 9.30am.



Dates for your diaries: If you're Spring cleaning we'd love to have any bric-a-brac for **Effingham Chapel's Bring & Buy stall** at our **World Mission Coffee Morning on 10th March from 10 to 12 noon**. Money raised will be split between *Wycliffe Bible Translators & World Mission*.

Effingham's Cleaning and flower Rota. 2018 .



Firstly I'd like to say a big Thank You to everyone on our rota for all you do to keep the Chapel and hall looking clean and tidy. However please just ask if you'd prefer to do flowers only, or like someone to help with cleaning, or even join the rota ! Remember you can also donate towards flowers, maybe in memory of a loved one, just let me know.

With love and thanks **Pat McElhill .**

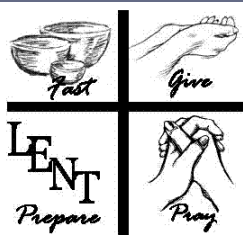
Women's World Day of Prayer **Friday 2nd March**

This year's service has been prepared by the **Christian women of Suriname on the north-eastern Atlantic coast of South America** with the theme of

All God's creation is very good !

About 3M people in over 170 countries will take part in thousands of services throughout the world. Remember it's not just for women ~ everyone is welcome. Our local services will be held at :-

**10.30am @ St. Mary's Parish Church, Fetcham and
7.30pm @ Eastwick Road Church (URC), Gt. Bookham**



Effingham's fortnightly **Lent Lunches start on Ash Wednesday, February 14th from 12.30 to 2pm in St. Lawrence Church Hall.** This year's charity is the Horsley and Bookham branch of **Riding for the Disabled**, which has been operating for over 30 years giving rides to children and young adults with mental and physical disabilities in Surrey. Please come if you can and support us on February 14th & 28th

and March 14th. Churches together have been organising these simple lunches for many years, taking it in turns to do the lunch. So offers of help setting up the hall, or providing food when it's the Methodist turn on 28th February would be greatly appreciated.



This year **Effingham Methodist Church** will be hosting the **Churches Together Lent course, "Christ and the Chocolaterie"** which was inspired by *Chocolat*, so we'll watch the film on **Thursday 8th February at 1.30pm**. Then explore issues about God, the World and what it means to be human. (or Wednesday evenings so please ask for details) .Each session begins with a film-clip. It will be held over 6 weeks in the Chapel on Thursdays from 1- 3.30pm on 15th and 22nd February, then 1st, 8th, and 15th March and will end on 4th April with a Chocolate Feast.



St. Lawrence Church Hall in Brown's Lane
Wednesdays 14th February and 14th March
3.30 -5.30pm



Before Christmas we focused on the Nativity story, thinking specially of Joseph and his loving care for Mary and the Baby Jesus. The children made hama bead stars, baubles, angels and a hand print with a stable in the palm of the hand. Rev Mandy brought her guitar and we sang "Little Donkey. Tea was picnic food with star biscuits. In January we thought of Jacob's ladder and messages from God.

"Connect" a group for carers and partners with dementia

Come for refreshment, friendship, activities and fun.

We meet in St Lawrence Church Hall, Browns Lane, KT24 5LX in Effingham from 10am to 12noon on alternate Thursdays and also arrange monthly outings. Refreshments, friendship, chat and a good range of activities are on offer for all.

Our last meeting of the old year was celebrated in style with a colourfully decorated table and some delightful cakes and coffee. The mulled wine followed later, also the entertainment provided by Colin Philip. Colin is a wonderful magician who engaged with his audience in small groups as well as with the whole group, amazing everyone with his sleight of hand, and mystifying us all as we kept asking each other "How did he do that?". Well we never discovered "How" but suffice to say that we were all blown away by his amazing skill.



Next
dates
fortnight-

ly, February 1st and 15th.

For more info. contact Gill on 01372 457987

email GillianMWalker@gmail.com

or Kim on 01932 586988

You don't have to live in Effingham to come and join us

Ideas for Prayers in February

Sometimes we need help to pray !

Perhaps you, like me, are often embarrassed by a huge wish list for family and friends, or depressed by War and worldwide events ?



