

# CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEATHERHEAD

## Fifth Annual Report - 6th July 2006

### 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 Fourth Annual Meeting was held at the Our Lady and St Peter Church on 6th July 2005.

### 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).

[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** - Mrs Jean Plant; **Treasurer** - Mrs Cathy Noble; **Secretary** - Mr Paul Hamilton.

The following attended meetings during the year: **St.Mary & St.Nicholas Leatherhead** - Revd Canon David Eaton, Mrs Mary Cruddas; **St.Michael Mickleham** - Mrs Mary Banfield; **Catholic Church** - Mr Tony Hall, Miss Val Luthwood; **Methodist Church** - Revd Ian Howarth, Mrs Jean Plant, Mrs Norma Shaw; **Church in The Theatre** - Mrs Erica Butler, Mr Matthew Noble; **United Reformed Church** - Dr Arthur Head, Mrs Dorothy Poulton, Revd Dean Tapley; **Night Hostel** and **Social Concern Group** - Mrs Hilary Porter; **Town Centre** - Mr Guy Butler; **Youth Work** - Mr Andy Smithyman.

### MEETINGS

Five meetings were held during the year on: 7th September 2005, 16th November 2005, 12th January 2006, 2nd March 2006 and 4th May 2006.

### 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.

### TRINITY SCHOOL

One fruit of the Partnership is joint involvement in the new Voluntary Controlled Trinity School being formed to replace the two existing Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant Schools (St.Mary's & All Saints) and the Middle School (Woodville). This venture is a national first which has 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 will open in Sept. 2006 using existing buildings on the Woodville site with new buildings scheduled from Sept. 2007.

The reorganisation has also enabled the All Saints Family Project to move from its small hut in Woodbridge Grove to the old Infants School where it becomes the All Saints Family Centre.

### **“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:

**Mon. 8th - Fri. 12th Aug. 2005 - ‘Landlubbers’** Holiday Club for 5-11 year olds at Christ Church - fully booked (72) - sadly, none from North Leatherhead - perhaps needs a second venue.

**Sat. 1st - Sun. 9th Oct. 2005 - Festival of Faith-** a new venture staged as part of the Mole Valley Arts Festival and featuring - Festival Breakfast; I-Spy local churches (for children); ‘Voice of Melody’ Concert; ‘Meeting of the Ways’ (Muslim-Christian dialogue); Clown visits local schools; Festival Lecture (Very Revd Jeffrey John); Band Night (Youth Cafe); Community Quiz Night; ‘Discovery’ Quiet Day; Gala Concert; ‘Faith in Creation’ (exhibition of paintings); ‘Forgiveness’ (words & photographs); Prayer Labyrinth; Prayer Trailer; and Festival Services. Organisers were well pleased and want to repeat the event in two years’ time. An excellent response from the Christian community but little impact beyond. ‘Surplus’ of £281 donated to CTL.

**Sat. 10th Dec. 2005- Christmas Carols** - 4 pm in Swan Centre - churches lead Festival Carols.

**Sat. 24th Dec. 2005 - ‘Go-For-It’ Nativity** - 6 pm at St.M & St.N Church - led by Youth team.

**Wed. 18th - Wed. 25th Jan. 2005 - Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity-** weekday Services at 7 pm as follows: **Wed. 18th** - St.M & St.N Church **Thu. 19th** - Catholic Church; **Fri. 20th** - Christ Church; **Mon. 23rd** - St.M Mickleham; **Tue. 24th** - Methodist Church; **Wed. 25th** - The Theatre. Disappointing attendances. Partnership Ministers exchanged pulpits on **Sun. 22nd**.

**Fri. 17th Feb. 2006 - ‘The Winter’s Tale’ - Riding Lights** production at The Theatre - 200 attended - covered costs.

**Ash Wed. 1st Mar. 2006** - 8 pm at St.M & St.N Church - **United Holy Communion** with Imposition of Ashes.

**Fri. 3rd Mar. 2006 - Women’s World Day of Prayer-** 2.30 pm at Catholic Church.

**Maundy Thu. 13th Apr. 2006** - 8 pm at Christ Church - **‘The Journey’** - re-enactment of Last Supper (in hall) and United Service (in Church).

