

What should not be hidden under a bowl?

Matthew 5:14-15

Who was welcomed back?



DID YOU KNOW?
Jesus often used simple stories called **parables** to teach people about God, His Kingdom and about how God would like us to live.

In His parables Jesus used objects and pictures of the world around Him to help people to understand.



Which parable picture word goes with which?

NARROW	GOATS
SHEEP	GATE
WHEAT	BRANCHES
MUSTARD	COIN
LOST	TREASURE
GOOD	WEEDS
VINE	SON
HIDDEN	SAMARITAN
PRODIGAL	SHEEP
LOST	SEED

Luke 15: 11-32

What ate the seeds that fell on the path?

Matthew 13:3-23

What was lost?

Matthew 18:12-13

What did the wise man build his house on?

Matthew 7:24-27

What is the kingdom of heaven like?

Matthew 13:45-46

DID YOU KNOW?

You can read Jesus' parable stories in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke but only Luke records the parables of *The Lost Coin*, *The Good Samaritan*, *The Prodigal Son*, *The Friend in Need* and *The Rich Fool*.

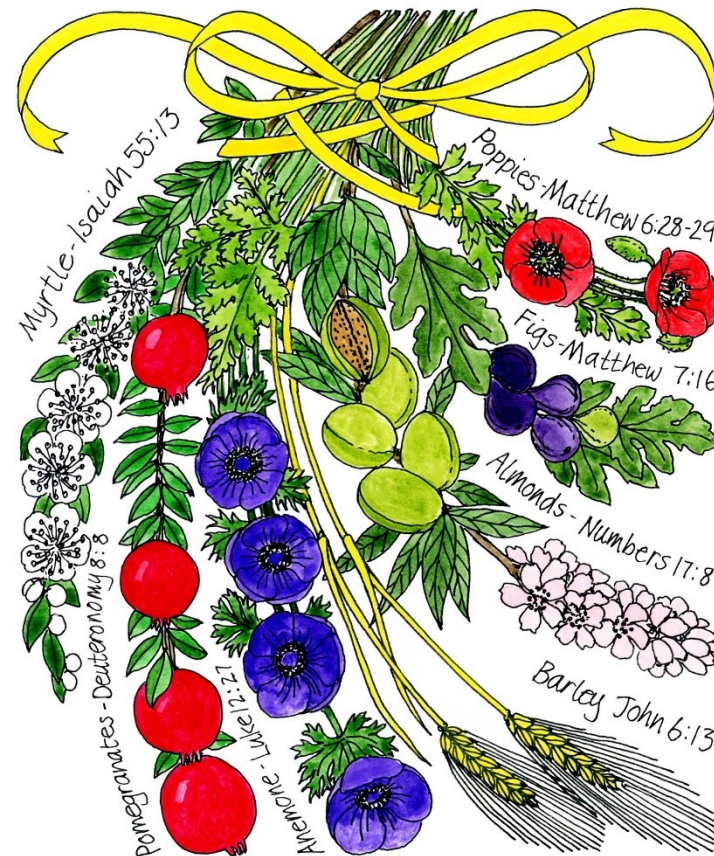
Find the parable pictures in the word search

PARABLE • WHEAT • WEEDS
SEED • TREASURE • GATE
HOUSE • ROCK • SAND
PEARL • COIN • FIG • TREE
SHEEP • GOATS • WINE
TAX COLLECTOR
LAMP • PHARISEE
SHEPHERD • SAMARITAN

S A M A R I T A N T S P S W
U P L A M P G A T E L H H W
E S R O C K S A N D A E E I
T A X C O L L E C T O R P A N
T R E A S U R E F I G I H T E
R L C O I N D F H O U S E E D
E S H E E P A R A B L E R A X
E G O A T S H O D W E E D S R

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In Touch



Fleet United Reformed Church

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

July—September 2017



FLEET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister:	Revd Ruth Dillon , 01252 625238 revrdillon@btinternet.com
Secretary:	Moray Henderson , 01252 659569 moray.henderson@ntlworld.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:	Mondays, 10 am (at 35 Frere Ave)
Prayer Group:	See page 5 for dates and times
Bible Study:	See page 5 for dates and times
Pilots:	Tuesdays, 4-5 pm (<i>term time only</i>)
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

Much as I would love to address a joyful topic in this pastoral letter, I sense that God is calling me to talk about Lament.

