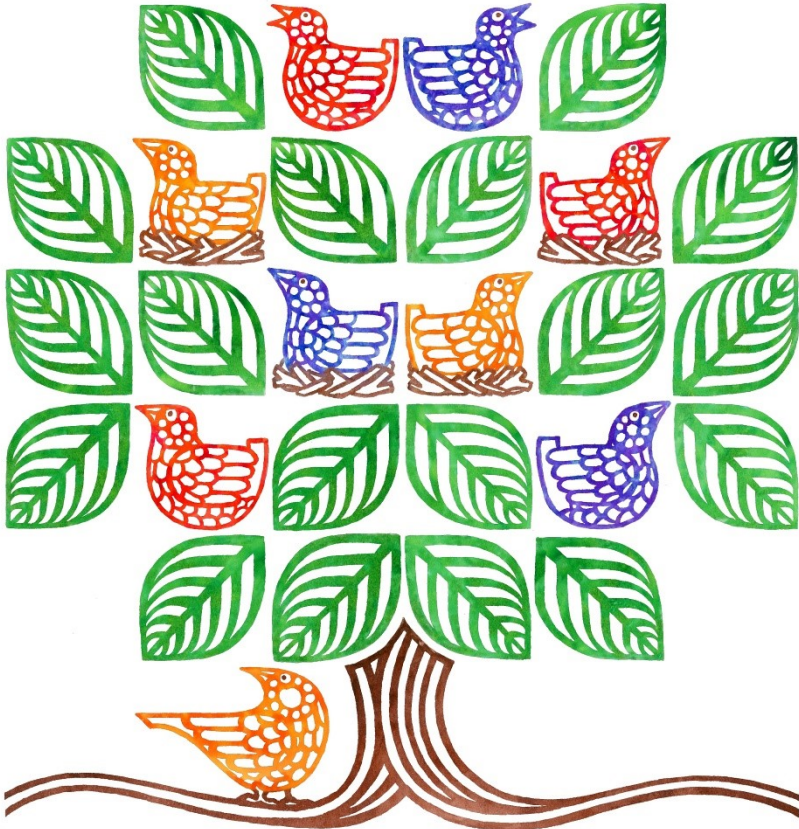


In Touch

August—
September
2019



The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed - it is the smallest of seeds, but when it grows, it is big enough for the wild birds to come and build nests in its branches.
Matthew 13:31-32



Fleet United Reformed Church



FLEET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Kings Road, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 3AF

tel: 01252 623629 (ansaphone)

email: admin@fleeturc.org.uk

web: www.fleet.urc.org.uk



www.facebook.com/fleeturc



[@FleetURC](https://twitter.com/FleetURC)

CHURCH CONTACTS

<i>Minister:</i>	Revd Ruth Dillon , 01252 625238 revrdillon@btinternet.com
<i>Secretary:</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:</i>	Mondays, 10 am (at 35 Frere Ave)
<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, *Guide*, *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

Has the text message replaced the art of sending postcards when on holiday? I recall as a teenager spending the first few days searching for the right postcard to send to friends at home, and hoping to receive one in return—sharing the holiday experience.

Until my move to Fleet I used to stick all the postcards on my kitchen cupboard doors. Literally hundreds of cards. Cards from Katharine as she travelled Europe and China, cards from family ranging from Morecambe to Malaysia, and cards from my grandparents wishing I was there with them.

Coming from Blackpool, I saw a vast array of seaside comedy cards. Many were sexist and racist, and even ageist, by today's standards. But one has always stuck in my mind. The caption underneath two colourful parrots: "If there is one thing I can't stand it's someone who talks when I am interrupting!" Was there a hidden meaning in those words? We'll never know, but I smiled when reading it!

Interrupting is not a recent phenomenon: children interrupt constantly until they are shown how to enter a conversation respectfully. However in a recent TV debate I was disappointed to see that politicians bidding to be the new Prime Minister were experts in the art of interrupting. This was so sad to see and hear, as interruptions—especially those tinged with frustration and a refusal to listen to the other side—smother 'real' sharing and understanding.

As I watched with horror, I reflected on the verse from 1 Corinthians 13, and asked myself, "where is the understanding that love is patient and kind, not arrogant or rude, insisting on its own way?"

