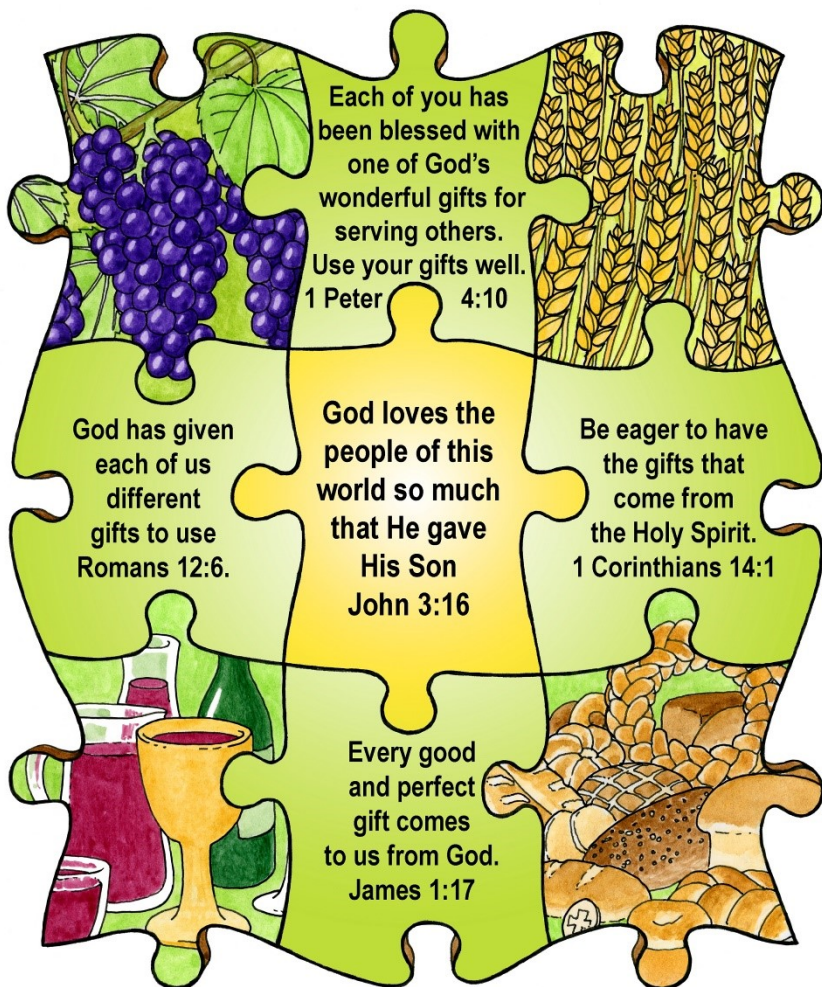


In Touch

October—
November
2019



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

Minister: **Revd Ruth Dillon**, 01252 625238
revrdillon@btinternet.com

Secretary: **Margaret Armes**, 01252 650994
b.ames@ntlworld.com

Treasurer: **John Gibbons**, 01252 614200
jmgibbons@hotmail.com

Hall Bookings: **Brian Armes**, 01252 650994
b.ames@ntlworld.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10 am: Family Worship

Holy Communion usually on third Sunday of month

First Sunday only: 6.30 pm Holy Communion

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

'Footsteps' Young People's Group: Sundays, 10 am (*term time only*)

House Group: Mondays, 10 am (at 35 Frere Ave)

Prayer Group: See page 5 for details

Bible Study: See page 5 for details

Coffee Morning: Thursdays, 10–11.30 am

Toddlers Group: 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

At a church event I went to recently I sat in the back row listening to the singing in the opening devotions. We were singing a well-known 1970s chorus, which clearly everyone knew. As we moved into the second and subsequent verses I noticed that some folk started singing harmonies. Clearly different people knew different harmonies, and rather than them blending into a lovely sound, the harmonies were jarring and clashing

against each other, and were anything but melodious!

As a past member of several choirs, and with my Salvation Army background of passionate singing, I recognise the importance for all members to sing together on an agreed score, following one leader! In a choir there can be no room for everybody deciding to do their own thing, or else mayhem follows.