In the last few weeks lamenting is something we have all witnessed, and in the coming weeks and months I expect we will witness more.

Whether it is a verb, 'to lament', or a noun and expression of 'lamenting', the word describes a bitter cry, from the depths of someone's soul—a painful and agonising wail.



Lamentation, a prayer coming out of pain, is very common in the Bible, especially in the Psalms and in the Book of Job; and one whole book in the Old Testament, Lamentations, is dedicated to the confusion and suffering felt after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians.

So why Lament?

When we feel blessed in life and experience goodness and wholeness, we automatically want to thank God. But what happens when we experience the exact opposite? When we experience the brokenness, chaos, suffering, death and a sudden sense of human vulnerability, as in the Manchester and London terrorist attacks and the Grenfell Tower fire disaster (sadly, by the time you read this article, you may be able to add more). **'Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!'** (*Psalms 130:1*) In modern terms it may seem as though we are saying this: *'I call to you, O Lord, but all I get is an answer machine or voicemail! Where are you?'*

Lamenting is part of our faith. When we are in the depths of despair we may ask, *'Is there a God?'* *'Why did this happen?'*

Lament corrects the naïve and sometimes over rationalistic view we have about faith. In the scriptures, faith is not just about an intellectual acceptance of God, it is the trusting of our whole selves to God, the spoken and unspoken self. At times we do feel God's absence, and feel alone—and yes, we doubt. Our suffering is so big and vast that it makes no sense, it lacks meaning. Lamenting means that we can express our **uncensored** feelings to God.

The feelings expressed in lamenting are powerful and real. When I was in ministry in Liverpool, the son of a member of one of my congregations was found dead in his bedroom after an epileptic fit. He was 25 years old. The family were from Nigeria, and the lamenting that I witnessed expressed a depth of pain that I have rarely encountered. The women lamented for days before the funeral, crying and wailing; in fact friends took it in turn to lament on behalf of the family, who were in shock. During the service and at the cemetery the women were openly wailing and falling to their knees, pleading with God to be there with them.

It is true that in one sense our western culture has lost the ability and freedom to lament. We can suppress our grief to such a point that it bubbles up and starts to affect our relationships and our lives. We must honour honest pain, because it reflects God's image within us. God lamented when Jesus was beaten, jeered and crucified on the cross. So the feelings are not strange to God; yet they seem strange to us.

Perhaps we are discovering that as individuals and as a nation we have been traumatised many times over the years; and there still may be lamentations ahead.

Even though we lament, and wail a bitter cry where no words can express the depth of hurt, God still holds us, tenderly, wiping away tears and soothing our hurt.

That is faith, knowing that God is still with us in the richness and depth of humanity. I pray that we will always be able to lament in the presence of God in whom we live and move and have our being.

Thanks be to God.

Blessings,

Ruth





OPEN HOUSE AT THE MANSE

The Manse will be open
from 2—6 pm on Saturday 5th August.

Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee (or Pimms)
in the garden and patio at 24a Forest End.

Everyone welcome.

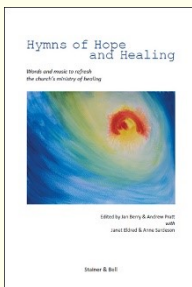
You are invited to bring a few nibbles for the table,
as it will be a 'bring and share'.

HYMNS FOR HEALING

Some of Ruth's hymns have been included in a new book called '**Hymns of Hope and Healing**'.

There are many themes in the book, ranging from genome therapy to infant death, and it includes the hymn Ruth wrote on her sabbatical on the nature of Shalom, '*Bring wholeness, God, to those in pain*'.

The contributors are from a range of denominations. If anyone would like to buy a copy, the cost is £12.50 and it is published by Stainer and Bell.





KNIT AND NATTER

Would you be interested in joining a Knit and Natter group?


