

the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

June 2012



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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UNITED PASTORATE EVENING SERVICE

The next United Pastorate Service will be held at
5.00pm on Sunday 8th July at Leatherhead
Methodist Church, followed by tea.

Editor: Les Prescott
22 Yarm Court Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8PA
Tel: Church Office - (Tues & Thurs a.m.)
01372 362145

E-mail address for The Link:
pastorate.link@gmail.com

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The Ministers Write...



From Rev. Ian Howarth

This month the nation celebrates the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and there will be doubtless many programmes looking back over the last sixty years that prompt our memories in different ways. We will notice how much has changed, and our nostalgia for some things in the past will be tempered by our recognition of how much other things have improved in terms of health care, life expectancy, and general comfort in living.

In May, at LMC we mourned the loss of three of our members, Jean Oakes, Marjorie Maynard, and Ernie Marlow. As we give thanks to God for their lives, we reflect on the memories that we shared with them from their long, fruitful lives.

Memories are important. They make us who we are. In the Bible in His dealings with His people God often reminds them what He has done for them in the past: bringing them out of Egypt, restoring them after the exile in Babylon and so on.

But God reminds us of His faithfulness in the past, not to say the past is better than the present, (there has always been a debate about that!), but to promise that He will be faithful in the present and the future.

Religion by its nature values the past, and that is good, but we have to be careful about our church life being an attempt to cling on to the past in a changing world. The challenge is to value the past, to value our memories, to value the faith and witness of those who have gone before us, in ways that help us to move on into the future.

The future is always uncertain. As we get older it becomes easier to hold on to the familiar. But God in His faithfulness is still the same. He holds on to us and affirms us as we go forward into whatever lies ahead.

We may celebrate the Jubilee by looking back, but as Christians we also need to be asking where God is leading us into the future, and praying for the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide us, to go forward in the right way, as followers of Jesus, our loving Lord and Saviour.

Yours in Christ, *Ian*

From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Life presents us with some difficult challenges sometimes and none more so recently than having to contemplate the next step for mum's care. After a succession of falls and the difficulties presented to us by vascular dementia, the decision was made that returning home was too problematic. Being riddled with cancer, and the inability to judge the potential risks of manoeuvring around meant we were left with little choice. At 74, the promises we made to nurse her at home after we found out she had cancer were now impractical, a decision made well before the ravages of dementia had set in. Yet we had to be sensible acknowledging that for her safety, home was not where she could receive the best possible care. Dad was reluctant but accepting. It was hard but I know that as you read this it is not an unfamiliar story, neither is it an uncommon one. For many families this is the reality they face and the decisions they have to make.

Whilst clearing her bedroom so that we might take all the relevant belongings to the care home, I came across a clump of folded pieces of paper. As I carefully unravelled them I discovered a whole collection of poetry written by my mum. My father told me that mum had once joined a poetry club submitting pieces for publication but rarely succeeding. For many this might not seem unusual but after suffering a breakdown many years previously mum had become quite reclusive and rarely engaged with anything beyond the four walls of our home. Here is a small sample:

*Patience can be a wonderful thing
With it we can do almost anything
It gives us inner peace inside
Knowing the everyday things inside we have to hide
Patience can make you strong
It will make the path you tread seem not so long
When strife and troubles come your way
Put them aside and let patience lead the way
Without it we could not survive
The storms, the problems hurrying by.*

It is brief and as grammar was not my favourite subject at school (you may have noticed by now), it is possibly not technically brilliant but it is an expression of life's journey and it will always be precious to me.

What does the Bible say about patience:

Isaiah 40:31

But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Romans 12:12

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

James 5:7-8

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm.

As a way of encouragement for all those who face difficult circumstances and decisions for those they love and care for, may you find comfort in God's word and know that to love is to offer the very best of ourselves, whilst holding onto the strength we find in Christ.

With every blessing

Kim

SEEKING ANYONE WHO WENT TO SCHOOL IN ASHCOMBE ROAD, DORKING

Were you ever a pupil or member of staff at Dorking High School for Boys or Dorking High School for Girls, which later became Dorking County School? This went on to become Dorking County Grammar School before being amalgamated with Mowbray Secondary Modern School for Girls, situated on the site of what is now the Bradley Building and known as The Ashcombe School.

If you and/or your family and friends were connected with any of these schools, we should love to hear from you. On Saturday 30th June 2012, we are holding a Reunion to celebrate 80 years of education in Ashcombe Road and would like to invite all interested to join us. Memorabilia from the past will be on display, light refreshments will be available and tours arranged. We are hoping for an event as memorable as the Diamond Jubilee Reunion held in 1992.

For more information and a booking form, please contact Sheila Sandford - Telephone 01372 372936 or e-mail: sheilasandford@btinternet.com

Pastor Ken Thom of Sevenoaks URC wrote to me at the end of April and I quote: "With thanks to you and all your contributors' continuing support of our postcard appeal for MAF, I can report that this year has started well as £6,000 has already been raised. You had asked how it is done? There is a wide variety of collectors and cards are sold to most parts of the world. Many are interested in local history. They buy all the cards of their own town or locality to go with other items of local interest. Some collect themes - transport, royalty, canals, windmills, sport, animals etc. Others collect specific countries, counties or islands.

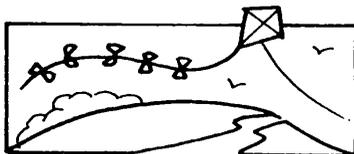
One long standing collector has been buying from me ever since I started doing this in the early 1980's and I think he must have about half a million cards now!

