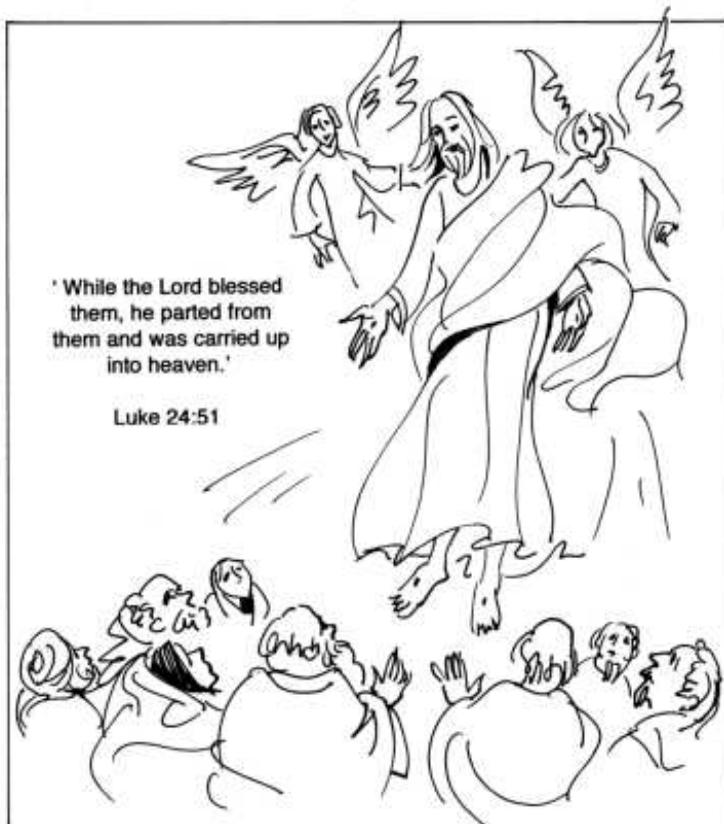


the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**



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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All copy for the June issue to the editor by 15th May



The Ministers Write...



From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

As I trawled through my e-mails a few weeks ago I found an e-mail from the Elmbridge Multi-Faith Forum Committee. The e-mail contained an article which was entitled 'Losing my Religion for Equality'.

The article was written by the ex-president of the United States Jimmy Carter, formerly a member of the southern Baptist Church in America. I say formerly because after 60 years as teacher and deacon of the church he has now severed all ties. In the article Jimmy Carter goes on to explain why that decision was unavoidable.

He says "Carefully selecting bible verses to perpetuate the idea that women should be subservient to men and prohibited from serving as deacons, pastors or chaplains means that women are prevented from playing an equal role in faith and society." He suggests "The view that women are somehow inferior to men is not restricted to one religion or belief nor does this influence stop at the walls of the church, mosque, synagogue or temple... the belief that women must be subjugated to the wishes of men excuses slavery, violence, forced prostitution, genital mutilation, laws that omit rape as a crime... the roots of prejudice lie deep in our histories but the impact is felt every day... it is self defeating for any community to discriminate against half the population; we must challenge these self serving attitudes and practices that subjugate women throughout the world. This kind of understanding damages us all. This is not only a clear violation against the Universal Declaration on Human Rights but also the teachings of Jesus Christ, where all the children of God are treated equally and with dignity."

Now I am not a feminist but I am someone who believes in God given equality. "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

continued on the next page

The article by Jimmy Carter written over four pages highlights for me something beyond the rights of women - the desperate need to challenge any belief that seeks to prejudice or subjugate another, or where the Gospel is used in such a way as to justify the unjustifiable. Sadly we have seen too many cases on the news where this has been true. But as we welcome the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, I do pray that God will breathe into our hearts and minds a fresh understanding and in doing so will influence our attitudes so that we will not be channels of prejudice, but of truth and of justice.

The gospel sets us free!

With every blessing

Kim

From Rev. Ian Howarth

Dear Friends,

On 19th May we will be celebrating Pentecost Sunday. It is a time to celebrate the life and the power of God's spirit within us and the world, and also a time to celebrate the birthday of the church.

On that day we will be focussing on the story that Luke tells in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, with the spirit coming as a rushing wind, and settling on the disciples in tongues of fire. It is a story that speaks of a drama and a power that we struggle to recapture in our church life. People speak in strange tongues, the disciples are accused of being drunk. It is all very strange and we struggle to picture exactly what was going on. But the important thing is that lives were changed.

