

**CHURCH CALENDAR
OCTOBER—NOVEMBER 2014**

October

- 26th 10 am *Mission Sunday*
Family Worship led by Mrs Linda Mead, Programme Coordinator, Commitment for Life (see p xx)
- 29th 8 pm Elders Meeting



November

- 1st 10.30 am—3 pm Autumn Craft & Gift Fair (see p xx)
- 2nd 10 am Family Worship led by Mr Ian Fletcher, followed by Church Meeting & Election of Elders
- 6.30 pm Evening Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Alison Toplas
- 9th 10 am *Remembrance Sunday*
- 14th 7.30 pm *Social Evening*
Bernard Potter: "Moments in Time in the Life of Fleet URC"
- 16th 10 am Family Worship & Holy Communion led by Mr Sydney Shore
- 23rd 10 am Family Worship led by Diana Middleditch
- 30th 10 am *1st Sunday in Advent*
Family Worship & Parade with Gift Service, led by Mrs Paula Littlewood.
(Gifts will be donated to Step by Step, the Aldershot-based charity helping young people who are homeless or facing adversity.)

Items for the December-January Newsletter should be given to Christine Gibbons by **Sunday 16th November**.

Fleet United Reformed Church

*"We are a community of faithful Christian people,
working to spread the love of God to all."*

Newsletter



November 2014



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CONTACTS

<i>Minister:</i>	Revd Ruth Dillon , 01252 625238 revrdillon@btinternet.com
<i>(Please note: Ruth is on sabbatical leave until early December)</i>	
<i>Secretary:</i>	Moray Henderson , 01252 659569 moray.henderson@ntlworld.com
<i>Assistant Administrator:</i>	Margaret Armes , 01252 650994 b.armes@ntlworld.com
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<i>Hall Bookings:</i>	Brian Armes , 01252 650994 b.armes@ntlworld.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10 am: Family Worship
Holy Communion usually on third Sunday of month
First Sunday only: 6.30 pm Holy Communion

REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Early Years Group:) Sundays, 10 am:
Loaves and Fishes:)

House Group: Mondays, 10 am (at 35 Frere Ave, Fleet)

Toddlers Group: Tuesdays, 9.45 am; Fridays, 9.45 am

Pilots: Tuesdays, 4-5 pm

Coffee Morning: Thursdays, 10-11.30 am

Under the umbrella of the United Reformed Church, *Brownie* and *Rainbow Units* meet each week during school term.

Further details of all these activities are available from the Church Office, from the Church Secretary, or on our website.

FROM OUR CHURCH SECRETARY ...

Those warm sunny days of summer have now given way to the cooler and darker evenings of autumn. Birds and animals start their frantic work in storing food for the winter. Church life picks up pace as we face the need to elect and ordain more elders. Elders are people we choose to guide and serve us in our church life, which is one of the special things about our reformed tradition.



Thinking about seed collection, 2014 is a very poor year for acorns. However whilst the oaks have not set seeds, many other trees like the sweet chestnut, beech and sycamore have done well. Elders, like trees, need time to grow and develop. Please give the issue of eldership prayerful consideration, and help us to set seeds for the future, instead of following the oak.

God bless,
Moray Henderson



WHY IS THE LARGE WOODEN CROSS IN THE ENTRANCE AREA OF THE CHURCH?

The large wooden cross in the entrance to the Church building is a visual sign of our unity with the ten other churches and denominations which constitute "Churches Together in Fleet and Crookham" - all with the same basic calling: to worship God, to share the good news about Jesus Christ and to work for the good of all people.



Should there be a need for a special time of united prayer following a national or international disaster, the church holding the ecumenical cross would be open for everyone to share together.

On at least three occasions since its inception in 1990 it was felt necessary to activate a united time of prayer—following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, the Clapham rail disaster (when many local residents were on their way to work), and at the beginning of this year when flooding was at its height. The church holding the cross on the latter occasion was Holy Trinity, Crookham.

There is a brass plaque on the plinth which reads "To commemorate Churches Together in England 1990".

Usually each church holds the Cross for three months.

Bernard Potter

LOAVES AND FISHES

Hurrah—Loaves and Fishes restarted on Sunday 7th September, and it was lovely to meet up again and share news of our summer holidays.

After sharing our news we learned where the word ‘holiday’ came from. Did you know it came from Holy Day? In ancient times these days were given to workers so they could go to church and worship. They were sometimes called Saints Days.

We also discussed whether Jesus ever went on holiday. The answers that came back were:

- When he was 12 he went on a journey to visit a temple;
- He had a picnic with loaves and fishes as food;
- He went on a boat trip with the disciples to rest.

Jesus knew they needed some rest. In Mark 6:30-32 he said, “Come with me to a quiet place and get some rest.” We also noticed a couple of other interesting things:

First, Jesus said, “Come with me.” When we go on holiday, we need to remember to take Jesus with us. He really doesn’t take up much room in our suitcases!

Second, the Bible says the disciples went away to a quiet place. They needed rest. This is important for everyone.

We then stuck stickers on different modes of transport that we have travelled on, and also on activities that we did when we were away. These are on one of our notice boards if you fancy a look.

Thank you, Loaves and Fishes Group. You always make my Sundays special and fun!

Darrell Henderson



Leaflets giving more information about the Appeal and ideas of things to buy are available in the foyer.

Last year we made a brilliant effort. Let’s do the same this year!

Bee Griffiths



GOING ON A JOURNEY

It doesn’t seem so very long ago that many of us were off on our summer holidays and returning, relaxed and ready to take on the Autumn! With Autumn now upon us it is time to look forward to another journey... that of the Posada.

