

the Link

The United Pastorate of
Leatherhead
Cobham
Effingham

October 2014



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Linking:
Christ Church (United Reformed) Leatherhead
Cobham Methodist Church
Cobham United Reformed Church
Effingham Methodist Church
Leatherhead Methodist Church

The Methodist Church



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



The Ministers Write...

From Rev. Lynda Russell

Many of you may have heard about the statistics from the Methodist Church which came out just before Methodist Conference in July. These showed that during the last 10 years the membership of the Methodist Church has fallen by a third, and attendance has fallen by a similar proportion. Numbers on community rolls – people with whom we are in pastoral contact – have fallen even further – by nearly 50%. There has been much discussion about these statistics, and perhaps there would be those among you who say we can make statistics say anything. In case you are wondering, I have spoken to those who should be in the know in the URC, who say that it is certainly the same picture there.

So what are we to think or do? In another 10 years the next third will be gone, and the remaining third will have an uphill struggle to do anything. To do nothing is not an option; not only for the sake of the churches we love, but mostly for the sake of those currently outside the church, who Jesus loves immeasurably, and whom we are also commanded to love. To do nothing NOW is not an option either, for each year that we hesitate, others fall by the wayside.

Martyn Atkins, the General Secretary of the Methodist Church, says "the main thing is not the survival of an institution... rather we are realising afresh that the best thing anyone can do... is to become a disciple of Jesus Christ."

This is what we want to get back to – mission with an "e", as someone put it! [Think about it... ask me if you can't work it out – it did take me a while!]

With all this in mind, at LMC and Christ Church we will be beginning a "*Season of Invitation*": several services between now and Christmas which will be specifically designed for all of us to invite friends, neighbours, family, anybody... to come to church with us.

If church is important to us, then we want others to know this, and to come along to find out why it means so much to us, and hopefully encounter Jesus there as well.

continued on the next page

There will be actual invitations that we can give to people, and perhaps we can invite them more than once. Research has shown that people who are invited several times are more likely to come along and stay. This is a follow up to '*Back to Church Sunday*'.

If you want to know more you can go to:

www.seasonofinvitation.co.uk

This is a step forward in faith for our churches. The most important thing is that we do the inviting; the response of the person invited – the yes/no we leave to God.

We would love it if you could join with us in praying for us as 'inviters' and the 'invitees'.

Every Blessing, Lynda

From Rev. Kim Plumpton

Dear Friends,

Over the last year or so we have welcomed several visitors into our churches, I suppose you might call them 'spiritual shoppers', those who have no particular allegiance to one denomination or another but who are searching for a spiritual home. Some are quite specific in what they are looking for, "we want somewhere where our children can grow up in the church with other children" and others who make the comment that "we don't want somewhere too big, we want to feel part of a small family" or "this church is too small we wanted somewhere bigger where there's lots going on". Some might mention they have had connections with a church before.

Years ago when I first went to church I went for the midweek service, because I found a sense of peace and tranquillity, somewhere no one would ask too many questions. I could go from one week to the next and no one would even ask who I was, I wanted that kind of anonymity. Yet for many years I have needed the intimacy of church worship and fellowship in a way that has held me and encouraged me to explore my faith, a place of integrity which is so important to me and for others too. At my last church I remember someone coming through the door for the first time and by the time he left he had been asked if he would like to consider numerous roles within the church. No wonder he never came back because we didn't see a person seeking a spiritual home but a potential new secretary for the men's group.

Our eyes light up when we see a new person coming through the door sometimes for the wrong reasons.

Some have stayed and joined our churches but I am never disheartened when someone says they have decided to go to another church. Quite the opposite, I am happy they have found a spiritual home. Better they find somewhere than nowhere. Although I know I should be concerned about numbers, it is not a competition where we try to capture passing interest, rather we are happy when someone commits to a church that meets their needs, a place where they may meet with God in all his diversity.

Our responsibility is to offer ourselves in all our uniqueness, to do so with a willing heart, not out of desperation but out of a real sense of hospitality.

In this context, initiatives like *Back to Church Sunday* and *Season of Invitation* are to be encouraged as they provide great opportunities for hospitality.

With every blessing, Kim

Dorking & Horsham Methodist Circuit (1844 - 2014)

Circuit 170



**Coffee Morning on 1st November from
10.30am to 12.30pm at
London Road Methodist Church, Horsham**

**Please join us to celebrate our
Circuit's 170th Anniversary.**

Let's be Proud of our Heritage

**Have YOU any pictures, photos or stories to include ?
Please contact the Circuit Archivist Angela Putland,
on 01372 454850 or email theputlands@aol.com**

News from Rev. Val Ogden

Greetings from Suva, in the Fiji Islands. I'm now serving (as from 1st September 2014) as Director of Theological Education by Extension at the Pacific Theological College. Contact details are below, and there's a link to my blog, if of interest. The appointment is for three years, initially. Contact, news and passers-by always welcome!

