



# ***West Street News***

## ***MARCH 2016***



**The quarterly magazine of the  
United Reformed Church, West Street, Dorking**

## **THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

West Street, Dorking

A Church with a Welcome  
and a

Clear Christian Message

### **We are so glad that you have picked up this magazine**

Our Church Community is made up of people of all age groups who come from different walks of life. The diversity is fascinating. This being so, we have sought to develop the life of the Church, so that as many different needs as possible are catered for.

Here you can come to worship God.  
Here you can meet with Jesus Christ, who is the  
Head of the Church – because He lives in the  
hearts of His people.

Here you can find companionship and build  
lasting friendships – and so much more.

The opportunities for children and young people are  
particularly good at West Street

Our Chaplain, Church-Community Worker and Elders are  
available to help you.

An Emergency Prayer Chain operates for anyone who feels  
they need prayer for any reason.

See the Weekly Leaflet, or ask for a WELCOME PACK,

or visit our website on [www.dorkingurc.org.uk](http://www.dorkingurc.org.uk) for more details  
of our life and work

## CHAPLAIN'S CHATTER

As many of you know over the last few months we have been running the Christianity Explored Course. At least 15 of us have attended each of the six sessions where we have enjoyed learning and growing together.

Christianity Explored uses three ways to consider the life of Jesus. The first of these is to consider the identity of Jesus and his uniqueness in being both divine and human. Jesus' divinity as the Son of God performing miracles, controlling the elements, healing the sick, and raising the dead. Yet also his humanity in living on earth and associating with us in the physical emotions he showed: tiredness, hunger, anger, his doubts and his feelings of desertion on the cross.

The second way is to consider the mission of Jesus, namely what he was called to do here on earth. His ministry and teachings to show us the way; his humility and suffering to connect himself with us; his sacrifice on the cross to eradicate our sins and restore our relationship with God; and his resurrection to seal the new covenant.

The third way is to consider the Call he gives us to follow him. To use the words of a thirteenth century prayer, later used in a song for the rock show Godspell, his call to us to see him more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly. To which must be added his departing words as he ascended: 'Go then to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples (Matthew 28: 19)'. Our calling is to both follow Jesus and to spread the good news about him.

The Call to tell others of the peace, joy and hope that springs from our belief in Jesus is often a challenge to us all. Many of us feel ill equipped and ill at ease when talking about our faith. Something which brings me back to the Christianity Explored Course and the way such opportunities can not only provide a better understanding but also give us the confidence to talk to

others, so let me encourage you to attend the latest study group titled 'Jesus at the Centre'. We meet every second Tuesday from 7.30 -9.00 pm. Please look out for the dates or speak to myself, Chris Currie or Leslie Mitchell. We must never forget that growing the church is not only about increasing the size of our membership or the congregation on a Sunday, it is equally about each of us growing in our faith and how we express it.

**Ted**

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I am writing to you as the Dorking Area Foodbank Church representative for the United Reformed Church to thank you and your Church community for your wonderful support of the Foodbank in our first few months of operation.

Since June 2015, you have given us a massive 244Kg of food – all of it so generously donated by individuals in your Church. And this has gone to provide food for over 500 people who have approached us since then for help with basic supplies to see them through the week. Without you all this would not have happened and I cannot tell you how grateful we are for all your contributions week in week out.

Best wishes

**Ali Studley  
For DAF**



## Notes from the Church Meeting

Printed copies of the minutes of the November 2015 Annual General Church Meeting and the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2016 Special Church Meeting are available from the holder on the Church Notices board in the Main Hall. If, in future, you would like to receive copies of the minutes by email, please let me know.

At the AGM we elected Fiona Yeomans to the serving Eldership, and re-elected Linda Nice. They were inducted on the first Sunday in January and will serve for three years. We thank them for being willing to serve in this way. In electing Elders and Church Officers, and endorsing the composition of 16 Committees, we are thankful for the many people who contribute towards the work of the Church. In listening to the Annual Report and reports from our Lay Chaplain, Ted Bellingham, and the Mission and Facilities Management & Development Committees, we realise how much work is done. Money is needed to run, maintain and develop our buildings and to take forward the mission of the Church. Our new treasurer, Ian Tucker, drew our attention to the budgeted deficit, for 2016, of about £35,000. Clearly, such annual deficits cannot continue indefinitely, so we have to get “new money” from legacies, grants and giving. If you can help to do this, particularly with obtaining grants, please let Ian or me know.