As I write this I am very conscious of the tragedy of the world, and how humans visit death on each other, whether in bombs at the Boston Marathon or in Iraq, or in the personal tragedy of a distraught mother killing her children and then herself.

The message of Easter and Pentecost is that through faith in the risen Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, life can come out of death. However, there is a real danger of that coming across as a simplistic message that denies the power and horror of death.

As we celebrate the life of God's spirit, we have to do that not as an escape from the life-denying things we see around us, but as a way of engaging with them. For many, whether those in places of violence and oppression, or those suffering personal tragedy, hope is a hard commodity to find. The resurrection of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit does not offer a magic trick to put things right. But the evidence of the New Testament, and of Christian experience down the centuries, is that through the risen Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, new life is possible, lives can be changed, and love does win in the end.

In May we also observe Christian Aid week, from 12th - 19th May. This year it finishes on Pentecost Sunday, and it is good to support a Christian organisation that seeks to affirm life before death for all people, particularly those in need. I hope people will respond to Margaret Dodds-Ely's request, later in the Link*, for more help in the collection for it is a public way of showing ourselves to be people who wish to bring God's hope into people's lives.

I pray that through the difficulties we all face, and in our troubled world, our churches may be a sign of hope, they may be communities where new life is offered, where lives do change, and where we show God's love, the love that can never be put out.

Yours in Christ

Ian

* see page 20



Rev. Robert Teasdale

When Rev. Robert Teasdale was a minister in the Wimbledon Circuit, he and Joyce bought a retirement house in Cobham. So when, as Methodists say, he sat down, he joined our congregation and soon became very active. Our house group often met at his house, he was fully involved in the Friday night prayer meetings, and he was active in the leadership of the Sunday evening united services. In particular he led us in discussions on the way forward, which led to the appointment of Michael Meech as Associate Minister, and which took further the good relations with Cobham Community Church, which have now blossomed again. His insistence on the importance of prayer and bible study has had a lasting effect. So we were very sorry to learn that Robert has died following a brain tumour. We thank God for his ministry to us. Everything above about Robert's ministry should really be about Robert and Joyce, very much a team ministry. We ask God's blessing on Joyce and their family.

DC

Do you want to learn sign language?

Beginners British Sign Language (BSL) course starting Wednesdays from 2nd October 2013 daytime and evenings in Cobham. Fun and quality teaching, competitive price.

Interested? Email signforthoughts@ntlworld.com
website: www.signforthoughts.co.uk "

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>

Over the next six months, the Link will publish the six myths one by one to help us reflect on the issues:

1. 'They' are lazy and don't want to work

The most commonly cited cause of child poverty by churchgoers and the general public alike is that "their parents don't want to work". Yet the majority of children in poverty are from working households. In-work poverty is now more common than out-of-work poverty. It is readily believed that across the country there are families in which three generations have never worked, and this is used as the argument behind welfare policies. However the report shows that examples of such families have not been found, and the evidence suggests it is unlikely they ever will be.

[The second Myth, *'They' are addicted to drink and drugs*, 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.



housing and care for older people



Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary - May



Thurs	2nd	7.30pm	Leaders to meet with Cobham Community Church
Fri	3rd	4.30pm	CYC at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Sun	5th	11.00am	James Cameron
Sat	11th	10.00am 2.30pm	Time 4 You (to noon) Platinum Service
Sun	12th	11.00am	John Fisher
Fri	17th	4.30pm	CYC at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Sun	19th	11.00am 12 noon	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion Annual Church Meeting
Tues	21st	7.30pm	House Fellowship at the Manse
Thurs	23rd	3.30pm	Messy Church at the URC (to 5.30pm)
Sun	26th	11.00am	Church Anniversary: Rev. Ian Howarth Joint Service with The Great Commission Ministry and Cobham Community Church
June			
Sat	1st	2.00pm	Church Vision Day (to 5.00pm)
Sun	2nd	11.00am	Angie Choat
Wed	5th	2.30pm	Church Council

Cobham Methodist Church

Anniversary Service Sunday 26th May

As usual we will be doing it in style!

We are going to be joined by our friends from the Filipino Church and our friends from Cobham Community Church. Each of the churches will contribute to the service with Ian preaching [and playing the piano if I can't get a pianist!!]. This will also be our farewell to Ian as he prepares to move to Birmingham. We would normally have lunch after the service but as we are going to be a large congregation we are having an indoor picnic lunch instead. I will let you all know how it goes!

