



## Eighth Annual Report – 24th June 2009

### INTRODUCTION

**Churches Together in Leatherhead** (CTL) was formed many years ago as an informal body to foster co-operation between our churches. More recently it became a formal body in line with the practice of Churches Together groups elsewhere and the present Constitution was adopted on 6th September 2001. This 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 Meeting was held at Christ Church (UR) on 13th June 2002 and the Seventh Meeting was held at Christ Church on 25th June 2008.

### PARTICIPATION

The members of CTL are: Anglican Church of **St.Mary & St.Nicholas with All Saints**; Anglican Church of **St.Michael, Mickleham** [see Note 1 below]; **Leatherhead Methodist Church**; **Engage** [see Note 2 below]; Roman Catholic Church of **Our Lady & St.Peter**; **Christ Church** (UR). The **Facility Group** (Leatherhead Common) have also participated 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] Engage – formerly Church inThe Theatre (Pioneer People) – have participated in CTL since 15th January 2004.]

### REPRESENTATION

The current Officers of CTL are: **Chairman** – Ray Brown (Catholic Church);  
**Treasurer** – Cathy Noble; **Secretary** – Paul Hamilton.

The following representatives attended meetings during the year: **St.Mary & St.Nicholas Leatherhead** – Revd Canon David Eaton, Revd Mary Cruddas, Peter Leith, Gail Partridge, Revd Mike Stewart; **Catholic Church** – Tony Hall, Val Luthwood; **Methodist Church** – Revd Ian Howarth, Jean Plant, Dennis Wickham; **Engage** – David Banko, Matthew Noble; **Christ Church (UR)** – Mike Essex, Janet Mercer, Dorothy Poulton, Revd Dean Tapley;  
**Lhd. Night Hostel** – Hilary Porter; **Lhd. Comm. Partnership** – Heather Ward

### MEETINGS

Five Ordinary Meetings were held during the year on: 11th September 2008, 12th November 2008, 7th January 2009, 11th March 2009 and 6th May 2009.

### UNITING CHURCHES ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

The **Anglican Church** of St.Mary & St.Nicholas with All Saints, Leatherhead **Methodist Church** and Christ Church **United Reformed** entered into a Covenant on 9th March 2003 through which they fully recognise each other’s ministry as, for example, in exchanging ministers and celebrating Holy Communion. Each Church also works closely with the others on such tasks as selecting new ministers, joint preparation of candidates for Confirmation and experimenting with new forms of worship.

The Partnership was deepened during the year with the formation of a joint Leatherhead Uniting Churches Council (LUCC) which was formally instituted at a United Service on 29th March 2009. LUCC also appointed Jane Smith as Family and Children’s Worker to work within the Churches and engage with the wider community through Trinity School, Leatherhead Youth Project and All Saints Family Centre. A joint Away-Day was held at Okewood Hill (near Ockley) on Sat. 30th May 2009 exploring “The Christ We Share”.

**Church News** – Revd Canon David Eaton retired as Vicar of Leatherhead on 1st Mar. 2009 and Revd Dean

Tapley retires as Minister at Christ Church in Sep. 2009. The appointment of new ministers will be made in consultation with Partner churches. There have also been discussions between Methodists in Leatherhead, Effingham and Cobham and United Reform Church members in Leatherhead and Cobham about future cooperation following the imminent retirement also of the Minister at Cobham United Reformed Church.

**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 requiring each church to engage through their various parent 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 and a new building was completed in May 2009. The re-organization 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 Uniting Churches 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 currently held each week as follows: Monday – St.Mary and St.Nicholas Church ; Tuesday – Methodist Church; Wednesday – Christ Church; Thursday – Christ Church; Friday – St.Mary and St.Nicholas Church (Communion Service).

### **UNITED SERVICES & EVENTS**

The Uniting Churches have established a regular pattern of joint evening Praise Services (**‘New Fire’**) at the Methodist Church on fourth Sundays (28th Sep. 2008, 26th Oct. 2008, 23rd Nov. 2008, 25th Jan. 2009, 22nd Feb. 2009, 22nd Mar. 2009, 26th Apr. 2009, 24th May 2009) and Reflective Services (e.g. **‘Celtic’ Communion**) on fifth Sundays (31st Aug. 2008 - Methodist Church, 30th Nov. 2008 - Methodist Church, 29th Mar. 2009 - Christ Church, 31st May 2009 - St.M & St.N)

Other notable Services and Events included:

**Thu. 23rd – Sat. 25th Oct. 2008 at 7.30 pm** – St.M & St.N - **‘A Rich Inheritance’** - the third performance of Linda Heath's much-appreciated dramatisation based on the history of Leatherhead (following 2000 and 2005) was well attended and raised over £1750 for the Leatherhead Youth Project.

