

**CHURCH CALENDAR**  
**APRIL—MAY 2015**

# Fleet United Reformed Church

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

## Newsletter

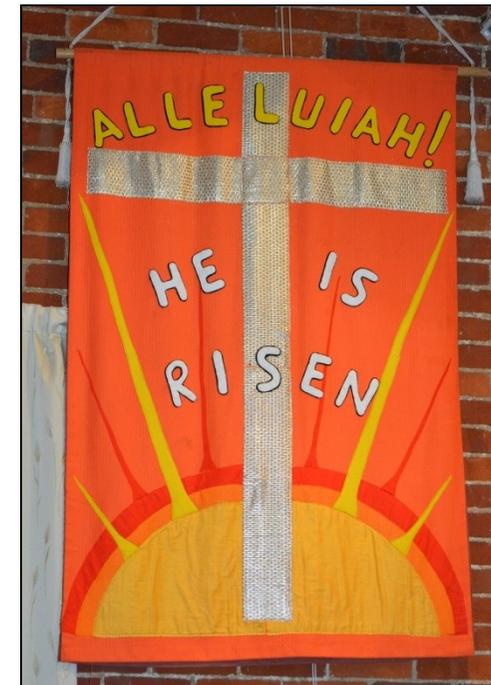
### April

- 2nd *Maundy Thursday*  
8 pm Service with Holy Communion, led by Mrs Thelma Roberts
- 3rd *Good Friday*  
10.30 am Service led by Revd Ruth Dillon
- 5th *Easter Day*  
10 am Family Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon  
*Please bring a flower to decorate the Cross*  
NB: **NO** Evening Service
- 12th 10 am Family Worship led by Mr Paul Murphy
- 19th 10 pm Family Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
- 24th 8 pm Social Evening: *St George's Day Supper*
- 26th 10 am Family Worship led by Mr Sydney Shore
- 29th 7.15 pm Elders Meeting
- 30th 8 pm Manse House Group (see p 4)



### May

- 3rd 10 am Family Worship led by Revd Ruth Dillon  
6.30 pm Evening Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
- 6th 8 pm Church Meeting
- 9th-16th *Christian Aid Week* (see p 7)
- 10th 10 am Family Worship led by Miss Nicola Hamilton & Mrs Tamyra Sherratt
- 17th 10 am Family Worship & Holy Communion led by Mrs Thelma Roberts
- 21st tba Elders Meeting
- 24th 10 am Family Worship led by Mrs Julie Young
- 28th 8 pm Manse House Group (see p 4)
- 31st 10 am Family Worship led by Revd John Whitton



April—May 2015



Kings Road,  
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(ansaphone)

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email: [admin@fleeturc.org.uk](mailto:admin@fleeturc.org.uk)

 find us on Facebook  
 follow us on Twitter

Items for the June-July Newsletter should be with Christine Gibbons by  
**Sunday 17th May** ([christine.gibbons@building-bridges.co.uk](mailto:christine.gibbons@building-bridges.co.uk)).

## CONTACTS

<i>Minister:</i>	<b>Revd Ruth Dillon</b> , 01252 625238 revrdillon@btinternet.com
<i>Secretary:</i>	<b>Moray Henderson</b> , 01252 659569 moray.henderson@ntlworld.com
<i>Assistant Administrator:</i>	<b>Margaret Armes</b> , 01252 650994 b.ames@ntlworld.com
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<b>John Gibbons</b> , 01252 614200 jmgibbons@hotmail.com
<i>Hall Bookings:</i>	<b>Brian Armes</b> , 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 WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

<i>Little Fishes:</i>	) Sundays, 10 am
<i>Loaves and Fishes:</i>	)
<i>House Group:</i>	Mondays, 10 am (at 35 Frere Ave, Fleet)
<i>Toddlers Group:</i>	Tuesdays, 9.45 am; Fridays, 9.45 am
<i>Pilots:</i>	Tuesdays, 4-5 pm
<i>Coffee Morning:</i>	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 THE MANSE



*Dear Friends*

**“Alleluia! Christ is risen!”**

A lot can happen within a week. Lent is nearly behind us, and the cross is looking high and menacing.

A lot can happen in a short space of time. Jesus was walking with the disciples and they seemed oblivious to the stress he must have been under. Stress is full blown in these Passion and Easter narratives.

- Stress of Jesus facing a horrible crucifixion.
- Stress of the disciples: one moment eating with him, the next seeing him die, and the next seeing him ‘alive’.
- Stress of the women: one moment seeing Jesus suffer on the cross, the next watching and keeping guard of his tomb, and finally being the first people to see him ‘resurrected’ early one morning.