I believe this is also true for the Church, and indeed for society in general. If we all do our own thing, chaos tends to erupt. We see this in our communities, in our country and, of course, in the political arena in Westminster at the moment. No one can have missed what has happened as different people have 'done their own thing' to try to resolve the four-year tension! (I dare not say the B....t word!)

As the church of Christ we have but one leader, that is Jesus, and His is the Church and we are His followers and disciples. While there are times within the church, for the sake of order and harmony, that we appoint an individual or group to act as 'subconductor', their role is always in submission to the King of Kings, Lord of Lord, Prince of Peace and Wonderful Counsellor! There is never a place for everyone doing their own thing in the church.

We may all do different jobs in the church—like singing different parts—but we do them together to create a harmony which is the sign of the presence of the Spirit. It is only when we 'sing' together in the harmonies of the Creator and of the Redeemer that the Church truly produces an effect which brings glory to God, rather than reflects the ways of humankind!

In October Val, Bee and myself will be travelling to South India to visit, support and encourage our friends and partners in Palani. The song we sing may be different, but the harmony that we will hear and sing together will bring glory to God, whose abundant love blesses us all.

God's peace and friendship be with you all.

Ruth





AUTUMN CRAFT & GIFT FAIR

Saturday 2nd November 2019

10.30 am—3 pm

This year there will again be the usual number of craft and gift stalls ready to sell you their gorgeous craft items. I am sure this will assist you with your Christmas shopping list!

Some of the crafters will be old favourites returning again, and there will be some new exhibitors as well.

I would greatly appreciate help with the welcome table, and of course to get the word out by leaflet distributing. When the day is over at 3 pm we will also need help to put everything back to its original state ready for morning worship the following day.

Please let me know if you are able to help.

Lists will be provided nearer the date.

I also have a big request to make. This year will be the last fair event I will be organising, and we are therefore looking for someone or a group of people to take this event on. I will of course help by supplying the names and contacts of the people who attend, plus paperwork to help with the organising. I would also like to add that this event has always made me smile, and I have enjoyed working with you all for all these years. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support and assistance: it has been wonderful.

If you are able to make cakes/traybakes for the refreshments please speak to Val Cox or Moira Johnstone.

Bee Griffiths would also be grateful for any items that she can sell on her usual bric-a-brac stall as in previous years.

Finally, don't forget to pass the word and come and support us on the day!

Darrell Henderson



SERVICE OF REMEMBERING AND THANKSGIVING 2019

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.



NOTICE BOARD



‘FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY’ (MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY)

A monthly group meeting in the vestry to explore the Lectionary readings for the following Sunday. The next meetings will be at **2 pm** on:

Monday, 14th October
Tuesday 12th November*
(*to be confirmed)

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP



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

Monday, 7th October, 12 noon
Monday 4th November, 2 pm*
(*please note change of time)

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:

18th—29th October
(Palani Visit)

21st—27th November
(Annual leave)

CHRISTMAS GIFT SERVICE 2019—PARITY FOR DISABILITY

The Gift Service on **1st December** will be for Parity for Disability. We are hoping to have someone present to receive the gifts and tell us a bit about the organization.



The gifts need to be for adults, and the clients enjoy anything with a fragrance, or biscuits and sweets.

The service is also a Parade Service, so make sure you arrive early!

CHURCH FUN DAY FOR PALANI MISSION

Saturday, 21st September was a beautifully sunny day, and just right for our Fun Day. Although we were a little disappointed with the number of people who attended, we all had a great deal of fun. We had hoopla, throw the bean bag, jenga, butterfly painting, treasure hunts, and lots of fun activities. There was also tea, cake, biscuits, and Saju's wonderful onion bhajees.



This was all followed by just under an hour of entertainment, with piano pieces, cello and flute, and poetry. It was a fun-filled afternoon, in which we raised £190 for the Palani Mission.

Thank you to all who helped and attended.

Carol Rayner

(More photos on the church website)



CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Mahima Eliza Saju, the winner of our competition to design a logo for the Friends of Palani Mission. (See the August—September edition of *In Touch*.) Ruth presented Mahima with her prize—an art set—at a recent morning service. All the entries may currently be seen on the display board in the church foyer.

