

CHURCH CALENDAR

OCTOBER—NOVEMBER 2018

October

6th	7 pm	'Bring and Share' Harvest Meal (see page 7)
7th	10 am	<i>Harvest Thanksgiving</i> Family Worship & Parade Service led by Revd Ruth Dillon
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
8th	11 am	Monthly Bible Study*
	12 noon	Monthly Prayer Group*
14th	10 am	Family Worship led by 'Footsteps', our young people's group
21st	10 am	Family Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd John Mackerness
24th	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting
28th	10 am	Family Worship led by Mrs Thelma Roberts



November

3rd	10.30 am—3 pm	<i>Autumn Craft Fair</i>
4th	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd Ruth Dillon, followed by Church Meeting & Election of Elders
	3pm	'Service of Remembering and Thanksgiving' led by Revd Ruth Dillon (see page 5)
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
6th	12 noon	Monthly Prayer Group
11th		<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>
	10 am	Family Worship led by Mr Paul Murphy
13th	12 noon	Monthly Bible Study*
18th	10 am	Family Worship & Holy Communion, with reception of new members, led by Revd Ruth Dillon
21st	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting (tbc)
26th	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd John Whitton

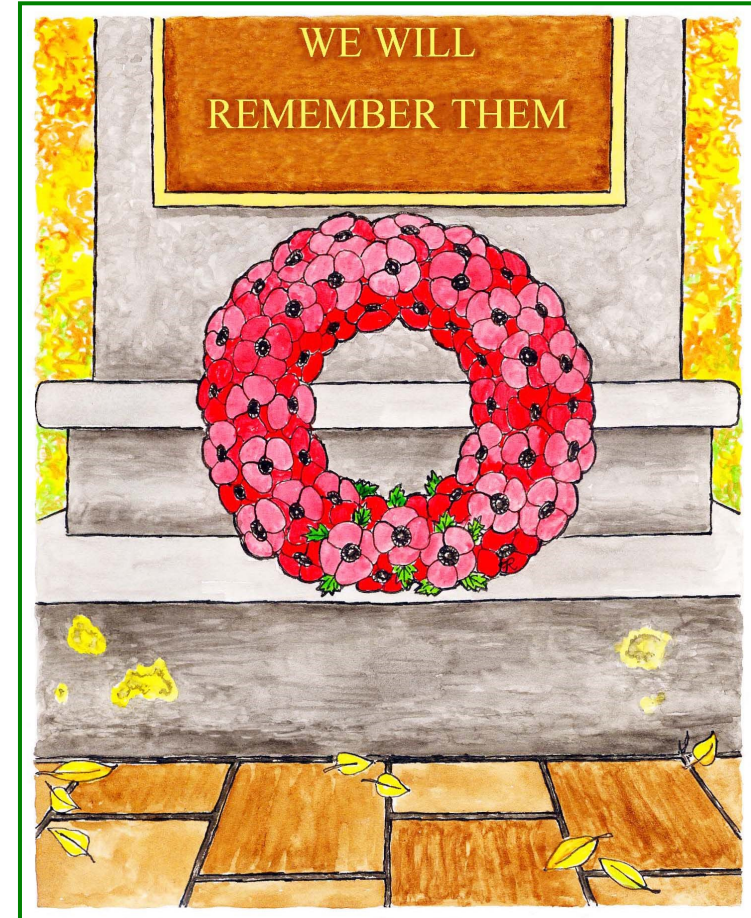
* Please note change of dates and times

Please be aware that the dates and times of meetings and social events may change. You are advised to check beforehand on the church website, www.fleet.urc.org.uk, or with Assistant Administrator, Margaret Armes (650994).

Items for the December 2018—January 2019 issue of *In Touch* should be with Christine Gibbons by **Sunday 11th November** (christine.gibbons@beech-ride.co.uk).

