

CHURCH CALENDAR

JUNE—JULY 2018

June

3rd	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd Ruth Dillon
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
10th	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd John Whitton, followed by church Sunday lunch
11th	12 noon	Monthly Prayer Group
17th	10 am	Family Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
15th	7.30 pm	Local Mission and Ministry Review with Ray Stanyon: Open Meeting to review our worship and service, and to discuss the way forward. All welcome (please see Tamyra or Margaret for more information)
18th	2 pm	Monthly Bible Study
20th	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting
24th	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd Mr Paul Murphy

July

1st	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
2nd	12 noon	Monthly Prayer Group
8th	10 am	Family Worship led by Mr Sydney Shore
9th	2 pm	Monthly Bible Study
15th		<i>106th Church Anniversary</i>
	10 am	Family Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
18th	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting (tbc)
20th	7.30 pm	Social Event—Beetle Drive
22nd	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd John Whitton
29th	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd Howard Sharpe

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 August—September 2018 issue of *In Touch* should be with Christine Gibbons by **Sunday 15th July** (christine.gibbons@beech-ride.co.uk).

In Touch

June—
July 2018



Focus on:

**PALANI
MISSION**

Fleet
United
Reformed
Church





FLEET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Kings Road, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 3AF

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email: admin@fleeturc.org.uk

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www.facebook.com/fleeturc



@FleetURC

CHURCH CONTACTS

<i>Minister:</i>	Revd Ruth Dillon , 01252 625238 revrdillon@btinternet.com
<i>Secretary:</i>	Tamyra Sherratt , 01252 629418 tlsherratt13@virginmedia.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 ACTIVITIES

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

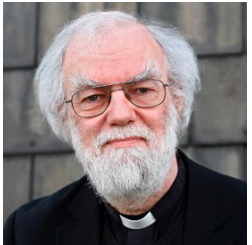
FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends

What is the collective name for a gathering of United Reformed Church ministers? A herd? A pod? The faithful and yet sometimes incorrect Internet says it is 'a rumble'!

Whatever the collective noun (gaggle? troop?), I was with 350 URC ministers a couple of weeks ago, and the gathering offered ministers and Church Related Community Workers an opportunity to reflect on their own roles as disciples of Jesus and to consider what it means to serve in a Church that seeks to empower everyone in their call to participate in missional discipleship. We were led in our reflections by two keynote speakers: Revd Dr Rowan Williams and Revd Peggy Kaponde.

Revd Dr Rowan Williams gave three very inspirational talks entitled '*Discipleship in the Modern City*', focussing the lives of three women, Maria Skobtsova, Dorothy Day and Madeleine Delbrel. All were formidable, strong-willed women who left an impression on the community in which they lived. Rowan Williams's wisdom and deep thinking, his knowledge of the Church's tradition and broad ecumenical life, gave us invaluable insights into the life of discipleship. He was willing to answer questions about discipleship and the challenges Christians face in the 21st century. I found him to be a very engaging, spiritual, and deeply humble man who knew quite a lot about the URC. He stayed for the majority of the conference.



The second keynote speaker was Revd Dr Peggy Kaponde, the General Secretary of the United Church in Zambia, who also gave three engaging talks on '*Discipleship in the 21st Century*' and '*Pillars of Discipleship*', where she spoke to us from a position of wise church leadership and long experience. Although the United Church of Zambia can be very different, there are so many things that we can connect with. You could see it in the many questions that the audience asked. Congregations in Zambia—and not just the minister—take on the responsibility of spreading the Good News in their community.

An ordained minister may have a couple of large churches (attendees in excess of 500), plus up to ten smaller churches. As a passing thought, Dr Kaponde announced that churches with fewer than twenty members were not churches, but 'preaching posts'. This brought about a mutter of conversation!



Our worship was led by Revd Dr Doug Gay, a Church of Scotland minister, who has also worked as a URC minister in London, and now teaches Practical Theology at the University of Glasgow. He sensitively managed to hold together all the differing worship styles present at the gathering, and led a variety of new songs from various traditions and cultures.

The workshops were varied and well attended, the discussions including 'Walking the Way with Congregations', 'Quiet Spaces', and 'What's it like

being a URC Minister?'

The greatest privilege of attending a conference on this scale is touching base with colleagues you may not have seen for many years, or since ministerial training. Beforehand there were concerns as to how it would function, as ministerial deployment is hot on the radar for all Synods. However I felt that there was a great deal of respect for one another, regardless of theological background and ecclesiology.

Spending time with people, whether in worship, discussions in a small group, over a meal, or especially in the bar in the evening, helps you to get to know what others are really like, which is often different from how we can portray each other.

