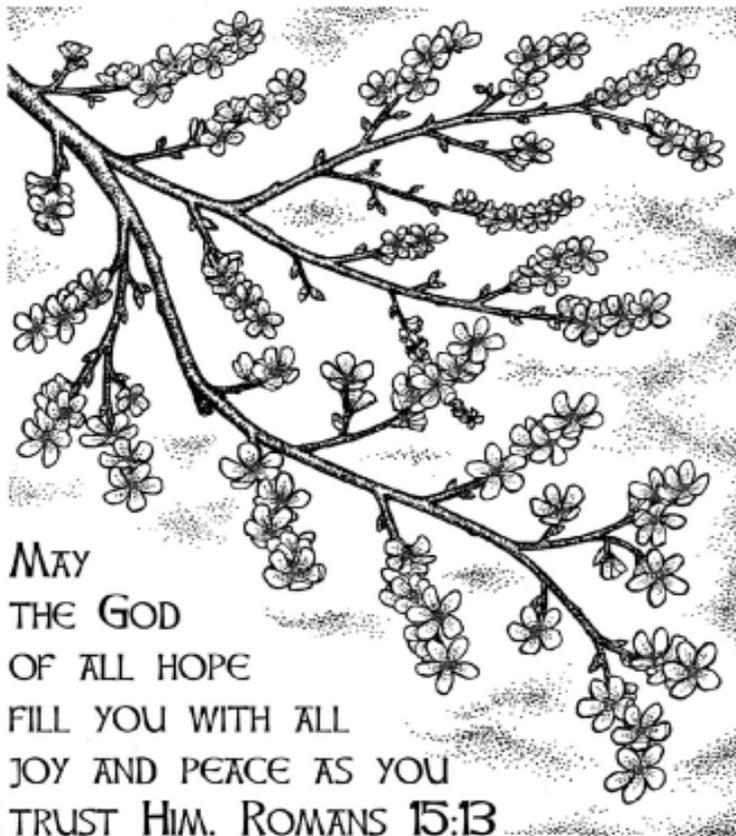


the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

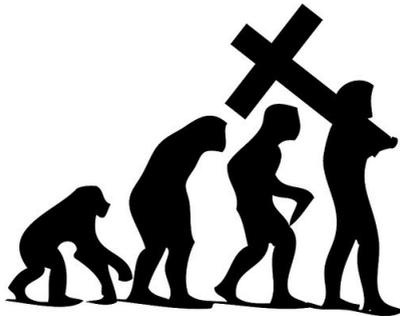
Linking:
Christ Church (United Reformed) Leatherhead
Cobham United Church
(Methodist and United Reformed)
Effingham Methodist Church
Leatherhead Methodist Church

The **Methodist Church**



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



The Minister Writes...

From Rev Jan Hofmeyr

Dear Friends,

Someone has said, 'There is a Church because there is mission; there is not mission because there is a Church.'

In other words the Lord brought the Church into being because there is outreach and service that needs doing in the world; He did not create the Church and then ask what the Church might do to keep itself occupied. The theologian, Emil Brunner, put it like this, 'The Church exists for mission as fire exists for burning'.

A sobering question to ask ourselves: If our churches ceased to exist, would those in the community miss us? Obviously the things that happen within the church – worship, fellowship, teaching etc – are very important, but their purpose is not just for our benefit, but also to better equip us to serve God in the world from Monday to Saturday. As someone said, 'Church is not our service to God – it is just our lunch time to strengthen us for our work for God which begins when we leave church on a Sunday.'

In terms of mission we have generally seen it as something that is done through groups or programmes within the church – groups like feeding schemes, a counselling service, an evangelism group and so on. These are very important, especially since they give people the opportunity to work with other like-minded people. These programmes are one important aspect of the Church's mission.

A second, and often overlooked, aspect of the Church's mission is to equip our members to be agents of mission and outreach in their daily lives. Where mission is done through groups within the church it is limited to the few who are part of that group, but when people are equipped and empowered to be agents of mission in their personal lives, then the whole church is involved and able to make a far bigger impact. The results may not be as evident as with a mission group, but the overall impact (which only God may see) can be much greater. It is like the yeast that Jesus spoke

about which works its way quietly and unseen to raise the dough around it. We are to be the yeast in our homes, our places of work and our communities to 'raise the level' of the world around us.

So, as churches, we have a responsibility to equip our members to be that yeast. What does that involve in practice? I believe it begins with helping each other to build up our spiritual lives, through enhancing our prayer life, the reading of the Bible and other forms of study. It also involves teaching skills like personal evangelism, listening skills, discerning God's guidance in our lives, the effective use of our gifts in serving people and so on.

May 2019 be for us all a time of 'raising the level' - in our lives, churches and communities.

With love in Christ
Jan Hofmeyr



From Rev Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

What does Christian unity look like? A good question to ask and one which set the scene for a conversation during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The conversation was held at Sacred Heart and ably led by Father Tony Milner, Parish Priest of Dorking. I was invited to offer a reflection from the perspective of the Reformed and Methodist tradition.

The verse I chose to centre on was "To love the lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind. And to love your neighbour as yourself."

If we love God with all our hearts and soul and mind, we hold tightly to worship which is centred upon Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We therefore look to God's purposes in the world, to act justly, to pursue justice, to commit to peace, mercy and forgiveness, to heal and restore, to be sacrificial in our commitment to God, to allow God to overcome our weaknesses, to focus on new life even amongst the messiness.