For me, the **Methodist Prayer handbook** is a useful focus for daily prayer. However many people gain inspiration by reading the bible, and are familiar with **BRF**, the *Bible Reading Fellowship*, which has a wide variety of Bible reading notes - **New Daylight, Guidelines, Day by Day with God, The Upper Room, Quiet Spaces** and bible reflections for

older people – with different approaches to reading the Bible. These are available via a subscription service, which delivers the next edition directly to your door and offers the best value. <http://www.brfonline.org.uk/daily-bible-reading/>

Meanwhile the **Methodist UK** calendar of Special Sundays, and Ecumenical Sundays has downloadable resources for **Racial Justice Sunday which is on 11th February, based on 2018's theme of JUSTICE FOR ALL** <http://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/methodist-special-sundays/racial-justice-sunday/>

Keep it Simple is the theme of an interesting six week study programme of reflections, activities and prayers for LENT, produced by the charity **All We Can**, (formerly MRDF). A strong call to action to change the world together. It can be used daily by anyone or weekly by small groups. Other materials include films, prayers and a talk, for groups or for a church service, so perhaps could be used for Racial Justice Sunday too.



See website to order your free resources for you or your

church

<http://www.allwecan.org.uk/keep-it-simple>

All YOU need is LOVE !

How about a Charity Voucher for Valentine's Day, alongside those flowers, chocolates or that bottle of wine? Thoughtful, caring and just a bit different!

<https://charityvouchers.org/valentines-day/>



Thinking of Philip.

In early December our little Methodist Chapel in Effingham lost a dear friend when our treasurer, Philip Bearden died following a fall in his garden while planting snowdrops. Sadly this injury, and a lifelong health problem, meant that instead of planning a party for his 80th birthday, we were organising a funeral. The first held in our Chapel for a while. The Chapel was packed and friends came from Ember Choral Society and lifted our singing to new heights. There were tributes from the congregation, which included his friend Mary, a fellow teacher from Eastwick Middle School, where Philip had taught science and R.I.

Philip was a very quiet and modest man who loved our little Chapel. It is therefore rather poignant that we said farewell to him at Christmas time. Effingham Methodist society held its first service at Christmas 1844, and some of you may remember a memorial plaque in the garden inscribed "*Home in time for Christmas*". This little poem was on an American funeral Remembrance Store website.

Home for Christmas

"I'll be Home for Christmas,
So please don't be so sad.
This is the greatest Christmas
That I have ever had.
I'll be home for Christmas,
So please don't grieve too long.
In Heaven here with Jesus,
Is where we all belong.
The world is full of struggles,
No matter where you roam,
But please don't be discouraged;
The world is not our home.
I'll be home for Christmas,
And one day, so will you.
The angels all are waiting,
And I'll be waiting too."



Leatherhead Pages

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

AllSaints, Kingston Road, Leatherhead, KT22 7BT

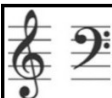


A SPECIALITY COFFEE SHOP AND SANDWICH COMPANY

Open Mon-Sat, 8am-3pm

OPEN TO ALL

*the very best coffee +
the very best sandwiches =
the very best support
for young people*



Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society

Regd Charity 1166764

Music on Thursdays at LMC

Leatherhead Methodist
Church, Church Road,
*please use multi-storey or
Church Street car parks*

**Thursday
1st March
3pm piano concert**

**The return of
Oliver Till**

*This public concert follows
the Society's 2pm AGM,
also to be held at LMC*

*Tea & coffee
will be available
before this concert*

**MoT's
12.30 lunchtime
concerts at LMC
continue most*
Thursdays from
March 22nd**

*not 3rd Thursday of the month
when LMC hosts Messy Church

**Wednesdays at
Christ Church**

**monthly organ concerts
resume on**

**March 14th at
12.30 lunchtime**

Christ Church/LMC Family & Children

THE BIG MIX WEEKEND AT LMC

A residential weekend for all
those in Primary and Secondary
School.

16th to 18th February

Advance Notice:

This year's Holiday Club will
be from 13th to 17th August

*For further information
contact Hannah Newton:
Hannahleatherheadfcw
@gmail.com*



**Starts
12th
January
2018**

Every Friday in term time

9:30am–11:00am

**Christ Church UR
Epsom Road, KT22 8ST**

**Toddler, babies and their carers are invited for play, craft,
songs, story and refreshments**

Group with a Christian theme

**For more info please email:
Hannahleatherheadfcw@gmail.com**

LINC





NEW FIRE will be at AllSaints this month. Everything you love about New Fire plus great coffee! The coffee shop will be open from 6.00pm. Please park at Trinity School.