Please contact me if you would like to meet together for a chat while knitting for different projects, eg '*Born on the Edge*' (a charity supporting babies born in the poorest regions of the world).

The group will start in September, day and time are both open for discussion. ~ *Nessie Black*





NOTICE BOARD



CHRISTIAN AID

Liz and Linda would like to thank all their collectors, who raised the excellent total of **£675.54**.

This amount went towards the grand total for Fleet of **£7,564.04**.



BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Each month we meet in the vestry to explore the Lectionary readings for the following Sunday. The next gatherings will be at **2 pm** on:

Monday, 10th July
Monday, 14th August
Monday, 18th September*

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP

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

Monday, 3rd July
Monday, 7th August
Monday, 11th September*

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

*(*Please note changes from regular dates)*

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Membership classes will be starting again in September. Please speak to Ruth if you would like to have a conversation about becoming a member of the United Reformed Church.

ANNUAL LEAVE

Ruth, our Minister, will not be available on the following dates:

24th July—4th August
(Annual leave)

4th—10th September
(Study leave)

YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUPS

Footsteps

After an exciting first year, 'Footsteps' will finish for the summer break on 9th July and start again on the 10th September.



We have been busy since the last newsletter doing lots of making and thinking: Palm Sunday figures to decorate the church windows, Easter gardens complete with clay tombs, labyrinths (Jesus as The Way), and marshmallow bridges (Jesus bridges the gap between us and God). We also learned how much God loves and values all creatures (Matthew 10, 29-31) and made some 'kebabs' to feed the birds in the church garden.

During the holiday three of our young people—Melvin, Mahima and William—are going to the Wessex Summer Camp in the New Forest. This is an annual camping event for young people aged 11-17, and is a time to have fun with others, through a variety of themed activities and workshops, exploring the Christian faith and learning more about our

amazing God through group discussions and worship.

Although 'Footsteps' will not meet formally during the summer, there will always be someone around to lend a hand with any little ones who might need help and support. Please talk to one of the duty elders.

Finally, on behalf of everyone in the church, but especially the children and young people of 'Footsteps', their leaders and helpers, I would like to thank Darrell Henderson for her help, support, encouragement and dedication over the years that she has worked with our young people.

We will miss you, Darrell, but we know that you will pop in whenever you feel up to it to see what we have been doing.

One last thank you, and that is to Maureen Coney, who stood in for Darrell when she was first taken ill.

Margaret Armes, Grace Bagshaw, Helen Bailey

Pilots

Our Pilots supported the Church's fundraising initiative for local charity Ocean Stars Trust by appealing for loose change, and raised £138.25 of the final total (£803.25). Ocean Stars Trust supports a wide range of projects across Sri Lanka, with a special interest in greater educational opportunities for children. Well done, Pilots!

Bee Griffiths



'THE DAY WE WENT TO WARWICK'

(URC Pilots groups from all over the country, along with their families and friends, joined together for a Big Day Out at Warwick Castle in May. The theme was 'Feasts and Festivals'. This is Alan Tyler's report on the day:)

The coach arrived at 7.30 am and we were soon on board for a two-hour trip to Warwick Castle. With a stop on the way we arrived at about 10.15 am.

The coach driver was excellent.



During our day at the castle there were numerous events in the URC Festival on the Pageant Field, including talks and a worship session from the main stage. In the gazebos there were presentations on Faith and Art, General Assembly Moderators, Council for World Mission, Christian Aid, Racial Justice, Pilots, and many more.

If none of this was your cup of tea, then the castle beckoned. Everything except the dungeon was free with the entry, and there was much to do:

- Get lost in the Horrible History Maze;
- Tramp up and down 500 steps visiting the battlements and towers;
- View the history of the castle in the time machine;
- See how the long bow and other armaments were used;
- Watch the birds of prey flying exhibition, with a 12 ft wingspan condor flying feet above your head;
- And of course we all had our picnics with us!

The day was superbly organised by Bee, and we all arrived back safely just after 6 pm.

There was only one thing wrong: *"Where were the rest of you?!"*

Alan Tyler

[For more photos, see the church website or Facebook page.]



