

June 2011



Linking Leatherhead, Cobham and Effingham Methodist Churches with Cobham United Reformed Church and Christ Church (United Reformed) Leatherhead

The United Pastorate of

Leatherhead















Family Link



Readers of the former Methodist "Link" might expect to see Family News on this page. In practice, the majority of the news here was from LMC, and so, as a departure from tradition, we are listing items of Family News under each of the individual church pages within the magazine. So, family news for LMC you'll find on page 28 and for Christ Church on page 34. If the other churches have any family news they'd like to share, please do let me know and we'll include them in future editions.

Editor

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The Ministers Write...



From Rev. Ian Howarth

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first joint Link of the Leatherhead, Cobham and Effingham United Pastorate. It is appropriate that this first joint magazine should be for the month that includes Pentecost, when we celebrate the coming of God's Holy Spirit, and remember that wonderful story from the book of Acts when thousands of people's lives were transformed by the Spirit filled preaching of the apostles.

Of course, the Holy Spirit was around long before Pentecost. The very first chapter of the Bible reminds us that the Spirit, God's breath, was moving over the face of the waters in the creation story. Even the disciples have received the spirit before. When they meet the risen Jesus in the locked room after Easter, John's gospel tells us that Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit on them.

The difference at Pentecost, is that the Holy Spirit moves from being a gift to the disciples to being a gift for the whole world. The resurrection and ascension of Jesus seem to set free a great energy of God, reaching out to the whole world in love and power, at first through the disciples and then through the church.

That is a wonderful, but also a challenging picture. When people look at our churches do they see a community of people energised by God to reach out in love to the world? That is the promise of the Holy Spirit, and as we look at how we work in our individual churches, and with our partner churches in the Pastorate and in our Churches Togethers, we need to be praying for the gift of the Holy Spirit to continue to work in us, so that we will indeed be communities that release God's loving energy into the world.

My experience is that when churches come together in genuine partnership under the Holy Spirit with a mission focus then that is a way of releasing that energy. However, if the coming together is just for convenience and business efficiency, then it can be the opposite, and the different approaches of different churches can drain energy. I pray that our working together in the pastorate and with other partner churches will indeed be under the gyidance and the power of the Holy Spirit, and be a true sign of God at work in the world.

May this Pentecost in all our churches be a real celebration of the fact that God is still at work through his Holy Spirit, to energise and empower us, to experience and share his life-giving love.

Yours in Christ,

Ian

From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

It was with great excitement that we set off for 'Spring Ministers School' at High Leigh nr Hertford. Having the opportunity to sit and be refreshed for the week, to listen and learn, would be a welcome opportunity. For the first time, Methodist ministers as well as URC ministers would share in this experience together, which would add valuable voices to our group discussions. Above and beyond the conversations around the table at coffee and over meals, the sessions were certainly challenging and thought provoking. 'Unearthing the Radical Jesus' was the title of the conference.

Through art, poetry, stories and bible study, we unearthed a wealth of complex and intricate detail, which might not have been revealed to us had it not been for the gifted speakers at the conference who were Trevor Dennis and Nicola Slee; Trevor Dennis was the Canon at Chester Cathedral before he retired, also an author of many books such as 'God Treads Softly Here' and 'Imagining God: Stories from Creation to Heaven.' Nichola Slee is a poet and theologian based at the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, in Birmingham.

The radical Jesus presented to us spoke through absent voices, through paintings, through words interpreted and reformulated into prose that always had the original text in sight, yet unearthed a different perspective. We were asked searching questions: what might we gain from considering the absent voices of the prostitute or the mother in the familiar story of the prodigal son? Did the gospel writers put words into the mouth of Jesus? What might we learn from considering the images of a female Christ? How can the Christ of faith be re-appropriated in ways that bear a resemblance to particular groups of people? For some the week would have undoubtedly challenged the nature of doctrine and theology, but I found it a refreshing experience. I didn't agree with everything we were presented with but I don't think it was about accepting what was put in front of us, but teaching us to think and explore the biblical material in ways that might open creative avenues in our thinking.

Releasing Jesus from the boundaries often placed around him, allowing ourselves to find a whole wealth of rich and challenging images of a God that we might not have seen before. To liberate the living word, enabling us to find new expression in our teaching, this was my experience but not everyone's I'm sure.

Being challenged is a good thing, how do we know what we believe if we don't come face to face with things which make us uncomfortable. As we come towards Pentecost let's be open to a Holy Spirit which disturbs and challenges us as well as a Spirit that enables and equips us for the journey. There is a tension between what we believe to be true and what God gives as truth, might we be open to listen for it and embrace it.

With every blessing

Kim

Editorial

It's been an interesting journey, but here it is - the first edition of the United Pastorate "Link". I do hope you will find the magazine interesting and worthwhile. With more and more overlapping services and events within the Pastorate, you may find that there's something relevant for you in the pages of other churches, so please do look at their pages as well.

In this edition, you'll find the Dorking & Horsham Methodist Circuit Newsletter taking up the centre pages. I've included them for the whole Pastorate as I'm sure some of our friends in the United Reformed Churches may find the news there worth reading. The Circuit Newsletter will appear quarterly.

There will be no August edition, so next month will cover both July and August and the deadline for submissions is 15th June.

Thank you to all the contributors so far and to those who have collated things for their particular church. If you have any suggestions, or would like to submit some copy for consideration, then do please post or e-mail them to me. The closing date is always the same - the 15th of the month preceding, and, as a reminder, the e-mail address is: pastorate.link@gmail.com

Enjoy reading!

