

CHURCH CALENDAR

OCTOBER—NOVEMBER 2016

October

2nd	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
3rd	12 noon	Monthly Prayer Group
7th	7 pm	'Bring and Share' Harvest Meal
9th	10 am	Family Worship led by Mr Ian Fletcher
10th	2 pm	Monthly Bible Study
16th	10 am	Family Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Iain Stewart
23rd	10 am	Family Worship led by Mr Sydney Shore
	3 pm	'All Souls' Service led by Revd Ruth Dillon
26th	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting
27th	7.30 pm	'Walking with Moses', talk by Revd Ruth Dillon
30th	10 am	<i>Mission Sunday</i> Family Worship led by Charlotte Page (Christian Aid)



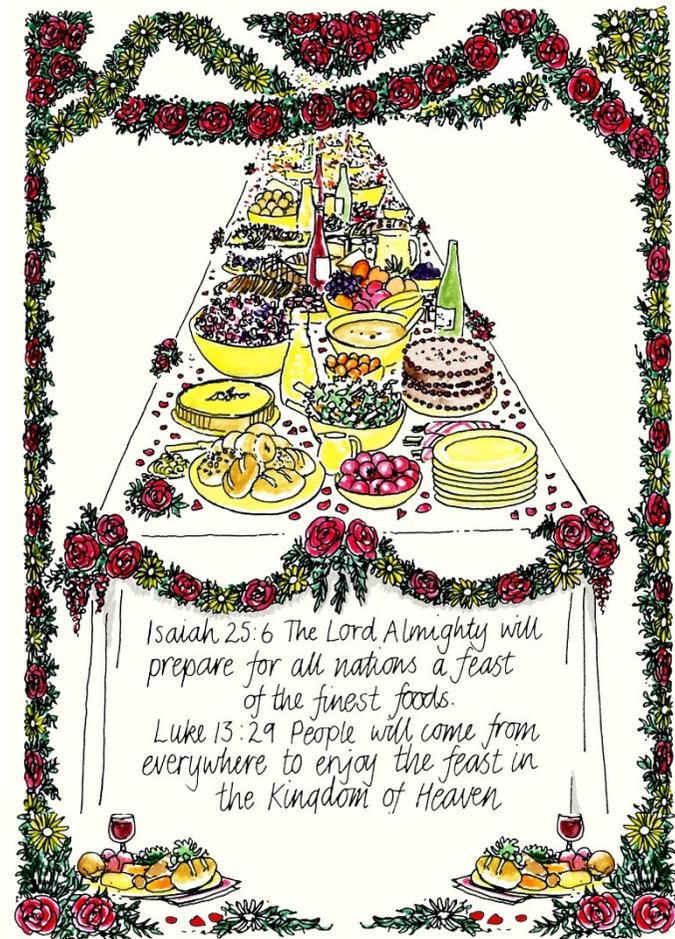
November

5th	10.30 am—3 pm	<i>Autumn Craft Fair</i>
6th	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd Ruth Dillon, followed by Church Meeting & Election of Elders
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
7th	12 noon	Monthly Prayer Group
	2pm	Monthly Bible Study
13th		<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>
	10 am	Family Worship led by Mrs Meg Nicholson
20th	10 am	Family Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Iain Stewart
23rd	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting (to be confirmed)
27th		<i>1st Sunday in Advent</i>
	10 am	Family Worship led by Mr Paul Murphy

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 2016-January 2017 issue of *In Touch* should be with Christine Gibbons by **Sunday 13th November** (christine.gibbons@beech-ride.co.uk—Please note new email address).

In Touch



October-November 2016



Fleet United Reformed Church

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



FLEET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister: **Revd Ruth Dillon**, 01252 625238
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Secretary: **Moray Henderson**, 01252 659569
moray.henderson@ntlworld.com

Assistant Administrator: **Margaret Armes**, 01252 650994
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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 (*term time only*)

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 (*term time only*)

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

Over the last few years I have been amazed at how many organisations have benefited from different lottery grants, and what a variety of lottery chances are accessible to us.