**Next New Fire - Sunday 25th February at
AllSaints, 6.30pm**



**Next Messy Church
for Leatherhead:**

Thursday 15th February
3.30pm to 5.30pm at:



Time for Tea



COME for TEA and COMPANY

from 2.30pm to 4.30pm
on the first Friday every month at

LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

Next "Time for Tea":

Friday 2nd February

Then Friday 2nd March

EVERYONE WELCOME

(Suggested donation £1)



Leatherhead Community Association

Everyone at the Leatherhead Community Association would like to wish your readers all the very best for 2018, and to tell them about some of the events that are being organised for the next four months.

EMINently interesting! – ‘Mad Tracy from Margate’ is the title of the first lecture in the new series of Art/History lectures, and can only be about Tracy Emin. Come to the Leatherhead Institute in January 2018, just the place to come in out of the cold, and learn more about a fascinating and controversial lady in the first lecture on 17th January. There are four more to follow on the subjects of “Suburbia”, Zoffany, German Expressionism before 1914, and a little-known Danish artist.

For bookworms looking for a cosy corner – did you know that there is a library of some 1500 books and over 350 DVDs that is free and open on weekday mornings with a resident librarian present on Fridays. Added to this there is a warm stove and comfortable chairs, and coffee is always available. New titles are constantly being added.

Listen in comfort to Tea and Talks once a month on Fridays with topics on Edwardian England, ‘Can’t Pay, Won’t Pay’, Octavia Hill (one of the founders of the National Trust) and the 60s and 70s pop scene in Leatherhead. Or if you prefer music, the recorded music afternoons are on every 3rd Wednesday, starting on the 17th January with ‘New Beginnings’, followed by ‘Winter Warmers’, ‘March’ and ‘Music in Action’.

To whet your 2018 appetite even more – from January Yoga, Bridge, Table Tennis and Snooker and Scrabble will be taking place weekly as usual, and once a month there is Book Club.

Just visiting! Our visits start on 6 February to the recently opened Postal Museum, followed in March to the Watts Gallery in Surrey and then in April to Dover Castle. Wellies may be needed. For the more energetic (and hale and hardy) the full and varied programme of walks, both short and long, starts again in February and Peter Humphreys is happy to give you all the details (01372 378347).

Please don’t forget that rooms can be hired for one-off functions or for regular classes (an art class has been running for over ten years). It costs only £5 a year to become a member, but non-members are welcome at a very low cost. If you would like to have all the information as to what is arranged by the LCA please call into the Institute, last building on the left at the top of the High Street, and pick up the newest newsletter or try the website:

www.leatherheadca.org.uk . Sarah the administrator is always willing to help on 01372 36058 or email LCA2@btconnect.com .

Frances Presley



Leatherhead

Methodist Church

Pastoral Prayers...

Pastoral Visitors' 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.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 27th February at 2.30pm.**

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. Please contact the church office if you are interested.



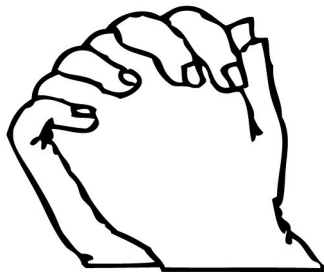
LMC Family News



Our thoughts and prayers are with ...

... members, relatives and friends who are unwell, those at home, in hospital or nursing care, those in residential care and all who look after them day by day. We especially remember James and Jean Ross, Harry and Peggy Robinson and Mary Thorp.

We think too of those members of the church family who have faced recent bereavement and offer sincere condolences and prayerful support.



Prayer Breakfasts

Prayer breakfasts are held on the third Sunday each month at 9.30am. It's a bring and share (non-cooked) breakfast with a short time of prayer fellowship before the morning service. All very welcome.

As it clashes with "The Big Mix Weekend", there is no Prayer Breakfast in February. Next Prayer Breakfast is on 18th March.



Diary



February

Thur 1st 7.30pm Church Council

Fri 2nd 2.30pm Time for Tea

Sun 4th 10.30am Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion
First Sunday Family Lunch
after the service (*see page 31*)

Thur 8th 6.00pm Revive Youth Club

Sun 11th 10.30am United Service at Christ Church;
Rev. Gavin Hancocks - Holy Communion
6.30pm Rev. Kath Jones- Holy Communion

Thur 15th 3.30pm Messy Church (*to 5.30pm*)

Fri 16th to Sun 18th - The Big Mix Weekend (*see page 19*)

Sun 18th 10.30am Rev. Lynda Russell

Thur 22nd 3.30pm Revive Youth Club

Sat 24th 8.00am Men's Breakfast

Sun 25th 10.30am James Wild
6.30pm New Fire at AllSaints Café
(*coffee from 6pm - park at Trinity School*)

Tues 27th 2.30pm Pastoral Visitors' Prayer Meeting

March

Thur 1st 3.00pm Piano Concert (*see page 19*)

Fri 2nd 2.30pm Time for Tea

Sun 4th 10.30am Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion

Book Review

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF HEROD THE GREAT

by Stewart Perowne. (1956).