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Les Prescott, Editor



Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary -June



Thur	2nd	6.30am	Ascension Day Service at the viewpoint on Box Hill (see page 35)
Sun	5th	11.00am	Rev. Val Ogden - Holy Communion
Wed	8th	7.30pm	House Fellowship at the Manse
Fri	10th	4.30pm - 6.30pm	CYC (Christian Youth Club) at Cobham URC
Sat	11th	10.30am - 12.30pm 10.00am - 12.00noon	CYC Coffee morning to raise funds for Teenage Cancer Trust at Cobham URC "Time 4 You" (see page 9)
		2.30pm	Platinum Service
Sun	12th	11.00am	Freddie Jenkins
		6.30pm	United Pastorate Service at Christ Church URC Leatherhead
Tues	14th	7.30pm	Church Council meeting
Sun	19th	11.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Family Service
Thur	23rd	10.30am - 3.30pm	Stewards' Away Day at East Molesey House of Prayer
Fri	24th	4.30pm - 6.30pm	CYC at Cobham URC
Sat	25th	2.30pm - 5.30pm	Picnic 'n' Play Garden Party (see page 12, further details from Rhonda or Kim)
Sun	26th	11.00am	Rev. Frank Smith

Time for Reflection...

"The Church is the only organisation in the world that exists for those not yet members." Leslie Newbingen.

The mission of the Church is to look beyond the institution, to find ways in which we might connect with the communities in which we find ourselves. Sometimes our field of vision, our mission, is narrowed by our present circumstances and we become almost paralysed into thinking that little can change. But if we believe in the incarnational presence of Christ within each of us then anything is possible with God, and fresh expressions of Church might not be too far behind.

Listening to God and taking time to understand the unique relationship that each church has with the community in which it is nestled, is essential if any mission or ministry is going to develop in fruitful ways. One small step towards understanding what God might be challenging us to consider within the context of Cobham, is to share in a day where we will reflect on the needs of the church and the community. This will happen on the 2nd July from 10.30am.- 3.30pm. During our time together we hope to discern through prayer, reflection and discussion, a pathway on which we might travel together to sustain and nourish present members, while considering how we might reach out into the community. In the morning we will be allowing ourselves to dream a little and consider what we might become through prayerful conversation, and in the afternoon we will reflect upon the resources we might need to achieve our mission purposes.

I invite you to pray for the church if you are unable to join us and in your prayers ask for God's wisdom, guidance and discernment so that God's will might be at the centre of our thinking.

With every blessing,

Kim



Were you there when they took away my Lord?

It was about 8.00pm when we arrived in the Garden after a hard day. We were all hot and tired, some of us were irritable, and some of us just chatted as we sat among the olive trees. We followed two of the disciples into the city, where we were met by a woman carrying a jug of water; we followed her into a room laid out for our Passover Supper. We sat down to eat and chatted among ourselves, enquiring how families were, who was doing what, where, when, the usual things you make small talk about. Peter being Peter asked questions and did not understand the answers! Matthew reminded us of how he gave back more than he had taken. We reminisced about a small boy's packed lunch, and how it could feed 5,000 when the need arose. Suddenly Jesus stood up and broke some bread saying that this was his body? He took some wine and said that this was his blood shed for us?

We were a little confused but we ate and drank as we were asked. We then sang a song and went out to the Mount of Olives. When we reached Gethsemane, Jesus was full of anguish, he asked James, John and Peter to stay awake while he prayed but they and we fell asleep, no matter how we tried we could not stay awake.

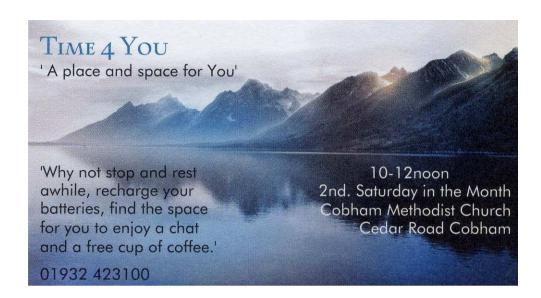
The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners! It is very hard to try to explain how we felt and how the emotion of Maundy Thursday affected us, but this is what we did at Cobham.

Thank you Kim for a thought provoking service.

Rhonda Frost







Time 4 You

We at Cobham launched our outreach mission "Time 4 You" on Saturday 14th May. The response we had was so positive we could not believe it. The invitations we gave out were mostly put into purses and wallets, some were a bit confused about the free coffee - were there any strings attached? We will keep praying and hope to see some more new faces next month. Remember, 10.00am to 12 noon on the second Saturday in the month.

Next Date - 11th June

Church Anniversary Lunch -15th May

Food Glorious Food, as the song goes, was everywhere. It was nice to see Ian and Doreen Field after so many years. The old faces and the new faces all introduced themselves to each other and soon we were all old friends. Thank you to everyone who helped in whatever form to create a day of fun, fellowship and laughter. 9



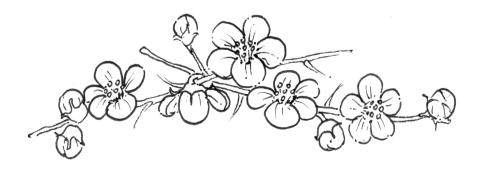
Cobham

United Reformed Church

Cobham URC Worship Diary -June



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Sun	5th	9.00am	Early Bird Service - Richard & Mary Langtry
		10.30am	Rev. Iain Stewart
Sun	12th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion
		6.30pm	United Pastorate Service at Christ Church URC Leatherhead
Sun	19th	10.30am	Alex Herham
Sun	26th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton
			(This service will have 'Seekers', the children's group which meets every 4th Sunday).
			Crèche is available every week.