I have a bit of a 'love/hate' relationship with lottery cards, scratch cards, lotto etc, for it is a form of gambling, and during my ministry I have met a number of people who have been addicted to constantly buying scratch cards to the detriment of caring and providing

for their families. It is all too easy to buy a £1 scratch card and savour the excitement as the silver strip is rubbed away. On the other hand, it does seem to have aided many causes vital to the wellbeing of a person. For example, over the summer our Olympic and Paralympic athletes have shown how they have benefited from Lottery funding.

Locally, many of you may have heard of *Minding the Garden*, a voluntary gardening project run by Hart Voluntary Action, supported by funding from the Lottery. Guy the supervisor and his volunteers came to help me sort out my back garden at the manse. The outdoor activity was a great benefit to the volunteers, many of whom had mental health problems, depression or anxiety. Guy would tell me how they loved helping in the garden, and how it helped them focus on growing plants, nurturing gardens and helping the community—particularly those who are frail, disabled or unable to manage to care for a large garden. Over the last five years, *Minding the Garden* volunteers have progressed to employment, education, and helping other voluntary organisations. *Minding the Garden* has been a project rooted in helping the volunteer and the receiver, and in that task it has succeeded.

However since May 2016 the funding has stopped, and *Minding the Garden* is no more. Sadly, a treasure in the community like *Minding the Garden* is now battered, frayed at the edges, and discarded by the funders.

It is so very sad that projects started by various avenues of funding can so easily be stopped because of lack of money.

As Christians, we also have a garden, our treasure that needs just as much tending. The weeds that stop us growing as faithful disciples need to be pulled out and discarded. The stones and boulders that prevent the seeds from taking root need to be removed, for as a community of disciples we are mindful that we depend on God and God's Spirit to guide us in ways that enable us to look within ourselves, holding up a mirror to our hearts and inward thoughts.

God will never stop helping us, loving us and guiding us, for that is our Christian 'lottery'. If we choose to buy into the faith that Christ offers, then we are all winners, benefiting from the love and strength that God constantly gives us. God will never put a stop to our faith 'funding'. We never have a 'three-year plan': God gives to us a life-time plan, a plan to enable us to love

and live in the strength of God.

As I am writing this letter, I am listening to a young woman singing an old hymn favourite, 'Lead, kindly light, amidst the encircling gloom'. She is singing a hymn of hope, a hymn we have all sung at moments throughout our life; a hymn that declares that, despite the dark times and questions, God is always prepared to invest in loving us. So what should our response be? If we sense the blessing that God gives each one of us, then we have already won the lottery, and in response we need to discover how to serve the one who has loved us since our conception.

It may be through discovering membership, being involved in the life of the church, taking part in worship, being a representative, learning more about faith through a variety of courses, devoting ourselves to prayer, reading a faith book, or being a friend to someone in need.

You are a lottery winner—each one of you who reads this article. My final words are from St Teresa of Avila:

A beginner must look upon himself
As making a garden, wherein our Lord may take His delight,
But in a soil unfruitful and abounding in weeds.
His Majesty roots up the weeds,
And sets good plants in their place.

Let us take for granted that this is already done
When a soul is determined to give itself to prayer,
and has begun the practice of it.

We have then, as good gardeners,
By the help of God to see that the plants grow,
To water them carefully,
That they may not die,
But produce blossoms,
Which shall send forth much fragrance,
Refreshing to our Lord,
So that He may come often for His pleasure
Into this garden,
And delight Him in the midst of these virtues.

Every blessing

Ruth



WE ARE MACMILLAN Cancer Support

BRAVE THE SHAVE

A big thank you to all those people who have supported my 'Brave the Shave' for Macmillan Cancer Support.

My total at the moment is £1,257.26—and yes, my hair is growing back! - *Ruth*

www.bravetheshave.org.uk

ANNUAL LEAVE/STUDY LEAVE

Ruth, our Minister, will not be available from:

Thursday 13th—Monday 17th October
(Leading a 3-day Ministers' retreat at the Windermere Centre)

Monday 28th October—Friday 4th November

Wednesday 16th November—Tuesday 22nd November



NOTICE BOARD



'WALKING WITH MOSES'

The next Bible 'conversation' will be on

Thursday, 27th October
at 7.30 pm at Fleet URC.
All are welcome

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP

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

Monday, 3rd October
Monday, 7th November

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



Bible STUDY
Join us!