Good listening can be powerful, healing and transformational. This is how Jesus shared his ministry amongst his disciples and the people he met on his travels: not always trying to fix things for them, but encouraging prayer and discerning the way forward in God's strength. It cost him, as many people preferred the aggressive approach rather than seeking good communication skills to build people up.

As disciples we need to learn how to be 'active listeners', open to listening to others' views and thoughts, observing body language, tone of words, and hesitancy in the flow of their words. That does not mean that we should blindly agree with them, but if we respectfully listen to what the other person is saying, then we can make a judgement and discern where God is speaking in the speaker and the listener.

Over time we do develop unhelpful habits—and I fear that the TV debate illustrated that very well—which can sometimes take us in an unhelpful direction. Silence is the key to good listening and can be a gift to those on the receiving end.

Jesus listened to many, many people: all ages, all occupations, people from different cultures, different genders, different abilities. He gave to each person his presence and respect, yet always coming to his own opinions and expressing them.

During the sultry days of summer why not sit and relax and check your listening skills in this little exercise? Have a sheet of A4 paper ready.

Question 1: ‘When I am not listened to, I feel....?’ (Write all the words down on the left hand side of the sheet of paper.)

Question 2: Think of a time when you were listened to, and complete the sentence: ‘When I am listened to, I feel....?’ (Write these words on the right hand side of the paper.)

To finish: read out the two columns of words and consider the effectiveness of good listening.

Every blessing to you as we look forward to many more good conversations, and perhaps the renewed interest in sending postcards!

Ruth

Postscript: I have now completed the first year of my Professional Doctorate in Practical Theology at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, so the next issue of ‘*In Touch*’ will include a reflection and summary of my studies and research area.



COFFEE MORNINGS IN AUGUST

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



August 1st: **Newlyn’s Farm,**
North Warnborough, RG29 1HA

August 8th: **White Lion,** Hartley Wintney, RG27 8AE

August 15th: **Squire’s Garden Centre,**
Badshot Lea Road, Badshot Lea, GU9 9JX

August 22nd: **Forest Lodge,** Holt Pound, Farnham, GU10 4LD

August 29th: **St John’s Church,** Hartley Wintney, RG27 8ED

September 5th: **Fleet United Reformed Church**

MANSE OPEN DAY

Come and share in fellowship and conversation at the Manse on **Saturday 3rd August from 2—5 pm.**

Drinks will be provided, ranging from tea and coffee, to gin & tonic and wine; however, please bring something to eat, 'for the table'.

Looking forward to seeing you all—*Ruth*



NOTICE BOARD



'FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY'

A monthly group meeting in the vestry to explore the Lectionary readings for the following Sunday.

The next gatherings will at **12 noon** on:

Monday, 12th August

Monday 9th September

(Please note change of time)

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP



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

Monday, 5th August

Monday 2nd September

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

ANNUAL & STUDY LEAVE

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

24th—27th August

(Greenbelt Festival)

27th September—2nd October

(Annual leave)

SERVICE OF REMEMBERING AND THANKSGIVING 2019

(Date for your diary)

A short service for bereaved relatives and friends will be held at Fleet URC on **Sunday 3rd 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.



FAMILY NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS!



Melvin

To **Melvin Saju Kadeckal**, who was awarded the Player of the Year trophy at Fleet Spurs Football Club.

To **Cameron Booker**, Moira and John Johnstone's grandson, who gained a Distinction in his Masters Degree in Mathematics from Cambridge University. Cameron will go on to study for a PhD at Oxford University.

To **Liz and Colin McClune**, who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They invited

everyone to celebrate with them by sharing coffee and cake after morning service.

To **Anne Anderson and Moira Bamfield**, who were received into membership at Fleet URC during morning service on Sunday 21st July.

Anne has transferred her membership from Parkgate and Neston URC on the Wirral, and Moira from St Paul's URC in South Croydon.



Liz & Colin



Anne (left) and Moira (right) with Ruth

Both have given many years of service at their previous churches.

We are delighted that Anne and Moira have joined our church family and welcome them warmly.



YOUNG PEOPLE - THE BIG SPEAK OUT

The second Big Speak Out residential weekend took place at Repton School, Derby on the weekend of 5th–7th July, and was attended by William Goddard, Mahima Saju and Melvin Saju Kadeckal from Fleet URC.

