

InTouch

Autumn 2020



The magazine of
Fleet and Beacon Hill
United Reformed Churches

FLEET URC & BEACON HILL URC JOINT PASTORATE

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

We are not meeting in our church building for worship at present, but please join us on Sunday mornings when we will either livestream a service on Zoom or post a recorded service by our Minister Revd Ruth Dillon or lay preacher Karen Smith.

An email will be sent out a few days beforehand giving details of the following Sunday's service, and instructions for accessing it.

All service recordings are available on the church websites, Facebook pages and YouTube channel (see facing page).

For more information, please contact :

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For details of all other activities please see pages 6 & 7



FROM THE MANSE



Dear Friends

Who would have thought that, six months on, we would still be in a situation where social distancing, mask wearing and limited social contact is the 'norm'?

The 'new normal' for church life is still evolving, and to be honest, even though the Elders are reviewing the situation monthly, there is no date for a return to worship in our familiar church buildings. So for the foreseeable future—at least for the next six months—communion, recorded and live worship, the prayer and nurture groups, coffee mornings, quizzes and fellowship will continue through the digital platform we have come to use, which is **Zoom**.

The miracle of technology has enabled us to continue to worship God by digital means; however I was in a conversation with another URC minister last week, who said, *'Can you imagine how difficult it would be if we did not have the wonders of digital media?'*

At Fleet and Beacon Hill we have tried to employ all the latest technology: Zoom, Twilio audio recordings, podcasts, Twitter, and WeTransfer, to name a few. Some may say it has been a hard road to travel; yet others have commented how it has energised their faith.

Yes, church may be different in the future, where we will have to pre-register to attend, social distance, wear masks, no hymn singing, no orders of worship,

and no coffee and fellowship. Church is certainly different now, and will be in the future! However it got me thinking about our faith in these changing times. Times they certainly are a-changing, but God is in the midst of our change, forever faithful, forever encouraging us, and forever blessing us.

So in this Autumn edition of *'In Touch'* I offer you my own interpretation of—**Z-O-O-M:**

Z is for Zeal: Enthusiasm is something that was initially missing when lockdown happened, yet even though we cannot meet as we did before, our passion and zeal for Christ hopefully has not waned. We are like the early disciples, who were lost and alone when Jesus died on the cross, hiding in their rooms and homes, not knowing what the future would be like. Some of us may feel that we are in a spiritual Holy Saturday, where life was not how it was and the future is also unknowable—a void where we wait.

However in Christ there is no east or west, no north or south: Christ is everywhere, which also means within our digital spirituality. God is in the midst of our digital spaces, and when I think of the possibilities and opportunities this brings I get really excited: my passion and faith become real, and so my zeal for Christ becomes tangible again.

**We know that all things work together for good
for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.**

Romans 8:28

O is for Obedient: Worship, faith and ritual have been things that many of us have taken for granted over the years. Sunday morning worship: same structure, same seat, same hymn book. But now everything is up in the air, and we are waiting to catch other important aspects of our faith through different media. Nevertheless, being obedient in Christ means that, in the midst of our chaos, the Spirit brings us a heart of obedience. Yes, the environment is different, but we remain obedient to the ever-living Christ.

**Make my joy complete; be of the same mind, having the same love,
being in full accord and of one mind.**

Philippians 2: 2

O is for Omnipresent: One of the most challenging and yet understandable statements I have heard, is that God is in the church building, and so our worship now is not authentic. To help us grapple with this I would like to remind us all of the omnipresence of God; that God is all-knowing, in the sense that God is aware of past, present and future. God is closer than breath itself, and God does not limit Godself to buildings, or even to time itself. God is the same today as God was at the beginning of the dawn of creation; God is the same God as Jesus.

He is in all things and in Him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:17

M is for Members: That feeling of togetherness has also been a challenge as we physically cannot meet together; yet we are still members of the one body, each with different gifts and skills. Members of the body of Christ have a useful and vital function, and that is to spread the Good News. Yes, we may not be together in the church building, but our prayer life, discipleship and development can still continue as God still calls us to mission, worship, prayer and discipleship.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12: 12

So **Zoom** for me is an opportunity to develop my zeal for God, to develop my obedience to God, to recognise the omnipresent God, and to walk with other members within the love of Christ.

