

the Link

**The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham**

October 2012



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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UNITED PASTORATE EVENING SERVICE

The next United Pastorate Service will be held at
5.00pm on Sunday 9th December at Christ Church
(United Reformed), Leatherhead, followed by tea.

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



The Ministers Write...



From Rev. Kim Plumpton

October is a time when we celebrate Harvest across many of our churches. In my last letter I spoke about Harvest in the URC, a different kind of Harvest which links in with the 50th Anniversary. Thanksgiving for the community and for all the hard work and resources given to provide mission and ministry in Cobham over the last 50 years.

Harvest for many of us is a time to celebrate the richness of God's blessing, found in the provision of our abundant living. We also recognise that it is a time to highlight the plight of many who are without. I remember seeing a sign once that has stuck with me ever since, 'there is enough food in the world for our need but not for our greed.'

Starvation and malnutrition are often the symptoms of economic and civil unrest, factors which hinder many organisations who strive to create an environment of health and wellbeing.

The Methodist Relief and Development Fund, like many organisations can be found working amongst the most stressful and demanding contexts.

"In recent weeks, Tuareg separatists have gained control of much of the north of the country, while violence has broken out in areas of the Malian capital, Bamako. Forces under control of the interim government have clashed with soldiers still loyal to the ex-President Toure, who was ousted in a military coup on 22nd March. Coup instigator Captain Amadou Sanogo stepped aside on 12th April, but his military council still wields considerable power, and holds three cabinet posts in Mali's current interim government.

The tensions come at a time of serious food shortages in the Sahel region. A lack of rain has caused grain production to fall by 41% in Mali this year and 3.5 million people live in areas where there is not enough food. At the same time the price of millet, a staple food in Mali has risen by 69% in the last year. According to the World Food Programme, one in ten children in Mali are currently malnourished." (MRDF-Harvest resources).

Continued on the next page

This is a tiny example of the environment many organisations have to engage with if they are to have any impact at all. Without these organisations tirelessly working in partnership with others many would not survive to see another day.

Yes of course our prayers must be for those who are suffering, but we must also pray for those who work in extreme situations to provide hope for whole communities, and for those fractured governments that turn a blind eye to the plight of their own people.

Our support and prayers are crucial, we live in an imperfect world, a broken world. We have much to give God thanks for but we also have much to bring before God this harvest time.

With every blessing,

Kim

From Rev. Ian Howarth

Dear Friends,

To try and co-ordinate our evening services across the Covenanted churches in Leatherhead, the Rector and I decided that in all the different forms of worship we have on Sunday evenings we would focus on Paul's letter to the Romans.

It seemed a good idea at the time! It contains the core of Paul's thinking which has influenced most of the great theologians and reformers of the church down the ages, St. Augustine, Luther and Wesley, to name a few.

But while it has some glorious passages, going through it chapter by chapter is making us realise there is also a lot of challenging and tough stuff there, which is forcing us all to think.

It is particularly challenging because Paul tries to deal with what is wrong in the world, and highlights God's response to sin and evil, and we find that difficult to work out and express in 21st century terms.

However, it is a reminder that in our faith we have to deal with things that are not as we would want, not as God would want, and a simple 'niceness' is not enough.

This week has seen the publication of the report on the Hillsborough disaster, where for healing to happen for the families after all this time, uncomfortable truths had to be faced.

The chair of the commission that produced the report was Rev. James Jones, the Bishop of Liverpool. It was good to see a representative of the church there, at the heart of things, a reminder that our faith does mean we have to take on the difficult things, confront the evil as well as commend the good.

How we do that in a loving and fair way is a real challenge, and how we identify evil in a changing world is not easy. Some of the things Paul condemns are a reflection of his first century culture, others are universal, and Christians disagree sometimes about which is which.

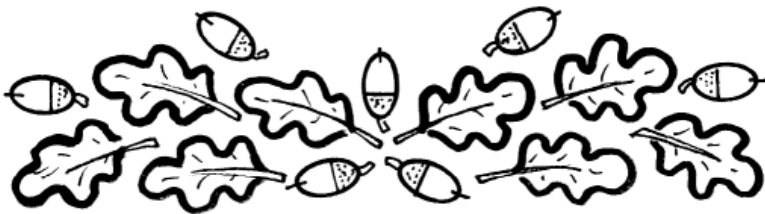
The strength of our faith, and its relevance today, is that we do not preach a simplistic gospel where we pretend everything is all right when it is not, and neither do we preach a God who tramples over what he does not like to achieve his purposes.

We preach a God of love, who shows his love by sending his son Jesus to share a human life, and engage with the good and the evil of humanity at first hand. That engagement did not lead to an easy victory, but death on the cross.