As to their worth: age used to be much more important than it is now. Some early postcards from the 1900-1910 period are not worth very much, the reason being that cards were produced in such large quantities in that period that many are easy to find. Whereas good cards from the 1950's and '60's are often fetching premium prices as far fewer were produced and people did not tend to keep them. My best sale last year was a colour view of King's College in London produced in the 1970's which I sold for £150.

It makes little difference to the value if a card is unused or postally used. Some people who send me cards remove all the stamps as they have the mistaken belief that they can benefit two charities at once, sending the stamps say to Leprosy Mission and the cards to me. But several times I have seen really good cards lose £20 of value because someone has removed the stamp worth only pennies. I prefer them with the stamps still affixed."

So now we know!

John Rogers



Request for Help - Mission Aviation Fellowship

Regular readers will know that John Rogers has been collecting postcards for the very worthwhile Mission Aviation Fellowship and sending them to Rev. Ken Thom at Sevenoaks URC for many years. John has indicated that the time has come for him to retire and pass on the baton. This is very much a joint Methodist/URC initiative and I would ask that if anyone from any of the Pastorate Churches feels that they could take on this task, please either contact John direct at Effingham MC or let me know.

Many thanks,

Editor

How the Link is Printed

Our magazine "The Link" has been going now, in its present form, for a whole year. The June 2011 edition was the first. I do hope that you enjoy reading the magazine and would encourage you to contribute an article or some news if you feel you would like to.

We had some real problems at the beginning with the on-line printing company, based in Gloucestershire, who promised good quality, a cheap price and a 48-hour turnaround. Sadly, although the quality and price were excellent, the turnaround time was variable, sometimes taking well over a week to produce.

The final straw came with the January 2012 edition which failed to arrive by our circulation deadline, and it was still not printed. It was time to seek alternative printing facilities and we came across Netherne Printers at Dorking. The company started life at the former Netherne Hospital for the mentally ill as occupational therapy work for the patients. Although no longer an NHS establishment, Netherne Printers is a "Social Firm", creating full time employment for disabled people, including those with mental health problems, as well as providing therapeutic but meaningful production work for volunteers.

Netherne Printers came to the rescue and produced our January 2012 magazine overnight. They have printed the Link ever since and have been a real help. They are a really worthwhile enterprise for the five churches to be supporting. For more information about them see their website: www.netherneprint.co.uk

Editor



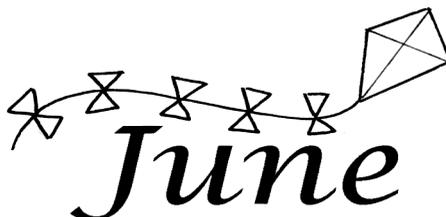
Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary - June



Sun	3rd	11.00am	Rhys Frost (United with Cobham URC)
Sat	9th	10.00am	Time 4 You
Sun	10th	11.00am	Lavinia Hicks
Mon	11th	7.30pm	Church Council
Fri	15th	4.30pm to 6.30pm	CYC at URC - Jubilee Party
Sun	17th	11.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion
Wed	20th	7.30pm to 9.30pm	Brazilian Dancers at URC (see page 12)
Sun	24th	11.00am	Rev. Frank Smith
Tues	26th	12.30pm to 2.00pm	Prayer Lunch at URC
Wed	27th	7.30pm	House fellowship at the Manse
Fri	29th	4.30pm to 6.30pm 7.00pm	CYC at URC Up for GRABS at St Mary's Church
July			
Sun	1st	11.00am	see Circuit Plan



Frugal Lunch

I just wanted to say a big THANK YOU to all at Cobham for raising the amazing amount of £125 at the Frugal Lunch in aid of the Salisbury Spinal Unit.

Rhonda



**Next "Time 4 You"
Saturday 9th June
10.00am - 12noon**



Cobham

United Reformed Church

Cobham URC Worship Diary - June



Sun	3rd	9.00am	Early Bird Service
		11.00am	Joint Service at the Methodist Church - Rhys Frost
Sun	10th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion and Service of Ordination & Membership
Sun	17th	10.30am	Derek Wensley
Sun	24th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton
July			
Sun	1st	10.30am	John Stewart

Prayers at the Manse
at 9.30am on Wednesdays:
6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th June

Cobham URC Events - June

Sun	3rd	3.00pm to 6.00pm	Special Needs Group
Tues	5th	9.45am	Church Walk
Thurs	7th	12.30pm 4.00pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW Toddlers' Praise at St Mary's Church
Tues	12th	8.00pm	Elders' Meeting
Fri	15th	4.30pm to 6.30pm	CYC meets at the URC Cobham
Wed	20th	7.30pm to 9.00pm	Brazilian Dancers (see page 12)
Thurs	21st	7.30pm	Evening House Group at Isobel Foster's
Fri	22nd	3.00pm 7.30pm	T @ 3 at church Flower arranging evening led by Anita Latham
Tues	26th	12.30pm to 2.00pm	Prayer Lunch at Cobham URC
Thurs	28th	10.30am	Morning House Group at Church
Fri	29th	4.30pm to 6.30pm 7.00pm to 8.00pm	CYC meets at the URC Cobham GRAB at St. Mary's Church



JUNE

18-21



**BRAZILIAN
RHYTHMS
COLORS &
DRUMS**

COBHAM

18- LEG O MUTTON

FIELD (SKATE RAMPS)

