

# the Link

**The United Pastorate of  
Leatherhead  
Cobham  
Effingham**

**October 2015**



“Your word is a lamp  
for my feet,  
a light for my path”  
Psalm 119:105



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

**Linking:**

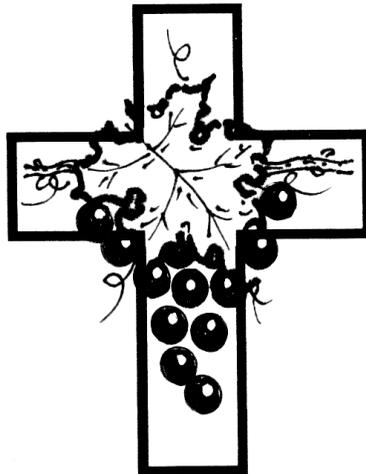
**Christ Church (United Reformed) Leatherhead  
Cobham Methodist Church  
Cobham United Reformed Church  
Effingham Methodist Church  
Leatherhead Methodist Church**

**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***

Dear Friends,

A few years ago while I was on holiday we went to visit the town of Norwich. Now I'm sure that Norwich is famous for many things, and yes, we did go past the football stadium (though fortunately not in it!), but the reason I went there was to see a place that perhaps some of you won't have heard of.

St Julian's Church is about 10 minutes walk from the Cathedral. This is where Julian of Norwich lived, in a small room attached to the church. Julian of Norwich was a hermit who lived from 1342 – 1429, and she was an amazing woman: we don't know her real name, only that she took this name from the church where she served. She lived a solitary life, completely enclosed in her cell. When she was thirty years old, she was seriously ill and nearly died, but as a priest prayed for her and as she gazed on the cross she was healed, and she had a number of visions.

Julian wrote down her visions, and continued through the rest of her life to reflect on them, and to write down her thoughts. She is the first woman known to have written in English, and very possibly had to teach herself to write in order to do so. She was convinced that she had to pass on what she had learned about God despite the fact that it was unheard of for women to do this at this time.

One of the first things Julian learnt was that God is faithful in troubled times, and that **everything** that exists is held in God's love, which is wrapped around us, like our clothing. She had a vision of a hazelnut lying in the palm of her hand which looked so small and fragile she thought it could disintegrate at any time. But as she looked, she realised she was mistaken, it was made by God, and would last because of that.

Julian realised that we as God's creation, made in his image, are held in the palm of God's hand; because God made us, God loves us, and we all have our being through the love of God.

In our world we are passing through troubled times. We see hundreds and even thousands leaving their homes because of war and violence, with nowhere to go, so desperate that adults

*continued on the next page*

will risk their own and even their children's lives. But as Jesus wept over Jerusalem, so he also weeps over the unfulfilled potential of lives – young and old - wasted because of violence, poverty and even death instead of love and caring.

Julian said that in all these things, however, God is present, for this is the world that God loves and that God holds in existence. We can and must cling on to Julian's message of God's faithfulness: holding everything in the palm of his hand. It is also up to us to ensure that we don't merely watch, but also act in response.

On Sunday I shared some of these possibilities which are listed on the Methodist Church website:

*<http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/world-church/world-church-news/refugee-crisis-resources-prayers-and-updates>*

Every blessing.

Lynda

## ***From Rev. Kim Plumpton***

Dear Friends,

Few of us could not be touched by the plight of the many migrants seeking refuge across Europe. Only this week we have seen borders closing, walls being erected and nations defending themselves with tear gas and water cannons, against the many thousands who seek 'hope' beyond the crisis they have left behind.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees warns that many European governments have begun to make "keeping foreigners out a higher priority than upholding asylum standards." He fears that human lives are becoming "collateral damage" in attempts to secure the borders.

In Jonathan Sacks' book "The Politics of Hope", he ponders upon the need for humanity to recreate a sense of social cohesion. Sacks argues for 'a new politics of responsibility, in which families, neighbourhoods, communities, voluntary organisations and religious groups have a full part to play, a politics not of interests but of involvement'. Jonathan Sacks suggests we need to return to the idea of society as a covenant which entails fundamental obligations to our families and communities.

He goes on to say *"Kinship, however broadly conceived, is an exclusive concept. In a world in which there are kin, there must also be non-kin. In one where there are neighbours, there must be strangers. This creates a question (deeply troubling throughout much of human history) of the moral status of outsiders. The Bible therefore explicitly and repeatedly extends the domain of obligation to the 'stranger', the person who is not a member of the extended family. The book of Leviticus contains the famous command: 'you shall love your neighbour as yourself (19:18), but the same chapter includes the far more significant and strenuous command: you shall not oppress the stranger... instead, you shall love him as yourself, for you were once strangers in the land of Egypt... If God is parent, humanity is indeed a single extended family."*

David Cameron once said we had a moral responsibility to respond appropriately to the crisis and his endeavours to welcome those into Britain from the refugee camps on the Syrian borders is undoubtedly part of such a response. It meets the needs of the many before they contemplate making treacherous journeys. However, we have fallen short in finding a way to respond to the thousands who have already begun journeys across the continent.

Our biblical imperative is to love our neighbour as ourselves. The Methodist website will guide you to Open Doors and Homes for Good. The United Reformed Church talks of gearing up for regional welcomes with communities pondering the arrival of refugees.

Yet somehow it doesn't seem enough, this crisis has revealed inadequacies on so many levels, you can almost feel a creeping paralysis. Do I have any answers? I wish I did, it seems this is not a crisis that is going to be resolved with one easy answer. But I remember Jesus saying these words *"The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, he sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind. To set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favourable year of the Lord."*

Right now I'm praying with all my heart that God will indeed release us from our blindness, that God might enable us and the international community to see how best to serve those who are waiting at our doors, with a compassionate and co-ordinated response. I hope you will join me.