Cobham URC Events - June

Wed 1st 9.30am Prayers at the Manse Thur 2nd 12.30pm Men's Fellowship at the Old Windsor Castle, Bookham Special Needs Group at Church Sun 5th 3.00pm -6.00pm Wed 8th 9.30am Prayers at the Manse Elders Meeting - Church. 8.00pm Fri 10th CYC (Christian Youth Club) - Church 4.30pm -6.30pm Sat 11th 10.30am -CYC Coffee morning to raise funds for Teenage Cancer Trust - Church. 12.30pm Tues 14th 9.45am Church walk from URC car park Wed 15th 9.30am Prayers at the Manse Tues 21st Housegroup - Brian and Rosemary Manners 8.00pm Wensleydale, Forest Rd, East Horsley Wed 22nd 9.30am Pravers at the Manse Thur 23rd 10.30am Morning Housegroup at Church Fri 24th 3.00pm Tea @ 3 - at Church CYC - Church 4.30pm -6.30pm Sat 25th 2.30pm -Picnic'n'Play - see page 11 for details 5.30pm 11 Wed 29th 9.30am Prayers at the Manse

C.Y.C (Christian Youth Club)

This is an ecumenical group with children from the United Reformed Church, St Mary's C of E and Cobham Methodist Church. We meet usually fortnightly and at the moment we have anywhere up to 16 children meeting in the Harding rooms at the URC.

It is a group that began in response to some parents who wanted some Christian teaching for their children. We have a format which includes fun, games, bible study and prayer. Centred around watching a DVD, we unfold topics such as who am I, for good or for bad, mercy, forgiveness, love and others. We share a meal together part the way through where we enjoy sharing fellowship with one another and talking through the week.

This is a relatively new group and they will be offering a 'Café' serving tea, Coffee and Cakes (from all those kind enough to donate), on the morning of Saturday 11th June between 10.30am - 12.30pm to raise funds for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Please come and support them by dropping into the URC. They would be thrilled to see you. They are offering some entertainment too with several members who are musically gifted in instrument and voice so please show your support for a charity close to their hearts. Thank you so much!!!

Picnic'n'Play

On 25th June between 2.30pm -5.30pm there is an opportunity to come together in fellowship, as we share in a picnic in the grounds of Karen and Graham Budd's home. The picnic will be whatever you choose to bring with you for the afternoon.

Kids' games and events will be available throughout the afternoon. There's a tennis court and a basketball hoop for any budding athletes. For the adults we hope to offer a tranquil place where we might relax in conversation with others. There will be opportunity to purchase plants and jams if you would like to (if you have anything like books, plants and jams you'd like to offer for the afternoon that would be great). Anything that is made during the afternoon will go to Besom.

If you can offer any assistance or you want to know more please ring Karen on 01372 843922 or get in touch with Kim on 01932 586988.

Cars can be arranged if transport 1 an issue so please come and join us for an afternoon of enjoyable conversation. Hope to see you there.

Cobham URC History

Cobham URC was originally a Congregational Church at 61 Portsmouth Rd, but was closed in 1921 and became derelict. During WWII, at the site of the present Church, stood a family home, which was bombed and obliterated.

In 1945 local residents got together to discuss a permanent Church in Cobham, and in 1946 this site was purchased for £800. Things moved slowly, but services were still being held in Stoke D'Abernon village hall, and children's services were held in a local resident's garage, complete with piano!

In 1960 a Covenant service was held and in 1961 the first minister was inducted.

- 1962. The site was cleared and the first foundation stones were laid. The building cost £14,000 without furnishings.
- 1963. An electric organ was donated by a member of the Church. A ladies' sewing party was formed, also a youth club, and a ladies' open circle.
- 1965. A music group was formed. By 1966 it was realised a hall was needed for these additional activities. It was completed in 1967 costing £8,000.
- 1968. Monthly Church meetings were replaced by quarterly, in line with the Presbyterian Church, where a future merger was being contemplated all over the UK. The Cobham Congregational Church itself had very close ties with Christ Church Leatherhead. Fund raising schemes were constant, and in 1972 the Manse was built for £37,000.

Also in 1972 after the publication of "A Scheme of Union", between the Presbyterian Church and Congregational Church of England and Wales, Cobham Congregational Church voted in favour and became the Cobham URC. (At the present time there are 400 Congregational and 100 Presbyterian churches outside the Union.)

In 1974 a new organist was appointed, 16 year old Nigel Ayton whose grandmother Cathy plays for the present day Cobham URC. In 1976 a new organ had to be purchased for £7,000.

1979. Work began on more extensions for toilet facilities, a kitchen etc., and by 1981 was completed. At this time Church membership was 100 with 40 children.



Effingham

Methodist Church

Effingham Methodist Diary -June



Wed 1st 8.00pm Christian Meditation in the Church

Thur 2nd 6.30am Ascension Day Service at the viewpoint

on Box Hill (see page 35)

2.00pm Bible Study Group meet with Kim in the hall

Sun 5th 10.00am Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion

Tues 7th 10.30am -

3.00pm Vision Day including a Faith Lunch

Sun 12th 10.00am David Cappitt

6.30pm United Pastorate Evening Service at

Christ Church, Leatherhead

Tues 14th 2.30pm Tuesday Tea in the R. C. Hall

Wed 15th 8.00pm Christian Meditation in the church

Thur 16th 2.00pm Bible Study Group meet with Kim in the hall

Sun 19th 10.00am Rev. Paul Cockburn

Sun 26th 10.00am Rhys Frost



Dates to celebrate this month

Happy Birthday to Mary Verrinder on 27th

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

Dates for your diaries

Join our **Bible Study group with Kim every** fortnight in the Hall on Thursdays at 2.00pm when we continue to explore the Gospel of Matthew.

Prayer meetings are held in the Chapel every Friday at 9.15am.

Everyone is also welcome to join **Effingham Churches Together's Prayer Walk on 28th June** starting at 2.00pm at St. Lawrence's Church.



Vision Day with Kim: Please come and help us plan for the future and enjoy a faith lunch on **Tuesday 7th June from 10.30am to 3.30pm** when she'll be leading a time of prayer, study and discussion about our vision and what we think God wants us to do and be in Effingham?

