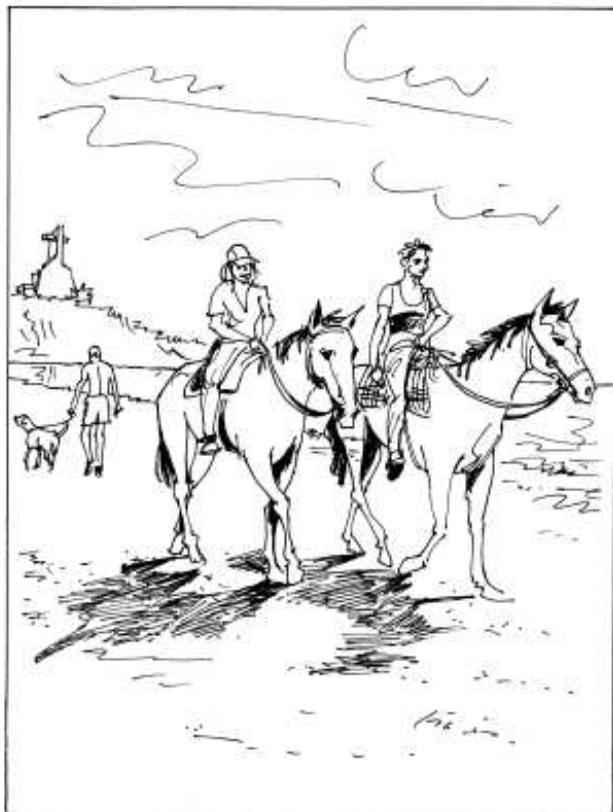


the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

July/August 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. Ian Howarth

Dear Friends,

It seems very strange to be writing what will be my last letter for the Link after sixteen years in Leatherhead.

It will be hard to leave after such a long time here, and from a home where our family has been able to grow up and ultimately fly the nest. We will leave with a great sense of thanks to God for the relationships we have built here in the churches and the wider community, and for the opportunities that God has opened up for such a diverse ministry over the years.

I came in 1997 as a Dorking and Horsham circuit minister with responsibilities for Leatherhead, Effingham and Cobham churches. After a few years, rather reluctantly, I had to become the superintendent minister for the whole circuit, and that led on to me becoming Assistant Chair of the South-East District. Then, when the United Reformed Churches of Leatherhead and Cobham were working out how to sustain ordained ministry, we were able to construct the Pastorate, and I began working in Christ Church, and was delighted to welcome Kim as a colleague for Cobham and Effingham.

This last three years has enabled a focused ministry in one town, something that is quite rare for a Methodist minister nowadays. I have found this a real privilege, with involvement in Trinity School and Leatherhead Youth Project a real joy, alongside the work in the churches.

It has also been a joy to work alongside the parish church in these projects as part of the local Covenant, as well as to have such great colleagues as Jay and Andy in the youth project and Jane as our Family and Children's worker, who have been responsible for such creative and forward looking work in recent years.

continued on the next page

I am so grateful to the congregations of the churches for your support over the years, and the willingness to see where God is leading us in his ministry. None of the new work that has been developed in recent years would have been possible without committed church communities, with a strong pastoral heart and a deep relationship with God. It has been so important to me and Barbara to know that support and to feel such a part of the church family. We will miss that greatly.

But as you look to the future, there are many opportunities and challenges. The report of the architects (CPL) on possible ways forward for LMC and Christ Church together, is now due in September, so I will not be part of responding to it, but I will be thinking of you, and always interested to know how things are progressing.

It has been a joy to meet Lynda Russell and to sense her enthusiasm for the task of ministry here.

You will continue to be in my prayers,

May God Bless you all,

Ian Howarth

From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

In June's Link I mentioned that I nearly missed an opportunity to go to Paris for a meeting on the Middle East. Now I can tell you what I found and why I would have missed out on one of the most amazing experiences.

The conference was an intimate affair with 37 delegates from the Middle East - countries represented: Israel, Palestine, Yemen, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Turkey, Egypt, Cyprus, Morocco and Tunisia. Apart from the Chair from Switzerland and our host from France, a further 40 sponsors from Japan sat listening to an interpreter towards the back of the room.

Let me tell you about three people who inspired me, firstly Vera Baboun the Mayor of Bethlehem. Vera told us that Palestinians now exist on only 11% of the once promised 45% of land. We saw a film about life in Bethlehem which was devastating to watch.

After it was shown the Israeli delegate, former Deputy Attorney General Judith Karp, hugged Vera and said that although it gave only one perspective, much of what was going on was unforgivable from a nation that should know better. Vera's passion for her people was inspiring.

Dr Rehab Bitar from Syria, was married at 12 years old and fought to be educated. She had four children by the time she left secondary school; her husband tore up her books and on occasion burnt them. In her resourcefulness she recorded the material she needed and listened to it as she cared for her children. After having seven children she eventually qualified as a lawyer and just afterwards was able legally to divorce her husband. Rehab is now an international lawyer who works on behalf of women in the same situation.

The sadness for me was her constant references to the religious establishment in Syria, the distorted messages coming out from religious leaders who don't speak of peace or reconciliation but rather incite further violence. I shared Rehab's anger at religious leaders and it would be something I would speak about later on in the conference.

Mervat Tallawy, former Egyptian Ambassador, President of the National Council of Women. In 2007 appointed [Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations](#) under Kofi Annan:

"When the Egyptian revolution happened in 2011 men and women stood together, were one voice for liberty and freedom from the present administration. All were welcomed in the push towards democracy. Since that time minority groups have been persecuted. Bad habits and traditions have meant that society is retreating backwards rather than forwards".

After listening to these amazing speakers, I was inspired by the NGO's, the UN delegates and the way in which they strived to make a difference in a very challenging context. They met people's needs at the deepest levels and I realised how important it is to live our faith rather than just talking about it.

The whole experience was enlightening and I have been given a small glimpse into a very different world but not so far away that I shall ever forget them.

With every blessing, **Kim**

Rev. Ian Howarth - An Appreciation

From LMC:

I am writing this short appreciation on behalf of the Church family at LMC. Ian has been our Minister for 16 years - in the Methodist tradition, a very long time, but we are very fortunate to have benefited from his ministry for so long.

In the short space available here, it is not possible to mention in detail all the tremendous work that Ian has done. Apart from his ministry in Leatherhead, he has also had responsibilities in the Circuit, the District and nationally. His work with Trinity School, LYP and Headley Court has blessed many and I'm sure will continue to bear fruit in the years to come.