TWO WORLDS

This morning, little trace of dawn was seen;
 Clouds interfolded, vapours many-layered
 Just barely stirring in the gentle breeze.
 Watching, I for a single moment saw
 A vivid streak of unexpected rose,
 Shining serenely in the upper air;
 One moment only and the sight was veiled.
 So, in the daily turmoil of our lives,
 The cloud of sense, vapour of many fears,
 Unlooked-for, we may catch a sudden glimpse
 Of that great light which ever rings us round,
 The cloud of witnesses, the gaze of God
 With stern compassion watching all our ways.
 Too soon, too soon, the radiant light is lost.
 Jesus who, dying, dereliction knew,
 Teach us to walk by faith, though not by sight.

Sheila Durbin

CELEBRATING 500 YEARS OF THE REFORMATION



On 31st October 1517 Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the church door at Wittenburg, and so started the Reformation. Here at Fleet URC we will be marking the anniversary of the event in three ways, so make sure you have these dates in your diary.

Our friends from Beacon Hill URC will be joining us, and the invitation will be issued across all denominations in the area.

Thursday 26th October:

Film Night: *'Luther'*, the life of Martin Luther, starring Joseph Fiennes and Peter Ustinov, exploring the man, his faith and his challenges. Starts at 6.30 pm, with a short discussion afterwards.

Sunday Service, 29th October:

Special service remembering the Reformation, our roots and heritage.

Wednesday 1st November:

'Walk with Martin Luther', exploring the man, his faith and challenges.

REFLECTIONS OF A CHURCH SECRETARY

Time: Summer 2012, centenary of the church.

Position: Church in vacancy; Church Secretary and Administrator have just resigned.

Place: Fleet URC Elders' meeting.

What to do?

Following a period of reflection and prayer, as always a way forward opened up. Margaret Armes offered to do the administration if someone else would become Church Secretary. I felt that I could commit to this role whilst still working, and that Margaret and I could work together. I offered my services for five years, until March 2018, when I would be retired and looking at a change in lifestyle.

That time is fast approaching, and I am preparing to step down. Margaret has no such intention and would like to continue.

I wonder where those five years have gone, and reflect on all that has happened. I clearly recall two pieces of initial advice:

- "Your first priority is to have a preacher in the pulpit every Sunday; the rest can be sorted out."
- "The Secretary's job is to see that things are done, and not do them all."

Nicola has delivered on the first, and Margaret ensures the second.

My first task as I took the reins, to assist in the process of calling a minister, was completed in February 2013 with the Induction of Ruth Dillon; and this made a big difference in raising the profile of Fleet URC and giving us more guidance, apart from reducing the work in filling the pulpit.

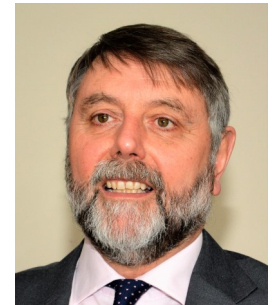
Following a report and inspection, Fleet URC was awarded a Child Friendly Certificate, to show our belief in the Charter for Children in Church and to ensure their wellbeing. We look forward to renewing this in the near future. We also have a Child Safeguarding Policy, and are developing a Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy.

As a church we have continued to maintain our membership and our eldership. We are often praised for the standard of our building, thanks to a proactive property committee and a good hall bookings officer. Over these years I recall a number of developments in the church: the introduction of the Christingle and Posada; Church Meetings moving to Sunday; amending the Constitution when our situation changed; inviting the Moderator of the General Assembly to lead our church building centenary; Zero Intolerance and other policies being discussed. All things that in the United Reformed Church the Secretary takes to Church Meeting, which I have always seen as our strength.

The Church Secretary is not the doer of all tasks, but the figurehead and coordinator. He or she does not have to be an Elder, just someone that the Eldership can work with. Please give thought to whether you could take on the role. There is a job description available—just ask Ruth or myself.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Moray Henderson



INTRODUCING CLARE DOWNING

(The Revd Clare Downing, who is Moderator of Wessex Synod, will be leading morning worship at Fleet URC on Sunday 13th August. She has asked that this article be published beforehand by way of an introduction.)