**Mon. 12th – Sat. 17th Jan. 2009** – Methodist Church – **‘New’ Labyrinth** – an opportunity to explore the enticement and challenge of ‘all things new’ in quiet and peaceful surroundings.

**Sun. 25th Jan. 2008 at 10.30 am** – Uniting Churches – Ministers exchange pulpits to mark Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

**Sat. 31st Jan. 2009 at 8.30 am** – The Theatre – ‘Lynx’ Prayer Breakfast to mark Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – praying for Unity in the Lord's Spiritual Nation.

**Shrove Tue. 24th Feb. 2009 at 8.00 pm** – Christ Church Hall – **Ecumenical Eucharistic Supper** to mark the retirement of Revd Canon David Eaton, to celebrate his contribution to church life in Leatherhead over 20 years and to mark six years of the Uniting Churches' Covenant – the whole of Leatherhead's Christian community was well represented.

**Fri. 6th Mar. 2009 at 2 pm** – Methodist Church – **Women's World Day of Prayer** – Service prepared by women of Papua New Guinea – ca. 55 attended.

**Good Fri. 10th Apr. 2009 at 9.15 am** – Our Lady & St.Peter – **Stations of the Cross.**

**Good Fri. 10th Apr. 2009 at 10.00 am** – **Walk of Witness** – Service at Christ Church followed by procession via town centre to St.M & St.N Church Hall – ca. 90 participated.

**Sun. 10th – Sat. 16th May 2009** – **Christian Aid Week** – see below.

**Sat. 30th May 2009 – 10 am to 3.30 pm** – St. John the Baptist Okewood Hill, Ockley – **Away Day** on theme **‘The Christ We Share’** – to launch Leatherhead Uniting Churches.

**Pentecost Sun. 31st May 2009 at 10.30 am** – Christ Church – **Uniting Churches Communion.**

### **CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Member Churches co-operated as usual in distributing Cards listing Christmas Services to households in the town. Grateful thanks again to Sue Roberts for organising printing and co-ordinating distribution.

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 10th–16th May 2009**

The Anglican, Methodist and United Reformed Churches co-operated in house-to-house and street collections to raise an overall total of £ 3051 for Christian Aid (£ 3954 last year). The reduced total is mainly due to there being fewer collectors than last year. The major part of the collection came from the URC team, ably organised by Anne Ray. There is a Christian Aid page on the Churches Together Website. Coordinator – Frank Haslam.

## **LENT COURSE 2009**

This year's Course was organised by Linda Hauxwell and took place in daytime and evening house groups during the weeks from 2nd Mar. to 3rd Apr. 2009 following a York Course on the theme '**These three ... Faith, Hope and Love**'. A concluding Service was held in the Methodist Church at **8 pm on Tue. 8th April** in the shape of a **Holy Week Meditation**. The Course was well received – indeed one of the groups has continued to meet.

## **SOCIAL CONCERN GROUP**

The CTL Social Concern Group met regularly during the year under the Chairmanship of Sheila Hill (St Mary's, Fetcham). The Group continues to devote most of its efforts to maintaining and increasing support for Leatherhead Fairtrade Town following the award of this status in Mar. 2008. This included a particular effort over Fairtrade Fortnight (23rd Feb. – 8th Mar. 2009). The Group is also concerned with wider issues including local charities and groups such as the Age Concern, Night Hostel, Pit Stop, Club House and issues of Trade Justice and World Development. They have long had a particular interest in the 'Surrey Save' Credit Union which it is now hoped will be launched early in 2010.

## **REPRESENTATION**

Hilary Porter (URC) represents CTL as a member of the Management Committee of the Night Hostel. Paul Hamilton represents CTL in the Leatherhead Area Partnership which was set up on 7th Nov. 2007 and in association with the Town Centre Forum to raise funds and deliver a programme of improvements to the town following the 'Leatherhead Tomorrow' survey conducted in 2005-2006. Heather Ward represents CTL in the Leatherhead Common Partnership having taken over from Revd Canon David Eaton. Heather Ward chairs the Leatherhead Town Centre Forum and Hilary Porter and Paul Hamilton regularly attend its two-monthly meetings.

