

CHURCH CALENDAR

AUGUST—SEPTEMBER 2018

August

1st	7.30 pm	Local Mission & Ministry Review Meeting (LMMR) - everyone welcome.
5th	10 am	Family Worship led by Mr Peter Pay NO EVENING SERVICE
12th	10 am	Family Worship led by the Elders
13th	12 noon	Monthly Prayer Group
19th	10 am	<i>Songs of Praise Service:</i> Family Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
20th	2 pm	Monthly Bible Study
	7.30 pm	Local Mission & Ministry Review Meeting (LMMR) - everyone welcome.
26th	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd David Netherwood
29th	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting



September

2nd	10 am	<i>Mission Sunday:</i> Family Worship led by Revd Ruth Dillon, followed by Church Meeting
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
3rd	12 noon	Monthly Prayer Group
	2 pm	Church Membership meeting
9th	10 am	Family Worship led by Mr Paul Murphy followed by church Sunday lunch. <i>Footsteps young people's group restarts.</i>
10th	2 pm	Monthly Bible Study
16th	10 am	Family Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
18th	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting (tbc)
23rd	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd John Whitton
28th	7 pm	Harvest Supper—'Bring and Share' meal
29th	10 am—2 pm	Wessex Synod 'Called to Serve' Enquiry Day
30th	10 am	Family Worship led by Mrs Helen Everard

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 October—November 2018 issue of *In Touch* should be with Christine Gibbons by **Sunday 16th September** (christine.gibbons@beech-ride.co.uk).

In Touch

August - September 2018



Fleet United Reformed Church



FLEET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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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

For those of you who have been counting, there were at least 140 hours of live coverage of World Cup football by the time the Final was over. That does not include the extended time given over to pre-match commentary and expert analysis after each game. If you take all that, plus the recorded highlights, you get almost double that time. Some people just cannot get enough of the so-called Beautiful Game.

When I served URC churches in Liverpool, the two famous teams of Liverpool and Everton dominated conversations. I am not an ardent supporter of football (I much prefer Rugby League or Union), but I did recognise that football is a passion in Liverpool. I can remember when in 2005 Liverpool won the European Cup for the fourth time, which entitled the Club to keep the magnificent trophy, I watched with thousands of other people as Liverpool came to a standstill, cheering and waving to the talented men who were on an open-topped bus. I was then a passionate football fan like everyone else!

My World Cup viewing was limited to the England games (yes, we did cancel a Beacon Hill Elders' meeting to watch it!). I became an 'expert', giving advice when goals are missed, and joining the legion of armchair critics who just so happen to know exactly which team should be picked and how the game should be played!

But let us not write off the World Cup altogether, even if you are not a football fan. It is true to say that the impact of the World Cup, or any other great world sporting event for that matter, goes beyond what happens for the 90 minutes inside the football stadium or, say, the various events of an Olympic Games, cricket tournament, or Wimbledon.

Sport is more than a game, and a more recent phenomenon has been the social impact that global sport has had on people's lives, raising issues surrounding HIV/Aids and poverty. Football has been a bridge that has enabled people from all walks of life to take part, for it breaks all social and cultural boundaries.

Remember David Beckham kicking a football with children and young people in Soweto, or the football match on Christmas Day 1914? The latter is often celebrated as a symbolic moment of peace in an otherwise devastatingly violent war. We may like to believe that, just for one day, all across the Front, men from both sides emerged from the trenches and met in No Man's Land to exchange gifts and play football.

There will be many questions raised about the rights and wrongs of the World Cup, not least the enormous cost of hosting it and the way host venues are sometimes chosen. There are also dangers when misguided patriotism from so-called supporters has a very negative impact which can escalate into violence, and we know that there has been a real threat of that happening.

Sport can bring out the worst in people, but it can also bring out the best and be used for a greater common good at local, national and international level. Not least, it is great to see people of different nations coming together, especially when football is played in the most difficult of circumstances and situations. When it does the latter, then somehow I think God will approve.

May we offer to God the best of our common humanity when opportunity arises, even if it is in an arena of fair competition. It is a goal worth aiming for.

Every blessing,

Ruth



MEMBERSHIP CLASSES 2018

Membership classes will be starting in September. If you would like more information, please see Ruth.

Membership meetings involve six sessions, where together we explore:

- Your journey so far...
- The Bible
- Worship
- Believing and belonging
- Ecumenism
- The global church



The first session will be at 2 pm on Monday 3rd September in the Vestry, and the following dates will be arranged nearer the time. We do try to be as flexible as we can so that everyone can take part.

