

the Link

**The Methodist Church of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

October 2010



Family Link



Congratulations to...

Ed and Eileen Lambert who had their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 2nd September.
Our young people on their achievements in this year's A Level and GCSE examinations.

We welcome...

Oliver, son of Sarah and Roger Smith, who was baptised at LMC on 22nd August.

Our thoughts and prayers are with...

The family of Georgina Hierons, whose mother died on 10th September.

Best Wishes to...

Margaret Meynen, who is progressing well at home following hip surgery at the end of August.
Paul Fraser and Victoria Farmer, whose wedding is planned for 9th October at Clarendon, Warwickshire

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All copy for the November issue to the editor by 15th October



The Ministers Write...



From Rev. Ian Howarth

Dear friends,

I write this the morning after my induction as minister at Christ Church, Leatherhead. It was a powerful and moving service, and I want to say a big 'thank you' for all the support I received from the Methodist churches as I embark on a new step in ministry, and we all begin to adapt to new ways of working, which I hope and pray will be a way of deepening and developing the mission of God in the area we seek to serve.

If nothing else, the Pope's visit has put religious questions more into the public arena than they have been for some time. It has sometimes been difficult to get to those questions through the failings of the Church, and we need a humility to recognise that the failure of all churches to live up to our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ, hinders the cause of the gospel as much as anything else.

However, it has been good to hear thoughtful discussions on the media about belief in God, and its place in the modern world. My reflection though has been that there has not been enough unpacking about what we are talking about when we say 'God'. In trying to deal with the idea of religion as a whole, the different ways different religions come to an understanding of God have not been explored. This means that there has been virtually no talk of Jesus.

For Christians, our image of God comes from Jesus. There are dangers that people create the Jesus of their own imaginations, but the centrepiece of our understanding of him has to come from the four gospels, an understanding that is summed up when in Luke's gospel at the beginning of his ministry, quoting Isaiah, he says: 'The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

God's priorities are Jesus' priorities, and must be ours, to bring good news, through care, healing and justice, and working in this way, upheld by God's love, is what John's gospel calls, 'abundant life' or 'life in all its fullness'.

Christians do not have a monopoly of those values, and sometimes the church has not been very good at showing them, but they are the values of the Kingdom of God that was at the heart of Jesus' preaching, and are at the core of the gospel.

Through all the changes of this autumn, I pray our churches may be places which are beacons of care, healing and justice, where there is a palpable

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sense of God's love and acceptance for all, and that will energise us to promote the values of the Kingdom of God with confidence in our community and beyond.

Yours in Christ, *Ian*

From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear friends,

As I gaze lovingly over the garden that we have been blessed with at the manse, I am aware of all the time that has been spent preparing the ground so that this well established garden blossoms over the spring and summer months. A sight I look forward to welcoming more fully this coming year.

It occurs to me that some things have outgrown the small space they once occupied, and that in time some pruning before the winter and spring months may well be needed so that space is available for all to grow more fully.

Other areas in the garden lay dormant like the vegetable plot, covered against the weeds waiting for eager hands to inject life into them, by uncovering the potential and the possibilities that will at some point bear fruit. There are hidden treasures too that we have discovered as we unearthed some old logs swallowed up by ivy, only to find a whole wealth of mushrooms growing quite happily in this little piece of sheltered garden.

There are evergreens which bless us with colour all the year round, and deciduous bushes which share with us a momentary glimpse, but whose leaves will flourish again when the time is right.

The garden is complimented by the sound of enjoyment and laughter, children playing on the rope swing, friends enjoying a conversation on the benches. For this garden is not simply for my eyes but for the enjoyment of others too. It is home for the birds which require a safe place to rest or feed on the bread we leave out, the squirrels which leap from branch to branch, and the foxes which visit on occasion.

The landscape changes in every season, some more dramatically than others, but it is wonderfully made and often the changes we see are in preparation for something very precious. I am excited because the garden embraces so many different ways of being, and we at church embrace the need to allow space for all who come through our doors. The richness and diversity of each member and each church is valued; how boring would it be if the garden only blossomed a few weeks a year.

No, I have forgotten about the weeds, but have you ever noticed there are some which you need to pull out and others which when left can be more beautiful than the flowers we grow!

I look forward to watching the garden blossom.