I came away with hope for the future. Yes, there will be massive change in the United Reformed Church, which will be shaped by the demands of Mission and Ministerial deployment. Yes, it may mean that change will happen at Fleet URC. However, as Rowan Williams pointed out: *the Church (and that includes the Anglican church as well as the URC), even though it is manmade, is shaped by God, and if we have to be shaped again by the potter's hand, so be it!*

I hope I have given you a flavour of the conference, and that you are filled with the same hope and expectation that Christ Jesus has promised, and the dancing Holy Spirit who is always moving and never static.

Every blessing,

Ruth



ECUMENICAL CHOIRS EVENING

Thursday 7th June at 7.30 pm

Fleet Methodist Church, Reading Road South

Everyone welcome.

HELP NEEDED!

Help is urgently required for Communion preparation on the third Sunday morning of each month. This important ministry involves preparing the elements before the service and washing and clearing up afterwards.



Depending on the number of volunteers the commitment would be only one or two Sundays a quarter. Please let me know if you would like more information or feel you could help.

Margaret Armes

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP

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

Monday, 11th June
Monday, 2nd July

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



NOTICE BOARD



MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY

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, 18th June
Monday, 9th July

ANNUAL & STUDY LEAVE

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

4th—9th June (Annual Leave)
30th July—12th August
(Visit to Palani Mission)

AN AUDIENCE WITH LINVOY PRIMUS

Saturday, 16th June at 7.30 pm

Fleet Town Football Club

Linvoy speaks about his life as a professional footballer and person of faith.

A relaxed evening with World Cup Quiz & FREE Pizza

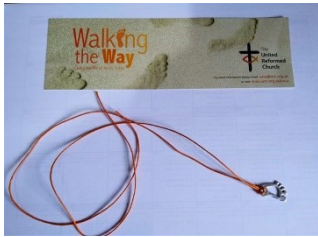
Bar open all evening.

Limited Tickets **only £5** (including pizza)

Available from fleetbaptist.org.uk/linvoy



FOOTSTEPS—WALKING THE WAY



At the Synod meeting in November 2017 everyone there was given a tiny Footsteps charm. This was the introduction to 'Walking the Way', the URC's exciting focus on lifelong Christian discipleship and mission.

At the same meeting Fleet URC was introduced to Paddington Bear. As well as helping to launch the 'Walking the Way' journey, Paddington represents the theme of

Pilgrimage, which is Wessex Synod Youth Executive's response to next year's assembly theme for children's and youth work.

Paddington spent the next week with us at Fleet, and at the morning service our minister Ruth gave Paddington his own Footstep charm to support him on his journey around Synod churches.

I caught up with Paddington when I went to the induction of the Revd Andrea Wickens at St Paul's URC, Bracknell, and you will be pleased to know that he was still wearing his Footstep charm.

At our first church parade service this year we introduced this initiative to the church, Rainbows and Brownies, their parents and friends.

We laid out footsteps from the front door to all parts of the church. On arrival people were given luggage labels and asked to write their names on them. These were to be the tickets for their journey.

During the service Ruth invited people to think about what they needed when they were going on a journey. Food, drink, a map, friends to travel with—these were a few suggestions. Of course we would also need a ticket, and we already had these for this special journey—our luggage labels. Later in the service the children collected the tickets, stamped them, and put them into a rucksack.

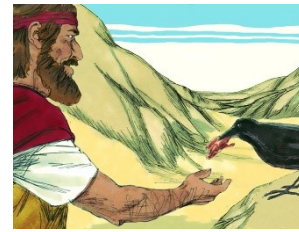
During the final reflection the children gave out the Footprint charms, and the congregation were encouraged to fasten them round their wrist to remind them of Walking the Way with Jesus.

If anyone was not there on that Sunday and would like a charm, please let me know.

Margaret Armes



FED BY RAVENS



In the first book of Kings we read that King Ahab, under the influence of his wife Jezebel, built an altar to the false God Baal. The true God of Israel was angered and told his prophet Elijah to leave the court and go to the Brook Kerith, east of the Jordan. Elijah obeyed: he drank from the brook and God commanded ravens to feed him.

This winter, during the week of the Big Snow, Jill and I felt unable to go out because of the freezing temperature and icy pavements. We surveyed our dwindling resources with some misgiving. But soon we received an offer of help and we asked for a modest list of the things we needed most.

Soon arrived raven number one, laden with four pints of milk, two loaves, eggs, cold ham, tins of soup, cheese—all that the heart could desire! The milk was especially welcome—I had naively assumed that we would continue to get it delivered; but of course this did not happen until the weather improved. A little later, after another phone call, came raven number two, with apples, bananas and grapes.

