



## Sixth Annual Report – 27th June 2007

### INTRODUCTION

**Churches Together in Leatherhead** (CTL) existed for many years as an informal body to foster co-operation between our churches. More recently it was felt appropriate to create a formal body in line with the practice of Churches Together groups elsewhere and so the present Constitution was adopted by member Churches on 6th September 2001. This Constitution requires CTL to hold an Annual Meeting “in or around July ... at which the accounts shall be presented, officers elected, and policy and initiatives for the year decided”. The Inaugural Annual Meeting was held in Christ Church (URC) on 13th June 2002. The Fifth Annual Meeting was held at the Methodist Church on 6th July 2006.

### PARTICIPATION

The following are currently members of CTL: Anglican **Church of St.Mary & St.Nicholas with All Saints**; Anglican **Church of St.Michael, Mickleham** [see Note 1 below]; **Leatherhead Methodist Church**; **Church in The Theatre** [see Note 2 below]; Roman Catholic **Church of Our Lady & St.Peter**; **Christ Church** (United Reformed). **Liquid Connection** (North Leatherhead Youth and Community Work Group) have also participated in CTL since 3rd March 2006.

[Notes: [1] St.Michael, Mickleham was welcomed into membership in March 2005 following their incorporation into a United Benefice together with St.Mary & St.Nicholas with All Saints; [2] Church in The Theatre (formerly Pioneer People) have participated “in relationship with CTL” since 15th January 2004.]

### REPRESENTATION

The current Officers of CTL are: **Chairman** – Chris Bessant; **Treasurer** – Cathy Noble; **Secretary** – Paul Hamilton.

The following attended meetings during the year: **St.Mary & St.Nicholas Leatherhead** – Revd Canon David Eaton; **St.Michael Mickleham** – Mary Banfield; **Catholic Church** – Tony Hall, Val Luthwood; **Methodist Church** – Revd Ian Howarth, Jean Plant, Norma Shaw; **Church in The Theatre** – Matthew Noble; **United Reformed Church** – Arthur Head, Dorothy Poulton, Revd Dean Tapley; **Night Hostel, Social Concern Group, Town Centre Forum** – Hilary Porter; **Liquid Connection** – Andy Smithyman.

### MEETINGS

Five meetings were held during the year on: 14th September 2006, 2nd November 2006, 10th January 2007, 8th March 2007 and 9th May 2007.

### LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

The **Anglican Church of St.Mary & St.Nicholas with All Saints, Leatherhead Methodist Church** and **Christ Church (United Reformed)** entered into a new depth of relationship through the signing of a Covenant on 9th March 2003. These churches fully recognise each other’s ministry as, for example, in exchanging ministers and celebrating Holy Communion. Partner Churches work closely together on such tasks as selecting new ministers, joint preparation of candidates for Confirmation and experimenting with

new forms of worship. The Partnership is not in any sense exclusive – indeed, it is hoped that other Churches might in due course wish to join.

The Partnership Ministers are currently in the process of inviting each Church Council to consider further deepening the partnership (e.g. through ‘team ministry’) and they are engaged in a series of presentations on each of their traditions (Methodist – Revd Ian Howarth on Wed. 16th May; Anglican – Revd Canon David Eaton on Wed. 20th June; United Reformed – Revd Dean Tapley on Wed. 11th July).

## TRINITY SCHOOL

One fruit of the Partnership is joint involvement in the new Voluntary Controlled Trinity School which incorporated the two former Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant Schools (St.Mary’s & All Saints) and the former Middle School (Woodville). This venture was a national first which required the churches to engage through their various organisational structures – i.e. St.M & St.N at diocesan level, Methodist Church at national level and UR Church locally. The new School opened in Sept. 2007 using existing buildings on the Woodville site with new buildings to be built there in due course.

The reorganisation also enabled the opening of a new Family Centre and Nursery at the All Saints site.