With every blessing,

Kim



# Cobham

## Methodist Church

### Cobham Methodist Diary



#### October

<b>Sun</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>John Oborn</b>
Sat	10th	10.00am	Time 4 You <i>(until 12 noon)</i>
		2.30pm	Platinum Service
<b>Sun</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Rhys Frost</b>
Thurs	15th	7.30pm	Autumn Bible Study starts (evenings) <i>(see pages 7 &amp; 8)</i>
Fri	16th	12.30pm	Autumn Bible Study starts (lunchtime) <i>(see pages 7 &amp; 8)</i>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion</b>
Wed	21st	11.30am	Church Council
Thurs	22nd	3.45pm	Messy Church at the URC <i>(to 5.45pm)</i>
		7.30pm	Bible Study
Fri	23rd	12.30pm	Bible Study
<b>Sun</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Waseem Haq</b>
Thurs	29th	7.30pm	Bible Study
Fri	30th	12.30pm	Bible Study



#### November

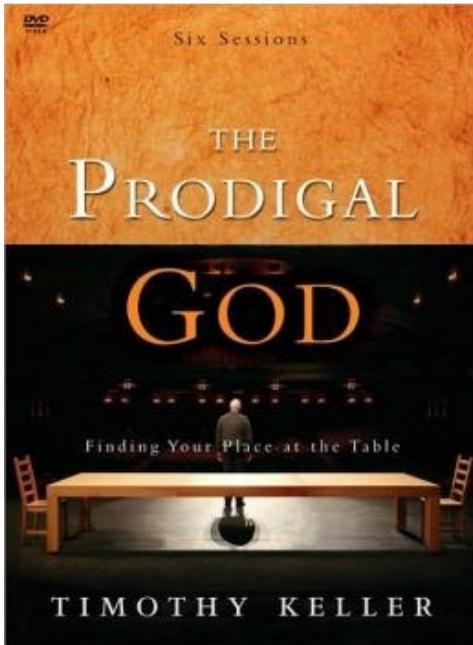
<b>Sun</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Beth Little</b>
Thurs	5th	8.00pm	House Fellowship at The Manse



# Cobham Pages

Information, news, events and happenings in and around  
Cobham including news of Cobham Churches events

## Cobham United Reformed Church & Cobham Methodist Church Bible Study Course



This is a six week course and will be offered on a Thursday evening and a Friday lunchtime in October and November.

*(See next page for dates)*

To book a place please use the sign-up sheet. You will then be provided with a discussion booklet.

# Dates for Cobham Bible Study Course

*(See previous page for details)*

**Thursdays at 7.30pm** *(at Helen Pattison's):*

October: 15th, 22nd, 29th

November: 5th, 12th, 19th

**Fridays at 12.30pm** *(in the Harding Rooms at  
Cobham URC):*

October: 16th, 23rd, 30th

November: 6th, 13th, 20th



## Next "Time 4 You"

Saturday 10th October,  
10.00am - 12 noon

**Cobham Methodist Church**

Why not stop and rest awhile, recharge your batteries, find the space for you to enjoy a chat and a free cup of coffee.

"A place and space for You."



# Cobham

## United Reformed Church

# Cobham URC Worship Diary



<b>October</b>			
Sun	4th	9.00am 10.30am	Early Bird Service Rev. Iain Stewart
Sun	11th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton with Holy Communion
Sun	18th	10.30am	Vivien Gerhold
Sun	25th	10.30am	Rev. Kim Plumpton
<b>November</b>			
Sun	1st	10.30am	Sydney Shore

## Next Messy Church for Cobham, Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon



**Date: Thurs 22nd October**

**Time: 3:45pm - 5:45pm**

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

**All are welcome**

# Cobham URC Events

## October

Sun	4th	3.00pm	Play & Chat <i>(to 6.00pm)</i>
Tues	6th	9.45am	Church Walk
		8.00pm	Elders' Meeting
Thurs	8th	12.30pm	Men's Fellowship
Thurs	22nd	3.45pm	Messy Church <i>(to 5.45pm)</i>
Fri	23rd	3.00pm	T @ 3

## November

Sun	1st	3.00pm	Play & Chat <i>(to 6.00pm)</i>
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## Prayers at the Cobham URC Manse:

at 9.30am on Wednesdays:  
7th, 14th, 21st, 28th October



**Tea at Three:  
Friday 23rd October**



# Effingham

## Methodist Church

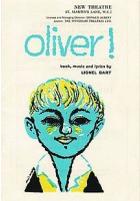
### Dates to celebrate this month:



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 and join us for a **sing-along OLIVER** in **Our Lady of Sorrows** new hall on **24th October at 7.15pm**. How many songs do you remember? Food, Glorious food, You've got to pick a pocket or two, Consider yourself? Let's raise the roof and a few quid for **Christian Aid**.

### Prayer Meetings...

...are held at the Chapel  
every Friday at 9.30am.

### Saturday Morning Live



On **3rd October**, Effingham's café church will be held at St Lawrence Church Hall from 10.00am to 11.00am when our speaker will be talking about a recent visit to the Holy Land.