Love and blessings,

Val

The Revd Val Ogden

Director: Theological Education by Extension

Pacific Theological College, PO Box 388

78 Vuya Road, Veiuto, Suva, Fiji Islands

E-mail: rev.val.ogden@gmail.com

Val's blog can be found on the internet at:

<http://rev-val-ogden.blogspot.co.uk>



All Hallows' Eve – or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten.

As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

Parish Pump



Cobham

Methodist Church

Cobham Methodist Diary - October



Thurs	2nd	10.45am	Church Council meeting at the church
Sun	5th	10.30am	John Oborn
Sat	11th	10.00am	Time 4 You (until 12 noon)
		2.30pm	Platinum Service
Sun	12th	10.30am	Rhys Frost
		12 noon	Lunch meeting at Cobham URC. Speaker: David Greenwood, Mission Aviation Fellowship
Thurs	16th	7.30pm	House Fellowship at the Manse
Sun	19th	10.30am	Harvest Festival Service led by Rev. Kim Plumptre. United Service with CCC and TGCF - followed by lunch.
Thurs	23rd	3.45pm	Messy Church at the URC <i>(to 5.45pm)</i>
Sun	26th	10.30am	David Cappitt
November			
Sun	2nd	10.30am	Bob Boyce



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



Cobham

United Reformed Church



Please join us for a

POT LUCK LUNCH

After the Service on

Sunday 12th October

with

*David
Greenwood*

Who will be talking about the work of the

MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP



October



Cobham URC Worship Diary: October



Sun	5th	9.00am	Early Bird Service
		10.30am	Andrew Gibb
Sun	12th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
		12 noon	Pot Luck Lunch (jointly) with speaker from Mission Aviation Fellowship
Sun	19th	10.30am	Sydney Shore
Sun	26th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton

November

Sun	2nd	10.30am	Rev. Norman Edsall
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Play and Chat

A group for families with special needs children. Meets every first Sunday of the month from 3.00pm to 6.00pm at Cobham URC.

Prayers at the Cobham URC Manse

at 9.30am on

Wednesdays:

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th October

Cobham URC Events - October

Sun	5th	3.00pm	Play and Chat (to 6.00pm)
Tues	7th	9.45am	Church Walk
		8.00pm	Elders' Meeting
Thurs	9th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship at the Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW
Tues	14th	7.30pm	Evening House Group
Thurs	23rd	3.45pm	Messy Church (to 5.45pm)
Fri	24th	3.00pm	T@3 at Church
Tues	28th	11.00am	Coffee for Carers (now once a month)

November

Sun	2nd	3.00pm	Play and chat (to 6.00pm)
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Next Messy Church for Cobham, Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon



Date:

Thursday 23rd October

Time: 3:45pm - 5:45pm

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

All are welcome

Coffee for Carers

A support group for those who offer care in the community or at home.

Meets every fourth Tuesday of the month at Cobham URC.





Effingham

Methodist Church



Dates to celebrate this month

Happy Birthday to Jean McMillan on 8th,
Margaret Warner on 27th and John Rogers on 30th.
Please let us know about birthdays or BIG anniversaries!!

Dates for your Diaries

Please come along to our "Circuit 170" celebration Coffee Morning from **10.30am to 12.30pm** at London Road Methodist Church, Horsham, on **1st November**.

Prayer Meetings...

...are held at the home of Freddie Jenkins
every Friday at 9.15am.

Saturday Morning Live.



Effingham's café church on **4th October** welcomes **the Very Rev. Dianna Gwilliams, the Dean of Guildford Cathedral**, one of the most senior female priests in the Church of England, to discuss **The Church and the Community** from 10-11am at St. Lawrence Church Hall.

On 1st November our subject will be:

"Is WAR ever justified ?"

Coffee, croissants and plenty of discussion

Heritage Weekend at Effingham Methodist Church

Angela and David Putland have done it again. Many, many congratulations on the splendid displays in the Methodist Church during the Heritage Weekend. There were three boards of information on the history of the Methodist Church in Effingham, Leatherhead, Cobham and Dorking. Methodism was introduced into Effingham by the Rev. Samuel Beard. The open air services on Effingham Common were continued by Rev. W. Wilson despite great opposition. Mrs. Fish opened a cottage for preaching and in 1853 Mrs. Johnson and her son Robert gave a site for our chapel. This cost £300 and was opened on 4th October 1854.

There were many photographs including a rare photo of James & Rebecca West who were keen Methodists and ran the grocery store at Yew Tree Cottage dated July 1903. Also William Pollard, the Church Steward with his family at No. 4 Church Cottages, a copy of the local preachers and ministers dated 1844 and a photo of the Methodist Church in 1877. Also photos of the chapel before and after the restoration in 1991-2, a section on the Dissenters of the 17th century together with George Abbott – Guildford's Bible translator. John Wesley made three visits to Cobham.