To love our neighbour is to recognize that everyone is made in the image of God, that each person is deserving of respect and dignity. Each person is valued and held in great esteem regardless of social standing, or cultural or religious differences. Christian unity for me is an outworking, an action, an expression of God's love which works within us and finds expression in our engagement with others. This was highlighted for me when I attended a conference in Paris with another 39 delegates from 21 countries in the Middle East. In attendance was the Mayor of Bethlehem and also the former Deputy Attorney General of Israel amongst others. During our time together which was deeply moving, one delegate said, "if a child falls to the floor injured in front of us don't we all get up and run to comfort them." The conference was seeking ways to rise above difference to reach a common goal, one of peace. It speaks volumes about our shared humanity.

In the dictionary unity implies harmony, an agreement, an accord. Although we may differ in our theology and our liturgical preferences, our governance and structures, across the many denominations that exist, Christian unity does not sweep them under the carpet but invites us to respect difference but to also to develop a 'hunger for change'. Christian unity invites us to look at our shared humanity, ways in which together we can focus on specific goals, challenged to respond to the needs of others.

It's also so important that even at levels such as Methodist Conference, General Synod, General Assembly we have representatives from differing denominations so that we have different voices around the table that speak of a different way of being, it helps us to learn and to grow; to ask questions of ourselves; to believe that God speaks through all, a shared wisdom.

It's important that where there is an opportunity we stand together on issues of social justice. In the URC and the Methodist Church there is JPIT otherwise known as the Joint Public Issues Team made up of representatives of the Baptists, Methodists, URC and Church of Scotland. Our voice is louder, our message so much stronger when we stand together.

There are so many in our community that have absolutely no idea what church looks like, they are new to the message of the gospel, and they have no idea what the differences are between the denominations. It is also true to say that what happens in one church reflects on all churches regardless of denomination. However, when you

talk of the churches working together, somehow it offers comfort to those you speak to. Why is that? Perhaps it says something about a desire for visible unity.

At the local level the call to Christian unity rises above and beyond our churches and invites us to consider ways in which we might express the gospel. To follow Jesus Christ is to walk a pathway that revels in encounter. Jesus encounters so many along the way and his example offers us the journey in life we are called to make. It speaks of dignity, respect, challenge and sacrifice, it also speaks of healing and restoration, mercy and forgiveness. Christian unity invites us to find ways in which we may walk along the road together as pilgrims, finding ever more creative ways in which we can engage with God, with one another, and with the world around us.

Every blessing, Kim

LUNCHBOX

The story of Jesus and the wise men bringing gifts has been an inspiration to us over the centuries. Just as Jesus showed us that to live in harmony with those around us is the best way to live, we continue to live out his teaching by caring for those around us don't we? Firstly we love our families, then our friends and our care then extends out to those in need where we live and of course that's where you all come in with your amazing gifts that you have given to LUNCHBOX over the past few years.

As we look back over the last three years, we have provided with your help, over 4000 dinners and handled nearly 60 tons of food for needy families. We have also provided of course a safe environment each week at Leatherhead Methodist Church, where folk can meet together, perhaps share problems with a CAB member or one of the volunteers, or just have a day when they don't have to be alone at home.

I know we have said it before but Colin Plumpton and I would like to thank you all for supporting Lunchbox with your prayers, food and financial support. We could not have done this work that God has laid on our hearts for the socially excluded around Leatherhead and Cobham without you!

We have a regular team of around six helpers to get the food, run the kitchen and hall and meet and greet those who come. We are pleased that Jan and Angela Hofmeyr regularly attend. With the help of our friends we provide lunches for 25-35 people each week.

We are fortunate to be supported by local outlets like Sainsburys, Nandos, Bookers and Keith (our local butcher) and Ray (our green grocer).

Please continue to support us during 2019 so that we can continue this important work. It costs around £3000 per year to run. We are also able to receive a small amount of clothing.

If you are able to help provide meals by cooking occasionally please get in touch with us as it would be great to have more people involved and relieve the pressure on our regular volunteers.

Dave Putland & Colin Plumpton

From Cobham Methodist Church Archives

Erected AD 1862 at a total cost of £940.0.0 including the freehold ground and all fittings. Would hold 300 persons.

First meeting of trustees held at Coleman St on July 18th, 1863, chaired by Rev B Hellier.

Appointed a secretary and treasurer and insured the chapel for 600 pounds.

A conversation ensued as to the state of the funds, when it was found there would be a debt of more than one hundred pounds. It was decided to reduce the amount by subscription if possible, and then to borrow the amount needed from the Star Insurance Office.

Third meeting of trustees held at Coleman St on March 2nd 1865, chaired by the superintendent minister, Rev W D Williams.

Agreed, providing the funds could be found, to erect a schoolroom, with vestry, which could be done for 100-150 pounds. Meanwhile the present schoolmaster should have the use of the schoolroom part of the chapel for the day school and Sunday school for 6 months.

Resolved that the chapel be registered for the solemnisation of marriages.

Reported that the chapel was properly registered as a place of worship.

DC



Cobham United Church Worship Diary

February

**Sun 3rd 9.00am Early Bird Service
10.30am David Cappitt**

Sun 10th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion

Sun 17th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton

Sun 24th 10.30am Rev Kim Plumpton

March

**Fri 1st 10.30am World Day of Prayer service
at St Andrew's Oxshott**

**Sun 3rd 9.00am Early Bird Service
10.30am Sydney Shore**

Prayers at the Manse Wednesdays at 9.30am

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

World Day of Prayer

(formerly known as Women's World Day of Prayer)

**As usual this will be marked on the first Friday in
March, which this year is March 1st. It will be
hosted by St Andrew's Oxshott, starting at
10.30am, followed by refreshments.**

The service has been prepared by the women of Slovenia.