We want to thank Ian for his pastoral care, leadership, inspiring preaching and continual challenge to us to live out our faith in the wider world. His musical gifts have enriched our worship and his role in compiling '*Singing the Faith*' enabled him to make a wider contribution. He has brought energy, commitment and sensitivity to everything he's done and this has been particularly evident in his vision for the future and the coming together of LMC with Christ Church.

In addition to all this, we will miss both Ian and Barbara's friendship and hospitality. I am sure our Cobham and Effingham friends would like to join us in sending our love and thanks to Ian and Barbara and in wishing them well in their new life in Birmingham.

Les Prescott

From Christ Church:

I have been asked to contribute a brief appreciation of Ian's ministry to Christ Church.

It all began with some meetings at Effingham Methodist Church about future ministry in local churches. Christ Church and URC Cobham had recently lost their ministers and were wondering how to manage.

This was complicated by the fact that Cobham were in a different Synod area. We managed to get that changed, and the idea evolved of a five church grouping with two ministers, one URC and one Methodist. The two Leatherhead churches were keen to stick together, and we already had our sights on Ian as our minister. The other three churches combined and appointed Kim Plumpton. As one would expect, she and Ian have formed a successful partnership.

Ian became our minister on 1st Sept. 2010. We knew we wouldn't have him for a full term, but we were determined to make the most of his ministry. We have so much to be grateful for:

1. His empathetic ministry. He is always sensitive to people's needs, and goes to them when they need him.
2. His thoughtful, challenging ministry. His sermons are honest, thought provoking and relevant. He makes us think.
3. His energetic ministry. He puts all his considerable skills at the service of the church. He makes light of serving two churches, as well as his district and circuit duties, and he even finds time to entertain us with his wonderful singing.

He and Barbara and their family have been delightful friends, who will always be remembered. I will always treasure the memory of conversations and jokes shared, of a real warmth and friendliness. I am sure I speak for all in wishing him and Barbara God Speed in their new surroundings.

Mike Essex



Truth and Lies about Poverty

In March, the Joint Public Issues team of the United Reformed, Methodist and Baptist Churches produced an excellent report on poverty, which has been taken up nationally.

It focuses on six myths about poverty, that are widely believed, but which statistically evidence shows to be completely untrue.

The full report is available on-line at:

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Truth-And-Lies-Report-smaller.pdf>

The Link is publishing all six myths one by one to help us reflect on the issues. Last month we looked at the myth: *'They' are addicted to drink and drugs*. In this edition we look at the third and fourth myths:

3. *'They' are not really poor – they just don't manage their money properly.*

Nearly 60% of the UK population agrees that the poor could cope if only they handled their money properly. The experience of living on a low income is one of constant struggle to manage limited resources, with small events having serious consequences. Statistics show that the poorest spend their money carefully, limiting themselves to the essentials.

4. *'They' are on the fiddle.*

Over 80% of the UK population believe that "large numbers falsely claim benefits". Benefit fraud has decreased to historically low levels - the kind of levels that the tax system can only dream of. Less than 0.9% of the welfare budget is lost to fraud. In fact if everyone claimed and was paid correctly, the welfare system would cost around £18 billion more than it presently does.

[The fifth Myth, " *'They' have an easy life*" will be published here in the September edition.]

(See also the article "Attitudes to Poverty" on page 23)

Mission Aviation Fellowship

(Postcard collection and how you can help)

For many years John and Avery Rogers sorted and despatched hundreds (possibly thousands!) of wonderful postcards from all over the world and posted them off to the Mission Aviation Fellowship. Their mission statement is "Sharing the love of Jesus Christ through aviation and technology so that isolated people may be physically and spiritually transformed." MAF make money for the charity from the postcards. It's a wonderful organisation to which John especially felt drawn. However John and Avery have decided that now is the time to pass on this piece of work and so I will be taking this on across the Pastorate if the churches would be willing to collect.

So please would you all to let me have your postcards. I will be happy to collect them from each church from time to time if there is someone I can contact to do this. In this digital age and with the ever higher cost of stamps I'm not too sure just how many folk send cards these days, but we'll see. I could supply a suitable cardboard box for collection in each church if you would so wish.

Thank you John and Avery for undertaking this for so many years. We hope we can follow on to do this as well as you did.

Contact Gill Walker 01372 457987 or GillianMWalker@gmail.com
Effingham Methodist Church



SURREY CHURCHES PRESERVATION TRUST

SURREY CHURCHES

**RIDE & STRIDE
SATURDAY
14th SEPTEMBER 2013**

**Ride or Stride
& raise money for
our own churches
and the Trust**



*(Your contribution will be divided
equally between the two).*

Most counties in England hold an annual Ride & Stride, on the second Saturday in September, to raise money for the restoration and repair of buildings for Christian worship.

The idea is that cyclists and walkers are given a list of churches and chapels in the area of their choice. They map out their own route to pedal or walk having asked their friends to reward their efforts.

The money collected is divided into two. Half the monies go to the church or chapel of the cyclist's or walker's choice - probably your own - the other half is retained by the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust for distribution to churches in need. In the dozen years that the Bike Ride (now Ride & Stride) has been running in Surrey over £250,000 has been raised.

The umbrella organisation for our county is the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust whose trustees are from most Christian denominations. Grants are given out twice a year for deserving applications.

Encouragement to take part in Ride & Stride is provided by the SCPT County Organiser and distributed by Area Organisers to individual churches and chapels across Surrey. The Area Organisers support the Church Organisers by providing them with all the necessary paperwork and any guidance they need.

Ride & Stride is a fun way to spend time on a pleasant September Saturday while at the same time supporting a worthy cause. Why not make up a group and join in this year!

Supporters who prefer not to 'ride or stride', please consider sponsoring volunteers involved in this important event.



Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary - July/August



July

Fri	5th	4.30pm	CYC barbecue at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Sun	7th	11.00am	John Oborn
Sat	13th	10.00am	Time 4 You (to noon)
		10.30am	CYC tabletop sale at the URC
		2.30pm	Platinum Service
Sun	14th	11.00am	Bob Boyce
		6.30pm	Circuit Service at Dorking (farewell to Rev. Val Ogden)
Sat	20th	6.30pm	Farewell to Ian at Christ Church Leatherhead
Sun	21st	11.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Thurs	25th	3.30pm	Messy Church at the URC (to 5.30pm)
Fri	26th	7.00pm	Rock 'n' Soul at the URC (<i>see page 16</i>)
Sun	28th	11.00am	David Cappitt

August

Sun	4th	No service - roads closed for bike ride. There will be a service at Effingham at 10.00am	
Sat	10th	10.00am	Time 4 You (to 12 noon)
		2.30pm	Platinum Service
Sun	11th	11.00am	Martin Ellis
Sun	18th	11.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Sun	25th	11.00am	Juliet Fuller
Fri	30th	7.00pm	Rock 'n' Soul at the URC (<i>see page 16</i>)
Sat	31st	5.00pm	Ian Howarth's induction at Central Hall, Coventry

September

Sun	1st	<u>10.30am</u>	David Cappitt
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Cobham Methodist Church Anniversary Service On Sunday 26th May

As usual we did it in style!

