

The Methodist Church of

Leatherhead Cobham Effingham

November 2010



Family Link



Our thoughts and prayers are with...

Joy Foreman as she recuperates from her recent cataract operation

We give thanks for the life of ...

Sylvia Warman, who has died recently. Sylvia was a stalwart member of Cobham Methodist Church, who for many years led the Sunday School. Poor health in recent years meant that initially she was unable to leave her home, and then moved to a care home in Dorset



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The Ministers Write...



From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear friends,

I have recently been perusing through some of the 'Biblefresh' material (this is a movement by churches, agencies, colleges and festivals seeking to encourage and inspire churches across the UK to a greater confidence and appetite for the scriptures). Krish Kandiah, a committee member of 'Biblefresh' makes the comment that the Bible is 'the most treasured book on our bookshelf, but that's just it, it's on our bookshelf'. Only a quarter of Christians will open the Bible outside a Sunday service; most feel uncomfortable interpreting scripture and for many it is too long, too difficult and too boring. Only 14% feel comfortable with their Bible knowledge (Biblefresh). Now this may not be our own experience but it does offer us a window into the lives of others.

Yet somehow our thirst for biblical knowledge seems to be diminishing. Fewer people turn out for Bible study these days; there are so many other distractions. Our lives are often so busy and it's not always easy to make the space. Yet in countries all over the world there is a genuine desire for the scriptures to be translated, a thirst for engagement with the word of God striving to make the Bible relevant to their culture and lives.

As preachers and ministers we must take some responsibility for the congregation's lack of enthusiasm. I am sure I am not the first minister to put someone to sleep as I boldly leap into my expositions of biblical passages, rumbling on when I should have stopped five minutes earlier, if I make any sense at all. I must take responsibility for not finding new ways to help the congregation to engage with scripture in a way that offers fresh insights. It may be that the 'sermon slot' needs to take a different shape. Perhaps this model we have been using for so many years needs a self assessment, our thinking, a little too narrow. Of course it cannot possibly be all about Sunday morning but any other initiative requires a commitment from individuals to engage fully.

The Biblefresh initiative is long overdue and I welcome the opportunity to learn new ways of exploring scripture. It is a challenge certainly but if the word points to Christ then we need to be reminded that our knowledge of our sacred texts not only offers us insight but also provides the pathway for others to find Christ.

I encourage you to take your Bible off the shelf and engage in the new initiatives that can only benefit us and those around us.

With every blessing,



From Rev. Ian Howarth

Dear friends,

September has been a month of welcomes and inductions. Kim's ordination at Cobham URC and my induction at Christ Church were special times both for us, and particularly in the way in which they brought people together from the different churches in the new pastorate in such a positive and creative manner.

Speaking personally, I have enjoyed this month, beginning to get to know the people at Christ Church in a different way and realising the complementary gifts that people from the different churches bring as we work together to fulfil God's calling in our community.

By the time you read this I will have led sessions at both LMC and Christ Church looking at our vision of the church in five years' time and how we plan for it, and we hope to continue the work with a joint meeting between the two churches early in the new year.

As we concentrate on thinking on the way forward for our churches, we must not lose sight of context in which we minister. Whatever our politics, the economic crisis and the government cuts lead to a sense of uncertainty. Will there be a job for me, or my children? Will I have to postpone my retirement plans? How much will my savings be worth? What services will there be for me or my dependents?

I suspect many of us will have questions about our own affairs, and it is easy to get bound up in how the changes will affect us personally. But how do we respond as Christians? Are we just concerned about how things affect us, or do we have a care for the wider society, and how do we express that?

We can remember the Bible's concern for justice for the poor, and in the current debates about fairness, perhaps we need to do some work on what a Christian understanding of justice, (which is another word for fairness) might be for the current age.

I am not saying that this leads us to easy answers, or that we will all end up coming to the same conclusions. But I do believe that as part of our Christian discipleship we need to reflect biblically on what is going on in the world around us.

This is not to say that we can use the Bible's understandings uncritically, as we live in a very different culture to that for which it was written. But if we do believe that everyone is a child of God and is valuable and precious to God, how does that affect our approach to the world around us? Part of our role as churches is to be able to reflect together, in the light of our faith, on what it means to live as Christians in the world.

I hope we can find ways of doing that, so that we may be able to offer real Christian insight into the debates about how we respond as a society to the situation in which we find ourselves.