We too are called to engage with the messiness of the world, nurturing the things of God, and challenging that which goes against his ways of love and justice, trusting all along in a Saviour, who has shown us the way, and won through to offer new life to all.

Yours in Christ,

Ian





Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary - October



Thurs 4th 10.30am & 7.30pm Bible Study (see next page *)

Sun 7th 11.00am Jay Dunning

Wed 10th 1.30pm Bible Study *

Thurs 11th 7.30pm Bible Study *

Fri 12th 4.30pm CYC @ URC

Sat 13th 10.00am Time 4 You
2.30pm Platinum Service

Sun 14th 11.00am Tina Andrews

Wed 17th 7.30pm Bible Study *

Thurs 18th 10.30am Bible Study *

**Sun 21st 11.00am Rev. Kim Plumptre - Harvest Festival
with Holy Communion**

Wed 24th 7.30pm Bible Study *

Thurs 25th 10.30am Bible Study *

Fri 26th 4.30pm CYC Film Night
7.30pm House Fellowship at the Manse

Sun 28th 11.00am Martin Ellis

November

Sun 4th 11.00am David Cappitt

*** see note on next page**

"Time 4 You"

Saturday 13th October

10.00am - 12noon



*** Bible Study**

There will be a weekly series of bible-based discussions of contemporary issues, held at Cobham URC, with a morning session repeated in the evening (or vice versa). The topic for the first session will be "The Right to Die". See page 9 for full details.





Cobham

United Reformed Church

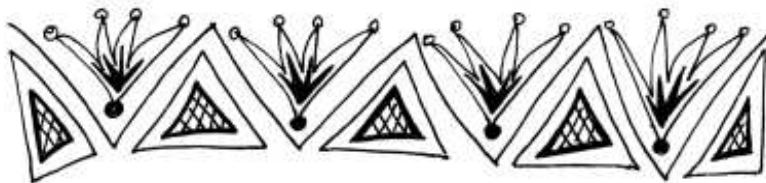
Cobham URC Worship Diary October



Sun	7th	9.00am	Early Bird Service led by Jane/Terry
		10.30am	Iain Stewart
Sun	14th	10.30am	Service to be led by Nicola F Smith (Moderator)
Sun	21st	10.30am	John Stewart
Sun	28th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton

November

Sun	7th	10.30am	Derek Wensley
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Prayers at the Manse

at 9.30am on Wednesdays:
3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st October

Cobham URC Events - October

Tues	2nd	9.45am	Church Walk
		8.00pm	Elders' Meeting
Thurs	4th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
Sat	6th	9.00am	Churches Together Walk
Sun	7th	3.00pm	Special Needs Group (to 6.00pm)
Fri	12th	4.30pm	CYC meets at St Mary's (to 6.30pm)
Thurs	18th	7.30pm	Evening House Group
Tues	23rd	7.30pm	House Group at Churchfield House
Thurs	25th	10.30am	Morning House Group
Fri	26th	3.00pm	T @ 3 at church
		4.30pm	CYC meets at St Mary's (to 6.30pm)

Bible Studies with Rev. Kim Plumpton

**focussing on topical issues such as:
the right to die; immigration; abortion; work and
unemployment; environmental concerns and human rights.**

Thurs	4th	10.30am	The right to die
Thurs	4th	7.30pm	The right to die
Wed	10th	1.30pm	Immigration
Thurs	11th	7.30pm	Immigration
Wed	17th	7.30pm	Abortion
Thurs	18th	10.30am	Abortion
Wed	24th	7.30pm	Environmental concerns
Thurs	25th	10.30am	Environmental concerns

Introduction to the
Old Testament
By
Revd Dr Janet Tollington
Lecturer at Westminster
College Cambridge

Date:
10th November

Time:
10:30-4pm
Lunch is provided

Venue:
Cobham United
Reformed
Church
Stoke Road
KT11 3BD



This a wonderful opportunity to explore the Old Testament. Revd Dr Janet Tollington is a lecturer at Westminster College, Cambridge where she lectures in Old Testament Studies and Hebrew. Come along and enjoy an engaging day; lunch will be provided. There is no cost but donations towards the morning are welcome.

Contact details: 01932 586988
or e-mail : kimp_822@hotmail.com



Effingham

Methodist Church



Dates to celebrate this month

Happy Birthday to Margaret Warner on 27th and to John Rogers on 30th.

Please let us know about birthdays or BIG anniversaries.

Dates for your diaries -

Sing-along-a-Mama-Mia on 20th October

7.30pm at Catholic Church Hall. Suggested £5 donation + bring a plate of finger food to share. In aid of Churches Together in Effingham and Little Bookham. Ring Gill for tickets 01372 457987.