We were joined by our friends from the Filipino Church and our friends from Cobham Community Church. Each of the churches took a part of the service with Ian preaching and playing the piano. This was also our farewell to Ian as he prepares to move to Birmingham.

With a full church the worship was exciting and diverse; someone made the comment that they were exhausted at the end!

Ian preached on the parts of the body and how we all need work together to live out the Gospel.

We a picnic lunch after the service where the food was fantastic, the fellowship even more and everybody asking 'when's the next one?'

Thank you all so much for a fantastic day.

Rhonda

Cobham Methodist Church - Timing of Morning Service

As from September, our Morning Service will be held at **10.30am**. The first service being held at the new time will be led by David Cappitt on **Sunday 1st September**.



Next "Time 4 You"
**Saturdays 13th July
& 10th August**
10.00am - 12noon
Cobham Methodist Church



Cobham

United Reformed Church

Cobham URC Worship Diary - July/August



<u>July</u>			
Sun	7th	9.00am 10.30am	Early Bird Service Sydney Shore
Sun	14th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Sun	21st	10.30am	Rev. Derek Wensley
Sun	28th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton
<u>August</u>			
Sun	4th	10.30am	No Service as Stoke Road is closed due to Cycle Race
Sun	11th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton
Sun	18th	10.30am	Tom Zacharias
Sun	25th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton
<u>September</u>			
Sun	1st	10.30am	Vivien Gerhold

Prayers at the Manse

at 9.30am on

Wednesdays: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st July
7th, 14th, 21st, 28th August

Cobham URC Events - July/August

July

Tues	2nd	9.45am 7.30pm	Church Walk Elders' Meeting
Thurs	4th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
Fri	5th	4.30pm	CYC Barbecue (to 6.30pm)
Sun	7th	3.00pm	Special Needs Group (to 6.00pm)
Thurs	11th	7.30pm	House Group Fellowship at Brian Manners'
Sat	13th	4.30pm	CYC tabletop sale with coffee and cake to raise funds for Dementia UK and Great Ormond Street Hospital
Sat	20th	6.30pm	Social Farewell for Ian Howarth at Christ Church, Leatherhead
Thurs	25th	3.30pm	Messy Church at the URC (to 5.30pm)
Fri	26th	3.00pm 7.00pm	T @ 3 at Church Rock 'n' Soul at the URC <i>(see page 16)</i>

August

Sun	4th	3.00pm	Special Needs Group (to 6.00pm)
Tues	6th	9.45am	Church Walk
Thurs	8th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
Thurs	15th	7.30pm	Evening House Group
Fri	23rd	3.00pm	T@3 at Church
Fri	30th	7.00pm	Rock 'n' Soul at the URC <i>(see page 16)</i>





&



CYC (Christian Youth Club) will be raising funds for:



**Great
Ormond
Street
Hospital
Charity**

&

Dementia UK

Improving quality of life

**Date: Sat 13th July
Venue: Cobham URC
Time: 10:30-12:30**

If you have anything at all we can put on the stall, or cakes we can sell on the day, we would be very grateful. Please let Kim know or leave them either at the church or the manse. If not please come and support us on the day we would love to see you x

Rock `n` Soul

7.00pm to 9.00pm

**Fridays 26th July and 30th August
(and every last Friday each month)
at Cobham URC**

This is an initiative to give teenagers a space to perform musically and vocally, no matter what the skill level or music genre, so that they may be given the opportunity to perform and if they wish to talk with like-minded people about music, vocals and instruments.

This is a place where people can get together for a couple of hours in an environment of mutual interests almost like a cross between an open mike night and a jam session.

All are welcome from songwriters, vocalists to bands. There are no exclusions. Bring yourselves, your voice and your equipment and let's rock. For more information contact Colin on 07931 522855.

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

Date:

Thursday 25th July 2013

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

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

All are welcome





Effingham

Methodist Church

Effingham Methodist Diary - July/August



July

- Thurs 4th 2.15pm Bible Study Group in the hall
- Sat 6th 10.00am Café Church at KGV Hall (to 11.00am)
- Sun 7th 10.00am Rev. Kim Plumpton - with Holy Communion**
- Tues 9th 2.30pm Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
- Wed 10th 8.00pm Christian Meditation in the church
- Sun 14th 10.00am John Oborn**
6.30pm Circuit Service at Dorking (farewell to Rev. Val Ogden)
- Mon 15th 2.00pm Vision Day for Effingham (LMMR) (to 5.00pm)
- Sun 21st 10.00am Jay Dunning**
- Tues 23rd 2.30pm Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
- Wed 24th 8.00pm Christian Meditation in the church
- Sun 28th 10.00am Tina Andrews**

August

- Sun 4th 10.00am David Cappitt**
- Sun 11th 10.00am Rev. Paul Cockburn with Holy Communion**
- Sun 18th 10.00am Jon Fisher**
- Sun 25th 10.00am Local Arrangement**

September

- Sun 1st 10.00am Rev. Kim Plumpton - with Holy Communion**
- Sat 7th 10.00am Café Church at KGV Hall (to 11.00am)



Birthday Dates to celebrate this month

Happy Birthday to Gracie Wickham on 21st July and Gill Walker on 3rd August.

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



Effingham's LMMR on 15th July

Please come to this most important **"Vision Day"** or **Local Mission and Ministry Review** to help us re-assess our **Mission Statement** and look to the future.

Prayer Group

Prayer group meets at the Chapel every Friday at 9.15am.

Saturday Morning Live



Come and sample some alternative worship on **Saturdays 6th July and 7th September** from **10.00 - 11.00am** at **King George V Hall** in Brown's Lane.

Enjoy coffee, croissants, & chat

Surprised by Joy

It is 50 years since the death of C.S. Lewis, and this is the title of his autobiography. What a fantastic title of a memorable Christian experience! I have always been a fan of Lewis, because he helped to shape much of my own early exploration of the faith, and like many people I was deeply moved by the film "Shadowlands" telling of his relationship with Joy Davidman whom he married on her deathbed. So I was surprised and pleased to discover that he had spent a year or so in Bookham on leaving school, being coached for entry to Oxford by his father's former teacher, an eccentric academic called William Kirkpatrick who lived in a house called "Gastons" in Little Bookham Street.