Ruth

COFFEE MORNINGS IN AUGUST

During August the Thursday coffee mornings will meet from 10 am at the following venues:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 2nd: | St John's Church Coffee Shop,
Fleet Road, Hartley Wintney, RG27 8ED |
| August 9th: | All Saints Church Hall,
Church Road, Fleet |
| August 16th: | Squire's Garden Centre, Badshot Lea, GU9 9JX |
| August 23rd & 30th: | Fleet United Reformed Church |



SONGS OF PRAISE SERVICE

on Sunday, 19th August at 10 am



We will be having a 'Songs of Praise' service during morning worship on 19th August.

If you would like to choose a hymn, and speak for a couple of minutes about why the hymn is important to you, then please let Ruth know or add your name and suggestion to the list at the back of the church.

We are looking for 10 contributors!

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP

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

13th August

3rd September

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



NOTICE BOARD

ANNUAL & STUDY LEAVE

Ruth, our Minister, will not be available from:

30th July—12th August
(Visit to Palani Mission)

24th—27th August
(Greenbelt Festival)



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, 20th August
Monday, 10th September

SERVICE OF REMEMBERING AND THANKSGIVING 2018

(Date for your diary)

A short service for bereaved relatives and friends will be held at Fleet URC on **Sunday 4th November at 3 pm**



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

If you would like a loved one to be remembered at the service, please speak to Christine Gibbons or Ruth Dillon.

All are welcome.

YOUNG PEOPLE

FOOTSTEPS



Footsteps have recently been enjoying a sewing bee! Each child has designed a felt square that shows what Church means to them, or a favourite hymn or Bible story. They have carefully sewn their images, also made from felt, on to their squares. These are all going to be sewn together on to a banner which will be revealed in church later in the year. The young people of *Footsteps* hope you will join them on October 14th for the unveiling of the banner, and for a service prepared by them.

Grace Bagshaw



COMPASSION UK

Compassion UK has recently moved its offices from Weybridge to Ancells Farm in Fleet. Many of the staff have also relocated to this area, and are keen to get involved in Churches Together and local churches.

So who are they?

Compassion UK is a Christian charity passionate about empowering all children to overcome the obstacles poverty puts in their way. Their approach to fighting poverty is highly focussed and personal. It is summed up in three simple words: *Compassion for Children*. They show every child that they matter, linking them with one sponsor, whose support gives them a hope and a future.

Compassion UK runs the child sponsorship programme in partnership with local churches and alongside other agencies who support their environment and community, eg *Wateraid*.

If you would like more information about *Compassion UK*, please see their website: <https://www.compassionuk.org/>.

Ruth



WESSEX SUMMER CAMP

Melvin and Mahima Mathew and William Goodall went to this year's Summer Camp, which was held in July at Ferny Crofts Activity Centre in The New Forest. The theme was 'Pilgrimage'. Melvin and Mahima have written the following account of their time there.

This year's Wessex Summer Camp was amazing! It gave us the chance to develop our religious and biblical knowledge in the company of our friends.

Arriving at the camp, we were warmly welcomed into a calm environment where everyone was settling in while socialising or putting up their tents. On the Friday we arrived it was mainly an informative afternoon for both new arrivals and regular attenders, where everyone's concerns and queries were cleared up.



The next day and a half began with breakfast at 8:15 am, which was shortly followed by Worship. Worship was a period of time where we all sang songs and praises and introduced our topic—*Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life*. There were 'RE:Connect' sessions which always followed. This was

where we looked deeper into the topic with a choice of four groups: think it, do it, share it and make it. We had the option to choose any group for the three sessions, and you could either stick to your current group or change to another group each time. Each group was different, which made sure everyone was comfortable and happy in what they were doing. As an example, for the topic '*The Way*' in the 'think it' group, they had a meditation session where they reflected on the story of the Road to Emmaus, and in the 'make it' group they designed maps and compasses.

The weekend also consisted of an array of amazing activities, from a relaxing woodland walk to an adrenaline-pumping, mega climbing tower! On our programme (which was located on our personalised lanyards) it was known as 'Get Active'. These sessions were extremely fun and they gave us an opportunity to make new friends!

Throughout the weekend we were also generously treated with a treasure hunt, a night hike (optional), and a BBQ dinner!

After our exhausting, but fun-filled day, we had a two-hour break where we could just generally chill until it was 11:30 pm, lights out. You could either enjoy a mug of hot chocolate by the campfire, play board games, or just hang around in your tent!

Overall, the camp was outstanding, and we are definitely looking forward to the next one!

