

the Link

**The Methodist Church of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

March 2011



Family Link



Congratulations to...

... David Stoves, whose daughter Joanna has given birth to Aeofe – a sister for Logan.

Our thoughts and prayers are with...

... Sheila Hydes and her husband Laurie, as he recuperates from a hospital stay to have a stent fitted.

... Joy Foreman following her second cataract operation.



March

Our thoughts and prayers are also with...

... Freddie Jenkins who is progressing well after an operation on her leg.

Grateful thanks...

... from Freddie Jenkins to all those people who have kept her in their thoughts and prayers, for the visits and phone calls, flowers and cards. Freddie says that everything is going well now.

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The Ministers Write...



From Rev. Ian Howarth

It was good to share together for the evening service at Effingham on 13th February. It was lovely to have a full church, and good representation from all the churches in the Pastorate. I hope and pray that as we share together we will grow in a sense of fellowship and mutual support.

It was also good to share a joint meeting between LMC and Christ Church at the end of January when we looked at the future together, and we are continuing discussions about sharing more evening services and perhaps joining Christ Church's magazine with 'The Link', as well as meeting with the Synod Regeneration Officer, to start thinking about how we make best use of our buildings.

For me it is a joy to be working in partnership with different churches and alongside Kim in the Pastorate, and I pray that, as the relationships build, God will open our eyes to ways of using our complementary gifts and resources in mission to our different communities, knowing that we are supported in fellowship by our neighbouring churches.

As we come to the season of Lent, I hope we can use the opportunities open to us to deepen that sense of fellowship and our commitment to mission.

The disciplines of Lent allow us to focus on God in new ways. It is a challenge to use the period as a time to reflect deeper on our relationship with God, whether by attending a Lent group, reading a Lent book, or by some form of self-denial. Whatever we decide to do for that period, I believe prayer needs to be at the heart of it all, prayer that roots us in our relationship with God, and which takes us away from our own desires and allows us to discover and focus on God's priorities.

It is important in our growing fellowship together that we do not get too 'churchy', that we are prepared to think out of the box in terms of mission, and that might mean taking risks, going outside our comfort zone. Even Jesus had to go into the discomfort of the wilderness and withstand temptation to discern God's will for his ministry.

I pray that we will have the courage to follow where God is leading us in our mission, confident that his love and his grace will support and inspire us as we seek to do His will.

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Yours in Christ,

Ian

From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear friends,

I had the great pleasure and delight one evening to go with some of the church members to the 'Good Book Tour' in the Millmead Centre in Guildford. A production combining the talents of Derek Wilson a historian and theologian, as well as the gifted and inspiring actors from the Lacey Theatre Company. Woven through the theatrical performances we were informed by the unfolding story of the King James Bible. The performances in a street language that perhaps some of us might be unfamiliar with, brought the Bible alive in ways that were truly thrilling to see. The evening highlighted the fact that in every age the Bible is reinterpreted, with a sense of ownership that challenges the reader to contextualise the message held within. Making its pages a timeless masterpiece, always relevant. This style of presenting the Bible for the 21st century was refreshing indeed and much laughter filled the auditorium as we grappled with familiar passages in a new light. The audience were offered different perspectives, such as the conversation Mrs Jonah had with her husband as he returns home with an unlikely and unbelievable story. It allowed for a great deal of artistic licence, yet it offers those watching and listening a remarkable opportunity to think outside the box. There are those who choose to read the Bible word for word, yet there are those who like to read in-between the lines and this kind of performance does a wonderful job of blending the two together, never quite losing sight of the narrative.

As ministers we are always trying to find new ways to present the gospel message and it's interesting that I had forgotten much of what I had learned nine years ago when I attended a course called God's Jesters. A one year course exploring the arts and their use in worship. I feel that I need to reacquaint myself with much of the material I had once found so exciting and thrilling. The use of dance and drama are very powerful tools when used in the right way but not everybody feels they have a place in Sunday morning worship. Watching Roly Baines telling the story of the Good Samaritan, dressed as a clown performing on the low wire may not be what everybody might expect to see during Sunday worship. However, we need to use all the tools we have at our disposal if our desire is to make our worship relevant for people today. It's a challenge but I know that there are some very talented people across the Pastorate, others who are waiting to be asked and others just waiting for the opportunity. Let's not waste the opportunities that come our way or the people God places before us!!!