At the January Meeting we were pleased to agree “wholeheartedly” to the admission of Katherine (Kae) Wicks and Simon & Sylvia Moorhouse to Church membership. We also heard that Ted had applied to the URC Ministries Assessment Board (MAB) for training for non-stipendiary ministry. We were pleased to recommend (unanimously) to the MAB that Ted be accepted. I am pleased to report that Ted

had a successful interview in January and is going forward to an Assessment Conference in April.

I am concerned that members may feel that they do not get sufficient time to bring their questions, views and concerns about the life of the Church to the Meeting. The philosophy that underlies the Church Meeting, which in our case dates from 1662, is that God may speak through the contributions made by all members, and that those contributions should be listened to and valued. The greater the number of people who contribute, prayerfully, to the Meeting, the more likely we are to discern God's will. Any member may ask for an item of business to be added to the agenda – usually under 'Any Other Business', but sometimes as a stand alone item.

**Leslie Mitchell  
(Church Meeting Secretary)**

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## **MISSION**

Dorking URC is a busy church. It organises, hosts and supports a huge range of really worthwhile activities and events for a diverse range of ages. Just looking at some of the extra events that made up our Christmas programme creates a pretty impressive list that engaged the church with many people beyond our core community. There was: The Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal; Dorking Gala Night; The Christmas Tree Festival; The Smallfry Christmas Celebration; The Oasis Christmas Party; The Open Doors Christmas Lunch; The Candlelit Carol Service and Choir; The Nativity in a Day; Christingle; and Midnight and Christmas Day Services. I suspect there are probably others I have missed, and all in addition to ongoing regular events.

Over recent months the Mission Committee has been dedicating time at each meeting to looking at different areas of our activity in relation to the Church Growth Plan and

considering which of the 'Preparing, Sowing, Nurturing, Growing and Harvesting' sections of the Plan they most relate to. The emerging pattern underlines how successful as a church we are at making contact with people beyond the core church community. Arguably it also indicates a need for greater attention towards how we help nurture and grow those we are making contact with (and ourselves) in faith. This is perhaps reflected in the fact that the church has undertaken many of the Christmas activities above over a number of years with less growth than many hoped for. When discussed at the January Elder's meeting, the general feeling was that to become more effective as a community of growing disciples, we need to seek a more purposeful approach to our full programme of current activities, and carefully select new initiatives offering opportunities to help people explore and grow in the Christian faith.

One such initiative that ran over the winter was our first Christianity Explored course. It was approached as a 'pilot' to see how well it worked and is reviewed elsewhere in this edition of WSN. Whilst most of the sixteen or so participants would probably agree that particular course material has weaknesses as well as strengths, it was undoubtedly of huge value in bringing a group of people together to explore the key aspects of our faith, support each other, and share struggles and doubts. Its successor 'Jesus at the Centre' will already be underway by the time this is published, and other ways of discussing and learning about our faith will follow, at different times and with different approaches that will hopefully suit all. Do look out for them, and maybe consider trying the remaining Jesus at the Centre sessions. Based on John's Gospel, they aim to help apply its message to our daily lives through informal discussion in a relaxed atmosphere.

**Chris Currie**

## **GOMSHALL CHAPEL**

"Therefore keep watch" - This exhortation from Matthew's Gospel reminds us that we can never lower our guard, that we must always strive for the best that we can do. Each time that I sit at my computer to compose this little article for the joint magazine, I am very aware that we are in God's hands and that He should guide us in all that we say and do. Never is this more true than in the time of an interregnum when we are searching for a new pastor to lead us forward in the faith. We do well to remember that we are all involved, from the youngest to the oldest and that above all we need to meet in prayer and humility. We need to give God space that His Spirit may lead us and guide us into His Future.

"Bright Hour" this month in on Wednesday, 16th March at 2.30pm in the Chapel when Mrs Hazel Durham will be speaking about Beatrix Potter. Next month, Wednesday, 20th April will see a visit by Mrs. Maggie Tucker who will be talking about "Canal Holidays" and on 18<sup>th</sup> May we shall be entertained by Mrs. Barbara Phillips. Do join us if you can.

In conclusion, it is perhaps apposite to note that in Matthew's Gospel the exhortation to "keep watch" is closely followed by the parable of the talents which surely puts all into perspective.