The next meeting will be on 7th November

**Coffee, croissants and plenty of discussion**

# Effingham Methodist Diary

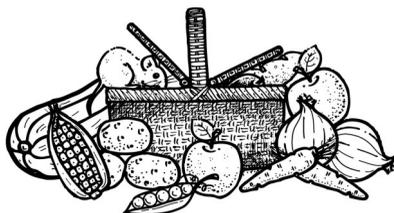


## October

- Thurs 1st 2.30pm Christian Meditation in the Church
- Sat 3rd 10.00am Café Church at St. Lawrence's Hall  
(to 11.00am - see page 11)
- Sun 4th 10.00am Rev. Kim Plumpton - Harvest Festival/  
Church Anniversary with Holy Communion**
- Sun 11th 10.00am Rev. Frank Smith**
- Tues 13th 2.30pm Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
- Wed 14th 3.30pm Messy Church - St. Lawrence Church Hall
- Thurs 15th 12.30pm Oasis Bible lunch with Kim in the Hall  
2.30pm Christian Meditation in the Church
- Sun 18th 10.00am Angie Choat**
- Tues 20th 12 noon Prayer Lunch in EMC hall
- Sat 24th 7.15pm Sing-along - Christian Aid fundraising at  
the new Catholic hall (see page 17)
- Sun 25th 10.00am David Cappitt - Bible Sunday**
- Tues 27th 2.30pm Tuesday Tea in the Catholic Church Hall
- Thurs 29th 2.30pm Christian Meditation in the Church

## November

- Sun 1st 10.00am Rev. Kim Plumpton - Holy Communion**
- Sat 7th 10.00am Café Church at St. Lawrence Church Hall



Your invitation to:



**St. Lawrence Church Hall in Brown's Lane  
Wednesdays 14th October &  
12th November -  
3.30pm to 5.30pm**



**heritage open days**

**Heritage Weekend -  
a great success**

Many thanks to everyone who helped so generously with our Heritage weekend.

It's our most successful with a total of 76 adults and 12 children visiting over the three days, and about £100 was donated. Lots of feedback including how welcoming people felt, exhibition was interesting and cakes delicious as usual!!

**Ange & Dave Putland**



**Methodist  
relief and  
development**

As **All We Can's** main focus is on working with partners in the poorest communities of the world's poorest countries, it's not presently engaged in a direct response to the needs of refugees and migrants within mainland Europe, but is working with sister agencies and churches. But, as they have done for the last two and a half years, **All We Can** continues to provide humanitarian support to those fleeing the conflict in Syria by working with partner organisations in neighbouring countries. Donations to the Syria Appeal will particularly help to improve conditions and prospects for people living in temporary accommodation in Jordan, where UN has had to scale back food aid due to a funding shortfall.

Long-term development and advocacy work are addressing some of the root causes of the current crisis, including poverty, climate change and oppression, in all its forms, trying to improve quality of life, economic prospects and awareness of rights within local communities, so people have fewer reasons to leave their homes, their families and their livelihoods.

There are no easy answers to this crisis, but please consider donating to the Syria Appeal, and pray for peace.

### **A prayer**

Creator of all:

For people who are displaced,  
may they find a safe refuge.

For people who have lost control of their lives,  
may they know a sure foundation.

For people who live in fear,  
may they be given a strong fortress.

For people who are disillusioned,  
may they have hope in a future.

Loving Father, in times of crisis, sorrow and uncertainty  
we ask that you draw near.

Amen





Other agencies are focussing on refugees and work outside Syria - **Open Doors** is one of the few helping those who cannot leave. According to the **United Nations**, the shortfall in funding has already meant 1.6 million refugees have had their food assistance cut this year and 750,000 children are not attending school. Open Doors is stepping up this practical aid inside Syria.

Aid is distributed by pastors who could leave but have chosen to stay and help. Open Doors has strengthened its partnerships in Aleppo, but more food, more help, and more resources are needed. Open Doors has been working in Syria since before the war began, which meant that the charity was able to instantly respond to the crisis through pre-existing networks. The charity is currently supporting over 9,000 families every month with basic supplies such as food parcels, hygiene kits, medicines, rent payments and support during the winter (warm clothing, stoves and heating fuel).

Open Doors partners with churches of all denominations in almost every region of Syria. The focus is on where the church still remains. In general, this means that help goes to the internally displaced people who found refuge in the government-controlled areas of Syria. Open Doors also provides trauma care for people who have suffered atrocities in the war.

People wishing to support Open Doors work in Syria can donate via the website [www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org) or by calling 01993 460015.

Effingham's Harvest collection will be donated to Open Doors.

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[www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk) **Refugee Crisis : Pray, Reflect Act**

# Thank You

A big thank you to Kim who took such a wonderful wedding service for our daughter Philippa and Ben - the new Mr and Mrs Leah - on 22nd August. Special thanks too for her preaching on guess what?? Yes, you guessed it - 1 Corinthians 13. We have a copy of the service and she has a lovely singing voice too!

Also another big thank you to our flower ladies from Effingham Methodist Church: Janet Garnham, Pat Hammond and Pat McElhill, who nobly volunteered to arrange all the church flowers (in Godalming United Church).



This meant arranging eight window sill decorations and four large arrangements for the front of the church and at the entrances to the church. Wonderful! They arranged the window sill flowers on the Thursday morning at Effingham, transporting them on the Friday to the Godalming Church when they then set to for a day's work on the larger arrangements. The flowers were transported later to the barn at Rumbolds Farm, the wedding reception venue and used on the tables there.

The sun even shone for us all too!

What a team, and as Kim would say:

Every blessing, and thank you all so much.

*Gill and Keith Walker*



## Raising funds for Christian Aid - Saturday 24th October

Come to a fun evening, and Sing-along to "Oliver" in the new Our Lady of Sorrows Church Hall, Lower Road, Effingham on Saturday 24th October starting at 7.15pm. Refreshments at half time, probably wine and cheese, and wonderful music provided throughout.

Please sign up at Effingham Methodist Church or let Gill Walker know if you would like to come along (for facility and catering reasons) 01372 457987 - no tickets, but donations please on the night.



