

the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

June 2013



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Linking:

**Christ Church (United Reformed) Leatherhead
Cobham Methodist Church
Cobham United Reformed Church
Effingham Methodist Church
Leatherhead Methodist Church**

The Methodist Church



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The Ministers Write...



From Rev. Ian Howarth

Dear Friends,

With very mixed feelings we are beginning to feel that we are on the last lap of our time here in Leatherhead. Our heads are beginning to buzz with all the things we have to do, and all the changes we will have to cope with. David moves out this weekend, and there are still some teething problems over the setting up of Mark's home in relation to the neighbours that we are having to be involved in. At the same time I am going up to Birmingham for meetings about appointing staff, and we are choosing carpets and curtains for our new house.

Times of transition are not easy, whether moving house, changing job or facing bereavement. Many of the fixed points around which we build our lives start shifting, and they are times when people are most vulnerable to stress. But they are also times of great opportunity and creativity.

However, as Christians, if we are faithful, we constantly live as people on the move. The Bible is full of people on journeys. Abraham moves from his home city to be the father of God's people. Moses leads the children of Israel from Egypt back to the promised land. In the New Testament, Paul journeys throughout Asia Minor and Greece and on to Rome preaching the good news of Jesus in new contexts. And of course, Jesus journeys from Galilee to Jerusalem to fulfil God's destiny as he sacrifices himself for our sakes.

As disciples, we constantly have to move on. Not necessarily moving geographically, but being open to new situations and new challenges. In our changing world and changing church we have to find ways of embracing those new situations and challenges in ways that promote the work of God.

The good news from all those Bible stories is that God stays faithful through the changes. Some people try to find God by looking back to past certainties.

continued on the next page

The message of the Bible is that our God is the God of the past, the present and the future, and he is constantly leading his people on, offering new opportunities and new life. I pray that in all the changes we all face, we may know that faithfulness of God with us, and that in the power of the Holy Spirit we will be able to grasp the opportunities and know the wonder of God's new life.

Yours in Christ,

Ian

From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

I had a phone call and an e-mail a fortnight ago and it was from the vice president of the Women's Federation for World Peace - an organisation under the umbrella of the United Nations and something I have been engaged with in a limited capacity since I met the group in 2002. Patricia was ringing me with an invitation. Out of the two places available at a conference in Paris, one person had pulled out leaving a space free. The conference entitled "*Women, Culture and Values; Building Lasting Peace in the Middle East*" was being organised by the Japanese contingent of the federation. Would I like to go? I was left to answer by e-mail.

It had been a very busy week in one way or another, I was tired and a little overwhelmed by the invitation. After all I am hardly experienced in the field. So I picked up my diary and I looked at it and my answer was swift: "Thank you for the offer but I have several meetings next week and I couldn't make it." I promptly sent the e-mail off quite late one evening.

When I went to bed Col was still awake and I told him what I had done. Col looked at me quite puzzled at my response and quickly retorted "*Is your diary so important that you cannot give this time to such an important issue?*" As soon as those words came out of his mouth I felt a compelling sense from within, that my response had been the wrong one. I knew at that moment that I had allowed my dairy (whilst it is important to keep to appointments), to determine my week and even worse be so inflexible that any movement by the Spirit might be squeezed out by my inability to see beyond it.

I felt such a conviction and also a sadness that I had not even entertained the idea that my diary might not necessarily be God ordained and that perhaps He was calling me to be somewhere else.

It can be so easy to focus on the things we think are important when in fact we might be called to go in a completely different direction. Sometimes we need others to redirect us, and equally we need the Spirit's direction to keep us on track too.

It was a big lesson for me, it spoke to me about making the day about God's plans and not my own. It seems to me that the best possible way to begin the day is by asking God to guide us and to break through our carefully considered plans when needed. Who knows where it will take us.

With every blessing,

Kim



the Link

The next edition of the Link will cover the two months, July and August. All copy for the edition should be with the Editor by **Tuesday 18th June**. The magazine will then be in churches on Sunday 30th June.

The next edition will be the September one and the closing date for copy will be **Thursday 15th August**.

Thank you to all our contributors.

Editor

Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches working together...

joint public issues team

...to live out the gospel of Christ in church and society

Truth and Lies about Poverty

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

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

The full report is available on-line at <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Truth-And-Lies-Report-smaller.pdf>

The Link is publishing all six myths one by one to help us reflect on the issues. Last month we looked at the myth: *'They' are lazy and don't want to work.* This month we look at the second myth:

'They' are addicted to drink and drugs

Churchgoers and the wider public cite addiction as the second most common cause of child poverty. While addiction is devastating for the families and communities touched by it, fewer than 4% of benefit claimants report any form of addiction.

[The third Myth, "*'They' are not really poor – they just don't manage their money properly*" will be published here next month.]



Methodist Homes Sunday 9th June 2013

"Youth is the gift of nature, but age is a work of art"
Stanisław Jerzy Lec, (Poet and writer)

So much of our contemporary media suggests that old age is a curse or a burden. The witness of Methodist Homes (MHA) is to God's gift of age, both to older people themselves and, through them, to the wider church and community. As we celebrate our 70th anniversary year, the 2013 Methodist Homes Sunday Appeal on 9th June asks how we ensure that these gifts are valued and shared in our communities.

Reflecting on the past 70 years offers a wonderful opportunity to give thanks for all the volunteers who have helped us to make life better for older people. We are delighted that their contribution has now been given royal approval, as MHA has been awarded the prestigious Queen's Diamond Jubilee Volunteering Award, equivalent to a corporate MBE.

The expectations of older people have changed dramatically since MHA's launch in 1943, but the fundamentals of our approach remain consistent with the vision of our Methodist founders. We remember Moses' injunction to *'choose life'* and aim to make the later years of people's lives as meaningful as possible by continuing to place dignity and personal choice at the centre of all we do. Our hope and our prayer is that, as our work continues to develop to meet the needs of an increasing number of older people, the support of the Methodist people will continue to grow as well. Please join us to celebrate God's gift of age.





Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary - June



Sat	1st	2.00pm	Church Vision Day (to 5.00pm)
Sun	2nd	11.00am	Angie Choat
Wed	5th	2.30pm	Church Council meeting
Fri	7th	4.30pm	CYC at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Sat	8th	10.00am 2.30pm	Time 4 You (to noon) Platinum Service
Sun	9th	11.00am	David Cappitt
Sun	16th	11.00am	Rev. Val Ogden with Holy Communion
Fri	21st	4.30pm	CYC at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Sun	23rd	11.00am	Martin Ellis
Tues	25th	7.30pm	House Fellowship at the Manse
Thurs	27th	3.30pm	Messy Church at the URC (to 5.30pm)
Fri	28th	7.00pm	Rock 'n' Soul at URC (to 9.00pm) <i>(see page 11)</i>
Sun	30th	11.00am	Alison Sage <i>(United Service at CMC)</i>
July			
Sun	7th	11.00am	tbc



Next "Time 4 You"
Saturday 8th June
10.00am - 12noon
Cobham Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Church

I was taking a look at our various Pastorate websites - they are all quite different and worth opening up to see what's there. Cobham Methodist website (www.cobhammethodistchurch.com) had a new look a year or so ago, I believe, and looks really good. To give The Link readers a taste of the site, I am reproducing a welcome note from Kim, and you'll note that some of the forecasts she makes are beginning now to bear fruit. The Churches Together Messy Church, sometimes accommodating 100 children, is just one of these.

Editor

To meet the needs of the community in Cobham it was decided that the United Reformed Church and the Methodist Churches in Cobham and Effingham would share a minister. Theologically and liturgically there is very little difference between the two denominations and we work well together. I welcome the differences between us and embrace the sense of unity that we can establish. Ecumenism is important to us so we work hard finding ways of joining in with events involving Churches Together in Cobham.

Our fellowship is small in number but we seek to discern God's will for us with one another and within the community. It is a welcoming and friendly fellowship who are open to different styles of worship and music. Pastoral care is very important to us and we are able to offer a church where everyone is held lovingly through the bad times as well as the good. Joint ministry also means we can enjoy joint bible study with the URC as well as united services and joint children's work which we hope to expand upon.

We know that we have much to do before we are the church God intends us to be but we welcome the challenge and desire to listen for God's guidance in all we do.

Please enjoy browsing through our website and if you would like to know anything more or you can't find answers to your questions then please get in touch. I look forward to hearing from you.

With every blessing,

Rev. Kim Plumpton



Cobham

United Reformed Church

Cobham URC Worship Diary - June



Sun	2nd	9.00am	Early Bird Service
		10.30am	John Stewart
Sun	9th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion <i>Special Church Meeting after the Service</i>
Sun	16th	10.30am	Rev. Iain Stewart
Sun	23rd	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton
Sun	30th	11.00am	Joint Service at Cobham Methodist Church
July			
Sun	7th	10.30am	Sydney Shore



Prayers at the Manse
at 9.30am on
Wednesdays: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th June



Rock 'n' Soul

**7.00pm to 9.00pm
Friday 28th June
at Cobham URC**

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

This will be a place where people can get together for a couple of hours in an environment of mutual interests almost like a cross between an open mike night and a jam session. All are welcome from songwriters, vocalists to bands. There are no exclusions. Bring yourselves, your voice and your equipment and let's rock. For more information contact Colin on 07931 522855.



Coffee for Carers Tuesdays 11th and 25th June at 11.00am

Coffee for Carers is an opportunity for carers to gather at Cobham URC for a coffee and a chat. In creating this space we hope to encourage support and fellowship for those who offer themselves selflessly to care for others. The group meets fortnightly (Tuesdays) at Cobham United Reformed Church and is open to anyone who would just like to meet in a warm and relaxing atmosphere. All are welcome.

Cobham URC Events - June

Sun	2nd	3.00pm	Special Needs Group (to 6.00pm)
Tues	4th	9.45am 7.30pm	Church Walk Elders' Meeting
Thurs	6th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
Fri	7th	4.30pm	CYC meets at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Tues	11th	11.00am	Coffee for Carers
Fri	21st	4.30pm	CYC meets at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Tues	25th	11.00am	Coffee for Carers
Thurs	27th	3.30pm	Messy Church at the URC (to 5.30pm)
Fri	28th	3.00pm 7.00pm	T @ 3 at church Rock 'n' Soul at the URC (<i>see page 11</i>)

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



Date:

Thursday 27th June 2013

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

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

All are welcome



Effingham

Methodist Church

Effingham Methodist Diary - June



Sat	1st	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall (to 11.00am)
Sun	2nd	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - with Holy Communion
Thurs	6th	2.15pm	Bible Study Group in the hall
Sun	9th	10.00am	James Cameron
Tues	11th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	12th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Sun	16th	10.00am	Jay Dunning
Sun	23rd	10.00am	Rev. Val Ogden
Tues	25th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	26th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Sun	30th	10.30am	Ecumenical Service at St Lawrence
July			
Sat	6th	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall (to 11.00am)
Sun	7th	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - with Holy Communion



Prayer Group

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

Birthday Dates to celebrate this month

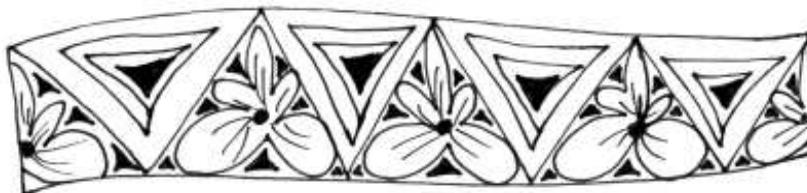


Happy Birthday to **Mary Verrinder** on 27th

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

Dates for your diaries

Local Mission and Ministry review or "Vision Day" to update our Mission Statement on **15th July**



Saturday Morning Live



Come and sample some alternative worship on **Saturdays 1st June and 6th July** from **10.00 - 11.00am** at **King George V Hall** in Brown's Lane.

Enjoy coffee, croissants, & chat

June's topic is "**Money - the root of all evil ?**"

Plenty of food for thought there then !

Why not join us and have your say ?

65 Years as one of Mr Wesley's preachers

This summer I will be celebrating this event and it takes me back to when I was received into full connection in the summer of 1948, seven months pregnant with my son Mick, and about to sail from the Isle of Man so that I could return to my parents in order to give birth, whereas Wallace had to stay on the island until the end of August. Mick was born on 4th August so it was a few weeks before he saw his first son. Fathers were not encouraged to be present at the birth in those days!

