

the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

January 2013



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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The Ministers Write...



From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear friends,

Optimism fills the air as we embrace a New Year and we are filled with hopes that 2013 might offer us something noticeably different from the year we have left behind. I realised fairly early on that New Year resolutions were hopeless, no sooner had you made the resolutions, then you were breaking them. However, New Year resolutions give rise to a determination that we can do something that will change our fortunes in the coming year. So why is it that we give them up so easily after only a few weeks of concerted effort?

True transformation doesn't come from our own understanding. Our own wisdom is fallible as it suggests in Romans 12:2 - "you need to be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

New beginnings is not something Christians are unfamiliar with. The New Year might echo the words found in 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." Our transformation doesn't only happen in the months of January and February (Gold Star if you're still going on after that) but as many of us know, we are being continually changed and renewed from the inside out. Our desire to lose a few pounds or keep closer contact with friends etc. is more about riding on a wave of dreams. The world may not be a great deal different in 2013 from the year that we are leaving behind, but perhaps it can be if our attitude to it is different so that as the years go on, we might be better equipped to embrace them. We have no idea what 2013 might bring us but I would rather seek hope in a God who actively seeks to transform and renew us, than in my own desires. 2013 may well be an exciting New Year or it might be like the many that have gone before us, but however 2013 shapes up we can be assured that God knows the plans he has for us and his faithfulness is always assured.

Happy New Year!!

With every blessing,

Kim

From Rev. Ian Howarth

Dear friends,

Over Christmas I have been thinking about the number of journeys in the Christmas story that have surprising endings: Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the kings, all get surprises, some not so good like 'no room in the inn' and some wonderful, like 'a baby laid in a manger,' who is God's chosen one.

As we begin the New Year, as always, looking into the future, we journey into uncharted territory. For Christ Church and LMC that is more true than usual this year. In February the Christ Church Church Meeting, and the LMC Church Council will vote on whether to commit to joining together to become one church on one site. If that is agreed, in a few months we will have the report from the architects offering us options on how we might do that in practice and we will have some challenging choices to make.

Also, in this year, in July, I move on to my new role in Birmingham, and it is a great joy to know that Lynda Russell, currently ministering in East Peckham and Paddock Wood in Kent will come to take over as minister in Leatherhead.

For the churches and for me personally this year involves a journey whose ending is uncertain. Like all those travellers in the Christmas story we have to learn what it means to travel on in trust, knowing that sometimes we will get some surprises that are not so good, and sometimes we will get wonderful surprises, but either way, journeying on knowing that we travel in the company of our gracious God.

At the beginning of the year, we renew our commitment to God in our Covenant service using the traditional prayer that begins: 'I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will...' As we travel on into new situations with new people, we need to take that prayer with us, committed to God's service in every aspect of our lives.

If we do that, I am confident that God will open up to us opportunities for mission and service that will be exciting and challenging. I am also confident that as we respond to God's call to travel on with him, we will discover that those he calls he also equips, and we will find ourselves inspired and enabled to fulfil our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ, wherever he leads us.

Yours in Christ,

Ian

A New Minister for Leatherhead...

You will no doubt have heard by now that our new Minister from September for Christ Church (United Reformed) and for Leatherhead Methodist Church will be Rev. Lynda Russell. Both Christ Church and LMC have written as follows...

From Christ Church:

Our New Minister

There was a unanimous feeling in both congregations that Rev. Lynda Russell was right for us. Fortunately she agreed, and consequently will become our minister on 1st September.

I understand she is going to write something herself for the Link next month, so I will not steal her thunder. For us at Christ Church and, I believe for LMC, Lynda will be our first woman minister, and she will be in good company with Kim Plumpton at Cobham and Heather Cadoux at Epsom.

We have the next few months to do some planning, and hopefully to include Lynda in it.

Lastly I would just like to thank Carol Stoves for her meticulous planning of the visits. We worked very harmoniously together.

Mike Essex

From LMC:

Rev. Lynda Russell

We are delighted to announce that Rev. Lynda Russell will be joining LMC and Christ Church as our Minister when Ian moves on to Birmingham next year.