In Touch

October -
November
2018



Fleet United Reformed Church



FLEET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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@FleetURC

CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister:	Revd Ruth Dillon , 01252 625238 revrdillon@btinternet.com
Secretary:	Tamyra Sherratt , 01252 629418 tlsherratt13@virginmedia.com
Assistant Administrator:	Margaret Armes , 01252 650994 b.ames@ntlworld.com
Treasurer:	John Gibbons , 01252 614200 jmgibbons@hotmail.com
Hall Bookings:	Brian Armes , 01252 650994 b.ames@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 ACTIVITIES

'Footsteps' Young People's Group:	Sundays, 10 am (<i>term time only</i>)
House Group 1:	Mondays, 10 am (at 35 Frere Ave)
House Group 2:	Not meeting at present
Prayer Group:	See page 5 for details
Bible Study:	See page 5 for details
Coffee Morning:	Thursdays, 10–11.30 am
Toddlers Group:	Fridays, 10 am

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

Up to date details of all the above activities are available from the Church Office, from the Church Secretary, or on our website.

FROM THE MANSE



Dear Friends

Having recently returned from South India, my mind is full of things to do. The never-ending emails, preparing for Harvest, the start of Elders' meetings at Fleet and Beacon Hill, the North East Pastoral Committee, Synod Ministries and Learning, interviewing candidates, the start of my professional Doctorate study; and in three weeks' time (as I am writing this at the end of September) I am off to visit Beacon Hill's partner church in Thurrokovil in Sri Lanka.

However one email caught my attention and stopped me in my tracks.

Two years ago, when I took part in a service for the 100 years remembrance of the Somme, I wrote and read my poem, *'Enough is Enough!'* (reprinted below). I have now been asked to take part in a 100 years remembrance service for the end of the First World War, and to write another poem, carrying on from *'Enough is Enough!'*.

It has made me think of all the families and relatives who watch and take part in remembrance services every year. With the approach of Remembrance Sunday 2018 we are made mindful again of the words of Jesus, inscribed on war memorials across the land: *Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends*. We will honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice in two world wars and in all conflicts since then, for the freedom that is ours today. We must never forget the price they paid.

It is also true that Christians can never forget that Jesus also paid the ultimate sacrifice for our sakes, through his death on the cross. In doing so He showed us a better way, revealing for all time that:

- Love is stronger than hate;
- Friendship is stronger than enmity;
- Generosity is stronger than greed;
- Compassion is stronger than apathy.

I think Christ would wish to build a friendship monument, not of stone, but in all our hearts—which could, when taken seriously, re-orientate the whole of life.

God's peace and friendship be with you all,

Ruth



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

There was a time,
When meadow and sky found its celestial home;
Where flowers and trees waved the dawn and dusk into being.

There was a time,
When love was the token of word and action;
Where Angels and mortals lived in harmony
Surrounded by light and presence.

(cont over page →)

Wait my children,
Listen to my Spirit breathing through the toil and destruction,
Can you not hear the wing beats of peace?

Wait, my children! Enough is enough!

My heart is breaking every second,
Seeing the precious blood of my children
spilt on the land I have created for you.
Will you never listen?
Will you never learn?
The weeping and wailing that has accompanied war and conflict
throughout millennia will never stop,
as long as you refuse to hear my voice of wisdom.
The groans of the earth are yearning to be silent;
Broken hearted, I have walked the caverns and trenches
of mud and filth, deep with hatred and pain.

Wait my children! Enough is enough!

Mothers who bore you and cradled you,
Wives who have loved and caressed you,
Women who have adored you tenderly,
scream out with me like broken shards of glass,
piercing souls and hearts.
Tears tumbling down faces,
will pour on to lands from which poppies will emerge,
Blood red.
Broken hearted, I have walked the fields of war,
seen the horror of dead corpses rotting,
and the silence and smell of death and stench.
The killing fields...

Wait my children! Enough is enough!

I am the God who loves you;
I am the God who knows each one of you by name;
I am the God who is weeping;
I am the God who is living out this horror with you, moment by moment;
I am the God who bleeds;
I am the God who is dying with you.

Wait my children! Enough is enough!

Now, I wait to gather the fragments of life and death,
then weave again the tapestry of humanity, which will,
after a time of healing, restore hope.

And a new day will dawn.