Since those dim and distant days I have taken services in seven circuits: Teddington, Purley, Clapham, Kingston, Amersham, Sheffield South and Dorking, although with a ministerial husband and five children it hasn't always been easy! As I look back, I remember most vividly cycling to remote villages where congregations as small as four gathered to worship, but their appreciation of what it meant to them made it well worthwhile.

My most difficult journey was when, still a local preacher on trial, I volunteered to take the planned appointment for an elderly man with a gammy leg when it began to snow heavily on the Sunday afternoon. He was due to take the evening service at Hillbery in the Isle of Man, a small village chapel amongst the hills inland about 3 miles from Douglas, reached by a little upland lane. It was dark, and there was no one about as I toiled up through snowdrifts. Eventually I arrived, to find a few people sitting in the chapel round the tortoise stove watching with interest as I divested myself of my wet clothes, including my stockings!

Another snow experience was in the Sheffield area, a further evening service in the snow when I was dropped off by Wallace, who had a hair-raising experience of trying to get home after his evening service up a steep hill, with cars abandoned everywhere, whereas I had to walk back along a plateau for about 3 miles with snow falling and no one else about. I can remember talking to Jesus as I walked, and saying "You know I must love you Lord, or I would not be doing this!" But it is indeed a privilege to be one of Mr Wesley's preachers!

Freddie Jenkins



"The Great Effingham Bake Off"

Effingham chapel has quite a reputation for cake! Our rota of fantastic cooks produce some very tasty and yummy delights every week, and excel themselves for our coffee mornings and special events.

But are they up for a challenge ?

"The Great Effingham Bake Off" is the theme for this year's **Village Day**, and it's hoped that lots of cooks will be inspired by Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood's programme, and try their hands at baking some goodies. There are two categories and prizes for the first three entries in each category, so everyone can join in and get baking!!

ICE - Improving Communities in Effingham - the new group that's organising the re-vamped **Effingham Village Day**, promise a fun day out for the whole family on **8th June** at **King George V Playing Fields from 1.00pm - 5.30pm.**

Free entry and parking this year too.

There are Martial Arts displays, Pantastic steel drums, a dog agility show by "Fetch"am dog school, lots of food including a hog roast, BBQ, Farmers Market, a Tillingbourne beer tent. Lots to do for the kids with bouncy castles, a reptile petting zoo, kids go-carts, the "Lego"-man (as seen at Denbies), and all the fun of the fair at tombola, stalls selling great products, plants, books and much more... including Effingham Churches Together's bric-a-brac stall. So please come and join us and see who wins the Bake-off - it could be someone we know !!



Effingham pages continued on page 21

Dorking and Horsham Circuit
NEWSLETTER

**June
July & August
2013**

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

When Jesus was about to leave his disciples he told them, "Do not let your hearts be troubled". These words are familiar to me from so often reading John 14 at funeral services. The passage in the Worship Book ends by skipping ahead to verse 27 where the same words are repeated. "Do not let your hearts be troubled."

For those who are natural worriers this is easier said than done. As someone who is not a great worrier I can only observe the phenomenon from the outside. In passing I should point out that sometimes worrying is important and those like me who lack the worry gene can too easily end up ignoring potential pitfalls. Not being a worrier is a mixed blessing.

But from what I see in others, people whose hearts are troubled about the future start to envisage all the worst-case scenarios which could possibly come about, and then add them all together to create some kind of mega-anxiety. A few moments logical thought would tell you that even if the future goes horribly wrong, there's only one future that will come about. All the other equally horrible futures can't happen too.

As I say, applying logic and simply telling yourself not to get so worked up is easier said than done. This is why Jesus doesn't just dispense sound advice, he gives us something precious – his peace. "My peace I give to you," he says (verse 27) and this is a very different kind of gift than the world can provide. "I do not give to you as the world gives."

Jesus was a man of peace. By that I don't mean he wasn't warlike. In fact there were times when he was confrontational and passionate, even angry and violent. What I mean is that he had a deep-down inner calm which nothing was able to shake. Underneath everything there was a conviction that the future was safe in God's hands. At his lowest and most despairing moments in the garden of Gethsemane when he was in anguish about the pain to come he was able to say "not my will but yours be done." When his agony on the cross was so great that he felt literally God-forsaken, he was still able to say "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

That's the kind of peace – an inner certainty that whatever comes we can trust God – which Jesus gives us. No reassurance that the world provides, and no amount of calming logic, can come close to the peace of Jesus.

Our Circuit faces an uncertain future. Not in any worrying sense, but in the everyday sense that we don't know what is coming next. We know we will be saying goodbye to Ian and Val and that both will be greatly missed by their own churches and by friends from around the circuit. And we know that we will be saying hello to Lynda Russell as she takes pastoral charge of Christ Church and Leatherhead Methodist Church. But at the time of writing we have not yet appointed a chaplain for the Dorking Christian Centre, or a circuit administrative officer. And we don't know all the implications of the new building work at St Andrew's or the coming together of the two churches in Leatherhead, let alone all the other ongoing work of God in the Circuit. *(continued overleaf)*

The **Methodist Church**



(continued from front page)

But whatever the changes, known or unexpected, dramatic or trivial, there is no need for our hearts to be troubled. Even death is merely a prelude to resurrection. The future of the Circuit and the future of all the churches which make up the Circuit is absolutely safe in the hands of God our Father. And whatever concerns you have as an individual for the future, the same is true for you too. The peace of Jesus is yours. *Paul*

Hadrian's Wall Walk

About 1900 years ago the Roman Emperor Hadrian had a wall built across the northern frontier of the province of Britannia. There is now a national footpath running the length of the wall and, starting on June 11, I shall be walking the 84 miles of that path from Bowness-on-Solway to Wallsend. So that we have time to take in the views and see the sights on the way, we shall take 10 days.

I have been persuaded that for such an undertaking I should seek sponsorship for a good cause, and I have decided to raise money for the charity African Revival (Cobham Uganda Partnership). African Revival is a charity doing great work in education and children's welfare in northern Uganda, South Sudan and Zambia, and for some years I have been involved through the Cobham Uganda Partnership, including a visit to Gulu in northern Uganda for the opening of a health centre at a school where the majority of children were orphans, so I can assure you that everything raised is well-spent.