Lynda grew up in Chessington and her parents live in New Malden, so she knows the local area well. At the moment Lynda is Minister at St Andrew's Church, Paddock Wood and East Peckham Methodist Church in Kent. Lynda's husband, John, is very supportive of her work as a Minister and works as a banker in London. Lynda is very excited about the move to Leatherhead and is looking forward to joining us. If you would like to know more please speak to Sue or Carol.

Sue Friend & Carol Stoves

27 November 2012

To all churches

So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel," which means "God is with us."



Dear friends,

Sometimes God comes demanding great trust of us, requiring that we just accept a fact of our lives without explanation or justification. I imagine it was exactly like that when God came to Mary and Joseph. God came with an explanation that was beyond explanation - an explanation that required great trust.

It is easier for me to understand how Mary might have felt. But what was Joseph feeling. Away from all the gossiping, Joseph knew that Mary was with child. He did not know why or how. Joseph's instinct was to turn to God in prayer.

God responded in a dream. Through the angel God told Joseph that the child was the result of divine action. Therefore he should take Mary for his wife. It amazes me how God stated a fact without explanation and suggested what Joseph should do about it. That was enough for him.

Joseph solved his dilemma by simply going ahead and being himself: being Joseph to Mary and being Joseph to Jesus and leaving the rest up to God. God, after all, chose Joseph to care for Mary and Jesus. In the process of being himself, he found a place for the baby to be born, a humble stable, the embodiment of ordinariness.

Later he saved the baby from the envy of King Herod. After living for some years as a refugee in a foreign land, he returned with his family to Nazareth. There he supported the child and his mother again by the ordinariness of his profession, through hard work. Whenever God told him to move, he moved, but most of the time he just stayed put and did ordinary Joseph things: he worked; he loved Mary and Jesus; he listened carefully for the will of God whispered quietly to him through the ordinary events of his daily life. Yet Joseph's story is truly extraordinary.

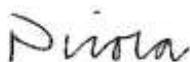
It is a familiar story and there is nothing new in my telling of it. But I do tell it again as a reminder to us to trust in the purposes of God.

We have just celebrated 40 years of the United Reformed Church. It is a very different church from 40 years ago. But it is the church to which we belong as the body of Christ. There is much talk of dwindling congregations, lack of finance, lack of young people, lack of direction ... but maybe we should be focus less upon what we lack, and rather more upon the bounty of life in Christ God calls us to live. After all, we are called to trust in God's purposes. Perhaps, like Joseph, we need to get on with the business of being church, the whole people of God. Perhaps, like Joseph, we need to listen to the will of God whispered quietly to us in the ordinary events of daily life.

Let us not forget that, by being the whole people of God, we have done some great and glorious things as the body of Christ together and spearheaded many with our friends of other denominations for which we should give thanks and rejoice. But most of the time we go about our ordinary business of being God's people for our world.

As I travel around the Synod I see the shoots of hope and real possibility but I know it is not always easy. For your commitment and patience I say a genuine thank you.

Russell, Cameron and Ross join me in wishing you a blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year.



Nicola

Synod Moderator
Synod Clerk
Synod Treasurer

The Revd Nicola Furley-Smith
The Revd Derrick Dzandu-Hedidar
Mr Ian Fleming

020 8688 3730
020 8660 3415
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Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary - January



Sun	6th	11.00am	David Cappitt
Fri	11th	4.30pm	CYC at URC
Sat	12th	10.00am	Time 4 You
		2.30pm	Platinum Service
Sun	13th	11.00am	Rev. Val Ogden
Tues	15th	7.30pm	Special Circuit Meeting (venue tbc)
Sun	20th	11.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton. United Covenant Service (with CURC) with Holy Communion
		6.00pm	Churches Together Service at St Mary's Stoke D'Abernon
Wed	23rd	7.30pm	House Fellowship at the Manse
Thurs	24th	3.30pm	Messy Church at Cobham URC (ends 5.30pm)
Fri	25th	4.30pm	CYC at URC
Sun	27th	11.00am	Rhys Frost
February			
Sun	3rd	11.00am	Rev. Frank Smith



“Time 4 You”

**Saturday
12th January**



10.00am - 12noon

ALL WELCOME

Time 4 You - December

A big Thank You to all those who supported our December “Time 4 You” which was in aid of the Cobham Community Fund. I am very pleased to say that we raised a magnificent £200 at the event.

