

CHURCH CALENDAR

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2015

October

3rd	7.00 for 7.30 pm	Harvest Supper
4th	10 am	<i>Harvest Thanksgiving:</i> Parade & All-Age Service led by Revd Ruth Dillon
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
5th	2.30 pm	Monthly Prayer Group (in the church)
7th	8 pm	Church Meeting
11th	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd John Whitton
18th	10 am	Family Worship & Holy Communion led by Mrs Thelma Roberts
19th	11 am	Church Membership class
22nd	8 pm	Film House Group at the Manse
25th	10 am	<i>Mission Sunday:</i> Family Worship led by FACCTS
28th	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting

November

1st	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd Ruth Dillon, followed by Church Meeting & Election of Elders
	3 pm	All Souls Service led by Revd Ruth Dillon (see p 11)
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
2nd	11 am	Church Membership class
	2.30 pm	Monthly Prayer Group (in the Church)
7th	10.30 am—3.30 pm	Autumn Craft Fair
8th	10 am	Remembrance Sunday: Family Worship led by Mr Paul Murphy
9th	11 am	Church Membership class
15th	10 am	Family Worship & Holy Communion with reception of new members, led by Revd Ruth Dillon
22nd	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd John Whitton
26th	8 pm	Film House Group at the Manse
27th	8 pm	<i>Church Social:</i> Tim Vile, 'Real Life Hero' (Shelter Boxes)
29th	10 am	Family Worship led by Mrs Maggie Bridgett

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-January Newsletter should be with Christine Gibbons by **Sunday 15th November** (christine.gibbons@building-bridges.co.uk).

Fleet United Reformed Church

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

Newsletter





October—November 2015



Kings Road,
Fleet, Hampshire,
GU51 3AF

tel: 01252 623629
(ansaphone)

www.fleet.urc.org.uk
email: admin@fleeturc.org.uk

 find us on Facebook
 follow us on Twitter

CONTACTS

<i>Minister:</i>	Revd Ruth Dillon , 01252 625238 revrdillon@btinternet.com
<i>Secretary:</i>	Moray Henderson , 01252 659569 moray.henderson@ntlworld.com
<i>Assistant Administrator:</i>	Margaret Armes , 01252 650994 b.ames@ntlworld.com
<i>Treasurer:</i>	John Gibbons , 01252 614200 jmgibbons@hotmail.com
<i>Hall Bookings:</i>	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 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>	Fridays, 10 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

Many situations have occupied my mind in the last few weeks: the start of a new school year; endings of precious relationships; swimming my target lengths for the Aspire 'Swim the Channel Challenge'; a new Labour leadership; and the Syrian refugee crisis.

At first it may seem as if they have nothing in common with each other. Yet the Bible continues to speak into today's context, if only we spend time to reflect. The richness of the Bible will be explored during the next membership session; however one biblical verse has been uppermost in my mind:

Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking in anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

James 1: 4-5

The New Testament letter from James is similar to the pastoral letters that ministers write for their church magazines. The letter tells us how to relate to each other, and also how strength and perseverance is essential if we are to have a firm faith. This letter from James encourages Christians to act like Christians and live a life that proves the gospel is at work.

However, he also encourages people to strive for perfection in their discipleship. After all, as James was Jesus' brother, and the leader of the early Christian Church in Jerusalem, he knew what it was like to follow a person who showed strength, love, determination, perseverance and grace. We as Christ's disciples can only attain all these qualities if we ask God for wisdom and guidance.

Therefore I leave you this month with James' words ringing in our ears, as he directs us to strive for perfection in our discipleship, by rejoicing in our trials and persevering in our growth towards spiritual maturity.

Every blessing for the coming weeks,

Ruth



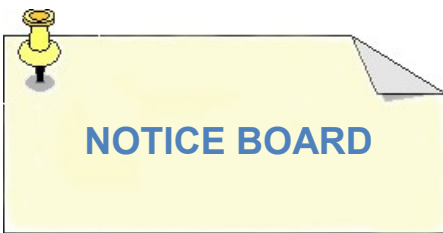
MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Membership 'classes' will continue on the following Mondays in October and November, each one on a Monday, beginning at 11 am in the vestry.

28th September, 19th October, 2nd November, 9th November

We will be receiving Millie Haywood, Jean Schafer, and Glen and Audrey Price into membership on 15th November.

Ruth



ANNUAL LEAVE

Ruth will be on Study Leave
from **12th to 19th October.**

Please contact Moray
Henderson or Margaret Armes
if you have any queries during
this time.

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP

The monthly Prayer Group will meet on the following
dates at 2.30 pm in the church:

Monday, 5th October; Monday 2nd November

Come and join us for 30 minutes of quiet meditation.

All are welcome.



STOP PRESS!!

It's not too late to buy
tickets for our
**Harvest Supper on
Saturday 3rd October,**
7.00 for 7.30 pm.