See next page for full October Diary



Many thanks to everyone who helped us over our **"Heritage weekend"**. 50 people popped in to see the exhibition and have a ploughman's or cream tea, and 18 cyclists were very grateful for cold drinks and a loo !!

We've received over £100 in donations.

Prayer Meetings are held in the Chapel every Friday at 9.15am

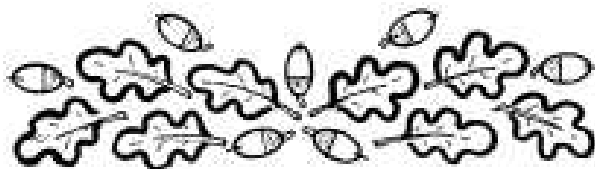
Effingham Methodist Diary- October



Tues	2nd	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	3rd	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Sat	6th	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall (until 11.00am)
Sun	7th	10.00am	Rev. Kim Plumptre - Harvest Festival with Holy Communion
Thurs	11th	2.00pm	Bible Study Group meet with Kim in the hall
Sun	14th	10.00am	Simon Lucas
Tues	16th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	17th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church
Sat	20th	7.30pm	Sing-along-a-Mama-Mia at the Catholic Hall
Sun	21st	10.00am	Alex Cloke
Thurs	25th	2.00pm	Bible Study Group meet with Kim in the hall
Sun	28th	10.00am	Juliet Fuller
Tues	30th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	31st	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the church

November

Sat	3rd	10.00am	Café Church at KGV Hall (until 11.00am)
Sun	4th	10.00am	Rev. Frank Smith -Holy Communion



Autumn

I invariably get depressed in autumn, not because it's the end of summer and beginning of winter, but because it's the time of new beginnings, new class at school, new school, new circuit, and I hate change! This year as I approach my 91st birthday, I am especially aware of the changes that old age brings, and I don't like it! At the moment I am having to decide to give up driving, which will make a big change to my life. So I find it hard to agree with my favourite poet Robert Browning who says:

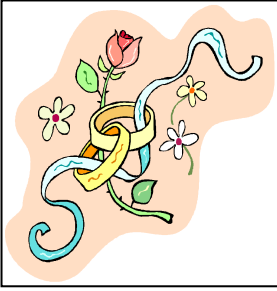
Grow old along with me
The best is yet to be
The last of life for which the first was made.
Our times are in his hand
Who said "A whole I planned"
Youth shows but half
Trust God, be not afraid,

So as I struggle with the difficulties old age brings I will try to follow the advice of Browning and be thankful for the gift of every day, and the beauties of the autumn season.

Freddie Jenkins



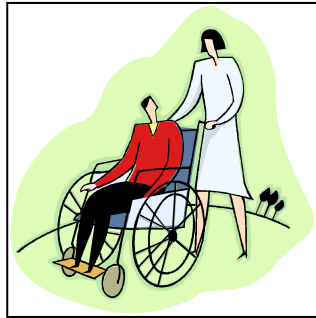
Reflections on a Family Wedding



We went to a family wedding in the wilds of rural Oxfordshire recently. The son of my first husband's cousin married his long-term girlfriend in a civil ceremony, and we were invited to join in the celebrations and witness the exchange of rings.

It was wonderful to see this emotional moment, and hear the sincerity in their words of love... and to be there and see the warmth and love of their friends and family. But for me something was missing! Yes, the bride wore white and had a beautiful bouquet. They didn't have a traditional tiered cake, but lots of home-made cakes brought by friends, and each one carefully cut by bride and groom, so lots of chances for a decent picture of that essential ritual. They looked really happy and I'm delighted for them. So why am I a little sad ? There was no mention of God!

I'm saddened but not surprised! You see, the groom's father is one of my oldest friends and we met at a church youth club in the 60s. He married and has two wonderful sons. However he's had MS for about 30 years, and the daily grind of living with disability has turned him and his family against God and religion. They have become eco-warriors instead, and fighters for the rights of the disabled. The venue



was not a posh hotel but a beautiful old barn in the Oxfordshire Countryside. Instead of wedding gifts, donations were being made to the MS Society!

My mum had MS too, and I know she took comfort in her Christian faith, but my faith is tested when I see his struggle and when I remember my mother's suffering too. I keep praying for a cure for this devastating disease. Throughout our lives we need the support of others, so let us be thankful for the love and care of those around us and pray for the courage and strength to be a positive part of that suffering all our lives.

Angela Putland

One World Week

21st - 28th October



As we travelled across America recently we were reminded of how easy it is to disconnect ourselves from the reality of what is going on in other parts of the world, because the earth is so big! However the internet and other modern means of communications have made it possible for us to hear about events and situations almost as they happen. So is the world really that large?