Cobham

Cobham Diary - October



Sat	2nd	10.00am- 12noon	Coffee Morning in aid of MHA
Sun	3rd	11.00am	Mr Rhys Frost
Tues	5th	7.30pm	House Fellowship
Sat	9th	10.00am- 3.30pm	Quiet Day at Leatherhead MC
Sat	9th	9.45am	Cobham Churches Together country walk and picnic (<i>see below</i>)
Sat	9th	2.30pm	Platinum Service
Sun	10th	11.00am	Mrs Freddie Jenkins
Sat	16th	am	preparing the church for the Harvest Festival
Sun	17th	11.00am	Harvest Festival: Rev Kim Plumpton
Thu	21st	7.30pm	Church Council Meeting
Sun	24th	11.00am	Rev Val Ogden - Holy Communion
Sun	31st	<u>10.30am</u>	United at Cobham URC: Rev Ian Howarth.

Country Walk and Picnic

On Saturday 9th October, Cobham Churches Together are organising a country walk for all the community. Meet at 9.45am for a 10.00am start near the Cricketers in Downside. About 5 miles taking in River Mole water meadows, Chatley Heath Semaphore Tower, woodland and farmland with fine views. (There are stiles to be negotiated). Finish back at Downside about 1.00pm. Bring a picnic lunch. Children's games on Downside Common.

More News from Gulu

As reported some time ago, last year the Cobham Uganda Partnership (CUP) undertook a new project, to support the Gulu Core Primary Teachers' College. Largely as a result of the civil war, the college was in a very poor state, with limited furniture, and much of that broken, and very few books and other resources.

As a result of the support from CUP and African Revival, existing furniture has been repaired, and because that was not sufficient, new tables and chairs have been bought. In addition a contract for 100 "double-decker" beds has been signed, which will help to relieve the problem of overcrowding and inadequate sleep among the students.

More than 200 books have already been delivered to the college, covering a wide range of subjects. These are essential for instilling a reading culture across the college.

A heavy duty photocopier has been provided for the college. No longer is it necessary to make the 7km journey into Gulu town every time a photocopy is needed.

Looking forward, there is a plan to provide in-service training and outreach support for primary school teachers in the neighbouring districts. Whether or not this goes ahead, there is a need for additional classrooms at the college. It is hoped that an experienced teacher-trainer can be found through VSO to spend a year supporting the work in Gulu.

Thanks to all who have contributed, and continue to contribute to these efforts to make a difference to the lives and educational opportunities of young people in Northern Uganda.

David Cappitt



COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 2nd OCTOBER 10 -12 noon
COBHAM METHODIST CHURCH

COFFEE - CAKES - BRIC.A.BRAC
PRESERVES - RAFFLE

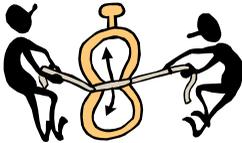
PROCEEDS TO METHODIST HOMES FOR THE AGED



Effingham

Effingham Diary ~ October

Sun 3rd	9.30am	Harvest festival with Rev. Kim Plumpton
Mon 4th	7.30pm	Church Council meeting
Tues 5th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the R. C. Hall
Wed 6th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Sun 10th	10.30am	Rev. Frank Smith with Holy Communion
Sun 17th	9.30am	Rev. Val Ogden
Tue 19th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the R. C. Hall
Wed 20th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Sun 24th	10.30am	Mrs. Freddie Jenkins
Sun 31st	10.30am	United Service at All Saints Church



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

Dates for your diaries ~ Don't forget there's a Church Council meeting on **Monday 4th October**. Any items for discussion should be sent to Gill Walker, our Secretary.

House Group: a new bible study programme, led by Kim, is being organised.



We celebrate our **Harvest Festival** on Sunday 3rd October with Kim, our new minister. All contributions gratefully received. We'll be decorating the chapel, on Friday/Saturday 1st or 2nd, so do come and help.



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.

All are welcome in this place

In September I attended the Synod at Redhill Methodist Church, with most of our Circuit Leadership team. The church is very modern and has an amazing stained glass window, incorporating a huge cross, dove and silhouettes of people, all in bright rich colours. The whole day was really great; very uplifting as well as challenging. It started with a Communion service that was one of the most moving that I have ever attended. Then, apart from a few bits of official business, we heard about the activities and challenges effecting churches throughout the District. The broad subject for the day was *Hospitality, making people feel welcome*. I sat next to a minister from Gibraltar, which you'll be surprised to learn is also in our District! We had opportunities to discuss together and meet folk from all around the South-East. Everything was so very positive but there was no time to relax before the next matter was introduced. By the end of the meeting some of us were zonked out, and needed another doughnut and a cup of tea to revive us! If you get the opportunity to go to Synod do, you will enjoy it and possibly bring back ideas that will be useful to your church.