©Ruth Dillon 2016



MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY

Each month we meet in the vestry
to explore the Lectionary readings
for the following Sunday. The
next gatherings will be:

Monday, 8th October, at 11 am

**Tuesday, 13th November,
at 12 noon**

*(please note change of
dates and times)*



NOTICE BOARD

ANNUAL & STUDY LEAVE

Ruth, our Minister, will not be
available on:

**10th October &
14th November**

(Doctoral study days at Cambridge)

15th October—2nd November
(Sri Lanka: Church Partnership)

ADVENT BOOK

During Advent Ruth
will be producing a
short book of
reflections based on
the Advent readings.



MEMBERSHIP

On 18th November four people
will be received into membership
at Fleet URC. Please keep them
in your prayers as they journey
through membership:

**Pam Hudson
Margaret Tracey
Matthew Dumbleton
Rebecca Dumbleton**

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP

The monthly Prayer Group will
meet on the following dates at
12 noon in the vestry at Fleet URC:

**Monday, 8th
October**

**Tuesday, 6th
November**
*(please note
change of day)*



Come and join us for 30 minutes
of quiet meditation and prayer.

SERVICE OF REMEMBERING AND THANKSGIVING 2018

A short service for bereaved relatives and friends will be held
at Fleet URC on **Sunday 4th November at 3 pm**



It will be a service with candles, and the names of those
we wish to remember will be recalled.

If you would like a loved one to be remembered at the
service, please speak to Christine Gibbons or Ruth Dillon.

All are welcome.

FOOTSTEPS

Our young people would like to invite you to share with them the service that they are preparing for the Sunday of 14th October.

Come along and hear about our favourite readings, hymns, and what 'Church' means to us in words, music and our creativity.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Grace Bagshaw



POPPY APPEAL HONOUR

In June I was invited to the Annual Poppy Appeal Garden Party. This is always a very enjoyable occasion, and a chance to meet up with my fellow poppy collectors.

This year I was presented with my Twenty-five Year Merit Award. I was presented with a poppy brooch and letter of appreciation by our MP, Ranil Jayawardena.

It was a very special day.

Linda Storey



HOLY HABITS—A handy tip for worship

Each day when you wake up,

Thank God for your Rest;

Thank God for being with you each moment of the coming day;

Thank God for the smile friends and strangers give you;

Thank God for one event that will be happening to you that day.

HARVEST 2018

'BRING AND SHARE' SUPPER

We hope you can join this Harvest event, on **Saturday 6th October** (7 pm for 7.30 pm) in the Church Hall.

A list of those attending and their contribution to the meal is in the Vestibule for you to add your name, and what food you wish to bring.

A request: Val Cox, the coordinator this year, has asked that you would let her or Darrell Henderson know if you find you cannot attend at the last minute. We can then make arrangements to collect your contribution, thus ensuring that there is enough food to make a jolly evening for all.

Val Cox (682675) & Darrell Henderson (659569)

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

For our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on **Sunday 7th October** we will be supporting 'Step by Step', the Aldershot charity supporting the homeless.

Below are some words from a recent email from *Step by Step*:

"I don't know if this might be of any use to you, but below is the list of items that we most require. The young people who stay with us have a budget of £12 a week to buy food, as we encourage them to make their own food choices and learn to budget. However, more often than not, we also have local young people who are temporarily rough sleeping, or some who, even though they are in accommodation, haven't got enough money to buy food. Therefore they come to use our services and are offered a food parcel.

These are some of the items that we use the most:

- Tinned meat and fish;
- Pot noodles/foods you can add hot water to;
- Cereal bars;
- Crisps;
- Rice crackers;
- Fruit in tins;
- Jars or tins of cook-in sauces;
- Squash and long-life juice"

I am sure that any fresh fruit and vegetables will also be most welcome, as that will hone their cooking skills as well.

Ruth



PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

In remembrance of the 100 year anniversary of the end of the First World War, our prayer this month focusses on that event, and on the Unknown Soldier who rests at Westminster Abbey.

On 11th November in 1918, at 11 am—the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month—the First World War came to an end. Much of the war had been fought in dug-out trenches across Belgium and France. It is thought that about 9 million soldiers lost their lives and about 27 million were wounded—many of them permanently disabled.

At 11 am the fighting stopped everywhere, six hours after the Armistice was signed in a railway carriage in Compiègne, northern France.