This annual event is organised by the URC's Children's and Youth Work team, and is an opportunity for 11-18 year olds connected with the United Reformed Church to put their faith into action. This year the theme was 'Making Your Mark'.



The film *Up!* was used by the group in conjunction with readings from the Bible to focus on recognising skills and talents in yourself and others, and using those gifts to make your mark in the church, the community and society as a whole.

One of the most popular sessions was a 'church and community' workshop, where a group walked to Repton URC, litter-picking on their way. Once at the church they make their mark on the church premises by clearing an overgrown garden, filling hanging baskets and flower pots, painting a gate, and decorating the noticeboards with two inspiring displays to encourage the congregation that they too have a part to play in the mission of God.



The weekend was thoroughly enjoyed by our young people, and Mahima said, "My experience at Big Speak Out 2019 was excellent. There was a lot of improvement in comparison to last year's event, and it was clear that the organisers put our



feedback into consideration.

"The food, venue and accommodation was brilliant, and the variety of activities was also very good. Overall, it was a fun experience and I can't wait for the next one!"



SYNOD CHILDREN'S DAY—LEGO MANIA!

In June young people from across Wessex Synod met at our church to explore through Lego how everything fits together in God's plan. This was in line with the Assembly theme of 'One Body, Many Parts'.



Several young people from our church went along, and enjoyed a great day of fun and friendship, with a mix of Bible, Lego and other creative activities.

Margaret Armes



INTRODUCING OUR NEW 'FRIENDS OF PALANI MISSION' LOGO

The Friends of Palani Mission decided that they needed a logo to represent them—one that was simple and colourful, yet reflected the aims of the group and could be easily replicated on fundraising materials.



We ran a competition to design the logo, and this was open to all young people affiliated to our church—Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, as well as our 'Footsteps' young people's group. Several designs were submitted, and these were reviewed at our recent Friends of Palani Mission. The winner was **Mahima Eliza Saju**, by a unanimous decision.

Congratulations, Mahima! And a big thank you to all the other young people for their contributions, which demonstrated great imagination and creativity.

Mahima's entry—in the colours of the Indian flag—was chosen because it is simple yet striking, and conveys the concept of partnership which underpins the relationship between our church and Palani Mission.

Christine Gibbons



OPEN GARDEN
at the home of Jenny Butterworth,
147 Albert Street, Fleet

I am looking forward to welcoming you to my garden on **Sunday 18th August, 2.30—5 pm.**

I love my garden. My late husband and I worked hard in the last few years to make it a place to relax and enjoy the beauty of flowers and plants. The garden is only small, but the winding paths and hidden corners make it a place of surprise and peace.



Refreshments will be available, and you are welcome to sit and chat—or rest with your own thoughts. I hope it will be busy.

All donations are for the work of the Palani Mission in India.

On a practical note, parking is very limited on Albert Street. You will need to make your own arrangements to park elsewhere.

Please come, and let us enjoy an afternoon together.

Jenny Butterworth



MEMBERSHIP CLASSES 2019

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

Membership meetings involve six sessions (although these can be condensed over 2-3 weeks), 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 2nd September** in the vestry, and subsequent dates will be arranged nearer the time. We do try to be as flexible as we can so that everyone can be involved.

Ruth

D-DAY

With this year marking the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings on 6th June 1944, my thoughts go back to my father, who as a 20 year old army commando serving with the 1st Special Service Brigade, landed on Sword Beach, Normandy, amongst a hail of bullets and gunfire.

In a letter to his parents on the eve of the battle he wrote, “Try not to worry about me. I’m not afraid, and if it’s God’s will that I should not return, then He has another plan for me, and one day we will all be back together again.”

I have often wondered how his parents (my grandparents) must have felt on receiving that letter, as two years previously they had lost a son whose ship was torpedoed in the North Atlantic, with all souls lost at sea. Being very religious folk, this war must have tested their faith to the limit.

But my father did return, and he did survive the war, though the horrors he witnessed on that day stayed in his memory forever. He often used to wonder why he returned home when so many good men—brave men—didn’t. However he always said that he felt someone was looking out for him, that God had a plan for him; and throughout his life, in the good and bad times, he always knew that if he put his trust in God he would find an answer.