Thank you all,

Rhonda Frost



Cobham

United Reformed Church

Cobham URC Worship Diary

January



Sun	6th	9.00am	Early Bird Service
		10.30am	Sydney Shore
Sun	13th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Sun	20th	10.30am	United Covenant Service at Cobham Methodist Church - Rev. Kim Plumpton
		6.00pm	Churches Together Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St Mary's Church, Stoke D'Abernon
Sun	27th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton Church Meeting at morning service
January			
Sun	3rd	10.30am	Rev. Iain Stewart

Prayers at the Manse

at 9.30am on Wednesdays:
9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th January



Women's World Day of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer will be held on 1st March at St Andrews, Oxshott at 11.00am followed by a light lunch.

Cobham URC Events - January

Tues	8th	9.45am 7.30pm	Church Walk Elders' Meeting
Thurs	10th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
Fri	11th	4.30pm	CYC (ends 6.30pm)
Thurs	24th	3.30pm 8.00pm	NEW!! Messy Church begins at the URC (until 5.30pm) Evening Housegroup at Mary Langtry's
Fri	25th	3.00pm 4.30pm	T @ 3 at church CYC (ends 6.30pm)

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



Date:

**Thursday 24th January
2013**

Time: 3:30pm - 5:30pm

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

All are welcome



Effingham

Methodist Church



Birthday Dates to celebrate this month

We wish a very Happy Birthday to Philip Bearden on 4th and Charles Dawson on 29th.

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

Dates for your diaries -

Come and sample coffee & croissants, and some food for thought at **Saturday Morning Live** - alternative worship at **King George V Hall** on **Saturdays 5th January and 2nd February** from **10.00am to 11.00am**.



Effingham's Church Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 29th January from 10.00am to 12noon**. Everyone welcome although only church members have a vote, but please try to come. Items for the agenda should be sent/given to **Gill Walker**, our secretary by Sunday 27th.

See page 16 for full January Diary

Prayer Meetings are held in the Chapel every Friday at 9.15am

Christmas Newsletters

One of the joys of the Christmas season is receiving news of old friends, and especially from some of the previous ministers of this circuit, some of them talking about what they are doing in their retirement. I always enjoy Malcolm and Lucy Rothwell's letters because of Malcolm's sense of humour! Last year's letter apparently contained the names of seven trees, nine flowers and five birds. I could only spot two trees, one flower and one bird! This year he ends with two jokes to do with running because he has taken up jogging and he is running in the Portsmouth half Marathon in Feb! Good for him, there's no sign of him "sitting down" as ministers talk of retirement.

Eric and Doreen Maynard seem to spend most of their time travelling around in their campervan, this year mainly in the West Country where unfortunately Eric was taken ill and spent five days in Truro Hospital but has since made a good recovery so they were back on the road once more! Eric isn't very mobile now so Doreen does all the driving.

Ian and Doreen Field, now living in Fishbourne are really busy as Doreen is an elder at the Methodist/URC church in Chichester. She also continues to be involved in drama productions for several churches in the area, while Ian in addition to pastoral work in the circuit is a part-time chaplain at Ford prison, where he has had a former Cabinet Minister working for him! They will be celebrating an important birthday for Doreen at the end of December.

John and Pat Hope's family are expanding with their four sons getting wed and producing offspring. John still enjoys his golf as he did in Dorking.

Stuart and Judith Bell send news of their family and a lot of pictures. It's amazing to think of little Lucy now as a student at Sheffield University. Stuart continues to write in the Methodist Recorder and Judith to teach a mixed media class in art.

We are grateful to all our previous ministers for what they achieved for the life of this circuit. God bless them all, as they blessed us.

Freddie Jenkins



"I was a stranger and you welcomed me!"