For further details see www.cobhamugandapartnership.net and www.africanrevival.org. Sponsorship donations may be made through www.justgiving.com/David-Cappitt or directly to me. Thank you. *David Cappitt*

Revd Robert Teasdale

Robert died on April 7, and the Circuit was represented at a moving Thanksgiving service in Epsom. When he first retired, Robert lived in Cobham and served our Church there.

LEATHERHEAD

Exciting times ahead! Following our Church Council and Elders' Meetings in February, Leatherhead Methodist and Christ Church URC have decided, in principle, to come together.

Architects CPL were commissioned by our two churches to look at possibilities for our churches and their sites. Their report will become available in May or June. We want to do our best with the resources we have for both our combined mission and the community in Leatherhead.

We say farewell to Ian at the end of July as he goes to take up his new role as Chair of the District in Birmingham. We wish Ian and Barbara every blessing in their new home, and are very grateful for the contribution they have made to our church over many years.

In September we welcome Revd Lynda Russell as she takes over joint pastoral responsibility for LMC and Christ Church. She is full of enthusiasm and can't wait to join us together with her husband John.

We have lots of decisions and hurdles to cross in the near future but we are trusting in God and look forward to His plans for us.

Sue Friend

CIRCUIT DIARY

Tues June 4	LPWL at Leatherhead, 7.30 pm
Sun July 14	Circuit Service at Dorking, 6.00 pm
Sat Sept 7	Circuit Welcome, Christ Church, 3 pm
Tues Sep 10	LPWL at St Andrew's, 7.30 pm
Thurs Sep 19	Circuit Meeting, Leatherhead, 7.30 pm
Sat Sept 21	District Synod at Haywards Heath

The next issue will be published in late May.

Please send contributions by **Wednesday August 7** to: j.oborn671@btinternet.com

SOUTHWATER

With the sun shining and the flowers finally in bloom so we now have the opportunity to get out and about more in our community. Community is a central theme at Southwater Community Methodist Church and, following a very successful Alpha course at the beginning of the year, we are taking the opportunity to demonstrate God's love and passion for everyone in our village. Southwater Youth Project continues to provide a place of sanctuary for our children, and it is heartening to see the number of volunteers who have given their valuable time to help run the various clubs and activities. As I write this, our church family are taking part in a Community Action Day on May 4, Messy Church continues after its successful relaunch in March, and we are busily planning to be part of the School Fete in June. Our Alpha guests have started to meet for "Beer and Bible" sessions at the Lintot (Beer is not a requirement!) and we have an up and coming summer social to look forward to! SCMC is, of course, part of the wider church and are regular worshippers at Beach Hut (hosted by Arun Community Church in Littlehampton) and we will also be going along to the Big Church Day Out event on May 26 and the *New Wine and Soul Survivor* Summer Conferences. We believe we are here to worship and to serve and, however small our contribution, it is important. As the English Proverb says – "large streams from little fountains flow, tall oaks from little acorns grow." This spring and summer is going to be busy, but it's going to be fun too!

On a personal note Hannah and I would like to thank everyone on the Circuit who prayed for the safe arrival of our son, Lyndon, 11 weeks early, on March 7. We are both humbled by the knowledge that, through the various prayer networks, we had upwards of a thousand people praying for him and us before, during and after his birth. His safe arrival and continuing good health are a testament to the power of prayer and we feel truly blessed by you all. Praise God! Thank you again and God Bless.

Rowan Lill

st martin'S DORKING

We are now well into the trial period of sharing worship at St Martin's. Once this is completed a meeting will be held so that views can be shared on the future pattern of services.

A grant was obtained for the purchase of four benches which have now been installed on the northside of the churchyard. These are already proving popular with the townspeople of Dorking as well as Church and Centre users.

Our last Café Church had a St Patrick's Day theme and was both enjoyable and thought-provoking. The next one will be held on June 16 and will be led by John Oborn.

Sadly, this summer we have to say goodbye to Val who has been our Minister here for over four years. Val has worked tirelessly during her time here. We are holding a social evening on June 29 at the Christian Centre when we will have an opportunity to thank Val for all her efforts and wish her well for the future. All are welcome to attend this event, but please let the stewards at Dorking know how many from each church will attend for catering purposes.

Evelyn Wolvey

EFFINGHAM

Plans for a dementia care-home in our village have been quashed for a second time, as "inappropriate and harmful" being on green belt land surrounded by listed buildings. Like many villages and towns throughout the country, Effingham has problems: we need more affordable housing, better public transport, and a youth club. So the parish council has taken up the government challenge in the *Localism Act 2011*, and applied to become a designated area for **Neighbourhood Planning**. Later this year there will be a questionnaire to discover local people's views of how they wish the village to develop. **Churches Together** are keen to help and will be discussing how to get involved. It's our community, so always in our prayers.

Effingham Chapel will be reviewing our **Mission**, and vision for the future, in a series of meetings over the next few months. *Ange Putland*

Thank you to many people across the Circuit who've inquired about where I'm moving to. A quick summary, perhaps? I entered the Methodist stationing 'round last Summer with the aim of moving to the Lancashire area to support my elderly mother whose health was fast deteriorating. She in fact died at the end of August, meaning that geography was no longer crucial. After some thinking, consultation and prayer, I sought permission to withdraw from the stationing process (discovering that to have appeared in the original Connexional paperwork only to disappear again causes more consternation than I'd anticipated!) and went before a Connexional Stationing Advisory Committee to request permission to study full-time and complete the research project on the ministry and insights of the Revd Dr Colin Morris that I've been pursuing part-time, and feel such a strong vocational pull to complete as a 'gift' to Methodism and the wider Church. This request was granted, so from July for 12 months, I shall be self-supporting and my main base will be Spurgeon's College in South London. No ideas as yet about the shape and location of ministry after that. I'm deeply grateful to God and to you all for the past 4 years 3 months in the Circuit, based at St Martin's and Dorking Christian Centre. As always in ministry, I've learned much and reflected a great deal. Thank you from my heart for the many kindnesses, encouragements and expressions of affirmation that I've been touched to receive. I'll keep you in my prayers for sure, and would value yours immensely. But when I go, I shan't be popping back; certainly not for the first year. This is good practice I've always believed in itinerant ministry. I'll simply be praising God for all that is past and trusting God for all that is to come. As we do...

