

LMC Mission Statement - 2016

“Leatherhead Methodist Church exists to share the Good News of God’s love for all; and to nurture people who will passionately love God, genuinely love and serve others, and actively participate in making disciples.”

As we share the Good News of God’s love for all, our priorities are to:

- nurture people [*pastoral, learning and caring*]
- passionately love God [*worship, prayer, growth in spiritual depth*]
- genuinely love and serve others [*service, community*]
- actively participate in making disciples [*evangelism, numerical growth*]

We will do this in partnership with those we have identified as our mission/covenant partners whenever possible.

Priorities:

To nurture people we will:

- ❖ Establish a network of home groups so that everyone has access to one
 - Ensure by personal discussion through pastoral contact that everyone has been invited
 - Ensure that access (transport etc) is not a problem as far as possible
 - Encourage all to attend as places of both deep sharing and learning
- ❖ Encourage everyone to have their own personal regular time of Bible reading/study; obtaining copies of various notes/systems for those who want them, and advising as required
- ❖ Ensure everyone is aware has access to pastoral care and support
- ❖ Pray regularly for everyone in our pastoral groups [Pastoral Prayer Meeting?]
- ❖ Support those who are in work by specific prayer and any other relevant means
- ❖ Find opportunities to meet together for fellowship so that we can grow in faith together. These include but are not limited to:
 - prayer
 - Bible study
 - social events (ensuring that the majority of social events are family friendly)
 - investigate the possibility of a weekend away/at home on a semi-regular basis (e.g every 2 – 3 years)
- ❖ Aim to facilitate groups and other opportunities that are age specific and age appropriate, inclusive and enabling for all ages and abilities as the need arises, including families

- ❖ Provide opportunities for everyone to discover, grow and use their natural and spiritual gifts and abilities as far as possible

To nurture people who will passionately love God we will:-

- ❖ Aim to offer acts of worship that:
 - glorify God
 - are passionate, led by the Holy Spirit and Spirit filled
 - enable us to bring our whole selves before God in body, soul and spirit and respond to God's love in Jesus for us
 - enable us to deepen our relationship with Jesus through
 - creativity
 - prayer
 - song
 - silence
 - listening
 - learning (including the preached word)
 - Bible reading
 - Holy Communion
 - sharing together
 - and by any other relevant means...!
 - give every opportunity for the Holy Spirit to renew and disrupt our lives so that our passion for God is constantly reignited and renewed
 - are inclusive and enabling for all ages and all abilities
 - enable all to use God-given gifts
 - continually move forward and resource and develop our worship
- ❖ Provide and/or encourage everyone to attend quiet days and / or renewal conferences such as ECG
- ❖ Sustain the prayer life of the church, such that all can participate as far as they wish
 - Encourage prayer as the core activity of a growing community who passionately loves a God who is active in the life of that community
- ❖ Worship with other local Christians within the Covenant / CTiL when and where appropriate or possible

To be people who genuinely love and serve others we will:

- ❖ Create an environment of trust where all feel able to share their concerns and joys with each other, watching over one another in love
- ❖ Support each other, caring for and serving those who are less able to care for themselves
- ❖ Love and serve the whole Church family, from the youngest to the oldest, and aim to ensure that all receive the support they need
- ❖ Ensure we are aware of those on the fringes of the church, and endeavour to bring them closer into the fellowship
- ❖ Be aware of those who may drift away or leave, and take loving actions to avoid this if appropriate
- ❖ Strive to understand the true context and needs of our community, and to find out where we can make a difference by serving in God's name
- ❖ Strive to challenge injustice wherever we find it, both in our community and in other parts of the world
- ❖ Give support to those members of our church who work or serve in the community
- ❖ Ensure that the life of our community and our involvement in it features regularly in our prayers
- ❖ Share our personal resources with those in need in our community and the wider world
- ❖ Use our property/building wisely to serve the local community
- ❖ Ensure our premises are welcoming and that our welcome is genuine and hospitable

To actively participate in making disciples of all ages we will:

- ❖ Continually endeavour to find new and creative ways of sharing the good news of God's love in Christ for all
- ❖ Prioritise our activities so that evangelism and making new disciples of Christ through apt and appropriate ways will be at the top of our agenda and our key priority
- ❖ Work with partner organisations to share the good news and to make new disciples
- ❖ Learn together and teach each other to share our faith stories and journeys
- ❖ Invite and welcome our friends and neighbours to our church
- ❖ Be prepared to share our faith at any time, using words that are straightforward and meaningful to those outside the church (*1 Peter 3:15*)
- ❖ Expect to have to go outside the church to make disciples, rather than wait for people to come to us