Do not be afraid, for I am with you.

Isaiah 41:10

Blessings as we come to the end of 2020,

Ruth, Hannah and William xx

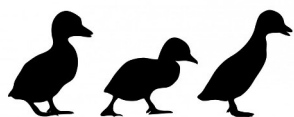


THE PARABLE OF THE DUCKLINGS

A pair of ducks had lived happily on a small pond for several years. When the ducklings were ready to leave the nest the mother duck attempted to lead them to the pond. With much anxious quacking and wing flapping she urged them towards the mud. But the ducklings refused to go. They heard the rippling of water from another direction and their instincts guided them to a nearby reservoir created by the new dam which had caused their pond to dry up. They left their mother quacking in the mud and set off to the fresh water.

The mother duck had only ever known the one pond; she knew it well and had been happy there. She could not envisage that another place might be better for her young family. The ducklings on the other hand were ready to embrace a new future in a place where they could flourish.

As Christians we must be like the ducklings—open to new opportunities and new ideas, open to learning new things and being church in new ways. Let us not be like the mother duck—stuck in the mud—but move forward guided by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit.



Roy Beard, Farnham URC

PASTORAL VISITING (FLEET & BEACON HILL)

A reminder to everyone that all the Elders of Beacon Hill and Fleet have a pastoral list to enable us to keep in touch with members of our respective congregations. Any queries, please speak to Margaret Armes for Fleet or to Karen, as Pastoral Care Coordinator for Beacon Hill. Otherwise please contact Ruth.



SUPPORTING YOU IN DIFFICULT TIMES

FLEET URC TWITTER FEED



Do keep an eye on Fleet URC Twitter feed. This has daily Bible readings to encourage us in this difficult time. Each week has a theme, so you are invited to look and reflect on the daily passage.

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



FAITH AND LIFE PODCASTS

Each week Ruth records a short podcast reflecting on ways our lives are touched by our faith. These are published every Wednesday on our church websites. You can also dial in to listen to the latest podcast on 01252 978353. The cost of the call is your normal charge for a Fleet area phone call.

PRAYER CIRCLE (FLEET)

Since the circle started in March this year we have been privileged to pray regularly for 26 different people with many different needs—some for a long period of time, some just for one month.

We have had several expressions of thanks for prayers answered positively, and we thank God, our loving father, for his divine hand of support and intervention.

There are four of us who commit to daily prayer for all those whose need is given to us, and would remind everyone that we are available in confidence, if you have a need you would like to share.

Margaret Tracey, Fleet URC (01252 246195)



MEETING TOGETHER ON ZOOM



Zoom meetings are open to all members of the congregations of Fleet URC and Beacon Hill URC, and invitations are sent out via email beforehand.

Please contact the church secretaries if you haven't received an email, need help with Zoom, or would like to know how to phone in to a meeting.



ZOOM COMMUNION

(11 am, 1st Sunday in month)

We have been meeting on Zoom to have a communion service. This monthly service has been an opportunity to sense God's presence when we share bread and wine together in our own homes. Since we cannot share communion in our church building, we gather as a scattered community coming together as disciples of Christ, to remember and partake in this sacrament.

VIRTUAL COFFEE MORNINGS ON ZOOM



Beacon Hill URC:
11 am, Saturdays

Fleet URC:
11 am, Thursdays
(includes a quiz)

ZOOM MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP



The monthly Prayer Group will meet on Zoom on **Mondays at 2 pm** on the following dates:

12th October, 9th November, 14th December

Come and join us for 30 minutes of quiet meditation

ZOOM MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY/NURTURE GROUP



During COVID-19 we have been meeting on Zoom each month to explore 'Pictures of the Kingdom'. Now, as we look towards Advent

and Christmas, we will be exploring women in the nativity story.

We normally meet on Zoom at **2 pm** on the 3rd Monday of every month.

If there are any changes in date you will be notified.

The dates of the next gatherings are:

Monday 26th October (4th Monday); **Monday 16th November;**
Monday 21st December

COVID-19

A reflective prayer on the virus, and the effect it has had on our lives



Lord, in recent weeks we have been waking to the dull edge of darkness, followed by the imminent birth of light, and that first early morning ray of sunlight, with its thrusting beams and slivers of slanting light intruding into our homes. Outside the world has been hushed and taut: the Coronavirus pandemic has caused a global economic and social earthquake. The silence is only broken by the welcome song of the birds. Many of us have been confined to our homes to protect our health, while a large number of public buildings and places of work have had to remain closed. We have missed our freedom and individuality to go wherever we please. The big and small blessings of our everyday life have seldom seemed more vivid than during this time, which has helped us focus on what is important in life.