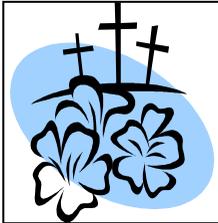
This is the theme of the **Women's World Day of Prayer service** this year, which has been prepared by Christian women of France, and will be held on **Friday 1st March:**

Bookham Baptist Church @ 10.30am

All Saints Church at Little Bookham at 7.30pm

Speakers information to follow next month.

Further information and resources, together with details of services in your area, can be found on the WWDP website at: www.wwdp-natcomm.org.



Another reminder about an early Easter, and Effingham's fortnightly **Lent Lunches starting on 13th February** in **St. Lawrence's church hall from 12.30pm to 2.00pm** - in aid of **Alzheimer's Society** this year. It's our turn to **organise the food on 27th February**, so **please contact Pat McElhill or Janet Garnham if you can help.**



STAYING ALIVE !!!

Last year the *British Heart Foundation's* TV ad starring ex-footballer and "hard-man" actor **Vinnie Jones** saved 28 lives, because people used **Hands-only CPR** to the tune "*Staying Alive*" by the **Bee-Gees**. Sadly the UK's survival statistics for "out of hospital" cardiac arrest has fallen to 20% so learning first aid could really make a difference.

See www.bhf.org or ring Ange on 01372 454850 and book a course today

**Don't forget
Twelfth Night !!!!!**



Are you superstitious? Do you walk around ladders and try not to let a black cat cross your path ?

Well my Grandmother was very superstitious, and particularly after Christmas, when she would fret until 5th January, then insisted that all the festive greenery, pine needles, dried-out tree, cards and old paper chains were burnt on our bonfire. Apparently Twelfth Night was when all [Christmas Decorations](#) had to be removed so as not to bring bad luck upon the home. If any were found later, they stayed up all year, and we never heard the last of it !

It's ridiculous really, but I still feel guilty if I discover any decorations that have not been filed away, even though she's not been able to nag me for nearly forty years. She was 90 when she died in 1974, but her beliefs can be traced back to folklore about the pagan *Green Man* and a good harvest.

Long ago it was thought that leaving the [decorations](#) up would cause a disaster. People believed that tree-spirits lived in evergreen holly and ivy etc., and so it was brought into the house to provide a safe haven during the harsh midwinter days. Once this period was over, it was necessary to return the greenery back outside to release the tree-spirits into the countryside once again. Failure to do this meant vegetation would not be able to start growing again: Spring would not return, leading to an agricultural disaster. It was also thought that any greenery left in the house meant that tree-spirits would cause mischief until they were released. Despite decorations now being made of foil or paper, and even though the tree-spirits are long forgotten, the superstition still survives.

Fingers crossed for a wonderful 2013.

Ange Putland

Effingham Methodist Diary- January



Sat	5th	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall (until 11.00am)
Sun	6th	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion
Tues	8th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	9th	8.00pm	Christian meditation in the church
Thurs	10th	2.15pm	Bible Study Group meet with Kim in the hall
Sun	13th	10.00am	Rev. Frank Smith
Sun	20th	10.00am	James Cameron
Tues	22nd	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	23rd	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Thurs	24th	2.15pm	Bible Study Group meet with Kim in the hall
Sun	27th	10.00am	David Cappitt
Tues	29th	10.00am	Church Council with Rev. Kim Plumpton

February

Sat	2nd	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall (until 11.00am)
Sun	3rd	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Covenant Service with Holy Communion



Leatherhead Pages

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

Leatherhead Trinity hits town!

The choirs of Leatherhead Trinity have been out and about during December, getting involved in the town's Christmas celebrations.

Carol fest was the name of the Mole Valley Chairman's carol concert, held for the first time in Leatherhead Parish Church. The Junior choir of Leatherhead Trinity were invited to take part, alongside the brass players of Martineau Brass two adult choirs - one from Guglingen, in Germany, and the other all the way from Dorking!

The children were crisp and smart in their uniforms and really did themselves proud. They sang five items, with a lovely mixture of the poignant (In the Bleak Midwinter) and the jolly (Jingle Bells!) Their singing was tuneful and enthusiastic and they looked like they were having fun. As is traditional on these occasions, many people felt that the children stole the show!