Effingham Chapel's 157th Anniversary

It was a busy weekend, starting with a coffee morning and a wonderful cake, an exhibition about the history of Methodism and our Chapel, and an enjoyable afternoon circular stroll across the footpath in the village to the end of Orestan Lane and on into the woods. Then a musical soirée organised by Charles and Joan Dawson with Charles's recorder group playing well known musical numbers as well as some classical pieces, and a delightful musical quiz with Joan playing a few lines from something we knew we knew, but couldn't remember... well most of us couldn't anyway! On Sunday we welcomed Philip Jones and family, and his mother who still attends at Leatherhead. In his address, Philip shared memories of happy times at Effingham and with Leatherhead's Sunday Night Youth Fellowship (SNYF), the Methodist Youth Club, which he called "sniff" 15

His words were really uplifting and encouraging, and to consider what it means to be Church and not the Chapel. Jesus' life was an offering to the people. The Church has to embody the wholesome values of God and offer them to the community.

He spoke of three "M"s - the making, the mark and the meaning.

The making is unity. There are around 27,000 denominations worldwide – the problem can be that, as we get on so well with the churches around us, we're not really bothered about unity. If we're not "white hot" about unity; not passionate enough, it just won't work. Where we have plans for our churches, we must consider if we can do them in partnership with others. Not everyone likes "the peace" – but it's about unity, not unanimity. Are we truly inclusive and welcoming? There needs to be more openness to the stranger or those who need us.

The mark is community. People can talk endlessly about things, carpets, railings etc. but are we enthusiastic enough about reaching out to those who are not Christian. A local church he knew had to decide between money for a youth worker or railings to keep the yobs out. You can guess what happened, but we're meant to connect with the local community! He recounted the story of a local church group that went door to door asking people about prayers they would like offered, instead of questions about church attendance which can seem threatening. Few requests were expected but to his surprise the clipboard visitors were overwhelmed by the response! People will respond if we reach out to them.

The meaning is the Church. Remembering the hymn "Jesus you are changing me". The question is, where are you God? and the answer in Philip's experience is "I am way ahead of you." We may see and enjoy a garden but someone who truly loves that garden will see it differently. He will know and explain lovingly all the twists and turns and every plant. God is the garden. A tangerine is not a failed orange and a chapel is not a failed church. God can see the chapel, but can we see it through God's eyes? God loves this church, although we are small, he challenges us to discover him at the centre of our community, to join in his work and he will enable us!

A last gem from his address for us all to ponder:-

Before, I believed God existed. Now I know he lives!

Thank you Philip for your encouraging and stimulating words.

Gill Walker

Dorking and Horsham Circuit NEWSLETTER

June July & August 2011

Dear Friends,

It's been clear from some of my recent conversations that the greatest stumbling block for many people is the presence of so much suffering in the world. How can we believe in a God who allows these things to happen?

I am not going to attempt an answer in these few paragraphs, but I would like to make an observation about what happens when the problem goes unanswered. We want to know why God allows good people to suffer, but God doesn't appear to offer any explanation, and all the well-meaning theologians who attempt to answer on his behalf fail to come up with anything really satisfactory. So we are left feeling frustrated, or even outraged. We kick up an almighty fuss and declare that the physical and mental torment some people have to face is simply unacceptable.

On the other hand, suppose for a moment that someone was able to provide an easily understandable and completely plausible reason why God allows suffering – imagine that there was an explanation which let God off the hook and left us feeling that he was justified in allowing so much pain and sorrow. Of course we still wouldn't like the fact that suffering existed, but an answer would persuade us that it was in some sense inevitable or acceptable. The sense of outrage would be much diminished.

It seems to me that the first scenario (outrage at the lack of an answer) is a much better response to the world's pain than the second scenario (acceptance that suffering is somehow understandable). It is because we find suffering so appalling that we try to find cures for diseases, that we raise money to feed the hungry, that we campaign for trade justice, that we set up tsunami warning systems. It is our outrage in the face of massive human tragedy that makes us cry out, "How can we stop this happening again?"

But remember what I said earlier. I am not attempting an answer. I'm not for a moment suggesting that the reason God allows suffering is to stimulate our outrage. All I'm saying is that it's OK to be bewildered and angry and appalled at the amount of suffering in our world. I'm sure God feels the same. And I'm sure he is more than ready to help us confront evil and overcome suffering.

Paul

The next issue will be published in late August. Please send contributions by **Monday August 8** to: i.oborn671@btinternet.com



REVD DALE SHERRIFF

First of all may I introduce myself to those who have joined the Dorking & Horsham Circuit since my leaving in 1999. In 1994 I arrived in Horsham as a 'fresh out of college' newlywed Probationer Minister, to the section of the circuit which then included St Andrew's, Southwater and Partridge Green. After serving in a further two circuits I am now working with the *Inspire Network* as a Project Development Officer with the Methodist Church. I am also the very happy father of two gorgeous children (yes, they obviously take after Susan, their mother). Grace is 7 and Benjamin is 3. Should we meet up this year, you are free to choose between the causes of work or family being behind the bags under my eyes and my loss of hair!

It has been a great pleasure since Christmas to visit Southwater and to witness the change and growth in the life of that particular Christian community. To meet up with Kath Jones who was a member at St Andrew's during my service, to see her leadership and care, and the obvious positive results, was a great experience. Another positive story to share across the wider Methodist Church! At the first opportunity I asked Jenny Ellis who heads up the Evangelism, Spirituality and Discipleship work for the Methodist Church, how one shares such good news most effectively.

Imagine my surprise when shortly after, within a workshop the *Inspire* Team were facilitating, I met up with Chris Currie at the Lay Workers' Conference! Another link in the chain I thought, not least because I was also communicating with John Oborn regarding my offering a piece for the Circuit Newsletter about my present role and letting old friends know of our whereabouts.