6PM

20 - URC CHURCH

7:30 - 9:00 PM



Effingham

Methodist Church

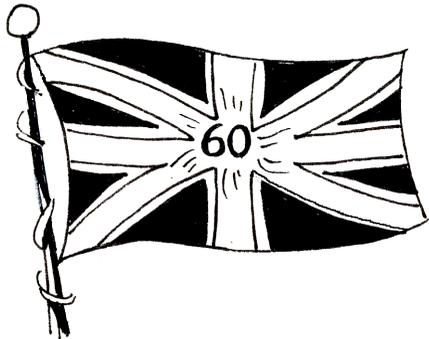
Effingham Methodist Diary

- June



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

Sat	2nd	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall (until 11.00am)
Sun	3rd	10.00am	Trinity Sunday with Rev. Kim Plumpton
Sun	10th	10.00am	Rev. Frank Smith
Tues	12th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	13th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Sun	17th	10.00am	Martin Ellis
Sun	24th	10.00am	Tina Andrews
Tues	26th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	27th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
July			
Sun	1st	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton
Sat	7th	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall (until 11.00am)



Take Care

Whenever someone takes their leave of me these days they always say "take care"! Why do they? Is it because I'm old, or because they think I'm about to do something rash or stupid. And how do you "take care"? Is to take care going up and downstairs, or not to trip over, or when driving the car? Or are they asking me to take care of other people? That certainly needs to be thought about more, because the things we do and say affect other people all the time.

It's so easy to hurt people by the things we say, as well as the things we do. What a relief it is to know that God takes care of us all as Jesus tells us in the sermon on the Mount, when he tells us not to worry about material things. Obviously he wants us to be responsible, and not act carelessly or foolishly. But do we need to be reminded repeatedly to "take care"?

Freddie Jenkins



Birthday 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.

AJP



Diamond Jubilee Weekend Celebrations at King George V Playing Fields, Browns Lane

**Village Day on 23rd June
from 1.00pm to 5.00pm.**

Usual fun and games with plenty of food. **Churches Together** are running a **Bric-a-Brac and plants stall** so rummage through you drawers and greenhouses please !


June

**Jubilee Concert in the Park on
24th June
starts at 7.00pm**

Appearing are ABBA Inferno, one of the UK's most successful ABBA tribute bands, and two local choirs; Dorking Rock Choir and St. Teresa's Prep School Choir. Gates open 6.00pm.

Tickets £15 adult, £5 child at gate, (but £10 adult if bought in advance at the Post Office).



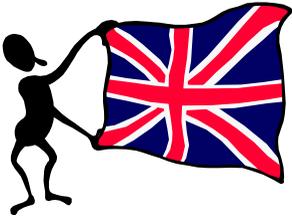


Diamond Jubilee Prayer

God of time and eternity,
Whose Son reigns as servant, not master;
We give you thanks and praise
That you have blessed this nation, the realms and
territories with Elizabeth,
Our beloved and glorious Queen.
In this year of Jubilee,
Grant her your gifts of love and joy and peace
As she continues in faithful obedience to you,
her Lord and God,
And in devoted service to her lands and peoples,
And those of the Commonwealth,
Now and all the days of her life;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

This Diamond Jubilee Prayer which gives thanks for the 'devoted service' of the Queen to her country over the past 60 years, was written by the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's Cathedral, to be used at the Jubilee Thanksgiving Service at on 5th June as well as at other events throughout the year.





St. Lawrence Church has invited us to take part in their Diamond Jubilee celebrations by decorating a window sill for the **Flower Festival**.

The theme is 60 years of achievement, so our window is trying to show the progress in science and technology.

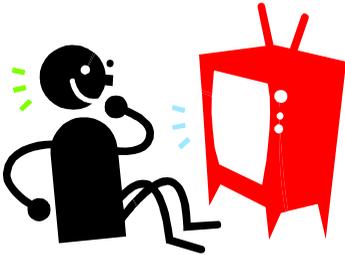
The Flower Festival & History of our Queen's reign

will be on
9th June - 9.00am to 5.00pm and
10th June - 11.30am to 4.00pm

Entry £3 (Under 16s free)

Watching the Coronation.

One of my early memories is watching the Queen's Coronation on our new telly, while sitting on the floor in a tiny front room in my parent's semi-detached in Eastcote. Neighbours were squeezed on the sofa, and my Nan scurried around with cups of tea and her legendary rock cakes.



We were all glued to the tiny 9inch screen, watching the pageantry of the State Procession, and the coronation at Westminster Abbey. Dad had bought the new-fangled telly so my Mum, who had MS, could watch it at home. We were the first in our street to get one, so he invited the neighbours to join us, but they came in shifts, especially as some were at work. I think we had a street-party too.

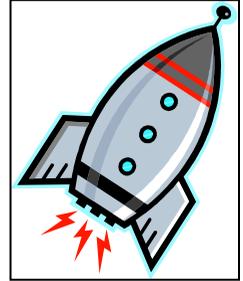
So it's nice to find that our road in Little Bookham will be having a street party to celebrate the Queen's 60 years. Sadly we'll be away but hope that the weather is fine and the food delicious.

Ange Putland

Leatherhead Pages

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

Starship Discovery Holiday Club August 20 to 24



WANTED: 100 fearless space cadets, aged 5 to 11, to join our crew for a packed week of activities: crafts, competitions, challenges and carefully-choreographed chaos!

Reception to Year 3 at Christ Church, 10:15am to 12:15pm, led by Jane Smith.

Year 4 to 6 at BFree, 10am to 12noon, led by Jay Bristow.
Charge for the week: £10 for one child, £18 for a family of siblings.