One World Week tries to remind us of our interdependence upon each other and challenges us to get involved with its aims. Its Vision is:- People working together to build a just, peaceful and sustainable world.

One World Week, which normally begins on 24th October (UN Day), is an opportunity to celebrate the ideal. Active togetherness is the theme and encourages everyone to do things with other faith groups and organisations in their communities. The organisers suggest inspirational and fun ideas, which reflect our concerns for justice, peace, global warming, care of our planet etc. (See website for loads of ideas). Why not organise a tea party or cheese and wine do in your church, or at home, to celebrate and raise awareness for a cause which particularly concerns you.

Really, this week is a reminder, if we needed one, for all of us to become more of a global society, caring for our natural environment, balancing the needs of nature, economy and society, respecting human rights and building a culture of peace. OWW Earth's Charter declares:- "*We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. To move forward we must recognise that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one earth community. To this end it is imperative that we the peoples of the earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations*".

What are you going to do towards this aim?

Dave Putland



Halloween Fun or Fright Night?

Halloween has become increasingly popular recently, with youngsters dressed as ghouls and ghosts visiting neighbours with a trick or treat message on 31st October. It's just a chance to wear fancy dress and get free sweets, isn't it?

However, harmless fun can become an intimidating experience – especially for anyone who is elderly or vulnerable.

Older children and teenagers are often bolder and more inclined to trick than treat, and don't realise

the dangers and the distress that their actions can cause. So make sure children don't do anything to upset or annoy the people they visit. Look for signs saying NO TRICK or TREAT !!

Halloween is also a worrying time for parents, but sensible advice is available from the **Suzy Lamplugh Trust**, a charity which gives advice on personal safety, and has lots of safety tips, so that Halloween is a treat for everyone.

Basic common sense of course, but it's useful to check. There's advice on dressing up safely, safe treats, and having fun in safety while out trick or treating!

A leaflet is downloadable from the website: <http://www.suzylamplugh.org/personal-safety/personal-safety-tips/halloween-safety/>



Leatherhead Pages

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

THE SEWING SHOP

NEW OPENING HOURS

From 7th September - 19th October

Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 9.00am - 1.00pm

Tuesday and Thursday afternoons 1.00pm - 5.00pm

25% discount off full rolls of ribbon, boxes . .

Beautiful cards - 5 for £5

Leatherhead Parish Church Hall

Come and take a look!

Indian Evening with Rev. Jeyapaul

Thursday 25th October at LMC

All invited

Our friend from South India, Rev. Jeyapaul is visiting England at the moment, and will be staying with us for the last week of October. Several members of LMC sponsor children in the hostel he runs for poor village children so that they can attend good secondary education, and LMC has also supported his work with elderly ladies.

On Thursday 25th October, we are holding an evening with Jeyapaul at LMC, which will include an update from Jeyapaul on his work and also some Indian food. We are hoping this will be a time of fellowship and challenge for members of all the churches in the Pastorate and the Covenant and all are warmly invited to attend.



LEATHERHEAD CHURCHES MEN'S BREAKFASTS

We meet on the fourth Saturday of the month. Doors open at 8.00am, breakfast is served at 8.30am and we finish at 9.30am.

The suggested donation is £4.00 and any surplus is given to the speaker's charity.

The next Men's Breakfasts will be:-

Sat 27th Oct at the Anglican Parish Hall, Church Road,

Sat. 24th Nov, at the Catholic Church Hall, Garlands Road.

Contacts:-

C of E -	Roger Lynch, 01483 574143;
Methodist -	Ron Shaw, 01372 274533;
Catholic -	Richard Leonard, 01372 809576 or Mike Ward, 01372 377488;
Christ Church -	Robert Blows, 01372 386040 or Keith Poulton, 01372 817666;

TIME FOR TEA

COME for TEA and COMPANY

From 2.30pm to 4.30pm on

Friday 5th October at

LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

EVERYONE WELCOME

If you need transport please contact:
Margaret Meynen on 372930 or Gill Harris on 458518

(Suggested donation £1)

West Hill Community Café at Leatherhead Methodist Church - **Mondays 1st and 15th October,** **10.00am to 12noon**



After a successful opening day in September, pupils at West Hill School in Leatherhead will be continuing with the café at Leatherhead Methodist Church. West Hill School is an outstanding special school supporting 100 secondary aged pupils from 11 to 16 with learning difficulties and Autism.

West Hill School values close community links. Our curriculum is creative and innovative to ensure that all our pupils achieve as much as they possibly can to flourish in adult life. The café is providing learners with the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the local Leatherhead community. The café is also providing learners with worthwhile opportunities to develop work related learning skills as well as social and communication skills.