Cobham Events

February

Tues 5th	9.45am	Church Walk
	8.00pm	Trustees Meeting
Thur 7th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship: The Fairmile, Cobham
	1.30pm	Mustard Seed
Thur 14th	1.30pm	Mustard Seed
Thur 21st	1.30pm	Mustard Seed
	7.30pm	House Fellowship
Thur 28th	2.30pm	Mustard Seed
	3.45pm	Messy Church (to 5.45pm)



Messy Church

Thursday 28th February, 3.45pm - 5.45pm
Cobham United Church



God's Grand Design

Led by Revd Andy Twilley



Lent course

Venue: Cobham United Church

Stoke Road, Cobham

Dates: 8th, 15th, 29th

March & 5th, 12th April

Time: 10am Refreshments

10:30-12 session

Please contact Revd Kim Plumpton for further details on 01932 586988

Or e-mail kimp_822@hotmail.com to book a place.



Effingham

Methodist Church

Birthday Dates for February:



No birthdays this month, but it's St Valentine's Day on the 14th, so let's celebrate by pampering our loved ones with cards, cakes, flowers, a fabulous meal - and chocolates of course. Have Fun!!

Please let us know about birthdays and BIG anniversaries!!



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 23rd March from 10 to 12 noon**. Money raised will be split between *Wycliffe Bible Translators & World Mission*.

Effingham's Cleaning and flower Rota. 2019 .



Pat McElhill says "A big Thank You to everyone on our rota for all you do to keep the Chapel and hall looking clean and tidy. Please just ask if you'd prefer to do flowers only, or like someone to help with cleaning, or if you'd like to join the rota !

Remember you can also donate towards flowers, maybe in memory of a loved one, just let me know."

Effingham Methodist Diary



February

Sun 3rd 10.00am Rev Sue Conroy with Holy Communion

Sun 10th 10.00am John Oborn

Tues 12th 2.30pm Tuesday Teas in the R.C. Hall

Wed 13th 3.30pm Messy Church (to 5.30)

Thur 14th 10.00am Only Connect (to 12 noon) SL Ch Hall

12.30pm Oasis Bible Study Lunch with Kim

2.15pm Christian Meditation in the church

Sun 17th 10.00am Robert Pitt

Fri 22nd 2.00pm Precious Moments

Sun 24th 10.00am David Cappitt

Tues 26th 2.30pm Tuesday Teas in the RC Hall

Thur 28th 2.15pm Christian Meditation in the church

March

**Fri 1st 10.30am World Day of Prayer at the Church of
the Holy Spirit, Fetcham
7.30pm World Day of Prayer at All Saints**

Sun 3rd 10.00am Rev Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion

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

Lent Lunch

Effingham will only have one Lent Lunch this year, on 20th March from 12.30 to 2pm in St. Lawrence Church Hall. This year's local charity is **Cherry Trees**, in East Clendon which provides "home from home" respite care for children. Please come if you can and support us. Churches Together have been organizing these simple lunches for many years. Offers of help setting up the hall, or providing food would be greatly appreciated.





World Day of Prayer **Friday 1st March**

2019's theme is **Come - Everything is Ready!**

It was written by women in Slovenia, one of the smaller countries in Europe.

WDP is ecumenical: the largest ecumenical movement in the world, the only one supported by Catholic and Protestant, Orthodox and Evangelical churches.

- WDP is global: alive and well in more than 120 countries worldwide
- WDP is women-led: no longer 'Women's' i.e. belonging to women, in the same way as a church's Women's Fellowship or Women's Own magazine, but instead belonging to everyone – but led by women, women's gift to the whole Church. Someone said recently, "We men will no longer feel unwanted!"
- But, above all, WDP is a prayer movement, a group of people for whom prayer is fundamentally important and who know that prayer changes things. There is no need to ask why we pray!

Throughout the worship service, we'll hear the stories of those who are coming to the table of bread, wine, water, and salt. Their stories reflect the political and economic situation from the time Slovenia was a socialist-communist state to today. Voices of the refugee and migrant workers, the mothers, the grandmothers, the wives, and the Roma people. We ask for forgiveness for being silent in the face of injustice, and we pray that God open our hearts to compassion and understanding. And we leave with a blessing prayer to mutually support one another on the path of freedom, justice, and peace.

May the welcoming God enable us to set the table and fill the communities with hope, love, and joy!

Our local services will be at :

**10.30am @ Church of the Holy Spirit, Fetcham and
7.30pm @ All Saints Church, Little Bookham**

Tuesday Teas - a social group with tea, chat and fellowship

We meet fortnightly from 2.30pm to 4pm, in St Alphege Hall, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Lower Road, Effingham (and occasional outings).

Just before Christmas we were splendidly entertained by Mike Davies on Guitar with Irene Copp singing well-known songs and carols.

Next dates are: February 12th and 26th, and fortnightly thereafter. Some car transport can be arranged.

Contact Keith or Gill on 01372 457987 for more information.





'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

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, often for tea at local garden centres. Refreshments, friendship, chat and a good range of activities are on offer for all.

We enjoyed a pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, by the Rah Rah Company just before Christmas

Next meetings are February 14th and 28th.