I have often heard people say, “Why me?” or “Why has this happened to them—they don’t deserve it?”. We all have sad and sometimes tragic events happen in our lives, and sometimes we lose our way. Even the kindest of people are not exempt.



At Ouistreham, at the 55th D-Day commemorations



*Cpl Bill Bidmead,
age 19*

However that is where our faith comes in. God has a plan for us all, and sometimes it is hard to understand just what that plan is. But I believe that everything happens for a reason. I also believe that God never leaves us, and helps us to find the strength to deal with whatever is thrown at us. It just takes a while, sometimes, to figure it all out.

Just as, for those brave men 75 years ago who put their trust in God, God had a plan for each and every one of them.

Jenny Devis

Footnote:

My father served with the No 4 Army Commando, who were part of the 1st Special Service Brigade, and he served with them all through the war years. They were disbanded at the end of the war, and the men all went back to their original regiments. Dad's was the Highland Light Infantry, as he was a sniper and originally joined a rifle regiment (now known as The Rifles). He was a corporal at the time of the D-Day landings, but later on in his army life he became a sergeant.

Jenny



JACOB'S LADDER

What are the rungs of Jacob's ladder
Which can help us rise
With hope of heaven in our hearts
And brightness in our eyes?

God the creator is the first,
Maker of heaven and earth,
Our Father, who invites us
To know a second birth.

Christ Jesus is the second rung,
Who gave his life to save,
Who wrought our free salvation
And triumph o'er the grave.

The Holy Spirit is the third,
Who lives within our hearts,
Who, like the wind, sweeps through our lives,
His light and fire imparts.

"Then are these three the only rungs?"

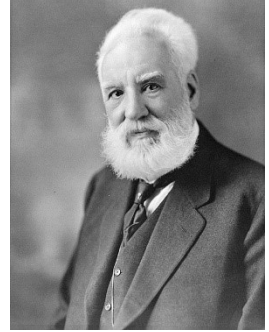
"Oh no, for you shall learn
All those whose lives are spirit-filled
Can lift you, in your turn."



Sheila Durbin

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Alexander Graham Bell was born in Edinburgh in 1847. He is now perhaps best remembered for having invented the telephone. He died in Canada on 2nd August 1922.



When he was aged 11 his friend's father saw Alexander and his own son playing around his water mill where farmers went to grind their corn. They were a distraction, and he asked if they could find something useful to do. He handed them some wheat and asked them to take the husks off the heads. They set to experimenting and, later in life, Bell would look back on this moment as the time when he began to be creative and invent.

Alexander's two brothers died of tuberculosis (TB). His parents, anxious not to lose their remaining son, sent him to Canada, away from the dampness of Scotland. A year later his health improved and he moved south to the United States, teaching in the Boston School for the Deaf. He was particularly keen to invent something that might change the sound of a person talking into something that somehow could be seen by deaf people. As it happened, his experimenting led him to invent the telephone.

Alexander worked with people who had problems with speech and hearing, as did his father and grandfather. His mother was almost completely deaf. He grew up with a sensitivity towards people with difficulties, and he knew that people tended to take their senses for granted until they lost them. He wrote these words:

'We are all too much inclined, I think, to walk through life with our eyes closed. There are things around us and right at our very feet that we have never seen because we have never really looked.'



Let us pray:

Lord, our God, open us up to your Spirit living within us,
that we may live fully each day of our lives.
Touch us, that we may become more aware
of all that is around us,
growing in a sense of wonder and awe,
and in appreciation for all that we see and hear
and touch and taste and smell.

May we live in such a way that we never
take anything for granted,
are always appreciative,
and express our thanks to those who are part of our lives.

Amen

Ruth

THE BIBLE COURSE

The Bible Course, written by Dr Andrew Ollerton and published by the Bible Society, is designed to help us understand the Bible for ourselves.



A small group of us have met together for the last eight weeks to read passages of scripture, to watch video presentations, share discussion, and take time for personal reflection. We were asked to do daily Bible readings for each week with the questions:

WHAT? What does this passage mean in its context?

NOW WHAT? Now what does this passage mean for my life today?