The café will be open on alternate Monday mornings between 10.00am and noon. The café will serve a range of hot drinks, juices and light snacks at very reasonable prices and our October opening dates are **Mondays 1st and 15th.**

West Hill learners look forward to welcoming all local residents to the West Hill Community café and are extremely grateful to Leatherhead Methodist Church for this exciting social enterprise opportunity.

Elders, LMC Leadership Team and Steering Group Away Day

The Christ Church Elders, the LMC Leadership Team and members of the Steering Group appointed by the two churches to liaise with the CPL Architects on their Options Survey for the future of the church, are meeting on 20th October with Graham Hindle, the Methodist District Development Enabler to reflect together on how Christ Church and LMC go forward together into the future.

We are grateful to Cobham URC for offering hospitality that day, and we ask for your prayers as we reflect and plan together.

Ian Howarth

Calling all Singers

We are already planning the United Carol Service, which will take place at the Parish Church on the evening of Sunday 23rd December.

We are hoping to put together a choir of members of the three churches and invite singing friends from elsewhere so that we make a really joyful noise. We are hoping that existing choir members and those who have sung in the past will join us, but also that if you know of anyone who would like to sing you feel free to invite them.

The practices will be on Thursday evenings, starting on 15th November.

Ian Howarth

	<p><u>Next Messy Church:</u></p> <p>Thursday 18th October 3.30pm to 5.30pm at</p> 
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Leatherhead

Methodist Church

LMC

Diary - October



Mon	1st	10.00am	West Hill School Community Café at LMC to 12noon (see page 19 for details)
Fri	5th	2.30pm	Time for Tea (to 4.30pm) (see page 18)
Sun	7th	10.30am	John Oborn
		6.30pm	Rev. Kath Jones
Tues	9th	8.00pm	Church Council
Thurs	11th	2.00pm	Pastoral Care Course
		8.00pm	Leadership Team
Sun	14th	10.30am	Rev. Val Ogden - Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth
Mon	15th	10.00am	West Hill School Community Café at LMC to 12noon (see page 19 for details)
Wed	17th	2.00pm	Pastoral Visitors meeting
Thurs	18th	3.30pm	Messy Church
		7.30pm	Prayers for LMC/Christ Church at LMC
Sat	20th	all day	Christ Church/LMC Vision Day (see page 20)
Sun	21st	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth
		6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth with Holy Communion (joint LMC/URC service at LMC)
Thurs	25th	7.30pm	Indian Evening (see page 17)
Sat	27th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at the Parish Hall
Sun	28th	10.30am	Jon Fisher
		6.30pm	New Fire
Tues	30th	7.30pm	Worship Planning meeting
<u>November</u>			
Sun	4th	10.30am	James Cameron
		6.30pm	Rev. Paul Cockburn

Methodist Women in Britain

4 AURORA - this is the new District Project. It is an umbrella group of Brain Tumour Research.

Aurora was the grandchild of a couple who are members of Birchington Methodist Church in the Thanet (Kent) Circuit. They have always been keen supporters of WN and now MWiB.

Aurora's Story.

Aurora was just six years old when she was diagnosed with a brain tumour. She fought a brave battle for three and a half years before she died.

After a fit, the only indication that anything was wrong was that she had an MRI scan at the local hospital which revealed the tumour. A subsequent biopsy determined it was benign. The growth was in an extremely difficult place in her brain and not easy to access, but it was removed with relative success. Sadly, four months later it had grown back. Brave Aurora underwent seven further operations and radiotherapy and confounded the doctors by surviving a further two and a half years in spite of the original prognosis of only months. In February 2009, Aurora's parents were told she only had a few weeks to live but she hung on to life until August.

It was a young life of promise and potential extinguished. Aurora was artistic and loved creative writing. She left a legacy of diaries full of beautiful words. Her parents have donated a trophy to her memory to her Middle School, to be awarded for creative and artistic brilliance.

Only 1% of national cancer research spending focuses on brain tumours. With the help of Brain Tumour Research, Aurora's parents have set up 4 AURORA to raise much needed funds specifically for research into the devastating disease.

Please give generously when the occasion arises to do so.

Jean Plant

Housegroups - All Welcome

Monday House Fellowship meets fortnightly - contact Carol Stoves 377125

Wednesday House Fellowship meets monthly - contact Dreda Kitchen 200129

Friday Daytime Fellowship meets fortnightly - contact Jane Smith 372919

LMC Family News



With thanks and best wishes to...

...Merry Worsfold after the very enjoyable 90th birthday party at St George's Christian Centre on 15th September.

Churches Together in Leatherhead...