When you meet someone new it's always interesting to find out a bit about them—where they come from, and what they do—and also to see where there are connections. So here's a bit about me. I hope that you find something in it that has some resonance for you.

I always find it difficult to say where I come from. If you are talking about today, then it's probably from near Basingstoke, where I live. But having moved around the country as a child and an adult I haven't got real roots anywhere. I spent my first few years living in the area that I now serve—firstly in Oxfordshire, and then in the Bournemouth/Poole area; but I moved again aged eight, and have spent more time in the north west of England than anywhere else. Put me with someone from Liverpool and my accent will change.

Coming from a family that didn't do church, except for weddings and funerals, I came to faith in my early teens through the young people's work at a church a friend went to. Moving house again, I ended up joining a church of a different 'brand', and that was the pattern for quite some years. In terms of denomination I'm a bit of a Heinz 57 variety. However, having had a real sense of call to join a local church, which happened to be a United Reformed Church, that is where I have remained.

I met my husband John when we both spent a year doing voluntary work with the London City Mission. This was followed by university, and training and working in social work. After a break from full time work whilst our two sons were young I sensed a call to ministry, and trained in London and Cambridge, whilst we were living in Crawley.

After training we moved to Leicester, where I was minister of two churches for eight years—serving in two very different areas. One was very multi-faith and multi-cultural, and the other an outer estate, with high levels of deprivation in a predominantly white area. This was followed by a further four years working in a Special Category Ministry, where I was teaching and training in inter-faith issues. One of my main emphases was on equipping Christians to be confident in their faith, whilst living in a diverse community.

Whilst in Leicester I got involved in wider church matters, with children's and youth work at a District level being followed by a stint as District President, and then both the newly formed Assembly Mission Committee, and chairing Synod Pastoral Committee. All of this experience seemed to come together when I was nominated as a potential Synod Moderator.

So what is a Synod Moderator? Well, primarily it is a pastor, but on a wider level than a local church minister. I have a broad pastoral responsibility for



the URCs and ministers across Hampshire, Dorset, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, parts of Surrey and Wiltshire, and the Channel Islands. I'm particularly involved where there are periods of ministerial vacancy, or where there are problems in churches, but I try to be an encourager when things are going well too.

There's also a part of the role which is about strategic planning for the future—not always easy with 130+ very independently minded churches—and relating to ecumenical partners.

My favourite definition of a moderator comes not from the church, but from the nuclear power industry (particularly apt since my father worked in that business for many years). Nuclear power stations have a moderator—its job is to slow down the reaction enough to make it efficient!

Clare Downing



TRAINING FOR LEARNING AND SERVING (LITE) (TLS Lite)

TLS (one year course) has now officially ended, and TLS Lite, which is a shorter version of the one year course, will be finishing next year when

'Walking the Way' discipleship resources become available.

In September I will be running the TLS course for the North East Area of Wessex Synod. The course will run over six months, and will meet on a fortnightly basis.

We will be discussing:

- Unit 1: You, the Bible, God and Worship
- Unit 2: Getting to Grips with the Bible
- Unit 3: Talking about God
- Unit 4: Leading Worship
- Unit 5: God's Word for Today
- Unit 6: Valuing Community Experiences

For each session you will be expected to read the allocated reading from the unit and to take active part in discussions. Assignments are voluntary. If you are interested in attending the course, please speak to me.

Ruth

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH



George Cadbury, who was born on 19th September 1839 and died in 1922, was renowned for producing the Cadbury's chocolate that we now all know. He was a committed Christian and a member of the 'Society of Friends', more generally known as 'Quakers'.

He moved his factory from Birmingham to a new site outside the city, which he called 'Bournville'. He is well remembered for building there a 250-acre village of good, spacious houses for all his workers. Each house had a garden, and the village had wide open spaces—remarkable conditions for workers in the 1800s.

George Cadbury sold the houses to the workers at cost price on very reasonable loans.

The villagers of Bournville vote from time to time whether or not they should allow the sale of alcohol in the village itself. Being a Quaker foundation, the Bournville Trust generally wishes to conform to the original intentions of the Cadbury founders.