Then after the shock, there come Celebrations!

**“Alleluia! Christ is risen!”**

There is a lot of mystery surrounding the Easter story, yet as Christians we are ‘Easter people’, living in the light of the Resurrected Christ.

How can we learn to live as wide awake people, as Easter people? In particular, if Lent is a time to give things up, Easter ought to be the time to take things up. If the cross means putting to death things in your life that need killing off, if you are to flourish as a Christian and as a truly human being, then Easter should mean planting, watering and training up in your life, both personal and corporate, all that should be blossoming—filling the resurrected garden with colour and perfume—and in due course, bearing fruit.

**‘Jesus’ resurrection is the beginning of God’s new project, not to snatch people away from earth to heaven, but to colonize earth with the life of heaven’—NT Wright, *Surprised by Hope***

So how can we maintain this concept of being an ‘**Easter disciple**’?

I think the key is to be true to your calling to follow Christ and to breathe in the Holy Spirit. I say ‘breathe’ because God’s Spirit is closer than breath itself.

In a few weeks we shall be looking to Pentecost and to the Church’s birthday, when the Spirit came in abundance. However, until then, let us bathe in the glory of our Lord and Christ being a new creation, and celebrate with Christians everywhere.

**“Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia!”**

Easter Blessings to you all,

*Ruth*



## NOTICE BOARD

### EVENING COMMUNION

Please note that there will be **NO** evening Communion Service on Easter Day, 5th April. The next evening service will be on 3rd May at 6.30 pm, when we shall be exploring the **outward Discipline of Service.**

### MINISTERS' SPRING SCHOOL AND ANNUAL LEAVE

Ruth will be attending Ministers' Spring School in Salisbury from **Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May (inclusive)**

Ruth will also be taking annual leave from

**Tuesday 26th May to Saturday 6th June (inclusive)**



If anyone would like a hard copy printout of *Stories for Change* each month, who is not already receiving one, please let me know.  
*Tamyra Sherratt*

### APPEAL FOR PHOTOS

A chance to have your photo on the front cover of the Newsletter!

If you have any pictures you think might be suitable for future editions, please let me know.

(Caption and credit given.)

*Christine Gibbons*

### MONTHLY HOUSE GROUP

#### Film and Theology



From March to July we shall be meeting monthly at the Manse to consider five themes relating to *The King's Speech*. The film tells the true story of King George VI, and how he overcame his speech impediment.

Themes include: the power of nightmares and friendship, faith in our voice, and chasing our dreams. We will also be asking the question where we see God in the film.

Next meeting is on **Thursday, 30th April, at 8 pm** at the Manse.

### BEE'S VISIT TO ZAMBIA



Earlier this year Bee Griffiths went to Zambia to participate in the Golden Jubilee of the United Church of Zambia.

In a recent social evening she showed slides of her trip and spoke about the wonderful events she participated in, culminating in a special celebration at the Heroes Stadium, which was attended by the Acting President of Zambia. She also had the opportunity to visit Victoria Falls where she saw the new statue of David Livingstone, and to take a boat trip where she viewed crocodiles and hippos.

Bee proudly wore the special costume she was given to commemorate the 50 year anniversary.

Bee has also been sharing her experiences with our Pilots Group. They have been looking at the daily diaries kept by two children, Benson and his sister Joyce, and comparing them with their own diaries.

They have made balls out of old plastic bags and string, just like children in Zambia do, and have used them very successfully to play games.



They have also learned a Zambian song: "TAKWABA UWABA NGA IESU" ("There's no one like Jesus") - and accompanied themselves with instruments they made out of recycled materials.

The Pilots had fun dressing themselves in Zambian *chitenge* (similar to a sarong), and in football hats and scarves in Zambian team colours.

There are more photos on our church website, and on our Facebook page.

## 1ST FLEET WEST RAINBOWS



In January we had three new Rainbows and started our Seahorse Challenge badge. The girls learned a lot about different sea creatures and had fun making pebble crabs and playing games.

February 22nd was World Thinking Day for all those in Guiding, and our Rainbows celebrated that week by holding a special ceremony where we held LED candles and thought about girls all over the world.

This half term we are doing our 'Roundabout Global Adventure' badge. Every meeting is about a different continent. The girls have enjoyed trying food from Europe, learning about Rainbows in the Americas, and doing activities from Asia.



We have also had a sleepover. For many girls it was the first experience of sleeping away from home. As it fell on Mothering Sunday we spent our time making candle holders and cards. The girls also enjoyed the theme of 'The Princess and the Frog': they all got to make a Firefly lamp to keep by their bed at night.