The sessions, led by Ruth, have been informative, challenging, and often deeply personal. We are more knowledgeable, but also more aware of the significance of the whole Bible to our faith in God and our ongoing relationship with our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

This is the second course some of us have taken part in this year. After the Lent course, 'Fruitfulness on your Frontline', we were hungry for more in-depth study. As the Bible course comes to an end we are keen to continue.

Look out for more opportunities to study and share together in this way. Our only disappointment is that so few of us have attended this time.

'All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.'

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Jenny Butterworth

STOP PRESS—BIBLE BOOK CLUB

Having just finished the Bible Course, the group have decided to run a Bible Book Club, starting at 7.30 pm on the following Thursdays: **19th September**, and **3rd, 14th (Monday) and 31st October**. Venue is to be arranged.

We will be reading Luke's Gospel.

Listen out for more details!

Ruth

UK PREMIERE OF MICHELANGELO'S SISTINE CHAPEL— A Different View

- Photographed and reproduced at high resolution, and transferred on to special fabric webs, showing over 300 characters from the Bible.
- Shown over three venues in Winchester: City Space and The Gallery in Jewry Street, and the Great Hall.
- The exhibit runs from 5th July to the end of September.



I am trying to organise a trip for **Monday 23rd September**, travelling down in cars to the Park and Ride; there is then a bus to the venues. Admission is £5 if booked in advance, plus bus fare. If you are interested, please contact me on 07909 632511.

Carol Rayner



COMMUNICARE APPEAL

Last year I retired after working since I was 17, meeting many different people every day. What was I to do with all my time now? I felt I could not just potter around all day, reading, gardening etc, and getting under the feet of my wife!



I needed to find something different, so volunteering came to mind. After looking around I opted for a local organisation called Communicare, and volunteered as a driver, taking people to their hospital and doctor's appointments in the local area. I have no fixed times, though I am available on three particular days each week. It is very flexible.

Communicare contact me the preceding week to check on my availability and I am then given the relevant details of whom to collect and where to take them. On the day I collect the person at the agreed time and bring them home again after their appointment. I find a Kindle very useful for my waiting time! My passengers are extremely grateful for this service, and I love being of assistance.

Communicare are always in need of drivers and duty officers, so if you can give up a little of your time, do give them a call for more details. Their telephone number is 01252 613121.

Peter Hudson

HOW TO HAVE A GREEN SUMMER

Many of us like to make the most of the warm summer weather, spending time outside, whether abroad or in Britain. Wherever you holiday, don't forget that you can still be 'green'.

Make sure you have a reusable water bottle with you to stay hydrated. Check out <http://www.refill.org.uk> or the Refill app. It lists more than 20,000 UK locations that will refill your water bottle for free... there are several in Fleet already!



Take a reusable or small fold-up bag with you for any purchases you might make. Be proactive in saying, 'No bag thanks' in shops.

Remember to ask for no straw with drinks when eating out. Could you tuck a knife, fork and spoon into your bag, wrapped in a cloth napkin to save using disposable ones?

Are you travelling? Check out <http://www.worldlandtrust.org> and investigate their carbon calculator. Whether you travel by car, motorbike, bus, coach, train, ferry or aeroplane, they will help you calculate your carbon emissions and work out how much it will cost you to offset them. They do this through the protection of forests that are imminently threatened, the destruction of forests which would release greenhouse gases, and through the restoration of forest habitats, which trap and store carbon as they grow. You can do this for past holidays as well as holidays to come.



A return short haul flight for a family of four costs under £10 to offset. At that price, why wouldn't you offset your carbon emissions?

Wherever you are over the summer, enjoy our beautiful world and stay green!

Grace Bagshaw



**Phyllis
Tuckwell
Hospice**

CURRY EVENING
at the Ghurka Inn, Fleet Road, Fleet

Thursday, 19th September
7 for 7.30 pm

A 3-course meal for £25

Tickets from the Hospice Shop in Fleet Road.

UNLOCK LONDON WALK 2019



This is the heading I used to introduce the *Unlock* London Walk which I completed in April.

A big ‘thank you’ to all who sponsored me. I was able to send

a total of £125, £50 of which was Gift Aided, adding a further £12.50 to the total. The proceeds from this annual walk comprise 40 percent of *Unlock*’s income, so are very valuable.

The route this year was in the Wimbledon and Morden area—at first glance a fairly typical, mainly Victorian, expansion of London. However, on scratching the surface it becomes clear, as with most modern developments, that there is a history.