## **YOUTH WORK**

**Leatherhead Youth Project (LYP)** is an independent registered Charity formed by the Anglican, Methodist and United Reformed Churches together with Mole Valley District Council. It grew out of the efforts of Claire Gannon who was appointed Youth Worker by the Churches in 1999 and is now led by Jay Bristow who succeeded Claire in Nov. 2005.

The **LYP** is centred on the **BFree Café** which opened at All Saints Church in Apr. 2005 and is managed by Andy Gill. **BFree** currently opens 3.15–6.15 pm on weekdays (till 8 pm on Fridays) and provides a wide range of activities for secondary school children including pool, play-stations, computers for Internet access as well as an information centre. The main purpose of **Bfree** is to provide activities within a safe environment and a strong Christian ethos. Attendance is typically 30-40 young people every day and the paid staff are supported by an energetic team of around 20 volunteers.

On-going groups include '**Courage**' (school years 3-6) and '**Victory**' (school years 7+) led by Jay and Carol Bristow, meeting on Sunday afternoons (respectively 3.00-4.30 and 4.30-6.00 pm) to explore faith with varied activities in a relaxed and fun-filled atmosphere. These groups lead the monthly '**Triumph**' Service in BFree at 6.30 pm on 2nd Sundays. More recently, Joe Crome has been leading '**Blaze**' since Jul. 2007 to provide a wealth of opportunities for young teens including trips to paint balling, laserquest, bowling, Premiership football as well as community projects such as gardening for elderly persons in conjunction with Age Concern and Surrey Police.

Full details of the many activities at LYP will be found at [www.leatherheadyouthproject.com](http://www.leatherheadyouthproject.com)

**Liaison** – all 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). **LYP** works particularly closely with '**Liquid Connection**' – an independent Charity which originated in The Theatre and is now based at The Bridge Youth Club – Website: [www.liquidconnection.co.uk](http://www.liquidconnection.co.uk). They jointly participate in trips to Christian camps and festivals such as 'Freestyle' held twice a year at Reed's School Cobham and 'Soul Survivor'.

## **FACILITATING GROUP**

The **Facilitating Group** is an informal project that is based on the **B@titude** Shop in Leatherhead Common. Its aim is to help support people's ideas and projects, connecting people to the gospel in very practical ways. It is associated with CTL though it has access to independent funds.

The Group is involved in a diverse range of community enterprise schemes, including the arena of money management, skill development, and a holiday caravan in Pagham for families in need of a break. It also holds 'World Café' evening 'get-togethers' at Starbucks to encourage people to think about ideas for their community, especially about what small projects or business ideas they have which might help invest back into their local street and wider community.

There is also a website initiative called 'Leatherhead Connect' to 'facilitate the sharing of information, dreams and stories and the connection of people across the community of Leatherhead' – Website: [www.beatititude.org.uk](http://www.beatititude.org.uk). This affords a social networking facility as well as providing up-to-date information on initiatives and events. It is currently working on a story based website and book that will hopefully help people tell their story.

Contact: [Andy Smithyman](#)

## **HOLIDAY CLUB**

The annual Holiday Club – theme '**Junior Heroes**' – was held at Christ Church and B-Free – 11th–15th Aug. 2008. It was attended by around 60 5-9 year-olds at Christ Church and 30 older children at B-Free. The Club was led by [Jane Smith](#) – the new family and children's worker.

## **MENS BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP**

The Men's Breakfast Fellowship was inaugurated in Feb. 2004 and continues to meet monthly. It is hosted by a rota of 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. Co-ordinator – [Michael Ward](#).

## **PRAYER HOUSES FOR LEATHERHEAD**

Since 1997 members of Engage, Bookham Baptist Church and other local congregations have met regularly to pray for the geographic area of Leatherhead. In March 2004 they re-launched as "Prayer Houses for Leatherhead" since this better describes their vision and purpose. 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.

## **WELCOME PACKS**

[Norma Shaw](#) co-ordinates a Churches 'Welcome Pack' which has been distributed since Jan. 2008 to all new residents in the area alongside other material under the aegis of the 'New Neighbours in Leatherhead' scheme. Each pack comprises a folder enclosing A5 sheets provided by participating churches.

## **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/>

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