Yours in Christ,

Tan





Cobham Diary -November



Sun	7th	11.00am	Mr David Cappitt			
Sat	13th	2.30pm	Platinum Service			
Sun	14th	10.50am	Mr Robert Pitt (Remembrance Service)			
Sat	20th	7.15pm	Bible Society Quiz Night at Churchgate House			
Sun	21st	11.00am	Rev Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion			
Sun	28th	11.00am	Mr John Oborn			
House Fellowship: to be arranged						



Coffee Morning

We held our annual Coffee Morning at Cobham on 2nd October and the event raised \pounds 175 for Methodist Homes. Sincere thanks to everyone who participated and gave their support for this important charity.

KP

Chile -A Parable of the Story of Salvation?

I don't know if you were gripped by the story of Chilean miners. The rescuing of those 33 miners seems to have captivated the whole world. It combines so much human drama and bravery, technical skill and courage, with a happy ending. It is a real feel good story.

But as I have reflected on it, I have had another thought. Is one of the reasons that it has gripped people so much the fact that the story is a parable of the story of salvation and as such it has worked into people's subconscious because, like the Christian story of salvation, it speaks not just of other people, but to our own deepest needs?

The miners suffer a disaster in which they are totally cut off from the world around, and that total cut off, the darkness, the hunger, the near certainty of death, the hope against hope, they describe as hell, as being in the grip of the devil.

But meanwhile, unknown to them, although hoped for by them, the outside world is looking for them, searching for them, reaching out for them, and after 17 days they are found.

Now hope becomes real, the absolute hell of total isolation and fear, of starvation, is now relieved but still there is a long way to go before there can be rescue. An organisation among the miners, which had already been put in place to cope with the total hell, now must continue to manage the situation and the relationships down the mine.

Meanwhile the work continues on the surface to supply the miners, and also to drill down to rescue them.

Eventually after many days the shaft reaches them. There is a route out, the barrier is broken, but they cannot get out by themselves. The rescuers have to send a pod down the mine and then winch them out. But even that is not enough. Six of the rescuers have to come down the shaft themselves to help them. Even then it is not easy. The youngest miner is so afraid of getting in the pod that he almost says he would rather stay down in the mine. But thankfully they all get out, and the last people to come up are the rescuers.

The miners have been saved.

The Christian salvation story is all there: the miners represent humanity, who for whatever reason become cut off from God, and life without what God provides, (even if people don't recognise it comes from God), life without love and joy, without peace and hope, is hellish.

But God does not give up on us. God, like the rescue services, searches us out. Despite the barrier, which the Bible calls sin, despite the things that cut us off from God, God does not let go.

In terms of salvation history, he opens up the channels that make people aware that there is more to life than the purely material. There is beauty, there is love, there is joy and justice, and people recognise there is something more.

In those first days, the miners of course knew that there was more to existence than what they could experience in their isolation, but when the first thin shaft came through and they could communicate with the outside world, what a change of perspective and sense of hope that must have given them.

In Biblical terms, in the Old Testament prophets like Jeremiah opened up those channels, and their message, and the experience of God they communicated, brought hope.

But full rescue, that entering into life in all its fullness through a complete relationship with God lay in the future.

It needed not just a communication shaft, but a rescue pod to complete the rescue, and that involved someone going down the mine to help the miners up. The outside world had to enter the mine. In salvation history, heaven had to enter earth, and that is what we believe in a mystical way, happens in the life and death of Jesus.

God comes down to earth that we may go to heaven. But still we have to respond. Despite the youngest miner's fear, I suspect there was never any prospect that he would not get in the pod. But for us it is different. We have to make the choice to travel with Jesus. To get into the pod with him, to travel heavenward.

For the miners, heaven is freedom, the reuniting with loving friends and families. For us, heaven is not some distant place after we die, heaven can start now, it is the freedom of a relationship with God, which offers us affirmation, acceptance, freedom to be the people we were made to be. It is life in all its richness, life in all its fullness, a life which transforms us, our relationship with others, with ourselves, and with God's creation.

It is the life that comes through travelling with Jesus, the Jesus who has reached out to us, who has given himself sacrificially for us. It is what it means to be truly 'saved'.

Ian Howarth

Leatherhead Trinity School -Looking afresh at our Vision

Over the last year, we at Leatherhead Trinity School have also been taking a new look at our Vision and Values. We have been in existence now for four years, and our Vision Statement was drawn up as part of the process of creating the school. With the move into our new building marking something of a fresh start in our school life, the time seemed right for a review.

As I talked to governors, staff, and children, I was struck that pretty well everyone thought our Vision was still valid. The emphases of inclusion, spiritual values, care, breadth of education and so on were still seen as defining what is special about our school (and what, in my mind, justifies the existence of faith schools – but that's another story for another time). But equally I couldn't avoid the message that, with the best of intent, our existing statement was too wordy – although only a page, that still made it too long to be a practical day-to-day tool, and it was clear that few people referred to it.