With love and thanks,

Revd Val Ogden

PARTRIDGE GREEN

Here in Partridge Green, we hosted another very successful "Messy Church" in early April, with our "Easter Theme", and look forward to the next one at the end of May, when we will be using "The Feeding of the 5,000" as our topic! Many thanks to all who participate!

Our fundraising quiz and supper on April 27 was a sociable evening for all, with the team from London Road the winners! Many thanks to all who supported us!

Our next fundraising event will be our Spring Coffee morning on Saturday May 18 at 10.00 am.

Many of you will remember Revd Dale Sherriff who was working in our church and Circuit 14 years ago! We are delighted that he is able to take our Church Anniversary Service on June 16, which will be followed by lunch in the hall. We look forward to welcoming Dale, Susan and their young family that weekend, and all are most welcome to join us for our service at 10.30 am.

Alison James

"NEW WINE" JULY 27—AUGUST 2

Last summer Clair and I along with Ben, Amy and Miriam attended the summer camp or conference *New Wine* in Shepton Mallett. This camp has been going for many years, and *Soul Survivor* (which is the youth event which Southwater have attended) was originally the youth element of *New Wine*.

We went looking for good teaching, good kids' activities and quality worship, and we found all three. We had an excellent week which was not too rainy, and the children benefitted from being in a group of 400 in their age group. We heard teaching and testimony which inspired us, and which has been of great value in our own ministries at Southwater and around the Circuit. This year we are taking a group from Southwater, and invite anyone from across the Circuit who's interested to join us.

Don't worry too much if you don't have camping gear. I'm sure we can assist with that. I've been running the Southwater camp at *Soul Survivor* for many years, and we certainly have all the kit we need for mass catering and good camping experience. Do get in touch with me if you want help with booking, etc.

Jon Fisher



Are YOU getting ready for the Big Welcome on 22nd September?

Is your church as welcoming as you think?

The Methodist Church in Britain wants to develop a “culture of welcome” in local churches with the launch of a new online resource. The free online resource – [*First Impressions Count*](#) – is a workshop designed to help churches reflect on the welcome that a visitor experiences when they first walk through the door. It aims to tackle the intimidation and anxiety that a newcomer might feel when entering a church for the first time; to help churches improve their quality of welcome and takes account of a culture increasingly unfamiliar with Christian faith and worship.

The First Impressions Count workshop is divided into three sessions lasting two-and-a-half hours in total. The sessions look at creating a welcoming building, being a welcoming people and inclusion. Churches are asked to consider the state of the building, the signage outside or the personal welcome. Is it too “laid back” or gushing and desperate ?

Another potential member... don't let him/her get away!!! Talking about first impressions, perhaps we should also include our welcome for ministers and local preachers each week. Just because they're familiar faces does not mean they can be taken for granted. Surely they won't mind a quiet moan about the sermon or not including your favourite hymn... after all you're just being honest! But what about their feelings and the hours they've spent preparing a service just for you? If we believe that the Spirit is moving in all services we must respect their message.

Ange Putland

Finding my Spiritual Home



Sadly I've always been a bit embarrassed about the idea of [Back to Church Sunday](#), and secretly relieved that it was a bit of a Church of England thing. Perhaps because I know that giving out those personal invitation cards to my neighbours and friends would be difficult and raise a few eyebrows.

Something about never discussing religion or politics if you want to stay friends! Now of course the free churches have [The Big Welcome](#). Same idea but a better name, which doesn't raise old fears about being a "naughty girl" if I'd missed a church service.

Something I remember well, because I dropped out of regular church-going in 1970, and didn't return until 1999. I was an Anglican, but my first husband didn't believe in church. So, like many people, I just went at Christmas and Easter, when it was so busy no-one recognised me, or tried to make me come each week.

However it didn't mean I'd stopped believing in God, or the power of prayer. I was just put off by the pettiness of what I referred to as "the floral hat brigade", dressing up in "Sunday-best", but no real heart or compassion. My mother was housebound, and a curate came regularly to give communion to her and my grandmother, but no-one else ever popped by for a chat, even though my father was in the choir. Hardly anyone came to her funeral, or helped Dad, and I was bitter for many years.

20 years later in 1999, when I first came to Effingham Chapel, I felt truly welcomed. The Methodist worship was refreshing, and not as formal as High Church C of E. Local preachers provided a slightly different style every week, rather than the same service week in week out. Gosh!!! There were even women!!!

Several years later I was welcomed into the Methodist Church by Rev. Ian Howarth, and can honestly say that it's my spiritual home.

Ange Putland

Leatherhead Pages

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



Next Messy Church:

Thursday 20th June
3.30pm to 5.30pm at



Song Recital at Leatherhead Methodist Church

**A selection of popular arias and duets
for soprano and baritone**

Edita Durrant, Ian Howarth with Richard Price at the piano

Saturday 22nd June at 7.30pm - retiring collection



Men's Breakfasts

Sat 22nd June at Christ Church

Sat 27th July at the Parish Church Hall

Sat 28th Sept at the Catholic Church Hall

Doors open 8.00am.

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

Alexander L'Estrange

ZIMBE!

"Come, sing
the songs of
Africa!"