In love,

**David Beard**



## PASTORAL REPORT

Rhona Howell is still receiving treatment for a leg injury she had at Christmas

Tudor Thomas has been advised that his heart treatment will be on 29<sup>th</sup> February at St George's hospital.

Pam Strudwick is settled at Downsvale Nursing Home. Could visitors ring before visiting as she gets very tired

Simon Ring is receiving treatment for a heart condition

Doreen Howes who suffered a stroke is in East Surrey Hospital. She has recovered quite well but still needs care

Sylvia Back has recovered from her hip replacement and has now moved to a nursing home nearer her daughter, Heather in Southampton. Sylvia is still extremely confused.

Murielle Putnam is still waiting for her knee operation

We remember Barbara Skilton whose husband Colin, sadly died suddenly

Ilsa Traube is now in a care home at East Horsley

Ivan Longhurst has had an operation on his back and is now recovering at home

We welcomed Kae Wickes into membership on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> February

Doris Balchin has been receiving treatment in hospital



## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DORKING

The 'Churches Together in Dorking' AGM took place in January and Annual Reports for 2015 were received about activities run, or supported by, CTD. The following is a summary:

**Christian Aid** – The Lent Lunches raised £991 for Christian Aid. The door-to-door collections during Christian Aid Week, together with special collections in some churches, raised £9,693. This is down again on the previous year's total (£10,417 in 2014). The continuing fall is mainly due to the lack of collectors needed to cover the area. If you can help this year, please let our Christian Aid Week Co-ordinator, Jenny Langford, know. There was one Disasters Emergency Committee appeal during 2015, which was for those who suffered as a result of the earthquake in Nepal; this raised £2,964.

**Dorking Area Foodbank** – The 'Foodbank' opened for its first distribution of food on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015. Sufficient funding has been obtained from local Churches, individuals and organisations to finance the operation, and enough people have volunteered to do the work. Food donations, totalling 11,269 kg, have been received from Churches and supermarkets. There are 30 'Referral Agencies' which include the Citizens Advice Bureau, doctor's surgeries and schools. 607 sets of three day's worth of food have been supplied to clients. In addition food has been supplied to clients of 'The Besom in Dorking'. Prayers for the work of the 'Foodbank' would be appreciated.

**Dorking Street Pastors** – The year started with three groups of Street Pastors, each with 5 to 6 people, which enabled three Friday evenings per month to be covered. Unfortunately, during the year due to various reasons, the

number of Pastors has reduced to a point where only one Friday evening can be covered. It is hoped that more Pastors can be recruited during 2016 – if you think you can help, please let me know. Pastors generally follow a fixed route around the town centre starting at 10.30 pm and finishing at about 1.30 am with a break for refreshments. They are generally well received by the public, although on some occasions not so. Interesting conversations about science and religion are held, litter is cleared up and people are prayed for. Street Pastors would appreciate prayers for their role in Dorking, and for more recruits and help with administration.

**Prayer Walking in Dorking** – Prayer walking re-started in February and walks took place once a month, but it has been decided that, from February 2016, walks will take place every other month. Generally between 3 and 6 people from several different Churches take part and prayers are said for at least one of the town's Churches on each occasion. If you would like to join the walks, contact Juliet Fuller, 01306 886830.

Reports were also received from **Beatitudes, Christians Against Poverty, Churches of Dorking Housing Association Ltd,** and the **Community Liaison Representative.** Please let me know if you would like to read any of the reports listed. Information about '**The Besom in Dorking**' can be found on the website [www.besom.com](http://www.besom.com) and about '**Soul Connect**' on the website [www.stpaulsdorking.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsdorking.org.uk).

**Leslie Mitchell (CTD Representative)**

**P.S.** : *I have been your CTD representative since 2003 and would like to step down from the role at the end of this year. If you think you might like to take on the role and become involved in the ecumenical work of the Churches in Dorking, please have a chat with me about it.*

## CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED COURSE

Over the last three months, a group of about eighteen people have met regularly to follow the Christianity Explored course. The course is for anyone who is seeking or wants to understand more about being a Christian.

The course follows Jesus' life from his Baptism to his crucifixion and resurrection as recorded in St Mark's gospel, considering his teaching and miracles along the way.