We give thanks for our hospital and care home medical teams who, with the aid of their support workers, rose admirably to the challenge of fighting the virus. All available resources were mobilised in a vast, high speed, collective effort. The dedication, skills, courage, attention to detail and cheerful 'can do' attitude contributed to a positive outcome for so many patients who were seriously ill.



Sadly, many nurses, support workers and patients succumbed to the indiscriminate, devastating effects of this remorseless enemy that they had been fighting. We ask that you comfort and support all those who have lost a loved one. May they know you are at their side with your arms wide open to guide and strengthen them.

Give our politicians courage, strength, wisdom and vision to make the necessary bold decisions they face at this difficult and challenging time. May they work together in harmony for the common good, to achieve an outcome that leaves no one out and enriches everyone's quality of life.

We would like to thank you for the gift of modern technology, enabling us to gather together as a church family and with others far and wide, to worship during the lockdown and these uncertain times.

Amen

Michael Orchard, Beacon Hill URC



BEACON HILL: OCEAN STARS UPDATE

Great news! Beacon Hill URC have now raised enough money for a fishing boat to be bought. The recipient, Mr S Arasaratnam, comes from a poor family background and lives under the poverty line with his mother, sister and her three children. His sister's husband died in 2017 and he has taken the responsibility of caring for his sister and her three children.

(For more information about Beacon Hill's work with the Ocean Stars Trust see pages 16-17.)



FLEET: PALANI MISSION UPDATE



Unfortunately Elizabeth & Steve English and Ruth will not be able to visit Palani this year as planned, as the situation there is very difficult with the widespread pandemic. However our mission work goes on.

In a recent Zoom call Revd John Abraham and Sheebajohn reported that the initial goat project continues to be very successful, the replacement of roofs on three houses has been completed, the sponsored girls have successfully completed the first year of their two-year nursing courses, and the medical camps have treated more than 100 people who have no access to medical help. The emergency medical fund set up by Ruth, Bee and Val on their last visit has enabled fifty villagers to be treated for cancers, tuberculosis, skin diseases and cardiac problems. The sinking of a deep borehole to supply fresh water to the villagers has been suspended due to the combined effect of the rainy season and Covid-19; however Reverend John confirmed that they still have the money for this to go ahead once conditions improve.

Sheebajohn said that the villagers were very thankful for the support that our church has given them and regard it as a true blessing. She asked for our prayers, alongside the financial aid.

The Friends of Palani Mission group will meet shortly to decide how we can best continue to help them.

MACMILLAN COFFEE RUN AT BEACON HILL URC

At Beacon Hill we have been holding weekly virtual coffee mornings to stay in touch with each other since lockdown began. In recent years our coffee bar, The Hub, collected donations for the Macmillan Coffee Morning in September to raise funds for this fabulous charity. It made sense to combine the two with another virtual coffee morning for the 2020 Macmillan fundraiser. Perhaps it was the lockdown opportunity to improve home baking for some, or the prospect of sharing a talent for others, but the Elders decided to make the morning that bit more special by baking cakes and dropping them off for the church family to enjoy together on the virtual call.



The Packing

Every member of the church family was phoned, giving another opportunity to check in and chat, to see if they would be at home and would like to receive a delivery. Baking took place across the week and treats included sausage rolls for those partial to savoury over sweet, apricot and cranberry fruit loaf, tea loaf, banana bread, cupcakes, and even some gluten free buns!

On the Saturday morning the team assembled in face masks at the church to slice up, wrap and package the treats. A seamless but socially distanced production line was formed! Then those who wanted to take up the delivery offer were grouped based on geography for the four bakers/delivery drivers to visit.

Deliveries included Beacon Hill, Grayshott, Haslemere, Liphook, Farnham and Odiham! It was lovely to see people



The Delivery



The Eating

whilst keeping an appropriate social distance. Cakes were delivered and donations for Macmillan and for the harvest food bank collection received. By the time the bakers/drivers returned home it was definitely time for that cuppa and sweet treat.