Preserved is an ancient gateway, the only remains of Merton Abbey, where King Henry III held the first English Parliament in 1236. What’s more, King Henry IV was crowned here in 1437, the only coronation to be held outside Westminster Abbey. Sainsbury’s now marks the spot.

Fast forward to 2019, and a damp, chilly, very windy morning. I met up with a friend from my previous church at South Wimbledon station. Coffee was the first stop!

Next, the first checkpoint church, **St John the Divine (C of E)**, opened in 1914 and containing an altarpiece made of oak from Nelson’s flagship *Victory*. Why? Because he once lived locally. It is currently the base for the local Foodbank, which is part of its outreach mission.

On across a small green space to **Morden Baptist Church**, started in 1885, developing into today’s large multi-cultural Christian centre, with links with vulnerable families in Zimbabwe.



The next stretch of road was the worst, walking head on into a gale force wind, with needles of rain battering our faces! Relief came at **St John Fisher RC Church**, a modern building for regular worship, also supporting several small groups for prayer and Bible study. We were grateful for their kitchen and toilet facilities after the difficulties of that part of the walk.

Fortunately our route changed direction from here, so we were no longer battling the wind! We came to a delightful tree-lined path through Sir Joseph Wood Memorial Park. A cyclist came up behind and, as we stood back to let him pass, he stopped and asked what all these people with maps were doing in this weather. I explained, emphasising that the charity worked with people who may not read much and never go to a church, whereupon he opened his wallet and gave us £10. We sent him on his way with a blessing and continued ours, feeling blessed too.

The Lighthouse Church sprang from a Sunday School started in the home of a young couple who moved into New Malden with the advent of the railway in 1906. An encouragement to all seed-sowers, as this is now a vibrant Christian witness, among the largest Korean community in Europe and many other nationalities. A true lighthouse! The next church also has a 'light' theme: **Lantern Methodist**, so named for its architectural roof-top lantern, clearly visible at night. During the day they run a coffee shop and an Arts Centre where they, in their words, 'Explore their divine DNA.'

The wind had dropped by now, although it was now behind us! **Raynes Park Community Church** lay ahead, run by the Salvation Army, mainly serving the local residents but with a developing work of refugee sponsorship and a new parent and toddler group.

Not far away was **Wimbledon Salvation Army**, and our last checkpoint. The building was opened in 1887 by General William Booth, and is beginning to show its age. Prayer is sought for the future of this corps and its building, as to how best to continue bringing the gospel to the local people. They served a good cup of tea, to send us back to the tube station after an interesting and rewarding day.

Margaret Tracey

DID THEY REALLY MEAN THAT?!

One place where we definitely need the staff to be on top of their game is hospital but, as these examples illustrate, doctors are not immune to senior moments when writing out patients' medical notes:

- She is numb from the toes down.
- The patient refused an autopsy.
- The patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities.
- While in the emergency room she was examined, x-rated, and sent home.
- On the second day the knee was better, and on the third day it disappeared.
- Patient was released to outpatient department without dressing.
- Discharge status: alive, but without my permission.

(With thanks to Bill Tree, Goring Parish News)



FRIENDS OF PALANI MISSION: Bulletin No 3 June 2019—Summary Minutes



(The full version is on the Palani Mission noticeboard, or available from Christine Gibbons on request.)

Once again there was a good attendance for the third meeting of the Friends of Palani Mission. The meeting was opened with prayer by Ruth.

We discussed recent and upcoming events:



14th June—The Curry Evening was well attended and very successful.

18th August—Jenny Butterworth's Open Garden, 2.30—5 pm (see page 9)

21st September—Palani Fun Day, 2—5 pm. This is to be an afternoon of fun and games for church members and friends. Bee, Carol and Val will form a sub-committee to organise it.

Craft Fair—2nd November. This year Bee will run a Palani stall in addition to the bric-a-brac stall. Ruth has spoken to Debra from the Sewing Project and she will make some small items, such as table runners, cushion covers, bags and

napkins, which can be brought back from India to sell.

We all viewed the designs for the Palani Logo competition, which were mostly from Footsteps and the 8th Fleet Brownies. The winner was Mahima by a unanimous decision (see p 8). She will receive an art box as a prize.