So what is a Posada? The custom of Posada originated in Mexico where two young people were chosen to dress up as Mary and Joseph. They would travel from house to house in their village, telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus and asking if they would give him a room. On Christmas Eve they would re-enact a community play and bring figures of Mary and Joseph to be placed in the crib.

The modern day equivalent is based on this concept. Each night during Advent, a figure of Mary and Joseph will be passed from person to person and from home to home within our congregation. Each person or family who wishes to join in will give a home to the figures for one or more nights, symbolising making room for Jesus in their hearts, homes and communities. The journey of the figures encourages people to think about the meaning of Christmas and to share the message with others.

The figures will arrive at your house in the evening, representing Mary and Joseph arriving at the Inn. They can be taken with you to work, school, meetings or when visiting friends. Put them where you can see them and keep them in your thoughts. Then, in the afternoon or evening—whichever is most convenient to you—pass them to the next person on the list.

At Christmas we will place the figures in the Nativity scene, and the journey will be complete.

Keep your eyes peeled over the coming weeks for more information and a sign-up sheet.

Grace Bagshaw



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The Church and young people are supporting the Operation Christmas Child ‘Shoebox Appeal’ again this Christmas. There are many different ways you can get involved with this amazing outreach:

- Fill a box as an individual or a family;
- Donate items for us to fill the boxes
- Give a cash donation for us to buy items or to help with the cost of distribution.

'MOMENTS IN TIME'

After the Centenary Service in July a number of people felt that there was insufficient time to view the exhibition panels properly. There will therefore be an opportunity on Friday, 14th November at 7.30 pm to relive 'Moments in Time'" during the first 100 years of Fleet Congregational Church, later Fleet United Reformed Church. Bernard Potter will be speaking about each panel.

Anyone who would like a lift to this event should speak to Moray Henderson or any of the elders.

CHURCH COMMUNION FUND



The Church Communion Fund has been in existence for many years, and derives its income from retiring collections immediately following morning and evening Communion services. There is always a plate for donations at the exit door of the Sanctuary, and the **total income per annum** is usually in the range of £70-£150: a very modest sum.

In previous years the money has been distributed at Christmas to people whom the church officers considered in need of financial help at that time. However in June this year Church Meeting agreed that the Communion Fund should be allocated to local charities on a six-monthly basis. The agreed beneficiary for the period July-December 2014 is *Step By Step*, the Aldershot-based charity helping young people who are homeless or facing adversity.

The chosen charity for the first six months of 2015 is *Talking Newspapers* and for the second half of the year *SeeAbility*.

Please look out for the plate after Communion services.

John Gibbons



MISSION SERVICE REMINDER: Sunday 26th October, 10 am

Guest Speaker:
**Linda Mead, Commitment for Life
Programme Coordinator**

'Commitment for Life' is the world development programme of the United Reformed Church, and works in partnership with Christian Aid and the World Development Movement, raising over half a million pounds a year from participating churches.

Please support our

Autumn Craft & Gift Fair

on Saturday, 1st November

10.30 am—3.00 pm

Come and do your Christmas shopping!
Tea Room ~ 50p entry (children free)

There will be the usual number of Craft and Gift stalls ready to sell you their gorgeous craft items. I am sure this will assist you with your Christmas shopping list!

Some of the crafters will be old favourites returning again, and there will also be some new exhibitors as well.

We would be very grateful to receive donations of new or nearly new items for the Church's own stall. Please give these to Bee Griffiths or to Maureen Coney.

I will of course be in need of much appreciated help to man the welcome table and to get the word out by leaflet. When the day is over we will need help to put everything back to its original state ready for the Service and Church Meeting the following day.

Please let me know if you feel you have the time.

If you know where we can put a poster, then please either give me the address, or maybe you can take it there.

Finally, don't forget to come and support us on the day!

Thank you,

Darrell Henderson (659569)



CHEESE AND WINE EVENING

at Fleet URC

Saturday, 22nd November 2014, at 7.30 pm

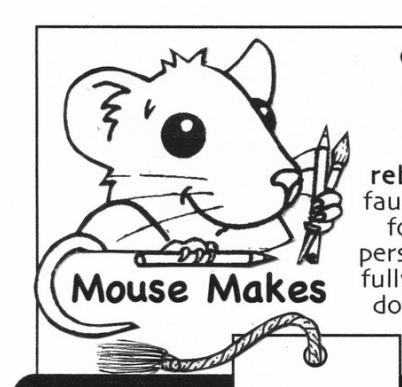
Tickets: £10,
available from Hospice Shop or from
Vera Mosley (684431) or Bee Griffiths (660599)

Enjoy an evening of cheese and wine and raise
money for your local Hospice!



Phyllis
Tuckwell
Hospice

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY



Mouse Makes

GOD'S WORD FOR US

"All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living, so that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed."

2 Timothy 3:16-17

READ

Psalm 119:105
Proverbs 30:5,6



WORD SEARCH

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Can you find all these books of the Bible in the word search above?

Genesis • Exodus • Leviticus • Numbers • Deuteronomy • Joshua • Judges • Ruth • Samuel • Kings • Chronicles • Ezra • Nehemiah • Esther • Job • Psalms • Proverbs • Ecclesiastes • Song of Songs • Isaiah • Jeremiah • Lamentations • Ezekiel • Daniel • Hosea • Joel • Amos • Obediah • Jonah • Micah • Nahum • Habakkuk • Zephaniah • Haggai • Zechariah • Malachi • Matthew • Mark • Luke • John • Acts • Romans • Corinthians • Galatians • Ephesians • Philippians • Colossians • Thessalonians • Timothy • Titus • Philemon • Hebrews • James • Peter • John • Jude • Revelation •