Rhonda



Next "Time 4 You"
Saturday 11th May
10.00am - 12noon
Cobham Methodist Church



Cobham

United Reformed Church

Cobham URC Worship Diary - May



Sun	5th	9.00am	Early Bird Service
		10.30am	Andrew Gibb
Sun	12th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Sun	19th	10.30am	Rev. Roy Bones
Sun	26th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton
June			
Sun	2nd	10.30am	John Stewart
Sun	9th	Special Church Meeting after the Service	



Prayers at the Manse
at 9.30am on
Wednesdays: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th May



Rock 'n' Soul
7.00pm to 9.00pm
Friday 24th May
(and then monthly)
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 14th & 28th May
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 - May

Fri	3rd	4.30pm	CYC meets at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Sun	5th	3.00pm	Special Needs Group (to 6.00pm)
Tues	7th	9.45am 7.30pm	Church Walk Elders' Meeting
Thurs	9th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
Tues	14th	11.00am	Coffee for Carers
Thurs	16th	8.00pm	Evening House Group
Fri	17th	4.30pm	CYC meets at the URC (to 6.30pm)
Thurs	23rd	3.30pm	Messy Church at the URC (to 5.30pm)
Fri	24th	3.00pm 7.00pm	T @ 3 at church Rock 'n' Soul Music at the URC
Tues	28th	11.00am	Coffee for Carers

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



Date:

Thursday 23rd May 2013

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

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

All are welcome



Effingham

Methodist Church

Effingham Methodist Diary - May



Wed	1st	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Sat	4th	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall (to 11.00am)
Sun	5th	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - with Holy Communion
Tues	7th	10.00am	Church Council (to 12noon)
		2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Thurs	9th	2.15pm	Bible Study Group in the hall
Sun	12th	10.00am	Rev. Robert Davey
Tues	14th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	15th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Sun	19th	11.00am	Chapel Anniversary with Rev. Ian Field
Sun	26th	10.00am	Martin Ellis
June			
Sat	1st	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall (to 11.00am)
Sun	2nd	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumpton - with Holy Communion



Prayer Meetings

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

Birthday Dates to celebrate this month



Wow! What a lot of birthdays this month!
Jayne and Norma on 3rd; Trevor on 11th;
David on 21st and Pauline on 29th

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

Dates for your diaries

There is a **Church Council meeting** in the Chapel on **Tuesday 7th May** from **10.00am to 12noon**. Items for inclusion on the agenda should be sent to our Church Secretary, Gill Walker.



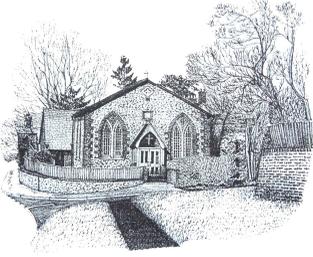
Week 12th-18th May 2013

Churches Together in Effingham and Little Bookham's street collection in Effingham during Christian Aid week will be staffed by volunteers from Monday to Saturday from 10.00am to 4.30pm. Methodists do our bit on Wednesday 15th and Saturday 18th but if you'd prefer another day, please do contact Gill Walker either by telephone (01372 457987) or e-mail on: GillianMWalker@gmail.com

Ben Keepen

It is with great joy that I learnt of the fact that Ben Keepen is to marry his girlfriend Jo on 25th May at St Nicholas Church Bookham. I have known Ben since he was a young lad and followed his career in music and catering with great interest. So I was especially pleased when I heard of the date of the wedding as it is the date of my wedding anniversary too (67 years ago!) By a strange co-incidence Ben's brother Nicholas was married to Kiri on that same date some years ago. Nicholas was the prime mover in setting up a gardening business which is flourishing and now Ben works with him. Trevor and Jane are also involved which makes it a real family business.

Freddie Jenkins



159th Chapel Anniversary Weekend

18th & 19th May 2013

Saturday: Coffee morning from 10.00am to 12noon with an exhibition on Wesley's Warmed Heart and our Chapel's History

2.30pm: If weather fine? - Meet at the Chapel for a walk of two or three miles - back about 3.30-4.00pm

If weather bad? - Chapel's History by Dave & Ange

4.00pm: Fun quiz

TEA at 4.30pm: scones, sandwiches & cake



Followed at **6.00pm** by “**WESLEY – a Heart Transformed can Change the World**”, an award-winning feature film about the young John Wesley's spiritual struggle and search for genuine faith.

Donations please for World Missions (MAF)

On **Sunday 19th May at 11.00am**, Rev. Ian Field and his wife Doreen will help us celebrate our **159th Anniversary**, and 20 years since the refurbishment of our little Victorian Chapel.



The service will be followed by lunch at a local pub at 12.30pm.

Please contact Ange or Dave if you would like to see a menu.