WILLIAM'S REFLECTION ON GREENBELT 2019

Friday, 23rd August 2019



It took us a very long time to get to the festival because the signs were not placed to direct us where we needed to go. So we got there following the sat nav at about 8.30 pm. We had a look around and got some food as we were all very hungry. We saw Lucy Spraggan, who was on the X-Factor a long time ago, perform songs she wrote. She was very funny, amazing, and interacted well with the crowd as she got us all singing along.

Saturday, 24th August 2019

The weather was very hot and we kept trying to find shade out of the sun. We listened to different bands playing, like a man called Josh Okeefe, who was a folk singer and very good. Mum's friend and I went to watch a group called The Scribes, and they were a very talented hip hop and beatboxing trio. They had some catchy songs that they got the crowd to sing along with. We all watched Russell Brand talk in the main tent about how he has found faith, and it was interesting. We went to a group called Deadbeat, which had a man on a drums and harmonica and a man on a double bass. It was interesting to hear the combination. In the evening we all went to a silent disco, and it was amazing. You had headphones on and listened to DJs on different channels. We didn't know what time it was until it finished at 1.30 am. We couldn't believe three hours had passed, as it was so much fun.



Sunday, 25th August 2019

Due to the late night we had a lie in, and when we got to the venue it was hotter than the day before. We all took shelter in the shade and listened to music bands from two nearby tents. There was a band called The Lottery Winners—who were funny—and groups called Folk On, The Undercover Hippy, and Brass Against. They were good, and with the heat and shade everyone just sat and listened to the music. It was relaxing to listen to the different bands playing. We went to another silent disco, but this wasn't as

/over

good as the one before as there was only one DJ. Then someone else joined in, and it got better, and eventually all three DJs came on. One of them had big green hair and it was brilliant. We didn't stay too long as we had a 30 minutes drive back to the college where we were staying.

Monday, 26th August 2019

It was hot again today. We saw a comedy duo called Harry and Chris who sing songs and were very funny. They were at Greenbelt last year and we



were glad they were here again. They were in the main tent, and lots of people came to listen to them. Chris then did a solo part in another tent that we went to, but we couldn't hear as so many people went to hear him. Mum went to listen to a man called Rotimi Akinsete who spoke about men's mental health and had written a book to help men called '*This Book Could Help*'. It's the first

helpbook manual for men that has been written.

There was lots of food and different things, but as the weather was so hot we missed a lot. Fingers crossed next year is cooler so we can see more things that Greenbelt 2020 has to offer!

William Goodall



CHRISTMAS ANGELS

Christmas angels will be back in Fleet this year by popular demand, and knitters have already started. If you wish to join in, please either ask me for a pattern or download it from our church website (under *Mission/Local Mission/Christmas Angels*). You should also be able to get anything you need from LivingStones, who are helping us again this year. Please let me know if you have any problems.



The Blessing Service for the angels will be on **Sunday 9th December** at Saint Philip & Saint James, starting at 5 pm. This will be part of a special service following the Christmas Tree Festival. I hope you will be able to attend. Please come along and see the mountain of knitted angels. It is a wonderful sight.

Darrell Henderson

THE DOOR

Autumn has set a torch to summer's bounty,
The lush green leaves consumed by golden flame;

The lily and the rose in all their beauty
Are dying, and each year it is the same.

Autumn, your fires but serve regeneration
For trees will bud more freely in the spring
And seeds that scattered at your conflagration
Are ready soon their flowers and fruits to bring.

Our life is not a round through which we turn
But, at our death, we pass a final door,
And though all these may die and then return,
We, when we die, will come again no more,
But, through that door, enter God's timeless zone
Where we shall know, even as we are known.

Sheila Durbin



A BEAUTIFUL WELSH HYMN

Bee Griffiths will agree that we Welsh folk love to sing, especially great hymns. When I was inducted as a member at Fleet URC I asked for the hymn '*Calon Lan*' ('*Pure Heart*') to be sung, but it was only possible then to sing this lovely tune to the words of another hymn.