Suggestions for Future Events:

Coffee morning in early October.

Ruth has decided to do the Fleet Fun Walk in May 2020 in aid of Palani. Anyone wishing to join her would be most welcome.

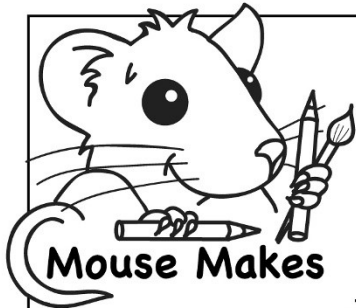
John Gibbons spoke about the finances. He stressed that the fundraising since 2016 has raised sufficient money to sponsor the training of the midwives and the community nurses, and has initiated and sustained the community projects set up by Ruth and Bee on their 2018 visit. No money from general church funds has so far been used.

Saju asked the group if we could extend an invitation for some of the Palani personnel to visit Fleet. There would be no cost incurred by Fleet URC, but we would need to offer accommodation for their stay. Ruth will discuss this with Sheeba John, Mary's sister.

Next meeting: **4th September at 7.30 pm** at the home of Christine and John Gibbons. Everyone is welcome to come along.

The meeting closed with a prayer and the Grace.

Carol Rayner



Who did Jesus choose as His first disciples?
_____ and _____

Matthew 4:18

Which disciple was a tax collector?

Who was John's brother?

Which disciple betrayed Jesus?

Which Apostle wrote Revelation?

Who became the Apostle to the Gentiles?

Acts 13:9
Acts 9:1-18

DID YOU KNOW?

Some of the Apostles recorded the stories of Jesus and wrote about what it means to be a Christian.

Matthew and John wrote gospels.

Paul wrote many letters to the new Christian churches. (Look at the New Testament to see how many he wrote.)

James, Peter, John and Jude all wrote letters.

John wrote the book of Revelation.

In the time of the disciples it was usual for men to have two names. Which second name belongs to which Apostle?

JUDE BOANERGES
MATTHEW SIMON
JOHN DIDYMUS
PETER THADDEUS
THOMAS SAUL
PAUL NATHANIEL
BARTHOLOMEW LEVI



DID YOU KNOW?

Four of the disciples were fishermen: **Andrew, Peter, James and John**. They would have used **two** different nets to fish: a circular one in shallow water and a large dragnet in deep water.

A J O J E S J U D P A U L J
T M J U D M A T T H E W A E
J A O D J A M E S I M O N S
A T H A D D E U S L E H D U
M T N S M A T T H I A S R S
E N O T H O M A S P E T E R
S A B A R T H O L O M E W S

Can you find **JESUS** and all the Apostles in the word search?
PETER • JAMES • JOHN
ANDREW • PHILIP
BARTHOLOMEW
MATTHEW • THOMAS
THADDEUS • SIMON
JAMES • JUDAS
MATTHIAS • PAUL



CHURCH CALENDAR

AUGUST—SEPTEMBER 2019

August

3rd	2—5 pm	Open Day at the Manse (see p 5)
4th	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd Ruth Dillon
		NO EVENING SERVICE
5th	12 noon	Prayer Group (see p 5)
11th	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd Stephen M Thornton
12th	12 noon	'Follow the Lectionary' Group (see p 5)
18th	10 am	Family Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
	2.30—5 pm	Open Garden at Jenny Butterworth's (see p 9)
21st	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting
25th	10 am	Family Worship led by Mrs Thelma Roberts



September

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 (see p 5)
4th	7.30 pm	Friends of Palani Mission meeting
8th	10 am	Family Worship led by Mr Ian Fletcher
9th	12 noon	'Follow the Lectionary' Group (see p 5)
15th	10 am	Family Worship & Holy Communion, led by Revd Ruth Dillon
18th	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting (tbc)
19th	7.30 pm	Bible Book Club (1) (see p 13)
21st	2—5 pm	Church Fun Day for Palani Mission (more details to come)
22nd	10 am	Family Worship led by Mr Paul Murphy
29th	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.urb.org.uk, or with Church Secretary, Margaret Armes (650994).

Items for the October—November issue of *In Touch* should be with the editor, Christine Gibbons by **Sunday 15th September** (christine.gibbons@beech-ride.co.uk).