There was a board commemorating WWI with photos of local people and including poems by famous poets and a board on our local hero Lord Howard of Effingham - Admiral of the English Fleet. Also Sir Frances Drake and a picture of the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 and our local hero Sir Barnes Wallis who lived in Effingham from 1930. He was an Airship engineer and designed the R100. He served on the Parish Council and was the first Chairman of The St. Lawrence Parochial Church Council. In WWII he designed the bouncing bomb. He lived in Beech Avenue overlooking the golf course and he and his wife are buried in St. Lawrence graveyard. In our hall where coffees, lunches and cream teas were served, David had a board containing many pictures of Dinosaurs and meteorites. There was also a table containing a binocular microscope where David demonstrated, mainly to children, what fragments of meteorites looked like and how they created craters when hitting the earth.

continued on the next page

There was also a bowl of sand to dig for fossil sea creatures. This was such an interesting section and I saw several children spending a long time with this fascinating subject. The last board was on King Richard III – The amazing discovery of the King In The Car Park. There was a picture of the skeleton, skull and a portrait of the king. This is only a short summary of the information that Angela and David had collected and I congratulate them again on all their hard work and enthusiasm.

Mary Brooks



19th to 26th October **is One World Week**

This year's theme is
"LIVING DIFFERENTLY"

See the website for info on how to organise or support activities and events in local communities that promote and involve active citizenship through:

- **Sourcing food differently**
- **Reducing wastefulness**
- **Using money differently**

These simple steps can help us to ***break the chains*** of the global food supply systems and consumer habits that damage the environment and communities worldwide and challenge the current money markets by using money positively to ***make the changes*** that can build a fairer and more sustainable world. To explore examples of how communities here and around the world are choosing to live differently. Together we can ***make the change***.

We can't change the world overnight - or even in one week – but we can make a start.

See more at: **<http://www.oneworldweek.org>**

Effingham Methodist Diary - October



Wed	1st	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Fri 3rd & }	10.00am	Chapel Anniversary Flower Festival	
Sat 4th }	to 4.00pm		
Sat	4th	10.00am	Café Church at St Lawrence's Hall (to 11.00am)
		7.30pm	Anniversary Dance with fish & chip supper at KGV Hall
Sun	5th	10.00am	160th Chapel Anniversary with Rev. Kim Plumpton - followed by cutting the cake, concert and buffet lunch
Thurs	9th	12.30pm	"OASIS" Bible lunch with Kim in the Hall
Sun	12th	10.00am	Freddie Jenkins
Tues	14th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	15th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
Sun	19th	10.00am	Harvest Festival with Juliet Fuller
Sun	26th	10.00am	Rev. Frank Smith for Bible Sunday
Tues	28th	2.30pm	Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
Wed	29th	8.00pm	Christian Meditation in the Church
November			
Sat	1st	10.00am	Café Church at St Lawrence's Hall (to 11.00am)
Sun	2nd	10.00am	Rev. Darlene McCarley with Holy Communion



Family Photographs

I was recently given a very large photo of a young man wearing his policeman's uniform taken at his "passing out" parade, surrounded by his family, his mum and dad and two sisters. His Dad is Bob, our foster son who first came into our lives at the age of 7 when we lived in Stockwell, and Wandsworth Social Services were appealing for people to act as uncle and aunt to children in care. As we had four children of our own we felt that this was something we could undertake as a family. So we were taken to see this little red haired cockney kid whose family of six had all been split up, and Bob was back in the Reception Centre, following an unsuccessful fostering. Bob was badly missing his two little sisters, so it wasn't surprising that he bonded with our daughter Helen, three years younger and they became buddies. We managed to acquire two little red bikes from a church Jumble Sale, and they cycled all around the neighbourhood, playing their fantasy games.

When we moved to Chessington, we decided to go in for long term fostering and Bob came along as one of the family, now aged 10, but unable to read because no one in the Children's Home had bothered much about his education. He soon started as a pupil at the school where John Oborn was the headmaster, but in spite of the school and my efforts, Bob was only interested in playing football and larking about with his friends. When he left school at 16 the Education Officer suggested that he should go into the Post Office. But Bob had always wanted to drive an Ambulance, so at 18 he joined the army and spent three years in the Royal Corps of Transport, and enrolled in all kinds of courses. At 21 he applied to the London Ambulance Service, was accepted, and moved up the ladder to become one of the top Paramedics in London. Now, having taken a Teaching Certificate at Kingston University he spends a lot of time in various countries lecturing about what to do in the event of a terrorist attack.

He lives across the road from the Chessington Manse where he came to live with us as a 10 year old, with a fantastic wife Sue (who runs Tendacare) and has three children and three grand children.

Good old Bob! We are proud of you! And so pleased that God put it into our hearts to foster him.