So, tying the strings together, I was visiting Southwater to share about an initiative called the *Inspire Network*, which is about developing people's discipleship as an ongoing lifestyle, bringing together a deepening spirituality, with an increased engagement with God in God's loving mission to the world. While this sounds very grand, the way Inspire seeks to help people is very simple. We provide resources to help people engage in those recognised spiritual practices of prayer, scripture reading and service, etc., on a regular basis. Alongside this, we provide the resources for people to meet together in groups of 3-4 to support and encourage one another in their journey as Christian disciples.

Some of those same themes and resources were shared at the Lay Workers' Conference workshop at which Chris was a helpful participant. We used the cyclical way of life framework of 'Reflecting, Relating and Responding', which are integral to Inspire, to help people engage with something of the way *Inspire* works.

I hope to visit St Andrew's soon and perhaps an opportunity might arise for us to share with the wider Circuit and beyond, as a half-day event perhaps? Meanwhile, please take a look at the website: www.inspire-network.org.uk

(Editor's note: Dale will also be leading the Church Anniversary at Dorking on November 20.)

CIRCUIT DIARY

Tues June 7 LP/WL meeting, London Rd, 7.30 pm

Tues Sep 6 LPWL meeting, Dorking, 7.30 pm

Sat Sept 10 District Synod at Camberley

Thurs Sep 15 Circuit Meeting at Dorking, 7.30 pm

Thurs Mar 1 Circuit Meeting at Southwater, 7.30 pm

ST ANDREW'S, HORSHAM

Kath Jones is again running one of her superb Bible Study courses, given in an easy to follow, relaxed way. They are at St. Andrew's in our Quiet Room on June 13, July 12 and continue again in September. Each evening starts at 7.30 pm and everybody will be most welcome.

It is our Church Anniversary on June 19, and we have Revd Dale Sherriff visiting for our Faith Tea on Saturday 18, with a talk about *Inspire* as well as leading the Sunday service.

We are reviving having a picnic with games and kite-flying at Goring-on-Sea on Sunday afternoon 26 June.

Our AGM, known as our *Vision Day*, will be on Saturday July 2. As well as the nitty-gritty business, we make a social event of it with a Strawberry Tea.

Terry Cullen

Revd Dr Malcolm Rothwell commends his latest book

Sense and Nonsense: conversations with a clown about spiritual things

The Revd the Lord Griffiths writes: I said yes, I'd endorse this book. After all, the author is a friend. However, I am a busy man so I thought I would just skim through it and write a nice, if anodyne, sentence or two; to show willing. That, after all, is what friends do.

It didn't turn out that way. This book took hold of me and would not let me go until I had finished it. The format, the content, the pungency and the passion quite overwhelmed me.

This is a first-rate work of apologetics with no cant, no obfuscation, a sustained focus and lots of energy. It is a must, not only for old stagers like me, but for anyone else who wants to get inside the meaning of faith without the trappings or the entanglements of a previous age.

I found it immensely pleasurable and I can only hope it gets a wide readership.

(Published by AuthorHouse ISBN: 9781456770105)

LEATHERHEAD

Family and Children's Work: It is good to be able to celebrate growth, emerging from a long period of building relationships within our community, alongside our partners in the Anglican and URC congregations. Messy Church is a good example. Six months in, I have the sense that we are beginning to move on from being "just one more after school club", to growing into real Christian fellowship. Families are making Messy Church a priority – as shown by the 50+ children who turned up in the middle of the school holidays! Children are asking questions - and parents are asking for advice about answering them. I begin to see families realising that Messy Church is not just two hours of fun, but a church on their terms; a place where they can explore faith and deal with issues that are bothering them. It is a big challenge for us to nurture the emergence of faith, while keeping the doors wide open for those who are coming for the first time. Please pray for the team as we respond to that challenge.

Jane Smith

New Fire: Thanks to a strong team across the Churches in Leatherhead, *New Fire* continues towards the end of its third year. It takes the form of a contemporary worship service using music, video, scripture, and prayer, with some challenging topics for reflection and comment. The worship is prepared by a team that meets each month to consider the next service. The team shares the responsibility for leading the worship, and preparing the elements that are put into 1t. We look forward to the growing strength of the fellowship between our churches as we share in this style of worship, and encourage participation in a way that our conventional services have been unable to do.

David Stoves

LONDON ROAD, HORSHAM

The Action for Children support group has raised £1665 after an amazing response to two recent events, and looks forward to the next two events, the Tea Party on Sunday June 12, and the annual Step Out Walk on Sunday July 3.

Our Drama Group lived up to its commitment to

contributing to London Road's worship life with *Three Days in Jerusalem* during Holy Week. The play, written and directed by John Woodward, followed the story of Christ's arrest, crucifixion and resurrection through the eyes and reactions of five ordinary people in Biblical Jerusalem. The play was well received by an audience of about 80 people drawn from London Road, other churches and, in some cases, from no church. On a more relaxed note, *Teddy's Adventure*, a fun event just before Easter for young families, was well supported and enjoyed. *John Woodward*

A MENDELSSOHN TREAT

On 1 September 2011 I shall complete twenty five years as Director of Music and Organist at St Martin's. Slightly ahead of that time, on **Saturday 16 July at 7.00 pm,** I want to fulfil a dream to conduct a performance of my favourite Oratorio **Paulus (St Paul)** by **Mendelssohn.** This is an unjustly neglected piece, but nevertheless a fabulous experience, predating *Elijah* by eleven years.