Tickets £12 from John
Johnstone or John Gibbons



CHRISTMAS CHOIRS

Calling all singers!
Christmas is only a
matter of weeks
away, so we will be
forming adults'
and children's
choirs again.



If you are interested in joining a choir
then adults should speak to Nessie;
and children, Brownies and Rainbows
should speak to Ruth.

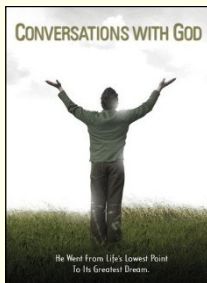
'REEL ISSUES'

Film House Group

The film we will be discussing in October is
Conversations with God,
and in November, *Lars and the Real Girl*

Next meetings are on **Thursday, 22nd October and
Thursday 26th November, at 8 pm** at the Manse.

Please let Ruth know if you would like to come.



A WEEKEND OF CELEBRATION



The weekend of 5th/6th September was
very special for our church family,
because we had both a wedding and a
baptism to celebrate.

On Saturday Matthew Dumbleton and
Rebecca Miller were married in our
church, with our Minister Ruth conducting
the service.

The following day we were delighted to
welcome Florence Aimée Chevalier to
God's family, when her parents Zoë and
Dan brought her for baptism during the
morning service.

Congratulations, love and best wishes to
Matthew, Rebecca and Florence and to
their families!

September marks the
beginning of the school year,
and also the re-starting of our
young people's groups. In the
Sunday all-age family service,
in what has become an annual
tradition, Ruth marked the
occasion by recommissioning
the leaders and helpers of
these groups, blessing them
all for another year of ministry.



Two of our young people, Alice
Bagshaw and Eve Chevalier—
both aged six—have moved up
from the Little Fishes to the
Loaves and Fishes group, and
were presented with a Christian
fish pin to mark this special event.

FLEET URC POSADA

Advent 2014 saw Fleet URC's first Posada. The Posada is a Mexican tradition, based on Mary and Joseph's search for somewhere to stay on their journey to and arrival in Bethlehem. Our interpretation saw knitted figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey journeying from one home to another. Many members of our congregation joined in and recorded their adventures, thoughts and feelings in a Posada Diary.

This year we will be adding a new dimension... a disposable camera that will be passed to each person in order to photograph the Posada whilst it is out and about. We hope to display all the photos after Christmas.

Please look out for the sign-up sheet which will be available during November and join us for another successful Posada.

Grace Bagshaw



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child uses gift-filled shoeboxes to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. The young people at Fleet URC will be supporting this worthy cause again this year, and we are asking you to help us. 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, or money to buy things.
- Give a cash donation to help with transport costs (£3 per box).

Leaflets giving more information about the appeal and ideas of things to buy are available in the foyer. Maureen Grew will be coming from Farnham to receive the boxes during morning service on **Sunday, 22nd November**.

Last year we managed to send more than 30 boxes. Let's see how many we can send this year!

Bee Griffiths



LOOKING BEYOND



The weeping willow trails
Were sculptured by the wind.
The poet's language fails
To bring such sights to mind.

Yet poets still must strive
With skill of ear and eye
To keep such joys alive,
Which else will surely die:
To capture, through their art,
From time's ephemeral stream
Visions from which the heart
Caught an eternal gleam.

Sheila Durbin

Please support our

Autumn Craft Fair

on Saturday, 7th November

10.30 am—3.00 pm

Come and do your Christmas shopping!

Tea Room ~ 50p entry (children free)

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

Help wanted!

Donations of new or nearly new items are requested for the church's own stall.

Please give these to Bee Griffiths or to Maureen Coney.

If you can help out on the day, or beforehand by distributing leaflets, please let me know.

All offers of help gratefully received.

Darrell Henderson (659569)



FROM MY POINT OF VIEW

Bill Thomas challenges the necessity for Church Membership

An article in the last Newsletter entitled 'Membership Classes' made me pause and review my thoughts on the subject. Everything I have read on this matter seems to be based on the principle that 'the church is more than a place to go to for worship or friendship'. I accept this principle, but have difficulty with the conclusion drawn from this.

Everyone who is a Christian belongs to Christ, and therefore to one another. Every Christian acknowledges Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord. Where my feelings and principles diverge from those expressed in the Newsletter article is in the area of how to make a commitment.

Jesus is Lord, and I witness and affirm this in my worship, outreach and daily living. I do not go to church merely for friendship or hymn singing. For example:

- I attend to pray and praise the Lord and be part of the body of the Church.
- I make regular offerings to help maintain the church and support the church's chosen charities.
- I attend church meetings and contribute to discussions.
- I undertake Steward duties in the church.
- I have attended many sessions of Bible Study to become closer to God through the Bible by obtaining a better understanding of what is written.
- I take part in the church's social functions to promote the Church in the community.
- I contribute towards flowers in the church.

I list these items merely to illustrate that I take an active part in the United Reformed Church. God is aware of my thoughts and sees that I undertake

my faith seriously and recognise my need for God to be in my life. Both in my home and in the community I affirm my faith in the Church.