Celebrating the 275th Anniversary of the “Aldersgate Experience”

**Journey to
the Warmed Heart**

The story of the Wesley brothers
growth into faith

A film and display at Effingham
Chapel on Saturday 18th May



Georgia on my mind!

It's 275 years since John Wesley's "warmed heart" on 24th May 1738, and his brother Charles's similar experience a couple of days earlier.

A revelation so profound that they were changed men, with a deep conviction that Christ had died for them. This led to their life-long journey to spread Christ's message of forgiveness throughout the British Isles.

A far cry from self-doubt and depression which sent them to Georgia, a fledgling British colony in America, three years earlier. An adventure which so nearly ended in disaster and death...

They sailed to Georgia in 1735, six months after their father's death, and John's failure to secure the living at Epworth, which made his mother and unmarried sisters homeless. Their older brother, Samuel, was furious with John's decision to accept a job as chaplain to the settlers and for Charles to become secretary to General Oglethorpe, the colony's founder. He was worried about Charles's health, as he'd been a premature baby and never strong. But to no avail. Charles was ordained just six weeks before they sailed. What about his mother and the rest of the family? Samuel's problem!!

They were nearly shipwrecked on the outward voyage, and Georgia was a real slap in the face. Living in huts or tents, with unruly and irreligious settlers, flirtatious and conniving women, Indians little better than heathen savages, deadly snakes and alligators, swamps and the boiling heat. Charles was ill with dysentery and a chest infection and stayed less than a year. John came home a chastened man but they'd met the Moravians who would change everything.

Please come and join us on 18th May for the full story.

Angela Putland

Leatherhead Pages

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



Next Messy Church:

Thursday 16th May
3.30pm to 5.30pm at



Easter was celebrated at Messy Church on 21st March AND 18th April - we believe in doing things thoroughly! On 21st March, we "eggsplored" the whole Easter story. Children were challenged to collect a special jigsaw puzzle at each activity station. The finished picture included six aspects of Holy Week - from Palm Sunday to the risen Jesus - and a big "?" acknowledging the many questions people have about the resurrection. On 18th April our theme was New Life and there were seeds, eggs, chicks and butterflies a-plenty. Jay and Dave made a starring appearance as two rather overgrown caterpillars, speculating about whether it could really be true that they would be "born again" as beautiful butterflies.

Both sessions were very well attended and we are delighted to be welcoming several new families who are enjoying all the Messy activities.

Jane Smith



Christian Aid Week

Thank you for the response we have already had regarding help during this important week in the Church calendar. There are still many blanks in our list of collectors so it is not too late if you feel you might have some time to spare whether it be house to house collection or an hour's stint at the Town Centre. For those of you who like fantastic views, a small patch at Givons Grove, or 10 houses only at Tyrrells Wood are on offer. If Fir Tree Road is nearer to home, a gap has appeared there for one year only.

I finish with a huge thank you to Anne Ray who was our organiser for many years, we are thinking of her at this worrying time.

We look forward to a deluge of calls!

*Margaret Dodds-Ely, (01372 277415)
Sheila Edwards and Mary Keene*

Leith Hill Festival: Leatherhead Trinity

On Saturday 23rd March, Leatherhead Trinity Key Stage One choir won the Age Seven and Under trophy at the Leith Hill Festival.

They sang "The Body Song" by Mark and Helen Johnson and "Share the Light" by Bernadette Farrell. The adjudicator was very impressed with their confident singing and wonderful diction.

Lindsay Boswell who conducts the choir was extremely proud of the children who remembered to do everything she asked them to - they even remembered to smile!

Reflection on the Lent Groups

At first I had some misgivings about the choice of Lent course. Who was this Geoff Lucas ? What were his credentials ? Was he a pushy American evangelist with slick answers for everything ? I was favourably surprised. Geoff Lucas comes over on his DVD as a man who has thought deeply about his faith, and can talk about it in a direct, disarming way.



As a leader, I found he did not provoke controversy, but rather led you to contemplate the momentous events leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection, and how they impact on our lives today. I am not absolutely convinced that the camping allegory really worked - one tended to be distracted by his efforts to cook bacon - but what he said was sincere, original, well thought through and deeply felt. It left you pondering the significance of Jesus' journey to the cross long after the group sessions had ended.

At the end of it all, we are still left with the mystery of how the execution of an itinerant preacher in the Middle East two thousand years ago has left such an indelible mark on our lives today. It is heartening that both the newly elected Pope and Archbishop of Canterbury seem to want to redefine Christianity in its essential terms. As in every year, we are called to do the same from Easter 2013 onwards.