The main questions we were exploring were –

- 1) Who is Jesus, the man and the Son of God?
- 2) Why did Jesus come?
- 3) What is involved in following Him?

As a whole group we would watch a short video which helped direct and raise issues and questions to be discussed, e.g. questions about Sin, Jesus the person, why He had to die and rise again and the Grace of God.

Then in small groups, guided by Ted, Chris and Leslie, we spent some time in discussion, sharing questions, thoughts, concerns and gaining more understanding of what being a Christian means to all, both as individuals and as a Church. These discussions often raised even more questions. Discussing in these small groups of 4-5 people gave an opportunity to all to get involved or just to listen. They were very relaxed and friendly and gave many the confidence to get involved.

It is generally agreed by the group that the course gave a good start to discovering of what taking Jesus into your life can mean. Most of the group wanted to continue to learn and discuss Christianity beyond this course and are pleased that another one was to start on 16<sup>th</sup> February. Please come and join us. All will be very welcome.

**Rosemary Russell**

## OASIS



is a programme of relaxed social events. It is overseen by the Socialeyes Group at Dorking URC, to offer regular activities for people of all ages and abilities.

Forthcoming Programmes -

March 14<sup>th</sup> **'Local Interest'** - Hosted by Maggie Tucker

April 11<sup>th</sup> **'Mad Hatter's Tea Party'** - Hosted by James Dark, with Chris Currie

May 9<sup>th</sup> **'Spring Surprise'** - Hosted by Chris Currie and James Dark

June 13<sup>th</sup> **'Chair Exercises'** with Chris Read - Hosted by Lynn Price

July 11<sup>th</sup> **'Traditional Pub Games'** - Hosted by Leslie & Mary Mitchell

**Tea, cake & a warm welcome awaits anyone coming along.** Oasis is free, but donations are invited. If you have a problem with transport, please contact us to see if we can help.

Contact: Ted Bellingham, Tel: 01306 889644 or 07889 878471  
or Chris Currie, Tel: 07771 596654



## TASK FORCE

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January started off rather dank and dull but around 9 am twenty two of us were eagerly eating bacon butties in the main hall washed down with tea and coffee. We gathered in the Roy Currie room where Ted Bellingham led us in a brief time of prayer and reflection.

After that it was off to carry out a few tasks around our buildings. The group split up to tackle various areas. One team hit the cellar and almost filled the skip single handed, another group started on the memorial plaques and brass work in the worship area and others cleared out the area behind the Living Room. There was also a team cleaning off the chairs in the main hall and drying them on the radiators! After due deliberation, the “chair” team decided the beige chairs cleaned up more easily.

Mid-morning, the skip was full and more tea and coffee kept us going for the last lap. As twelve noon approached and car park tickets ran out, the group drifted off safe in the knowledge that fun, fellowship and some much needed tasks had been achieved. Many thanks to all who made the effort to get down to the church so early on a Saturday morning, and look out for the next day in the weekly leaflet.

**John Quincey**



## **SOCIALEYES EVENT ON 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2016 FAMILY GAMES AND FUN AFTERNOON**

This was the first event of the year on the Socialeyes Calendar and although it would have been good to have more attendees – I think all those who did attend, from Smallfry, Messy and church members, good fun and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

We started off by enjoying a picnic lunch and for those who had forgotten, ample food was supplied to make up their own lunch. Phil Currie then sorted us into groups and told us what the afternoon would involve – Giant Jenga, Quoits, Pitch and Put, Bean Bag Shuffle, Pin Board and see which team could erect the tallest model out of Sellotape and drinking straws!!! As you can imagine the old competitive spirit soon showed itself, but great fun was had by all, young and not so young alike!

A splendid tea was provided to end the afternoon and scrumptious prizes were won by all who got involved. If you didn't come you missed a treat because those who observed were able to have chats with everyone and that is the essence of Socialeyes events – come along, do what you can or just observe and enjoy Christian Fellowship into the bargain. (See picture on the back cover)

**Lynn Price**

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*Date for your Diary - Our fourth annual **Holiday at Home** will run this summer from **August 22nd to August 27th**. With the title of 'By Royal Appointment' its theme will follow the rich heritage of British Kings and Queens over the centuries. Look out for more details and brochures appearing over the coming months, and please speak to Chris Currie if you would like to be part of the planning process or help out during the event.*