A heart-felt vote of thanks to all ravens!

Sheila Durbin



CAROL RAYNER—MY STORY

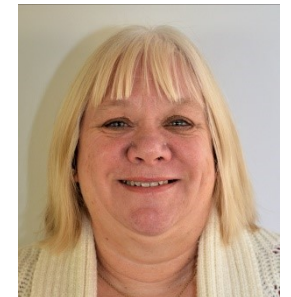
As a Church Elder, and as I start my training in the hope of becoming a Lay Preacher, I was asked to write my testimony, so here is my story:

Looking back over the years I realise that I have spent a long time in the 'wilderness'.

My parents ensured that I had a Christian upbringing. I think I started going to Sunday school at about three years old. I spent many happy Sunday mornings singing choruses, listening to Bible stories, and dropping my pennies into the offering whilst singing, '*Hear the pennies dropping, listen while they fall.*' I wonder if anyone else remembers that chorus?

When I was 14 I was taken to see Cliff Richard in an evangelical concert. It was here that I heard the Lord calling and gave my heart to him. About a year later I was baptised by full immersion at the Bedminster Tabernacle, the Sunday school I had attended. Sadly, this is now an office block.

I started attending the evening service at East Street Baptist Church in Bedminster, Bristol, along with the Sunday school teachers who had guided me. I also became a Sunday school teacher.



(cont...)

I got married and had three beautiful daughters, and started taking them to Sunday school, firstly in Patchway, Bristol, and later to Toothill Ecumenical Church in Swindon, where once again I was a Sunday school teacher and also a lieutenant in the Girls' Brigade. I am going back there for a reunion in November this year. It will be good to meet up with my friends from 25 years ago.

My family and I moved to Fleet and I started working for what was then the Hampshire Ambulance Service. My job as an Emergency Call Handler meant that I very often worked on Sundays; my girls no longer wanted to go to church, and gradually my attendance slipped too. The move to Swindon had caused a strain on our marriage, and we eventually parted. I threw myself into both my job and into St John Ambulance. I was an officer and later Superintendent of Fleet division, and it was here that I met my second husband, Howard.

Howard and I were married in May 2005 but sadly, after only a year of marriage, Howard lost his sight. We had a wonderful and happy marriage, although not for as long as we would hoped. In June 2016 Howard very unexpectedly died in his sleep. I was devastated: I had lost my soul mate.

Strangely, just when I thought it was the end of everything, my wilderness years were to come to an end. Howard's mother had seen Ruth conducting a funeral and wanted her to conduct Howard's. It was through the love and support I received from Ruth during this incredibly sad time that I started to attend Fleet URC. As soon as I walked through the door I felt immediately at peace, and have felt so since then, thanks to all of your love and support.

Whilst I still miss Howard, I am starting to rebuild my life. I felt called to become an Elder, and also to become a lay preacher. I am just starting my training, and at last feel as though I have come home and am back in the fold.

Carol Rayner



FIRST AID TRAINING

Saturday, 14th July, 2—4 pm at Fleet URC

This course is suitable for everyone, whether or not they have had previous training.

(Please note that all First Aid certificates should be renewed every three years)

Please see Margaret Armes for more information and to sign up.

THINK: RECYCLE

Fact: Every piece of plastic that you have ever bought or used still exists (unless it has been incinerated)! It will continue to exist for many hundreds of years to come and so it will outlive many generations.

Fact: Only a third of all plastic packaging used in consumer products is recycled in the UK each year.

In the last edition of 'In Touch' I wrote about the 'Big Four' - plastic straws, plastic shopping bags, disposable coffee cups and plastic water bottles. Using reusable versions of these items is a great step to reducing our plastics usage, but what next?

Let's start in the kitchen...

- Could you use washable cloths rather than kitchen roll, wet wipes or washing up sponges? I love the Euroscrubby for washing up—a washable cotton cloth with a gently abrasive texture—and an old towel cut into squares to mop up spills and wipe sides down. We very rarely use kitchen roll!
- Do you need to wrap food in plastic sandwich bags or cling film? Foil is reusable and ultimately recyclable; or there are some great alternatives such as the Wrap-N-Mat (used in my children's lunchboxes for several years and still going strong) or beeswax wraps (cotton cloth impregnated with beeswax and sometimes other oils, to make a reusable wrapper).
- Buy food loose where available or in glass where possible. Did you know that metal lids from jars and bottles can be recycled at local household waste recycling centres? Save them up and take a bagful when you next go!
- Try making your own version of foods that come in plastic; for example a simple homemade coleslaw tastes better than anything from a plastic tub, keeps well, and the ingredients can be bought plastic-free!
- Buy food in the biggest quantity that is sensible for you. Bigger packets reduce the packaging to product ratio, so ultimately there is less packaging waste; but beware of food waste too!