Two years later, the body of an unknown British soldier from one of the battlefields was laid in a coffin and brought over to England. On this day in 1920 the coffin of the Unknown Soldier was taken in procession to Westminster Abbey, past thousands of people lining the streets. During the service, the coffin was laid to rest with some soil from France in the floor of the central aisle of Westminster Abbey. The tomb commemorates all British casualties, especially those who have no known grave, and all who suffered during that war and since.



Lying there amongst the tombs of kings and queens and many famous people, this 'Tomb of the Unknown Warrior' bears the inscription, *'Beneath this stone rests the body of a British warrior, unknown by name or rank, brought from France to be among the most illustrious of the land.'*

During that service, the hymn, *'Lead Kindly Light'* was sung, and we make that our prayer this month:

O Lord,

Lead kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
lead thou me on;
the night is dark, and I am far from home,
lead thou me on.

Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see
the distant scene; one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou
shouldst lead me on.

I loved to choose and see my path; but now
lead thou me on!

I loved the garish day and, spite of fears,
pride ruled my will: remember not past years.

So long thy power has blest me, sure it still
will lead me on.

o'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
the night is gone,
and with the morn those angel faces smile,
which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

Amen

© John Henry Newman

During the First World War, the soldiers in their dug-outs could see red poppies growing the fields of Flanders—the name for an area that covers parts of Belgium, the Netherlands and France. Each year the Royal British Legion sells artificial red poppies to raise money for injured soldiers, sailors and airmen who have served their country up to the present day.

Some countries mark Remembrance Day on the 11th November, and others on the nearest Sunday. At 11 am, many people remain silent for two minutes.

I invite you to read this hymn/prayer on 11th November this year.

Ruth



DAYA SADAN

This year we will not be filling shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, but we will be collecting money for Daya Sadan, a charity-run home for people with mental and learning difficulties. The Saju family, Bee, Gordon and I visited the orphanage, which is located in Cochin, Kerala, and we were all greatly moved by the experience.

After our visit I spoke to Melvin, and he suggested that we give money to the orphanage for our Christmas gifts, instead of Christmas shoe boxes. He spoke eloquently about why we should help those in most need and in severe poverty. Daya Sadan is not helped by any Government funding, and relies totally on funds from the community and churches. The money they receive buys food and clothes for the residents.

Melvin is asking people to collect either loose change or £2 coins. Why £2? Because £2 buys a 5 kg bag of rice, which will feed a person for one week. Monies can be given either to Melvin or to Carol Rayner.



CHRISTMAS GIFT SERVICE 2018



Parity for Disability will be the recipients of donations to our Gift Service on 2nd December. We are hoping to have someone from the organisation present at the service to receive the gifts and tell us a bit about the work they do.

The gifts need to be for adults, and the clients enjoy anything with a fragrance, or biscuits and sweets. The service is also a Parade Service, so make sure you arrive early!

Ruth

FROM FLEET TO PALANI AND BACK AGAIN

In August our minister, Ruth, travelled with Bee and Gordon Griffiths to visit the Palani Mission in Tamil Nadu. The visit was intended to deepen the relationship between Palani Mission and Fleet URC and, using freewill offerings donated by our congregation, to establish projects within the mission area in partnership with Revd John Abraham and the church. (A detailed background to the trip was given in the June-July edition of *In Touch*.)

Ruth, Bee and Gordon shared their experiences in our morning service on 2nd September, and in more detail at a social evening later in the week.

- During their visit they met Sandiya and Vanilla, the two girls we have already sponsored in their midwifery training, as well as the two new girls we will sponsor for nurse training.
- The idea of buying chickens was not appropriate, so they bought six goats, which have been given to three families in particular need.
- A tailoring centre has been set up to enable five girls to become competent seamstresses, with our money providing the equipment and tuition. The project will be overseen by Deborah, one of the evangelists.
- 60 outfits were purchased for children and young people who otherwise have only their school clothes (provided by the government) to wear.
- A donation was given to enable a feeding programme that has been set up in an area of extreme poverty to continue for another six months.
- The remaining money was placed in a hardship fund, to be given out at the discretion of Revd John Abraham and the ten evangelists.