## **‘Out & About’ – 2016**

**Out & About is a programme of active social events from the Socialeyes Group at Dorking URC, who offer regular activities for people of all ages and abilities.**

We have already had **‘January Fun & Games Afternoon’**- Hosted by Bethen Haines, Chris Currie & Maggie Tucker and **‘Walking Dorking’ All-Age Treasure Hunt** - Hosted by Joe Currie, Maggie Tucker & Chris Currie

March 19<sup>th</sup> - **‘The West Street Roadshow’ Valuation Event** - Hosted by Cyrus Wakefield & Chris Currie

May 21<sup>st</sup> **May Walk and Lunch** - Hosted by Leslie Mitchell

June 25<sup>th</sup> **Church BBQ** - Hosted by Socialeyes

July 17<sup>th</sup> **Church Family Day and Seaside Outing** - Hosted by Junior Church

### **Details:**

[www.dorkingurc.org.uk](http://www.dorkingurc.org.uk) [www.facebook.com/dorkingurc](https://www.facebook.com/dorkingurc)

**Contact:** Ted Bellingham, Tel: 01306 889644 or 07889 878471

or Chris Currie, Tel: 07771 596654

## **DORKING BEREAVEMENT GROUP**

A partnership between The Brigitte Trust and  
St. Catherine's Hospice.

You are welcome to join this open group where bereaved people can come on their own, or with a friend, to meet others who are in a similar situation.

It's a great opportunity to chat, share experiences and discuss ways of coping.

Thank you to Dorking United Reformed Church for providing the venue hire free of charge.

When: First, third and fifth Tuesdays of the month

Time: Drop in between 1pm - 3pm

Contact: Annette Phillips, 01293 447343

Place: The Living Room, Dorking United Reformed Church,  
West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS.

### **CONTACT US TO FIND OUT MORE.**

[www.stch.org.uk](http://www.stch.org.uk)  
[www.brigitte trust.org](http://www.brigitte trust.org)

The Brigitte Trust registered charity no. 288923

St. Catherine's Hospice registered charity no. 281362

# **Study Group for Lent & Easter**

## **‘Jesus at the Centre’**

**Based on the gospel according to John**

**In the Living Room from 7.30 until 9.00 pm  
on the following Tuesdays**

**16th February      Session 1: Learning from the humanity  
of Jesus**

**1<sup>st</sup> March            Session 2: The banquet**

**15<sup>th</sup> March         Session 3: Becoming disciples of  
Jesus**

**29<sup>th</sup> March         Session 4: Knowing God and being  
known**

**12<sup>th</sup> April            Session 5: Church and our  
relationships**

**26 April             Session 6: Real ways to reach out**

**Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served**

**See Ted Bellingham or Chris Currie for more  
details**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

## **BUYING EASTER EGGS THIS YEAR?**

Why not consider buying the Real Easter Egg? The only one which has an Easter story booklet in the box is made of Fairtrade chocolate and makes a donation to charity from its sales. Agreed it is a little bit more expensive than those on the supermarket shelves but, if we can afford to, let's do our bit to show that Easter is more than just chocolate and bunnies.

The Church's Traidcraft stall will be stocking the Real Easter Egg and Rosemary Morrison will be happy to take orders for those who might want to buy the Real Egg for all the children in their lives.



## **WELLiFARE – SUPPORTING THE BMK SCHOOL IN UGANDA**

We are pleased to report that regular giving by the Friends of Well-Fare and the present sponsorship arrangements with the Clabile Trust has resulted in donations to the BMK School in 2015 of £9780. A fantastic sum considering the limited time the committee has been able to devote to fund-raising.

For those wondering what ever happened to our effort to secure a substantial grant from Rotary Foundation, the application is still under consideration. Initially it was refused but helped by the Mbale Rotary Club in Uganda the bid was amended and has been re-submitted. If successful the aim is to develop the School farm and thereby secure the longer term financial viability of the School.

Well-Fare was launched in May 2006 and therefore is nearly ten years old. Since its launch, over £100,000 has been raised for the School. In addition to the original water bore hole this money has funded additional classrooms, built latrines, installed solar power, provided a playground, bought school bags for each pupil, sponsored over twenty of the most gifted pupils through secondary school and every year has helped pay the cost of teaching staff. All this amounts to a fantastic achievement of which our Church should be incredibly proud.