Martin Ellis

For more details and how to book, visit the News page on www.dorkingmethodist.org.uk

SOUTHWATER

This has been a busy time for SCMC as we have celebrated Easter. We began on Good Friday with a morning of activities for children, those over seven with Angie and her team in Beeson House, while those who usually come to Messy Church enjoyed Easter activities with Darren and his team at the school where we worship! This was followed by a 'bring and share' lunch and we were pleased that many of our Messy Church families stayed to join in this act of fellowship. It was, for once, a gloriously hot day but still 24 budding walkers set off to walk through the village and into the woods to enjoy the glory of God's creation. All 24 were pleased to return to the school for a very welcome drink and Hot Cross buns. More of our Church family then joined us for a short service of reflection, during which we placed those stones that we had collected on our walk onto the cross as a reminder of our burdens which Jesus took from us by dying on the cross.

Easter Saturday came, another glorious day, and a group of us met in Lintot Square to give out balloons, Easter eggs and to share the message of Easter with the villagers as they went about their Saturday morning shopping.

A special treat was in store on Easter Sunday: the men made bacon butties for breakfast which were enjoyed outside in the glorious sunshine and followed by our Easter Celebration led by Kath! We welcomed many visitors and had our largest congregation of the year so far!

So, with Easter just a memory and everyone back at work and school, our thoughts turn to summer, and after the success of last year's Bible Camp we plan to run a second one this year. We have moved it to July in the hope of warmer weather (especially at night) and so that our young people will not have the vortex of their exams. We are hoping that all members of SCMC will join us for all or part of the weekend and, if you would like more details, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Shirley Gardner

Churches Together in Effingham and Little Bookham

INVITATION FOR A PRAYER LUNCH 8th June from 12.30pm - 2.15pm at Effingham Methodist Church

Churches Together will be hosting a prayer lunch with hymns/ songs and readings and offering and sharing prayers for the work in our churches and the wider community. This will start with lunch at 12.30pm and is open to all. We need to know numbers for catering and accommodation purposes and there will be a sign up list in each church, please do sign up and come and join us!

Gill Walker Secretary Churches Together

Church Unity Service - Pentecost SundayJune 12th at 6pm at the Methodist Church - all welcome



"Mike composes all his sermons on his iPhone – he uses something called Predictable Text..."

A Big "Thank You"

On the 14th February, my husband Denis went into a care home for respite as I had to have a hip replacement. I am writing this on Monday 2nd May and I am still on crutches and Denis is still in respite although he is due home on Friday 6th.

During these weeks, I have been warmed by the help of family, neighbours and friends from the Methodist Church in Effingham. I should like to say a special thank you to Kim. Although we have not known one another for long, she has become such a good friend. She visited me in hospital and has since then visited me at home on several occasions and brought me Communion.

A thank you also to Freddie Jenkins who although not in the best of health, twice brought me a cooked meal along with her sunny disposition which cheered me enormously and Gill Walker who not only has been a faithful 'taxi driver' but also visitor and comforter. I have sent the 17th Century Nun's Prayer*, which Freddie found in her mother's handwriting in last month's issue, to all my family. I trust I shall heed the words.

Thank you, members of the congregation of the Effingham Methodist Church for your card and flowers, sympathy, friendship and help, not only during these past weeks but since I became a full time member of your Church. Thank you for your prayers and messages. May God Bless You All.

Mary Brooks

*Editor's note: I thought it worth repeating Freddie's mother's 17th Century "Nun's Prayer" from last month for our URC friends and for those who might have missed it:

"Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every occasion and on every subject. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me helpful but not bossy. With my great store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end!

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details, give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give me O Lord the grace to tell them so."

Mission Aviation Fellowship

To be thanked for one's charitable acts is rare, this side of heaven, so I was surprised to receive in the mail this Spring a card (not a postcard) from Rev. Ken Thom of Sevenoaks URC, to whom I have been sending for years the postcards you have all been collecting for his resale to collectors in aid of Mission Aviation Fellowship. To date, we have collected 4,967 postcards and I hope to reach 5,000 by the end of 2011: so 33 to go!

Pastor Ken writes that our "latest package of 58 had just arrived" (largely from Leatherhead Wesley Memorial members), and "last year £8,000 had been raised for MAF and hoping for £10,000 to be raised this year."

A reminder: MAF is a multinational, non-sectarian Christian enterprise with many light aircraft flying with dedicated pilots from isolated bases in the Third World, ferrying missionaries, Bible translators, medical help, building materials and cargo of all sorts to otherwise virtually inaccessible places. With its administrators, fuel and engineering staff, all this costs money.

The postcards we collect can be sold by Pastor Ken; just get any used or mint - to Effingham Methodist, either into the box in our Hall there or into the post box by the rear door, and we'll see they are sent on. With our joint Pastorate now with the URC, let's extend our collecting area to include all five churches; and let our postcards bring good News!

John Rogers



Leatherhead News

PENTECOST IN LEATHERHEAD

Away Day

The three Covenanted churches, LMC, Christ Church, and the Parish are having their annual away day this year on 11th June, from 9.45am - 3.30pm. It is entitled: 'Forward Together!!"

It is being held at the Performing Arts Centre of St. John's School, Leather-head, and we are being led by Rev Stuart Thomas, Rural Dean of Epsom, and former Ecumenical Officer for the Diocese of Guildford.

There are sign-up sheets in Christ Church and LMC for those wanting to go, and the full programme is on a leaflet available from the churches.

We hope as many as possible will come to join in fellowship and thoughtful discussion about the way forward for the Covenanted churches in Leatherhead.

United Morning Service

On 12th June, Pentecost Sunday, we are holding our annual united communion service for the three churches in the Covenant.

This year it is at Leatherhead Methodist, and there will be no service at Christ Church that morning.

The preacher will be Rev Ian Howarth, and Rev Graham Osborne will preside at communion.

The first part of the service will be All-Age and the children will then have their own activities, re-joining the whole congregation for communion.