On Saturday 15th December, the Infant and Junior Choirs combined to perform the Nativity in the heart of the Town Centre, as part of the programme of entertainments put together by Churches Together in Leatherhead.

Leatherhead Trinity is very lucky to have several teachers who are dedicated enough to train the choirs, as well as giving their time for both these performances, which were well and truly outside school hours. Huge thanks to Alison Haining, Lindsay Boswell, Jennie Coles, Gail Brewer and everyone else that was involved.

Jane Smith



Messy Church Lost Sheep Hunt

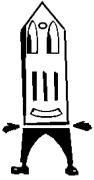
On Saturday 1st December, the Messy Church team were excited to be part of the Christmas Festival in Leatherhead town centre. Ten local businesses had agreed to take part in our "Lost Sheep Hunt", hiding a rather cute, knitted sheep in their premises. At our stall in the Swan Centre, we explained that the shepherds were rather worried, because they wanted to travel to Bethlehem, but they needed to find their sheep first!

Over 50 families took part and many reported that they'd had lots of fun looking for the sheep, while exploring all the other attractions that were on offer during the Festival. There were goodies for all completed entries, and a prize of a £10 gift voucher for one lucky entrant. From our stall, we enjoyed watching everything else that was going on, including live music, costumed stilt-walkers, Morris dancers and craft stalls. And of course, at the end of a tiring day, it was rather moving to hear singers from the churches carolling along with the Mole Valley Silver Band – and to see lots of passers-by stopping to join in.

I am hugely grateful to the team of knitters who created our "lost sheep" and also to the five people who volunteered to man the stall. We were very warmly received by Lucy, Leatherhead's Town Centre Manager and Pat, the Swan Centre Manager and it was good to bring Messy Church out into the heart of our town's Christmas celebrations.

Jane Smith





Leatherhead

Methodist Church



Diary - January



Fri	4th	2.30pm	Time for Tea (to 4.30pm) (see page 22)
Sun	6th	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth - United (LMC/URC) Covenant Service with Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Ian Howarth
Thurs	10th	7.30pm	Prayer for the Future (see page 22)
Sun	13th	10.30am	Angie Choat
		6.30pm	Rev. Paul Cockburn
Mon	14th	10.00am	West Hill School Community Café at LMC
Thurs	17th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sun	20th	10.30am	Jay Dunning
		6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion (jointly with Christ Church at Christ Church)
Sat	26th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at LMC
Sun	27th	10.30am	Juliet Fuller
		6.30pm	New Fire
February			
Fri	1st	2.30pm	Time for Tea (to 4.30pm) (see page 24)
Sun	3rd	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth - with Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth

Housegroups - All Welcome

Monday House Fellowship meets fortnightly - contact Carol Stoves 377125

Wednesday House Fellowship meets monthly - contact Dreda Kitchen 200129

Friday Daytime Fellowship meets fortnightly - contact Jane Smith 372919

A Christmas Carol (Part 2)

continued from December's magazine

In last month's magazine I wrote about Charles Dickens' story. Scrooge's attitude is very uncharitable to start with, but the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future appear to him and bring him to the point of repentance and he says, "Re-create me - tell me it's not too late to learn".

He says, "I have seen a future full of darkness - all the darkness of my heart. At my door a world in need of kindness. All the hours and days and years I've wasted - all the joy and love I've never tasted - give me time to change. I can change the world -it's my duty. God forgive me - let me try". Scrooge says that he will "go where kindness and my conscience lead me, give my heart and soul to all. God speed me on my way and to God I pray. Let the Christmas spirit live within me".

So the message that we can take from this story is, "Let the stars in the sky remind us not so much of man's compassion or lack thereof, but of God's compassion shown when He sent His Son to die a cruel death on a cross. Let us love 'till we die and God bless us every one. If we turn back to God there can be a light in our heart that shines like a star in heaven".

So Scrooge undergoes a revolutionary change and suddenly becomes amazingly generous and also much happier. He says, "I'm as happy as an angel. What a day, what a sky, what a happy man am I, what a joy to be alive and well. If I'd known what I know, I'd have done it years ago. Oh the whole world is new and it all has to do with me". Other people around Scrooge are amazed at the change in him and realize that something has made him see the light.