Doing nothing is not an option if we don't want our planet to drown in plastic. Each step we take is a step in the right direction, but don't feel that you have to change everything at once—that would be overwhelming. Make one better choice at a time until it becomes a habit, then take another small step. There are many eco-companies out there selling eco-alternatives to everyday products. Try searching on line and see what you can find!

Grace Bagshaw

LE WEEKEND' : A GATHERING OF THE URC WESSEX SYNOD AND THE UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH OF FRANCE IN LUNERAY, NORMANDY, 1st—3rd APRIL 2018

This was my third outing to France to join together with our French counterparts for a time of religious discussion, reflection and companionship. Again I was joined by Bee, and we travelled with Helen Everard, who drove us to France via the Newhaven to Dieppe ferry. It was a calm sunny day and our destination was the picturesque little town of Luneray, nestling in the lush green Normandy countryside, some 15 km south west of Dieppe.



Our host Protestant Church

On arrival at Luneray's Protestant church we were welcomed by Pastor Andrew Rossiter and his team with refreshments and delicious cake. After registering our arrival, Bee and I were introduced to our host for the weekend, a lovely lady called Marie-France, who drove us to her home in the countryside some little way out of town. She suggested a visit to her local beach at St Aubin-sur-Mer before settling in for the evening, and it was good to walk there in the late afternoon spring sunshine.

After a delicious dinner and restorative night's sleep and breakfast, we were ready to tackle the day's events, which started with a session discussing the weekend's theme, 'Walking the Way' (*'Emprunter le Chemin'*) and what it means in today's life. We had a break for refreshments followed by Messy Church, in which we were tasked to design a card/produce a picture depicting the Burning Bush.



Messy Church



Messy Church Exhibits
at Morning Service

Needless to say, all this hard work necessitated a break for lunch in the church hall—and what a lunch! A four-course affair of the finest dining, accompanied by the local brew, cider. This made a good opportunity to meet and greet our fellow 'Le Weekenders', some of whom had travelled from as far away as Lille and Arras in the east of France, along with the few of us (7) from England.

After lunch Pastor Andrew Rossiter (yes, he is English) led us on a walking tour of Luneray, pointing out places of interest and events relating to the persecution of protestants by the Catholic Church in previous times.

Dinner was served in the early evening, after which



Sunday Market Local Produce

most of us headed out of town to Gruchet-Saint-Simeon, where a Jazz/Blues Festival was taking place, and we enjoyed some of the music on offer.

On Sunday, our last day, we were up and about early, which gave Bee and I the opportunity to wander round Luneray's weekly Sunday market and indulge in a little local food shopping and enjoy its bustling atmosphere. We then attended Sunday morning service in both French and

English, with contributions from some of our Wessex group, including Bee.

The visit ended with buffet lunch and farewells to old and new friends made during our stay; and then it was back to Dieppe. With time to spare before the ferry left, we visited Dieppe town centre, taking in the quaint streets, cafes and beach promenade with its imposing medieval castle (now a museum, I believe). We wished our visit could have been longer.

Back on board ship and heading for home, we had time to reflect on our weekend, and we felt blessed to have been in Luneray, Walking the Way with Jesus.

Sandra Smith



Bee with Marie-France

JEAN'S JOTTINGS

As I was getting ready for my holiday I remembered something funny that happened on our first cruise. We sailed from Tenerife round the Canary Islands.

All was well until a few days into the cruise, when we were sitting with four other couples at dinner. We had all become rather friendly, and were in the mood for some fun.

One man in our group suggested to one of the waiters that it was my birthday that day. All of a sudden a group of three waiters, complete with guitars, appeared behind me, singing "Happy Birthday to you"!

Oh dear... my birthday is in June—and this happened in September!

You can guess whose face was red!

Jean Schafer



THOUGHTS ON CHURCH MEETINGS

Growing up in my home church back in Indiana, USA, I could not wait until I was old enough to go to church meetings. Even at a young age I understood that it would mean that, not only could I hear the discussions, but I would also be able to contribute. Once I reached my goal, I discovered that listening to other viewpoints was even more important so that, even if I did not agree with them, I could better understand the background to decisions.

I have to admit to getting very uncomfortable when people talk about how we have to make meetings more interesting. I am probably old-fashioned, but I always want to ask why! Meetings and discussions are not like a movie, with a great plot and story line that will keep you on the edge of your seat, nor do I think they should be. The danger in trying to make them more interesting is that you can get lost in the bells and whistles and miss the point of the meeting.