This English translation of the first verse and chorus of the famous hymn gives a taste of the lovely message told in its Welsh words:

Verse:

I don't ask for a luxurious life,
the world's gold or its fine pearls:
I ask for a happy heart,
an honest heart, a pure heart.

Chorus:

A pure heart is full of goodness,
More lovely than the pretty lily:
Only a pure heart can sing—
Sing by day and sing by night.

Glen Price

AN ADVENTURE WITH DAWN!—Thursday, 22nd August, 2019

This was a journey along the Basingstoke Canal from Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham, to Winchfield Wharf, a journey of approximately 60 minutes each way, with a break for lunch whilst moored at Winchfield.



Almost immediately our trip passed Galleon Marine Boatyard, where people were enjoying light refreshments whilst watching all the activity associated with canals and waterways. Next door the grounds of the Alpaca Farm at Broad Oak ran down to the water's edge.

The early signs of autumn were evident—blackberry and hawthorn berries in abundance, green foliage beginning to take on its golden mantle.

On the opposite bank from the towpath a printed poster was prominent: 'WINCHFIELD IS NOT FOR SALE' (a reference to the substantial development being planned). This was one of many identical posters displayed in the village during the previous few months.

The landing stage part of Four Seasons Hotel complex seemed to be redundant—only to discover shortly afterwards the hotel's cruise boat returning from a morning trip.

As our journey continued a remark was made that not many wildfowl had been spotted. The birds must have heard what was said because it was not very long before a family of swans, pen, cob and growing cygnets were there to greet us.

By now *Dawn* was nearing the thatched cottage, a picturesque property remembered by some for being part of the Open Gardens Scheme. It was not the building that excited the passengers, but a beautiful full size bronze statue of a horse, grazing in the garden.



The wharf at Winchfield was the end of the outward journey. After lunch, which was enjoyed picnic style on board, the return journey commenced. Far from being a replica of the outward journey, new vistas emerged. For instance the names of the various bridges are only displayed on the south side. These seemed to fascinate some of the passengers. Wonderful names they are too: Barley Mow; Stacey's; Baseley's; Sprat's Hatch; Sandy Hill; Broad Oak; Odiham Bypass. Other than Odiham Bypass, the remainder were built anything up to 250 years ago. These old brick bridges are picturesque; if for no other reason, their reflections create superb perfect oval images.

A special highlight on the return journey was a heron standing close to the bank not more than a couple or three feet from 'Dawn'. As the boat passed by, the heron remained motionless, giving one the opportunity to see the long sharp beak and piercing eye. What a treat!



The landing stage of the Four Seasons Hotel looked far from redundant on our return journey—crew members were busy servicing the boat after returning from a trip for the hotel's guests.

A number of the trees at the water's edge were marked with red spots—obviously awaiting felling. So much to see, so much to enjoy, so much to discover.

As the trip came to an end, the passengers disembarked and the crew prepared to shut up shop, one was left in no doubt about the wonder of God's creation.

Who is Dawn? *Dawn* is the Accessible Boating Association's day boat, which is able to carry a maximum of 12 people, including up to four wheelchairs.

We are grateful to Bee for overseeing the trip, to Brian and Moray who acted as drivers for those not able to use their own cars, and to Neil Rorie for introducing the trip on behalf of Farnborough Rotary Club, not forgetting the two Rotarians who acted as crew members.

Bernard Potter

(There are more photos of this trip—and another that took place a few days later—on the church website.)



HART MALE VOICE CHOIR

in concert with

**Salesian College Schola Choir &
Farnborough Hill Senior Choir**

at Salesian College, Farnborough

Friday 11th October, 7.30 pm

Tickets, £12, from the Hospice Shop

PUB QUIZ WITH FISH & CHIPS

Saturday 9th November, from 7 pm

at Fleet URC; Tickets £20, from Hospice Shop or call 01252 683730

HOLY HABITS—HANDY TIPS FOR PRAYER



During the day, prayer can ebb and flow from our minds and body.

Prayer is our response to God's goodness in the lives of God's people; however when trials and tribulations come our way prayer is also our communication line to God.