So we hit on the idea of capturing the same principles, not in fluent prose, but as key concepts arranged visually rather than textually (good educational practice involved there!):

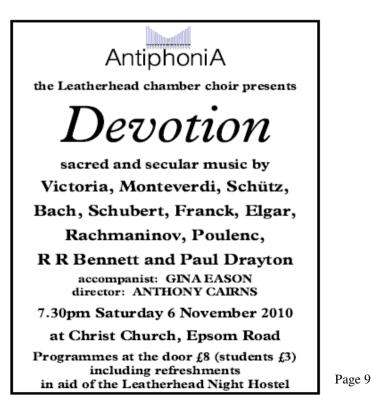


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(for a larger version, see our website: www.leatherheadtrinity.surrey.sch.uk) Start with the one-liner, unchanged: "Inspiring learning, Unlocking the Future". Then three key descriptors of our approach: child centred, achievement for all, community focussed. Then surround that with some of the elements that flow from those and that describe our vision. (And then agonise over several meetings over which elements are the ones important enough to earn their place in the limited space!) The result: much the same Vision, but, hopefully, clearer, more accessible to more people, more to the fore of people's minds and, in consequence, more used.

John Swanson Chair of Governors









Effingham Diary -November





Please note Service times this month 1st and 3rd Sundays @ 9.30am 2nd and 4th Sundays @ 10.30am

Dates to celebrate this month

Birthdays : Freddie on 4th – Barbara on 18th – Pat on 19th **Wedding anniversaries**: Pat & John on 5th - Dorothy & Bob on 6th.

My apologies if anyone is missed but my list is a little out of date and I need your help to update it. It's not just an excuse for extra cake at Effingham, but a chance to show our love too.

AJP

Dates for your diaries

House Group: a new Bible study programme, led by Kim, is being organised, and dates will be announced soon.



First Aid Training ? Could you cope if someone was taken ill or collapsed during a service? Why not ask Angela Putland to run a course in your church. Ring 01372-454850. HSE approved First Aid @ Work or Paediatric certificates available. Or just a two-hour workshop.

Dancing for Joy

That was the wonderful, exuberant sight that Ann Long a worker for the Wycliffe Bible Translators showed us a few years ago when she came for the weekend. The joy was the expression of how these African villagers felt when they were given copies of the Bible in their own language for the first time. Over the years since then we have continued to receive The Long Letter, as Ann calls it, at regular intervals. Originally serving in the Ivory Coast, Ann is now co-ordinating the work in various countries from their H.Q. in Buckinghamshire, and is funded only by gifts from her supporters. As we in Effingham haven't sent her any money for a considerable time I have decided to hold a coffee morning on my birthday, 4th November, in aid of Ann's work, and hope that many of you may be able to call in to 12, Sole Farm Avenue, Bookham between 10.00am and 1.00pm to make a small (or large!) donation for the work Ann is doing .

Thank you!

Freddie Jenkins

To be a Christian in 2010

A recent statement by Stephen Hawking suggesting "God is no longer necessary", prompted me to consider the matter. For Christians, our faith is not built on whether we understand how the earth or universe was created, but on the life and death of Jesus and what effect this has on our lives. Just as it is unreasonable for us to disregard the evidence concerning Jesus and the early Christian Church, it is also unreasonable for us not to listen to what scientists have to say about what they have discovered.

Our dilemma, if we have one, is what impact do man's scientific achievements and discoveries have on our faith? What they do for me is to amaze me and make me think how complex yet beautiful and organised creation is, and also how violent it can be. I am baffled by many of the theories scientists come up with, like relativity and string theory, but I also marvel at the way human beings can understand and develop these ideas. What wonderful people we are!

I am convinced that God expects that we should be inquisitive about our origins and the world in which we live, but I also believe He expects us to take note of His views as revealed through men of faith. It is easy to be overawed by the amazing digital animations on our TV's that give the idea that all is cut and dried, that we humans know it all and have no need of God any longer.

We need the teaching of the Bible, Jesus and other holy people to guide us on our way. For, with all our sophistication, we still don't know how to live together in peace, support each other, share the bounties of the earth and avoid polluting the world. That's why it is so important to believe in what He says and follow His teachings. The Bible says we are our brother's keeper. We are asked to care for others as we care for ourselves. Our faith is not based on a fairytale because fairytales are just that, unreal, divorced from reality. Our Christian faith leads us to the very basics of life, loving and caring, what ever the cost.