## “PRAYER IN THE MORNING”

As part of their commitment to closer partnership, members of the Anglican, Methodist and United Reformed Churches together with Church in The Theatre have met for “Prayer in the Morning” daily since February 2003. “Prayer” starts at 9 am and runs for about 20 minutes with a simple liturgy including Confession, Psalm, Old Testament reading, Canticle, New Testament reading, Apostle’s Creed, open prayer, a period of silence and the Lord’s Prayer. It is held every week as follows: Monday – All Saints Church; Tuesday – Methodist Church; Wednesday – The Theatre; Thursday – Christ Church; Fridays – St.Mary and St.Nicholas Church (Communion Service).

## UNITED SERVICES & EVENTS

Members supported the following United Services and events during the year:

**Sun. 29th Oct. 2006 at 6.30 pm** – Methodist Church – ‘**New Fire**’ **United Service** – the first of a regular series featuring the best in ‘contemporary’ worship and praise to be held on 5th Sundays. Around 80 attended and greatly enjoyed this inaugural Service on the theme ‘Halloween – a Christian Festival ?’

**Sun. 24th Dec. 2006 at 6.00 pm** – Christ Church – **United Nativity Service** – led by the Youth Team.

**Sun. 21st Jan. 2007** – Partnership Ministers exchanged pulpits at Morning Services to mark the **Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity** (Thu. 18th – Thu. 25th Jan.)

**Shrove Tue. 20th Feb. 2007 at 7.30 pm** – Methodist Church – **United ‘Mardi Gras’** – very much enjoyed by around 105 participants.

**Ash Wed. 21st Feb. 2007 at 8 pm** – Christ Church – **United Holy Communion** with Imposition of Ashes.

**Fri. 2nd Mar. 2007 at 2 pm** – Christ Church – **Women’s World Day of Prayer** - ‘United Under God’s Tent’.

**Maundy Thu. 5th Apr. 2007 at 8 pm** – St.M & St.N – **United Eucharist**.

**Good Fri. 6th Apr. 2007 at 10 am** – Christ Church – **Walk of Witness** via town centre St.M & St.N.

**Sun. 29th Apr. 2007 at 6.30 pm** – St.M & St.N – ‘**New Fire**’ **United Service** (5th Sunday).

**Sun. 13th – Sat. 19th May 2007** – **Christian Aid Week** – see below.

**Pentecost Sun. 27th May 2007 at 10.30 am** – Christ Church – **United Holy Communion**.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

Member Churches co-operated as usual in distributing Christmas Cards announcing the Services in our Churches to all households in the town. Grateful thanks again to Sue Roberts (St.M & St.N) for organising printing and co-ordinating distribution.

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 13th-19th May 2007

The Anglican, Methodist and United Reformed Churches co-operated in house-to-house and street collections to raise an overall total of £ 4062.48 for Christian Aid (£ 4169 last year). In addition, our now

traditional hour of Christmas Carol Singing in the Swan Centre had earlier raised £150 (£124 last year).

At £4062.48 we were about £100 down on last year, for three reasons. First, an administrative foul-up by the railway company meant we were unable to collect at Leatherhead Station this year; second, we suffered a reduction in the number of able and fit collectors; and third, we did not have any collectors from one of the churches. The main load of the effort falls on the URC team, who staff the collections far in excess of what would be expected from their church numbers. Thank you ! We will hope to do better in 2008.

There is a Christian Aid in Leatherhead page on the Churches Together Website.

== Frank Haslam (St.M & St.N), Coordinator Christian Aid Leatherhead – Tel. 379341

### **LENT COURSE 2007**

Groups followed the ‘York’ Course ‘**Can We Build a Better World?**’ during the five weeks preceding Holy Week. An Introductory Lecture was given by Roy McCloughry (Tutor in Ethics and Sociology at St John’s College, Nottingham) on Tue. 27th Feb. (8 pm - Methodist Church) and a Concluding Service was held on Tue. 3rd April (8pm - St.M & St.N). There were nine groups with around 100 participants. Grateful thanks again to Helena Hill (St.M & St.N) for co-ordinating this year’s Course.

### **SOCIAL CONCERN GROUP**

The CTL Social Concern Group met regularly during the year under the Chairmanship of Sheila Hill (St Mary’s, Fetcham). Their primary aim is to monitor and engage with the local and wider issues of concern to all Christians including local charities and groups such as the Night Hostel, Pit Stop, Club House and issues of Trade Justice and World Development. They have a particular interest in North Leatherhead and strongly support a Leatherhead & District Credit Union which is currently being set up.