**Ted and Jane Bellingham**

## **EASTER SERVICES**

### **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March -**

*10.00 am - Smallfry Easter Celebration*

### **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Maundy Thursday**

*8.00 pm - Maundy Supper with Holy Communion*

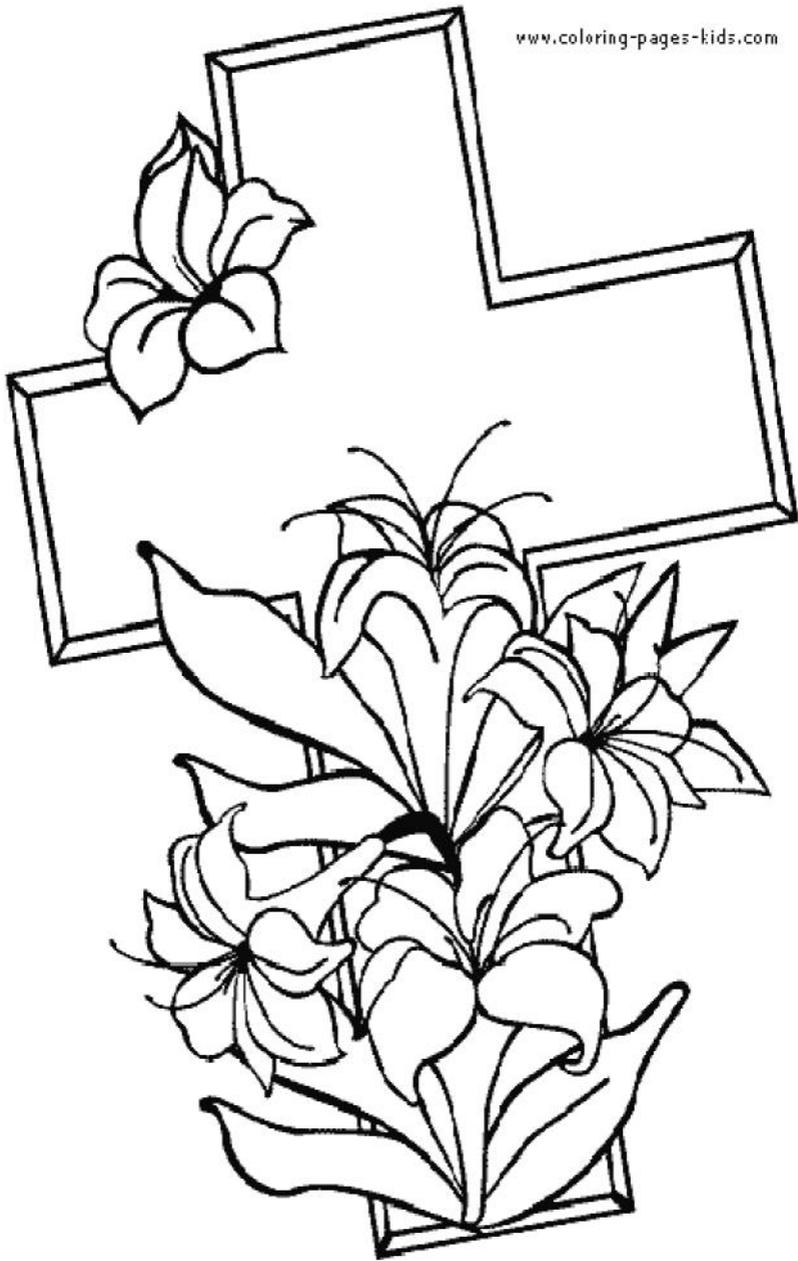
### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March - Good Friday**

*11.30 am - Churches Together in Dorking  
Service in St Martin's Churchyard*

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Easter Day**

*10.30 am - Easter All-Age Celebration  
Service with Holy Communion*





## NOTES

The picture on the front cover is provided by Mike Shaw.

Thanks go to Maureen Flood who proof read this issue

Produced by Val Longhurst

Material for the next issue of West Street News should be available by **Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016**



**Activity taking place on 31st January  
Family Games and Fun Afternoon**



**Dorking United Reformed Church, 53 West Street, Dorking, Surrey  
Church Office: 01306 889644—"Out of Office Hours" - 01737 841585  
Church Secretariat—01737 841585  
[www.dorkingurc.org.uk](http://www.dorkingurc.org.uk)**