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With every blessing,

Kim



Cobham

Cobham Diary - March



Fri	4th	11.00am	Women's World Day of Prayer at Sacred Heart Church
Sun	6th	11.00am	Rev. Frank Smith
Sat	12th	2.30pm	Platinum Service
Sun	13th	11.00am 6.30pm	Mr Alex Cloke United Pastorate Service at the URC - Rev. Ian Howarth & Rev. Kim Plumpton
Sun	20th	11.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion
Sun	27th	11.00am	Mr Terry Garn

Cobham Lent Group

The Lent Group will be held at Cobham URC on the following Thursdays at both 2.30pm and 7.30pm:

- 17th March
- 24th March
- 31st March
- 7th April
- 14th April

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

"HOW MANY LOAVES HAVE YOU?"

AT 11.00am ON FRIDAY 4th MARCH
AT THE SACRED HEART CHURCH,
COBHAM

A SERVICE PREPARED BY THE
CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF CHILE
Pat Dickin will be our speaker
FOLLOWED BY BREAD & SOUP LUNCH
ALL WELCOME





Effingham

Effingham Diary - March



Fri	4th	10.30am	Women's World Day of Prayer at St. Lawrence
Sun	6th	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Tues	8th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the R. C. Hall
Wed	9th	12.30pm-2pm	Lent Lunch at St. Lawrence Church Hall
		8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Thurs	10th	2.00pm	Bible Study Group with Kim in Church Hall
Sun	13th	10.00am	Mr John Oborn
		6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth & Rev. Kim Plumpton - United Pastorate Service at Cobham URC
Sun	20th	10.00am	Mr David Cappitt
Tues	22nd	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the R.C. Hall
Wed	23rd	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Thurs	24th	2.00pm	Bible Study Group with Kim in Church Hall
Sun	27th	10.00am	Rev. Frank Smith

Please note ALL our morning services start at 10.00am



Dates to celebrate this month: Three of our ladies have birthdays: Janet Garnham on 19th, Elaine Moran on 24th and Angela Putland on 29th.



Bible Study

We meet for Bible Study with Kim in our Church Hall at 2.00pm to study the Gospel of Matthew, for about one and a half hours, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.



United Pastorate Evening Service

Over 50 people attended the first **United Pastorate Evening Service**, so don't miss the second which will be held at **Cobham URC** on **Sunday 13th March at 6.30pm** and led by **Rev. Kim Plumpton** and **Rev. Ian Howarth**.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Please join us on **Friday 4th March** for this service "**How many loaves do you have?**" which has been written by the women of **Chile** at either:

St. Lawrence Church, Effingham at 10.30am where the Speaker is John Pontifex from **Aid to Church in need** (acnuk.org) an organisation which helps persecuted and oppressed Christians around the World.
Or at **7.30pm** at **The Church of the Holy Spirit, Fetcham**.



Lent Lunches

Our fortnightly **Lent Lunches** in Effingham will start on **Ash Wednesday**, 9th March at St. Lawrence Church Hall from 12.30 to 2.00pm. Then on 23rd March when we Methodists will be catering so offers of help to Pat McElhill please. Finally on 6th April. This year all proceeds are going to **Combat Stress** the UK's *leading* military charity specialising in the care of war veterans' mental health.



Lent Groups



In common with the other churches in the Pastorate, we are using the latest York Course, **Rich Inheritance**, as the theme for our Lent meetings this year. Meetings start in the week beginning the 14th March and as usual the five meetings will be Ecumenical and hosted, in local homes, by members of the Anglican, Catholic and Methodist churches in the village. If you would like to attend one of these groups then please contact David Putland who is co-ordinating them. Either phone 454850 or e-mail theputlands@aol.com with your availability, and you will be assigned to an appropriate group. In the past these events have been very popular so please book now to avoid disappointment!