During the Communion service we sang a hymn that I believe I have sung only once before. It was called "*All are welcome in this place*" by Marty Haugen, an American composer. I am an emotional person, even watching TV can bring tears to my eyes, but the words of this hymn really impressed me on this occasion and were obviously chosen because of the Synod theme.

"All are welcome in our churches" is the challenge. It is sometimes very difficult to really mean this! We may not want strangers sitting in our seats or to make changes to familiar styles of worship. But we would all agree that we want *"to build a house where, all are welcome and where love can dwell and all can safely live."* May the *hopes and visions* God gives us become a reality so that his church may be a strong witness in our communities, workplaces and amongst our families and friends.

May God bless Kim as she starts her ministry amongst us. May we not be afraid to be led by her into fresh expressions of service and worship.

DP



New Effingham Website

Effingham Parish Council is in the throes of setting up a website which will, it is hoped, improve communication across the area.

<http://www.surreycommunity.info/effinghamparishcouncil/>

So please spread the word! It should be great for local publicity.

Effingham continued...



Effingham Village
Bonfire and Fireworks Night
Spectacular
Saturday 30th October
King George V Field ~ Browns Lane
Gates open at 6pm

Fairground rides, music, a torchlight procession,
barbecue, licensed bars, teas, coffees and sweets



Tickets - Children under 12 go free
Adults over 16 - £3.00 in advance from
The Post Office or Parker and Sons in The Street
(Entry on the gate will be £5.00 per person)

"Memory, thou art a sorry jade, I trust thee not"!

I'll give a packet of jelly babies to anyone who can tell me where that quotation comes from! It was shouted at us by our drama teacher when I was a kid and forgot my lines! I think it comes from Shakespeare but I haven't a clue what play, but "memories" are another matter.

I'm reading the autobiography of Julie Walters, one of our most talented actresses and she has an amazing ability to remember all kinds of teenage and childhood experiences, as she grew up in Birmingham with two older brothers, an Irish mother and a father who owned a building and decorating business, a close loving family. My childhood memories are not nearly so clear, so I was delighted to discover recently some sheets of paper on which I had stuck all the entrance tickets to the cricket matches I had attended as a keen supporter of Essex. They were from 13th August 1938 to 23rd August 1939, the last match played before war started and County cricket stopped for the duration. The entrance fee was 6d except when Essex played the Australians when it went up to 1/3! [*6d is 2½p, and 1/3 is just over 6p - Ed.*] Finding these tickets brought back so many memories of happy teenage years, before everything changed for my generation. As we look back over our lives, we can be grateful to God for caring for us through all life's ups and downs. We need to "thank him for all that is past, and trust him for all that's to come".

Freddie Jenkins

Request for benches on the King George V Field Effingham

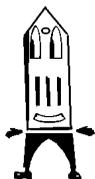
**"A poor life this if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare."
(from WH Davies' poem "Leisure")**

.....and apparently few places to sit!

The newly formed Effingham Village Recreation Trust, which has responsibilities for the King George V site and the Cricket Club at Effingham Junction, recently surveyed villagers asking what they would like to see added to or developed for the benefit of the village.

One of the priorities identified was for benches for people to sit on, and particularly near the children's play areas. The Trust would like it to be made known that they would welcome gifts to purchase such benches perhaps in memory of a local person or persons who took pleasure and enjoyed our wonderful heritage of 32 acres. We also have a need for some more trees to make us even greener.

If you would like to contribute a bench or know someone who would, please contact Gill Walker, Secretary, Effingham Village Recreation Trust - 01372 457987



Leatherhead

Leatherhead Diary - October



Sun	3rd	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth
Sat	9th	10.00am	Quiet Day (see page 12 for details)
Sun	10th	10.00am	Triumph AM at BFree
		10.30am	Mr. Clive Haines
		6.30pm	Triumph PM at BFree (all welcome)
Sun	17th	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth
		6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion
Mon	18th	8.00pm	Church Council
Sun	24th	10.00am	Triumph AM at BFree
		10.30am	Mr. Martin Ellis
		6.30pm	New Fire - Rev. Ian Howarth
Sun	31st	10.00am	Rev. Frank Smith
		6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth - United Service

St. Mary & St. Nicholas Church...

...will be holding their Annual Autumn Market in the Parish Church Hall on Saturday 16th October from 10.30am until 3.00pm. Entrance £1 to include a cup of tea/coffee. Accompanied children free. There will be a wide range of stalls from jewellery, books, china & glass, cakes, bric-a-brac, books, etc.