I have tried to find this house but it must have been pulled down, and a couple of modern houses built on the plot although some rather ancient looking sheds were probably part of the old house. Lewis had looked forward to having time to enjoy walks in the Surrey countryside, but Kirk (as he called him) kept his nose to the grindstone, so he had very little opportunity to enjoy country walks.

At this time in his life he was an atheist and it was sometime before he, through his constant search for Joy, discovered it in Christianity. He speaks of being taken to Whipsnade one sunny morning, "when we set out I did not believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God and when we reached the zoo I did". That seems to be the answer to his search for Joy. He then began to write his many books, "Mere Christianity", "The Screwtape Letters", "The Problem of Pain" and many others, as well as all the Narnia books still very popular today, both to read and to see dramatised, the most famous one being "The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe", and finally in his agony after the death of his wife "A Grief Observed".

Freddie Jenkins



Annual Report for Churches Together in Effingham and Little Bookham June 2012 - May 2013

The aims of Churches Together in Effingham and Little Bookham as contained in the constitution are:--

- (a) to enable the churches, as pilgrims together, to explore the Christian faith together, to develop mutual relationships, to seek a common mind, and to make decisions together
- (b) to encourage churches to worship, pray and reflect together on the nature and purpose of the church in the light of its mission - each church sharing with others the treasures of its tradition
- (c) to enable the churches to live and share the Gospel, to evangelise together and to take further steps towards fuller unity
- (d) to enable the churches to respond to the needs of society and to witness to the Gospel together.

There have been three meetings this year in May, October and January continuing the sequence of meetings in previous years. Attendance has been good, although the absence of a representative from All Saints Church is regretted. Our constitution was agreed in May 2011 and therefore this is our first AGM that constitutionally we are obliged to hold. Churches Together affords a welcome opportunity for churches to meet, work and share together in prayer, spirit and action.

Insurance for Churches Together activities is covered by CT Insurance through Methodist Insurance.

During the year we have continued with joint Anglican/Methodist communions held in the Anglican churches on 5th Sundays.

Advent meetings this year took place but were not particularly well attended. It had been agreed not to hold the "Celebration at the Shops" evening this year and to review this. The churches' Christmas card listing all the churches' services was again produced and delivered to every door in Effingham and some in Bookham also.

Carol singing round the village took place in aid of "Crisis" with a small number but in good voice. It seems there may have been a clash with St Lawrence School carol service.

Lent groups took place again this year with Rev. Iain McKillop leading a course entitled "The Arts of Salvation", and Rev. Andrew McKenzie leading a series of meetings "Walking with Jesus". There were also three successful lent lunches. The devotional walk on Good Friday was reasonably well attended. Again on Maundy Thursday hot cross buns in a paper napkin giving an Easter message were given out from the churches to passers-by outside the village shops.

A street collection for Christian Aid was again organised through Churches Together. At the time of reporting the count has not been finalised.

A service for Christian Unity was held at Our Lady of Sorrows on Friday 17th May. Sadly this was very poorly attended, but was warmly welcomed by those who did attend.

Tuesday Teas continue fortnightly with some new members, and with occasional outings, and other activities, including a Christmas Lunch.

The prayer box positioned at the Methodist gateway continues to be available for anyone to request a prayer. The planned prayer walks around Effingham, (walk, talk and pray) have not been well supported with a very few people joining.

"Saturday Morning Live" has continued on the first Saturday morning monthly. The attendance is variable mainly with people from a church background who say they enjoy the time to relax, think and talk. The format has changed during the year with some excellent speakers who have increased the numbers attending. We welcome everyone, but would like to reach out also to other folk around us who are not "attached" somewhere. We continue to pray that this will happen. Fundraising in the form of a Sing-a-Long to "Mama Mia" also took place in October.

Prayer lunches have continued and are welcomed. Each church presents its current issues and aims and then someone from one of the other churches prays for that church.

In summary there have been similar activities this year to last year through Churches Together. We look to the future for more opportunities to work together in the Christian faith.

Heritage Weekend - Effingham Chapel



The Chapel will be taking part in **Heritage Open Days** again this year, and will be open on **Friday 13th and Saturday 14th September from 10.00am to 5.00pm**. There will be an Exhibition and refreshments including ploughman's lunch and cream teas with home-made cakes and scones.

The Exhibition includes a bit of Effingham Village history, with local heroes **Lord Howard of Effingham**, who fought the Spanish Armada, WWII hero **Sir Barnes Wallis**, and Lord Byron's daughter, **Ada Lovelace, the first "computer programmer"**. There will also be a display on our Chapel's history and John and Charles Wesley's **Journey of the Warmed Heart** about the roots of Methodism. There's a Quiz and a village history trail too.

So can you help? We'd greatly appreciate more volunteers to talk to visitors or help to serve teas or make scones this year.

Please talk to Pat, Janet or Ange

Also cyclists taking part in the sponsored annual *Ride & Stride* for *Surrey Churches Preservation Trust* will be dropping in for signatures on sponsor forms, refreshments and a "comfort break" as usual on Saturday 14th - Did YOU know that half of each participant's sponsorship money goes to the church of their choice; the other half goes to **The Surrey Churches Preservation Trust** which, in turn, distributes funds to churches applying for grants.



(See page 10 for more information on "Ride & Stride")

PS: Remember last date to register an event for Heritage Open Days is 1st August ...see www.heritageopendays.org.uk for details.

Attitudes to Poverty - Blame Game must stop

The Link has been publishing one myth about poverty each month from the Joint Public Issues Team of the Baptist, Methodist & United Reformed Churches. See page 8 for myths 3 and 4. (Myth 1 was published in the May Link and Myth 2 last month. Myths 5 and 6 will be in the September and October editions).

Putting this into a local context, for some time local churches have been supporting **Pitstop and LeatherheadStart** (formerly the Night Hostel) with food and money to help them in their work with the disadvantaged. Now **Food Banks**



are opening throughout the country, including Leatherhead and Cobham, to try to meet the gaps caused by changes in benefit.