The Gift of Speech

The ability to communicate by means of speech is perhaps the most dramatic difference between human beings and other life forms. This God-given gift reflects, in the deepest sense, how human beings are made in God's image. For some of us,



however, speech is not easy, but full of sentences finished by someone else, often with the wrong word! Remember **Michael Palin** as Ken, the beleaguered animal lover with a bad stutter in the 1988 film "A Fish called Wanda"? A performance

based on memories of his father's struggle with words. Cinemas echoed with laughter but I just cringed! I too grew up with a father who stuttered, but I "caught" the habit, and allowed it to blight my life. In my late teens I managed to conquer it by reciting vowel sounds and long speeches from Shakespeare, while sitting in front of a mirror. However the stutter returned during periods of stress, like divorce and redundancy. Breathing techniques helped. A speech-therapist called it a "hesitation", caused by the frantic mental search for an alternative word, for fear of stumbling over words starting with A. Difficult for Angela Ashton working at the AA! She also said that perfect speech is a myth, as most role-models on TV or radio are reading from an auto-cue. With her encouragement I trained as a teacher.

Last week **Colin Firth** won a BAFTA, and has been nominated for an OSCAR for his sensitive portrayal of **King George VI** in "The King's Speech". According to **The British Stammering Association** (BSA) a charity set-up to support sufferers, this film offers a golden opportunity to talk more openly about a potentially serious disability with often severe psychological, social, educational and economic impact. A stutter or stammer is more than just embarrassing. There's no cure, and help is patchy, with few NHS speech-therapists. It affects about 720,000 adults and children in the UK. Visit **You Tube** to watch **The King's Speech – a stammerer's view** about the campaign to raise £100K. How I wish the BSA had been around when I was growing up!

AJP



The Word on the street is.....

A few weeks ago some of us went with Kim, our Minister, to the 'Good Book Tour' a dramatic presentation by the Lacey Theatre Co., about the Bible, held in Guildford's Millmead Centre. Making the Bible come alive and be relevant to those outside the church is a challenge, and it is always helpful to hear from those who visit schools and young people. The event was well supported by about 400 people, and we heard about the history of the Bible, especially the King James version and had a whistlestop tour through Bible scenes from a modern translation, giving us ideas about how to make God's Word relevant to today's culture. The **Word on the Street** is a Bible with a difference, translated into street-speak by Rob Lacey, an internationally known writer and performer, who died from cancer in 2006. The language is sometimes surprising and unfamiliar to us older folk, but then it has been written to reach today's young people and, I am sure, does it more effectively than the original King James Version. So here's a well loved passage from 1 Corinthians:

What is love anyway? Not the tripe you've been force-fed! No, love gives people space and time, it does people good. It's not jealous, loud-mouthed or big-headed. It's not vulgar; it doesn't look after Number One. It's not got a short fuse - it forgives and forgets. Love doesn't smile when dark stuff goes on, but throws a party when the truth gets out. It protects more than a blockbuster hero; it trusts more than a toddler. It's always positive; it always hangs in there. Love doesn't let you down.

Recognise it? Of course it's 1 Corinthians 13, v4-8. Not subtle or poetic but it gets the heart of the message across.

I have put a copy of the book in the Effingham library, together with Derek Wilson's history of the King James Version **The People's Bible**. Please borrow them and see what you think.

DP

Coffee Morning

Joan Hart, our Missions secretary, reports that we **raised £164** at our recent **Coffee morning**, and this was split between **MRDF(Mali)** and **World Missions**. Our thanks to all organisers and supporters.