Mike Essex



Men's Breakfasts

Sat 18th May at LMC (Speaker Tim Hall - the role of a County Councillor)

Sat 22nd June at Christ Church Hall
Sat 27th July at the Parish Church Hall

Doors open 8.00am. Cost £4. (Proceeds to speaker's nominated charity).



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

Happy Child Cupcake Initiative

WOULD YOU BE A HAPPY CHILD CUPCAKE QUEEN AND HOSTESS?

Or

DO YOU HAVE A SCHOOL CONTACT WHO WOULD ORGANISE A SCHOOL CUPCAKE SALE?

We are launching a National Cupcake initiative during May/June/July and would like Happy Child Hostesses in as many regions of the UK as possible.

Our aim is to have volunteer:

1. Hostesses for a Cupcake coffee morning or afternoon tea
2. Schools to organise a Cupcake sale

Your event could include:

- sale of cakes
- demonstration of decorating cupcakes
- trial of decorating cakes

and can be a small event in your own home or for our brave organisers - ticketed event in a local hall. All proceeds would be for Happy Child in support of our three centres in Recife.

If we can get 25 Hostesses and each manage to raise £100 that would be a fantastic £2,500 for Happy Child and even better £200 would raise £5,000!

Please e-mail caroline.taylor@happychild.org or chris.nancarrow@happychild.org to register your name as Hostess and let us know your idea for an event and approximately when you may hold it.

We thank you for your support.

Letherhead Institute Art Project

The art installation which now takes pride of place on the façade of the Institute at the top of Leatherhead High Street was created by young people of the LYP (Leatherhead Youth Project) and the Fire and Iron Gallery to celebrate:

- the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II
- the Olympic Road Cycle Races through Leatherhead
- 120 years of the Letherhead Institute

The project was sponsored by: The Leatherhead Community Association, Leatherhead Decorative and Fine Arts Society, Surrey County Council and the Trustees of the Letherhead Institute.

Congratulations to all those involved.

*June Robinson
Chairman,
Leatherhead Community Association*



MUSIC ON THURSDAYS



12.30 Lunchtime Concerts

lasting 40 - 50 minutes

Free entry - with a retiring collection

Thursdays at Leatherhead Methodist Church

with

Wednesdays at Christ Church URC

June

Wed 19 Jun - **Wednesdays at Christ Church**

Anthony Cairns, organ

Thu 27 Jun - **Fabricio Mattos, guitar, Georgia Knower, soprano**

students of the Royal Academy of Music

July

Thu 4 Jul - *to be confirmed*

Thu 11 Jul - **Mahrisol Lee, violin with pianist**

students of the Royal Academy of Music

Wed 17 Jul - **Wednesdays at Christ Church, Epsom Road**

Anthony Cairns, organ

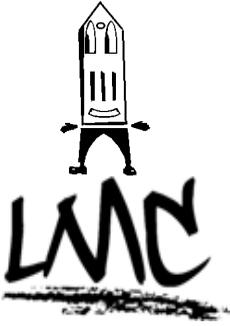
Thu 25 Jul - **Nannerl Piano Duo**

students of the Royal Academy of Music

concerts continue each week through

August, September and October 2013

www.musiconthursdays.org



Leatherhead

Methodist Church

Diary - May



Wed	1st	11.15am 7.30pm	Organ Recital at Christ Church LMC/ChCh Steering Group at the Manse
Fri	3rd	2.30pm	Time for Tea (ends 4.30pm) <i>(see page 30)</i>
Sat	4th	10.00am	Uniting Churches Away Day
Sun	5th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion Rev. Ian Howarth
Tues	7th	8.00pm	Leadership Team meeting
Sun	12th	10.30am 6.30pm	Jay Dunning Rev. Ian Howarth
Thurs	16th	3.30pm	Messy Church (to 5.30pm)
Sat	18th	8.00am	CTiL Men's Breakfast at LMC - speaker: Tim Hall - "The Role of a County Councillor"
Sun	19th	10.30am 6.30pm	United Pentecost Service at the Parish Church Joint evening service at Christ Church
Sun	26th	10.30am 6.30pm	Clive Haines New Fire
June			
Sun	2nd	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion Rev. Paul Cockburn
Sat	8th	5.00pm	Barbecue at the Manse
Thurs	13th	8.00pm	Church Council
Thurs	27th	12.30pm	First "Music on Thursdays" at LMC <i>(for details see opposite)</i>

Easter Holiday

This was not a journey to some exotic place in warmer climes, but to Great Bookham, and that was adventure enough for me! By the way, my name is Daisy and I am a cat. I think I am fifteen, well beyond kittenhood. Usually I live with my Tadworth family.