To obtain your booking form, go to the Churches Together in Leatherhead website www.churchesleatherhead.org **OR** pick up a paper copy in church **OR** contact Jane on 07834 051046 or janevcw@googlemail.com



Jubilee Lunch

There is to be a Leatherhead Uniting Churches (Christ Church, LMC, Parish) Jubilee Lunch for the three churches after morning services on 3rd June. It will be a bring-and-share lunch in the Parish Hall starting at 12.30pm and Christ Church and LMC are asked to bring sweets/puddings to share. Sign up at your church if you'd like to be there.

Youth Alpha

'Can we carry on?' was the question raised at the end of the last session of the Youth Alpha course. Over the last ten weeks the young people have addressed issues such as: 'Who was Jesus?', 'Why did he die?', 'How should I pray?' and 'What about Church?' There have been many interesting discussions, thought-provoking videos, time spent sharing food together and of course - lots of fun!

Where do they go from here?

The Youth Alpha group will now evolve into a 'cell' or 'small group' and continue to meet on a regular basis. My prayer is that they will inspire each other (and those around them) on their Christian journeys and will become passionate disciples of Jesus Christ. If the prayers said by the young people in the last weeks of the course are anything to go by, it will be a case of 'light the touch paper and stand well back'. God will do the rest!

What can I do?

Our challenge is to see where the young people fit into our existing Church community. Are we meeting the young people 'where they are at' or expecting them to fall in line with our preference of worship? At LYP we are committed to enabling young people to hear the Gospel in an inspiring and relevant way, meet with God and become disciples of Jesus. We do this by loving, challenging and respecting young people. We offer a range of fresh expression worship event such as 'The Living Room' and 'Soul Survivor' but where do the young people fit in post-LYP?

Please continue to pray for the work of LYP and in particular the seven young people in the picture as they take their first steps on their Christian journey.

Jay Bristow, Church Projects Manager, Leatherhead Youth Project





Help Needed for B@titude's Thanksgiving Dinner - 27th October

Churches Together is hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner for the patrons of B@titude on Saturday night, 27th October, 7.00pm to 9.00pm, at the North Leatherhead Community Centre. If you are able to help, please contact Dave Banko, 07909 448880 or dave@bankofamily.net

We need the following:

Volunteers

Setup 4.00pm to 7.00pm
Hosts/Servers 7.00pm to 8.30pm
Clean-up 8.30pm to 9.30pm

Items Needed

Christmas Lights & Garland
Candles/holders/Matches or Lighter
Paper Table Clothes
CD Player
Christmas CDs
Serviettes
Kitchen Rolls
Cling Film
Kitchen Foil
Serving Utensils
Large Plastic Bags for Rubbish
Plastic Cups for Hot & Cold Drinks
Strong Plastic Plates
Strong Plastic Utensils

Drinks

Tea, Coffee, Pump Pots
Fizzy Drinks
Juice

Food *(Be sure to bring it in a container to keep warm or cold, a serving utensil, and label your items)*

Assorted Starters
Roasted Root Vegetables
Squash
Mashed Potatoes
Stuffing
Cold Salads
Green Beans
Puddings – Fruit Pies or Cakes

News from Leatherhead Trinity

May has been a month for outings, with Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 ALL having the chance to visit Tate Modern. Year 3 were accompanied by a certain Methodist/URC Minister who reports that the children were very excited by Matisse's Snail.

Diamond Jubilee celebrations have included a Jubilee Street Party on 23rd May, building on the great excitement at a similar event for last year's Royal Wedding. The central area of the school building is a long, narrow atrium known as The Street and its glorious transformation with flags and bunting has to be seen to be believed!

The week beginning 28th May was designated "Creativity Week", with a theme of "animal antics". Events included a visiting artist and music, dance and drama workshops.

Events in June:

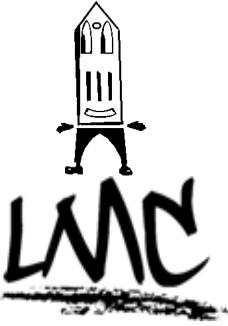
Members of the KS2 "Glee Club" are hard at work on final rehearsals for their performance of **Oliver!** which takes place on the evenings of 13th and 14th June.

The **Summer Fair** takes place on the afternoon of Sunday 24th June, 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Help is needed to serve refreshments in the café - church members who are interested, please contact Jane Smith on 01372 372919.

The next meeting of **TriPod** (our termly Christian support group), takes place on Wednesday 27th June, 6:30pm to 7:30pm at the school's Woodvill Road site. All Church members are warmly invited, to hear the latest news and offer support and prayers.

Jane Smith

 The logo for Messy Church features the word "Messy" in large, white, bubbly letters with a red outline, set against a red, splatter-like background. Below it, the word "CHURCH" is written in smaller, yellow, block letters.	<p>Next Messy Church:</p> <p>Thursday 21st June 3.30pm to 5.30pm at</p>  The logo for LMC (Leatherhead Methodist Church) consists of the letters "LMC" in a bold, black, hand-drawn style with a rough, ink-like texture.
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Leatherhead

Methodist Church

Diary - June



Fri	1st	2.30pm	Time for Tea (until 4.30pm)
Sun	3rd	10.30am	Clive Haines
		12.30pm	Jubilee Lunch at the Parish Hall (see p18)
		6.30pm	Church members - jointly with URC at LMC
Sun	10th	10.30am	Rev. Val Ogden
		6.30pm	Rev. Paul Cockburn
Thurs	14th	8.00pm	Church Council
Sun	17th	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion jointly with URC at Christ Church
Thurs	21st	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sat	23rd	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at the Catholic Church hall
Sun	24th	10.30am	Rhys Frost
		6.30pm	New Fire
Tues	26th	2.00pm	Pastoral Care Course "Encircled in Care" (ends 3.30pm)
Wed	27th	6.30pm	TriPod (Trinity Christian support group)
Thurs	28th	7.30pm	Joint LMC/Christ Church prayer meeting
Sat	30th	4.00pm	LMC/Christ Church barbecue at the Manse
July			
Sun	3rd	10.30am and 6.30pm - see Circuit Plan	