In summary, the visit went extremely well, and it is planned to deepen this partnership by forming a *Friends of Palani Mission* group and continuing to raise money for existing and new projects. Another visit is planned for October 2019.

There are more photos on the church website, with links to Ruth's report and presentation: <http://fleet.urc.org.uk/from-fleet-to-palani-and-back-again>.

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Since the group returned to Fleet we have received the following email from Revd John:

"I thank Almighty to send ambassadors (Rev Ruth and Mr & Mrs Griffiths) to visit remote village of Tamil Nadu, Palani. We really had good fellowship and evergreen memory with the loved ones of Fleet Church UK.

"Thank you very much for sending them here and all the wonderful support which you have given to uplift the living standard of this poor people. Let God Almighty richly bless you; we convey our sincere regards and love to each and every one of the church members.

In His regards constantly, Rev John"

## ROUNDELAY

After the heady rapture of the Spring,  
After the long and murmurous shade that trees  
Have cast to shelter us, all summer through,  
After apotheosis of the leaves,  
In autumn rearing towers of fiery gold  
Now comes the fall of leaf, and we are sad,  
Sad for the falling leaves and shorter days.  
But now how much more easily we see  
The happy birds who come to feast on berries -  
Their latest chance for such a rich supply -  
Who neither sow, nor gather into barns  
And yet God feeds them till their day is over.  
And now, through earth, green tips of bulbs appear,  
Promise of Spring before the winter's here.

Sheila Durbin



Please support our  
**Autumn Craft Fair**  
on Saturday, 3rd November

10.30 am—3.00 pm

50p entry (children free) + Tea room



Our Autumn Craft Fair is always very popular, with lots of craft and gift stalls selling gorgeous hand-made items.

If you are able to help on the day or beforehand, by taking a few leaflets and delivering in your area, please let me know.

**All offers of help gratefully received—**Darrell Henderson (659569)

Donations of new or nearly new items are also requested  
for the church's own very successful stall.  
(Please give these to Bee Griffiths or to Maureen Coney.)

*This year the money raised from the hire of tables will be going  
to help support a home for the mentally challenged—  
Daya Sadan, in Ernakulam, Kerala—which Ruth, Bee and Gordon  
visited in August with Saju and family (see page 9).*

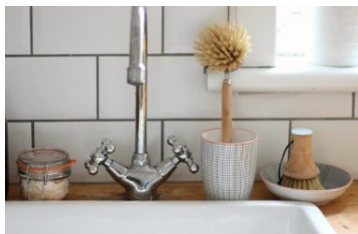


## THINK: RECYCLE

In the last copy of 'In Touch' I let you know about a new recycling opportunity for writing implements. The recycling box for these items is now at the back of the church and waiting to receive your donations. There is information with the box which tells you what can and can't be recycled. As a reminder... we CAN take any pen, any highlighter, any correction fluid pot, any marker, any felt tip, any mechanical pencil or eraser pen and any fountain pen or ink cartridge, no matter what they are made from! Perhaps you could encourage friends, relations and colleagues to help you collect these too? (Please note that we CAN'T take glue sticks, erasers, rulers, pencils or sharp objects, eg scissors.) And now to the kitchen for some more tips on reducing waste:

For almost any item or process that can be done in the kitchen there is a better alternative, ie one that reduces our reliance on plastic or allows us to reuse an item multiple times. Don't be tempted to get rid of items that are already in use though, as it is better to 'use up' what you have and only replace with an eco alternative when you need to.

- **Washing up brushes:** Most of these have plastic handles with plastic bristles, which are thrown away at the end of their life. When you next need a new one try looking for one with a wooden handle and plant-based bristles. Some have replaceable wooden heads. I have recently purchased a bottle brush (for cleaning inside our reusable drink bottles) with very effective coconut fibre bristles!