...will have a tent for the Christian [Ruach Cards](#) at the Leatherhead [Halloween/Harvest/All Saints Festival](#) on Wednesday 31st October in the Leatherhead Town Centre from 3.00pm to 6.00pm. There will be games and costume contests and lots of sweets for the kids. For more information, see the "Visit Leatherhead" website: www.visitleatherhead.com/aroundTheTown_townCentreEvents.php



Thanksgiving Dinner for B@titude's Patrons

**North Leatherhead Community Centre
Saturday 27th October,
7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Churches Together are hosting a **free Thanksgiving Dinner for patrons of B@titude**. Anyone wishing to attend, **please sign up at the B@titude Shop**, 205 Kingston Rd, Leatherhead, KT22 7PB. **If you'd like to help, please see the Churches Together website: www.churchesleatherhead.org/help-needed**

All Things Bright and Beautiful!

(Part 2)

It was the last day of our holiday in Wester Ross, the far reaches of NW Scotland. We left the hotel in Dundonnell to make our way to Cumbernauld just outside Glasgow where we would stop overnight before our last leg back to Epsom the next day. We were going to take the scenic route, not the direct one.

The road was high in the mountains just before we dropped down to Loch Ness. It was here that we saw close to a herd of deer. We had seen many in the distance, but these were quietly grazing on the slopes, a few yards higher than the road. Around a bend a giant stag stood regally on a rock guarding his harem. His many branched antlers seemed almost too heavy for his head until you noticed the thick set of muscles of his shoulders and neck. Out with the cameras! The coach had slowed almost to a stop when the stag stamped his rather dainty hoof and they all disappeared. According to locals, when the deer come down the mountains then, beware, bad weather is coming.

Our first stop was at a viewpoint above Castle Urquhart. The castle is a ruin and the monster is said to lurk in caverns underneath. It did not appear for us - it could have been anywhere in the Loch's 750 foot depth and 22 mile length. So we did not get that picture which would have been worth a fortune! The monster is said to have been known as far back as St. Columba's time and its existence (if it does!) accounts for over 50% of today's tourist trade in the area. Although the Loch is so long, it is nowhere near as spectacular as others, its popularity being the legend of the sightings.

We stopped for coffee at Fort Augustus, the little town at the SW tip of Loch Ness. It was here that we were greeted by a piper in full highland dress, our first and only sight of a kilted man. The Caledonian Canal meets the Loch here via a staircase of four locks. The Canal is a continuous waterway connecting the Atlantic Ocean to the North Sea. Unlike other canals, only short lengths of it are man-made, linking the numerous lochs that it passes through. Once clear of Fort Augustus, vessels continue north east through Loch Ness eventually meeting the North Sea somewhere along the Murray Firth.

The next stop was, for me, the best of the whole tour, Glencoe, the best kept until the last! Before we arrived we had heard on the PA system the story of the massacre there in 1692. Because of a delay in information asked for, the aggressive chief of Clan Campbell herded all the Clan McDonald under the age of 60 into the glen and killed them. The elderly and mothers breastfeeding infants were the only ones spared. Arriving at Glencoe it was easy to see how enclosed it was making escape virtually

impossible. It was not large but had sheer-sided mountains broken only by a few narrow gulleys running with water. Funnily enough, as I looked down that day, there was no morbid feel about it. In fact it was unbelievably quiet and peaceful. The voices of the few dozen people there did not penetrate at all. All I heard was some bird, unseen, but objecting to his space being invaded. Right down at the bottom was the silver sliver of river running through the sheep-cropped grass, and patches of pink, white and blue lupins contrasting with the black-green darkness of the mountains and the contrast of the blue sky above. What words can adequately describe such Godly architecture? It was far grander than grand, and even awe-inspiring does not seem enough. It was mind-boggling, intimidating almost and left me wordless - and that's a first! I felt small and humble and glad to be alive.

Our last stop before Cumbernauld was Fort William, a really lovely town with not enough time to explore. We had to find somewhere to eat. Later, waiting for the coach, we sat by the water of Loch Linnhe, feet up on some railings, and dreamed dreams of a wonderful week before coming back to the more mundane.

"The purple headed mountain, the river running by...
The Lord God made them all."

Jean Plant



What Attitude should we Christians have towards Immigrants?

In last month's magazine, I quoted various Bible verses to show that there is quite a strong theme in the Law of Moses of kindness and friendliness towards foreigners, and I began to explain how this theme is continued in the rest of the Old Testament. One verse from the Law that I didn't mention last time is Deuteronomy 24:14 which says that "you shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your countrymen or one of your aliens who is in your land in your towns".