For more info. contact Gill on 01372 457987

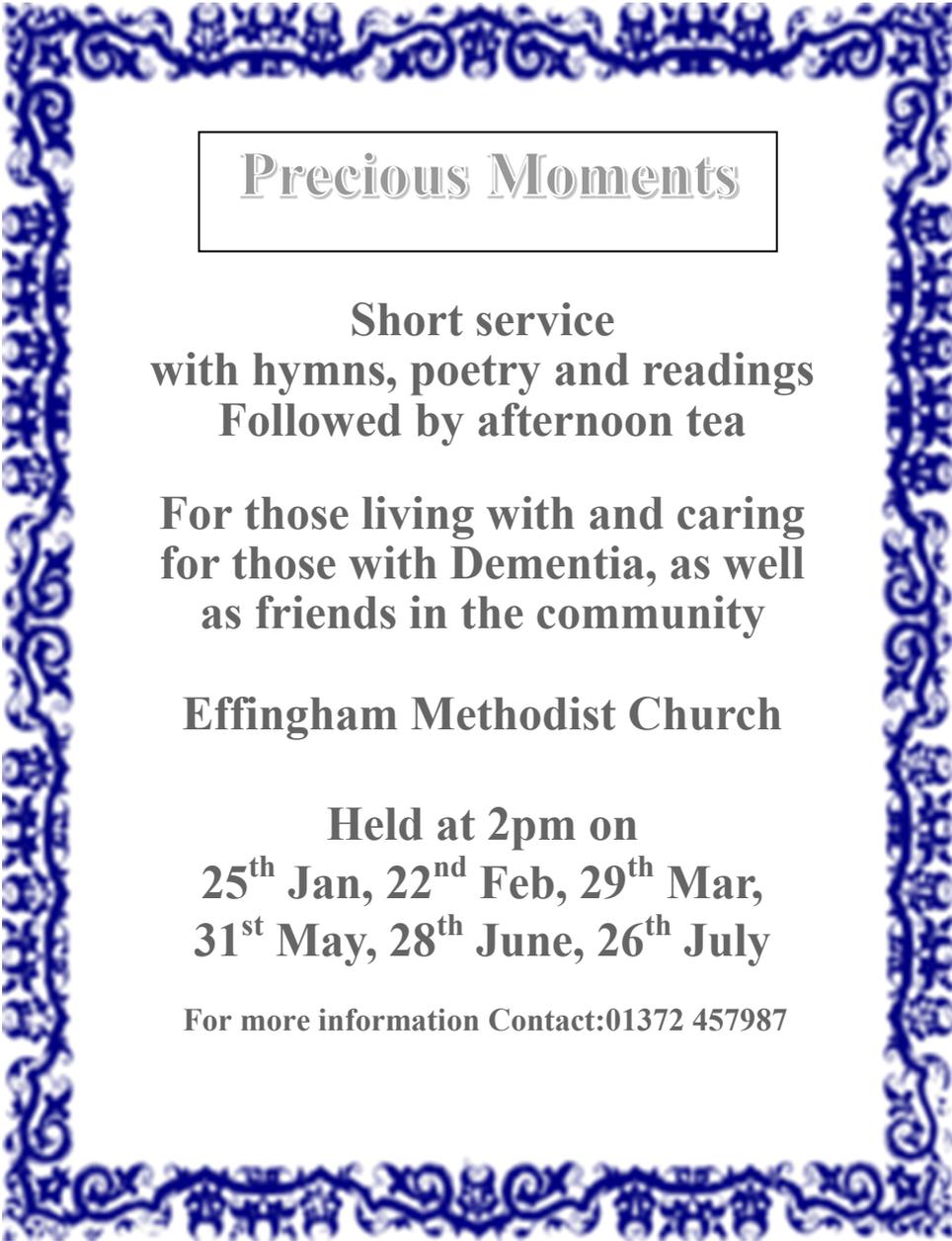
email

GillianMWalker@gmail.com

or Kim on 01932 586988

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





Precious Moments

**Short service
with hymns, poetry and readings
Followed by afternoon tea**

**For those living with and caring
for those with Dementia, as well
as friends in the community**

Effingham Methodist Church

**Held at 2pm on
25th Jan, 22nd Feb, 29th Mar,
31st May, 28th June, 26th July**

For more information Contact:01372 457987



We held a Christmas party for our children before Christmas, which was fun for all. In January our theme was "Belonging" with reference to Jesus lost from his family whilst in Jerusalem aged 12

We meet again at St. Lawrence Church Hall in Brown's Lane on Wednesday 13th February ~ 3.30 -5.30pm



Bibles for Children

For a number of years now, working with the charity Bibles for Children (see <http://biblesforchildren.org.uk/>), Churches Together have given a bible to each child in year 2 at St Lawrence School, Effingham. These bibles are for use in school and when each child leaves school at the end of year 6, the bibles are theirs to take home and keep. It's a wonderful charity that provides most of the cost of the books each year. Churches Together also pays part of the cost. The picture shows the presentation of bibles in a recent assembly.



Valentine's Day

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!

The Charity Vouchers service started in 2002, and is run by **Anglia Giving**, a non-profit company specifically set up to run this service for good causes across the UK.

<https://charityvouchers.org/>

[valentines-day/](#)



Ideas for Prayer in February

Prayer is God's initiative, a gift which enables us to be attentive to the presence of God in our lives and in the world. It is also a means of expressing what we believe about God and can prompt us to act to change the world as we respond to God's love. But 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 world-wide events ?

The **Methodist Prayer handbook** is a useful focus for daily prayer. Or check out the **Methodist UK website** where you'll find ideas for **Creative Prayer** @ <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/creative-prayer/>

Perhaps you'd like to join our **prayer-group at the Chapel every Friday at 9.30am** when we use Morning Service from the Methodist Service book and praise God for all our blessings and pray for the needs of the World, the Church, our neighbours, friends and family.