Over the centuries the church has served the world. It has educated, fed the hungry, looked after the sick and supported the poor. It does this in response to what God has said and done, not for any ulterior motives but just to please Him, and this work continues to be necessary in the world today. Lets live for him with joy in our hearts.

Lest we forget



On 23rd March 1918 my grandfather, Arthur Watson, was killed in the mud of the Somme. He'd married at the start of the war, and my mother was born in November 1915. He saw her once, and I have just one photo of my mum and her parents. Taken during 1916, and posed in a studio with him in uniform standing stiffly next to my unsmiling grannie. Did she already fear she'd be widowed?

The following year she lost both her brother and brother-in-law on the same day. No flag-draped coffin for them of course, not even a humble cross. Eventually all three were remembered at the Arras memorial, which commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the UK and Commonwealth who died between 1916 and 1918, and have no known grave.

"In Flanders Fields", one of her favourite poems, was written in 1915, by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae a Canadian physician.

This year the Royal British Legion wants to recreate a "Flanders Field" of poppies at the historic Menin Gate memorial at Ypres.

They've also have an on-line message-board at <u>www.poppy.org.uk</u> providing an opportunity to lift the spirits of young men and women in our Armed Forces, serving thousands of miles away from their home and loved ones.

You can read some of their poems on this website:

<u>www.warpoetry.co.uk</u> ... including "Helmand" - a poem by John Hawkhead, which draws parallels between the poppy, grown for opium to fund terror in Afghanistan, but ironically still the symbol of Remembrance Day.

AJP



Tuesday Teas

Tuesday Teas were set up for the older residents of Effingham and Bookham, and meet every other Tuesday throughout the year in the Catholic Church Hall in Effingham. Occasionally we have some entertainment. We have welcomed a conjurer; then Liz Cross from the Catholic Church brought a group ladies who sang for us; and Angela Putland from our own Church gave us a talk with slides on the Howard Family from Tudor times. At our last meeting, instead of our usual tea and cakes, 22 members and helpers enjoyed a fish and chip lunch with follow. We were delighted that the Rev. Kim Plumpton ice cream to joined us and was able to meet our ladies, one gentleman and the volunteers who organise the tea rota and the drivers for those without If anyone would like to join us you will be more than transport. welcome. Please contact Gill or Keith Walker - 01372 457987.

Mary Brooks

Mission Aviation Fellowship

It was a joy to be able to tell Rev. Kim, our new URC Pastoress, how Effingham and Cobham Methodist members had had for some years a working relationship with her colleague Rev. Ken Thom of Sevenoaks URC: some of you will know we have been collecting POSTCARDS - new and unused, or used with their stamps on which we had received from all over the globe - and sending them to him for his re-sale to collectors in aid of Mission Aviation Fellowship -'MAF'. His efforts alone in the past few years have yielded more than £25,000 for this worthy cause! And to date, our members have contributed 4,847 postcards of allsorts and every imaginable origination, adding to his haul. And now we should like YOU to join us in collecting MORE!

MAF is a Christian charity which is well organised to employ dedicated pilots who operate small aircraft into little local airstrips, usually in developing countries in inaccessible places where road travel is extremely difficult. MAF brings in missionaries with the Gospel, Bible translators, medical teams and much-needed supplies such as foodstuffs, emergency equipment and building materials, often bringing hospital cases out. Using their daily Prayer Diary, some of us pray for their work, the engineers and mechanics who maintain the machines and the families who accompany them, living in unfamiliar circumstances in far away places: for example MAF operates in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Chad, Mozambique, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea and even the war torn Democratic Republic of the Congo.

So how can you help? If you can give them, drop the POSTCARDS (not Christmas cards) off in the Effingham Chapel post box by our rear door, or into the collecting box in the Hall itself. Then we shall see them duly sent to Pastor Ken.

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Leatherhead

Leatherhead Diary -November

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Thur	4th	8.00pm	Leadership Team	
Sun	7th		Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion Rev. Ian Howarth	
Sat	13th	7.00pm	Quiz Night (Tickets from Carol Stoves)	
Sun	14th	10.30am	Triumph AM at BFree Mr. Jon Fisher Triumph PM at BFree (all welcome)	
Thurs	18th	3.30pm - 5.30pr	Messy Church n	
Sun	21st		Rev. Ian Howarth Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion	
Sat	27th	8.00am	Leatherhead Churches' Men's Breakfast at Our Lady & St Peter RC Church	
		6.30pm	Triumph AM at BFree Mrs. Tina Andrews New Fire - Rev. Ian Howarth	

The Glory of the Garden

The Glory of the Garden performances at Epsom Methodist Church and at LMC raised a total of £470. This has been shared between the three chosen charities (Zimbabwe Victims Support Fund, Action Duchenne and the LYP) and I have consequently sent £157 to Jay for the LYP. Thank you to everyone who took part or came to see the performance.