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Each month we explore the Lectionary readings for the following Sunday. The next meeting will be:

Monday, 10th October, 2 pm
Monday, 7th November, 2 pm
(NB This is the same day as the Prayer Group)

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SESSIONS

Our annual membership sessions will be starting again soon. If you are interested in becoming a member at Fleet United Reformed Church, then please speak to one of the Elders or to Ruth

The membership service always takes place within a communion service. Therefore individuals will be received into membership during a Sunday morning service when communion will be conducted.



BRING AND SHARE HARVEST MEAL

Friday, 7th October at 7 pm

Our Harvest Thanksgiving meal this year will be a 'Bring and Share' event. You are invited to bring a dish of food to contribute to the meal. To help catering arrangements, please indicate on the list in the vestibule if you intend to come, and also what you will be bringing (whether sweet or savoury).

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone for their kindness, cards and good wishes on the occasion of our recent Golden Wedding. Your thoughts are very much appreciated.

Nessie & Gilbert Black



ALL SOULS SERVICE 2016

A short service for bereaved relatives and friends will be held at Fleet URC on

Sunday 23rd October at 3 pm

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

If you would like a loved one to be remembered on that day, please see Christine Gibbons or Ruth Dillon.

All are welcome.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

A new Social Committee has been formed to organise social activities throughout the church year.

If you have any ideas about events you would like to see, please contact John Gibbons (01252 614200)

THEOLOGY AROUND THE KITCHEN TABLE

During my study week in September I produced a short booklet called 'Theology around the Kitchen Table'.

It contains 12 reflections on subjects people would talk about around a kitchen table over a drink or meal. Topics include laughter, life, death, stress, and losing one's memory. Each reflection is followed by a prayer.

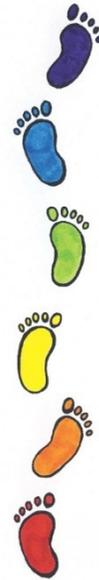
It is easily read, and can be found in LivingStones Bookshop at the reasonable price of £3.50

£1 of every booklet sold will go to support Churches Together Projects in Fleet and Church Crookham.



YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUPS

Footsteps



'Loaves and Fishes' and 'Little Fishes' have now joined together, and we had our first meeting in September under our new name of 'Footsteps'. We were a small, but enthusiastic group.

We are still working on our project, and are very excited to show it to everyone.

Did you know that there are two different ways we can follow in someone else's steps? One way is to walk behind the person and follow where they are going. Another way to follow in someone's steps is to be like them, to act like them or do what they have done—to follow their example.

The Bible tells us that we should follow in Jesus' steps.

We can't actually walk behind Jesus and follow in his steps because he is in heaven with God. But we can follow in his steps by being like him. Jesus should be our example.

I hope you can see why we chose the name 'Footsteps'.

Darrell Henderson



Pilots

This year is the 80th Anniversary of Pilots, which is the national, non uniformed organisation for young people sponsored by the United Reformed Church. In morning service on 18th September our Pilots group explained to the congregation how the organisation came to be set up, and the meaning of the Pilots badge. The congregation also sang a hymn which had been composed for the anniversary by Revd Janet Lees, and everyone was invited to continue the celebrations after the service when we enjoyed a delicious celebration cake baked by Maureen Coney.

Bee Griffiths



PRAYER FOR THE MONTH



At this time of year we can see and hear flocks of geese as they fly in V-formation, migrating into Britain from Iceland or Russia.

Scientists at California's University of Technology have used computers and flight simulators to show that flocks of geese fly in V-formation because that is the most energy-efficient way to fly.

The air turbulence from the lead goose gives uplift to the two geese on either side. In turn, uplift is passed on to the geese further out in the V-formation. Each goose takes its turn to be leader, and then moves to rest on the outer edge of the V-shape. As the geese co-operate with one another a flock can fly over 70% further than the same number of geese flying individually.

Let us pray:



In times of difficulty, Lord, we appreciate the support and encouragement of others. In better times we feel stronger and more secure. Remind us then to co-operate with other people and look out for the needs of others, being ready to offer a smile, a word, and other support and encouragement.