The Group is currently devoting most of its effort into making Leatherhead a Fairtrade Town. This requires a specified proportion of retailers, restaurants, businesses, churches and other organisations to support Fairtrade products as well as an on-going publicity programme. Most of the criteria have now been met and the Group expects to apply to the Fairtrade Foundation shortly.

### **NIGHT HOSTEL**

Hilary Porter (URC) represents CTL as a member of the Management Committee of the Night Hostel.

### **TOWN CENTRE FORUM**

CTL is not specifically represented on the Leatherhead Town Centre Forum though Linda Heath (St.M & St.N) and Hilary Porter (URC) regularly attend on behalf of other bodies.

### **YOUTH WORK**

**Youth Work** – the Anglican, Methodist and United Reformed Churches have jointly funded a Youth Worker since 1999 and funding is presently in place until at least 2008. Jay Bristow was appointed to the post in Nov. 2005. The on-going youth groups are ‘Courage’ (currently 8-10) and ‘Victory’ (11-18) – both of which now meet successively at B-Free on Sunday afternoons.

**B-Free Café** – the Youth Café and Information Centre opened in Apr. 2005 at All Saints Church and currently opens 3.30–6.30 pm on weekdays (till 8 pm on Fridays). It is administered by a registered Charity formed by the three churches together with Mole Valley District Council. It has increasingly become a focus for activities including a monthly Youth Service at 6.30 pm on the 2nd Sunday.

**Liquid Connection** – this independent trust (which originated in The Theatre) is now based at The Bridge Youth Club where it is led by Kyle Oliver with Andy Smithyman and others. It has close links with the **B@titude** community/charity shop.

**Liaison** – all the youth leaders work closely together on a wide range of activities including: Therfield lunchtime club, ‘youth-to-youth’ mentoring scheme, evening sessions (night club, music workshop, DJ) as well as Christian camps and festivals (e.g. Freestyle ’07 at Reed’s School Cobham over Easter).

**Facilitating Group** (Chair: Andy Smithyman) – this was formed in Sept. 2006 to help co-ordinate all the Youth and Community work in North Leatherhead – it is associated with and reports to CTL though it has access to independent funds. It has already appointed a part-time Administrative Assistant (Carol Gillott) to facilitate co-operative working and best practice among participants. It is currently setting up several new schemes including: (1) Holiday Caravan – at Pagham for hire by needy families; (2) Furniture

Restoration Scheme – to provide employment and training for young people; (3) Youth Bus – to serve local youth projects.

**Holiday Club – ‘Pyramid Rock’** – held at Christ Church – 14th–18th Aug. 2006 – fully subscribed as usual with around 80 children – mostly 5–7 year olds.

#### **WEBSITE**

Frank Haslam (St.M & St.N) maintains a Website for the Churches and other bodies in the Leatherhead area at <http://www.leatherheadweb.org.uk/>

#### **MENS BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP**

The Men’s Breakfast Fellowship which was inaugurated in February 2004 continues to meet monthly. It is hosted by a rota of various churches and attracts an average attendance of around 20. It normally meets on the fourth Saturday of the month from 8.00 to 9.30 am and invites a speaker.

#### **PRAYER HOUSES FOR LEATHERHEAD**

Since 1997 members of Church in The Theatre and Bookham Baptist Church have met in Leatherhead to pray for the town. In March 2004 they were re-launched as “Prayer Houses for Leatherhead”. Two Groups currently meet at 8 pm as follows: (1) 16 Highlands Avenue – every Wednesday; (2) 236 Kingston Road – 2nd & 4th Wednesday. Contact – Keith Creasey – Tel. 375350.

#### **PILGRIMAGE REVIEW**

The Constitution of CTL adopted in October 2001 requires a review of our joint ‘Pilgrimage’ every three years in association with Churches Together in Surrey. The CTL Forum has agreed that a Paper prepared by Revd Ian Howarth early in 2006 for a meeting in Farnham on Local Ecumenical Partnership working might form the basis of this Review. This Paper summarised the experience in Leatherhead over the past few years and a copy has been sent to Revd Sue Loveday (Co-ordinator Churches Together in Surrey) for her comments.

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