Racial Justice Sunday is on **10th February** when we have an opportunity for all Christians to join together in thanksgiving for human diversity and to pray for an end to misunderstanding, racism and injustice. Downloadable resources on Methodist website at <http://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/methodist-special-sundays/racial-justice-Sunday/>

Engage your church and community with All We Can's Lent Study programme *Travel Lightly* resources. Inspiring them to travel lightly as they reflect on the wilderness experience, which for many people in our world is a daily reality. 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.



Methodist
relief and
development

http://www.allwecan.org.uk/keep_it

simple

Leatherhead Pages

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



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*

AllSaints, Kingston Road, Leatherhead, KT22 7BT

Men's Breakfasts



The Leatherhead Men's Breakfast Fellowship meets bi-monthly on the fourth Saturday in the month. No meeting in February.

The next meeting is on **23rd March**, venue and speaker to be confirmed and the following meeting will be on 25th May at LMC, speaker Dave Banko with a Churches Together update.

All men of any denomination or none are welcome. A suggested donation of £4 would be appreciated to cover costs; any surplus is donated to the speaker's preferred charity.

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 1st February - Speaker: Hilary Porter

EVERYONE WELCOME

(suggested donation £1)



The Ark Toddler Group



Fridays
@ 0930-1100
@Christ Church
Epsom Road

**Restarting
11th
January
0930**



For More Information
Contact Joycey on
Joycey.lmcyouth@gmail.com





Leatherhead

Methodist Church

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.

Next Prayer Breakfast is on 17th February.

LMC House Groups

LMC has three House Groups where Church members and friends can meet together on a regular basis, usually 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.



Monday evenings fortnightly: contact **Carol Stoves**

Friday mornings monthly: contact **Norma Shaw**

Friday afternoons (2nd and 4th Fridays): contact **Sue Friend**

Everyone is encouraged to join a house group



Diary



February

Fri 1st 2.30pm Time for Tea

**Sun 3rd 10.30am Rev. Christine Millwood
with Holy Communion**

Tues 5th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry
2.00pm Knit 'n' Natter

**Sun 10th 10.30am Beth Little
6.30pm Rev. Jan Hofmeyr with Holy Communion**

Tues 12th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry
2.00pm Knit 'n' Natter
8.00pm Church Council

**Sun 17th 9.30am Prayer Breakfast
10.30am Rev. Jan Hofmeyr**

Tues 19th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry
2.00pm Knit 'n' Natter

**Sun 24th 10.30am Heather Ward
6.30pm New Fire at AllSaints café**

Tues 26th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry
2.00pm Knit 'n' Natter
2.30pm Pastoral Visitors' Quarterly Meeting

Thur 28th 3.00pm Music on Thursdays Piano Concert:
Thomas Ang with works by Russian Composers

March

Fri 1st 2.00pm World Day of Prayer Service at URC
2.30pm Time for Tea

**Sun 3rd 10.30am Rev. Jan Hofmeyr with Holy Communion
12.00noon Bring and share lunch at the Manse**

Tues 5th 9.00am Prayers in the Vestry
2.00pm Knit 'n' Natter

Bible Reading Adventure



As the people of God and followers of Jesus Christ, we are like trees planted by streams of water, with roots going deep so that we can bear fruit and remain strong even bearing leaves in old age. (e.g. Psalm 1, Jeremiah 17:7,8 and Ezekiel 47:12)

One way for us to grow in 2019 is to join with me in reading through the Bible in a year.

There are bookmarks showing the readings available on the LMC website, on e-mail, and at the back of the LMC and URC churches, if you would like to join.

It is basically about 2 chapters of Old Testament, a few verses of Proverbs and Psalms and a chapter of the New Testament each day. (One could just tackle the New Testament this time around.)

If you get behind, rather don't try and read it all, but just pick up the new day's reading. If you like you can look up my response to the readings on Mannawithangela.blogspot.com.

God bless you

Angela Hofmeyr (anghofmeyr@gmail.com)

A Saint for February

Saint Blaise, physician, bishop and martyr in the 4th century, is the patron saint of sore throats.

See how these Christians love one another

In antiquity, "North Africa" was a province of the Roman Empire where today we find Tunisia. Its capital was Carthage. We may think of Rome as the centre of the Roman Empire. But while many roads of culture and society met in Rome, many also ran through Carthage as a major centre of imperial trade. Destroyed but then rebuilt by the Romans, Carthage was called "the granary of the empire." Carthaginians made beautiful pottery and traded figs, grapes, olive oil, and beans with the interior of the African continent and much of the rest of the known world. And along with all this, Carthage was the cradle of Latin theology.

On The Offensive

The first great North African theologian was Tertullian (ca. 160–220). Raised in a pagan family, he was educated in Latin grammar, rhetoric, and philosophy—the standard curriculum for boys who wished to become lawyers or civil servants in the Roman government. Sometime in middle age he converted to Christianity and was ordained a presbyter (i.e., priest or elder) in Carthage.

Tertullian is now called the "Father of Latin Theology," but he was not the first theologian of the West. Justin Martyr (ca. 100–ca. 165) and Irenaeus (flourished second century), bishop of Lyons, preceded Tertullian, but they wrote in Greek - the primary language of commerce and philosophy in the eastern part of the empire.

Tertullian was the first major theologian who wrote extensively in Latin - bringing new challenges to the theological enterprise. His earliest works defended Christian beliefs and practices that pagans often misunderstood.

Ever the lawyer, Tertullian the apologist subscribed to the view that the best defence is a good offence. His treatises *To the Gentiles* and *Apology* directly attacked pagan beliefs and practises as superstitious and immoral, and argued that the Christian life as taught in Scripture and practised in the church was morally superior. He imagined pagans looking at Christians and saying, "Look . . . how they love one another (for they themselves [pagans] hate one another); and how they are ready to die for each other (for they themselves are readier to kill each other)."