...and to be reviewed next month -

THE LATER HERODS

by Stewart Perowne. (1958).

I acquired and read these two books mostly because I wanted a clear idea of the identity of each of the Herods mentioned in the New Testament. This is a complicated story involving four generations of the same family. The family history is covered by the books under review but for ease of reference I have listed the Herods immediately below with appropriate Bible references and notes. It might be useful to know that 'ethnarch' is the title of Archelaus who ruled only Judea and Samaria after his father Herod the Great and 'tetrarch' is the title of two other sons of Herod who inherited different parts of his kingdom. 'Herod' is the family name and it isn't always used in the Bible.

Herod the Great. King of Judea and neighbouring lands. (Matthew 2:1- 22. Luke 1:5). He was the client king of Judea and other territories under Roman protection. It was this Herod who ordered the massacre of the boys in Bethlehem in an attempt to kill Jesus. He died in the year 4 BC which is also the estimated year of the birth of Jesus using scholarly analysis of known dates during and after this time.

Archelaus. Ethnarch of Judea. (Matthew 2:22). He was the youngest son of Herod and under his will, later ratified by Caesar Augustus, he inherited only Judea and Samaria. Augustus deposed him in AD 6 after ten years of misrule. Judea then became a Roman province run by a procurator, not a client king. Pontius Pilate became procurator in AD 27.

Herod Antipas. Tetrarch of Galilee and Perea under Herod's will. (Matthew 14:1-10, Mark 6:14-28, Luke 3:1, Luke 8:3, Luke 9:7-9, Luke 13:31-32, Luke 23:7-15). Antipas was a brother of Archelaus and he was the Herod who imprisoned then beheaded John the Baptist and who later appeared at the trial of Jesus in Luke's gospel. His wife was Herodias who was formerly married to another brother of Antipas.

Philip. Tetrarch of the lands to the east of Galilee under Herod's will. (Luke 3:1). Philip was married to his niece Salome. She was the daughter of Herodias by her first husband who was another brother (called, confusingly, Herod-Philip). This was the Salome who danced for Herod Antipas and demanded the head of John the Baptist at her mother's suggestion.

Herod Agrippa I. (Acts 12). Agrippa was the nephew of the aforementioned brothers. He eventually ruled all of Herod the Great's kingdom with Roman approval. He was the Herod who executed James the brother of John and attempted to kill Peter too.

Agrippa II. (Acts 25:13-27 and 26). He was the son of Agrippa I. He was king of Chalcis in Syria but he later exchanged it for Philip's lands. He was the Agrippa who heard Paul the apostle with Governor Festus in Caesarea.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF HEROD THE GREAT begins by tracing Herod's ancestry to the time when Judas the Maccabee led the Judean revolt against the Seleucids (the Greek dynasty descended from Alexander the Great's general Seleucas). One of the results of this was that Herod's grandfather, Antipater, was appointed governor of Idumea to the south of Judea. His son, also called Antipater, married an Arab from Petra and their son Herod was born in 73 BC.

As the Roman army made its first appearance civil war broke out in Judea and Herod's father Antipater was on the winning side. Antipater was loyal to the Roman conquerors, becoming procurator of Judea while Herod became governor of Galilee. Later Rome itself fought a civil war and the victors, Anthony and Octavian (later Caesar Augustus), persuaded the Senate to appoint Herod king of Judea in 40 BC.

Herod's reign in Judea is a story of war, rebellions, assassinations and executions. Stewart Perowne, the author of the book, has a firm grip on his subject and gives an excellent account of the complex series of events which marked Herod's life. He began his reign by fighting a three year war to wrest his kingdom from rebels and invaders. He always had to deal with scheming rivals and capricious Romans to say nothing of the Jewish Sanhedrin and the Pharisees.

He married ten wives and had fourteen children, nine of them sons, but this was a mixed blessing and he executed his second wife and three of his sons because of their treachery.