So let us always pray without ceasing.

1. **Show Up**—There's no bad way to pray and no single starting point for prayer. The spiritual masters offer one non-negotiable rule: you have to show up!
2. **Quiet Your Heart**—Solitude is a form of awareness, a way of being present and perceptive within all of life. It's having a dimension of reflectiveness in our daily lives that brings gratitude, appreciation, peacefulness, enjoyment, and prayer. If this is your first time doing this, set aside 15 minutes for prayer.
3. **Look Inside**—Our culture can keep us so entertained, busy, preoccupied, and distracted, that we lose all focus on the deeper things. We have to know when it's time to unplug the television, turn off the phone, shut down the computer, silence the iPod, so that, for one moment, we are not avoiding making friends with the deepest part of us.
4. **Establish a Routine and Stick with It**—The solution isn't so much new prayer forms and more variety, but rhythm, routine, and established ritual. What's needed is a prayer form that doesn't demand an energy you cannot muster on a given day.
5. **Be Honest, Vulnerable, Bold**—What does it mean to be holy or perfect? To be perfect in the Hebrew mindset simply means to walk with God, despite our flaws. It means being in the divine presence in spite of the fact that we're not perfectly whole, good, true and beautiful.
6. **Let Go of Anxiety and Shame**—The opposite of faith isn't doubt, but anxiety. It isn't so much the fear that God doesn't exist as the fear that God doesn't notice our existence. Faith gives you the assurance that God is good, can be trusted, won't forget you, and is solidly in charge. Faith says that God is real, God is Lord, and there's ultimately nothing to fear. We're in safe hands. Our task is to surrender to that.
7. **Listen for God's Voice and Accept God's Love**—We're surrounded by many voices. How do we recognize God's voice among and within all of these others? God's voice is inside many things that aren't explicitly connected to faith and religion. God understands us, accepts us, delights in us, and is eager to smile at us. Experiencing the unconditional love of God is what prayer, in the end, is all about.

Ruth

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

I have recalled this poem on many occasions in conversations and pastoral encounters. It seems appropriate to write it in this edition of 'In Touch' magazine, as November is the month of remembrance.

November 2nd is often called 'All Souls' Day', and it is an opportunity to remember and pray for those we have loved who have died. Here is a short poem about 'dying':



What is dying?

The ship sailed away and I stand watching till it fades on the horizon, and someone at my side says, 'The ship is gone.'

Gone where?

Gone from my sight, that is all; the ship is just as large as when I saw it.

As I see the ship grow smaller and go out of sight, it is just at that moment that there are others in a different place who say, 'Watch; here the ship comes!' and other voices take up a glad shout, 'You have arrived!'

And that is what dying is about.

Let us pray:



We give back to you, Lord,
those whom you first gave to us.
You did not lose them in giving them to us
and so we do not lose them in their return to you.

Your Son has taught us that life is eternal and love cannot die.
So death is only a horizon—the limits of our sight.
Open our eyes and lift us up,
so that we may see more clearly.

Draw us closer to you
so that we may know that we are nearer to our loved ones
who are with you.

And while you prepare a place for us as you have promised,
prepare us also for that happy place,
that where you are, we may be also,
with those we have loved, for ever.

Amen

Ruth



HOW TO KEEP YOUR TECHNOLOGY GREEN

Most of us now rely on the Internet! Emails are far more common than letters; music, TV and films can be streamed to your phone, tablet or TV; Wi-Fi is everywhere. But, have you ever given any thought to the environmental impact of the constant stream of data that surrounds us and the hardware that supports it?



Do you use Google? If so, have you seen or heard of Ecosia? Ecosia is a search engine that plants a tree for every 45 searches you make. It can be used on desk tops, lap tops, tablets and phones. Since the fires in the Amazon rainforest were reported this summer, Ecosia has seen a 1,150% spike in users. Can you make this simple swap to

help our planet? Over the last 18 months I have made enough searches, just on my phone, to plant over 30 trees! It has been suggested that the average American needs 909 trees to absorb their yearly CO₂ footprint, so the more trees we can plant the better!