Blood of the Martyrs

Tertullian believed that Christianity would unavoidably conflict with pagan society, leading to resentment and persecution. In the face of persecution, Christians should imitate Jesus and accept martyrdom; to Tertullian we owe the oft-quoted line that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."

Stressing the moral superiority of Christianity led Tertullian to advocate moral rigour and a strict ethical code, which included not wearing jewellery, remarrying, or attending the theatre (since pagan rites were practised there). He also encouraged virgins to keep themselves veiled.

He had no patience for laxity; certain moral lapses after baptism, especially adultery and murder, were for him the same as rejecting and abandoning the Christian faith, or apostatising. They could not be forgiven except through enduring a martyr's death.

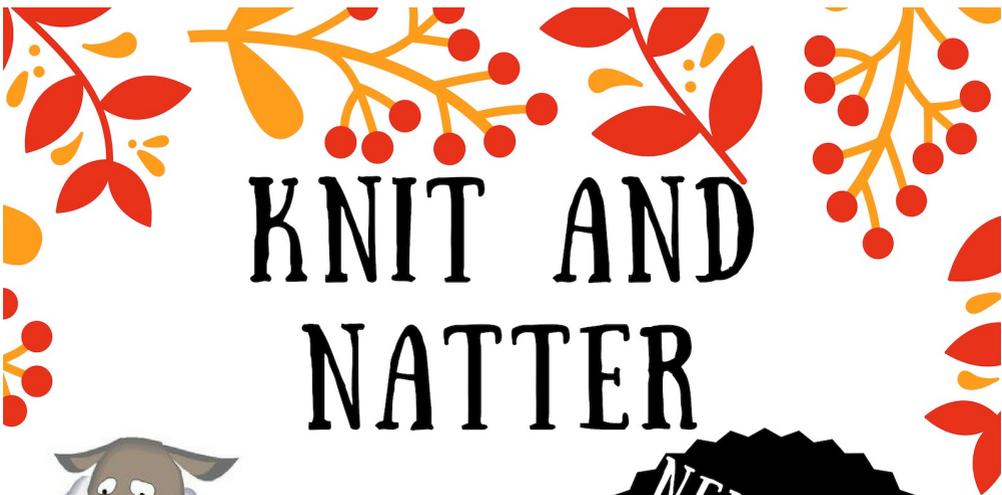
Tertullian was also suspicious of any Christian theology that seemed to rely too much on pagan philosophy, famously writing, "What does Athens have to do with Jerusalem?" (Mixing the two was, he said, like mixing cheese with chalk.) Our knowledge of God, he insisted, comes from God's special revelation to Israel, from the teachings of Moses and the prophets, and ultimately from the Incarnation. Pagan reason had nothing to do with it.

Pagan philosophy was filled with errors and at odds with the Gospel - how could it be used to explain the logic of Christian faith? He wrote, "The Son of God was crucified: I am not ashamed - because it is shameful. The Son of God died: it is immediately credible - because it is silly. He was buried, and rose again: it is certain - because it is impossible."

Tertullian did not ignore philosophy. He employed elements of Stoicism in his theological arguments and wrote in his treatise *On Repentance*, "There is nothing which God... has not foreseen, arranged and determined by reason; moreover, there is nothing he does not wish to be investigated and understood by reason." But he felt philosophy could never be used as the foundation of Christian faith. The truth of the Gospel and the faith of the believer could not rest upon philosophical proofs.

This story can be found on www.christianhistoryinstitute.org. Christian History Institute publishes the popular Christian History magazine, sharing the history of faith throughout the ages.

Our thanks to Bob Greenfield for submitting
this article for publication.



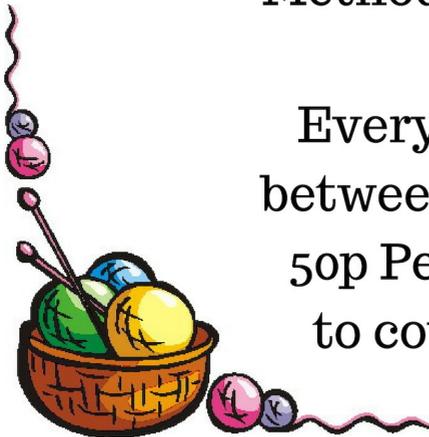
KNIT AND NATTER



**NEW GROUP
STARTING
ALL ARE
WELCOME**

Leatherhead
Methodist Church

Every Tuesday
between 1400-1600
50p Per Session
to cover costs



LMC Family News



Our thoughts and prayers are with ...

...Norma Shaw who is coping with mobility difficulties, having fractured an ankle in December.

...Barbara Bees now starting to feel better after completing her treatment at the Marsden, mid-December.

...Dreda Kitchen recovering at home following surgery before Christmas.

We remember too ...

...Members, friends and relatives who are being looked after in hospital, in nursing or residential homes or in their own home, and those who care for them day by day. We particularly think of James and Jean Ross, Harry and Peggy Robinson, Edward Warren and Jeanne Alexandre.

Lunchbox at LMC

We continue to welcome Lunchbox every Wednesday at LMC, but we need a few more volunteers for washing up and general help, and for helping to prepare meals before the session.

If you can help, please contact Anne Marshall on 07961 347093. Thank you.