Freddie Jenkins



The "Young Man in policeman's uniform" is Phil, next to his Dad (Bob), with his mother and two sisters



This photo shows Freddie sitting with husband Wallace and their family. The children, from left to right, are Val, Nessie (Helen), Mick, then Bob, with Andrew on the right. The photo was taken in the Sixties when Wallace was Minister at Chessington MC.

Effingham Methodist Church

*Help celebrate our 160th
Chapel Anniversary*



Come to a



Flower Festival & exhibition

October 3rd & 4th 10.00am till 4.00pm

An Anniversary Dance

October 4th 7.30pm at KGV Hall

Anniversary Service

October 5th 10.00am

Anniversary Dance @ KGV on 4th Saturday at 7.30pm

Live music by The Residents

Tickets for dance and fish & chip supper £12.50

(bring your own drink & glasses)

Please ring Dennis on 01372 879083

*Celebrate
Bible Sunday*



Join the BIG Mission for Bible Sunday 2014

The Bible Society believes everyone has a right to encounter the Bible. That's why The Big Mission aims to reach 20 million children by the year 2020. It's a Big Mission – so show your love this Bible Sunday, and help raise funds for nations like Cambodia, a nation still recovering from the trauma of genocide, and where poverty is rife and literacy is low.

Cambodia is experiencing massive church growth and new believers need access to God's Word to deepen their faith. They also need to learn to read, and that's why Bible Society literacy projects are so vital.

'Love is more important than anything else' Colossians 3: 12-17

See more at: <http://www.biblesociety.org.uk>

Shhhh! It's nearly that time of year again!

**Christmas
starts with
Christ**

When we got back from our Summer holiday and opened our pile of post, a familiar bright green leaflet fell out of the *Methodist Recorder* - a subtle reminder that *Shhhh! You Know What* is just around the corner! Soon the familiar carols blaring from our High

Street shops will herald the merry jingle of cash tills... but fewer people know the real meaning of Christmas. Just 12% of adults know the nativity story, and more than one third of children don't even know whose birthday we're celebrating! Apparently 51% of people now say the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas.

Together we can reverse the trend - Christmas is worth saving. *Christmas Starts with Christ* is a campaign aimed at helping churches to make Christ and the amazing story of his birth the focus of the nation's favourite time of year.

See more at: <http://christmasstartswithchrist.com>

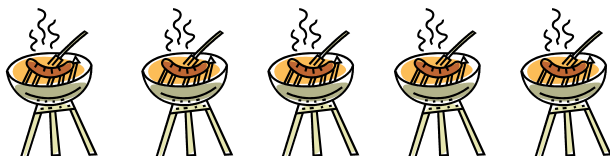
Leatherhead Pages

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

The Welsh are coming back!

At 3.30 pm on Saturday 15th November the 'Cor Meibion Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr', or 'The Bridgend Male Choir' for those of us who do not understand Welsh, is returning to the Leatherhead Parish Church to give another concert of Welsh music. Tickets are £17 (£12 concessions) available after 20th October from Nicky Osborne (01372 372313), Frances Presley (07719 058648), the Parish Office, Wed-Fri 9am to 12 noon, (01372 362544), and Barton's Bookshop. This is always a very popular event so please book early.

Frances Presley



AUTUMN FAYRE

Saturday 4th October 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Parish Church Hall, Church Rd, Leatherhead KT22 8BD

Find treasures and bargains at these stalls ~ Auntie's Attic ~
Books ~ Bake Sale ~ Linens ~ Jewellery ~ China and Glass ~
Beading ~ Bottle Stall ~ Beauty and Fragrance ~ Gifts ~
Stationery ~ Promises ~ Raffle

Have a go at Hook-a-duck ~ Foam ball alley ~ Lucky Dip

12 noon: BBQ outside

2.00pm: All Aloud Community Choir

Tea and cake in the Café

Contact 362544 to donate items or for queries

12.30 lunchtime concerts at LMC & Christ Church

**MUSIC
ON
THURSDAYS
at LMC**



**WEDNESDAYS
at
CHRIST
CHURCH**

Concert Admission Free, with a retiring collection to cover costs

October

Thursday 2nd October 12.30 - LMC

Alena Lugovkina, flute

Ashley Myall, bassoon

Viv McLean, piano

Thursday 9th October - LMC

Christine Buras, soprano®

Gabija Butkuta, piano®

Wednesday 15th Oct - Christ Church

Dora Chatzigeorgiou, violin®

Alexander Binns, organ®

Thursday 23rd October - LMC

Anna Hashimoto, clarinet

with piano accompanist

Thursday 30th October - LMC

Aurora Trio:

Emma Halnan, flute®

Joe Bronstein, viola®

Heather Wrighton, harp®

November

Thursday 6th November - LMC

Jacqueline Phillips, cello

Thursday 13th November - LMC

Sara Cubarsi-Fernandez, violin®

Seungwon Lee, piano®

Wednesday 19th Nov - Christ Church

Graham Davies, organ

Thursday 27th November - LMC

Accordion Duo® from the

Royal Academy of Music

®appears courtesy of the

Royal Academy of Music

Sandwiches prepared by

Rialto Lounge Wine Restaurant

are on sale in the churches

after each concert

Concerts resume after Easter 2015

**Leatherhead Methodist Church
Church Road
Leatherhead KT22 8AY**



**Christ Church United Reformed
Epsom Road
Leatherhead KT22 8ST**

Supported by Leatherhead Concert & Arts Society ♦ HMRC Charities Ref EW02213

Sisters get Together in
Leatherhead



Come along and
Join us at
Leatherhead Parish Hall
for

Coffee, Croissants & Conversation
Saturday, 11th October
8.30 am with guest speaker

Come along and bring a friend
Leatherhead Parish Hall Church Road

All Welcome



Men's Breakfasts

The following Leatherhead Men's Breakfasts will be at 8.00am on the following Saturdays:-

25th Oct - Anglican Church Hall -
"Remembrance", Chris Stagg

29th Nov - Catholic Church Meeting Room -
"Selling to the Russians", Chris Boswell

No meeting in December

All men of any denomination or none are welcome. A suggested donation of £4 would be appreciated to cover costs; any surplus is donated to the speaker's preferred charity.

Next Messy Church for Leatherhead

Thursday 16th October
3.30pm to 5.30pm at:



Time for Tea



COME for TEA and COMPANY

From 2.30pm to 4.30pm

**Friday 3rd October
with Musical Entertainer
Grant Cox**

...and every first Friday in the month at

LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

EVERYONE WELCOME

If you need transport please contact:

Margaret Meynen on 372930 or Gill Harris on 458518

Attendance Free - Donations Gratefully Received



Leatherhead

Methodist Church

LMC Family News



Our thoughts and prayers are with...

...ARNOLD ASHBROOK who has moved to live with his daughter Margaret near Leicester. His address is:
42 Tyler Road, Ratby, Leicester, LE6 0NQ.
Telephone 01162 395317.



LMC Housegroups

The **Friday House Group** meets on the third Friday each month. Please contact Norma Shaw for further details.

The **Monday House Group** meets on alternate Mondays. Contact Carol Stoves 01372 377125 for details.





Diary - October



Thurs	2nd	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays (<i>see page 21</i>)
Fri	3rd	2.30pm	Time for Tea (<i>ends 4.30pm</i>)
Sun	5th	10.30am	Rev. Lynda Russell with Holy Communion
Thurs	9th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays (<i>see page 21</i>)
Sun	12th	10.30am	Jon Fisher
		6.30pm	Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion
Tues	14th	10.00am	West Hill Community Café (<i>to 12 noon</i>)
		2.30pm	Pastoral Visitors' & Elders' prayer group
Wed	15th	12.30pm	Organ Recital at Christ Church (<i>see page 21</i>)
Thurs	16th	3.30pm	Messy Church (<i>to 5.30pm</i>)
Sun	19th	10.30am	Rev. Lynda Russell
Tues	21st	7.30pm	Mission Group meet in the Lower Hall
Thurs	23rd	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays (<i>see page 21</i>)
Sat	25th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at the Parish Church Hall
Sun	26th	10.30am	Rev. Lynda Russell - Joint Service at Christ Church - Speaker Tim Poole - Hearts for Romania - followed by Bring & Share Lunch
		6.30pm	New Fire
Thurs	30th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays (<i>see page 21</i>)
November			
Sun	2nd	10.30am	Rev. Lynda Russell with Holy Communion
Thurs	6th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays (<i>see page 21</i>)
		7.30pm	Church Council
Fri	7th	2.30pm	Time for Tea (<i>ends 4.30pm</i>)

Special Memorial Service

There will be a Joint Special Memorial Service at 4.00pm on
Sunday 16th November at LMC
to remember those we have lost over the past year.

Heritage Weekend

It was good to have the Church open during this weekend. Fred had arranged such an interesting display highlighting Leatherhead's connection with John Wesley and the 121 years' history of LMC, although a worshipping congregation was on the site well before. Displays advertising Time for Tea and children's activities organised by Margaret, added to the interest as well as a continuous video emphasising the work at the Leatherhead Youth Project. There was also a Prayer Station with the theme 'Peace'. This depicted the importance that LMC places on prayer and our concerns that travel wider than the four walls of the building.

Visitors did not exactly queue at the door to get in, nor was there even a steady trickle, just one or two every now and then. This does not mean that the effort to put on the displays and have stewards on duty was not worth it. More the opposite! The few who came were such interesting people. Perhaps because they were in a Church they felt at ease to talk freely and, often, very deeply. Being a steward was more than just being there but seizing opportunities to talk and, more importantly, listen. One man, it was learnt, was dyslectic, but badly wanted to express his thoughts about peace at the Prayer Station. A steward helped, quietly recognising his needs. Another visitor, in contrast, had a very quick glance at the displays, and when the Prayer Station was pointed out, replied she had spent an hour on her knees that morning so she felt she had done her 'stint' for the day!