Leatherhead

Leatherhead Diary - March



Sun	6th	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth
Sun	13th	10.30am	Mr Rhys Frost
		6.30pm	United Pastorate Service at Cobham URC Rev. Ian Howarth & Rev. Kim Plumpton
Mon	14th	8.00pm	Evening for Prayer & Reflection (<i>see p 16</i>)
Thur	17th	3.30pm	Messy Church (ends 5.30pm)
Sun	20th	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth
		6.30pm	Rev. Val Ogden - Holy Communion
Sat	26th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast Fellowship at the Anglican Church Hall
Sun	27th	10.30am	Mr Alex Cloke
		6.30pm	New Fire - Rev. Ian Howarth

Women's World Day of Prayer ***"How many loaves have you?"***

The service will be held at Christ Church URC,
Epsom Road, Leatherhead
at 2.30pm on Friday 4th March.

The speaker will be Pat Armstrong s.f.o.,
a very ecumenical Catholic,
and a writer, from Bookham

Leatherhead Leadership Team

A summary of the meeting held on 27th January 2011

Finance

Gracie will be giving up as Treasurer at the end of March. Many thanks to Gracie for her hard work. We will now search for a new treasurer.

A lot of people are giving to the Church via standing order. This money is not blessed in the same way as the offertory and this is a problem for some people. Put on the agenda for Church Council.

Property

Fire Detectors - It was agreed that the detectors in the church should not have been positioned where they are and will be moved down to a reachable level at Buchanan & Curwen's expense. Thanks to Dennis for all the work on this.

Oven – Harvey (Kitchen supplier) has been told this has to be sorted by the Church Council, 17th February 2011 together with the water softener and hot water.

The **tower porch pathway** and steps to the church are covered in algae and moss and needed to be cleared.

Pastoral

Directory errors: Wild Family - Tel 01372 **3**78440
Sheila & Ken Davies' e-mail address should read: sheila.davies@yahoo.com

Mission

Messy Church is doing very well and there were 55 children at the last event. This is a good method of outreach to the local community.

Housegroups – material available after Easter about using the Bible. Groups can make their own decisions whether to participate. It is a York course with DVD and would be a good opportunity to involve URC members.

URC Missionary regeneration officer is meeting with Ian on 4th March. Les and Jean will attend on behalf of the Stewards.

We are still considering the future of **The Link** magazine and that of the other churches in the United Pastorale. Les to attend an Elders' meeting at the URC to discuss the Magazine issue.

We will have the **Trinity School** service here at LMC at Easter.

We are very fortunate and blessed to have **new families** come to LMC.

We have been invited to three **social events** by the URC. (see dates for diaries)

Harvest will be on 18th September. Conversations needed about harvest lunch. (Church Council Agenda)

Leatherhead Hospital Services

2 x 3rd Sunday a quarter. Around 10.45 for 20 minutes.

20th February next one. Ian to ask Pam if she could possibly provide some music. About 4 people. Linda Hauxwell will help with the first one.

Photocopier

Methodist Music group - it was agreed that we think 3p per copy will cover costs. We can keep an eye and how it works out and adjust if necessary.

Security

We must remain security conscious and make sure outside doors and vestry door are locked during the service.

Heating

We need the heating on until 11.30am as many people are complaining about the cold. Carol to speak to Meurig. *Having spoken to Meurig I have found that the heating goes on at 6am on a Sunday morning and does not turn off until midday.*

Stewards

Nominations are requested for stewards as two of our stewards will have completed their period of service at the end of April.

Dates for Diaries

2nd March -	Leadership team
3rd March -	Circuit Meeting and Uniting Churches Council meeting at 4pm at the URC
10th April -	Church Lunch URC 12 – 2pm
11th June -	Ecumenical away day
10th July –	Picnic URC 13
24th September	Harvest supper - URC

Christ Church & LMC Spring Lunch

Spring Lunch
Sunday 10th April 2011
12 noon
Christ Church Hall
Adults £5
Children £2.50

Tickets available after morning
services at Christ Church and
LMC in March
Any profit to the Leatherhead
Night Hostel



Christ Church, Epsom Road

Coffee & Chat



in the annexe at 10:30am on the first Wednesday of each month.
There is plenty of room to park your car.