Housegroups - All Welcome

Monday House Fellowship meets fortnightly - contact Carol Stoves 377125
 Wednesday House Fellowship meets monthly - contact Dreda Kitchen 200129
 Friday Daytime Fellowship meets fortnightly - contact Jane Smith 372919

Try Something Old Today

I wonder if you can guess what I'm talking about? There is evidence of this thing as early as the 4th millennium BC and because it is so old, no one is certain as to which culture invented it. Yet it is absolutely vital to modern life. It literally makes the world go round. The modern world could not function without it. Everything would grind to a halt.

No one would suggest that it is irrelevant to modern life because it is so old. What I'm talking about is the wheel. No one would say that it's about time we got rid of it because it was invented so long ago. Nor would anyone suggest that because there are problems associated with it, we ought to get rid of all wheels. Look at all the carnage it causes in terms of road accidents and plane crashes, not to mention environmental problems. Perhaps it is time for the world to ban something so harmful?

But no, we could not possibly continue without it. We need it. Commerce and transportation depend on it. It is impossible to imagine life without it. In any case, it may be unfair to blame the problems on the wheel. It is more down to how we use it (e.g. careless driving). The environmental problems are not due to the wheel as such, but result from the way we power it (fuel rather than horses or whatever).

Christianity is a bit like the wheel as well. It is very old, springing from a 4,000 or 6,000 year-old tradition. Perhaps it too is vital to modern life. We could say that it makes the world go round, that the modern world cannot function without it. Maybe things wouldn't exactly grind to a halt without it, but the more people live in a way that is contrary to it, the more problems there are. The more people there are that commit crimes or are not considerate, conscientious or socially responsible, the more society becomes dysfunctional and falls apart. The more people there are that take or sell drugs, or have no respect for the law or swear at the police, or are dishonest in business or ignore God's standards for marriage or deceive their spouses or are greedy rather than generous or focus on a materialistic lifestyle and ignore spiritual things or get into debt (contrary to Romans 13:8), the more that society is like wheels running without oil which tend to seize up eventually.

Just as the wheel should not be rejected just because it is old, neither should Christianity. Some people reject Christianity because of past problems that are supposed to have been associated with it, such as the Crusades or the Inquisition or the wars that it is supposed to have caused, but if we don't reject the wheel because of problems that it "causes", perhaps one shouldn't reject Christianity because of the problems associated with it.

Can people be good without Christianity, without God, without religion, without church? As one sees all the bad things going on around us, it does not inspire confidence in the ability of secular society to inspire moral behaviour.

continued on the next page

The decline in church attendance over the past 100 years is perhaps associated with a decline in morality rather than an improvement. Even if charities are not overtly Christian, there may have been a Christian reason for them starting up in the first place. If people are often still charitable today, is it because of some kind of innate goodness, or is it the result of 15 or 20 centuries of Christian influence, or is it a continuation of 19th century values when non-conformists comprised 25% of the population?

Bob Greenfield

LMC Family News

Our thoughts and prayers are with...

...Arnold Ashbrook back in hospital, and for Winifred at this difficult time.

...The family and friends of Jean Oakes who died recently.

...Dot Marlow and family following the death of Ernie on 10th May.

...The family of Marjorie Maynard, who died on 15th May.



Best wishes to...

...Thelma Howell and Merry Worsfold who are recuperating at home following spells of hospital treatment.

Methodist Women in Britain

Towards the end of April I went to the first MWiB Conference at the Hayes Centre at Swanwick in Derbyshire. For a great number of years I have attended the annual WN meeting, but this was the first since the marriage of WN and the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFMUCW). It was a lovely blend of the best of the two organisations.

It was a large gathering of over 200 women, with an age range from 19 to 90. There was a packed programme, all based on the theme of Bamebelela - Never Give Up. The Friday evening opening celebration was Africa night. There is always a good representation of black African women, mostly from London. This year they joined together to form a choir to sing traditional African songs accompanied by drumming, gourd shakers, foot-stamping and the peculiar yodel-like sound that only they seem to be able to make. It was mesmerising and a wonderful way to begin the weekend.

On Saturday morning Jill Baker, MWiB President, gave a Bible Study based on the story of Leah in Genesis. There was not a dull moment, with plenty of laughter, yet reverent and thought provoking. In our small groups we had ample opportunity to discuss various aspects of the story that had more than one way of being interpreted. For instance, was there a victim or victor in the account? Who 'never gave up'? Read it for yourself. What would you think?

The afternoon was less taxing, with an opportunity to attend creative workshops offering drumming, circle dancing, Singing the Faith, or craftwork. After tea there were two Bamebelela workshops. With a choice of ten, it was difficult to choose just two. I was a bit disappointed with both my choices. One was Never Give Up on.. health, and the other was Never Give Up.. when you feel like giving up. In both I felt we were 'talked at', rather than given an opportunity to talk together around our table of six. The health one was just too basic with very little challenge or anything new. I got the most satisfaction after the second one, when I had a long conversation with a lady from a farming family of many generations. Two years ago she had to endure all the sheep and cattle being destroyed because of foot and mouth disease. The cattle were a one-off specialised herd, bred to perfection over three generations. The family never gave up and the farm has recovered but not to specialise. She found the memories very upsetting. I think sharing experiences, however difficult but in a safe environment, is a very important part of workshops.