Having been involved in numerous meeting preparations in my career, I know all too well the amount of time and energy that can be spent in attempting to make presentations perfect. Although preparation is very important, I know that the closer one comes to a deadline, the more priorities change from perfection to getting the job done on time. A good analogy is a 'parade ground soldier' and a 'trench' soldier. Many times they are the same person, but they are asked to function in a different

way at certain times. For the parade ground a soldier must be polished to perfection, with precision movements. In the trenches worrying about bugs or mud is a luxury a soldier can no longer afford. Although somewhere in between is the ideal, life is not neat and tidy, and team work is critical in both cases.

Meetings can be hard work and require patience and courage for individuals with different viewpoints to find a middle ground on a way forward. The Lord did not say, "I am going to make life smooth and wonderful and easy for you." Working together should be, in my opinion, about listening, praying and coming together for a common goal (though I confess that I am not always successful in my patience, listening or understanding).

Sometimes attending meetings is more about understanding various viewpoints and learning to look at things in a different way rather than simply about whatever business is taking place. Frequently when listening to others' viewpoints I discover a new understanding of issues, some of which may never have occurred to me. We all come to things from a different knowledge base and experience, and I am very aware of this as someone who grew up in the States and attended different denominations, as well as having gone through periods of not attending church.



Every person will have a different viewpoint, with past experiences or current life circumstances affecting their decision on attending church meetings and church membership. The reasons could be as varied as the number of people in the congregation, but many situations will allow a way to meet in the middle.

I firmly believe that in church meetings we should prayerfully attempt to discern the Lord's will and that this should be the focus in everything we do. However I also believe that the Lord expects us to put that into practical action and find a way to work together as a part of his family

Tamyra Sherratt, Church Secretary



BALLINDALLOCH CASTLE

This Scottish castle, known as the 'pearl of the north', is located in Banffshire. It has been the family home of the Macpherson-Grants since 1546.

Moray and I visited it on a non-birding day, and I am so glad we did—such a very attractive castle, and a lived-in home used by the current family. One thing I did ask the guide was why the pale green carpets were covered with closely swirled circles. She said that this was a very popular question, and that they were produced by the cleaning lady, who on hands and knees gently brushed the carpet into these circles. Now there's a job for you!

A plaque with the following verse was at the entrance of the formal garden, and I thought I would like to share it with you:

Darrell Henderson



God's Garden

The kiss of the sun for pardon
The song of the birds for mirth
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.





UNLOCK

This is the logo of a small Christian charity based in Sheffield, which began in 1972 and is run by a staff of three on

only two days a week from Handsworth Parish Centre.

Their aim is to help urban churches of any denomination to respond to their particular challenges, focussing on bringing the Bible alive to people mainly of a non-book, text-shy culture. Their resource material is freely available on line (web address below). Their major fund-raising event is an annual sponsored walk around an area of London. This is supported by many people and churches within reach of the capital, and is greatly looked forward to and enjoyed, whatever the weather!

This year the walk was about 7½ miles around Tottenham, on a cool and at times damp April 28th. A map is supplied with the route, marked with seven checkpoint churches. Each one visited gains a stamp, a breather, and usually refreshments and a toilet facility. Somewhat different from the seven churches of the Book of Revelation, several were a 21st century revelation of God at work through His people.

We started at the first new Anglican Church in the London Diocese for forty years—so new that we passed it by initially, without recognising it as **St Francis at the Engine Room**. Built in the ground floor of a new block of flats it serves the new community around it.

There are many small Gospel/Pentecostal 'churches', often in empty warehouse buildings. Not so **Freedom's Ark Church**, which meets in the very grand Tottenham Town Hall, and has a ministry with music and prison visiting.

St Mark's Methodist on the busy High Road has a free Immigration Advice Surgery and is part of the local Food Bank. Also on the High Road is **St Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church**, the community dating back to the arrival of French emigrés in 1793, following the revolution.

Church on the Farm belies its name, although on the notorious Broadwater Farm estate. It's an Anglican-run community, meeting in a rented community pre-fab and served by a retired priest and lay workers.

West Green Baptists meet in a well-established building (1864), in a very central area, and long to see more young people and families worshipping with them.

You may have seen the **Highway of Holiness Church** on Channel 4 TV, or Songs of Praise. They have an astonishing and heart-warming ministry to homeless men which began small and led to the conversion of a toilet into a shower room, and a team of cooks providing daily meals—all in an unlikely backstreet warehouse, greatly blessed by God.

So those are the seven churches we visited. I have the route map and handouts with more detailed information from each of the churches, if anyone would like to see.