While some were not able or chose not to dial into the coffee morning, they shared their appreciation of the deliveries, and we also had a couple of friends join the virtual

call for the first time! A wonderful conclusion to the morning—shared with friends for a great cause. Many thanks to all who helped. A total of £315 (so far!) was raised for Macmillan.

Christine Allen, Beacon Hill URC



MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM CHURCH HOUSE

To: The members and friends of all our 1,400 URC congregations

‘THANK YOU’ for your unique and vital contribution to the life of the United Reformed Church, and for the work of the kingdom which we are able to do together in God’s name.

We are living through an extraordinary and challenging time—a very anxious time for everyone; a difficult time for many; and a time of suffering and loss for some. Yet the main purpose of this letter is to say ‘thank you’ to each of you for all that you have done for the Church in the past; for all that you continue to do even in these difficult times; and for what you will do in the future.

‘THANK YOU’ for your giving to your local church. Financially, this giving is the lifeblood of your own church and of the whole United Reformed Church across England, Scotland and Wales. It is this personal giving that enables your local church treasurer to pay your church’s bills. Typically, the largest of those ‘bills’ is the contribution your local church pays to the URC Ministry and Mission Fund. This Fund meets the central costs of the United Reformed Church. The total budget is around £20 million and is approved each year by Mission Council. Over 80% of this money is spent on ministers and church related community workers—their training, stipends and pensions. But the other 20% also achieves an enormous amount on behalf of us all.

Ian Hardie (Treasurer) & John Piper (Deputy Treasurer) United Reformed Church

FLEET CHURCH FINANCES—Some facts and figures

It is a challenging, bewildering and frustrating time for all of us, and in one way or another we all need support to see us through the pandemic, and the same goes for our church.



These difficult times are draining our resources because of the lockdown and the restrictions placed upon meetings, and as a direct consequence of this our income is severely impaired. Even though the church has for the large part remained unoccupied, it still takes energy and maintenance just to stand still, and this all needs to be paid. With not holding services, and building rentals suspended in the main, our reserves have fallen by more than £16,000 to date, and clearly there is a limit to how long this can continue.

As a church we will strive to assist within the local community, keeping true to our mission by helping the many charities and support groups who may become swamped by demand.

We realise that some of our members have lost their employment and need our prayers, but for those who can continue to give we are very grateful and ask, 'Could you consider extra donations at this challenging time?' Perhaps you could set up a standing order through your bank or transfer money electronically; or maybe you could save up cash donations for a later time, or use our credit card reader. If you do make a payment, then please reference your name or let me know. Please contact me for our bank details.

If you are a UK taxpayer and can gift aid your donations, the church can claim back 25% through the government gift aid scheme.

'Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.'

2 Corinthians 9, v 6-8

John Gibbons, Fleet URC Church Treasurer



HOW TO BE GREEN... *even in difficult times*

Our world had a much needed break from us humans during lockdown. With less traffic, there was less noise and pollution. Scientific studies have even shown that birds sang differently when the world was more peaceful. Unfortunately there has also been an increase in littering, with masks and gloves being the main culprits. Birds have been found with their legs caught in mask elastic while rivers and seas have gloves and masks floating in them.

So what can you do? Unless you have a skin condition (such as eczema), which makes hand washing and use of sanitisers tricky, there is no need for gloves. Hands are much easier to wash, and studies have shown that people



are much more conscious about keeping clean *without* gloves. Masks, on the other hand, are mandatory, so why not buy fabric ones rather than disposable? They can be popped in the wash with your regular washing, and this will save you money as well as being greener. They are available in Fleet shops as well as online, with local people making them too (including my neighbour: please get in touch if you'd like details!).

If you have the time, why not check out some of the programmes that the BBC have been showing, including *War on Plastic with Hugh and Anita*, or David Attenborough's *Extinction: The Facts*. We are at a turning point for our natural world, and we should all do all that we can. Perhaps consider these words from Wangari Maathai, founder of the Kenyan Green Belt Movement, Environmentalist and Political Activist: 'Sometimes I tell myself, I may only be planting a tree here, but just imagine what's happening if there are billions of people out there doing *something*. Just imagine the power of what we can do.'