Saturday evening was a Girls' Night Out! Great fun! Competitions, music, party food, manicures and lots of chatter. The highlight was a fashion show - anyone could take part - with FairTrade clothing and accessories or those from a Charity Shop. (The shop in Swanwick did well that afternoon!) Much applause and whoops of appreciation, especially when one lady opened her coat and 'flashed' her FairTrade nightie! For night owls there was also a late night film. For me, bed beckoned!

More next month.

Jean Plant

Christ Church

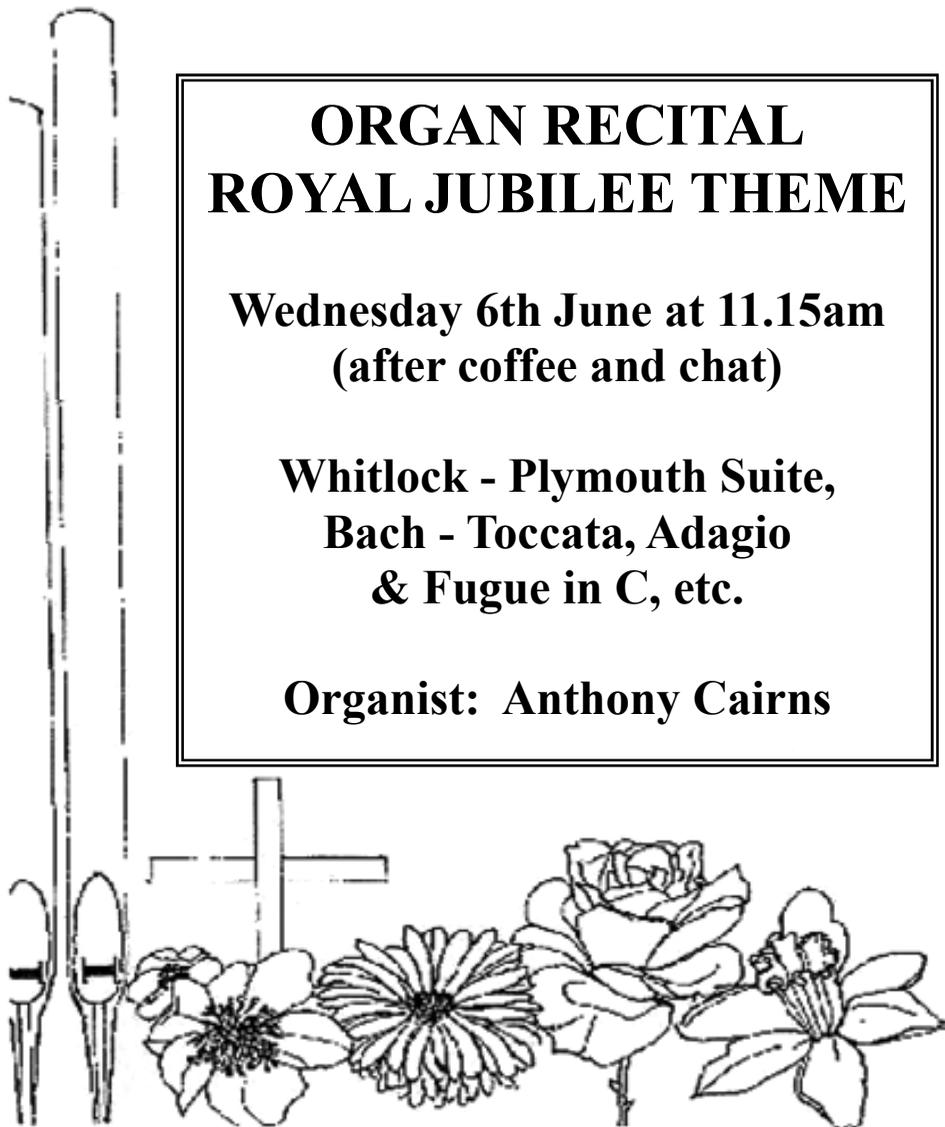
(United Reformed) Leatherhead

ORGAN RECITAL ROYAL JUBILEE THEME

**Wednesday 6th June at 11.15am
(after coffee and chat)**

**Whitlock - Plymouth Suite,
Bach - Toccata, Adagio
& Fugue in C, etc.**

Organist: Anthony Cairns



The Surrey and Sussex Synod Area Pastoral Committees...

**...met at Crawley United Reformed Church on 1st May 2012
and would like to report the following:**

- We were pleased to record that Alison Sweeting from Oxted has volunteered to be the Synod Area Treasurer.
- Please remember in your prayers Peter McIntosh, Ian Chalmers, Sarah Smith, Alistair Dykes and Andrew Selwood.
- We rejoice that Ron Talmey is in good form at the age of 90.
- Cobham URC will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in September.
- The Local Church Leaders' Weekend will be combined with the Lay Preachers' Weekend in future.
- Revd. Bridget Banks, Convener of the Local Church Leaders' Review Group, will be visiting all Local Church Leaders with the Moderator.
- Local Mission and Ministry Reviews (LMMR) will commence in April 2012 following recent training events.
- Concern was expressed about the hasty decision made by Mission Council to disband the 'Zero Intolerance' Campaign and Laurence Moore's resignation as Moderator Elect of General Assembly.
- Churches are reminded to check the Synod Website when proposing to carry out work on their properties.
- Caterham URC is on the vacancy list.
- Synod Area Meeting Dates for 2012 are: 19th June and 2nd October all held at Crawley United Reformed Church and starting at 7.30pm.