"Njooni! Zimbe!
Nyimbo za
Afrika"



FEATURING THE 'CALL ME AL' BAND

Saturday 29th June 2013

7.00 pm

The Leatherhead Theatre

Tickets:

Adults £14, Under 16s £8

www.the-theatre.org or 01372 365141

**WITH CHILDREN FROM THE DAWNAY SCHOOL
AND ST DUNSTON'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**

MUSIC ON THURSDAYS



12.30pm Lunchtime Concerts

lasting 40 - 50 minutes

Free entry - with a retiring collection

Thursdays at Leatherhead Methodist Church
with
Wednesdays at Christ Church URC

SUMMER 2013

June

- Wed 19 Jun** - **Wednesdays at Christ Church, Epsom Road**
Music from Canada - Anthony Cairns, organ
- Thu 27 Jun** - **Fabricio Mattos**, guitar, **Georgia Knowler**,
soprano, *from the Royal Academy of Music*

July

- Thu 4 Jul** - **At ea Wind Trio**
- Thu 11 Jul** - **Mahrisol Lee**, violin with pianist
from the Royal Academy of Music
- Wed 17 Jul** - **Wednesdays at Christ Church, Epsom Road**
Robert Woolley, organist of St Mary's, Stoke
d'Abernon, professor at Royal College of Music
- Thu 25 Jul** - **Nannerl Piano Duo**
from the Royal Academy of Music

August

- Thu 1 Aug** - **Andrews Massey Duo**
Emily Andrews, flute, David Massey, guitar
- Thu 8 Aug** - **Alice Bishop**, soprano, **Matthew Rickard**, piano
- Thu 15 Aug** - **Eva Caballero**, baroque instruments,
Graham Davies, harpsichord
- Thu 22 Aug** - **Anna Tam**, viola da gamba & soprano,
Jennifer Bennett, lute & viola da gamba
- Thu 29 Aug** - *to be confirmed*

concerts continue throughout September and October 2013

www.musiconthursdays.org

Supported by: Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society

We reserve the right to make alterations to this programme if necessary
Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society is a charity registered with HMRC
The Methodist Church and The United Reformed Church are registered with the Charity Commission

HAPPY CHILD NEWS UPDATE - May 2013

Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration for street children & children at risk and their families in Brazil

UK SUPPORTERS' VISIT TO HAPPY CHILD RECIFE and APPEAL 2013

A group of UK supporters spent five days with children and staff at Happy Child Recife. They visited the boys' centre (0-17 years) and the recently opened teenagers' centre (18-21 years) and had plenty of opportunity to see the great work of Happy Child in action, with the stark contrast of the trafficking and glue sniffing evident on the streets of Recife at night.

Carolyn Watkins from St Michael's Blackheath said, "It really was a very special trip. The highlight for me was spending time getting to know the children and also visiting their families and seeing where they have come from." She also observed, "There is a great staff team in Brazil, dedicated and committed to really helping the children."



Appeal 2013

In our last news update we told you about our UK supporter Appeal 2013. Our target is £130,000, which will help us run three centres in Brazil - the boys centre (0-18 years), the teenage boys centre (aged 18-21) and the girls centre (aged 12-18) to be opened imminently. This is a quarterly target of £32,500.

We are pleased to be able to announce that thanks to the generosity of our faithful supporters we have reached our first quarterly target! This enabled us to open our second home for teenage boys on time.

However, we want to emphasise that we still urgently need the ongoing support of our friends and supporters here in the UK so that we can continue to work with our Brazilian partners to keep these homes operational throughout all of 2013. For the remainder of this year we still need to bring in £97,500. **SO OUR NEXT QUARTERLY TARGET IS £32,500 (by the end of June).**

By the end of 2013 the three centres in Recife will receive nearly half of their running costs from our partners in north east Brazil. However the other 50%+ will be funded by Happy Child UK . Over the next two years our aim is that all these centres in Metropolitan Recife will be 100% self sustaining from within Brazil, which is what we managed to achieve in Belo Horizonte, south east Brazil, in 2011.

You can donate by text giving TEXT: HCIN12 £xx to 70070 or directly into the Happy Child International bank account: HSBC, sort code 40-27-07, Account 81485504 or by cheque payable to "Happy Child International" and post to us at the address below or online at www.happychild.org

THANK YOU!

Happy Child International
The Leatherhead Institute
67 The High Street
Leatherhead
Surrey KT22 8AH
Tel: 01372 375 848





Leatherhead

Methodist Church

LMC

Diary - June



Sun 2nd	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion Rev. Paul Cockburn
Wed 5th	7.30pm	CPL Steering Group
Fri 7th	2.30pm	Time for Tea (ends 4.30pm) <i>(see page 32)</i>
Sat 8th	5.00pm	Barbecue at the Manse
Sun 9th	10.30am 6.30pm	John Oborn Rev. Ian Howarth
Thurs 13th	8.00pm	Church Council
Sun 16th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth Joint (Christ Church/LMC) evening service at LMC with Holy Communion
Wed 19th	12.30pm	Organ Recital at Christ Church <i>(see page 25)</i>
Thurs 20th	3.30pm	Messy Church (to 5.30pm)
Sat 22nd	8.00am 7.30pm	CTiL Men's Breakfast at Christ Church Song Recital <i>(see page 23)</i>
Sun 23rd	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Frank Smith New Fire
Thurs 27th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays at LMC <i>(see page 25)</i>
Sun 30th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth Rev. Val Ogden
July		
Thurs 4th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays at LMC <i>(see page 25)</i>
Fri 5th	2.30pm	Time for Tea (ends 4.30pm) <i>(see page 32)</i>
Sun 7th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion Rev. Ian Howarth

Translating God's Word in the Central African Republic



Francis Feidangai lives and works as a Bible translator in the Bossangoa region of the Central African Republic (CAR). This central African country is home to 62 languages most of which lack any translations of Scripture at all. Nearly twelve years ago, we wondered if any translation would be possible at all.

The civil war began with rebel insurgency in May 2001 when rebel forces staged an unsuccessful coup in the capital city Bangui. When the fighting spread to Bossangoa in 2002, Francis and his pregnant wife Viviane feared for their lives. "One day we heard cannon fire in the distance and then we heard shooting from within the city," he recalled. "By 4pm, gunfire was all around us. We had no choice but to lock ourselves inside our house."

That night, rebels came looking for the valuable two-way radio that Francis used with his team in their translation work – but they did not find his house. When Francis and Viviane emerged the next morning, they found their next-door neighbour lying prone on the ground outside his compound, murdered by rebels. Francis and Viviane fled for their lives, but Francis knew the translation work must go on, no matter what. "I decided to take a sleeping mat, my Bible and my workbook. I knew that God had given me this work to do. Whatever the conditions in my life, this was my work."

Translating God's Word was much more than just a job for Francis. In the midst of a civil war, in which he and his pregnant wife were made homeless, God encouraged him to carry on. "I was very calm... and I had a really close relationship with God," he said. "After spending time in prayer, I would continue. My heart was so much in the translation work."