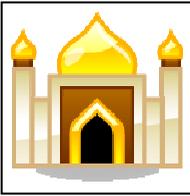
Surrey is thought to be "affluent" but redundancy and lack of job prospects are causing real hardship, even here. However not everyone realises this, especially the media. Last year **Church Action on Poverty's** report [*The Blame Game Must Stop*](#) highlighted a worrying trend. A

further report, the one referred to on page 8, from churches which represent more than 1 million people across Britain, adds more evidence. It shows that common myths about poverty are demonstrably untrue - yet they underpin much thinking about poverty in the UK. These myths have allowed vulnerable families to be blamed for their poverty, and they pollute the debate around poverty and welfare. The ugly rhetoric of "skivers" and "shirkers" implies that all those in receipt of benefits are lazy; yet the majority of children and families who experience poverty do so despite being in paid employment.

There are 13 million in poverty in the UK today, including 3.6 million children, and that number is expected to rise for the rest of the decade. The issues of poverty and welfare are too important to allow myths and half truths to influence the political debate. **A copy of the new report has been sent to every MP in the UK.** Send an email or write to your MP - Go to the website and click "Send an email".

www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/truthandliesaboutpoverty

Angela Putland



Common Ground - Interfaith Work in Surrey

The horrific murder of a soldier in Woolwich has increased tensions within communities throughout the UK. There have been arson attacks on mosques and confrontations with the Muslim community in so-called retaliation.

The media has not helped by showing graphic images, including almost empty churches and devout Muslims at prayer, overflowing into a car-park because their hall is too small.

So what can Christians do to help to de-fuse these tensions?

Come and learn more about interfaith work here in Surrey.

Saturday Morning Live have invited a guest speaker on **Saturday 6th July** from **10.00 to 11.00am** at **King George V Hall**.

Kausar Akhtar a teacher at the **Shah Jahan Mosque** in Woking, is a **Faith Links** adviser in Surrey. She works to promote the Faith Infrastructure and its engagement in developing, improving and extending services in communities across the county through **Surrey Faith Links**, which was initiated in 2009 by the **Communities Engagement Team of the Church of England, Diocese of Guildford** in partnership with **Surrey County Council**.

So why not join in the discussions over coffee & croissants?

Meanwhile check-out the resources on **The Methodist Church in Britain** website which can be downloaded - "**The Continuing journey - Inter Faith Relations in the 21st Century**" is a leaflet with info on group study/bible study: **May I call you friend ?**

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/downloads/if-leaflet-171209.pdf>



Leatherhead Pages

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

Family and Children's Work – Looking back and forward

It is five years since I was first employed as Family and Children's Worker for the Uniting Churches. As most people have now heard, I am stepping down at the end of August. There are a number of reasons, including that my own family is growing up, and that I personally wish to explore other avenues. But I also feel that the Family and Children's Work has reached a point where different skills and a fresh vision are needed to take it forward.

The last few years have been a period of building relationships. At the start of my post, we had an annual Holiday Club, which attracted lots of "unchurched" children. For the most part, we then didn't see them for another year! Through Messy Church, our involvement at Leatherhead Trinity, toddler groups, links with the Uniformed Groups and special events, we have worked together to cement relationships. There is now a substantial network of families who are very much part of the extended church community. Messy Church is a major focus, where we see many families "trying out" church with their children, enjoying themselves, coming back for more and bringing their friends.

I am very aware that a lot of this work goes "unseen" by those are not directly involved. Rest assured that, by engaging with people in these different ways – often not on a Sunday morning – the love of God is being shared much more widely with families in this town.

Looking ahead, I plan to continue running Messy Church for at least the next year. I love Messy Church for the joyful, creative atmosphere, the fact that people are delighted to be

continued on the next page

there, and the way that God always teaches *me* something completely unpredictable! This is a level of voluntary work which I feel happy to continue with, as well as working with the children at LMC, on a Sunday morning.

My Management Group has – rightly in my view – decided to plan for a “pause” in the paid post. 2013 is a year of considerable change – not least with the appointment of a new Minister for the URC and Methodist congregations and a new Head Teacher at Leatherhead Trinity.

LYP is also considering their level of engagement with Leatherhead Trinity, through the proposed Mentoring scheme, and there may be opportunities for better integration of our work with children and young people.

We feel that these changes need a period to settle down, before we can draw up a clear job description for taking the family and children’s work forward. On a practical level, taking a break will also allow Lynda Russell to get up to speed and have a proper input into the appointment process. The Management Group has been expanded to include people who are in touch with these developments, and will continue to meet, to consider prayerfully the right direction and timing for a new paid post.

Your prayers, interest and support would be much appreciated during this process. We want to get it right, so that the churches can continue to reach out to children and families and build upon the positive work which has already been done.

Jane Smith

	<u>Next Messy Church:</u>
	Thursday 18th July 3.30pm to 5.30pm at
	

MUSIC ON THURSDAYS



12.30pm Lunchtime Concerts

lasting 40 - 50 minutes

free entry - with a retiring collection to cover costs

Thursdays at Leatherhead Methodist Church
with

Wednesdays at Christ Church URC

SUMMER 2013

July

Thu 4 Jul - Atéa Wind Trio

Thu 11 Jul - Marisol Lee, violin, and **Joo-Yoen Chang**, piano
from the Royal Academy of Music

Wed 17 Jul - Wednesdays at Christ Church, Epsom Road
Robert Woolley, organist of St Mary's, Stoke d'Abernon,
and professor at Royal College of Music

Thu 25 Jul - Nannerl Piano Duo *from the Royal Academy of Music*

August

Thu 1 Aug - Andrews Massey Duo

Emily Andrews, flute, and **David Massey**, guitar

Thu 8 Aug - Alice Bishop, soprano, and **Simon Marlow**, piano

Thu 15 Aug - Eva Caballero, baroque instruments, and
Graham Davies, harpsichord

Thu 22 Aug - Anna Tam, viola da gamba & soprano, with
Jennifer Bennett, lute & viola da gamba

Thu 29 Aug - Anna Hashimoto, clarinet, and **Andrew Saunders**, piano

September

Thu 5 Sep - ACACIA - Samantha Pearce, flute, and
Heather Wrighton, harp

Thu 12 Sep - Thomas Humphreys, voice, **Raya Humphreys**, piano
from the Royal Academy of Music

Lunchtime concerts continue until the end of October 2013

www.musiconthursdays.org

Supported by: **Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society**

2013 Season Sponsor: Patricia Morgan Optician

Catering Sponsor: Vecchia Trattoria

We reserve the right to make alterations to this programme if necessary

Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society is a charity registered with HMRC

The Methodist Church & The United Reformed Church are registered with the Charity Commission

Happy Child International

I wanted to know more, so on Monday 20th May I was included in a group who travelled to Holy Trinity, Brompton to a Happy Child prayer event. I was able to speak to those from a small group, including Caroline Taylor our local link who had returned recently from a short trip to Brazil to see the difference that Happy Child is making. They shared with us videos of the work being done in Recife for teenage boys (*see last month's 'Link'*). A new girls' home with maternity facilities is being developed.