Tottenham was a pleasant surprise, with lots of regeneration, including the White Hart Lane football stadium. Lots of parks, playgrounds and a towpath by the River Lea—the closest I have ever been to a completely unperturbed heron!

Next year's walk is planned for **April 27th**, if anyone would like to join me. Meanwhile the web address for Unlock is: **www.unlock-urban.org.uk**—worth a look.

Margaret Tracey



Phyllis
Tuckwell
Hospice

AFTERNOON TEA WITH A DIFFERENCE

Sunday, 3rd June, 2.30—4.30 pm

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

Lots to see and buy, with raffle at 4 pm

DOGMERSFIELD FETE

Saturday, 14th July at 2 pm

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

*Please contact Bee Griffiths (660599) or Vera Mosley (684431)
for more information about either of the above events*

FIZZFEST FARNHAM

Saturday, 16th June at 7.30 pm

Farnham United Reformed Church

An afternoon or evening of music, dance
and plenty of Fizz: prosecco, cocktails &
sparkling wines from around the world

All money raised goes towards Farnham URC Pilgrim Project.

Tickets **£15** available from the Spire Coffee Shop or from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/farnhamfizz

Afternoon session: **4—7.30 pm**; Evening session: **8—11.30 pm**



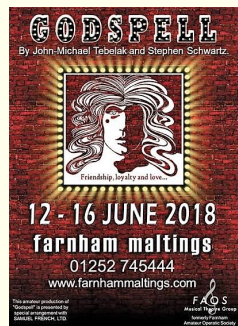
SUMMER ORGAN RECITALS 2018

at
High Cross Church
 Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3SY
 Tel: 01276 66798

During the months of June, July and August High Cross will be hosting its 10th series of lunchtime organ recitals in the Sanctuary. Recitals will be held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, **from 12.45 until 1.30 pm**, as follows:

14th June **Geoff Tuson** (Garrison Church, Aldershot)
 28th June **David Markby** (High Cross)
 12th July **Andrew Bayley** (St Michaels Church, Aldershot)
 26th July **Nikita Chekshin** (Merton College, Oxford University)
 9th August **John Wood** (High Cross)
 23rd August **Gillian Lloyd** (Guildford URC)

There is no charge for admission, but a retiring collection will be taken in aid of the High Cross Organ Student Fund and church charities.



GODSPELL

Farnham Maltings

12th—16th June, 7.30 pm
 (plus Matinee on 16th June, 2.30 pm)

FAOS Musical Theatre Group
 (formerly Farnham Amateur Operatic Society)

With a memorable score including 'Day by Day', 'Light of the World' and 'Turn Back, Oh Man', this production has a contemporary setting, emphasising that the gospels remain relevant today.

Tickets: £10 on Tuesday;
all other performances: £16/£10 students & under 16s

www.farnhammaltings.com or 01252 745444

FOCUS ON PALANI MISSION

The following article has been written by Ruth to assist us in praying for the trip to Palani Mission, for the people of the Mission, for the community, with its challenges and opportunities, for the girls we have sponsored, and for the opportunity to see the face of Christ in a different context and meet our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Where is Palani?

Palani Mission nestles in Palani Hill National Park, which borders Kerala and Tamil Nadu in South India. It is an agricultural area, so the people who live there work on the land, growing and producing vegetables and fruit for the local market and for their own use.



Murugan Temple, which is a famous Temple known throughout India, is situated near the Mission, and is a place of pilgrimage for Hindu people and tourists.

Ministry and Mission



Palani Mission started in 1970 and is spread over 42 villages. As well as having a minister, Father John Abraham, they have two evangelists and two women working in children's ministry. The attendance is very different from Fleet URC as they have approximately five hundred people

attending weekly services, and one thousand at Christmas. They have a weekly Bible Study and have 'cottage groups', which are similar to our house groups. These four photographs show Revd John Abraham with members of cottage groups within Palani Mission.



Cottage Groups





Cottage Groups



Fleet URC and Palani Mission Partnership



In 2015 Fleet URC launched the partnership by sponsoring two young girls from the Palani community to train as midwives at the local hospital. The two girls have grown in confidence, blossomed into young women, and their two year training is nearly complete. Fleet URC Church Meeting has unanimously agreed to sponsor two more girls to train as nurses within the community, and uphold them all within our prayers.

Palani Mission Visit August 2018

On 30th July 2018, Bee and Gordon Griffiths and I will be flying to Palani Mission with the Mathew family. It is important to develop our relationship with Palani as we can learn a lot about ministry and mission in a different context. This in turn can enrich our understanding of discipleship and walking alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ in another country. We shall be visiting different communities and meeting various groups, and possibly meeting a prayer warrior, a lady called Mylammal.



What will our visit achieve?