I knew something was up. Mrs got the basket out. 'Oh, no!' I thought, 'I am having none of that.' I may be of slight build and not so young but four stiff legs, claws fully out and an arched back defeated her. So Mrs picked me up and dumped me in the footwell of the car. 'Stay there! Don't move!' she said. Don't move? I was petrified!

At the new house, to my horror, I found carpets everywhere. I catch my claws in carpet! First essential was to find a safe place. It was a narrow space between the washing machine and a cupboard and I went right underneath the bottom shelf. Nobody, nothing could get me there. I came out smothered in cobwebs but the new Mrs cleaned me up.

One morning I followed the new Mr out into the garden and round into the greenhouse. He did not notice I was still exploring under the staging when he shut the door. I was not too worried. It was warm and dry, and I found a lovely pot full of compost with some fresh greenery at the top. I padded round and round and settled down to wait. When they did find me, Mr shouted 'Oh, my carrots!' Carrots? I didn't see any carrots!

At night Mr & Mrs shut the door into the hall but I found I could open it quite easily and go upstairs as soon as it was light to get them up. First I walked up and down them and then sat on a pillow and purred into the nearest ear. I can get up quite a rumble when I try. 'Wretched cat' they said. 'It is too early. Your timer has gone wrong.' I didn't know I had a timer, just my stomach said I needed food!

I sleep a lot. Most cats do. My favourite place, on a rare sunny day, was a warm spot in the sun lounge to stretch out in and almost cook. Bliss, sheer bliss! When I am not sleeping or eating or simply contemplating, I groom myself. I am fastidious about this! My paws, whiskers and fur must be absolutely pristine. My Tadworth Mrs makes sure I am flea-free. Nothing is more tiring than having to scratch, scratch, scratch.

I suppose I will have to go back to Tadworth some time, but meanwhile, I will make the most of the peace and quiet here.

Daisy Pelling

PS I wouldn't let them catch me to take home, so I am still here!

Jonah Chapter 3

The following is an excerpt from a sermon preached at St George's Iron Church of Scotland in Glasgow fifteen or more years ago by Sinclair Ferguson as part of a sermon on the subject of Jonah chapter 3:

Last century in the Gorbals Sunday School mission that was run in the East Gorbals, the Superintendent recounts in this narrative to which the great Horatius Bonar the hymn writer has a foreword - recounts how they found themselves seeking to reach young children who had no background whatsoever in Scripture or in the message of the Gospel - like today - listen to this:

He says, "The school was opened by the East Gorbals Sabbath School Association" (and there's a name to conjure with if you're wanting a really eye-grabbing title for an evangelistic agency). Listen to what he says about the children: He says, "Those who came (and there were very few of them) were more like the children of barbarous parents than anything else." And he goes on to give you a description that authenticates his own. "They were ignorant, unruly and ungodly. They had never heard of the Gospel of peace until they came to that school and it was not for any good purpose that many of them attended."

Some of you who have been on missions will know exactly what he is speaking about but have you ever experienced this? Now this is nineteenth century Glasgow. If you thought children today were bad listen to this. Nineteenth Century Glasgow. "The floor of the room was laid with bricks..." Do I need to say any more? "...many of which were frequently torn up..." and says this good man "...and on several occasions I providentially escaped being struck with large stones which were thrown at me. Other scholars were given to swearing, lying, quarrelling and fighting with each other and we prayed and laboured amongst them for a considerable period without seeing any visible improvement in the conduct, never mind the spiritual condition - in the outward conduct of any of them."

He goes on to describe a day - he dates it 11th September 1859. "When some of these Sunday School teachers met together for half an hour for prayer before the beginning of their Sunday School and they prayed for the anointing of God upon their ministry..." On that memorable evening he says, "...the Lord was pleased to give us some fruit of our labours."

continued on the next page

During the closing address at the class, not a few were seen in tears. Some were crying out loud. I intimated at the close that those who were anxious about their spiritual condition should remain. Many did so. Thirteen of them were in bitter agony, crying in despair. One who was a swearer said he felt himself on the very brink of hell. Some of those who were awakened that night had been our most troublesome students of course. Now they were exclaiming, "Oh my sins - oh what will I do?" It seemed as if the Holy Spirit had shed a flood of light upon their hearts... - and listen to this: Here is this - he was a very ordinary man - not only ordinary but in this book he's completely anonymous, but listen to what he says. He says, "The Holy Spirit had shed a flood of light upon their hearts and revealed a whole life of sin in the space of a few minutes. That's all God needs. In the space of a few minutes, turning to Christ, many of them found peace in believing and went away with hearts overflowing with joy". Then he goes on to tell us how the spark leapt over the gap. "On Sabbath 18th September a week later we again met together for special prayer for an increased outpouring of the Holy Spirit. When the school assembled there was an attendance of nearly one half more than had been there the previous Sunday."