- **Hard water build-up/limescale:** How do you get rid of yours? Next time your commercially prepared limescale remover runs out, why not consider using vinegar? I have a refillable plastic sprayer with a 50/50 mix of vinegar and water (with a small squirt of washing up liquid) that makes our kitchen sink sparkle! Distilled white vinegar can be purchased in glass bottles in Waitrose in Fleet, is cheaper, and lasts longer too!
- **Soap:** When your plastic soap pump next runs out, why not replace it with a bar of soap? This avoids plastic (especially if it comes in cardboard) and lasts longer too. I buy bar soap in cardboard boxes from Boots, but Waitrose and Holland and Barrett also sell them.
- **Food waste:** If you have a garden, please consider putting out food scraps on a compost heap. Try to buy food that you will eat before it goes out of date, and make sure you know the difference between 'use by' and 'best before' dates. Remember that your nose will tell you if food is off or not! For example, don't tip milk away simply because it has gone past its date. Smell it and taste it. It lasts longer than you might think!
- **Washing up liquid:** This is a little more tricky. Ecover is a more eco brand, but the bottles are still plastic. However you can take them to be

refilled at some shops. Hartley Wintney's 'Organically Speaking' is the nearest shop to us in Fleet that takes part in the Ecover Refill Scheme.

I know that for many people the scale of the plastic problem is overwhelming, and for those who don't use the internet the options are limited. However, we may soon have an alternative option in Fleet. For those on Facebook, try searching for a relatively new group called 'Keep Fleet Clean'. Fleet residents are already busy swapping tips and encouraging each other to be more 'green'. The lady who has set up this group is hoping to open a 'Zero Waste' shop in Fleet too, selling produce 'loose', alongside eco alternatives. Try searching for 'Scoop' on Facebook to learn more, and watch this space for more updates!

Grace Bagshaw



By the time you read this you should have received your Commitment for Life Fundraising Campaign letter for this year.

Please pray and give as the Lord leads you.

**Goal date: 21st October 2018,  
Peacemaking Sunday.**

*Tamyra Sherratt, CforL Link Person*



Phyllis  
Tuckwell  
Hospice

### 'CHAMPAGNE AT THE BLITZ' CONCERT

An evening of fun, glamour, music and nostalgia with a vintage singing trio, featuring songs from the 1940s to the present.

**Saturday 20th October, 7 for 7.30 pm**

at the Church on the Heath

Bookings available for individuals, or for tables of 6, 8 or 10

Ticket price: £15— from Vera Mosley or from the Hospice shop.

Beer, wine and soft drinks can be bought on the night.



**WINE WORKSHOP on Saturday 17th November,  
7.30 pm at Fleet URC**

Tickets: £20—more information from Vera Mosley



## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FLEET AND CROOKHAM (CTFC)

On Tuesday 11th September Churches Together held their Annual General Meeting at our Church. The following officers were elected:

Chair: **Revd Patrick Butler**, Church on the Heath

Deputy Chair: **Revd Billy Slater**, Fleet Methodist Church

Secretary: **Mark Mabin**, Livingstones

Treasurer: **John Cobb**, Church on the Heath

The new aims were explained again. They have been adopted and accepted by all the churches. Thank you for your support in this.

The following reports were received:

### Foodbank

There are now three bases for distribution of food—Fleet, Hook and Darby Green. This service is unfortunately needed in these times, and thanks were given to all who donate and support.

### Fleet Angels

New volunteers are needed to join them on their patrols and to get the equipment together, eg tea/coffee/biscuits for the patrols. This preparatory work is done prior to the volunteers going out on the street. If you feel you would be able to assist, you would be very welcome. Details are on the new website: [www.fleetangels.org](http://www.fleetangels.org).

You can also subscribe to the prayer letter via the website.

### Anna Chaplaincy

Elaine Gilbert informed us that there have been some excellent reports of their work from Gracewell, and the past year has been an exciting and busy one for her.

### Christmas Activities

These are underway. On Wednesday 28th November the Fleet Christmas Light Switch-on happens! This will be held in Gurkha Square as in past years. The plan is to make it a family friendly environment, and planning will be starting soon. Details will be advertised as soon as I get them. Christmas Day Lunch is also under planning. Revd Carol Dunk, Parish of Fleet, is meeting with Fleet Town Council. Again, I will keep you informed.