Bournville is also the site of the chocolate museum, 'Cadbury World'.

The money spent on such excellent facilities reflected the value that George Cadbury placed on each of his workers and their families.



Let us pray:

Lord God, may others respect and value me as much as I do them.
Amen

Ruth

PS—Interesting sweet facts:

First Produced:

1881: Rowntree's Fruit Pastilles	1935: Aero
1889: Licorice Allsorts	1937: Smarties
1910: Cadbury's Flake	1937: Rolo
1918: Jelly Babies	1948: Polos
1920: Cadbury's Creme Egg	1948: Picnic
1920: Cadbury's Fruit and Nut	1967: Marathon, renamed
1929: Crunchie	'Snickers' in 1990
1932: Mars Bar	1967: Twix
1935: Chocolate Crisp, renamed	1976: Yorkie
'Kit-Kat' in 1937	1991: Wispa



JEAN'S JOTTINGS

The first in a series of light-hearted reminiscences from Jean Schafer.

Have you ever tried to bury a rabbit at dead of night?

I find that life is full of funny things, and some are worth sharing, like this 'tail' of a rabbit.



The rabbit had died of old age, and was waiting on the grass for its last resting place. It was 9 pm and quite dark. All the lights were on in the house and my mother-in-law (who lived with us) was asleep.

We dug the hole, quietly, until the beginnings of a chuckle came from my husband. This was infectious, and we giggled together. It really was a funny sight, and if the neighbours were watching it could have looked as if we were digging a hole for a person! The rabbit was long.

The deed had been done, and the earth patted down neatly.

We retired to the empty house for a well-earned snifter.

The next year we had a bumper crop of tomatoes grown on that plot!

Jean Schafer

[Image credit: ChristArt.com]



SILVER FOIL COLLECTION

Dear friends,

I would like to say a very big 'Thank you' to everyone who contributes to the silver foil collection for the Multiple Sclerosis Charity.

The volume of foil given by the people of our church has made such a difference to the overall amount raised, and your help is much appreciated.

If anyone is not quite sure of what is involved, let me explain:

Real silver foil—ie cooking foil, pastry cases, ready meal trays, some milk tops, some yoghurt tops—remains folded when crushed or pressed together. This is what is needed.

Plasticised material springs open when released, and is unsuitable.

Also, please ensure that the foil is clean.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Meg Nicholson (687075)



AS THE DUST OF THE ELECTION SETTLES...

Grace Pengelly, the URC Secretary for Church and Society reflects on the uncertain political landscape we are currently inhabiting.



Since Theresa May called the snap election on 18th April, politicians and political parties have campaigned intensively, seeking to secure their place in our next government. Voters were encouraged to reflect on the challenges that face the whole of the UK, as well as those specifically affecting our most marginalised individuals and communities. Many of our churches will have

played a crucial role in this process, hosting hustings that provided a platform for parliamentary candidates to present their policies to the local electorate.

Tragically, the election also provided the backdrop for two terrorist attacks in Manchester and London. It is testament to the professionalism of our uniformed services and our politicians that our election took place peacefully, without further disruption.

As no party secured an outright majority in the election, the Conservative Party and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) have agreed a confidence and supply deal. This arrangement will present its own challenges, not simply for parliament, but also for the work of government in Northern Ireland. Such an arrangement with the DUP, even though informal, presents new questions about the way the British government might contribute to Northern Irish affairs.

Concerns have also been raised about the DUP's positions on human sexuality, reproductive rights and climate change—which run counter to the positions held by the Conservative Party and all mainstream political parties in the UK.

URC members in all nations are invited to pray for our political parties over the coming days, that the decisions they make collectively may be in the best interests of those in most need—not just in the United Kingdom, but also around the world. We pray for a fairer, more just and more equitable society, which provides hospitality to those in most need, and which embraces the diversity and multiculturalism of the UK.

We think particularly of those politicians who are currently negotiating the terms of Brexit. As a denomination we have encouraged the government to provide a guarantee that the rights of EU nationals living in the UK will be upheld and guaranteed as soon as possible. We also encourage the incoming government to prioritise climate justice, and to hold President Trump to account for his decision to withdraw the United States of America from the Paris Climate Agreement.