Overall, however, his experiences enabled him to develop political genius and diplomacy which carried him through the dangerous times in which he lived. There seems to be no easy answer to the question 'Why was Herod great?' but perhaps it was partly because he kept his throne and managed to die in his bed.

Undoubtedly he was a cruel man too but this behaviour mirrored the age in which he lived and he was no worse than any other leader. The author makes the point that Herod was undoubtedly capable of killing the boys in Bethlehem and nobody in authority would have condemned him. The last ten years of Herod's reign were marked by illness and occasional madness. At the end of his life he was bedridden and suffering greatly.

The book includes an account of Herod's building record. Many towns and cities benefited from his building ambitions but he is remembered mostly for the construction of the temple in Jerusalem. Work on the temple took eight years from 18 BC to 10 BC and finishing touches continued until AD64. Finally the temple was destroyed following the siege of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70 – as prophesied by Jesus in three of the gospels.

The book is not in print. However there are second hand options available online.

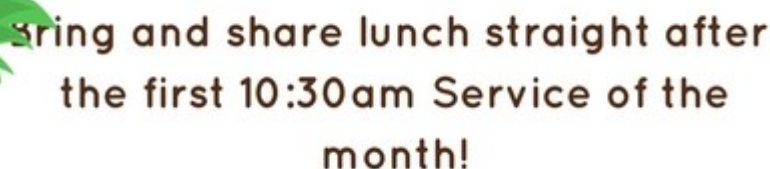
Laurie Williams

Our thanks to Laurie for this review, originally written for the magazine at his previous church. As mentioned, we'll include Laurie's Review of "The Later Herods" next month.



FIRST SUNDAY FAMILY LUNCH!

Leatherhead Methodist Church




Bring and share lunch straight after
the first 10:30am Service of the
month!

All are welcome!

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL:

hannahleatherheadfcw@gmail.com



Games
Great food
Make New Friends
Live Band
Swimming pool
Action-packed
Fun!
Theme park Trip
Wacky challenges
Workshops
Learn about God



X-site®
National Holiday

Residential Holiday

6th-10th Aug 2018

Ages 8-11

Rugby, Warwickshire

Cost: £180

Email: hannahleatherheadfcw@gmail.com

for more info!



Scripture Union



National Holiday

"X:site events are known for their live bands, whacky team challenges, silly songs, gunge, craft and time to X:plore the Bible. If we manage to fit all this into two hours just imagine how amazingly fun and action-packed a whole X:site week is going to be! Check out our giant inflatables and indoor pool, visit a theme park, dress up for the ball and have space to discover more about God.

At the heart of what we do is our passion to give young people the opportunity to explore their faith and the Bible. We are a Christian holiday but you don't have to be a Christian to come. We will spend time celebrating and learning about God each day allowing people to respond in their own way to what we discover.

When we're celebrating God, when it's X:site's got talent, at a campfire, street dancing or in the quiet celebration it's engaging, dynamic and fun!

This holiday is based at Bilton Grange School (CV22 6QU) which is just south of Rugby. Holidays make full use of the fantastic facilities which include an indoor heated swimming pool, large sports hall, extensive grounds, theatre space and classrooms for small group activities. Most bedrooms sleep 6-8 young people."

X:Site has been a big part of my life for a number of years and I have never known children to engage as much with their faith and grow in their understanding as they do during the X:Site Holiday as well as developing social skills and take the next step in growing up! The week is full of fun with loads of different activities to join in with and is open to all children aged 8-11 whether they are Christian or not!

Please consider if you would like to send your child to X:Site National- I hope to be a leader again so your child doesn't need to feel afraid of being alone during the week. But after the first couple of hours they won't even need me! Something very special about X:Site is that the children and team very quickly feel like a family!

If you are interested please do drop me an email- if there are enough people willing to go, then we will look into hiring transport.

If money is an issue, please don't let that stop you and still email me and we can sort something out! It would be great for your child to come and have a life changing week!

Hannah

REVIVE YOUTH CLUB



Come join us for fun and games, craft and activities,
singing and dancing, Bible stories and teaching,
tuck shop and new friends!