**Palm Sun. 9th Apr. 2006** - 6.30 pm at Methodist Church - **United Service** and launch of Prayer Labyrinth.

**Good Fri. 14th Apr. 2006 - Walk of Witness** - 10 am at Catholic Church - United Service and Walk via town centre to Methodist Church for Hot Cross buns.

**Easter Sat. 15th Apr. 2006 - Children’s Workshop** with Holiday Bible Team.

**Sun. 14th - Sat. 20th May 2006 - Christian Aid Week** - see below.

**Pentecost 4th Jun. 2006** - .Joint Eucharist -N Church .M & St.at St .m.p 30.

### **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 to Sue Roberts (St.M & St.N) for organising printing and co-ordinating distribution.

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 14th-20th May 2006**

The Anglican, Methodist and United Reformed Churches co-operated in house-to-house and street collections to raise an overall total of £ 4169 for Christian Aid (£ 4479 last year). We were short of collectors and the week was wet, which never helps, so in the circumstances it was a very brave effort.

This included the Flag Day in the town (£154) and the Station Collection (£109). In total there were 56 door to door collectors. Nearly half the total collected was Gift-Aided, which will further boost our giving. Our now traditional hour of Christmas Carol Singing in the Swan Centre raised £124.

The Christian Aid Team this year saw Anne Ray take over as coordinator for the URC from Margaret Dodds-Ely who has done a great job over many years. We wait to hear who will take over from Jane Smith as coordinator for the Methodist team. Many thanks to both Margaret and Jane.

If churches wish to organise an appeal in response to a need during the year, a supply of Christian Aid envelopes can be provided. This is a sensible way of collecting as it enables Gift Aiding.

In **2007**, when Christian Aid Week will be **13th-19th May**, we aim to recruit new collectors and widen the coverage of roads for the door to door collection in what is, for many in the town, the main way they see churches together in action. 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 2006**

Groups followed the CTBI course '**Easter People in a Good Friday World**' during the five-week period **6th Mar. - 3rd Apr. 2006** preceding Holy Week. Around 70 participated. Grateful thanks are due 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 Sue Bond (Methodist). 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 which is one of the most deprived areas in Surrey and strongly support a Leatherhead & District Credit Union which is currently being set up under the leadership of Mike Ward (Catholic).

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. When these are in place the Group will apply to the Fairtrade Foundation.

## **NIGHT HOSTEL**

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

## **TOWN CENTRE**

CTL has not been specifically represented on the Leatherhead Town Centre Forum since Guy Butler emigrated in Feb. 2006 though Paul Hamilton and Linda Heath (St.M & St.N) attend on behalf of other bodies.

## **YOUTH WORK**

**Youth Worker** - the Anglican, Methodist and United Reformed Churches have jointly funded this post since 1999 and funding is presently in place until at least 2008. Jay Bristow was appointed to the post in Nov. 2005. On-going youth groups include - Courage ! (9-13 yrs. on Sun. afternoon) and FAB Friday (14-18 yrs. on Fri. evening).

**B-Free Café** - the long-awaited Youth Café and Information Centre finally 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 and is managed by Andy Gill. It has increasingly become a focus for activities including a monthly Youth Service at 6.30 pm on the 4th 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.

All the youth leaders are working 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 '06 at Reed's School Cobham in April).

**Holiday Club - 'Landlubbers'** - for 5-11 year olds - held at Christ Church - 8th-12th Aug. 2005 - fully booked (72) - thought being given to an additional venue.

## **WEBSITE**

Frank Haslam (St.M & St.N) maintains a Website for the Churches and other bodies in the Leatherhead area at [www.leatherheadweb.org.uk](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.

Paul Hamilton - Secretary

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