What do you use your phone for? For some people it's just calls and texts, but if you look at a photo on a screen it costs energy to transport the data from a server to you. If you are watching a video or listening to a song it uses even more energy. Much of the energy cost is in the heat generated by datacentres. Cooling them requires inefficient air conditioning units, meaning that datacentres take up three to four per cent of the world's electric energy. Are we all going to stop using data on our mobile devices? No. Can we use them in a more considered way? Yes, we can. For example, music can be downloaded and listened to over and over again, instead of using new energy to 'stream' it every time you want to listen to it. In fact, despite the fact that CDs use physical resources and often have plastic cases, they can be more environmentally friendly as they are made once and used over and over again.

Did you know that an email has a carbon footprint of 4 g, while emails with attachments can have a footprint as large as 50 g? Part of this comes from storing our emails. When this was pointed out to me I thought it about time I cleared out some old emails. I'm ashamed to say that there were thousands. I now think twice before saving an email, and delete outdated ones much more regularly!

Now let's consider the hardware itself. Technology companies always want to sell you the next newest gadget... but do you actually need it? Try to make your current items last as long as you can. If you must replace



them, sell them on via online companies or recycling firms, or donate to charity. This way, they might have a second life with a new owner, or the constituent parts can be recycled. Consider the ethics of the company you buy from. A quick search online will reveal the best companies for both phones and network suppliers. Some companies will not reveal whether conflict minerals or child labour is involved in their supply chain! Also consider a reconditioned phone to reduce your environmental impact.

We cannot uninvent technology, but we can consider the best ways to use it. If you can only make a small change, please do just that. 'It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little' (Sydney Smith). Do what you can!

Grace Bagshaw



PRIVATE HEALTH CARE...!

A man suffered a serious heart attack while shopping in an American store. When people saw him collapse to the floor an ambulance was called. The paramedics rushed the man to the nearest hospital where he had emergency open heart bypass surgery.



He awakened from the surgery to find himself in the care of nuns at the Catholic Hospital. A nun was seated next to his bed holding a clipboard loaded with several forms, and a pen. She asked him how he was going to pay for his treatment. "Do you have health insurance?" she asked. He replied in a raspy voice, "No health insurance." The nun asked, "Do you have money in the bank?" He replied, "No money in the bank." "Do you have a relative who could help you with the payments?" asked the irritated nun. He said, "I only have a spinster sister, and she is a nun."

The nun became agitated and announced loudly, "Nuns are not spinsters! Nuns are married to God." The patient replied, "Perfect. Send the bill to my brother-in-law."

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

Commitment
for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

This is the new logo for Commitment for Life (CforL), which is the United Reformed Church's main programme for global justice. It is the recommended way for local congregations to support Christian Aid and Global Justice Now (formerly WDM). Through

committed giving, prayer and solidarity, CforL supports the work of four partner countries/regions: Bangladesh, Central America, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and Zimbabwe.

Here at Fleet URC we have supported CforL since it started 25 years ago, and have raised over ten thousand pounds in support of their projects.

Robin Gray from Woking URC spoke movingly at a morning service about his recent visit to Zimbabwe, where he was able to see for himself the difference that CforL fundraising has made in lifting communities out of poverty.

A link person for our church is currently needed to keep the congregation informed and updated about the work of CforL. If you feel that you could fill this important role, please speak to Ruth or to one of the elders.

(You can find out more about the programme by visiting the Commitment for Life website at: www://urc.org.uk/our-work/commitment-for-life.)



1,000 DAYS OF INSPIRATION IN YOUR 'INBOX'

Daily Devotions, the URC's series of digital daily Bible readings, reflections and prayers, recently reached its 1,000th edition.

Have you signed up yet? Many have found that the Devotions have enriched their discipleship, and provided inspiration for the day ahead.

The devotions are written by more than 100 people from across the URC, and sent out daily at 6 am to more than 3,000 subscribers. Hundreds more follow on line, and they are on our own church website under the heading 'Worship and Prayer'.

The devotions are also now available as an audio file, or as an A5 booklet for people who don't have access to the internet. I highly recommend them.