**We celebrate our  
161st Chapel Anniversary  
on Sunday 4th October  
with a special  
Harvest Festival service led by  
Kim at 10.00am followed by a  
pub lunch  
at the Sir Douglas Haig**



# Shhhh!! Stuff Santa!



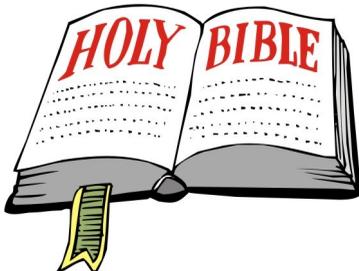
Just 12 per cent of adults know the nativity story, and more than one-third of children don't know whose birthday it is. Meanwhile, 51 per cent of people now say the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas. Together we can reverse the trend.

Some of the UK's leading Christian groups, including the Church of England, the Evangelical Alliance and Bible Society, have come together because 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.

The campaign is active between September and December each year, with resources for churches – including posters, radio ads and worship materials – available on the website for free.

If you'd like to join the campaign for Christmas 2015, do take a look around the website and sign up for regular updates about the campaign.



## Get it... live it... share it...

It's Bible Sunday on 25th October so celebrate the joy of encountering Jesus through the Scriptures and sharing that experience.

9 out of 10 adults have no regular engagement with the Bible. 45% of children never read or hear Bible stories.

The value of the Bible lies in its use. We must use it or lose it.

Let's keep the message of the Bible alive for future generations. Let's pass it on. Let's celebrate the Bible and having the freedom to pass on its message. See Bible Society website for resources.

# Leatherhead Pages

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

## PARISH AUTUMN FAYRE

Saturday 10 October

12noon – 3pm raffle draw

**Parish Church Hall, Church Rd, Leatherhead KT22 8BD**

Find treasures and bargains at all your favourite stalls including  
Auntie's Attic ~ Books ~ Bake Sale ~ Jewellery ~ China and Glass  
Beading ~ Bottle Tombola ~ Beauty and Fragrance  
Promises ~ Raffle ~ Flowers ~ Toys

**New for this year** ~ Accessories ~ Cards ~ Filled Mugs

12noon BBQ outside  
All Aloud Community Choir  
Tea and cake in the Café

**Contact Jane on 362544 to donate items or for queries**



**All Saints,**

## A SPECIALITY COFFEE SHOP AND SANDWICH COMPANY

**Open Mon-Sat, 8am-3pm**

**OPEN TO ALL**



*the very best  
coffee +  
the very best  
sandwiches =*

**Kingston**

**MUSIC  
ON  
THURSDAYS  
at LMC**



**WEDNESDAYS  
at  
CHRIST  
CHURCH**

## **12.30 lunchtime concerts**

**weekly until November 2015**

featuring students of the Royal Academy of Music ®  
former students of London's music colleges, talented local musicians

*Supported by*



**Thursday 1st October at LMC**  
**Traditional music from Greece**  
Carlos Carvalho, bouzouki  
Pavlos Melas, guitar

**Thursday 8th October at LMC**  
**Cavendish Winds ®**  
Katy Ovens, flute ♦ Mary Tyler, clarinet  
Henry Clay, oboe ♦ Alice Quayle, bas-  
soon Charlie Ransley, horn

**Wednesday 14th October**  
**Wednesdays at Christ Church**  
**Bach and his Connections**  
Graham Davies, organ

**Thursday 22nd October at LMC**  
Nicola Berg, soprano  
Roland Appel, viola  
Lynda Chang, piano

**Thursday 29th October at LMC**  
Tim Ridout, viola ® ♦ Ke Ma, piano ®

**Thursday 5th November at LMC**  
The welcome return of  
Viv McLean, piano

**Thursday 12th November at LMC**  
**SEASON FINALE**  
Anna Hashimoto, clarinet,  
Leading the: Atéa Wind Quintet

*Wednesdays at Christ Church  
monthly organ concert continue  
from Wednesday 20th April 2016*

*Music on Thursdays weekly concerts  
at LMC return on April 28th 2016*

*And watch out for our special  
French concert to celebrate the  
Quatorze juillet 2016 !*

***musiconthursdays.org***

*We reserve the right to amend this programme*

***Concert Admission Free, with a retiring collection to cover costs***

**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**

# Time for Tea



## **COME for TEA and COMPANY**

From 2.30pm to 4.30pm

**Friday 2nd October**

*Theme*

*My Favourite Building*

The next one will be on 6th November, and then every first Friday in the month at

**LEATHERHEAD METHODIST CHURCH**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

(Suggested donation £1)





**Leatherhead Uniting Churches**

# **Harvest Supper**

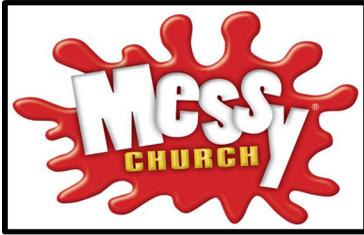
**LMC are hosting this year's  
Harvest Supper at  
Christ Church Hall  
Epsom Road**

**Saturday  
3rd October  
6.30pm**

**Tickets available soon  
£6.00 Adults  
£12 Family £9 Single Parent Family**

**Food included - bring your own drinks**

## Next Messy Church for Leatherhead:



Thursday 15th October  
3.30pm to 5.30pm at:



## NEW FIRE

Don't forget to plan to come along to the contemporary New Fire service at 6.30pm on the fourth Sunday evening each month at LMC. Stay afterwards for coffee and a chat.

**Next New Fire service: Sunday 25th October**



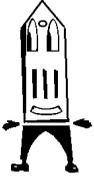
## Men's Breakfasts

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

**24th October** at the Methodist Church Hall and the speaker will be Joy Foreman talking about her book "The People in the Park" relating to West Park Hospital.