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Leatherhead Methodist Church

2nd and 4th Thursday

6pm-7:30pm

Ages 7-11

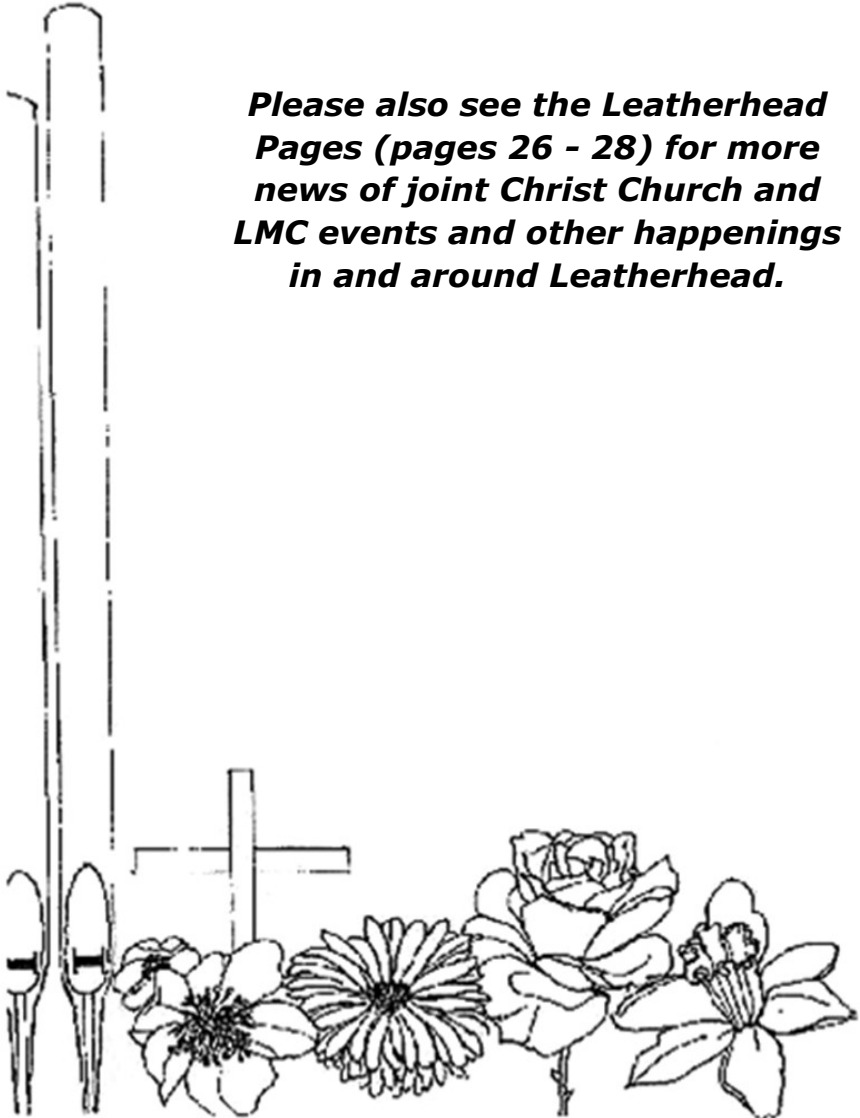
Cost £1

Email hannahleatherheadfcw@gmail.com

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

***Please also see the Leatherhead
Pages (pages 26 - 28) for more
news of joint Christ Church and
LMC events and other happenings
in and around Leatherhead.***



Christ Church Diary



February

Fri 2nd 2.30pm LMC: Time for Tea

Sun 4th 10.30am Mrs Heather Ward

Tues 6th 7.30pm SPO rehearsal in the church

Wed 7th 7.30pm House Group at 38 West Farm Avenue

Thur 8th 5.30pm LMC: Revive Youth Club (ages 7 - 11)

Sun 11th 10.30am Rev Gavin Hancocks (Methodist Circuit Superintendent) United Service of Holy Communion

Thur 15th 7.30pm LMC: Pastorate Review Meeting

Sun 18th 10.30am Rev Robert Blows

Wed 21st 7.30pm House Group at 38 West Farm Avenue

Thur 22nd 5.30pm LMC: Revive Youth Club (ages 7 - 11)

Sat 24th 8.00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Sun 25th 10.30pm Parade Service: Hannah Newton

March

Fri 2nd 2.30pm LMC: Time for Tea

Sun 4th 10.30am Mrs Thelma Roberts



Christ Church Family News



We are very sorry to announce the deaths of two well-loved and faithful members of Christ Church. They will be greatly missed by us all.