Melvin & Mahima Mathew



THINK: RECYCLE

We are very lucky in Fleet and the surrounding areas, that we live in a beautiful part of the world, with woodland, the Basingstoke Canal, Fleet Pond and countryside on our doorstep... and yet we are also within easy reach of the coast and London. No wonder Hart often tops the polls of the best places to live.

However Hampshire certainly 'could do better' when it comes to recycling. We come 205th out of 350 in the recycling league tables, with only 41.6% of household waste being sent for reuse, recycling or composting. The East Riding of Yorkshire tops the table with 65.4%, whilst the London Borough of Newham languishes at the bottom of the table with an appalling 14.1%.

Whilst my recent articles have contained tips for reducing waste, I would now like to tell you about a new opportunity for recycling at Fleet URC that comes about through my connection to South Farnborough Infant School (SFIS), where I am a part-time teacher. SFIS is an Eco School which bases its entire curriculum on the Seven Principles of Harmony (Geometry, Interdependence, Circles and Cycles, Diversity, Healthy and Happy, Beauty and Oneness) and the children are very aware of nature, the world around them and their place in the world. Amongst many eco-measures and recycling opportunities, they have become Bic Community Champions and are collecting used writing implements for recycling. The school also receives £0.01 per writing instrument that is recycled.

The scheme accepts any pen, any highlighter, any correction fluid pot, any marker, any felt tip, any mechanical pencil or eraser pen, any fountain pen or ink cartridge, regardless of their composition. They do not accept glue sticks, erasers, rulers, pencils or sharp objects, eg scissors. Once collected, the writing instruments are separated by material composition, cleaned and melted into hard plastic that can be remoulded to make new recycled products.

Look out for a collection box at church soon... all your writing implements will be gratefully received!

Grace Bagshaw



IMOGEN'S BOOK



Imogen Russell is a second year student at Farnborough Sixth Form College, and a member of the team at Fleet Centre for Volunteering. She has recently been helping Sheila Durbin to produce a digital copy of all her poems, many of which were written in hasty scribbles, often fast-fading.

The collaboration soon became a valued friendship, resulting in a new anthology of Sheila's poems: *Imogen's Book*. Half of the poems selected have been chosen by Imogen and half by Sheila and so, as Sheila writes, "here you have the choice of someone under twenty and someone over ninety."

Sheila writes sensitively and evocatively about the beauty of our natural world and

what it tells us of the Divine Creator. This new volume also includes some poems of a more personal nature: for example, there are several meditations on growing older.

Please speak to Sheila if you would like a copy of *Imogen's Book*.

THE SOURCE

The garden shimmers—sun on dewy grass.
Light is diffused by mist,
The morning sky stippled by clouds of grey,
Of gold and amethyst.

Trees, shrubs and flowers all lean towards the light;
Thirsty, they drink the rain.
Beauty of fire and water comes from God:
Earth gives it back again.

Jesus, you are soul's light, you are the source;
The water pure to give.
Grant me the grace that all my leaves and roots
May drink of it and live.

Sheila Durbin

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

As I write this magazine article a hose pipe ban has been implemented in the north of England due to the UK having the hottest summer in 40 years. I offer this reflection and prayer as we wait for the rains to come. Some of you may remember the event.

No one likes rain during their summer holidays, but in August 1952 torrential rain was the experience of people in Lynmouth, a very picturesque small holiday resort on the north coast of Devon.

On 15th August it had rained very heavily for hour after hour. The soil of the huge area of the moor called Exmoor could soak up only so much water—the rest had to flow downhill. Although vast amounts of water had already fallen, at about 8.30 in the evening there was a cloudburst. Down came more torrential rain.

Twenty-three centimetres (9 inches) of rain fell in 24 hours, whereas the area normally received about 83 centimetres (33 inches) in a whole year! And so the River Lynn that, in a normal summertime, flowed from the moor over rocks and big boulders, now became a killer. Suddenly giant waves of water swept off the moor and picked up huge boulders and rocks as though they were tiny pebbles. The water and boulders and soil swept through the village of Lynmouth, destroying 28 bridges as though they were twigs. As electricity had been cut off, the people could not even see the tragedy that was upon them. Many buildings were destroyed or badly damaged. More importantly, 31 people were killed, and some of the bodies were never recovered. They were either lost under thick mud, or were washed out to sea.



In the daylight of the morning of 16th August, the emergency services discovered how bad the tragedy was. Lynmouth was a severe 'natural disaster' in a country that does not normally have such experiences.