Each action during the weekend was another stone in the wall of our Heritage, slowly getting nearer to Heaven.

Heritage Prayer Station - 'Peace'

Some written comments tucked into the roots of the Cross:

- Peace means absence of war and conflict.
- Here is hoping the world will come to its senses.
- Let everyone be filled with love.
- Peace is the calming presence of God.
- Peace means the whole world being in harmony. This is not a pipe dream if we all work at it.

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- Pray for peace whenever you can.
- All nations living side by side without tension.
- Personal peace is a state of contentment, free from anxiety.

These comments are just a selection of many. What would your thoughts be about Peace?

Jean Plant

Question:

"Does the Bible condone slavery?"

Answer: There is a tendency to look at slavery as something of the past. But it is estimated that there are today over 27 million people in the world who are subject to slavery: forced labour, sex trade, inheritable property, etc. As those who have been redeemed from the slavery of sin, followers of Jesus Christ should be the foremost champions of ending human slavery in the world today. The question arises, though, why does the Bible not speak out strongly against slavery? Why does the Bible, in fact, seem to support the practice of human slavery?

The Bible does not specifically condemn the practice of slavery. It gives instructions on how slaves should be treated (Deuteronomy 15: 12-15; Ephesians 6: 9; Colossians 4: 1), but does not outlaw slavery altogether. Many see this as the Bible condoning all forms of slavery. What many fail to understand is that slavery in biblical times was very different from the slavery that was practised in the past few centuries in many parts of the world. The slavery in the Bible was not based exclusively on race. People were not enslaved because of their nationality or the colour of their skin. In Bible times, slavery was based more on economics; it was a matter of social status. People sold themselves as slaves when they could not pay their debts or provide for their families. In New Testament times, sometimes doctors, lawyers, and even politicians were slaves of someone else. Some people actually chose to be slaves so as to have all their needs provided for by their masters.

The slavery of the past few centuries was often based exclusively on skin colour. In the United States, many black people were considered slaves because of their nationality; many slave owners truly believed black people to be inferior human beings.

The Bible condemns race-based slavery in that it teaches that all men are created by God and made in His image (Genesis 1: 27). At the same time, the Old Testament did allow for economic-based slavery and regulated it.

The key issue is that the slavery the Bible allowed for in no way resembled the racial slavery that plagued our world in the past few centuries. In addition, both the Old and New Testaments condemn the practice of “man-stealing”, which is what happened in Africa in the 19th century. Africans were rounded up by slave-hunters, who sold them to slave-traders, who brought them to the New World to work on plantations and farms. This practice is abhorrent to God. In fact, the penalty for such a crime in the Mosaic Law was death: “Anyone who kidnaps another and either sells him or still has him when he is caught must be put to death” (Exodus 21: 16).

Similarly, in the New Testament, slave-traders are listed among those who are “ungodly and sinful” and are in the same category as those who kill their fathers or mothers, murderers, adulterers and perverts, and liars and perjurers (1 Timothy 1: 8–10).

Another crucial point is that the purpose of the Bible is to point the way to salvation, not to reform society. The Bible often approaches issues from the inside out. If a person experiences the love, mercy, and grace of God by receiving His salvation, God will reform his soul, changing the way he thinks and acts. A person who has experienced God’s gift of salvation and freedom from the slavery of sin, as God reforms his soul, will realise that enslaving another human being is wrong. He will see, with Paul, that a slave can be “a brother in the Lord” (Philemon 1: 16). A person who has truly experienced God’s grace will in turn be gracious towards others. That would be the Bible’s prescription for ending slavery.

The above article can be found on the internet:

<http://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-slavery.html>

Our thanks to Bob Greenfield for submitting this article.

How does your garden grow?

The season of autumn mists and harvest moons heralds the celebration of flowers, fruit and vegetables with harvest suppers and flower shows. The Leatherhead Horticultural Society held its annual flower show in the Parish Church Hall on 13th September and what a display of blooms and prize vegetables and fruit there was! Competition was fierce, judging critical but the rewards were perhaps a prize and the satisfaction of taking part and producing something that delights the eye and is good to eat.

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A new award was the Birtwistle Allotment Award for the best allotment, sponsored by Margaret. There were 47 plots to be judged on the three sites of the Poors Allotments off Barnett Wood Lane and the A24, Highlands Road Allotments behind the hospital and Ashted Allotments off the Epsom Road. Points were awarded following the Royal Horticultural Society rules and given for the quality of vegetables, fruit, flowers and herbs and also for workmanship, presentation, layout and originality. I was made aware of the benefits of having an allotment including the obvious health advantages of eating fresh vegetables with that great taste straight from the ground. Exercise is also good for you and allotment holders get plenty of that together with being out in the fresh air away from TV and computers. One benefit that became more apparent as we talked to the owners was the social one of people chatting, comparing notes and swapping tips and produce. Also the good old moans about the weather, slugs and vandals were talking points.