Article submitted by Bob Greenfield



Details of House Groups - All Welcome

The **Daytime House Group** meets fortnightly on Fridays from 1.15pm to 2.45pm during school terms and has started a new study course on 'Walking with Gospel Women'. 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.

MWiB Conference at Swanwick (12th - 14th April)

'Crossing the Chasm' Part 1

It was an exceptionally large gathering of 210 women and a few men. As always it was a mixture of Worship, Bible Study, workshops, discussion and fun. The keynote facilitator was Rev. Katei Kirby, Partnership Officer for 'Belonging Together' based at Church House. Katei was a lovely black lady with a marvellous sense of humour. Who dares say we are a dull lot? It was very noticeable that there was a much larger proportion of younger women. Two of these young women were Rev. Jenny Pathmarajah and Rev. Amy Walters, both in their 20's and will be ordained at Conference in July. They led the music throughout, and the evening prayers. Both were extremely talented as singers and instrumentalists.

A sub-section of the theme was those who have and those who don't, with varying aspects of the chasm between. Jill Baker chose the story of Ruth as her Bible Study, emphasising Naomi (Ruth's mother-in-law) who was a 'have-not', losing her husband, her sons (and the chance of heirs) and her homeland. When Ruth pledges herself to stay with Naomi and continue with her on her journey, they both become those who have, a new homeland, and, for Ruth, a husband and son.

I chose a workshop based on the work of the MRDF, particularly their involvement in Nepal. The focus of MRDF is to help reduce worldwide poverty, and it is gratifying to hear that extreme poverty has gradually been reduced by half. MRDF work overseas is not about doing the work, but supporting locals who know the local needs. They empower overseas partners to do what they do best particularly when providing emergency relief following disasters.

My second workshop concerned literacy, the closing of the chasm between policies and practices in relation to the 514 million of women around the world who have little or no literacy skills. Literacy is far more than the ability to read and write and understand. Think about it. Our group made a list of thirty or more tasks requiring literate knowledge, and it could have been twice as long! The global need for women's literacy programmes still exists, including GB. In places in the world where women have little status, men often fear giving their women (a 'possession') a voice which may reduce their hold and power! More next month.

Jean Plant



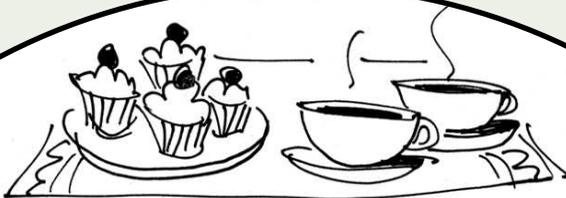
Christian Aid Week

This year at LMC you will find in your May Link a Christian Aid envelope, and we invite you to put your own contribution in this and place it in the collection plate on a Sunday.

With thanks,

Margaret Dodds-Ely

Time for Tea



COME for TEA and COMPANY

From 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Fridays 3rd May, 7th June...

...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)

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead

Organ Recital

**11.15am on Wednesday 1st May
(coffee from 10.30am)**

Mein Junges Leben - Sweelinck
Prelude & Fugue in D - J.S. Bach
Sonata No. 3 in A - Mendelssohn
Paeen - Kenneth Leighton
Mariales - Naji Hakim

Please Note:

From 19th June, organ recitals at Christ Church will be at 12.30pm on the **third Wednesday** of the month.



Local Mission and Ministry Review (LMMR)

LMMR is an important new part of church life, a periodic review of local mission and ministry, introduced by the United Reformed Church for all local churches including URC/Methodist churches and other LEPs which include the URC.

Each Church has a Pastorate Profile setting out its priorities for the church and its mission in the local community, prepared for a new minister. Every two years it is reviewed by the Minister, Elders and Church Meeting to assess progress.

Every four years three people, not from the local congregation, trained as facilitators will visit the church to support and encourage the congregation to review their Profile and make the best use of their resources.

In order for this review to take place we need people to volunteer to train as facilitators. Surrey/Sussex/Synod area has sent out an appeal to all churches in the area asking for volunteers willing to take part in the training.