A-Z of organ music

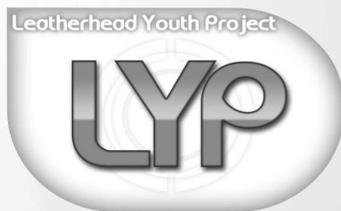


a series of monthly 40-minute recitals by
Anthony Cairns on the Hill Norman & Beard pipe
organ, Christ Church, Epsom Road, Leatherhead
at 11:15am on Wednesdays from 2 March 2011.

100 composers in 10 programmes.

Admission free.

Leatherhead Youth Project



BFree is open every day after school

Weekly Triumph cell group for Year 7+

Contact jay@leatherheadyouthproject.com for more details

Sunday 13 March Triumph AM

10-12pm @ BFree (school years 5+)

Sunday 13 March

KNOW Family?

6:30-8pm @ BFree for young people in Year 8+

Continuing the series of 12 sessions exploring faith and lifestyle issues relevant to teenagers

Sunday 27 March Triumph AM

10-12pm @ BFree (school years 5+)

Also look out for:

Duke of Edinburgh scheme

MTB trip 5 March

Miss Bliss for year 7, 8 & 9 girls

contact Lucie@leatherheadyouthproject.com for more details

www.leatherheadyouthproject.com

LYP Soulnet Retreat

On a cold, misty February morning three intrepid youth workers from LYP (Lucie, Andy & Jay) set out with a fellow youth worker from Bookham Baptist Church (Adam) and headed to Sherwood Forest for the annual Soul Survivor youth workers' conference. The group looked forward with excitement at the prospect of spending a weekend together, worshipping, listening to God and having time and space to relax. The group was not disappointed as they arrived at Centre Parcs in Nottingham and found their woodland lodge for the weekend, a perfect environment for clearing your head and focussing on God. The sessions started with uplifting worship allowing the tired youth workers to draw close to God and receive refreshment from the Holy Spirit, before listening to interesting and challenging talks from Mike Pilavachi and Andy Croft from Soul Survivor Church Watford.

Space was given to allow the group to indulge in writing, composing, reading, reflecting, seeking, walking, cycling and playing; all the elements that are often squeezed out of a busy life style but are essential to create a balance between work and play and maintain a healthy relationship with God.

The group returned feeling challenged, yet refreshed to continue the year meeting the young people 'where they are at', introducing them to faith and accompanying them on their journey with God.

Jay Bristow

Churches Youth Worker

Evening for Prayer and Reflection

At the joint meeting of LMC and Christ Church it was agreed that we should form a group to pray together about the future.

To start this, we will be having an evening of prayer and reflection on the way forward on Monday 14th March at LMC.

This will be an opportunity to reflect on where we are, to pray through our hopes and fears and to seek an awareness of where God is leading us.

The Marsden March

Would you like to help raise funds for the Royal Marsden? See the details of a Sponsored Walk below. Luckily, one of our congregation, David Barnes, will be undertaking the "Marsden March", so please see David and sponsor him in his endeavour.

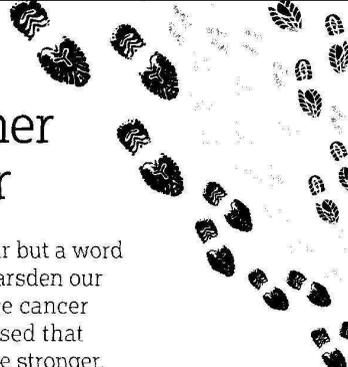
The
**Marsden
March**
Sunday 27th March 2011

Let's walk together to take on cancer

Cancer. It's a word we all dread to hear but a word we hear all too often. At The Royal Marsden our staff, patients, family and friends face cancer everyday. Over the years we've realised that when we take on cancer together, we're stronger. Which is why on **27th March**, we will all put our best foot forward to raise money, by walking the 14 miles between our Chelsea and Sutton hospitals. Together we can continue to stand up to cancer each and everyday. Walk with us, raise money and together we'll take on cancer.