*Hayley Scott, Kitten*

## 4TH FLEET BROWNIES



In January we had four new Brownies, and we started our Writer badge. This is a difficult badge as it includes writing a glossary, writing a play, and also playing Countdown! We are lucky that our Brownies are a clever bunch, and managed to create words of seven letters and successfully completed the Numbers round. They also worked out our Conundrum!

For World Thinking Day, some of our Brownies joined up with other units in Fleet and sang songs from around the world. They also made pegs showing flags of different countries, which they swapped with other girls.

This half term we are having meetings on different themes to try and experience some different things. So far we have learned about Chinese New Year and we have designed Boomerangs; next we are all going bowling in our pyjamas!

We also had a sleepover, and the theme was 'Beauty and the Beast'. We completed our Booklover badge at the sleepover, because Belle loves to read. All the Brownies had made a list of four books they had recently read, and explained what they thought of them. We played a game about the Dewey Decimal System, and had a go at arranging library books in the correct order. The girls also got to make some beautiful silver charm bracelets to take home with them.



*Hayley Scott, Kitten, & Pauline Warner, Brown Owl*

## POINTS TO PONDER

What's the point of a sun without a moon?  
What's the point of a sky without a cloud?  
What's the point of some land without a tree?  
What's the point of a heart if it doesn't beat?



What's the point of living without a life?  
What's the point of dying if you've just been saved?  
What's the point of doing if everything's done?  
What's the point of loving without someone?

*Anna Booker (age )*



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

**10th—16th MAY 2015**

A reminder that Christian Aid Week is fast approaching, and on Saturday 9th May, 10 am – 12 noon, we start the week with the Cake and Plant Sale at Fleet Parish Community Centre in

Church Road. We would be very grateful for any donations of cakes and plants you are able to offer.

The joint Christian Aid service will be on Sunday 10th May at 6.45 pm at the Church on the Heath. It is always an inspiring service, so please come along.

Door to door collections will take place between 10th and 16th May. Are there any budding collectors out there? We would be delighted to hear from you. If you don't fancy collecting alone, why not recruit a friend to come with you?



All offers of help welcome.

*Linda Storey (647650)*



## THE BIBLE SOCIETY

In 1800 Mary Jones set out to journey 26 miles by foot along mountain paths across Wales to buy a Bible from

Revd Thomas Charles. Mary had saved for six years to afford a Bible, as they were rare and costly items at that time. When she arrived, all the Welsh language Bibles had been sold. However the Reverend was so moved by her passion that he arranged for her to await the arrival of new Bibles, and two days later provided Mary with her own Bible and gifted two more for her family.

With this occasion in mind, four years later Revd Charles established The British and Foreign Bible Society—known in England and Wales as The Bible Society. The Society was set up as a non-denominational Christian Bible Society, with the purpose of making Bibles available throughout the world. That remains the mission today.

William Wilberforce was closely associated with the project. His avowed intent was to make 'goodness fashionable', and to cause people to fall in love with the Bible, the inspiration for that goodness.

The Bible Society is part of an international fellowship of 140 Bible Societies around the world, known as United Bible Societies. Their work is endless as people across the globe continue to discover the Bible.

By the Society's centenary in 1904, 181 million copies of the Bible had been distributed worldwide. 1977 saw the beginning of the Bible a Month scheme, where supporters are invited to make regular gifts so that every month someone new receives a Bible.



*St Buenos Church at Llanycil near Bala, home to the Bible Society's new Mary Jones Visitor Centre. (Open daily, 10 am-4 pm)*



Today the Bible Society remains involved in distributing Bibles throughout the world, and also provides practical help and support to those in need or distress. The work is divided into two categories: Domestic and International.

The Domestic work, which covers England and Wales, is different because generally access to a Bible is easier. However nine out of ten people choose not to access it, and 36% of people think that the Bible is not relevant. The Bible Society is working to change this.



The following gives some idea of the International action:

### 1. Middle East

The Society is helping in refugee camps in northern Iraq, Kurdistan and Lebanon, and in Austria among refugees from Syria and Iraq. Work has increased considerably in the Middle East refugee camps following action by Islamic State. The Bible Society is offering Bibles where wanted, and providing practical help to refugees.

### 2. Eastern Europe

Bible Societies have been set up in the countries which gained independence following the crumbling of Communism.

### 3. SE Asia

The Society is supplying Bibles and literacy classes in Vietnam, where church growth is second only to China, and in Cambodia. It is seeking to set up in Laos, where there are currently 200,000 Christians.