Next Messy Church:

Thursday 16th June, 3.30pm to 5.30pm at

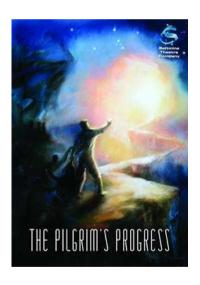


Saltmine Theatre Company's Production of... The Pilgrim's Progress

Set in the Industrial Revolution, this new play is a modern adaptation of John Bunyan's classic novel by Richard Hasnip and David Robinson...

The Pilgrim's Progress "has been heralded as a literary masterpiece around the world and having never gone out of print, it is the world's second most read book."

Follow Christian and his companions as they set out on a dangerous adventure, a journey that will see them meet both friends and enemies along the way



LEATHERHEAD THEATRE WEDNESDAY 29th JUNE AT 7.30pm

Tickets £12.50, £10 child/conc. From the Box Office on 01372 365141 www.the-theatre.org





Leatherhead

Methodist Church



Diary - June



\ r===			
Thur	2nd	6.30am	Ascension Day Service at the viewpoint on Box Hill (see page 35)
Sun	5th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion Rev. Paul Cockburn
Sat	11th	10.00am	Ecumenical Away Day at St John's School
Sun Sat Sun (Pen	12th tecost	-	Rev. Ian Howarth (Uniting Churches Service with Christ Church and the Parish Church at LMC) United Pastorate Service at Christ Church
	1 (+ -	6.30pm	
Inur	16th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Thur Fri Sun	17th	5.00pm	Barbecue at the Manse
		10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth
(MHA	A Sund	lay)	
		6.30pm	United Service with Christ Church at LMC - Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion
Mon	20th	8.00pm	Church Council
Mon Sat Sun	25th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast (Churches Together) at Christ Church
Sun	26th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rob Pitt New Fire - Rev. Ian Howarth
Tues	28th	7.30pm	Bible Study evening

LMC Family News

Congratulations...

... to The Stoves family on the safe arrival of grandsons Harry George (29th April) to Andrew and Liz and Toby James (6th May) to Rob and Jess.

Best wishes...

... to Renee and Jean Parker as they continue to recover from their recent accident.

Westminster Women's Outreach

A new women's ministry from Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP -LEADING FOR EXCELLENCE

Saturday 25th June 10.00am - 4.00pm At Central Hall, Westminster Conference fee - £10

Leaflet with booking form available at the back of the church

Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB)

After three years of unpicking and sorting through what was important, and sometimes essential, to Women's Network (WN) and the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFMUCW) and sewing those pieces together, the new movement, to be called Methodist Women in Britain, was approved at Conference 2010. On Friday 1st July this year, at Lord Street West Methodist Church, Southport, the new MWiB will be launched. Shortly available will be the Foundation Documents, a package which sets out the 'nuts and bolts' as to how MWiB will work at Connexional level, consisting of a Constitution, a 'How it works' document and Treasurers' Guidelines. Once launched the Executive for MWiB will be:

Jill Baker - President
Julie Hulme - Vice President

Gillian Pengelly - Finance and Resource Officer
Liz Marriott - Communications Officer
Alison Judd - WFMUCW Area Officer

For the launch there will be an exhibition/resource area open during the afternoon to meet and greet and gossip, followed by a service in the evening. This service is a ticket only event.

Southport is a long way to go for many people, so a series of launch events are planned for 2011-12. Each will be led by a team including members of the Executive, and offer a programme combining celebration, resourcing and feedback from the World Assembly in South Africa (over 50 women will be attending from Britain) to reflect the MWiB ethos of 'spirituality and social action in a global context.'

The first of these afternoon events will be the one nearest to us: Sunday 18th September Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. Book the date now. It is for all, not just a 'women's do'.

Jean Plant



Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

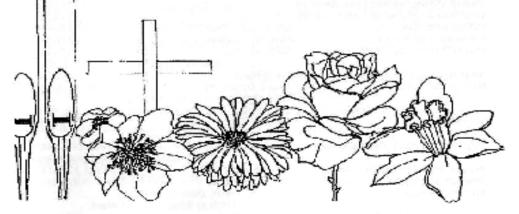
The King James Bible in Music

On Sunday 5th June, members of Christ Church choir and AntiphoniA are singing at St Mary Magdalene, South Holmwood, between 2.00pm and 5.00pm. Eighteen anthems on Authorized Version texts will be sung in groups, alternating with readings of chosen passages from this great 400-year-old Bible translation.

Short anthems, like Bairstow's beautiful "I sat down" (Song of Songs), S. S. Wesley's "God so loved the world" (John 3) and Tallis's "If ye love me" (John 14), are mixed with longer ones on combined texts, like Ireland's "Greater love" (Song of Songs, John 15, 1 Peter, 1 Corinthians, Romans 12), and S. S. Wesley's "Thou wilt keep him" (Isaiah, Psalms 139 and 175, and John 1) and "Blessed be the God and Father" (1 Peter). Victorian classics include Roberts's "Seek ye the Lord" (Isaiah 55), and John Rutter's "I will sing with the spirit" (1 Corinthians, 14) brings us up to date.

Tea will be available during the afternoon.