José Henderson passed away peacefully on 31st December at the Epsom Beaumont Nursing Home, a victim of Alzheimer's disease. We send our deepest sympathy to John and Andrew, Liz and Charlotte and their families in their loss. José was a loyal and enthusiastic member of the choir from joining the church in 1974 and took part in the varied activities of the church, as an Elder, and helping to organise the Church charity sponsored walks. She spent many happy years singing with the Leatherhead Choral Society. The celebration of José's life at Christ Church on 11th January was attended by the family and many friends.

Nan Kemp died suddenly on 15th December at the wonderful age of 97 after a short illness. She had retained her independence to the end. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Pat, Sheena, Ruth and John and their families. Nan joined Christ Church in 1960 and served as Elder for a number of years and helped run the Meeting Point Group. She kept up her many interests including gardening, the Ashted Flower Group, U3A and bowls, and driving old ladies to church (some younger than herself) well into her 90s. The crematorium on 15th January was filled with family and friends. Her daughter Pat writes: *On behalf of Sheena, Ruth, John and the rest of the family, I would like to send very sincere thanks for the messages of support and prayers from our friends at Christ Church. We are especially grateful to Rev Robert Blows for leading a very beautiful service, and to Anthony Cairns for playing the Leatherhead Crematorium's organ. I'm sure Mum would have been moved to find how many people loved her. Thank you so much for all the friendship you have offered her and our family now and in the past. Pat Fuller (tel: 0118 946 1945).* Donations to Oxfam or Save the Children in memory of Nan can be sent to Ashted Funeralcare, 56 The Street. Ashted KT21 1AZ.

We send our good wishes to Mike Chamberlain as he undergoes treatment and some minor surgery.

Continued next page

Christ Church Family News (continued)

Marguerite Kerr was visited before Christmas by Mary Keene, who found her very fragile but able to recognise her. Marguerite's daughter Angela is in very poor health.

We learned recently that Betty Moss suffered several severe strokes in September and is now in a care home. Her address is Berkeley Lodge Nursing Home, Room 15, 42 Shelley Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 4DA. We send our best wishes to the family.

We are very sorry to report that Steve Neal was taken ill on 11th January and has been cared for in Epsom Hospital. We send him and Freda our very best wishes.

We send our very best wishes to Jill Osmond as she awaits major surgery.

We have learned that Vic Playford passed away in July in the care home at Romsey where Pat still lives. She is now 90 and has some dementia but is otherwise well.

We think of Keith Poulton whose memory loss is troubling him. It's good to see him in church when he is well enough.

We remember all these friends in our prayers, together with the bereaved, the lonely and those in care homes, thinking especially of John Rayner and Lilian Parsons

Anne Cairns

Many Congratulations to Anthony and Anne Cairns who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on December 27th. Greetings and best wishes, and thanks for all you have done and continue to do for Christ Church, from your many friends at Christ Church and throughout the Pastorate.



'Lenten Valentines'

During this month Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day share the same date! It seems an odd mix, yet there is an obvious link: *love*! Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, is about learning how to love God more, as we give Him space in our lives. It's also an opportunity to reflect on Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit, where He was tempted by Satan, but demonstrated the path of real love. Jesus is tempted to turn stones into bread. Love gets to the heart of human need, not just satisfying physical desires. Satan tempts Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is the beginning of love and results in sacrificial service to meet the needs of others. Finally, He is tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Only real love can change hearts by practical love and care.

Lent teaches us how to live out the love of God in practice, as we follow Jesus in the way of the cross.