Saju and I have already discussed a provisional 'programme' with Revd John Abraham, and how best to make the most of our time while we are there. We will be hoping to deepen the initial relationship that was started in 2015 by encouraging the ministry of Palani Mission, attending worship and Bible groups, meeting the youth and children, and exploring the community. We will be looking at the challenges that face Palani Mission—the low income and poverty and lack of resources—and considering ways we can assist them. A partnership is always a two-way process, learning from each other, and we will be learning from the people of Palani about their deep spirituality and total reliance on God.

What will we do while we are there?

Getting there is quite a trek! As well as the 18-hour flight just to arrive in India, we have another eight hours travelling in a car to Palani Mission. So Saju felt it was beneficial to have a rest day in between the two journeys.

On **Thursday 2nd August** we shall travel all day to Palani Mission.

- Friday 3rd:**
 - ~ Visit the fields and villages
 - ~ Meet the children in schools
 - ~ Visit families in Palani
 - ~ Attend a Bible Class
- Saturday 4th:**
 - ~ Visit microprojects for women (sewing projects)
 - ~ Visit microprojects for men (agriculture/banana plants)
- Sunday 5th:**
 - ~ Attend worship at the mission
 - ~ Visit surrounding churches and field links
 - ~ Visit sponsored girls and families
- Monday 6th:**
 - ~ Buy resources for children/micro projects: sewing machines and material/school kits/ food packs/chickens and ducks
 - ~ Distribute resources
 - ~ Discuss and arrange future projects and sponsorship

On **Tuesday 7th** we shall return to Kerala, before I leave early Friday morning to return to England. Bee and Gordon will be staying a little longer.

What can you do?

Here are some ways that you can support Palani Mission:

1. Write letters and send photos

Even though some members of the Mission look at our website and Facebook page, there is nothing like personal contact and introductions. I would like to invite members and friends of Fleet URC to consider sending a card or letter of introduction plus a photo of themselves and/or their family. I know from when I have been in developing countries before that this is a really positive way that two communities can establish a strong bond and partnership. Once you have written them, please leave them in the church Office, and we can take them in July. Children, you can do lots of colourful pictures and poems etc!

2. School Packs—£25 approx.

Many families are not able to support their children through school education because they have such low income. The parents cannot afford school uniform and so the children cannot attend the local school. There is

a school shop in Palani that sells uniforms (skirts, trousers and tops), pens, stationery and bags. This costs £25 approx.

If you would like to support **Children** in this way, please put your gift in an envelope and write on it **SCHOOL PACK** and hand it to John Gibbons.

3. Food packs—£10 approx.

As I mentioned earlier in the article, the area of Palani is agricultural; however many families are on low income or live in poverty and have little food each day. Ten kilos of rice and assorted fresh vegetables can feed a family for a number of days and enable the children to have a nutritious meal.

If you would like to support **Families** in this way, please put your gift in an envelope and write on it **FOOD PACK** and hand it to John Gibbons.

4. Micro Projects—Women—£50

Small 'microprojects' enable people to generate income for themselves. This means they become independent, their self-esteem is increased, and they feel they are a part of a community and can contribute to its wellbeing and sustainability. Women particularly are very gifted and practical and make many items; however a sewing machine could release them to become a small business enterprise. The cost of a sewing machine is comparatively small; however it can generate a large income for a family. Mothers can teach daughters how to sew and pass on skills, creating a legacy for their generation. A sewing machine costs £40 approximately, with £10 for 'start up' material.

If you would like to support **Women** in this way, please put your gift in an envelope, write on it **MICRO PROJECTS—WOMEN** and hand it to John Gibbons.

5. Micro Projects—Families

Families find it very difficult to establish a living in the area. Buying the most appropriate tool is too expensive for people, so makeshift tools are made and easily broken. Proper gardening and basic agricultural equipment can aid families to care for crops and tend to vegetables and fruit trees.



Banana plants are a very good source of income for families who struggle to live on the land.

Gardening tools are approximately £10, and 50 banana plants and fertilizer are £50.

If you would like to support **Families** in this way, please put your gift in an envelope and write on it **MICRO PROJECTS** and hand it to John Gibbons.



6. Livestock—£6 - £10

Enabling families to live independently promotes a healthy community, where sharing resources brings hope into a world that may be very challenging.

I have written about projects that adults can develop and nurture; however children and young people can also participate by caring for livestock and selling eggs.

Two or three chickens are approximately £6 and ducks are approximately £10. Because they last for a long time they are good value.

If you would like to support **Families** in this way, please put your gift in an envelope and write on **LIVESTOCK** and hand it to John Gibbons.