We were pleased that Leatherhead Start got a 'Highly Commended Award' for their allotment as they are enthusiastic people from the hostel in Church Road which gives the homeless a fresh start in life. They are encouraged to come and help on the allotment and take back the produce to be used in their kitchen.

The flower show coincided with **Heritage Weekend** and LMC opened its doors to the public with a friendly welcome, tea and biscuits. In addition to the history of Methodism, John Wesley and our church, Jean had a beautiful prayer 'station' which asked us what peace means to us taking up the theme of the weekend 'Life 100 years ago' and the start of WWI. Margaret had displays for Messy Church and Time for Tea and Dave showed the film on BFree/LYP and the All Saints Café. Grateful thanks go to them and to Joy, Bob, Jean, Gill, Meurig, Sheila and Ken for their stewardship.

Visitors commented on what a 'beautiful church' we have and also on the 'lovely front garden' so skilfully tended by Richard and May.

We give thanks for the beauty of flowers and the pleasure that gardens and allotments give to us.

Fred Meynen

Christ Church

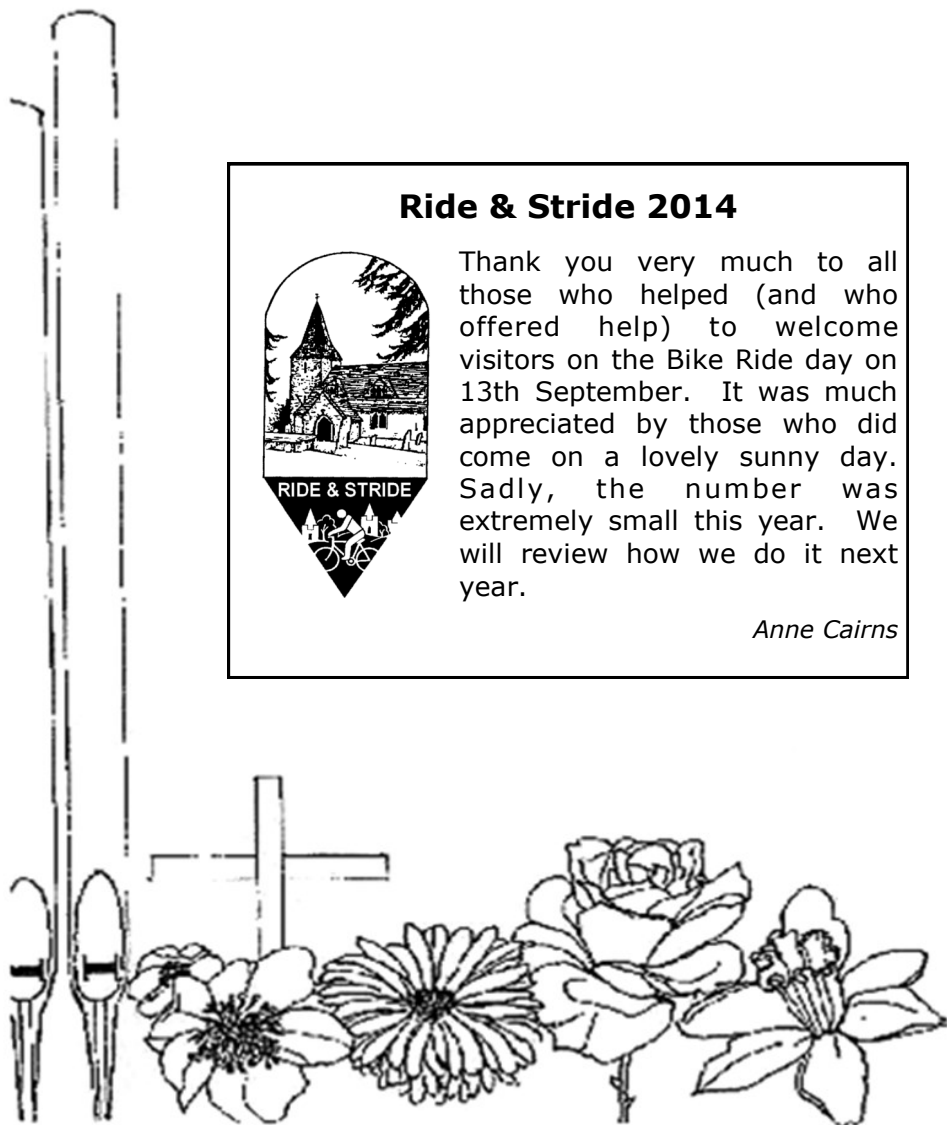
(United Reformed) Leatherhead

Ride & Stride 2014



Thank you very much to all those who helped (and who offered help) to welcome visitors on the Bike Ride day on 13th September. It was much appreciated by those who did come on a lovely sunny day. Sadly, the number was extremely small this year. We will review how we do it next year.