Every General Election demands a great deal from candidates, who sacrifice time with their loved ones to campaign on behalf of their local community. As Parliament resumes, we pray for those candidates who were unsuccessful in their bid for office, particularly for those who lost their

seats. We pray that an alternative future, which uses their talents in other ways, will become clear to them.

In the weeks and months to come, the regular rhythms of political life will resume. As citizens and as Christians, we have a vital role in continuing to play an active part in our democracy. This isn't simply something restricted to polling days, but a process we are asked to engage in daily. Faith in the teaching and life of Jesus Christ commits us to work every day for the furthering of God's Kingdom. This starts by striving for justice in our own communities and towns.

May God bless you in this task.

Grace Pengelly

A post-election prayer released by the Joint Public Issues Team:



Lord of all,

Amid the uncertainty of these results,
We thank you for the democracy we have in this country.

We ask that you grant to all those who have been elected the wisdom and compassion needed to govern.

May this become a society in which all people are enabled to flourish and live life in all its fullness.

Help us to play our part in building that society by holding those elected to account, and by working with them towards the common good.

And Lord, today as always we pray for justice:
Justice in the here and now, and justice in our shared future -
Oceans of justice.

Amen



DOGMERSFIELD FETE

Saturday, 22nd July at 2 pm

Children's toys, books and DVD/CDs needed for
Phyllis Tuckwell stall ~ collection box in church foyer.



**Phyllis
Tuckwell
Hospice**

AFTERNOON TEA WITH A DIFFERENCE

Sunday, 6th August, 2.30—5.30 pm

at the Community Centre, Church Road
Entrance fee: £5, including tea

Local artists displaying their wares—bags, pictures,
local textiles and crafts.

*Please contact Vera Mosley for more information about
either of the above events (684431)*



FLEET AND CROOKHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SCHOOLS (FACCTS)

FACCTS have had a good year, with involvement in the schools, running lunchtime clubs, Christian Union groups, and taking assemblies. The staff will have recently presented 'It's Your Move' to all the children in Year 6 (approximately 600 children) as a preparation for them moving to secondary school in September.

The financial donations from other churches in Fleet and Crookham are reduced due to other commitments. We will be losing two directors as Sharon Gardner and Dan Haylett will both be moving to new ministerial positions in the next couple of months. We are also seeking a new chairperson.

Please join all the directors and staff in praying for the work in the schools and for offers of more volunteers, an increase in the financial giving, guidance for the appointment of a new chairperson, and for Sharon and Dan as they move on in their Christian journeys.

If you would like more information about the work we do please contact me, or visit our website: http://faccts.org.uk/about_us.php.

Nicola Hamilton, FACCTS Representative



COMMITMENT FOR LIFE (CforL)

A Prayer by Tamyra Sherratt, CforL Link Person:

We pray for this world of instant news and instant judgment.

New situations every hour of people in need can become overwhelming.

We pray for those who are helping, many of whom are dealing with their own struggles. Please continue to give them your strength and guidance.

We pray for Commitment for Life and their partners as they continue to work with existing situations that have not been resolved, just because the media have moved on to the next story.

We pray for tolerance and understanding to prevail over prejudice, stereotypes and preconceptions. An open dialogue where we value our differences and respect each other's views, not forcing our views on each other.

We pray for you, Lord, as you attempt to lead all of us in your ways. It must break your heart to see the world sometimes. Hopefully the good that is still in this world will win out and give you as much hope as it will give us.

In Jesus' name we pray, *Amen*



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FLEET AND CROOKHAM (CTFC)

Easter has come and gone again. Yet again, I am amazed how the year is flying past.

The weather was promising for the annual 'Sonrise Service' at Tweseldown at 6 am on Easter Day, and the sunrise was very impressive on that day.

There are some encouraging figures from Hart Foodbank for the year to March 2017: Over 940 three-day emergency food supplies were provided to local people in crisis. Fifteen tonnes of food have been donated, and over 90 people have volunteered. Local schools, businesses and faith groups have all given vital support, enabling nutritionally balanced foods and supplies to be given to those in crisis.