I wonder if you've seen the light? Those of you reading this article may not be like Scrooge, but nevertheless the message about him is very relevant in the very materialistic society that we live in today which focuses so much on money. Scrooge was a banker in Dickens' story and of course greedy bankers are very much in the news at the moment. How different would the world be if bankers today underwent a revolutionary change like Scrooge and suddenly all with one accord decided to use their bonuses to help repay the national debt or to help reconstruction in Afghanistan or to feed the starving in Ethiopia?

As Christians we believe that such a revolutionary change can be brought about in our own hearts not by the appearance of ghosts but by the coming of the Holy Ghost or rather Holy Spirit into our hearts when we invite Him in. King David, even 'though he was a godly man sinned very badly against the Lord which only goes to show that however good we might like to think that we are, we can still go badly wrong. Yet in spite of committing such a terrible sin, he doesn't end up in a situation of hopeless guilt and despair. He still has confidence in God's loving kindness and tender mercy. He still hopes for God's mercy.

God's purpose in sending the apostle Paul to the gentiles was to "open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they might receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Jesus". It is my prayer that in this New Year we also instead of focusing on material things might also turn back to God in repentance and have our lives changed by the power of God through faith in the Christ who died and rose again so that we might be forgiven and reconciled to God.

Bob Greenfield



LMC Family News



Congratulations to...

...Dot Marlow who celebrated her 90th birthday on 2nd December.

Congratulations to...

...Jane & Neil Fraser on the birth of their grandson Ewan John on 7th December, a son for Ian & Emma and sister to Amber.

and Congratulations also to...

...Joanna & Sam Crome on the birth of their son Rueben Michael on 12th December, a grandson for Carol Stoves and the first great grandchild for Margaret & Bernard.

Time for Tea

COME for TEA and COMPANY

from 2.30pm to 4.30pm

**Friday 4th January and
Friday 1st February**

at

LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

EVERYONE WELCOME

If you need transport please contact:

Margaret Meynen on 372930 or Gill Harris on 458518

(Suggested donation £1)

Called by Name

Covenant, a reminder, a renewing of minds,
From the great depths of our inner being
Totally transformed by God.
Covenant, a binding promise to be faithful to God,
As God is to us.
God, the creator, the Giver of Life,
Life through faithful living.
Covenant, a challenge to give of our whole self,
"I am no longer my own but yours".
Covenant, a call for the wider creation,
Not just seeing the world
But living it out as disciples of Christ,
Living a life where love challenges power.
Covenant, a commitment to give our hearts
To the power of the Holy Spirit.
To God we are no mere speck of humanity.
Each is known by name, called to serve by name.
Called into a different way of being,
A desire to be fully known and loved.
Whatever our faults, whatever our doubts,
God will still call "Follow me".
It is imperative to answer.
Everyone is an individual.
Each will serve God with gifts unique to them.
God calls all - unconditionally,
Giving purpose and direction to our life,
Being the person God wants us to be.
His calling is high, His grace eternal.

Jean Plant

*(Inspired by Ian's sermons at the Covenant Service on 8th January 2012
and the following Sunday).*

Prayer for the Future

On Thursday 10th January, we will be having another evening of prayer for LMC and Christ Church where we will have an opportunity to share our hopes and fears as we move on together, and pray about them. All are welcome to come and join us at 7.30 at LMC.

Ian Howarth

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

Gina Eason

After playing the organ at Christ Church once a month and throughout August, Gina played for her last service on 2nd December before taking up her new post at the Parish Church.