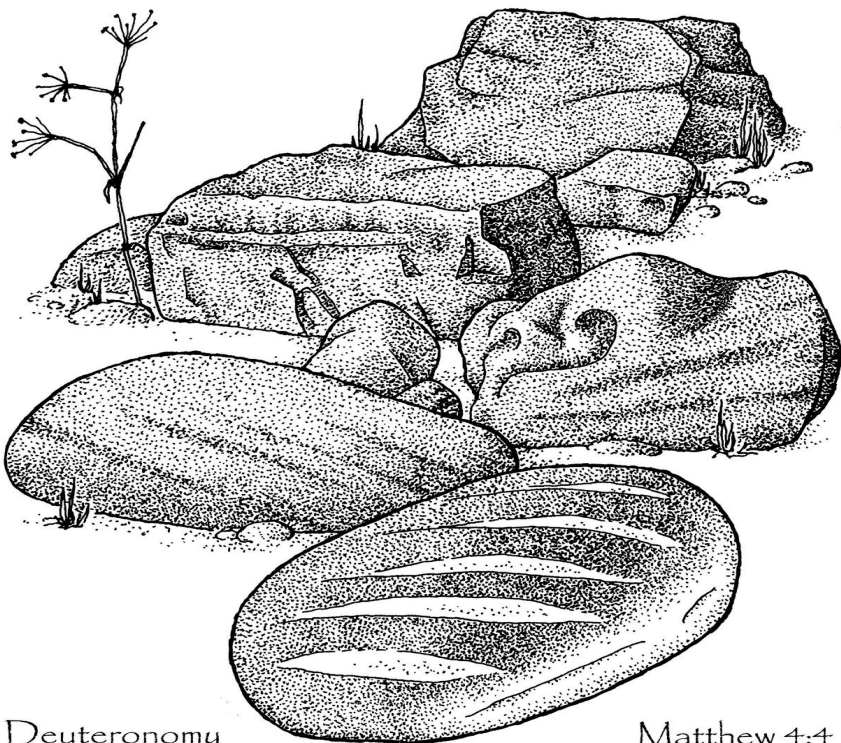
Valentine was Christ's follower, committed to sharing God's love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3rd Century AD and was martyred on February 14th. Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret. He also helped Christians in Rome during times of persecution. He demonstrated the importance of showing real love in action.

In trying to understand the meaning of her revelations from God, Julian of Norwich found:

'What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was his meaning.'

Paul Hardingham - Parish Pump

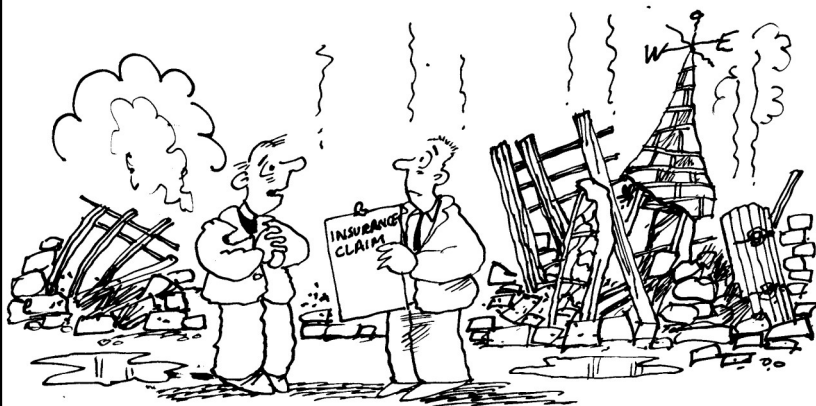




Deuteronomy
8:3

Matthew 4:4

Bread is not enough to keep us alive;
we need to feed on every word of God



...er... apart from this little hiccup... it was an excellent church pancake supper...

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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:

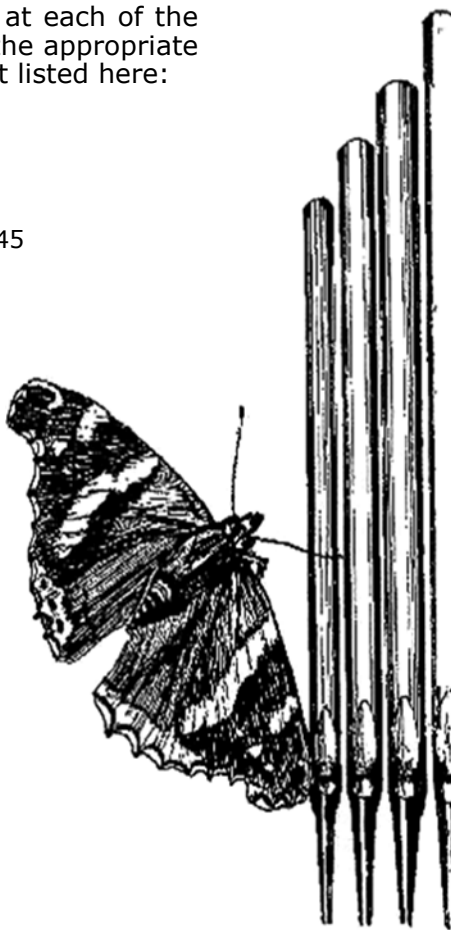
Chapel Hill, Effingham, KT24 5NB
www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk
Contact: Senior Steward -
Dave Putland 01372 454850

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
Contact: Steward -
David Cappitt 01932 862661



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