At the end of May and beginning of June our church, led by Ruth, was the local host for the ecumenical 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer initiative. Our church was open from 10 am to 2 pm for five days of personal prayer, with five stations arranged to cover the themes of Forgiveness, Persecuted Christians, The Light of Christ, The Holy Spirit, and Thy Kingdom Come. There was a period of guided reflection each day at noon. In addition, our Church was open for prayer and reflection from 6 pm to midnight on the final Saturday. Thank you, Ruth, for this inspirational week.



Looking ahead, it seems incredible that our community Christmas Day lunch is again in the preparation stage. If you would like to assist on the day, can you please let me know so that I can forward details to Revd Carol Dunk, who is organising this much-appreciated event.

Finally, how are the knitted angels coming along? I will collect them all and arrange a working party to sew the labels on the angels. Watch this space for details. If you need a pattern for either knitted or crocheted angels, just let me know.

I do appreciate your help and support. God bless.

Darrell Henderson, CTFC Representative



AND ANOTHER THING....

A Favourite Prayer

We are going through such sad and worrying times at the moment that it is easy to feel downcast and depressed, fearing that life seems to be just one disaster after another.

At such times I think we do well to heed St Paul's advice to the Philippians, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4, 6).

I have been sent the following prayer, which reminds us that, for all the suffering and darkness in the world, there is still much to give thanks for.

~ Christine Gibbons, Editor

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God,

We come to You, our hearts full of praise and thanksgiving for all your gifts to us. The beauty and the wonders of this planet, earth, sea and sky—ours to enjoy—but the greatest gift of all is Your Son Jesus Christ. Through His death and Resurrection we are forever united as one in His love.

In Jesus' name, Loving God, accept our prayer.

Amen

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH FLEET URC ON LINE

You can keep up to date with what's going on at Fleet URC by checking our website regularly. For instance, did you know that the following resources can now be found on our site?



- The current weekly Newsheet, and those from the previous three weeks;
- The latest edition of 'In Touch' magazine, plus all Newsletters since 2014;
- An interactive church calendar.

There's also a photo gallery giving a flavour of our church's life over the last twelve months; and new items are added regularly to the 'Latest Posts' page, so you will always know what's going on, wherever you are.

Do take a look—you may be surprised at the wealth of information you find there. <http://fleet.urc.org.uk/>

Christine Gibbons, Website Coordinator

NB: Items for the October—November edition of 'In Touch' should be with me by **Sunday 17th September** (christine.gibbons@beech-ride.co.uk).

CHURCH CALENDAR: JULY—SEPTEMBER 2017

July

2nd	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd Ruth Dillon, followed by Church Meeting
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
3rd	12 noon	Monthly Prayer Group led by Revd Ruth Dillon
7th	6.00 pm	Church Family Barbecue
9th	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd John Whitton
10th	2 pm	Monthly Bible Study led by Revd Ruth Dillon
16th		<i>Church Anniversary</i>
	10 am	Family Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
19th	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting
23rd	10 am	Family Worship led by Mr Sydney Shore
30th	10 am	Family Worship led by Mr Paul Murphy

August

5th	2-6 pm	Open Day at the Manse (see p 4)
6th	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd Ruth Dillon
		NO EVENING SERVICE
7th	12 noon	Monthly Prayer Group led by Revd Ruth Dillon
13th	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd Clare Downing (Moderator, Wessex Synod)
14th	2 pm	Monthly Bible Study led by Revd Ruth Dillon
20th	10 am	Family Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
23rd	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting
27th	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd John Mackerness

September

3rd	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd Ruth Dillon, followed by Church Meeting
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
10th	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd John Whitton, followed by Sunday lunch (<i>Children's groups reconvene</i>)
11th	12 noon	Monthly Prayer Group led by Revd Ruth Dillon
17th	10 am	Family Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
18th	2 pm	Monthly Bible Study led by Revd Ruth Dillon
20th	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting
22nd	7.30 pm	<i>Social Event: Beetle Drive</i>
24th	10 am	<i>Mission Sunday: Commitment for Life</i> Morning Worship led by Linda Mead, CforL Programme Coordinator