Amen

Ruth

BLESSINGS

For the varied autumn colours,
Thanks be to God.
For the vivid yellow birch trees,
Thanks be to God.
For the richly glowing bracken,
For the red and golden leaves,
For the woods' enchanted vistas,
Thanks be to God.



For the ever-circling seasons
Thanks be to God.
For the black and white of winter
Thanks be to God.
For the surging life of springtime,
For the dreamy summer days,
For the harvests of the autumn
Thanks be to God.

For the seasons of our lifetime,
Thanks be to God.
For enchantments of our childhood,
Thanks be to God.
For our youth with wide horizons,
For maturity in service,
For old age with hopes of heaven,
Thanks be to God.



Sheila Durbin





Please support our
10th Autumn Craft Fair
on Saturday, 5th November
10.30 am—3.00 pm



~ Assisted by Brownies and several new crafters ~
Tea Room ~ 50p entry (children free)

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

All offers of help gratefully received—Darrell Henderson (659569)
Donations of new or nearly new items are also requested
for the church's own stall.
(Please give these to Bee Griffiths or to Maureen Coney.)





**Phyllis
Tuckwell
Hospice**

HART MALE VOICE CHOIR CONCERT
with RAF Odiham Military Wives Choir
St John's Church, Hartley Wintney
Saturday 22nd October, 7.30 pm
Tickets: £12

CHEESE AND WINE EVENING in URC Hall
Saturday, 19th November
(Tickets or further information about both events
from Hospice shop or from Bee Griffiths or Vera Mosley)

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT with HART VOICES
at 5.30 pm on 11th December
Church of our Lady, Fleet; Tickets: £12

WORSHIPPING AS AN EXPAT

Part 3: Oman

After four happy years in Brunei we left for a new adventure in Oman. Like Brunei, Oman is a Muslim country with a long historical relationship with the UK. The Sultan attended Sandhurst and retains personal relationships with our royal family. Men wear an ankle-length gown with long sleeves called a dishdasha, usually white, although a few other colours are also used. Headwear is always worn, commonly a simple white embroidered pillbox hat, or sometimes a turban. On ceremonial occasions a man will wear the khanjar (a silver, curved dagger on a belt) around his waist. Women wear the abaya, a very colourful gown, and a head covering called the hijab, again in colourful material. On formal occasions the women wear black and bedeck themselves with their finery, bangles and necklaces made from silver or gold. Omani women do not wear the veil.



We lived in Muscat, a city steeped in history with many old buildings. There are many forts, both in Muscat and throughout the country, reminding us of the turbulent history of the country, which did not settle down to become the peaceful country we have today until well into the 20th century. We lived about a mile from the Shell Club, which was on the beach! In winter the temperature was 25-30°C, and a day at the beach was very enjoyable. The sea was clear and Colin enjoyed snorkelling, looking at the many very colourful fish. One day he followed a turtle which had come close to the beach. Cuttle fish were easy to find, and it was amazing to watch them change colour. However in the summer, with temperatures usually well over 40°C, and very high humidity, more time was spent in the comfort of our air conditioning.



Unlike when we were in Brunei, we were able to worship in a church, a newish building with beautiful etched windows on the outskirts of Muscat. The minister and his wife were British. The congregation was made up of many nationalities, expats working in the oil industry, as well as many Indians who lived in Oman working in the service industry, doing the jobs which Omanis did not want to do. Sounds familiar? The services were typically Presbyterian, with plenty of opportunity to have a good sing. Services were held on a Friday, since the Omani working week was from Saturday to Wednesday.

Bible study, which I thoroughly enjoyed, was held every week at someone's house. I helped in the Thrift Shop attached to the church. Expats donated

clothes, and the customers were mainly Indians who were in low paid jobs and enjoyed finding a bargain. I must admit I also like a bargain, and still have the pink M&S jacket I bought there!



Just before we left a Youth Leader and his wife arrived. This was an exciting time for the church as it expanded its service to the younger members of the congregation. We were able to donate some of our furniture to them, as well as my beloved Toyota!

Oman was a popular destination for our friends and relatives. We never tired of showing them around, whether to the desert or the mountains, or exploring the dried river beds (wadis), where you can always find deep pools of cool clear water to swim in if you know where to look. I enjoyed taking them to the local markets, called souks, to experience the wonderful fragrances of oriental spices, as well as having a chance to buy

some jewellery. I bought lots of Omani silver. Colin could never understand how the traders all knew me by name!