BOOK THIS DATE!
SATURDAY 9th OCTOBER

"Catching God's Vision"
A Quiet Day for All

Time: 10.00am for 10.30am until 3.30pm

Place: Leatherhead Methodist Church

Leader: Mrs Jacqui Hicks

Bring your own lunch - tea/coffee provided.

Day Charge: £5.00

Numbers to Jean Plant by 1st October



AntiphoniA

the Leatherhead chamber choir presents

Devotion

sacred and secular music by

**Victoria, Monteverdi, Schütz,
Bach, Schubert, Franck, Elgar,
Rachmaninov, Poulenc,**

R R Bennett and Paul Drayton

**accompanist: GINA EASON
director: ANTHONY CAIRNS**

7.30pm Saturday 6 November 2010

at Christ Church, Epsom Road

**Programmes at the door £8 (students £3)
including refreshments
in aid of the Leatherhead Night Hostel**



Launching on **Thursday 21st October**
at **Leatherhead Methodist Church**
3:30pm* to **5:30pm**

** or as soon as you can get there after school*

Messy Church? What's that?!?!

- CHILL** Unwind, settle in, catch up with friends.
- CREATE** Get active with crafts, games etc. based on a Bible theme.
- CELEBRATE** Gather for a story, songs and prayers - guaranteed child-friendly.
- CHOMP** Have tea, enjoy good company and fill your tum.

Suitable for families with children up to about age nine. Babies, toddlers and older siblings are all welcome.

NB: Children must be accompanied by an adult. Adults must be accompanied by at least one child!

Messy Church will take place monthly, on the third Thursday of the month. A new project from Leatherhead Uniting Churches. More info from Jane Smith: 372919, janefcw@googlemail.com

A Clean Break

I was inspired to write this piece after reading Freddie Jenkins' article in last month's Link. Well, when the new cleaning rota was published I found that, due to circumstances and new volunteers being accommodated, I was put into a different team. This caused me some distress as I bonded well with the team I was in and loathed to be parted. Not only did we get on with the work, we also had little chats and got to know each other better. However after consultation with the team leader, it turned out I could still help out in the old team while getting used to the new. This has worked out well - having the best of both worlds and the new team ain't all that bad either. Sometimes, as mentioned in Freddie's article, change can bring fresh ideas and fresh challenges, a kind of wakeup call that is needed. She may have been talking about a change of minister but the same principle works down the line.

Peter Dry

[Peter's article brings into focus all the "backroom" jobs undertaken in churches which mostly go unnoticed, but nevertheless are so important. So, this is a "Thank You" to all those folk in all our churches, but particularly those at LMC doing the cleaning, especially to Gill Harris who masterminds the rotas and teams. Gill is currently poorly and we wish her a speedy recovery to full health. We do, however, desperately need more volunteers to lessen the burden on those who currently undertake the work. It's only an hour or so every three or so weeks - the more volunteers, the less time you need to spend cleaning. Please let Gill know if you can help. Many thanks. Editor]

Heritage Weekend

The Leatherhead Methodist Church opened its doors again over the Heritage Weekend. We welcomed visitors to see inside our beautiful church and to look at the archives relating to the Wesleys, Methodism and the history and activities of the church.

Did you know that John Wesley, concerned about his own health, wrote a booklet entitled 'Primitive Physic' containing remedies for various ailments? One of the entries reads: To cure ague you take "a spider alive, cover it with new soft crummy bread, without bruising it, and let the patient swallow it fasting". For asthma he advocates drinking a pint of sea water every morning and for curing baldness rubbing the part morning and evening with onions till red and rubbing it afterwards with honey.

We had 37 visitors including walkers and cyclists raising money for the restoration of churches in Surrey. Grateful thanks to Joy, Pam, Les, Maureen and Peter for their help with stewarding, to David Tearall for his audio visual display and to Jean Plant for the loan of her church scrapbook.

Fred and Margaret Meynen

LEATHERHEAD METHODIST

TICKETS
C STOVES
01372
377125

BIG ? QUIZ

FISH & CHIPS

13TH NOVEMBER

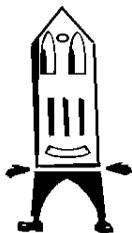
IN AID OF 7 PM

LEATHERHEAD
YOUTH PROJECT



transforming community, enriching
lives and creating partnerships

£8.00 EACH



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.

Junior Church: Sundays at 10.30am **Contact:** Gill Harris 01372 458518
Mary Pittam 01372 272658

House Fellowships

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

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