We spent much time in worship and guided prayer, which resulted in support and encouragement to the full and part time staff. It was uplifting to hear that 95% of the children helped are reintegrated into families within two years and the others are either adopted or stay in teenage homes with education until they get a paid job.

Whilst commending the work being done, I was wondering what Brazil itself is doing for its own children's welfare. The work in Bel Horizonte is now fully self-funded from within Brazil due to planning and negotiation and serves as a model for the work in Recife.

Whilst thinking about problems of prevention, I was encouraged by the latest venture:- This concerns the *IT'S A PENALTY* campaign which Sarah, the founder of Happy Child, has helped to co-ordinate in advocacy along with Police, Parliamentarians, Jubilee Campaign and Child Fund Brazil. The Campaign will be launched in January 2014 ahead of the World Cup. In Brazil at present, girls in their early teens are sent by guardians into prostitution in order to earn money for the upkeep of siblings. This occurs in the main tourist areas, run by Brazilians, but the customers are largely European.

The Campaign has issued T-shirts for those going to the 2014 World Cup which depict prison bars over number 17, to point out that a sexual crime against a minor in a foreign country is a crime which carries a penalty in the form of a prosecution back home.

A video has been released and is being further developed including words from footballers including Brazilian Chelsea footballers and Frank Lampard. Manchester United have also been contacted on this issue. Look out for this promotion which will be on social media over the next 12 months and pray that it will have international influence.

Happy Child first operated in Brazil but its founder has a vision to continue elsewhere and research is going on to begin projects in Angola and Mozambique (in 2016). Whilst we pray for our own children and young people at Messy Church, Trinity School and LYP, let us also pray that the work just described will make a difference not only to the children of the world, but the whole structure of society.

Pam Barton

Fetcham Singers' Summer concert

Saturday 6th July, 7.30 pm

At Christ Church, Epsom Road.

£8 on the door.

FAURE'S REQUIEM

plus a varied programme.



Men's Breakfasts

Sat 27th July at the Parish Church Hall

Sat 28th Sept at the Catholic Church Hall

Doors open 8.00am.

Cost £4. (Proceeds to speaker's nominated charity).



ADVENTURE CRUISE HOLIDAY CLUB

This year's Holiday Club takes place 19-23 August and will welcome up to 80 children aged between 5 and 11. With different programmes for different age groups, all participants can be sure of a fun-packed week and a chance to explore faith in a lively and totally child-friendly environment.

Booking forms available in church
or contact Jane Smith Tel 07834 051046
Email janefcw@googlemail.com

Please remember to pray for the team as we get to know the children, keep them safe, organise lots of activities and celebrate God's love with them.





Leatherhead

Methodist Church



Diary - July/August



July

Thurs 4th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays (<i>see page 27</i>)
Fri 5th	2.30pm	Time for Tea (ends 4.30pm) (<i>see page 36</i>)
Sun 7th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rhys Frost John Oborn
Wed 10th	7.30pm	Steering Group meeting at Christ Church
Thurs 11th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays
Sun 14th	10.30am 6.30pm	Jon Fisher Circuit Service at Dorking (Farewell Service for Rev. Val Ogden)
Mon 15th	8.00pm	Leadership Team
Wed 17th	12.30pm	Organ Recital at Christ Church (<i>see page 27</i>)
Thurs 18th	3.30pm	Messy Church (<i>to 5.30pm</i>)
Sat 20th	6.30pm	Ian's Farewell Social at Christ Church
Sun 21st	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth - United Service with Christ Church at LMC - Holy Communion No evening service
Thurs 25th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays (<i>see page 27</i>)
Sat 27th	8.00am	CTiL Men's Breakfast at the Parish Church
Sun 28th	10.30am	Bob Boyce No evening service

See next page for the August Diary.

See page 25 for Jane Smith's last report as Family & Children's Worker

August (No evening services in August)

Thurs 1st 12.30pm Music on Thursdays at LMC (*see page 27*)

Sun 4th 10.30am United Service - Christ Church/LMC - Mrs Eileen Lawlor at Christ Church

(LMC closed on 4th August owing to cycle race. For those unable to get to Christ Church, there will be a service at 10.00am at Effingham led by David Cappitt).

Thurs 8th 12.30pm Music on Thursdays (*see page 27*)

Sun 11th 10.30am James Cameron

Thurs 15th 12.30pm Music on Thursdays (*see page 27*)

Sun 18th 10.30am United Service - Christ Church/LMC - Rev. Barbara Pearson at Christ Church

Thurs 22nd 12.30pm Music on Thursdays (*see page 27*)

Sun 25th 10.30am John Oborn

Thurs 29th 12.30pm Music on Thursdays (*see page 27*)

Sat 31st 5.00pm Ian's Induction at Coventry Central Hall

September

**Sun 1st 10.30am Rev. Lynda Russell
6.30pm Rev. Lynda Russell**

Thurs 5th 12.30pm Music on Thursdays (*see page 27*)

Sat 7th 3.00pm Induction Service for Rev. Lynda Russell at Christ Church

When Listening is not Enough (Words: Isobel Peaty)

How often do we casually hear scripture and just carry on as normal? The Ghumitika community in Nigeria did something different, something truly radical. They read a passage in Genesis, let it transform their thinking then put it into action. Scores of people came to Christ, a new church was planted and an outcast people were given an education for the first time ever. This is what happens when people hear and obey.

This story was told to me by Daniel Musa, Tearfund's Country Representative in Nigeria. Despite a faltering phone line from 3,000 miles away, it was inspiring to hear the joy in Daniel's voice as he shared with me an incredible testimony of God moving.

For four years, Tearfund's partner Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN), the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, has been outworking Tearfund's church and community process in the north of the country.

EYN trains facilitators to use Bible stories to encourage poor communities to work together. Armed with this Biblical knowledge, the facilitators train local churches, inspiring them to make the most of the resources they already have to lift themselves and their communities out of poverty.

Genesis of a new way of thinking

One particular facilitator, Adamu Aga, went out to the church in the mostly agricultural Ghumitika community in north-east Nigeria. Among the Kamwe people of that region is a clan called the Makeris - blacksmiths by trade and, unlike their farming neighbours, long considered to be outcasts.