One of the most enjoyable aspects of expat life is the opportunity to make new friends. However, during our time in Oman we had one very sad experience. Colin's deputy was diagnosed with a brain tumour, and had to return to London where, within a few months, he died. He was only 49 years old. We had become good friends with Simon, his wife and two daughters, and it was a great shock to us all. Simon had been very supportive of Colin at times where there were real difficulties at work, putting his hand on Colin's shoulder and telling him that everything would be OK. Simon's calm influence was much appreciated by Colin in what could at times be a very challenging working environment. Simon's wife asked Colin to give an appreciation of Simon's working life at his funeral. Colin agreed, although he felt very upset, and in the days leading up to the funeral, as he thought about what he would say, he became more worried that he would not be able to give the appreciation without becoming emotional. However the night before, as he was sitting watching TV, he suddenly became very calm. He said that he had just felt that Simon had put his hand on his shoulder and told him that everything would be OK—and it was. It was the most spiritual event that Colin has ever experienced.

After three years in Oman the inevitable happened: Colin came home to tell me that we were off again, this time to Korea. One of Colin's main customers was Korea Gas Corporation, so he had visited Korea many times; but I had never been there. We had the chance to make a visit to Seoul to look for a house, leaving Muscat at 30°C and arriving in Seoul at minus 20°C. Seoul is a huge, busy city, and I was seriously worried that I might have trouble settling in after the more relaxed, outdoor life in Brunei and Oman. I need not have worried, as I will tell you next time.

Liz McClune



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 to receive the boxes during morning service on **Sunday, 27th November**, when she will also be telling us about her recent visit to Belarus.

Last year we had a terrific response. Let's see how many boxes we can send this year!

Bee Griffiths



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FLEET AND CROOKHAM (CTFC)

Last week I attended my first Churches Together meeting, where I was made very welcome as the new representative for this Church. Jill Durbin, who has stepped down from this position after more than 10 years, will be a hard act to follow. Her long and faithful

service was acknowledged with thanks and applause by all at the meeting.

Will Parker and Patrick Butler were re-elected as Chair and Deputy Chair. Unfortunately there are two important vacancies: Secretary and Treasurer.

Jill Thornton asked for Anna Chaplaincy to be accepted as a CTFC project. This was unanimously agreed.

23rd November, Fleet Festivities: CTFC have been given space in Ghurka Square to showcase a Nativity, with live animals and craft tables. Jam jars are needed for one of the activities. If you can help, I will deliver them.

'Angel Bombing': More knitted Angels are needed. These will be dotted around town for people to take home. Nothing like having your own Angel!

Christmas Lunch: CTFC are also working with Fleet Town Council to provide a lunch on 25th December for about 40 people who are on their own. Volunteers will be needed on the day (1-3 pm). Please let me know if you feel you could help.

Fleet Angels and CAP: Funding is secure for the next two years, but unfortunately there are major concerns for Foodbank funding.

Darrell Henderson, CTFC Representative

ANNA CHAPLAINCY



I recall our Minister Ruth Dillon coming to the elders several months ago with the exciting idea of bringing Anna Chaplaincy to Fleet. This was an initiative started in Alton in 2010, when the need to reach out to older members of the community was recognised. Since then the spiritual needs of older people are being successfully promoted in that area.

Led by Ruth, a number of discussions took place, and it was realised that ecumenically this project had great potential because some churches had already recognised a need, and were working individually to meet it. These discussions also identified a number of important issues, ie a lack of understanding of spiritual care within the care system, and the lack of a cohesive approach.

A working group from the different local churches elected Revd Jill Thornton to be the project coordinator, and she has been instrumental in taking this project forward to the point where it has been accepted by Churches Together, with all churches being asked to nominate representatives. Ruth will be representing Fleet URC.

I am impressed by the professional way that this has all progressed. It will start small, initially engaging with one residential home, ensuring that the initiative works, and is sustainable. Training and advice for care staff, as well as for the volunteers, amending systems to include spiritual care, as well as finance and structures, have all been considered. Having attended most of the initial discussions, I was amazed to discover that at many residential homes spiritual care came from the entertainment budget and so competed with bingo night; also that if it was meal time a person could be wheeled away from Communion to prevent their dinner getting cold.