### 4. South Sudan

Bibles are being distributed and literacy classes started. A booklet of Bible stories for children has also been composed. A Toyota 4x4 has been donated, which enables access to remote villages.

### 5. China

30 million copies of the Bible have been distributed since the end of the Cultural Revolution.

### 6. African Continent

The distribution of Bibles is very important in all African countries. In Ghana, Kenya and Uganda the Bible Society is involved in the HIV/Aids programme, forming Alpha groups, promoting literacy, and helping to improve IT systems.

### 7. India

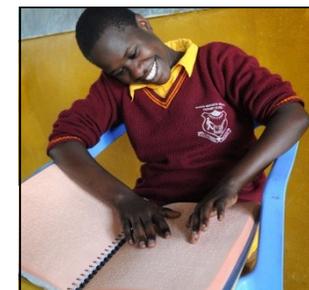
The Bible Society works with marginalised people, arranging youth seminars, inter church events, and teaching and praying.



John 8:32 is appropriate for the work of the Society: "Set the truth free, then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free".

More information about the Bible Society may be accessed at their website: <http://www.biblesociety.org.uk>, where information on how to donate is also available. If you prefer, Pearl Thomas will accept and transmit any donations. Please do consider supporting this very important work.

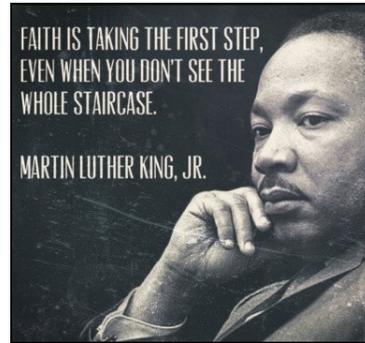
*Pearl and Bill Thomas*



*Reading from Braille Scriptures provided by the Bible Society in Uganda*

## PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

A sermon delivered by Martin Luther King was taped two months before he was assassinated on 4th April 1968. The tape recording of him preaching that sermon was played at his own funeral. These were his words, played back for everyone to hear:



“Every now and then I think about my own death, and I think about my own funeral. If any of you are around when I have to meet my day, I don’t want a long funeral. And if you get somebody to deliver the eulogy, tell them not to talk too long. Every now and then I wonder what I want them to say. Tell them not to mention that I have a Nobel Peace Prize—that’s not important.

“I’d like somebody to mention that day, that Martin Luther King tried to give his life serving others. I’d like for somebody to say that day that ‘Martin Luther King tried to love somebody.’ I want you to say that day that I ‘did try to feed the hungry; that I did try, in my life, to visit those who were in prison.’ I want you to say that I ‘tried to love and serve humanity.’ I won’t have any money to leave behind, I won’t have the fine and luxurious things of life to leave behind. But I just want to leave a committed life behind.”



### Prayer:

Let us pray that we may discover what is really important in life.

*Lord, in your mercy—hear our prayer.*

Let us pray that we may respect and value each person who comes into our lives.

*Lord, in your mercy—hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for those who will experience hatred, abuse and violence this day.

*Lord, in your mercy—hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for people of violence, that their attitude and behaviour may change.

*Lord, in your mercy—hear our prayer.*

*Amen*

*Ruth*



## EASTER

As we draw near to Easter  
My heart begins to sing  
Although it’s much too early  
For joy and triumphing.

First we must share his supper,  
Full of foreboding dread.  
We cannot understand him—  
His body for our bread?



Gethsemane, in darkness:  
How can we bear to see  
His fear and dereliction;  
His horror of the tree?



Lanterns within the garden!  
The Temple Guard had come.  
We broke and fled before them,  
Our hearts and voices dumb.

Peter and John did follow  
To learn what would betide  
But even Peter faltered  
And then his Lord denied.

We dared not see him suffer  
Though John’s love did suffice.  
He told us how a thief received  
The gift of Paradise.

O Mary, blessed Mary,  
You heard him speak your name;  
Our risen Lord returning;  
Transformed, but still the same.

So now my heart is singing  
With joy beyond compare:  
Our risen Lord is with us  
And holds us in his care.

*Sheila Durbin*





## TRAINING FOR LEARNING AND SERVICE

### Imagine with TLS

Training for Learning and Serving (TLS) is launching its new period of enrolment by encouraging people to take time to imagine—a different world, a different church, and a different you—as part of a practical learning experience.

By engaging with these ideas TLS aims to explore how some of these possibilities may be a positive influence in a person's life, church and community.