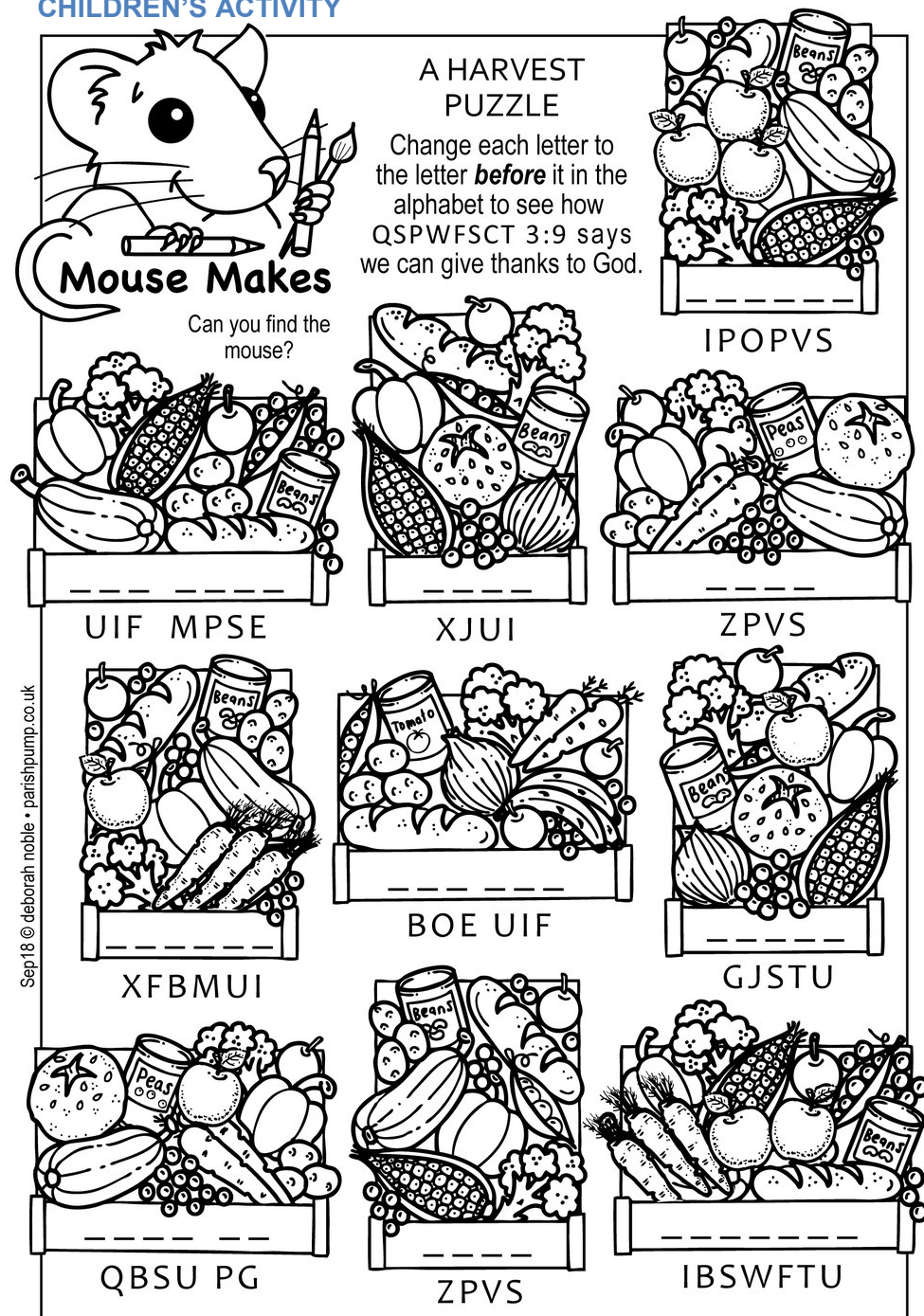
### 'Compassion'

James Waddell from 'Compassion' ([www.compassionuk.org](http://www.compassionuk.org)) introduced himself to the meeting. He has just moved to Fleet and is based in new premises at Compassion House, Barley Way, Fleet.

This organisation is involved with sponsoring children in 25 developing countries across the world. James invites you to pop into their new premises to say 'hello' and have a coffee.

**Darrell Henderson**, CTFC Representative

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY



Which two boxes have the same harvest food?

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