Grace Bagshaw, Fleet URC



PRAYER FOR TODAY

Jesus talked of people, on dying and being faced with the consequences of what they have done (or not done) to others. He talked of how individuals react to those who are hungry or thirsty, strangers, without clothing, sick or imprisoned.

Each day we meet people who are—in many different ways—'naked' or 'sick' or 'imprisoned'.



Let's reflect as though Jesus himself was speaking the following words, knowing that he said we are brothers and sisters to one another, and what we do for them we do for Jesus himself:

- **I was naked** because my dignity and self-respect were undermined—but you remained constant and faithful.
- I was stripped of my good name through rumours that were untrue—but you spoke up for me.
- I felt diminished and vulnerable—but you restored my confidence and faith.
- **I was sick** and tired and downcast—but you brought healing into my life.
- I was anxious about my future—but you lifted my spirits, and your love cast out my fear.
- I felt overburdened—but you shared my difficulties and helped me to carry my cross.
- **I felt imprisoned** by those who judged and sentenced me—but you accepted me for who I am.
- I felt entrapped by circumstances—but you showed me that I have control over my own life.
- I was imprisoned by hurts and anguish—but you helped to ease the pain.

Let's pause in silence to think how, in such small ways, we can set about to touch the lives of a few people today.

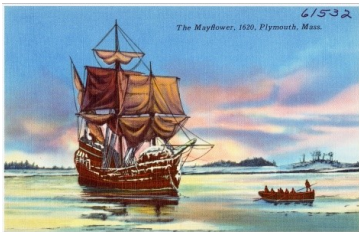
Ruth



ECUMENISM OR REFORMATION—OR BOTH?

Some years ago, the Church of England and the United Reformed Church held a service of reconciliation in Westminster Abbey, when we forgave one another for past misdeeds and promised to work well together in the future. I have to say I have noticed no difference in the relationship since the event, and none of my Anglican friends have ever heard of what happened—except through me.

Since then both churches have continued to decline in number, and for the sake of our country and the Gospel all the churches need to do things differently. Most people acknowledge that we shall come out of this pandemic a changed nation, and it seems to me a golden opportunity for as many of the churches in this land as will, to come together and make plans so that we shall become better servants of the Gospel in the future—and to do it together. And we need to be very different!



In this month when we celebrate 400 years since the sailing of the Mayflower, we remember the vision of those Puritans, who were agents of the real Reformation in this country, and much of what they stood for then is very relevant today. The Church of England from which they sought to escape was a construct of King Henry VIII, Queen

Elizabeth I, and others, and the Queen's main purpose was to unify the nation in one Church where everyone belonged, and they were to be fined for non attendance. That might have seemed a possibility in the 1500s, but clearly isn't now when we have many different churches and religions, so that the Elizabethan settlement won't do. And the things the Puritans stood for are as relevant now as then, such as objecting to 16th century vestments, hierarchical government, a false understanding of membership, set prayers and the bogus division between laity and clergy.

In the end the challenge is missiological, in that most of our fellow citizens have completely rejected us as being totally irrelevant to their lives, and belonging to a past age, when the truth is that we hold the keys to that abundant life God intends for all people, and for which all crave. We need a church suitable for the age of a future King William rather than a 16th century queen, and we need each other to form it. The matter is urgent and complicated, but with God's help all things are possible, especially when the need is so great.

Stephen M Thornton (retired Fleet URC minister)

SRI LANKA—OCEAN STARS (BEACON HILL URC)

From conversations with Ruth and through attending her mission-focussed services, we at Beacon Hill URC (BHURC) learnt something of the fruitful link between Fleet URC and the Palani Mission, so we thought readers of *InTouch* might be interested to hear about our link to Ocean Stars, a charity which promotes pre-schools and other educational endeavours in Sri Lanka.

The initial link was between an Ocean Stars pre-school and the nursery school which operates on our church premises. Then following a talk given by Dilanee Bunter, founder of Ocean Stars and member of Fleet Methodist Church, this broadened out to a link between BHURC and Thirukkivil Methodist Church in Eastern Sri Lanka, and then to a link with Ocean Stars in general.