Register for The Marsden March today at
www.royalmarsden.org/march

Registered Charity No. 1095197



Next Messy Church:

Thursday 17th March,
3.30pm to 5.30pm at



"Me" Time

For the last twelve weeks while Denis was having continuous chemo/radiotherapy, time just for myself was in short supply. The treatment broke up the days into small portions, never quite knowing how long each would be. So, with a whole day in front of me, while Denis had a blood transfusion, was such a luxury! I knew in advance that, from coming home from the Royal Marsden Hospital in the morning, until I was to be phoned about four in the afternoon to say the treatment was completed, those six hours would be mine.

In my mind I planned how the time would be spent. I would give the carpets a good Hoovering before I forgot what colour they really were; I would clean the downstairs windows - weather permitting - so we were not looking out through 'fog'; there was ironing waiting and perhaps I would make a cake.

The day came! I was home before ten o'clock adding precious minutes. First job, the carpets. OK, the furniture did not get moved, but it was more thorough than of late, and, gracious me, the hall carpet really is quite a nice blue once the winter grubbiness brought in from the outside had been sucked away. Next, the ironing, my pet hate! The pile was not as high as I thought. At least it was not falling over. A quick flick through - nothing urgent. It didn't smell of mould so could wait a bit longer! A leisurely cup of coffee and the daily paper to peruse. It is not often I welcome a rainy day but it made the decision for me about window cleaning - a no-go! Now for the cake. I had all the ingredients except enough milk. While the oven was heating I went across to the Bungalow Stores for supplies. And there, sitting on the counter, were two iced buns crying out 'Buy me!'

Back home I turned off the oven (what a waste of electricity) put everything away and made some lunch. Then I sat with yet more coffee and a good book.

I was woken with a start by the telephone ringing. My book was on the floor and the coffee was cold. 'Me' time over!

JP



**The Women's Network in the Methodist Church
South-East District Day**



"Peas, rice...and more"

at Tonbridge Methodist Church

Higham Lane, Tonbridge, TN10 4JT

<http://tonbridgethodistchurch.org>

Saturday 19 March 2011, 10.30am to 3.30pm

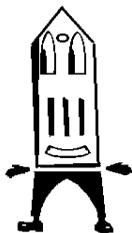
with Alison Judd, past Connexional WN President and ex mission partner: "Shelling peas and picking rice - mission alongside women in Barbados"

and Jill Baker, president-designate of MWiB: "Methodist Women in Britain - what's on the menu?"

**Bring a packed lunch - drinks provided
(£3.00 day charge covers refreshments and contribution to expenses)**

Local contact: Daphne Arden 01732 355620

roi.daff@tiscali.co.uk



Leatherhead

Activities at Leatherhead Methodist Church

Sunday Services: 10.30am and 6.30pm

Holy Communion is normally celebrated on the first Sunday in the month (morning) and the third Sunday in the month (evening).

Evening Services - The second Sunday is a United Pastorate service at one of the five churches in the Pastorate, while the fourth Sunday is normally "New Fire" contemporary worship with the Leatherhead Uniting Churches held at LMC.

Crèche available for young children during the morning service.

Coffee is served after every morning service - all are very welcome to join us.

LMC Discoverers: Sundays at 10.30am **Contact:** Mary Pittam 01372 272658

Messy Church: Third Thursday 3.30pm - 5.30pm **Contact:** Jane Smith 01372 372919

House Fellowships

Monday Fellowship: Meet fortnightly **Contact:** Carol Stoves 01372 377125

Wednesday Fellowship: Meet monthly during Lent (fortnightly following Lent) **Contact:** Winifred Ashbrook 01372 276776

Friday Afternoon Fellowship: Meet fortnightly **Contact:** Jane Smith 01372 372919

Splatter Box: Thursday mornings term-time 10.00am - 11.30am **Contact:** Jane Smith 01372 372919

Tiddlywinks: Friday mornings term-time 10.00am - 11.30am **Contact:** Jane Smith 01372 372919

ROOM BOOKINGS Contact: Joy Foreman 01372 378869
ALL BOOKINGS MUST BE ENTERED INTO HER DIARY

United Pastorate Ministers

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