### TLS offers opportunities to:

Examine your faith

Enrich your discipleship

Explore your calling

Make a difference in your life, your church and your neighbourhood

**Not so much a programme  
More an experience**

### WHAT IS TLS?

- A spiritual journey
- A variety of courses on subjects related to Christian life and discipleship
- A diverse learning experience with opportunities for reflective and practical work, personal and group study and local and residential gatherings
- A fellowship of friendly people

### YOU CAN DO TLS

- Just out of personal interest, to help you be more understanding and effective in your Christian discipleship
- To explore opportunities to serve God in the future
- To help you acquire URC Assembly Lay Preaching accreditation
- It doesn't matter whether you have some academic experience, or none

### TO FIND OUT MORE

Watch the videos at <http://tinyurl.com/TLS-Video>, and then follow the links for more details, including this year's Prospectus

Or contact the TLS Administrator, Mrs Heather Skidmore on 01777 838634



**Phyllis  
Tuckwell  
Hospice**

### QUIZ NIGHT with FISH AND CHIP SUPPER

in the URC Church Hall

**Saturday, 25th April, at 7.30 pm**

Tickets: £15

Available from the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice shop,  
or by calling 01252 683540

### A LITERARY TEA AT THE ELVETHAM HOTEL

Author Sieglinde Klovekorn-Ward will be talking about her forthcoming book: *'Memoirs of a Childhood Experience in Post-War Germany'*

As well as a traditional English tea, there will also be a Raffle and Fairtrade stall. Guests will be greeted with a glass of fizz on arrival.

**Monday, 11th May, 3-5 pm**

Tickets: £18

Available from the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice shop,  
or by calling 01252 612527/615462

### THE PELLY CONCERT ORCHESTRA

**on Saturday, 18th April  
at The Church on the Heath**

**Children's Concert, 4.30-5.15 pm**

Programme includes:

He's a Pirate (from *'Pirates of the Caribbean'*), Old Macdonald, Bob the Builder, Aladdin, Let it Go (from *'Frozen'*), with Elvetham Heath School Choir, and lots more

**Tickets:** £10 per family group (must include an adult), £2.50 each extra child

**'Pelly Concert Orchestra Goes Nostalgic', at 7.45 pm**

Programme includes, among others:

American in Paris Suite, Inspector Morse Theme, The Great Escape, Robin Hood (*'Prince of Thieves'*), Medley from *'Grease'*, Selection from *'Cats'*, *'Sing'* with Elvetham Heath School Choir

**Tickets in advance:** £11 (children, £6; senior citizens, £10)

**Tickets at the door:** £13 (children, £6; senior citizens, £13)

**For tickets** phone 0845 269 4610 or email: [tickets@pellyorchestra.co.uk](mailto:tickets@pellyorchestra.co.uk)



**Mouse Makes**

Colour the picture and cut out. Make into an Easter card or hang up.

Jesus said to Martha,  
*"I am the one who raises the dead and gives them life again. Anyone who believes in me, even though he dies like anyone else, shall live again. He is given eternal life for believing in me and shall never perish. Do you believe this Martha?"*  
 "Yes, Lord," she said "I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one we have so long awaited."  
 Matthew 11:25

**JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED**

**JESUS**

**SON OF GOD**  
 Matthew 3:16-17

**SAVIOUR**  
 John 3:16-17

**LORD**  
 1 Corinthians 1:9

**SHEPHERD**  
 John 10:11

**JESUS WAS BURIED**

**JESUS IS WITH US**

**JESUS IS RISEN**

**JESUS IS ALIVE**

**THE WORD**  
 John 1:1-50

**THE WAY**  
 John 14:6

**THE LIGHT**  
 John 8:12

**THE BREAD**  
 John 6:35

**THE LAMB**  
 John 1:29

**THE DOOR**  
 John 10:9

**THE LIFE**  
 John 11:25-27

Jesus said:  
*"I am the resurrection"*  
 Read Matthew 11:14-44

**JESUS IS ALIVE!**  
 Read the Easter story in Luke 22-24

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**St George—Our Patron Saint who isn't English**

It is perhaps typical of the English to have a patron saint who isn't English, and about whom next to nothing is known for sure. However that didn't stop him from being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It is most likely that he was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date, and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the middle ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable.

However it is probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers (*'Onward, Christian soldiers!'*), but today we do not find militarism a helpful Christian image. St George's Day therefore presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' - one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause.

Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty—they are not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they do not deserve our gratitude and admiration.

David Winter

(abridged from an article in *The Parish Pump*, [www.parihpump.co.uk](http://www.parihpump.co.uk))

[We are having a St George's Day celebration at Fleet URC on Friday 24th April. Details from John Gibbons or John Johnstone.]