Anthony Cairns



Christ Church Diary - June,

Wed	1st	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun	5th	10.30am 6.30pm	Michael Pritchard (Caterham). Organist: Gina Eason Evening Service at LMC -
			Rev. Paul Cockburn
Wed	8th	11.15am	A-Z of organ music (Eben, Elgar, Franck, Frescobaldi, Gade, Gardner, Gigout, Guilain, Guilmant, Hakim)
Sat	11th	9.45am - 3.30pm	Covenanting Churches Study Day at St. John's School Arts Centre. Led by Rev. Stuart Thomas, ex-Diocesan Ecumenical Officer
Sun (Pent	12th ecost)	10.30am 6.30pm	Joint Ecumenical Service (Christ Church/Parish Church/LMC) at LMC: the Minister United Pastorate Service at Christ Church
Thur	16th	3.30pm	Messy Church at LMC
Fri	17th	5.00pm	Barbecue at the Howarths, LMC
Sun	19th	10.30am	Rev. Robert Blows
(Trini		6.30pm	United Service with LMC at LMC - The Minister - Holy Communion
Mon	21st	7.45pm	Elders' Meeting
Sat	25th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast Fellowship (Churches Together) at Christ Church hall
Sun	26th	10.30am 6.30pm	The Minister New Fire at LMC
		12 noon	Church Meeting
Tues	28th	7.30pm	Bible Study evening at LMC

The London Marathon

[Editor's note: LMC readers will know of Peter Dry's magnificent effort in completing the London Marathon in a personal best time of 3hrs 20mins. Louise Dodds-Ely, who edited Christ Church's newsletter, has forwarded me the following message from Phil Boswell who ran the course raising £1,700 for Rianna's Fund.]

The London Marathon was a wonderful experience, although very hard work!! (Why didn't anyone warn me?!!)

It was all going very well until mile 23, I stopped for a wee and when I tried to start running again my knee had seized up!! I completed the last three miles in an interesting hop/hobble/limp style, so finished somewhat slower than I was aiming for but in one piece, just!!

When I started, my objectives were to – finish alive, raise money for Rianna's fund and have a Cornish pasty at Waterloo station afterwards, all of which were achieved!!

I've attached a letter from Rianna's fund and a picture to prove I did it!

Thanks again, I really appreciate your support and more importantly, the children supported by Rianna's fund will benefit from your generosity.

Best wishes

Phil Boswell





Phil Boswell Sponsored London Marathon 2011

Dear Phil.

Firstly on behalf of everyone at **Rianna's Fund 'Congratulations'** for running the **Virgin London Marathon 2011**! I hope you are fully recovered and enjoying being able to put your feet up!

We wanted to write to say 'Thank you' so much for selecting Rianna's Fund as your nominated charity, and which we're delighted to say, you have raised £1700.00 for! A truly wonderful amount, thank you and please pass our thanks to all your generous sponsors who helped raise that tremendous amount

When we set up the fund in 2003 in memory of our daughter Rianna, it was our hope that we would be able to help change some children's lives, children who faced the daily challenges of living in poverty, in some of the poorest in parts of the world. Now in our eighth year the fund has continued to grow each year, reaching not just a few but hundreds of children and young adults across three countries in over 12 projects!

It is a privilege to be able to change a child's life just by providing the simple things we often take for granted, like a school, or school fees to gain a life-changing education or a caring home for once vulnerable street children. These are just some of the things Rianna's Fund has been able to provide children but we've only been able to do that because of the support we receive, so it's with heartfelt thanks and gratitude to you for helping us achieve our objectives.

Once again congratulations Phil for running the London Marathon 2011. Thank you for choosing **Rianna's Fund** as your charity to benefit from your fundraising, and our sincere thanks to your family and friends for raising an amazing $\pounds1700.00$, which will all go to support the lives of underprivileged children around the world - Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Davenport
Rianna's Fund

Christ Church Family News

We are very sorry to report the death of **Margaret Ball's husband Vic** after a long period of illness. We send Margaret and her family our sincere condolences in her loss.

Congratulations to **Phil Boswell** on completing the London Marathon and raising a lot of money for Rianna's Fund. (See separate article.)

Philip and Betty Moss have now moved to Sussex and we wish them much happiness in their new home near their family. Their address is: 79 Hormare Crescent, Storrington, West Sussex RH20 4QW. Telephone: 01903 743716. Email is the same. We shall miss them greatly.

We are very sad to announce the death of **Lucy Whitehead** on Saturday 14th May at home, after being in Epsom Hospital for a week. She had been a well-loved member since 1939. We send our heartfelt sympathy to Alan and Linda and their extended family in their sudden loss. The funeral will take place on Friday 3rd June at 12.30pm at Randalls Park Crematorium.

Congratulations and all good wishes to **Jane Newmark** who celebrated her 90th birthday on 30th May.

We remember all these, and those others who need our support, in our prayers at this time, including **Esme Rubra** and her husband **Michael.**

The Church in India...

I am sure that Christ Church members will join me in reiterating our thanks to Ian for taking us under his wing. In a comparatively short space of time he has got to know all of us and has visited the sick many times. I know of one couple who are very appreciative of his visits.

For myself, joining with the Methodist Church means re-establishing a link formed many years ago when I attended the Sunday School at the Methodist Church in Jabalpur, Central India. Jabalpur was also the location of the Leonard Theological College (Methodist) which, as far as I can remember was the only one of its kind in India at that time. Most of the other denominations sent out their Clergy from their 'home' countries.

All the Churches in India (ba^{34} the Catholics) have now joined together to form two Churches – North and South India.

Ivan Haslam

Join Dorking & Horsham Methodist Circuit for

Ascension Day Prayers and Breakfast on Box Hill (at the viewpoint)



Thursday 2 June 2011 at 6.30am

followed by a delicious picnic breakfast. Please bring, if you can...

Something to sit on

Something to drink from

A thermos of boiling water







Coffee, tea, food, etc provided with love from the Circuit. We look forward to seeing you!

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 -Carol Stoves 01372 377125

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

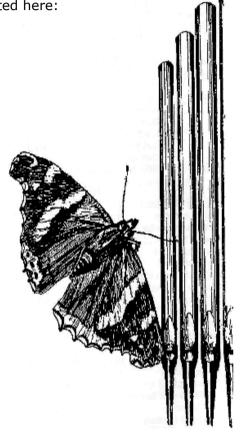
Cobham United Reformed Church:

www.cobhamurc.org.uk Contact: Church Secretary -Mary Langtry 01483 282421

Cobham Methodist Church:

www.cobhammethodistchurch.org.uk

Contact: Senior Steward - Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



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