It was taboo for other clans to interact or do business with the Makeris. Even the Christians in the area did not associate with them. Over time, the Makeris came to consider themselves as unworthy of any contact. So the two struggling communities lived side by side, but worlds apart.

Then Adamu introduced 'Bible Study One', the creation account in Genesis. It was a message as old as time, but on that day it was as fresh as a new blade of grass. It turned the Ghumitika people's world upside down. For the first time, they heard the truth clearly: all people are made in the image of God and *all people are created equal*.

'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it,' Jesus says in Luke 11:28. The congregation in Ghumitika did what sounds simple, but what people can spend a lifetime talking themselves out of - they heard and they obeyed. They reasoned that, in view of the facts, if *all* people are created equal, the rejected Makeris people must be equal too. And if they were equal, how could they be outcasts?

Sowing love and concern

So the Ghumitika church met with the Makeris. "They were received initially with scepticism but later with enthusiasm. The Makeris realised that the church was sincere in its desire for a good relationship," Danladi says. It was this show of love and concern by one community, charged and changed by the word of God, that resulted in 57 people, including the Makeris' chief and his family, giving their lives to Jesus, and new church facilities being built by the whole community.

This is most of an article in the Spring 2013 edition of Tear Times (see also www.tearfund.org).

Our thanks to Bob Greenfield for arranging for this article to be published.

The Place of the Big Dogs

Denis and I spent a week here in early June, our sixth visit spanning 30 years. I expect many readers have visited too, but would be more familiar with the name Gran Canaria. The original "Big Dogs" are now extinct and date back to the 1st Century. It is not clear whether the animals were brought by the first men from Mediterranean Africa via Tenerife, or whether they were already here. The mountain caves show drawings of a large Great Dane-like dog with Boxer head features.

Gran Canaria is the third largest of the seven main islands of the archipelago and the furthest south, therefore the warmest. The island is almost circular, about 44 miles across any diagonal. The south of the island is almost guaranteed rain-free. There have been 4½ days in the last three years! Many visitors never set foot outside their resort and miss the one essential characteristic of the island - its diversity.

This June we took another trip to the interior, going by mini-bus, in convoy with another. The vehicles had radio contact so only our English speaking driver commented - and he could talk!

The excursion began with a journey through a canyon - the Valley of 1000 Palms. Each tree is said to record the birth of a girl baby. Our journey took us through almond, orange and lemon groves, fields of strawberries, tomatoes and potatoes, and banana plantations. The climate allows two or three crops to be harvested each year. The only crops not grown are Brussels sprouts and cauliflower - both need frost, and there is none.



Being a volcanic island, the lava has set in magnificent shapes and, with a bit of imagination, you could see men, dancing ladies and various animals. As we went higher it became much greener, wetted by a nightly cloud blanket. Eucalyptus trees cling to the steep sides of the roads, their particular twisted growth causing the bark to shed in great strips, quite unlike any eucalyptus grown in this country. In places sweet chestnut had been specifically planted so that their root system would help support the road surface. And swifts by the thousand swooped around after insects, but not attracted by the large colourful butterflies. At almost the highest point of 6000 feet, as we looked across to Tenerife, unusually clear of cloud, little blue and yellow wren-sized birds flitted among the branches of the trees.

And looking the other way, a huge elegant eagle hovered then swooped down to some unsuspecting creature, out of our sight.

As we drove down to the lower slopes, we came to the area where people still live in caves. From the outside - our view - the entrance is built across with a door for access. Our driver had been in one and it had a series of inner caves made into five bedrooms, two bathrooms, a huge kitchen and equally large living room. The disadvantage is no natural light - but the dwellers do get free electricity, and a free water supply gathered from the porous rock and stored. The volcanic rock automatically filters it free from impurities. Nearby were cave houses, where the inhabitants had not spread inwards but built out onto the surrounding land. These dwellings are much sought after. They cannot be bought and are all passed down to family members.

Almost back to base we looked down over a huge desalination plant, not really an eyesore, as it blended in to the gradually more industrial area around the capital, Las Palmas, but a sign of progress from the old to the new.

The resorts have their place and suit many, but they miss out on the 'real' island.

Jean Plant

LMC Family News



Congratulations to:..

...Paul Crome and Jody on the occasion of their wedding at The Hawk Conservancy Trust near Ar-dover on 8th June.

Congratulations also to:..

...Margaret and Fred Meynen on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Our thoughts and prayers are with....

...friends and colleagues of Thelma Howell who died on 20th June.

Time for Tea

COME for TEA and COMPANY

From 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Fridays 5th July, 6th September... *(no Time for Tea in August)*

at LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

EVERYONE WELCOME

If you need transport please contact Margaret Meynen on 372930
or Gill Harris on 458518 (Suggested donation £1)

Thelma

It was such a shock to hear that Thelma had died. She was in Church on Sunday evening, having struggled to get there from her house just around the corner, because it was her duty to prepare the Communion elements. The hundred yards or so had taken her over half an hour. But that was Thelma; she would not let the Church down. She really did not look well, and others did the clearing up for her.

Thelma was a very private person. Lots of people knew lots of different things about her, but no-one knew the full story. She was obviously highly intelligent. When it was her turn to read the lesson it was prepared meticulously, read with expression in a voice that everyone could hear and appreciate. Sometimes she simply followed the lessons in her Bible - a Chinese version. I knew she had worked in China, and spoke and read the language fluently. I know her occupation also took her to work in Brussels.

She had other talents too. She played the harp and the cello, she liked gardening and helped to keep the Church garden in order, and would help clean the building when there was no cleaner. At meetings and discussions her contributions were very well thought out and relevant. She had an intensive knowledge of the Bible.

Thelma came to visit me in hospital, the hospital where I was so well treated and I sincerely hope she was too in those last couple of days. She gave me a little black book 'to make me smile'. It was Mrs Scrooge's version of the Christmas story, by Carol Ann Duffy, one time Poet Laureate. I could only smile - my stitches hurt too much to laugh!

Thelma was simply Thelma, a lovely lady. God Bless.

Jean Plant

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

Family & Children's Worker

Please see page 25 to read Jane Smith's last report as Ecumenical Family & Children's Worker.