They fled to an encampment 12 kilometres off the main road, where they slept for the next five months. During the day, Vivian would stay hidden under a large mango tree while Francis sat in a concealed shelter by the river, translating the Scriptures into the Gbeya language. When the war finally ended on 15th March 2003, Francis had translated the whole book of Genesis as well as many other Bible verses – and had done so under the most extraordinary pressure.



“I was thankful that the difficult months were over and that God had kept us safe,” he recalled. “It was exciting to be able to take my newborn baby and her mother back to the safety of our home.”

Sadly, the peace did not hold and the CAR has experienced the horror of civil war once again. Francis is just one among many translators in the country whose life has been turned upside down by violence and civil war. And CAR is just one nation among many volatile locations where Wycliffe is working with local language specialists – who often risk everything for their work.

The above article is from Wycliffe Bible Translators. If anyone is interested in supporting their work, please go to:

www.wycliffe.org.uk/makeadifferencenow.

LMC Family News



Congratulations to...

...Tim Hall on being elected as County Councillor for Leatherhead & Fetcham East Division.

MWiB Conference at Swanwick

'Crossing the Chasm' Part 2

When we were all together as one group, we were sub-divided into smaller groups of eight. All these small groups were named after bridges. (My group was Elisabeth Bridge, which I was told spans the R. Danube). It was in our 'bridge' groups we were able to discuss more intimately the various questions posed by the speakers.

Laura Cook, who led one of the workshops, also spoke to the full conference, of her time in Nepal representing MRDF. She described herself as an unfit woman in her 30's not built for mountain walking! But walk she did! To reach her hostess's home, a 4X4 took her as far as the road went, then it was a six hour slog to her destination. Her hostess was a Dalit woman and, as such, was not allowed to 'contaminate' the nearby standpipe provided by the WHO, but had to fetch her water from the old well three miles further on! Laura met many other Dalit women in villages she visited who had similar restraints. In our small group we had case studies of Dalit women to consider. They had to contend with absent husbands - many sought jobs in the large cities and never returned - sickness and disabilities, both mental and physical, lack of education, exploitation and isolation. One woman was said to bring curses upon her wider family when her husband returned with mental illness. They ill-treated her and cast her out of the village. Care is slowly getting to such women via a concern called Kopila. They receive educational support for their children, the loan of goats to earn a living (they keep what they breed and return the loaned ones) and medical instruction and care in situ, previously having a half-day trek to get medicine. These women have to overcome chasms in their lives that we cannot even begin to imagine.

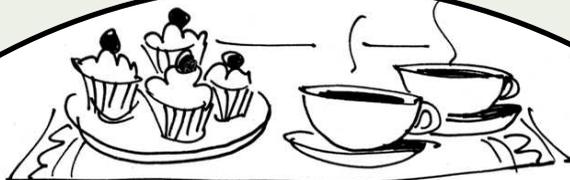
We also thought about the chasms in our more 'civilised' lives. Women spoke about ill-health, care of elderly parents, redundancy and much reduced income, and death. What particular chasms have you bridged in your life? We also discussed the particular difficulties in getting to the weekend. Husbands, children and pets left at home had to be provided for, filling fridges and freezers as if for a siege! Cost was also considered. It is not a cheap weekend, and travel is on top of that. But determination is a great bridge builder.

It was not all listening, learning and discussion, at times a great deal of laughter was involved. It was also a chance to meet old friends, ones I call my 'Swanwick group' who I meet every year, and to make new ones. We caught up with the latest MWiB news including, hot off the press, the design of the new logo. That will be released to use generally very soon.

It was, as usual, a good weekend. My learning curve seems to be going up! My biggest regret is that I go alone. Perhaps next year it will be different! The dates are 25th - 27th April 2014 and the keynote speaker will be Rev. Barbara Glasson.

Jean Plant

Time for Tea



COME for TEA and COMPANY

From 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Fridays 7th June, 5th July...

...and every first Friday in the month at

LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

EVERYONE WELCOME

If you need transport please contact:

Margaret Meynen on 372930 or Gill Harris on 458518

(Suggested donation £1)

Details of House Groups - All Welcome

The **Daytime House** Group meets fortnightly on Fridays from 1.15pm to 2.45pm during school terms. New members welcome - please speak to Jane Smith for details of venue - 01372 372919.

The **Wednesday House Group** meets on the third Wednesday each month in the summer. Please contact Norma Shaw on 01372 274533 for further details of venue.

The **Monday House Group** meets on alternate Mondays. Contact Carol Stoves 01372 377125 for details.

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

Dates for your Diary

There are a number of important events coming up:

July

- Sat 20th 6.30pm Ian's Farewell Social at Christ Church
Sun 21st 10.30am Ian's final service at LMC