Continued on the next page

Sympathy is often expressed for the stranger in the same breath as for widows and orphans as for example when the psalmist complains, "they slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the orphans" (Psalm 94:6), or when he says in Psalm 146:9 "The Lord protects the strangers; He supports the fatherless and the widow;..."

The prophet Isaiah says in Isa. 56:3 "let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say, The Lord will surely separate me from His people'..." and in verses 6 and 7 of the same chapter he says, "also the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,...even those I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; for My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples".

The prophet Ezekiel complains "the alien they have oppressed in your midst;... (Ezek. 22:7) "and have oppressed the sojourner without justice" (Ezek. 22:29). When Ezekiel later says the land is to be divided by lot for an inheritance, it is to be "among yourselves AND among the aliens who stay in your midst..." (see also the rest of Ezek. 47:22-23).

When the prophet Malachi says the Lord "will draw near to you for judgement", it is because of specific sins including "...those who turn aside the alien,..." (Mai, 3:5).

We also find this theme being carried through into the New Testament. In the final judgement Jesus invites those on His right to "...inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" because among other things, "...I was a stranger and you invited Me in;" (Matthew 25:34-35). When Jesus heals ten leprosy men, it is the Samaritan whom He commends for thanking God for his healing: "Were none found who turned back to give glory to God except this foreigner?" (Luke 17:18).

In the Gospel as preached by Paul, it is those who are "...strangers to the covenants of promise" who "in Christ Jesus...have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:12-13). As a result, they "are no longer strangers and aliens, but...fellow-citizens with the saints, and are of God's household" (Eph. 2:19). In one of his letters to Timothy, one of the conditions for putting widows "on the list" (of those to be helped by the church) is "...if she has shown hospitality to strangers..." (1 Tim. 5:10). The writer of the letter to the Hebrews also exhorts us not to "...neglect to show hospitality to strangers..." (Heb. 13:2). John also in his third letter continues the theme when he says, "Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are strangers;" (3 John 5).

Perhaps it is somewhat ironic that in these enlightened modern times in which we are supposed to be living, attitudes towards immigrants are often far less "progressive" than they were between 2,000 and 3,500 years ago!

Bob Greenfield

News of Mark

I would like to thank you all so much for all the kind enquiries about Mark's progress. As you may know Mark moved into "Supported Living" in a house in Cranleigh at the end of July. There are another five young people who will shortly be taking up a tenancy in the house too.

We have been so fortunate that Mark's school, St Joseph's Specialist School, has chosen this year to branch out into a new venture, that is, to open its boarding house as a permanent home for post-19s after school and college. Surrey has agreed to pay for him to live there, and the school has refurbished the house into six en-suite rooms, and whizzy new kitchen with three of everything. There are two large downstairs rooms and a decent conservatory and garden. It is in easy walking distance to the centre of Cranleigh, bus rides to Horsham and Guildford and a stone's throw to the Downs Link cycle path (37 miles on an old railway line between Guildford and the coast).

Mark will be taking part in courses at Guildford College, especially designed for those with learning disabilities. The rest of his time is taken up with a planned programme of shopping, cooking, walking, cycling and outings. His helper, Jess, has helped him join the local Leisure Centre, where he goes to the gym and to swim, and she likes finding other outings for him – they had a lovely day out going to Portsmouth together.

Mark doesn't quite know why he is there yet, but as long as he knows when he will next stay overnight with us he is calm and accepting. He has had very few meltdowns since he has been living there; having a clear and definite routine of things he likes and no pressures keeps him stress-free.

The change for us is still becoming clear – benefits: no juggling social engagements; we can go out together now and I can come to church on Sunday instead of taking Mark out for a walk. Disadvantages: who does the shopping? Mark and Ian used to do the weekly shop at 4.00pm on Fridays, but now Ian plans meetings... we need to rethink that one... And I am already missing the regular walks we used to do along the river and up to Bocketts Farm and Norbury Park.

So many at LMC have been helpful, thoughtful and practical with Mark over the past 14 years, and I would like to thank you for that help and care. Especially those who have sat in with him, from the early days of nappies and chasing up and down stairs to really quite recently, with his funny little ways and a real danger of being bitten. You have laughed with us and commiserated with us, and made it all so much more bearable and we thank you for that.