Ocean Stars was founded in 2005 when Dilanee, who was brought up in Sri Lanka and is a Sri Lankan as well as a UK citizen, returned to her country in the immediate aftermath of the tsunami which had devastated homes and livelihoods in the coastal areas of Sri Lanka and killed 35,000+ of their inhabitants. Appalled by the plight of the survivors, she determined to help by raising money and materials abroad to found pre-schools and orphanages and initiate other charitable projects to help those whose lives had been devastated.

Add to the mix the fact that Sri Lanka was at that time in the middle of a long and brutal civil war, and one can imagine what an uphill struggle Dilanee must have had, especially as the worst effects of the tsunami were experienced by the Tamil, poorer areas of Sri Lanka. In spite of this, since 2005 Ocean Stars has gone from strength to strength and continues to found new pre-schools and other projects, mostly in the Tamil areas of Sri Lanka. (Although state provision of education in Sri Lanka is generally very good, it does not include any significant support for pre-schools.)

In non-Covid times Dilanee leads groups of people, including pupils from Calthorpe Park Secondary School, on tours of Ocean Stars schools and some of its other projects in Sri Lanka. These tours are a lot of fun, but hard work,



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

with the visitors being educated just as much, if not more than, the children and adults they intend to support!

In October 2018 Ruth, my family and others spent two weeks visiting and helping at nearly all of the 20 pre-schools set up and managed by Ocean Stars. The pace was quite hectic and, as well as visits to the pre-schools, included a visit to a big orphanage established originally for survivors of the 2004 tsunami (*photo 1*), a church service at Thirukkivil Methodist Church (*photo 2*), attendance at a social gathering for the deaf, and attendance at a teacher training day. These photos (*photos 3 & 4*) give a flavour of some of the fun we had at the pre-schools we visited.

In many ways Sri Lanka has a sophisticated and, despite the ravages of a civil war, tolerant society. It has an adult literacy rate of 92% and is one of the most culturally and religiously diverse countries in Asia: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Christianity are all well represented. But it is easy to forget just how rich we are overall in comparison with Sri Lanka and other developing countries: per capita income in the UK is over three times what it is in Sri Lanka.

At Beacon Hill URC we have taken small steps to support Ocean Stars in its great development work, through Sunday collections and a fund-raising summer tea party, and through promoting publicity for it whenever we can. So far we have raised money to provide a new bicycle for a pre-school teacher who struggled with transport to and from her school and—our best fund-raiser to date—money for the purchase of a new fishing boat for a family whose main potential earner was without a livelihood. (*See page 9.*)

BHURC's link with Ocean Stars is one of the most worthwhile aspects of its mission, and hopefully it will continue to be so for many years to come!

Hugh Le Fanu, Beacon Hill URC

(For more information about Ocean Stars go to: <https://oceanstars.org.uk/home>)

KNITTED ANGELS



Well, what a year 2020 has turned out to be! I never thought that we would still be so isolated from everyone.

What has made me think this is that at this time of year I would be nagging you all about knitting or crocheting Angels for local distribution around the streets in Fleet, on school gates and residential homes, arranging a label-attaching morning, asking for your help placing them around the town, and then having the blessing in our church.

But I am sorry to say that the traditional 'Angel Bombing' will not be happening. As a group we have decided that this would not be seen as a very safe practice re Covid. The plan now is that we donate the Angels to the residential homes in Fleet and Church Crookham. We will therefore need approximately 1,000 to distribute this year.

I know, from speaking to several of you, that many of you have already been busy knitting, which is wonderful, and I am grateful for what you have done. Please can you contact me as soon as you can on 01252 659569 to let me know how many you have already knitted and crocheted. If you wish to continue knitting would you please also give me an estimate of the total number you think you will have so that I can pass this on to the coordinator.

I am quite happy to collect them from you and store them until we distribute them to LivingStones during Advent.

God bless and keep safe,

Darrell Henderson, Fleet URC



Digital Worship: Advent & Christmas Services

Preparations for Advent and Christmas are well under way. However things will be a little different this year.

Christmas services **will be hosted on Zoom** and either live-streamed or recorded in advance. Services will also be uploaded to the church websites, Facebook pages, and YouTube account.

Ruth and Karen will be preaching throughout Christmas and here are some of the events planned.



Advent

The theme of Advent this year will be 'The Road to Bethlehem', and each week the Advent candles and liturgy will be lit and read by members of our two congregations, starting on the 1st Sunday in Advent, 29th November.