**Further Pastoral Committee Dates for 2012 are planned
as follows: 11th September and 6th November**

Christ Church Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held on Thursday 26th April, with Rev. Ian Howarth in the chair.

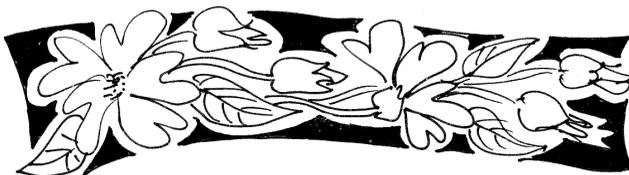
John Henderson, his financial acumen undimmed after years of presenting accounts, did so again for the year 2011. Expenditure had exceeded income by approx. £5000, but the deficit had been made up from the Arthur Head fund, which is being used to pay for major repairs and improvements. Collections had held up well, despite a fall in membership, which now stood at 72. Michael Way was thanked for his services as independent examiner and Gift Aid coordinator, and presented with an Atlas. We welcomed Nigel Gillott, a man of the utmost probity, to become independent examiner, while Hilary Porter takes over Gift Aid.

In his review, the minister talked about relations between Christ Church and LMC, which were continually strengthening, and about our relations with the Parish Church, our Covenant partners, and other churches. He referred to his own departure in September 2013, and the need to make progress with our future plans before then. He mentioned that we were having discussions with a firm of architects, CPL, who were well versed in church developments, with a view to them carrying out a feasibility study. This would cost in the region of £7000, to be shared between the two churches, with a possible contribution from Synod. It would be necessary for both churches to recommend this action, possibly after joint or separate meetings.

Dorothy Poulton gave the secretary's report, Heather Ward summarised the children's and youth work, and David Hennegan spoke on behalf of the uniformed organisations. The representatives on various bodies were then approved.

The minister led us through the draft mission statement and action plan. It was shown to be a thoughtful but ambitious document, and one that both churches could aspire to.

Mike Essex



Christ Church Diary

June



Fri	1st	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC. All welcome
Sun	3rd	10.30am	Rev. Robert Blows Organist: Gina Eason
		12.30pm	Jubilee Lunch at the Parish Hall (see p18)
		6.30pm	Evening Service at LMC
Wed	6th	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
		11.15am	Organ Recital (see page 28)
Sun	10th	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion
Sun	17th	10.30am	Ted Bellingham (URC Lay Preacher, Dorking)
		6.30pm	Joint Holy Communion (LMC/URC) at Christ Church
Tues	19th	7.30pm	Surrey/Sussex Synod Area mtg, Crawley
Wed	20th	11.00am	Israel/Palestine Day at Church House
Thurs	21st	3.30pm	Messy Church at LMC
Sat	23rd	8.00am	Men's Breakfast - Catholic Church hall
Sun	24th	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth
		12noon	Church Meeting
		6.30pm	New Fire - Rev. Ian Howarth - Ecumenical at LMC
Tues	26th	2.00pm	Pastoral Care Course "Encircled in Care" at LMC - Rev Ian Howarth (ends 3.30pm)
		7.45pm	Elders' Meeting
Wed	27th	6.30pm	TriPod, - Trinity Christian Support Group
Thurs	28th	7.30pm	Joint LMC/Christ Church Prayer Meeting at LMC
Sat	30th	4.00pm	LMC/Christ Church Barbecue at the Leatherhead Manse
July			
Sun	1st	10.30am	Rev. Brian Treharne

Do we need two hymn books?

I have been having a look at what we sing at Christ Church, using slightly incomplete records going back to September 2004, when the Rev. Dean Tapley became our Minister. I have divided them into Dean Tapley's choice, Ian Howarth's choice, and other preachers' choice.

There are 705 hymns in Rejoice & Sing (R&S) (excluding chants and spoken items). Since September 2004 we have sung 569 of them (546 selected by Dean). That leaves 136 still untried, in addition to a number of chants, Taizé and Iona material and communion settings.

We have also sung 37 from Singing the Faith (StF) which are not in R&S (including: Be still for the presence; Take this moment; Spirit of God; It was on a starry night; Jesus, tempted; He's got the whole world; Christ triumphant), and 39 from other sources (31 chosen by Dean). Since September 2004, using our versions – sometimes different in words or tune – we have sung all but ten of our 322 shared items.

Dean's top 20 hymns include 14 also in StF plus the following 6 from R&S:

453 Let us talents and tongues employ

458 The Son of God proclaim

439 As we break the bread

461 Strengthen for service, Lord

529 Light of the minds that know him

90 O Lord, all the world belongs to you (..turning the world upside down)

Other preachers' top 20 also put R&S 453 first, and add:

530 Living God, your joyful Spirit

605 Son of God, eternal Saviour

Ian Howarth has introduced us to 20 items we didn't know from StF and 3 from other sources. He also uses R&S adventurously. His top 44 (i.e. chosen more than once) include the following R&S items, not in StF:

90 O Lord, all the world belongs to you

30 Father, we love you

151 See him lying on a bed of straw

574 Go forth and tell. (We've recently learnt the fine tune set to this by John Barnard)

271 You are the King of Glory

309 Spirit of the living God

599 Christ for the world! we sing

190 Let earth and heaven combine

We all have our personal favourites. Former Presbyterians will value the Psalms and Canticles section of our book, including metrical psalms and canticles such as the Te Deum, 755: We praise, we worship thee O God.