Gina has written to us thus:

Dear Christ Church,

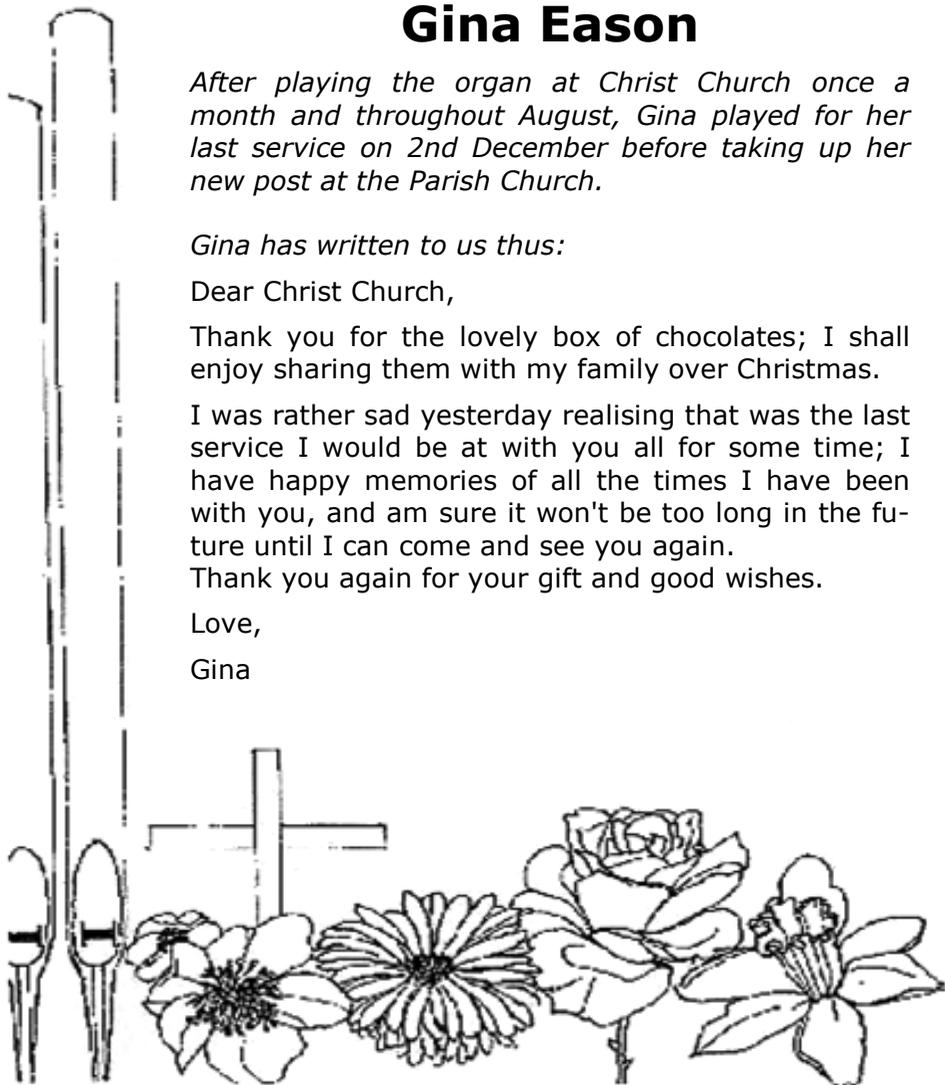
Thank you for the lovely box of chocolates; I shall enjoy sharing them with my family over Christmas.

I was rather sad yesterday realising that was the last service I would be at with you all for some time; I have happy memories of all the times I have been with you, and am sure it won't be too long in the future until I can come and see you again.

Thank you again for your gift and good wishes.

Love,

Gina



Leatherhead Choral Society's Christmas Concert

Yesterday I attended Leatherhead Choral Society's Christmas concert at Christ Church. It was great fun and had a wonderful mixture of items including traditional carols, a humorous rendition of the Carol Singers sung by Ian Howarth and a beautiful song (*Belleau Wood*) sung by Nicky Osbourne recalling the Christmas Truce in the First World War. It was beautifully sung and was extremely moving. Other items included a Tuba solo of *When Santa Got Stuck up the Chimney* and *Baby, it's Cold Outside* sung by Heather Cordery and Nik Ward. The Leatherhead Community Choir All Aloud! had also been invited and sung three items. It was a joyous occasion.