Christine Gibbons



THE MINISTRY AND MISSION FUND—Some Facts and Figures

In September of every year I receive a statement from Ian Hardie, the Chief Finance Officer of the URC, regarding the finances of the Ministry and Mission Fund (M and M), into which all URC churches pay. The M and M fund pays the salaries and expenses associated with the ministers, church related workers, children and youth workers, safeguarding costs, education and learning costs, and all associated administration costs. The overall state of our denomination can be viewed through these figures and they provide some interesting, if not concerning, trends.



Over the years I have watched the total number of church members steadily decrease, along with a decrease in the number of ministers. These have generally kept pace with each other; however the number of churches has not fallen at the same rate. Clearly church closures are seen as the last resort, with churches often surviving with memberships of fewer than 15, even though the associated church repair costs place an onerous burden upon Church House.

At the end of 2018 there were 1400 URC churches with 359 full-time equivalent ministers: that is, 3.9 churches per minister. This is of course an average figure, whilst in practice there are between 2 and 7 churches per minister! The average congregation size is now around 35 people. The URC is not alone in this trend, as all denominations are treading the same path, and therefore it is not surprising that within local communities we are seeing various denominations coming together in worship, and team ministries being created.

The M and M fund is mainly financed by our churches, and in 2019 it is expected to cost £20.2 million for 359 stipendiary ministers, at an average cost of £436 per church member. Here at Fleet we share Ruth with Beacon Hill URC, and we pay for 50% of her time; that is, a cost of £358 per church member.

A message of thanks from Ian Hardie:

Ian Hardie writes, 'Your giving is voluntary, but it cannot be optional if we want the same level of church ministry to continue. It is an extraordinary demonstration of commitment and generosity that the average giving per church member to the M and M fund continues to go up each year. Although the number of URC members has been going down by a few per cent each year, the total amount given has been going down much more slowly. This giving is an expression of our commitment to each other, and the URC could not function without it. So it is a big THANK YOU for your church's contribution to the M and M fund.'

John Gibbons, Fleet URC Church Treasurer



FRIENDS OF PALANI MISSION:

Bulletin No 4, September 2019

Summary Minutes

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

Ruth opened the meeting with prayer and the following items were discussed:

Prayer Diary: Jenny Butterworth suggested a prayer diary for the period that Ruth, Bee and Val are in India. This was agreed by all at the meeting, and Jenny and Christine will facilitate this. It will be made available to all church members.

The **Fun Day** held on 21st September was discussed. Several games were planned, a Tombola, musical items, plus tea and a video link with India. The credit card machine would also be available for donations. (See report on page 6.)

There followed a discussion about the **Palani Stall at the Autumn Craft Fair:**

Sheeba has suggested making the following items for sale at the Fair: 100 bags with logo, 12 purses, 12 shoulder bags, 6 cushions, 6 table runners, 6 placemat sets, large and medium ladies' tops, and hair scrunchies. Ruth, Bee and Val will also purchase some cotton scarves, and possibly some beadwork jewellery and small ornaments to sell.

A few other items were suggested: spectacle cases, drawstring bags, peg bags.

Future Events:

The **Coffee Morning** initially planned for October is to be moved to early spring, and run as a Cream Tea event.

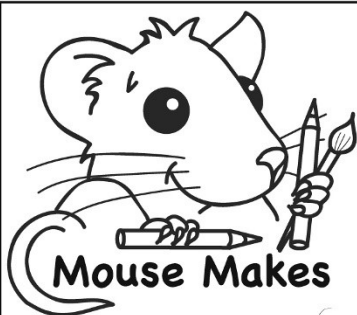
Curry Evening, possibly February 2020.

Car Treasure Hunt, organised by John Gibbons.

A discussion about how the money should be spent followed, and it was decided that we should proceed with sinking a well for the village and providing some sort of roofing for the worst properties. This would leave a small amount for various smaller projects.