Many people, as they grow older, ponder the question of what happens after death, and want to make sense of their lives and identity. Anna Chaplaincy offers people hope through a blend of friendship and listening. Where appropriate, the gospel can be shared. The question of on-going support and helping people back into church was raised; one answer could be churches' coffee mornings.

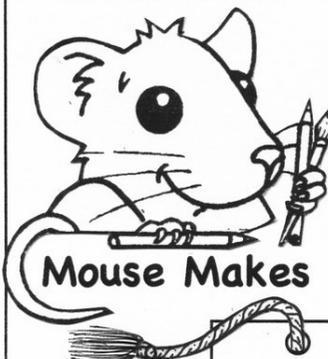
Anna Chaplaincy is needed in Fleet. There will be a need for volunteers to be trained before taking on the role of a listener and friend. I would ask that you consider this important pastoral work: it will be very rewarding for everyone concerned.

Vision 2020, the URC's ten-year strategic framework, tells us: 'Mission is the reason the church exists. It is God's work, but it is work in which God is calling us to participate.' Is God calling you?

Moray Henderson

(For more information about Anna Chaplaincy, visit: <http://www.thegiftofyears.org.uk/anna-chaplaincy-older-people>)

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY



Mouse Makes

GOD'S WORD FOR US
 "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living, so that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed."
 2 Timothy 3:16-17



READ
 Psalm
 119:105
 Proverbs
 30:5,6

ETGJUDEUTERONOMYEBJJDOEXODUS
 AHAMOSAZECHARIAHZEUOABZMICAH
 FELCHRONICLESHPRUDNNGEACGOD
 JSAMUELLSLNAHUMHAGGAIMKLMARK
 ESTHERRPREVELATIONEHMIAHDTP
 RAICCOLOSSIANSKLAISDLJEC LTHH
 ELAMENTATIONSPHILEMONOLHUMOE
 MONEPHESIANSATAPROVERBSIKASB
 INSSONGOFSONGSSPJBHTOJFPETER
 AIDECORINTHIANSIOETIMOTHYTAE
 HABAKKUKZEPHANIAHDGTAHRUTHMW
 SNUGENESISISAIAHANNIOUNNUMBERS
 PSALMSELEVITICUSIADSSJOELWCS
 JAMESKINGSLORDJOSHUACTSJESUS

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

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



Oct14 @deborahnoble @parishpump.co.uk

AND ANOTHER THING....

For God's Sake....

Yes, yes, I realise that many people think of that headline as an expletive, but stop and think about it.

Aren't our prayers aimed at achieving God's purpose? Aren't we trying to return the love of God by trying to do what God asks? Not always successfully perhaps, but isn't that our aim?

I think I have spent most of my life falling short of achieving God's purpose, but I have been inspired by numerous sermons preached by countless ministers, and also by uplifting words found in many a book.

Here is an extract with which you may be familiar: its author is long departed, but today its message is still preached from every pulpit:

'Give pleasure. Lose no chance of giving pleasure. For that is the ceaseless and anonymous triumph of a truly loving spirit. I will pass through this world but once. Any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it.



'There is no happiness in having, or in getting, but only in giving. And half of the world is on the wrong scent in the pursuit of happiness. They think it consists in having and getting and being served by others. It consists in giving and serving others. He that would be great among you, said Christ, let him serve. He that would be happy, let him remember that there is but one way—it is more blessed, it is more happy, to give than to receive.'

(*'The Greatest Thing in the World'*, Henry Drummond)

In the words of a lovely hymn:

Won't you let me be your servant,
 Let me be as Christ to you.
 Pray that I may have the grace to
 Let you be my servant too.

(*'The Servant Song'*, Richard Gillard)

Eric Perry

STOP PRESS.... URGENT APPEAL—CAN YOU HELP?

Due to additional commitments, Jill Worship is having to step down as church link person for the Friday morning Toddler Group (10-11.15 am).

Our church supports the group by making refreshments each week (drinks and biscuits). Is anyone willing to take Jill's place on the rota for the next few months to enable this valuable service for pre-school children and their carers to continue? Please see Ruth if you think you may be able to help.