**28th November** in the URC Hall, Epsom Road, on the subject of "Youth Project progress".

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.



# Leatherhead

**Methodist Church**

***Please see the Leatherhead Pages  
(pages 23 to 28) for more news***

## **West Hill School Community Café...**

...is held at LMC every Tuesday morning at 10.30am, except during school holidays. (*No café on 27th October - half term*).

West Hill School in Leatherhead is an outstanding special school for pupils aged from 11 to 16 with learning difficulties and autism. The café is providing learners with opportunities to develop work-related skills as well as social and communications skills. Please come along on Tuesday mornings to support this very worthwhile enterprise.



## **LMC House Groups**

LMC has three House Groups where church members or friends can meet together on a regular basis. These groups usually meet in someone's home, and are informal ways to get to know each other better, to share joys, concerns, and prayer requests if desired, and to discuss various subjects, either from the Bible or from other relevant Christian books. Everyone is very welcome to join a group. Please see Lynda if you are interested.



## "Give me a Song"

The Downsmen, the local Barbershop Chorus who rehearse at LMC each Wednesday evening, are presenting an evening of song at Leatherhead Theatre at 7.30pm on **Saturday 21st November**.

Topping the bill are "Reckless" - UK's record breaking Barbershop Quartet, together with Catherine Jones a leading young soprano, Soundbytes - the locally-based mixed voice choir, and The Downsmen.

Tickets £14, under 16's £12, available from:

- Peter Hammond - 0208 642 3734
- Leatherhead Theatre Box Office - 01372 365141
- or if you wish to join the LMC block seating let Bernard Crome have your names by Sunday 4th October.

*Bernard Crome*  
01372 275834.

## Prayer Breakfasts

Prayer breakfasts are held on the third Sunday each month at 9.00am. It's a bring and share (non-cooked) breakfast with a short time of prayer fellowship before the morning service. All very welcome.

## Trinity School

Trinity School are looking for readers to go into school for an hour a week to read with children who don't get much reading at home. The contact at Trinity is either Barbara Shepherd or Anna Gatley. Trinity's number is 01372 813615. Email either: **bshepherd@leatherheadtrinity.surrey.sch.uk** or **agatley@leatherheadtrinity.surrey.sch.uk**

Thanks,

*Carol Stoves*

# Preaching a Sermon by John Wesley

*God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us – that Thy way may be known on the earth, Thy salvation among all nations.* Psalm 67: 1-2

*...We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.* Luke 17:10

The idea of reading one of John Wesley's sermons in Leatherhead High Street came because Wesley preached his last sermon in Leatherhead on 23rd February 1791, and so I thought it would be quite an appropriate thing to do on Heritage Weekend. Some people said I was very brave to do it, but I don't think it took much courage – it was very unlikely that I was exposing myself to any danger. Nevertheless, I did feel slightly nervous as the time approached, since with that sort of thing there is always a certain amount of unpredictability.

However, it basically seemed to go very well. I started by giving a summary of Wesley's life, theology, attitude to slavery, etc. and then read a sermon which Wesley preached in 1738 shortly after his "Aldersgate" experience called "Salvation by Faith". Although the whole thing took about 45 or 50 minutes, there were still 14 people



listening to it at the end (!), some of whom were people I know from LMC, but some were people I had never met before and two or three leaflets were taken at the end.

There were quite a few people passing to and fro at the top of the High Street who would have heard snatches of the message, although I don't know how much it would have meant without hearing the whole thing. I don't know whether there was any specific spiritual benefit as a result, but I am sure that it is good to sow the seed and look to the Holy Spirit to work in people's hearts.

It was difficult to decide what was the best position in the High Street to deliver the address. There were less people at the top of the High Street, and since it was a fine day, there were very many people further down the High Street sitting outside tea-shops, etc. so I would have had a captive audience. On the other hand, there was less space further down the High Street, and if people had started leaving in their droves, the shop proprietors might have objected to me driving away their customers!

All in all, I felt sufficiently encouraged that I might want to do something similar in the future, for example something related to World War II when Remembrance Sunday is approaching, although next time it will probably be much shorter! If you would like to pray for me for guidance that would be most welcome, and also that the Spirit of God might work to cause people to become interested in spiritual things in general and Christianity in particular.

David Worthington, the manager of John Wesley's Chapel in Bristol often refers to a quotation which I think is very appropriate to what I did on Heritage Weekend from Wendell Phillips, an American abolitionist in the 19th century: "The heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future".

I would also like to thank those people who helped me prepare to deliver the address by providing leaflets, fancy dress so that I would look like John Wesley (!), transport to convey various bits and pieces to the top of the High Street and by putting me in touch with the person in charge of Heritage Weekend at Mole Valley District Council.

*Bob Greenfield*



# The Lost Generation

During the last few months it became necessary for us to travel many times to South Wales on family business. During this time we decided that when it was possible we would take the opportunity of visiting places that either we had not been to for many years or never in fact been to before. One place that we had never been to before became well known 49 years ago because of a coalmining disaster at Aberfan, near Merthyr Tydfil.

It was in the late spring of 1966 after almost five years of marriage that we bought our first television set. It was at the close of that football season that England were due to host the world cup. They went on to win the tournament. I remember watching the news on the evening of Friday 21st October. It had been raining for several days in South Wales and the build-up of water in the accumulated rock and shale in the colliery spoil tip at the top of the mountain overlooking the village caused it to become unstable. At 9.15 that morning the disaster happened. Within minutes 40,000 cubic metres of debris descended and covered many parts of the village. 116 children in the junior school and 28 adults lost their lives in a few minutes.