Sue Huxtable

Belleau Wood

Oh, the snowflakes fell in silence
Over Belleau Wood that night
For a Christmas truce had been
declared
By both sides of the fight
As we lay there in our trenches
The silence broke in two
By a German soldier singing
A song that we all knew
Though I did not know the language
The song was "Silent Night"
Then I heard my buddy whisper,
"All is calm and all is bright"
Then the fear and doubt
surrounded me
For I'd die if I was wrong
But I stood up in my trench
And I began to sing along
Then across the frozen battlefield
Another's voice joined in
Until one by one each man became
A singer of the hymn

Then I thought that I was
dreaming
For right there in my sight
Stood the German soldier
'Neath the falling flakes of white
And he raised his hand and
smiled at me
As if he seemed to say
Here's hoping we both live
To see us find a better way
Then the devil's clock struck
midnight
And the skies lit up again
And the battlefield where
heaven stood
Was blown to hell again
But for just one fleeting moment
The answer seemed so clear
Heaven's not beyond the clouds
It's just beyond the fear
No, heaven's not beyond the
clouds
It's for us to find it here

Christ Church Diary

January



Fri	4th	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC (see page 22)
Sun	6th	10.30am	Joint Covenant Service (LMC/ChCh) at LMC - Rev. Ian Howarth
		6.30pm	Evening Service at LMC - Rev. Ian Howarth
Wed	9th	10.30am	Coffee & Chat
Thurs	10th	7.30pm	Prayer for the Future at LMC (see page 27)
Sun	13th	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Evening Service at LMC - Rev. Paul Cockburn
Thurs	17th	3.30pm	Messy Church at LMC
Sun	20th	10.30am	Rev. Jenny Morgan
		10.30am	Hospital Service
		6.30pm	Joint Holy Communion (LMC/URC) at Christ Church - Rev. Ian Howarth
Tues	22nd	7.45pm	Elders' Meeting
Sat	26th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at LMC
Sun	27th	10.30am	Morning Service: Rev. Ian Howarth
		6.30pm	New Fire at LMC

February

Fri	1st	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC
Sun	3rd	10.30am	Rev. Robert Blows
		6.30pm	Evening Service at LMC - Rev. Ian Howarth



Christ Church Family News



We are sorry to hear that **Bob Booker** is suffering a lot of pain with his hip and trust that he will soon get the right treatment. We send him our very best wishes.

Congratulations to **David Gillott** who won the Young Entrepreneur of the Year category in the Epsom and Ewell Business Awards. It was presented for the impressive development of his own business in the last twelve months. His company, Four Gables Group, provides high-end catering services and runs a cookery school at his smallholding in Ashted. The award was presented by the Justice Minister and Epsom MP Chris Grayling.

We send our sincere condolences to **Nigel Gillott** and all the family following the death of his mother on 1st December after suffering several heart attacks. She was a member of Banstead URC where the Thanksgiving Service took place. In the late 1930s her father was organist at Christ Church for a short time.

We are sorry to learn that **Lilian Parsons** has suffered a fall and we send our best wishes for her speedy recovery.

We remember in our prayers all those who are unwell or undergoing treatment, those who have been bereaved and those living alone, particularly at this time of year."

Anne Cairns

Prayer for the Future

On Thursday 10th January, we will be having another evening of prayer for Christ Church and LMC where we will have an opportunity to share our hopes and fears as we move on together, and pray about them.

All are welcome to come and join us at 7.30 at LMC.

Ian Howarth

Pastorate Details

Details of the Services and Activities at each of the Pastorate Churches can be found on the appropriate website, or by telephoning the contact listed here:

Leatherhead Methodist Church:

www.leatherheadmethodist.org

Contact: Senior Steward -
Sue Friend 01372 813464

Christ Church (United Reformed)

Leatherhead:

www.chch.org.uk

Contact: Local Church Leader -
Mike Essex 01372 273472

Effingham Methodist Church:

www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk

Contact: Senior Steward -
Dave Putland 01372 454850

Cobham United Reformed Church:

www.cobhamurc.org.uk

Contact: Church Secretary -
Mary Langtry 01483 282421

Cobham Methodist Church:

www.cobhammethodistchurch.com

Contact: Senior Steward -
Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



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