Joy Foreman

Leatherhead Youth Project



www.leatherheadyouthproject.com

Duke of Edinburgh Award

We're starting a Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award scheme at LYP in the next couple of weeks. As part of the scheme young people are required to do a SKILL, SPORT and some VOLUNTEERING. Two of these areas they have to undertake for an hour per week for three months, and one they have to undertake for an hour per week for six months. The scheme ends with outdoors skills, a practice expedition and a final expedition.

For example, a typical Bronze award could consist of:

- Playing football once a week outside school (sport)
- Doing a first aid course once a week (skill)
- Helping at a local Brownies group (volunteering)

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In most cases, young people are encouraged to find their own opportunities. However, I would also like to have a pool of resources to use if they don't. It's a great scheme, aiming to motivate young people, keep them fit and healthy, teach them the value of committing to others, and develop new skills and interests. All whilst having a lot of fun with any luck!

I'm looking for contacts to be 'assessors' for skill, sport or volunteering (basically the person that signs the young people's sheet each week and instructs, teaches or delivers the activity). If anyone has contacts, ideas, or would like to help with the scheme themselves, please can you contact me.

With thanks,

Lucie Greenland, Youth Worker/Fundraiser 01372 383345; 07742 191511



Leatherhead's first Messy Church took place on Thursday 21st October, at Leatherhead Methodist Church. Led by a team representing all three Uniting Churches, our theme was Bible Mountains, and we explored a potpourri of Bible stories which take place on a mountain. Think about it there are lots! The whole building was pressed into use - with crafts and

toys for the youngest children in the church (with the carpet safely protected under the largest sheet of plastic known to man!), cookery in the lower hall and games and crafts suitable for older children upstairs. It was great to observe how everyone from toddlers to preteens were happily engaged in the different activities. Just before 5pm, we brought it all together in a short act of worship, after which we all sat down to tea together - 32 children, 16 adult parents/carers There was a wonderful buzz as everyone and about 20 helpers. chatted around the table and met some new friends. There are practical issues that we need to refine - not least the amount of time and effort needed to clear up afterwards. But we are all looking forward to taking Messy Church forward and deepening our relationship with the families over the coming months.

Jane Smith



Catching God's Vision

This is not easy to define. Vision often implies a dream-like quality rather than a specific. To catch means you have something in your grasp that you did not have before. I do not mean like catching a cold, nasty at the time but short-lived. Nor like catching a bus, human controlled with a defined destination. Nor the gentle action of a parent throwing a soft ball to a young child, arms outstretched but uncoordinated.

God's vision is far more than mortally controlled situations. God's vision for us is love and laughter, hopes and celebrations, new life and transformation, reconciliations and forgiveness. It is a freedom from brokenness and moving from dark into light. It sounds big. It is big but with God there is certainty. There is no Plan B! God's vision is not about rules and regulations but a relationship personally sculpted for each individual.

I had my own moment of catching God's vision about ten or so years ago. It was in a quiet time immediately following the Communion Service at the very end of a weekend conference. In an instant I was enclosed in a capsule of complete security. I was taken out of my skin, thoroughly shaken up and put back together again as a different person. I still looked the same but my thinking was different. "Why me and what for?" was my immediate reaction. But I had no answer. The realisation came later and, with it, an assurance that I could do what I never dreamt I could achieve.

Take it from me, catching God's vision is life changing.

JP





Leatherhead

Activities at Leatherhead Methodist Church

Sunday Services: 10.30am and 6.30pm

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

Evening Services - the second Sunday is normally a service run by young people at the BFree Café, where all ages are welcome. The fourth Sunday is normally "New Fire" contemporary worship with the Uniting Churches held at the Methodist Church.

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: Gill Harris 01372 458518 Mary Pittam 01372 272658
<u>House Fellowships</u>		
Monday Fellowship:	Meet fortnightly	Contact: Carol Stoves 01372 377125
Wednesday Fellowship:	Meet monthly	Contact: Winifred Ashbrook 01372 276776
Friday Afternoon Fellowship:	Meet fortnightly	Contact: Jane Smith 01372 372919
Tiddlywinks:	Friday mornings term-time 10.00am - 11.30am	Contact: Jane Smith 01372 372919
Splatter Box:	Thursday mornings 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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