Our hope is that LMMR will help all local churches:-

1. to have a better focus on its mission and have clear objectives for the church itself to fulfil;
2. to help ministers make the best use of their time, with priorities on which to focus;
3. to do a few things – and to do them well – one of the seven marks of a healthy church – rather than trying to do too much and then feeling guilty about not doing everything!
4. to better fulfil our calling to be God's people, serving him in Jesus' name through the best use of all the gifts of ministry in a church.

If you are interested and would like more information please contact Dorothy Poulton.

Christ Church Diary - May



Wed	1st	10.30am 11.15am	Coffee and chat Organ Recital (<i>see page 31</i>)
Fri	3rd	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC (<i>see page 30</i>)
Sat	4th	all day	Uniting Churches Away Day at Ockley
Sun	5th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Hazel Yu Evening Service at LMC: Rev. Ian Howarth
Sun	12th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion Evening Service at LMC: Rev. Ian Howarth
Tues	14th	7.45pm	Elders' Meeting
Thurs	16th	3.30pm	Messy Church at LMC (to 5.30pm)
Sat	18th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at LMC. Speaker: Tim Hall - "the Role of a County Councillor"
Sun	19th	10.30am 6.30pm	United Pentecost Service at the Parish Church Joint Communion Service with LMC at Christ Church - Rev. Ian Howarth
Sun	26th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Barbara Pearson New Fire - Ecumenical Service at LMC
<u>June</u>			
Sun	2nd	10.30am	Prof. David Cutler
Wed	5th	10.30am	Coffee and chat
Fri	7th	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC (<i>see page 30</i>)



commitment for life

**ENOUGH FOOD
FOR EVERYONE** IF

**CAMPAIGN
UPDATE**

ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE *IF* WE ACT TOGETHER

Born just two weeks apart in northern Ghana, 13-year-olds Sulemana and Lukman are intelligent and articulate teenagers. But whilst Lukman attends Gbanyamni Primary school, where he receives a free school lunch every day, Sulemana must work in the fields and goes hungry. But Sulemana shouldn't have to go hungry because this planet provides enough food for everyone.



Yet hunger is the world's most shocking problem. One in eight people on this planet lives with the pain of hunger. It's unfair, it's unjust, and - it's totally preventable. That's why Christian Aid has joined with over 100 churches and charities to launch the biggest campaign since Make Poverty History, The **ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE IF** campaign hopes to reach more than 20 million people with one aim: to end global hunger - for good.

Sulamana, 13, weeds his father's maize farm 2km from his family home

HOW WILL WE TACKLE HUNGER?

Lukman's school is part of Ghana's school feeding programme which costs the government \$32m - donated by other governments - whilst at the same time tax dodging in the mining sector alone costs the country more than \$36m. Ghana simply can't afford to extend the programme to more schools. Tackling tax dodging would be a major step in ensuring the Ghanaian government has the money it needs to ensure there is enough food for everyone. This campaign will also address issues of aid, land grabs and transparency that all contribute towards global hunger.

This year is our opportunity to make dramatic progress towards ending this crisis. David Cameron will chair the G8 in Northern Ireland in June and we must take this opportunity to come together to ensure world leaders listen and act. IF they do, children like Sulemana will no longer go to bed hungry.

We're really excited that Commitment for Life is involved in this movement. By acting together, we can end this injustice and be the generation to end global hunger.

To discover how you and your church can get involved, visit:
www.christianaid.org.uk/if

Christ Church Family News



We wish **Bob Booker** well for his hip operation this month

We are sorry to report that **Sonia Gigg** died peacefully on 7th April in Milner House. Sonia attended Christ Church regularly for a few years before going to live in Milner House. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family. The funeral will take place at 12:30pm on Friday 3rd May at Randall's Road Crematorium.

We are sorry that **Derek Ray** is unwell and needs Anne's full time care at the moment. We send our very best wishes for his full recovery. It is good to see Anne in church when she can manage it.

We are very sad to report the death of **Olive Rayner** on 12th April, after battling courageously with illness for a long time. We send our deepest sympathy to John and the family in their loss and assure them of our prayers and support. Olive's Thanksgiving Service will be at Christ Church at 3:00pm on Wednesday 1st May, followed by a Crematorium service at 4:15pm.

We remember all those who need our prayers at this time, who are unwell, thinking especially of **Bert and Florence Gower**, and **Carol Hazell**, and others who are undergoing treatment."

Anne Cairns

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

PS. On Sunday 4th August there is another Great Cycle Race with closure of roads etc. We will keep you posted on arrangements.

Mike Essex

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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