It is hoped that each church family or member will make or buy an Advent wreath or ring so that we can all light our Advent candles together.



Christingle Service—13th December

Our Christingle service will also be different this year. A live Zoom service will be held at 10.30 am, with us all making our own Christingle.

Favourite Christmas Carols—20th December

A service where we will sing carols and hear the familiar Christmas story once again. Watch out for an invitation to submit your favourite carol!

Church Christmas Card (Fleet)

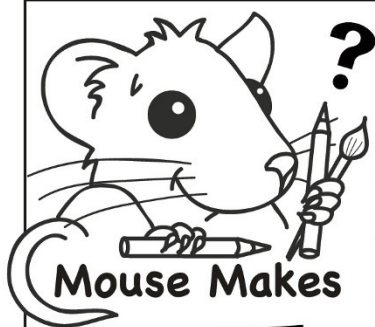
We will have a church Christmas card as usual this year, and the design is currently being planned.

Outdoor Get-Together (Fleet)

We are in the early stages of planning a socially distanced outdoor get-together in the church car park, with mince pies and mulled wine.

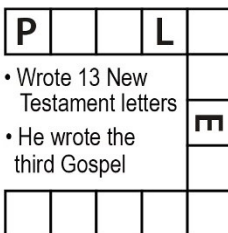
Look out for more information about all these Christmas events in the coming weeks!



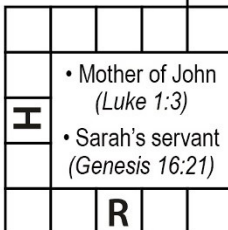


WHO AM I?

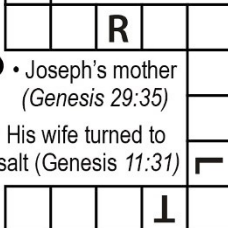
The last letter of
one name is the
first letter of
the next name.



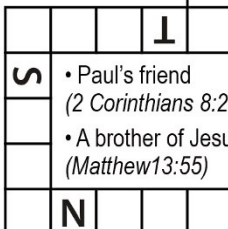
- Wrote 13 New Testament letters
- He wrote the third Gospel



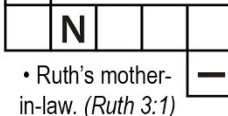
- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| | • Mother of John
(Luke 1:3) |
| I | • Sarah's servant
(Genesis 16:21) |
| | |



- Joseph's mother (*Genesis 29:35*)
- His wife turned to salt (*Genesis 11:31*)



- | | |
|---|---|
| S | • Paul's friend
(2 Corinthians 8:27) |
| | • A brother of Jesus
(Matthew 13:55) |
| | |



- Ruth's mother-in-law. (*Ruth* 3:1)

IT'S A PUZZLE!

God sent **9** plagues
on Egypt...

What were they?

Change each letter to the one after it in the alphabet to find out.



FIND THE MISSING HUSBANDS

Match the wife
to their husband

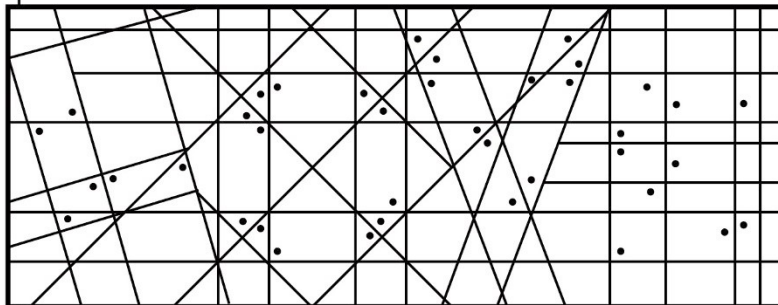
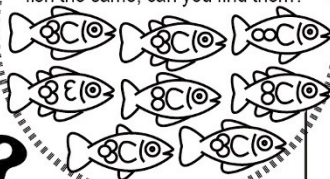


MARY	BOAZ
SARAH	JACOB
RUTH	ZECHARIAH
REBEKAH	JOSEPH
RACHEL	ABRAHAM
ELIZABETH	ISAAC



FIND THE FISH

The Disciples have been fishing and have caught **TWO** fish the same, can you find them?



Colour in all the shapes with a DOT to find out what Jesus want us to do