It was on one of our visits to South Wales that we went to Aberfan. It was a lovely sunny day and we enjoyed the ride from Pontypool where we were staying. We turned off the main road and followed the road sign to the town centre. We drove through thinking that we would see a sign which would direct us to the cemetery. We came to the end of the village and could go no further since what we supposed was the old main road was no longer since a fairly new cluster of houses had been built. We turned round and retraced our steps expecting to see a sign which we had both missed. We saw no such sign. We saw only two signs both pointing the way to the garden of remembrance. Both of these signs were in out of the way places. We parked our car in a car park.

There was a pathway out of the car park which led up the mountain. Within a couple of minutes we could look down to the garden of remembrance. We later found out that this was the original site of the junior school. We continued up the pathway in the hope that we would come to the cemetery which we thought was situated on the lower part of the mountain. After a few minutes the pathway split into two. Which path we wondered should we take? A couple of minutes later a man came up the pathway pushing his bicycle. We asked if this was the way to the cemetery. He pointed us along one of the pathways and told us to turn right after a couple of hundred yards.

He told us that the children's graves would stand out from the others. We followed his directions and decided that a couple of hundred Welsh yards equates to eight hundred or so English yards. He was quite right however for when we turned right we could see the cemetery. It was a large and old cemetery. Almost all of the gravestones were grey but the graves of the children were marble and stood out in the bright sunlight. We reached the entrance to the cemetery. To get to the children's graves necessitated going up a series of zig zags rather like going up the road at Box Hill but on a much more compact scale.

When I eventually reached the Children's graves, which were in several rows going up the mountain, I discovered that they all had the same design, and the wording on all the stones were identical apart from, of course, the names of the children. They read "In loving memory of *whoever* who died on 21st October 1966 aged ...."

I walked along and in-between the graves and then came to one which was different. The inscription read "In loving memory of Tom. Dick and Harry who died on 21st October 1966 aged 6 8 and 9." I can't remember their names but names are not important. I stood and wondered and asked myself how would I have coped if I had sent my children to school in the morning only to be told later in the day that not only would they not come home from school but that I would never see or speak to them again? I walked along another row a little higher and met a lady who was looking at one particular grave. We exchanged smiles and I asked if it was her daughter's grave. No she replied I was one of the lucky ones. It was the last day of term - the following week was half term -I had the start of a cold and so my mother let me stay at home. If I had gone to school then I expect that I would have been in one of these graves. She went on to tell me that the grave she was at was that of her best friend who lived next door and that today was her birthday. I mentioned the grave that I had just seen and commented that I had no idea how I would have coped if I had lost three of my children on the same day. She turned and smiled - you would have, for the village was all one family and we were all there for each other. I commented that there were further but newer graves above the children's graves but spaces around the children's graves. She told me that they were reserved so that the remaining parents of the children could eventually be buried near their own children. It was time to go back down the mountain for I had seen what I had wanted to see. When we reached the entrance to the cemetery, we turned and took a final look. I don't expect we will ever go back there again. We walked back to our car.

*continued on the next page*

We had both experienced something which was far more than we had expected.

I have an unusual hobby. I collect thimbles of places I have visited. I shall soon reach the 700 mark. I always carry a spare one in my pocket so that if someone does not understand what I am looking for, then I can show them an example. This spare was invaluable when we were in China and Russia. Tourist Information Bureaus are a good source but it seemed that Aberfan was too small for one. When we were driving out of Aberfan, I noticed that there was a Community Centre. We stopped and I went to ask the lady who was sitting behind the enquiry desk if there was such a thing as an Aberfan thimble, bearing in mind the events of 49 years ago. I was told very politely but very firmly that Aberfan never did, does not and never will commercialise at the expense of "Their Lost Generation". I thanked her and left feeling somewhat embarrassed at my enquiry. Clearly Aberfan was, is and will I expect always remain a mining community who are very closely knit.

Whilst I was driving back to Pontypool, and on several occasions since, two things have come to mind. Firstly Aberfan is a close knit community. There were no signs to lead us to the cemetery. In fact, almost no signs lead visitors anywhere. It was just as if visitors are not welcome. 21st October 2016 will be the fiftieth anniversary of the disaster. I cannot imagine that the media will let the event pass unreported. What I wonder will be the reaction by the local community to the intrusion by the media? Time will tell. The second thought that comes to mind is that in our day to day lives we take so much for granted. We send our children to school for example and we take it for granted that they will come home. It never occurs to us that they may not. It would be an interesting exercise to list just for one day the things that we take for granted for which we should say thank you. I have to admit that I have not done so, but I am sure that it would be a pretty extensive list. How many times a day I wonder should we stop to say thank you for this, that and the other? Is it right that we should say thank you for everything all the time, or are there certain things in our daily life that we should allow to be taken for granted?

On Wednesday 21st October I shall remember what happened 49 years ago and give a thought to those people who are still alive but lost their children. One thing is for sure – those people will have their own around them to comfort them and to remember "The Lost Generation".

*David Barnes*

# LMC Family News

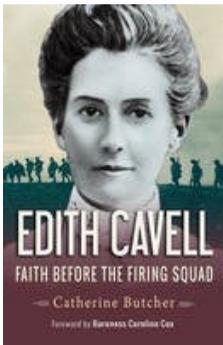


*Our thoughts and prayers are with...*

... members and friends being looked after in nursing care or at home and with all those who care for them day by day. We think of Jean and James Ross, and Jean Jones.

## **Book Review:**

### **Edith Cavell - Faith Before the Firing Squad By Catherine Butcher, LionHudson, £8.99**



Edith Louisa Cavell was a British nurse. She is celebrated for saving the lives of soldiers from both sides and in helping some 200 Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium during the First World War, for which she was arrested.