Book Review



SUSANNA WESLEY: MOTHER OF JOHN AND CHARLES **by Charles Ludwig**

Susanna Wesley was born on the 20th January 1669, the youngest of the twenty five children of Samuel Annesley. Annesley was a dissenting preacher in London. As a dissenter in the reign of Charles the Second he was forbidden to preach in the Church of England so he preached elsewhere. Susanna grew up in a time of great upheaval and uncertainty and the family was persecuted for its beliefs. She was a very devout girl and remained so, applying her Christian beliefs to every aspect of her life. She told her father in her late teens that she had asked God to make her life count.

The author of the book, Charles Ludwig, loses no opportunity to relate the history of England where it matters and he is careful to tell the story of Susanna in the context of the history of the time in which she lived. In some respects she was a part of that history because she suffered through the persecution of dissenters. The book also tells us that some of the great people of the time were known to her and her family. Men like John Bunyan and Daniel Defoe appear in the story as friends of the family.

Susanna's early life prepared her in some ways for the difficult times ahead. In 1689 she married Samuel Wesley, a preacher and poet. Just before they married Samuel acquired a living as a curate in a London church. However he wasn't well paid and there were financial difficulties from the start of the marriage. Samuel supplemented his meagre pay with his writing but there were always difficulties, only made worse by his spendthrift ways. The couple's first child, also called Samuel, was born in 1690, the first of nineteen children all but nine of which died in infancy.

In 1691 Samuel became rector of South Ormsby in Lincolnshire. Then in 1697 he was made rector of Epworth a short distance from Ormsby.

This was a much better living but due to unforeseen expenses and Samuel's spending habits there were always financial problems. There was never enough to feed and clothe the growing family.

Susanna had seven children before coming to Epworth and all the rest were born there. In Epworth many dramatic events took place. In 1701 Samuel left home after a disagreement with the unshakeable Susanna about the right of William the Third to be king. He returned in 1702 but was permanently in debt and was once imprisoned as a result. He also involved himself in politics which led to much trouble. In 1709 the rectory was completely destroyed in a fire which almost killed their six year old son John.

Apart from dealing with the many problems which married life inflicted on her Susanna was also engaged in all the additional activities resulting from being a mother and rector's wife. While Samuel was in prison a curate took his place but he would only hold a morning service. Susanna felt the need for evening worship too so she began to hold worship sessions in the rectory for her children and the servants. These meetings expanded when friends and neighbours joined in. Susanna called these gatherings 'Our Society' and it led to complaints by the curate who felt she was not qualified to conduct such an enterprise.

Susanna had a dream of producing children who would help change the world. She established a set of rules to help her to fulfil her dream and discipline her family. All eight of the rules are listed in the book and they included: "...no sinful action, as lying, pilfering at church ... disobedience, quarrelling etc. should ever pass unpunished" and "That no girl be taught to work till she can read very well". The rules make it clear that Susanna, who was also the children's teacher, did not believe in sparing the rod.

Samuel Wesley died in 1735. Susanna died in 1742. She was in London at this time and was staying at the home and place of worship established by her son John which he purchased in 1739. Susanna's surviving children were living nearby. The careers of her two famous sons, John and Charles, were well established by this time and this gave Susanna much satisfaction though at the end of her life she was also tormented by doubts. She is buried at Bunhill Fields, the dissenters' cemetery in City Road which, touchingly, is opposite Wesley's Chapel and Museum.

John is buried at his home on the same site (which is not the same as the one mentioned above).

The late Charles Ludwig was American but his knowledge of English history is evident throughout the book. On the other hand he was not fully informed of Church of England procedures and governance and in several places in the book he describes Samuel Wesley as a vicar whilst stating correctly that he occupied a rectory. This aside the book is a very readable and sometimes gripping account of the life of Susanna Wesley. It portrays her accurately as a significant Christian, mother and devoted wife who never wavered from her duty despite many challenges and who, without doubt, succeeded in her ambition to make her life count. The book is aimed primarily at younger readers but I recommend it to everybody who has an interest in the background of Methodism and to all those who enjoy a good book.

Laurie Williams

**The book is published by Mott Media in their Sowers series.
The cost is about £6 plus p&p online**

Weekly Prayer Meeting

Prayer meetings are now held every Tuesday morning in the Vestry at LMC. Meetings start at 9.00am and last about 40 minutes. Everyone is very welcome to join us.