7. Pray

After all I have written above, the most helpful thing is to pray for the people of Palani Mission (see '*Prayer of the Month*' on page 22).

If you would like to write a prayer, a hymn or a poem for the people of Palani Mission then please do so and leave it in the Office marked **Palani Mission**.

Conclusion

I know that Bee, Gordon and I feel very privileged to be travelling to Palani Mission, and we look forward to sharing our experience with you at the service on 2nd September. On a personal note, I am looking forward to meeting God's people who speak a different language, who eat different foods, whose climate is hotter, and who worship and pray enthusiastically.

Seeing God's people from a different continent and culture is always a very humbling experience, yet the Holy Spirit blows in many different directions and touches people unexpectedly.

India is a country that is rich in spirituality, and even though Christianity is a minority religion, I shall look forward to discussing with Revd John Abraham how Christianity can make an impact in the cauldron of a multi layered country and culture.

Jesus walked dusty roads, ate simply, had meaningful conversations, and felt the sun on his skin. I hope I can remember this and see my friend and teacher Jesus as I walk the dusty paths in Palani.



PRAYER FOR THE MONTH—For Palani Mission



Lord,

Who brings the sunshine and rain,
who brings the wind and the seasons,
bless our brothers and sisters in Palani Mission.

For the Revd John Abraham and the Elders.

That your Spirit of wisdom and guidance
may always be present in their ministry;
That they may always hear your call of discipleship
and care for your people in Palani.

We pray for all the congregations in the area of Palani,

That the small cottage congregations may grow in numbers and in spirituality;
That their discipleship and witness may be blessed by you,
That they will encounter the Living Christ in the preaching of the Gospel.

We pray for the children and youth at Palani,

That they may hear the gospel stories afresh
and be encouraged to know that Jesus walks with them;
That they may see true discipleship happening in their community
and model that practice;
That education may flourish and give each young person a new start in life.

We pray for the two girls we have sponsored: Santhiya and Vennila.

That they will grow in health and wholeness and be of value
to the community as midwives.
That they will care for women who have been given the role of motherhood.
That they will grow in maturity and wisdom to teach other young girls the
value of respect, dignity of life and discipleship.

We pray for the challenges in Palani.

The poverty and low income of families,
The lack of small business and economic growth for men and women,
The difficulty in growing food for families.

We pray for the forthcoming visit from Fleet URC to Palani Mission

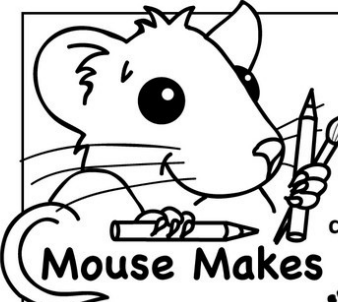
That God's Spirit may breathe through new
friendships,
That mutual respect and trust be present in
every conversation,
That we may learn from our teachers in
Palani about dependence upon and trust in
God.

We ask these prayers in the One God, who
is Creator, Saviour and Comforter.

Amen



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY



Mouse Makes

Which animal goes with which bible character?

LAMB	HOLY SPIRIT
LIONS	BALAAM
LOCUSTS	JESUS
DOVE	JONAH
RAVENS	PAUL
BIG FISH	SOLOMON
DONKEY	DANIEL
BEES	ELIJAH
SNAKE	JOHN
PEACOCK	SAMSON

Which animal did Noah let out of the ark first?
— — — — —
Genesis 8:7

What plague of animals came out of the River Nile?
— — — — —
Exodus 8:6


Which insects did John eat in the wilderness?
— — — — —
Matthew 3:4

Which animal can we learn from?
— — — — —
Proverbs 6:6

Which bird did the Holy Spirit appear as?
— — — — —
Luke 3:22


Which animal did Jesus ride on?
— — — — —
Matthew 21:7

DID YOU KNOW?



Four of the miracles Jesus performed were to do with fish.

1. Feeding of the 5000
Matthew 14:15-21
2. The coin in the fish's mouth
Matthew 17:24-27
3. When Jesus called His first disciples
Luke 5:4-11
4. At the Sea of Galilee after Jesus' resurrection
John 21:4-11



DID YOU KNOW?

There are four animals that are small but the Bible says are extremely wise... the **ANT**, the **HYRAX**, the **LOCUST** and the **LIZARD**.

Look up **Proverbs 30:24-28** to find out why.

Find the animals in the word search

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

SHEEP • GOAT • LION • LAMB

DONKEY • RAVEN

SNAKE • DOVE


LOCUST • QUAIL • HYRAX

CAMEL • DEER • FISH • FROG

GNAT • PEACOCK

ANT • OX • LIZARD

DOG • PIG • BULL



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