Documentary TV programmes on natural disasters often include scenes of Lynmouth. Camera shots of the great size of the boulders of rock, and the distance they were moved by the onrush of water, illustrate how powerful and destructive water can be.

Ruth

Let us pray:

God, who is our Lord,
we have been reminded of the destruction
and even death that water can bring,
and we can reflect that we are called to die to selfishness—
living instead in the fullness of life that Jesus promises.



In a country that is blessed with an abundance of water, perhaps we don't fully appreciate how vital water is for all life. Water is used as a sign in Baptism—a symbol of dying to selfishness and sin, and living the new life that Jesus brings.

When Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan, he was placing himself beside all who had sinned and needed to make a new start and live in a better way. At that time, Abba, you were heard to say that Jesus was your well-loved Son, and the Holy Spirit rested upon him.

Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may grow in the realisation
and faith that we, too, are your sons and daughters
whom you love greatly.

Amen



A PRAYER FOR OUR WORLD

Dear Lord

Please lead us in your ways, no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in at any given time, whether by our own actions, or led by others, or placed there as part of your plan.

Be with all those connected to Fleet URC. You alone know of all the situations they are facing: help us all to discern our church's role in your Kingdom.

We pray for situations around the world:

- Where the media has moved on, but the need has not been magically resolved;
- Where the media is still there, but only showing one part of what is happening;
- Help us to study the facts and not assume that the latest soundbite is the whole truth;
- Help us to beware of instant reactions and sharing of information out of context;
- We pray for situations that never make it into the news, but where the need is no less great.



Show all of us how we can contribute to your will. No matter how big or small a part we play, we know that you can use all of us in ways beyond human imagining, especially if we allow you to lead us.

In Jesus' name we pray, *Amen*

Tamara Sherratt, Church Secretary



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FLEET AND CROOKHAM (CTFC)

As you will probably remember, over the last six months Churches Together has rested in what was described as a fallow period, to allow us to recover and regain energy. During this time the ministers have met together for fellowship, prayer, and a period of reflection.

On Thursday 12th July there was a meeting held at LivingStones where the ministers explained the new aims that had come from these fruitful meetings. To adopt these aims would require a change to the constitution, which requires 75% of member churches to agree to the proposals.

The new aims must be brought to our Church Meeting for discussion, and hopefully your approval, prior to my attendance at the Churches Together AGM in September.

For your information, here are the current aims as detailed in our Constitution:

- to enable churches, as pilgrims together, to explore the Christian faith together, to develop mutual relationships, to seek a common mind, and to make decisions together;
- to encourage churches to worship, pray and reflect together on the nature and purpose of the church in the light of its mission—each church sharing with others the treasures of its traditions;
- to enable churches to live and share the Gospel, to evangelise and serve together, and to take further steps towards fuller unity;
- to enable churches to respond to the needs of society and to witness to the Gospel together.

The new aims, as discussed at the meeting:

- *to enable the member churches, as pilgrims together, to explore the Christian faith together, to develop mutual relationships, to find common ground, and to work together to build God's Kingdom;*
- *to enable and encourage the member churches to worship and pray together;*
- *to enable the member churches to live and share the Gospel, to evangelize together and to take further steps towards fuller unity;*
- *to enable the member churches to respond to the needs of society and to witness to the Gospel together;*
- *to enable the member churches to reflect together on the nature and purpose of the church in the light of its mission—each church sharing with others the treasures of its tradition.*

I invite you to reflect and ask for guidance in your prayers on this matter. I hope you will let me know your thoughts.

Darrell Henderson, CTFC Representative



Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice

PHYLLIS TUCKWELL VOLUNTEERS HONOURED

Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care held an afternoon tea on 14th June to celebrate the many years of service by their volunteers. More than 50 volunteers attended, plus added guests.

The hospice has 900 volunteers who help, including car drivers, shop assistants, gardeners, and people who raise money through the support groups. Five of the Fleet Support Group attended and received their badges from Chris Tuckwell, who warmly welcomed them. Bee Griffiths and Pat Wilmott have served for 30 years, Keith Dean for 10 years, and Marianne Browning and Vera Mosley for 5 years. It was a beautiful day, with the backdrop of the hospice gardens, lovingly tended, looking their best.

Congratulations to all the volunteers, and especially to our Fleet URC friends Bee and Vera for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the hospice.



NEXT EVENT:



Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice

RUSHMOOR MALE VOICE CHOIR

in concert with

Farnborough Hill and Salesian College Choirs

at Farnborough Hill School

Friday 21st September, 7.30 pm

(Tickets or more information about this event from Hospice shop or from Vera Mosley)



A reflection:

Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace, and your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace.