Carol Rayner



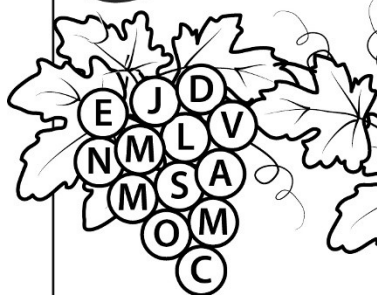
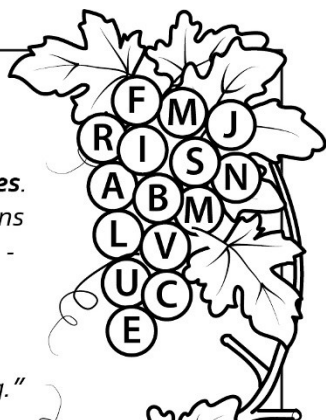


THE TRUE VINE

Jesus said:

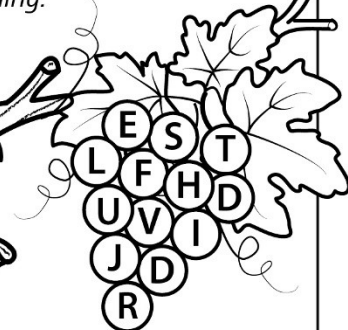
"I am the **vine**;
you are the **branches**.
The one who remains
in me -and I in him -
bears much **fruit**,
because apart
from me you can
accomplish nothing."

John 15:5



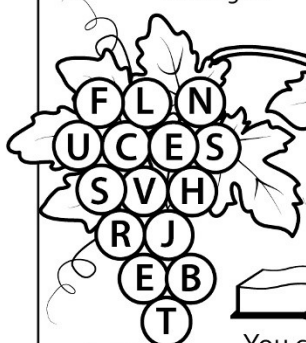
"My **commandment** is this -
to love one another just
as I have loved you."

John 15:12



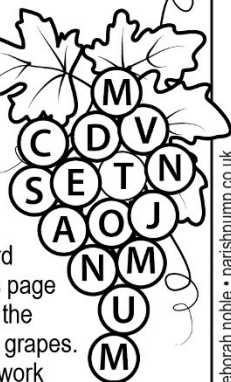
"No one has greater
love than this -
that one lays down
his life for his friends."

John 15:13



You can read
Jesus' teaching on
The True Vine in:
John 15:1-17

Each of the word
in **bold** on this page
is hidden in the
bunches of grapes.
Can you work
out which bunch
each word is in?



How many other
words can you make from:
THE TRUE VINE

CHURCH CALENDAR

OCTOBER—NOVEMBER 2019

October

6th	10 am	<i>Harvest Thanksgiving</i> Family Worship, Gift & Parade Service led by Revd Ruth Dillon
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
7th	12 noon	Prayer Group (see p 5)
13th	10 am	Family Worship led by Mr Peter Pay
14th	2 pm	'Follow the Lectionary' Group (see p 5)
	7.30 pm	Bible Book Club
<i>18th—29th Visit to Palani Mission</i>		
20th	10 am	Family Worship & Holy Communion led by Mrs Anna Crawford
27th	10 am	Family Worship led by Mrs Thelma Roberts
30th	7.45 pm	Elders' Meeting
31st	7.30 pm	Bible Book Club

November

2nd	10.30 am—3 pm	<i>Autumn Craft & Gift Fair</i>
3rd	10 am	Family Worship led by Revd Ruth Dillon, followed by Church Meeting & Election of Elders
	3 pm	'Service of Remembering and Thanksgiving' led by Revd Ruth Dillon (see p 5)
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship & Holy Communion led by Revd Ruth Dillon
4th	2 pm	Monthly Prayer Group (see p 5)
10th		<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>
	10 am	Family Worship led by Mr Paul Murphy
12th	2 pm	'Follow the Lectionary' Group (see p 5) - <i>date to be confirmed</i>
17th	10 am	Family Worship & Holy Communion, led by Revd Ruth Dillon
24th	10 am	Family Worship led by Mr Howard Sharpe

December

1st	10 am	Parade & Gift Service led by Revd Ruth Dillon
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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 next issue of *In Touch* should be with the editor, Christine Gibbons by **Sunday 10th November** (christine.gibbons@beech-ride.co.uk).