Music on Thursdays

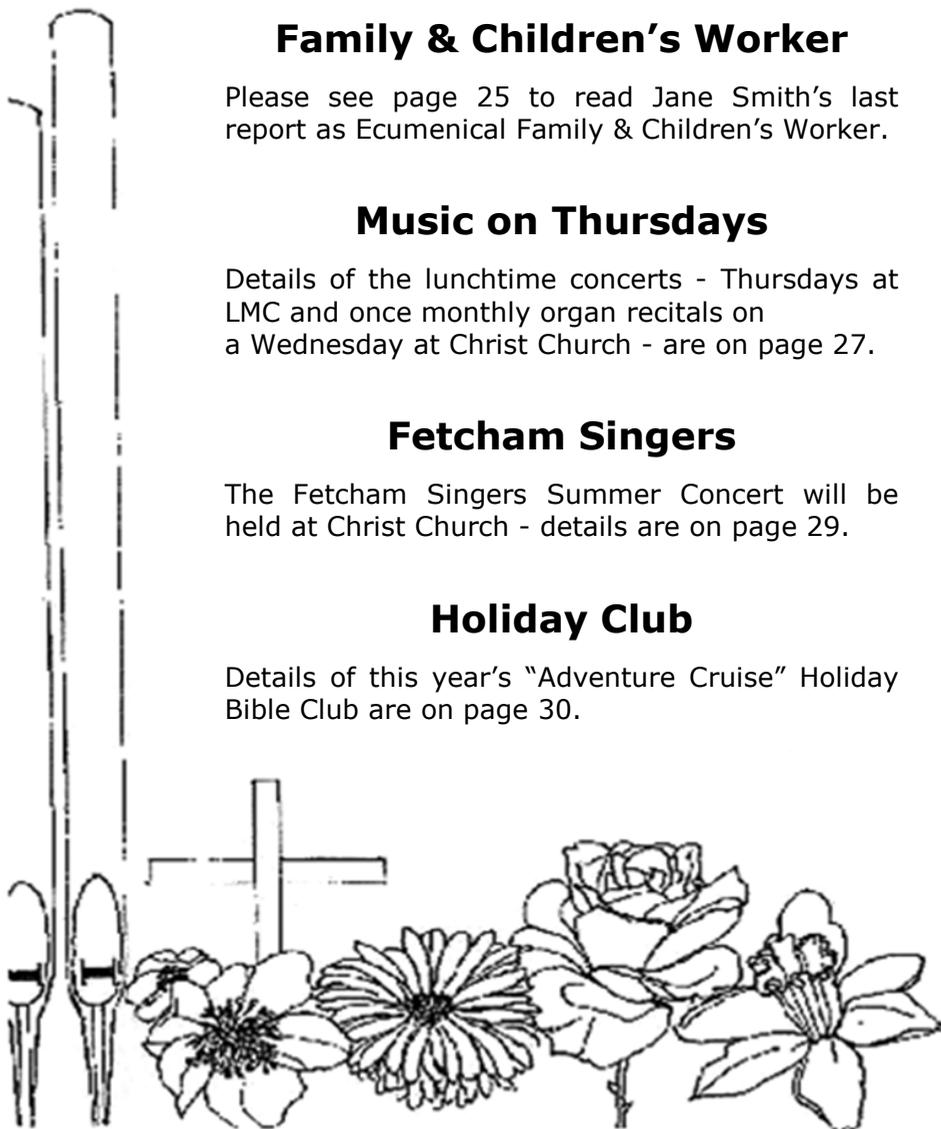
Details of the lunchtime concerts - Thursdays at LMC and once monthly organ recitals on a Wednesday at Christ Church - are on page 27.

Fetcham Singers

The Fetcham Singers Summer Concert will be held at Christ Church - details are on page 29.

Holiday Club

Details of this year's "Adventure Cruise" Holiday Bible Club are on page 30.



Christ Church Diary - July/August



July

Thurs 4th 12.30pm Music on Thursdays at LMC (*see page 27*)

Fri 5th 2.30pm Time for Tea at LMC (*see page 36*)
8.00pm SoundBytes Concert

Sun 7th 10.30am Mrs Gail Partridge
6.30pm Evening Service at LMC: John Oborn

Wed 10th 7.30pm Steering Group meeting at Christ Church

Thurs 11th 12.30pm Music on Thursdays at LMC (*see page 27*)

Sun 14th 10.30am Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion
6.30pm Farewell Service for Rev. Val Ogden at St Martins, Dorking

Wed 17th 12.30pm Organ Recital at Christ Church (*see page 27*)

Thurs 18th 3.30pm Messy Church at LMC (to 5.30pm)

Sat 20th 6.30pm Ian's Farewell Joint Social at Christ Church

Sun 21st 10.30am Joint Communion Service at LMC
(Ian's final service)
No Evening Service

Thurs 25th 12.30pm Music on Thursdays at LMC (*see page 27*)

Sat 27th 8.00am Men's Breakfast at the Parish Church

Sun 28th 10.30am Rev. Geoffrey Dunstan
No Evening Service

August

Thurs 1st 12.30pm Music on Thursdays at LMC (*see page 27*)

Sun 4th 10.30am Mrs Eileen Lawlor (Joint Service with
LMC at Christ Church owing to cycle race)
6.30pm No Evening Service

Thurs 8th 12.30pm Music on Thursdays at LMC (*see page 27*)

Sun 11th 10.30am Rev. Robert Blows - Holy Communion
No evening service

Thurs 15th 12.30pm Music on Thursdays at LMC (*see page 27*)

August (continued)

Sun 18th 10.30am

Rev. Barbara Pearson (Joint Service with LMC at Christ Church)

No Evening Service

Thurs 22nd 12.30pm

Music on Thursdays at LMC (*see page 27*)

Sun 25th 10.00am

Rev. Ernest Yu

No Evening Service

Thurs 29th 12.30pm

Music on Thursdays at LMC (*see page 27*)

Sat 31st 5.00pm

Rev. Ian Howarth Induction at Coventry

September

Sun 1st 10.30am

Mr John Bell

Thurs 5th 12.30pm

Music on Thursdays at LMC (*see page 27*)

Sat 7th 3.00pm

Rev Lynda Russell's Induction Service

Christ Church Family News



Bob Booker has had his hip operation at last and is making an excellent recovery. We send him our very best wishes.

We wish **Jack Boswell** good luck as he sets off for Ethiopia with fellow students and teachers to assist in building a primary school in a very poor area.

Eric Brown has left Leatherhead Hospital and gone to convalesce at his daughter's home. We send very best wishes for a full recovery.

Helen Howard has moved recently and her new address is 22 Ashcroft Place, Leatherhead. KT22 8RJ. We wish her every happiness in her new home.

Dorothy Poulton thanks everyone for their prayers and kind messages of support. We send her our warmest good wishes for improved health.

We remember in our prayers all these friends, including **John Melrose**, and those unable to attend church and the recently bereaved.

Anne Cairns

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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