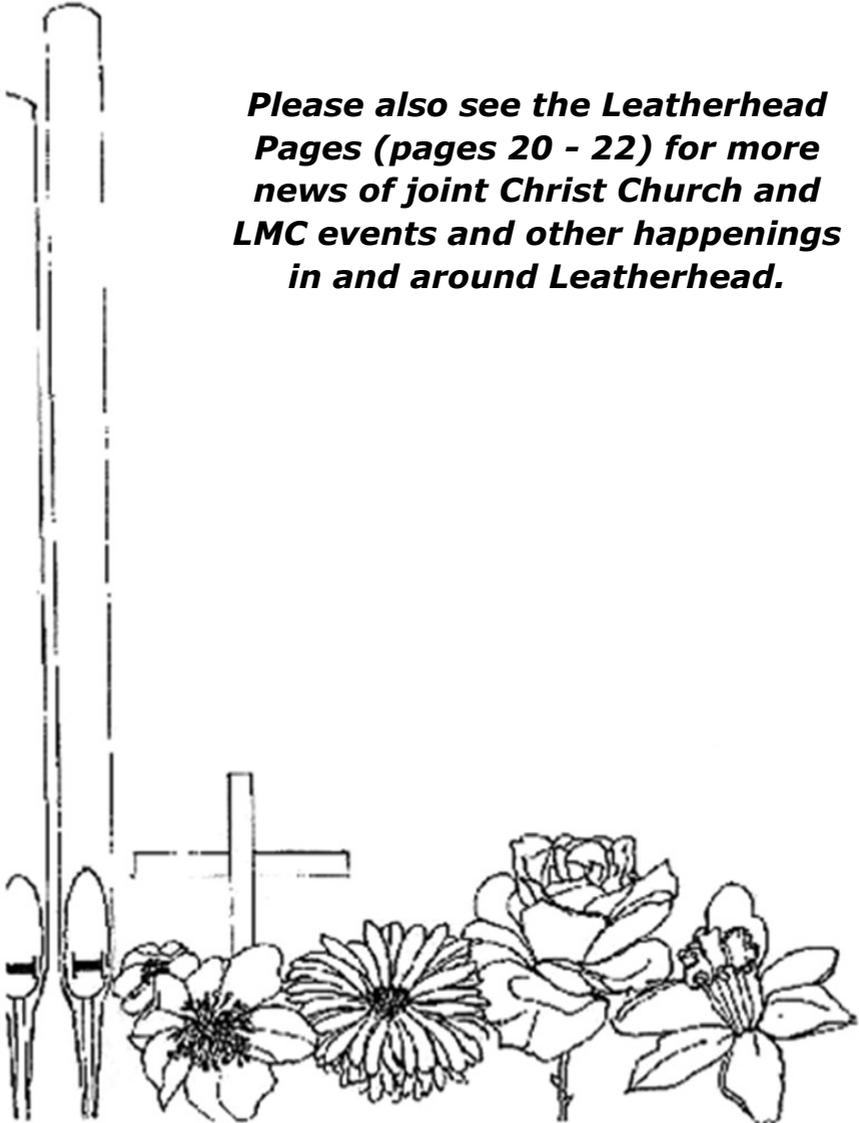
Music on Thursdays at LMC

There will be a piano concert starting at 3.00pm on Thursday 28th February, following the AGM. It's a Concert of Russian piano works, performed by Thomas Ang (Guildhall School of Music & Drama). All are welcome to the concert. Retiring collection to cover costs.

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

Please also see the Leatherhead Pages (pages 20 - 22) for more news of joint Christ Church and LMC events and other happenings in and around Leatherhead.



Christ Church Diary



February

Fri 1st 2.30pm LMC: Time for Tea

Sun 3rd 10.30am Rev Stephen Thorntom
12.30pm LMC: Revive Nation (ages 11-18)

Wed 6th 7.30pm House Group, 3 Orchardleigh

Sat 9th 5.00pm CTiL Thanksgiving Dinner: Therfield School

Sun 10th 10.30am Rev Jan Hofmeyr: Holy Communion
Followed by Church Meeting

Sun 17th 10.30am Rev Robert Blows
12.30pm LMC: Revive Nation (ages 11-18)

Wed 20th 7.30pm House Group, 3 Orchardleigh

Sun 24th 10.30am Rev Jan Hofmeyr
6.30pm All Saints: New Fire contemporary worship

March

Fri 1st 2.00pm World Day of Prayer Service at URC
2.30pm LMC: Time for Tea

Sun 3rd 10.30am Anna Crawford
12.30pm LMC: Revive Nation (ages 11-18)

Christ Church Family News



A Happy New Year to everyone.

We are sorry to hear that Margaret Ball has had one or two falls recently and has hurt her foot but is recovering well. We send her our good wishes.

We send our sympathy and good wishes to Sue Huxtable who slipped on wet leaves at the end of November and broke her wrist, which is taking a long time to heal

We pray for a number of our congregation with health problems and all who are suffering winter ailments. We remember in our prayers the bereaved, especially Steve Neal, and the lonely.

Anne Cairns

Service of Lessons and Carols 2018

Just before Christmas I was asked if the Parish Church could hold its annual service of lessons and carols at Christ Church because of their building works, I was pleased to help although I had some trepidation about the logistics.

I need not have worried. The service proceeded perfectly, and it demonstrated the unity of Anglicans, Methodists and ourselves. The choir, the band and Hedley Kay performed admirably and the readers surpassed themselves. It felt like a good example of Christian worship in the community. I hope we can do more things collaboratively in the year to come.

Mike Essex

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):

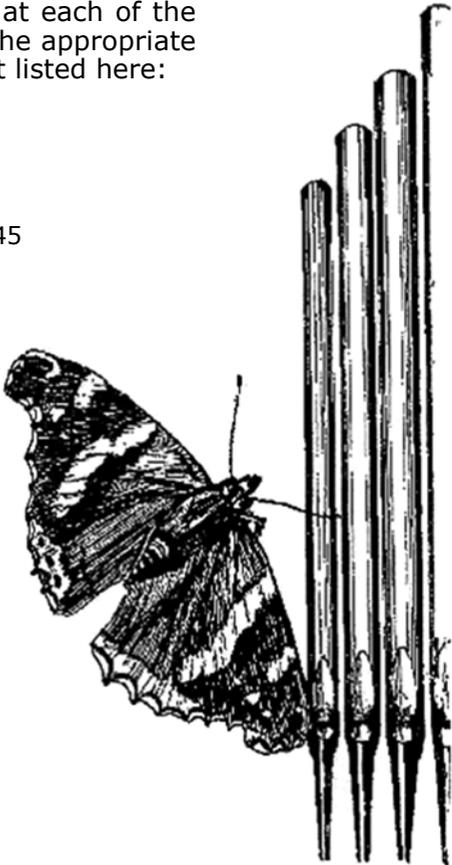
Epsom Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ST
www.chch.org.uk
Contact: Local Church Leader -
Mike Essex 01372 273472

Effingham Methodist Church:

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

Cobham United Church:

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



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