Anne Cairns



Commitment for Life

Very soon now, you will be receiving, through your elder, the annual request for a donation to this well-known and worthy cause. It is, as most of you know, an organisation that serves a wide range of needs, and one which the URC at Church House not only sponsors, but also administers.

We, as a church, are paying particular attention this year to the importance of this appeal for several reasons. The first is that we are sadly a smaller congregation than ever, so that there are fewer givers and just as many needy causes. The second is that we have made the decision to discontinue our custom of house-to-house collection during Christian Aid Week, which makes that organisation £2,000 the poorer. The last reason is that Dorothy Poulton was the previous 'link person' for Commitment for Life, and she carried out this role with huge enthusiasm. It would be very sad to think that, because Dorothy is no longer with us, we lose some momentum. Conversely, if we were able to increase our giving, what a great tribute to her that would be.

So I ask you, when you receive your communication from your elder, would you please read the mini magazine that will be enclosed with great care, and I hope you will decide to give generously to this worthwhile cause.

Thank you in advance,

Margaret Dodds-Ely

Tel: 01372 277415



Christ Church Diary - October



Thurs 2nd	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays at LMC (<i>see page 21</i>)
Fri 3rd	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC (<i>to 4.30pm</i>)
Sun 5th	10.30am	Rev. Robert Blows (50th Anniversary of Ordination)
Tues 7th	7.30pm	Synod Area Meeting at Crawley URC
Thurs 9th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays at LMC (<i>see page 21</i>)
Sun 12th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion at LMC
Tues 14th	2.30pm	Pastoral Visitors & Elders Prayer Meeting at LMC
Wed 15th	12.30pm	Organ Recital (<i>see page 21</i>)
Thurs 16th	3.30pm	Messy Church at LMC (<i>to 5.30pm</i>)
Sun 19th	10.30am	Adrian West
Thurs 23rd	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays at LMC (<i>see page 21</i>)
Sat 25th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at the Parish Church Hall
Sun 26th	10.30am 6.30pm	Rev. Lynda Russell - Joint Service at Christ Church: Speaker Tim Poole, Hearts for Romania followed by Bring & Share Lunch New Fire at LMC
Thurs 30th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays at LMC (<i>see page 21</i>)

November

Sun 2nd	10.30am	Linda Richards - Holy Communion
Thurs 6th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays at LMC (<i>see page 21</i>)
Fri 7th	2.30pm	Time for Tea at LMC (<i>to 4.30pm</i>)

Church Meeting

The next Church Meeting will be at 12 noon on
Sunday 23rd November
(not 9th November as previously published)

Christ Church Family News



We are sorry to learn that **Margaret Ball** has had a few falls recently, and we send her our good wishes for a speedy recovery. We hope to see her back in church very soon.

Congratulations to **Jack Boswell**, who achieved 3 A* at A Level and has started his course in Politics and Economics at Bath University. We wish him every success.

We are pleased to report that **Richard Essex** has recovered very well from his surgery and is returning to work. We send him very best wishes for the future.

Congratulations and all good wishes to **Eric Lloyd Jones** who celebrated his 90th birthday on 20th September.

Elma McMillan was in hospital for some time but is now settled comfortably in Leighton House Care Home, 59 Burgh Heath Road, Epsom. KT17 4NB. We send her and Gilbert our very best wishes.

Beryl Turner has moved to The Beeches, Fortyfoot Road, Leatherhead. KT22 8RZ Telephone: 01372 376176. We send her good wishes and hope that she settles quickly into her new surroundings.

We remember in our prayers all these friends, also the carers in our community, those unable to attend church and the lonely.

Anne Cairns

Special Memorial Service

There will be a Joint Special Memorial Service at 4.00pm on
Sunday 16th November at LMC
to remember those we have lost over the past year.

Pastorate Details

Details of the Services and Activities at each of the Pastorate Churches can be found on the appropriate website, or by telephoning the contact listed here:

Leatherhead Methodist Church:

Church Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8AY
www.leatherheadmethodist.org
Contact: Senior Steward -
Carol Stoves 01372 377125

Christ Church (United Reformed):

Epsom Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ST
www.chch.org.uk
Contact: Local Church Leader -
Mike Essex 01372 273472

Effingham Methodist Church:

Chapel Hill, Effingham, KT24 5NB
www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk
Contact: Senior Steward -
Dave Putland 01372 454850

Cobham United Reformed Church:

38 Stoke Road, Cobham, KT11 3BD
www.cobhamurc.org.uk
Contact: Church Secretary -
Mary Langtry 01483 282421

Cobham Methodist Church:

Cedar Road, Cobham, KT11 2AA
www.cobhammethodistchurch.com
Contact: Senior Steward -
Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



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