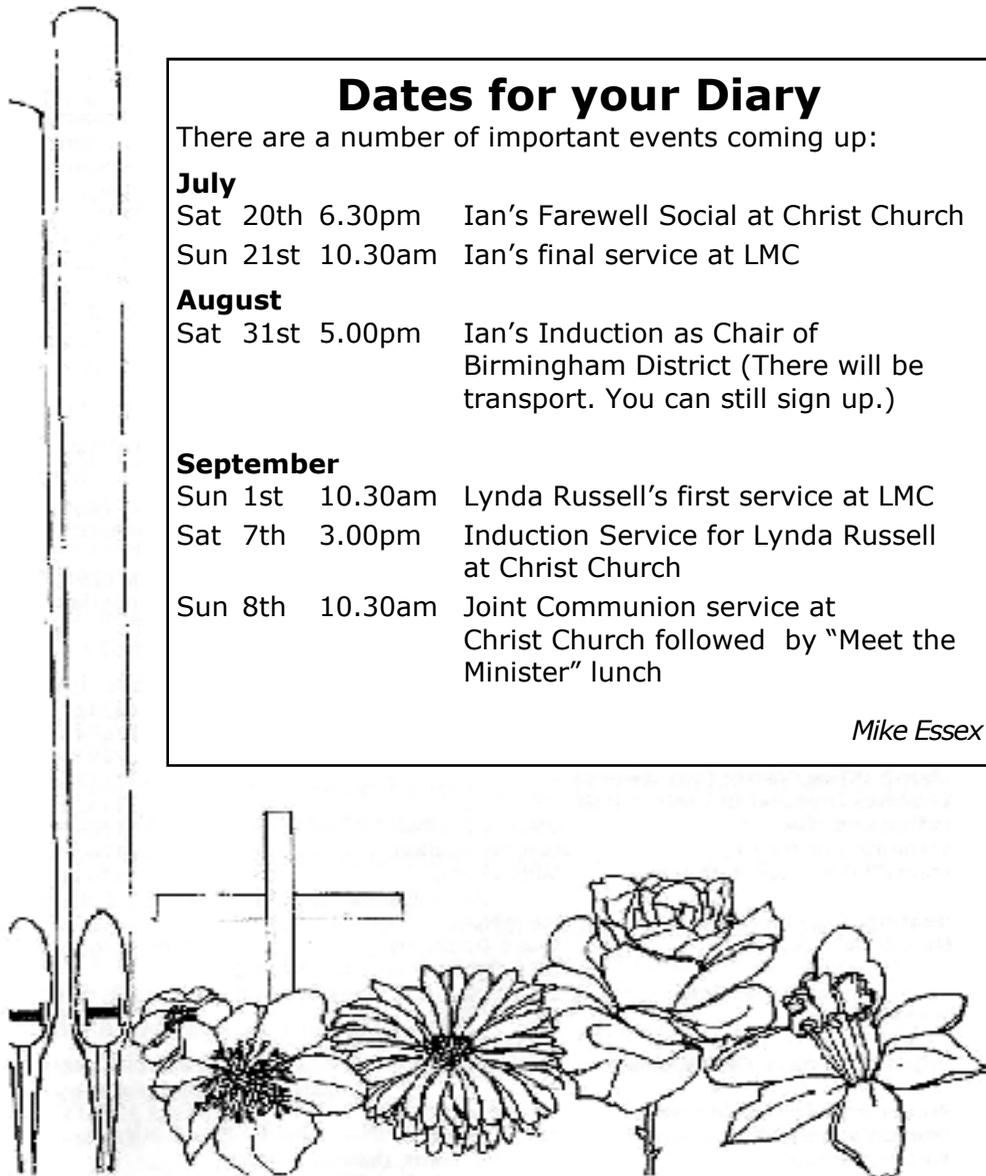
August

- Sat 31st 5.00pm Ian's Induction as Chair of Birmingham District (There will be transport. You can still sign up.)

September

- Sun 1st 10.30am Lynda Russell's first service at LMC
Sat 7th 3.00pm Induction Service for Lynda Russell at Christ Church
Sun 8th 10.30am Joint Communion service at Christ Church followed by "Meet the Minister" lunch

Mike Essex



Christ Church Diary - June



Sun 2nd	10.30am 6.30pm	Prof. David Cutler (Richmond) Evening Service at LMC: Rev. Paul Cockburn
Wed 5th	10.30am	Coffee and chat
Fri 7th	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC (<i>see page 32</i>)
Sat 8th	5.00pm	Barbecue at the LMC Manse
Sun 9th	10.30am 12noon 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion Church Meeting Evening Service at LMC: Rev. Ian Howarth
Sat 15th	all day	Organ Festival at the Parish Church
Sun 16th	10.30am 6.30pm	Mr Adrian West (URC LP) Joint Communion Service with LMC at LMC - Rev. Ian Howarth
Tues 18th	7.30pm	Surrey/Sussex Synod Meeting, Crawley
Wed 19th	12,30pm	Organ Recital (<i>see page 25</i>)
Thurs 20th	3.30pm	Messy Church at LMC (to 5.30pm)
Sat 22nd	8.00am 7.30pm	Men's Breakfast at Christ Church Song Recital at LMC (<i>see page 23</i>)
Sun 23rd	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth New Fire - Ecumenical Service at LMC
Thurs 27th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays at LMC (<i>see page 25</i>)
Sun 30th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. John Whitton (Farnborough) Evening Service at LMC: Rev. Val Ogden
<u>July</u>		
Thurs 4th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays at LMC (<i>see page 25</i>)
Fri 5th	2.30pm 7.00pm	Time for Tea at LMC (<i>see page 32</i>) SoundBytes Concert
Sun 7th	10.30am 6.30pm	Mrs Gail Partridge Evening Service at LMC

Christ Church Family News



We are sorry that **Eric Brown** had a fall recently resulting in hip surgery in St Helier. We are glad that he is making good progress and is now in Leach Ward in Leatherhead Hospital. We send him our very best wishes.

It was good to see **Bernard Buckle** in church, looking well again, also Mavis with Asa, their carer from the Beeches.

David Gillott, son of Nigel and Alison, and **Alice Twyman**, daughter of Roy and Jo Twyman of Ashtead were married on 25th May at St Giles in Ashtead. We send them our congratulations and every good wish for their future happiness.

We are sorry that **Bert Gower** has been feeling unwell with a persistent cough in recent weeks. We send him and Florence our good wishes.

We are sorry to report that **John Melrose** had another fall recently and is now recovering in Leatherhead Hospital. We send him our very best wishes.

We remember all these friends in our prayers, and others who are are unwell, including **Dorothy Poulton**, and those recently bereaved, remembering especially **John Rayner**.

Anthony and Anne Cairns bring greetings from **Brian and Sue Veillard** and their URC church in St Saviour's on Guernsey.

Anne Cairns

Farewell

I am sure that all members of Christ Church will join me in thanking Ian for ministering to our spiritual needs these last few years - alas for too short a period. I will however remember him as THE 'I.T.' MINISTER, complete with laptop and large screen demonstrations!

Ivan Haslam

Pastorate Details

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

Leatherhead Methodist Church:

www.leatherheadmethodist.org

Contact: Senior Steward -
Sue Friend 01372 813464

Christ Church (United Reformed)

Leatherhead:

www.chch.org.uk

Contact: Local Church Leader -
Mike Essex 01372 273472

Effingham Methodist Church:

www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk

Contact: Senior Steward -
Dave Putland 01372 454850

Cobham United Reformed Church:

www.cobhamurc.org.uk

Contact: Church Secretary -
Mary Langtry 01483 282421

Cobham Methodist Church:

www.cobhammethodistchurch.com

Contact: Senior Steward -
Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



United Pastorate Ministers

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07590 564544 (mobile)

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