Barbara Howarth

Christ Church

(United Reformed) Leatherhead



Christ Church Diary

October



Tues	2nd	7.30pm	Surrey/Sussex Synod Area Meeting
Wed	3rd	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
Sun	7th	10.30am	Rev. Ernest Yu, Trinity URC, Wimbledon Organist: Gina Eason
Sun	14th	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth - Holy Communion
Tues	16th	7.30pm 7.45pm	Surrey Philharmonic rehearsal Elders' Meeting
Thurs	18th	3.30pm 7.30pm	Messy Church at LMC Leatherhead & Dorking Citizen's Advice Bureaux Annual Public Meeting, St Joseph's Church, Falkland Rd, Dorking
Sun	21st	10.30am	Morning Service: Rev. Peter Flint (Dorking URC)
		6.30pm	Rev. Ian Howarth - Joint Holy Communion (LMC/Christ Church) at LMC
Tues	23rd	7.30pm	Surrey Philharmonic rehearsal
Thurs	25th	7.30pm	Indian Evening at LMC
Sat	27th	8.00am 7.00pm	Men's Breakfast Fellowship at the Parish Hall CTiL Thanksgiving Meal - North Leatherhead Community Centre (see page 23 for details)
Sun	28th	10.30am	Rev. Ian Howarth & Rev. J. Jeyapaul (Church of South India)
<u>November</u>			
Sun	4th	10.30am	Holy Communion - Rev. Geoffrey Dunstan (Retired URC Minister, Epsom) Organist: Gina Eason
		3.30pm	AntiphoniA concert of Scandinavian Music

Christ Church Family News



We wish **Tom Boswell** all the best as he starts his course at Bournemouth University. He will be studying Sports Management and Coaching Science.

We remember in our prayers **Reuben Bristow**, who is suffering with a virus infection, and his parents **Carol and Jay** at this worrying time. Also we think of **David Gillott**, who is recovering from a serious eye infection.

Heather, Mark, Theo and Grace Cordery have moved house recently to 17 Garth Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 4JX. The phone number stays the same. We wish them every happiness in their new home.

We are very sorry to report the death of **Tom Grimshaw** on 29th August after battling with lung cancer. The Rev. Dean Tapley officiated at the committal at the Crematorium and the Rev. Ian Howarth led the Thanksgiving Service for Tom's long and fulfilling life, which was held at Christ Church on 13th September, with major contributions from the family. We extend our sincere sympathy to Helen, Julie and David and their families in their loss.

We remember in our prayers all those who are unwell or undergoing treatment, and the bereaved and the lonely.

Anne Cairns



Surrey Churches Ride and Stride



A big thank you to those who helped to welcome the 14 cyclists and six walkers who visited our church on Sat. 8th September, namely, Sue, Mary, Dorothy and Keith, Hilary and Anthony.

Although numbers were smaller than previous years those who came were most appreciative.

Anne Cairns

Commitment for Life.

On Sunday morning 28th October we shall be making our annual appeal for Commitment for Life.

This is a particularly appropriate day as it is the final day of One World Week the theme for which this year is Sharing Destiny, Moving Towards One World. The Rev. Jayapaul from the Church of South India will be present at the service.

The money raised goes to our four partners in Israel/Palestine, Bangladesh, Jamaica and Zimbabwe through Christian Aid. Information on all the partners is available, especially on Israel/Palestine, as for many years we have taken a special interest in the work being carried out there. If you read the Commitment for Life notes on the noticeboard in the Church you will see that there are encouraging signs of Israelis and Palestinians working together. Not all news is bad news.

I do hope you will still be able to support Commitment for Life as you have so generously done in the past.

Dorothy Poulton

Pastorate Details

Details of the Services and Activities at each of the Pastorate Churches can be found on the appropriate website, or by

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 -

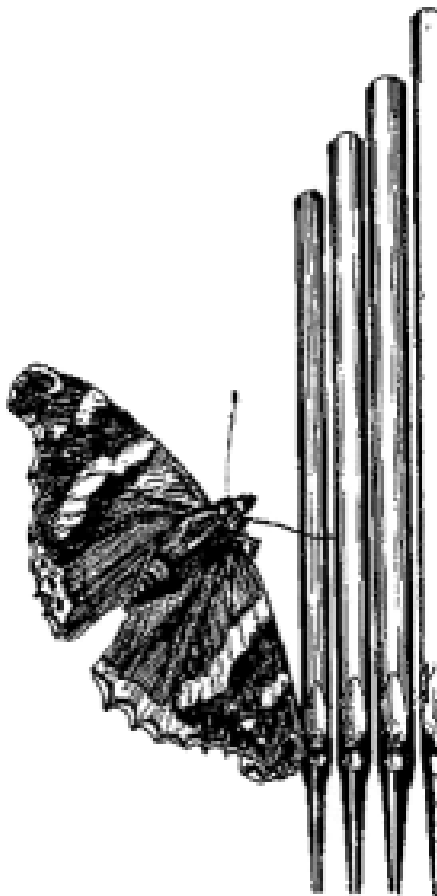
Mary Langtry 01483 282421

Cobham Methodist Church:

www.cobhammethodistchurch.com

Contact: Senior Steward -

Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



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