She was subsequently court-martialled, found guilty of treason and sentenced to death. She was shot by a German firing squad at the age of 49. Her execution was greeted with world-wide condemnation and extensive press coverage.

A woman of profound faith, she told her chaplain, on the night before her execution, "Standing as I do in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone." Her death caused international outrage and may have contributed to America's decision to enter the war.

Three films and a stage play have been written about her life, and many public buildings and streets named after her. She will feature on a commemorative £5.00 coin in 2015.

*Parish Pump*



# Diary



## October

Thurs	1st	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays ( <i>see page 20</i> )
Fri	2nd	2.30pm	Time for Tea ( <i>to 4.30pm</i> )
Sat	3rd	6.30pm	Harvest Supper at Christ Church ( <i>see p. 22</i> )
<b>Sun</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion &amp; Commissioning of Pastoral Visitors</b>
Tues	6th	10.30am	West Hill School Café at LMC - all welcome
Thurs	8th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays ( <i>see page 20</i> )
<b>Sun</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>John Oborn</b>
		<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion</b>
Tues	13th	10.30am	West Hill School Café at LMC - all welcome
Wed	14th	12.30pm	Organ Recital at Christ Church ( <i>see p. 20</i> )
Thurs	15th	3.30pm	Messy Church ( <i>to 5.30pm</i> )
<b>Sun</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Bring and Share Prayer Breakfast</b>
		<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Rev. Lynda Russell</b>
Tues	20th	10.30am	West Hill School Café at LMC all welcome
Thurs	22nd	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays ( <i>see page 20</i> )
Sat	24th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast at LMC ( <i>see page 23</i> )
<b>Sun</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Joint Service at LMC -</b>
			<b>Rev. Lynda Russell</b>
		<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>New Fire</b>
Tues	27th	2.30pm	Pastoral Prayer Meeting
Thurs	29th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays ( <i>see page 20</i> )
		7.30pm	Church Council

## November

<b>Sun</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion</b>
Tues	3rd	10.30am	West Hill School Café at LMC - all welcome
Thurs	5th	12.30pm	Music on Thursdays ( <i>see page 20</i> )
Fri	6th	2.30pm	Time for Tea ( <i>to 4.30pm</i> )

# What would YOU reply?



In late August, Rev. Paul Cockburn conducted our morning service. His sermon began with the question "What drives us to come to Church week after week? Is it simply a habit?" He was not expecting answers by a show of hands, but went on to give his thoughts on the matter.

It set me thinking "Why do we come to Church?" So, over a couple of weeks I asked others in the congregation for their thoughts. There was nothing startling and many answers were the same opinion expressed in different ways.

Worship among like-minded people was top of the list, with giving thanks a close second. Some gave it much deeper consideration viewing it as a time for spiritual fulfilment, a time of strength to deepen daily lives, and, at Communion, that brief special time of one-to-one with God, focusing thinking on his great sacrifice of Jesus' life.

One knee-jerk reaction to the question of habit was "Yes, it was!" going on to say how much it was missed when not there, a comment supported by others. More than one admitted it was a habit - a good one learnt from a very young age, when the whole family attended together. Without Sunday worship, part of life is missing. Church on Sunday is a special place of peace, to be aware of God's presence and a time to think and listen, a time often by-passed in day-to-day living. A few mentioned the habit formed during teenage years when members of MAYC when the whole gang of youngsters were nurtured within the older section of the Church family.

Local Preachers that I asked said it was an inner urge from God to spread the Word and give thanks for that opportunity. Other 'gifts' were mentioned - working with children, music and technical ability. All three enhance the whole service and support the preachers and leaders, and help to get it all together to make a seamless running of the whole time of worship.

Sometimes absence is unavoidable because of holidays, illness, age and family commitments. At such times the prayerful Fellowship of the congregation supports and remembers them. The Fellowship among friends of the Church Family on Sundays, whatever each personal need is, completes one week and gives a vital beginning to the next.

*Jean Plant*

## Monthly Service at The Beeches Care Home

A service is held at The Beeches Care Home in Forty Foot Road at 3.00pm on the third Tuesday every month. If you feel you can assist with running the service, please contact Lynda.

## Pastoral Prayers

Prayer meetings are held at 2.30pm on the 4th Tuesday every month at LMC. All pastoral visitors and Christ Church Elders are welcome to attend. Next prayer meeting - Tuesday 27th October.



"Delivery for whoever ordered the trendy alternative to a basket of groceries..."

# **Christ Church**

**(United Reformed) Leatherhead**

***Please see the  
Leatherhead Pages  
(pages 23 to 28)  
for more news***



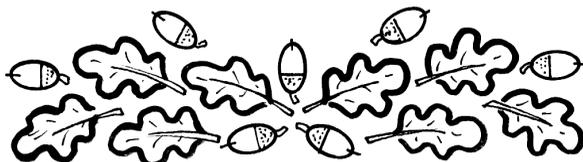
# Church Hall Bookings

Monday 14th September was a big day for Christ Church as the Fortyfoot Playgroup started its first term in our hall. The Playgroup was established over forty years ago, and until last July it was based at the Millennium Hall in Fortyfoot Road – hence the name, which they have decided to keep.

Little Oaks Playgroup was at Christ Church for many years, but closed recently because the proprietor retired, to be followed for 18 months by Pitstop as a temporary home. Their clients will be helped in the immediate future by Graham Peddie in Epsom and by LMC.