Jesus did not ask his followers to sign up to become a formal member of his Church. In Mark 4: 16-20 Jesus merely says "Follow me." Some Ministers have summarised the URC as a church believing in the supreme authority of the Word of God in the Bible. The trappings and man-made adornments found in other denominations are not necessary. The URC promotes 'simple Christianity'. This seems to me to exclude the

need to sign up formally to be a member, or indeed to agree to accept those who transfer in from elsewhere. I am unable to see that my life with Christ would be different if I were to become a member rather than an 'adherent' (which I consider to be an insulting term). I have not been

required formally to become a member in any other church, but rather have been warmly accepted.

The above thoughts represent only my own views on this matter. In the URC's Statement of Nature, Faith and Order the Church confirms that it will 'uphold the rights of personal conviction.' These are my personal convictions.

Bill Thomas

[The United Reformed Church believes that Church Membership is an essential part of church life. What do you think? Your views are invited for the next edition of the Newsletter.—Editor]

COMING SOON! - OUR NEW CHURCH WEBSITE

www.fleet.urc.org.uk



Our church website has been upgraded and will be back on line shortly. There will be some new features as well as plenty of familiar ones, so do take some time to look around and see what you think.

We hope that the new site will be friendly and inviting for new visitors, as well as our own congregation, and that everyone will easily be able to find out who we are and stay up to date with what's going on in our church.

Comments and suggestions are welcome!

Christine Gibbons



Don't forget, you can also find us on Facebook (fleeturc) and follow us on Twitter (@FleetURC)





**Phyllis
Tuckwell
Hospice**

TEA WITH MUSIC AT THE ELVETHAM
Monday, 19th October, 3—5.30 pm
Tickets: £18

CHEESE AND WINE EVENING in URC Hall
Saturday, 14th November
Tickets £12

(Tickets or further information about both events
are available from the Hospice shop
or from Bee Griffith or Vera Mosley)

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT with HART VOICES
on 6th December—More information to come.

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

The first day of November is the day of 'All Saints'. It is not about those who are publicly named as saints—each of those has their own feast day. Instead, on All Saints Day we think of many ordinary good people who walked with God in their daily lives, and who are now dead.

In the early church, 'saint' was a name for a person whom today we would call a 'committed Christian'. In the Bible—after the four gospels—we can find the word 'saint' over sixty times. Each reference concerns living people who seek to follow Jesus.

For example, Paul writes to some Christians:

'If any of the saints are in need, you must share with them' (Rom 12:13)

'To all of you in Rome whom God loves greatly, all of you called to be saints: may God our Father... send you peace.' (Rom 17:5)

All Saints Day also reminds us of our own potential, of what we are (hopefully) in the process of becoming. A Christian living 150 years after Jesus wrote: 'The glory of God is a person living fully'.

Paul writes to a group of 'saints' - committed Christians—in the Greek city of Ephesus. He starts off that letter with the words, 'To the saints who are faithful to Christ...' (Eph 1:1)

We will make our prayer this month from other words in that same letter.



Let us pray:

When I think of the greatness of God's plan,
I fall on my knees before God the Creator.
From God's great wealth, may he give us power through
his Spirit that we may grow strong within.
Through faith, may we discover that Christ
has made his home within each of us.

Then, with our roots and foundations firmly built on God's love,
may we, with all of his saints,
grasp just how wide and long
and high and deep is Christ's love.

Yes, may we come to experience for ourselves the love of
Christ so that we may be filled completely with God himself.
This prayer we ask of God who can accomplish far more
than we could ever ask for or imagine.

Amen



ALL SOULS SERVICE

On Sunday 1st November there will be an 'All Souls' service at Fleet URC.

It is an opportunity to celebrate the gift of life and a joyful remembering of those we have loved. It is a solemn day, when we acknowledge the painful reality of separation, and name before God those who have enriched our lives.

The service will commence at 3 pm, followed by tea and fellowship in the church hall.

All are welcome.

AND ANOTHER THING....

Parable for a Busy Person...

There is an old saying: *'If you want something done, ask a busy man or woman.'* I have always found this to be so profoundly true that it can almost be guaranteed.

Recently, at the end of another busy day, I reflected that there were several uncompleted items on today's job list.

At that moment the thought surfaced: *'So what's new?'* Without thinking, I had adopted the common habit of focussing upon the things I had *not* done.

Then and there I found an A4 sheet of ruled paper, sat down and deliberately listed all the many things that I *had* done.

Let me say straightaway that I needed every line of that A4 sheet of paper. The list of things I *had* done truly amazed me. In that moment I felt so uplifted that I laughed.

The remedy? To eliminate the negative and to accentuate the positive. What a waste of time to say, *'I don't have time'*.

Jesus was a very busy man, but if you wanted something done Jesus was the man to go to. Just think of the many examples.

(Memo to self: *Remember to thank God for all the many things I can do, and to put those thanks at the very top of today's list!*)

Eric Perry