My own list would include:

202 Son of the Lord most high (Briggs)

311 The Spirit of the Lord revealed (Briggs)

746 God, your glory we have seen (a fine tune by Langlais)

743 The Beatitudes (set by William Llewellyn)

678 Psalm 23 (Gelineau)

Only this month, Linda Richards, a URC Lay Preacher from Walton on the Hill, introduced us to an attractive hymn we had never sung before: 471 Bless, and keep us, Lord, in your love united.

What a worshipping community sings helps to give it its identity. It is good to know that we share a big repertoire of hymns and songs with LMC. It is also important to value and continue to explore the rich collection which is R&S and share it with our Methodist friends.

Anthony Cairns



Christ Church Family News



It was good to see **Margaret Ball** back in church on 13th May, after some time away recovering from an accident to her foot.

Unfortunately **Joyce Cuss** was unwell on her 90th birthday at the end of April and celebrated at home with her family around her. We are glad that she is now much better and is able to come to church again.

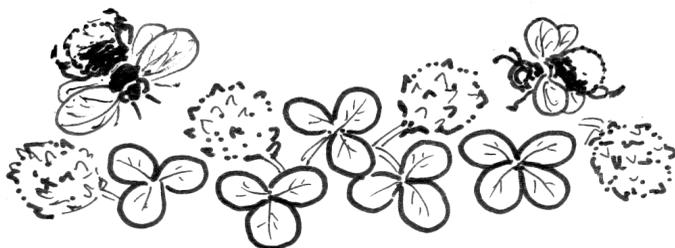
Congratulations and warmest good wishes to **John and José Henderson** who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on 18th May.

We are sorry that **Nan Kemp** has been suffering with shingles for some time. She is improving, but rather slowly. We send our very best wishes for her recovery. She would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and cards.

We are sorry to report the death of **Ken Murray** on 11th May. He was living at Beaumont House in Epsom. We extend our sincere sympathy to his family.

We remember all friends who need our prayers and support at this time.

Anne Cairns



Macmillan London to Paris Cycle Challenge - July 2012

Let me introduce myself, I am the son of John and Olive Rayner. Two years ago I was planning to complete the Macmillan London to Paris challenge when in early March 2010 a patch of black ice caused me to come off my bicycle and hit the road rather hard breaking my right hip. Two years on I have received the good news that the hip had finally healed and so it's time to try again!

Cancer is the one disease that we all come into contact with, whether through a family member, a friend or just an acquaintance. My Mother Olive Rayner has recently been diagnosed with myeloma, having lost my father-in-law some years ago with pancreatic cancer, and having an Aunt who has been receiving treatment on and off for some time made me feel I needed to do something to help. I have again signed up to take part in the Macmillan Cancer Support London to Paris cycle challenge in July. This is one of Macmillan's major fund raising events and they are hoping that many cyclists will take part.

All the funds that I raise will go to Macmillan's central fund and will help provide any of their services wherever the need is greatest anywhere in the country. If you have any concerns about any form of the disease Macmillan have an excellent website at www.macmillan.org.uk or can be contacted via their helpline number 0808 808 0000.

The challenge takes place between the 4th and 8th of July, over a route of about 480km starting in London and ending in central Paris. For those who understand miles better than kilometres, it equates to something like 90 miles between London and Dover on the first day, the routes on the following two days cover about 80 miles each, and to finish, 55 miles or so into Paris on Saturday 7th July. I have already started training by increasing the miles covered on the bike as the weather allows.

Macmillan really need our help to carry on their essential work and I hope you feel able to support my efforts by sponsoring me; you can do this at www.iustgiving.com/David-Ravner2 or contact Mike Essex (01372 273472).

David Rayner

We're a couple of swells...

On a recent trip to the Cotswolds Alan and I were on a walk from Bourton-on-the-Water to Stow-on-the-Wold. We passed through the delightful villages of Lower and Upper Swell. We just couldn't resist taking a photo of the Church noticeboard - obviously the villages where all the swells come from!

Sue Huxtable



Christian Aid 2012

As I write, we have no idea of the result of this year's collection for Christian Aid, but whatever the outcome, we thank, very sincerely, all those who have helped in any way.

We are grateful to those who prepare "the packs" - Sheila E., Margaret D.E. and Mary K., and those who help to count every single penny - Jill B., Ron H. & Alan & Barbara B.

The week falling between the preparation and the counting is, of course, the most important, where we need to thank **all** those who deliver and collect, either door to door or in Leatherhead Town Centre - but due to lack of space, cannot be named individually.

Whether we are involved in the practicalities of Christian Aid Week or whether like those in the street, donate via the envelope, we are all trying to help others less fortunate than ourselves, and your good will is very much appreciated.

THE YOUNG ROMANTICS

An illustrated talk on Schubert, Mendelssohn,
Schumann and Chopin

by Mike Essex

8.00pm on Wednesday 18th July at
Christ Church Hall, Epsom Road, Leatherhead

Refreshments

Donations to Church Projects -
Age Concern, Mole Valley North
and
Happy Child International



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.com

Contact: Senior Steward -
Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



United Pastorate Ministers

Rev. Ian Howarth

10 Church Road
Leatherhead KT22 8AY
Tel: 01372 372743 (home)
01372 362145 (office)
07590 564544 (mobile)

E-mail:
ian@thehowarths.org.uk

Website:
<http://www.thehowarths.org.uk>

Rev. Kim Plumpton

38 Stoke Road
Cobham
KT11 3BD
Tel: 01932 586988

E-mail:
kimp_822@hotmail.com