Exxon have kindly transformed the garden on the west side of the church, for use by the children, with flower beds and herbs, and they have other facilities indoors, and a hard-play area. We are glad to be working with such a well-managed and friendly group, every weekday morning in term-time

*John Henderson*



## 50 Years...

This year, Anthony Cairns celebrates his 50th year as organist and choirmaster at Christ Church. That is a tremendous achievement, as during that period he has maintained standards that would be the envy of most churches.

He has also master-minded the reconstruction of the pipe organ, which is now a splendid instrument. As a testament to that he will be the soloist with the Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra at their next concert at Christ Church.

We wish Anthony many happy more years of playing.

*Mike Essex*

# Christ Church Diary



## October

Thurs 1st 12.30pm Music on Thursdays at LMC (*see page 20*)

Fri 2nd 2.30pm Time for Tea at LMC (*to 4.30pm*)

Sat 3rd 6.30pm Harvest Supper at Christ Church

**Sun 4th 10.30am Gail Partridge**

Thurs 8th 12.30pm Music on Thursdays at LMC (*see page 20*)

**Sun 11th 10.30am Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion**  
**6.30pm Rev. Lynda Russell - Holy Communion - at LMC**

Wed 14th 12.30pm Organ Recital (*see page 20*)

Thurs 15th 3.30pm Messy Church at LMC (*to 5.30pm*)

**Sun 18th 10.30am Rev. Donald Finnan**

Thurs 22nd 12.30pm Music on Thursdays at LMC (*see page 20*)

Sat 24th 8.00am Men's Breakfast at LMC (*see page 23*)

**Sun 25th 10.30am Rev. Lynda Russell - Joint Service at LMC**  
**6.30pm New Fire at LMC**

Tues 27th 2.30pm Pastoral Prayer Meeting at LMC

Thurs 29th 12.30pm Music on Thursdays at LMC (*see page 20*)

## November

**Sun 1st 10.30am Rev. Bruce Stuart**

Thurs 5th 12.30pm Music on Thursdays at LMC (*see page 20*)

Fri 6th 2.30pm Time for Tea at LMC (*to 4.30pm*)

# Christ Church Family News



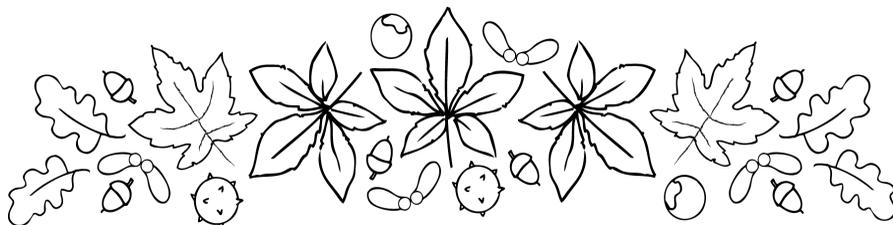
We are very sad to report the death of **Bert Gower** on 28th August. He had been struggling with ill health for a long time and had been cared for in Milner House for a number of years, first with his wife Florence, then alone since her death in February 2014. He had been sustained by frequent visits from church members, notably Ivan Haslam, Mary Keene and Lynda Russell, who was able to visit on 28th. We give thanks for his life of service at Christ Church since 1991. The funeral service was held at Randall's Road Crematorium on Friday 25th September. We send our sincere condolences to his daughter Jo and her family and Alan in their loss.

We are sorry that **Joyce Cuss** is unwell at the moment. We send her our warmest wishes and pray that she will be better very soon.

**Hilary Porter** is looking forward to further surgery to relieve the infection in her hip. We send our very best wishes for a successful outcome.

We remember in our prayers all these friends and any in our community who need our prayers and support, including **Derek and Anne Ray and John Rayner**.

*Anne Cairns*





## **Bert and Florence Gower**

I would like to thank you all for your thoughts, prayers and visits to my parents since my father had his stroke in November 2006, and subsequently when they had to move into care after my mother had her two strokes in March 2012. Your continuing support meant a huge amount to them and to me.

As you will be aware by now, my father died on 28th August. He was the kindest gentleman, who would never have wished anything harmful on anyone. It is ironic therefore, that his last nine years were such a battle for him. It didn't seem fair.

He was a role model in so many ways, but to accept whatever comes at you and make the best of it, was one of the most important lessons he taught me over the past nearly two years since my mother's death.

We will all miss him dreadfully, and your continuing prayers will help to support us at this most difficult time.

With my thanks and best wishes,

Jo Crosby (née Gower)

# 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](http://www.leatherheadmethodist.org)  
Contact: Administrator -  
Carol Stoves 01372 377125; Office 362145

## **Christ Church (United Reformed):**

Epsom Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ST  
[www.chch.org.uk](http://www.chch.org.uk)  
Contact: Local Church Leader -  
Mike Essex 01372 273472

## **Effingham Methodist Church:**

Chapel Hill, Effingham, KT24 5NB  
[www.effinghammethodistchurch.co.uk](http://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](http://www.cobhamurc.org.uk)  
Contact: Church Secretary -  
Mary Langtry 01483 282421

## **Cobham Methodist Church:**

Cedar Road, Cobham, KT11 2AA  
[www.cobhammethodistchurch.com](http://www.cobhammethodistchurch.com)  
Contact: Senior Steward -  
Rhonda Frost 01932 423100



## **United Pastorate Ministers**

### **Rev. Lynda Russell**

10 Church Road  
Leatherhead  
KT22 8AY

**Tel:** 01372 372743 (home)  
01372 362145 (office)

### **E-mail:**

[lynda.russell@methodist.org.uk](mailto:lynda.russell@methodist.org.uk)

### **Rev. Kim Plumpton**

38 Stoke Road  
Cobham  
KT11 3BD

**Tel:** 01932 586988

### **E-mail:**

[kimp\\_822@hotmail.com](mailto:kimp_822@hotmail.com)