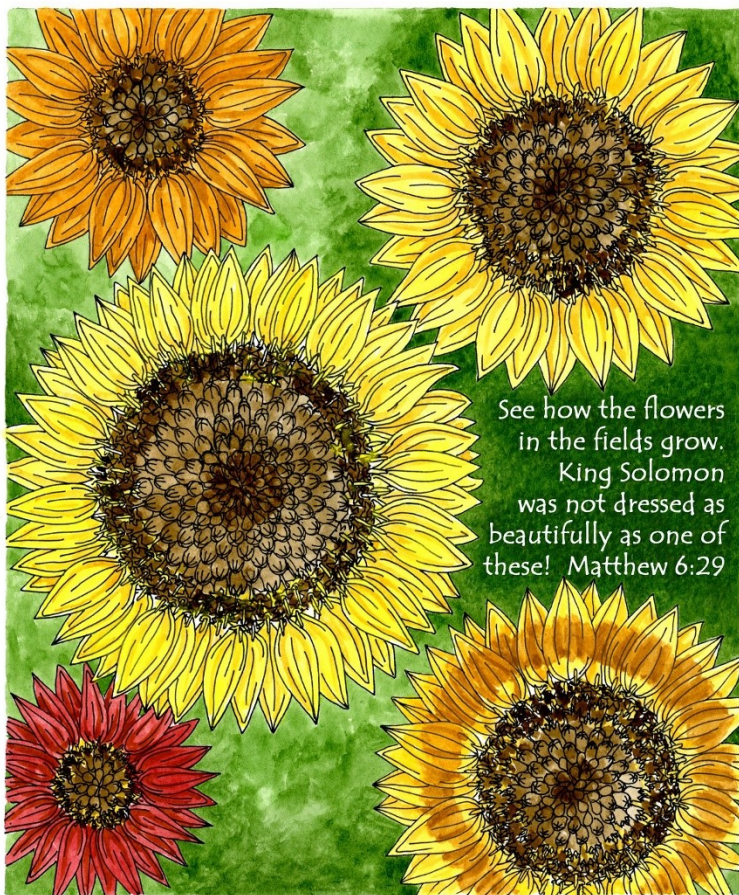


# InTouch

Summer 2021



The magazine of  
Fleet and Beacon Hill  
United Reformed Churches

# FLEET URC & BEACON HILL URC JOINT PASTORATE

*Minister:* We are currently in vacancy



## FLEET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Kings Road, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 3AF

*tel:* 01252 623629 (ansaphone)

*email:* [admin@fleeturc.org.uk](mailto:admin@fleeturc.org.uk)

**web:** [www.fleet.urc.org.uk](http://www.fleet.urc.org.uk)



[www.facebook.com/fleeturc](http://www.facebook.com/fleeturc)



@FleetURC



**YouTube** Fleet and Beacon Hill United Reformed Churches

### CHURCH CONTACTS

*Secretary:* **Margaret Armes**, 01252 650994  
[b.ames@ntlworld.com](mailto:b.ames@ntlworld.com)

*Treasurer:* **John Gibbons**, 01252 614200  
[jmgibbons@hotmail.com](mailto:jmgibbons@hotmail.com)

*Hall Bookings:* **Brian Armes**, 01252 650994  
[b.ames@ntlworld.com](mailto:b.ames@ntlworld.com)



## BEACON HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Churt Road, Beacon Hill, Hindhead, Surrey, GU26 6NL

**web:** [www.beaconhillurc.com](http://www.beaconhillurc.com)



[www.facebook.com/beaconhillurc](http://www.facebook.com/beaconhillurc)



**YouTube** Fleet and Beacon Hill United Reformed Churches

### CHURCH CONTACTS

*Secretary:* **Hugh Le Fanu**, 01428 607546  
[bhurcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:bhurcsecretary@gmail.com)

*Treasurer:* **Christine Allen**, 07713 153110  
[bhurctreasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:bhurctreasurer@yahoo.com)

*Pastoral Care Coordinator:* **Karen Smith**, 07742 669341  
[kpmsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:kpmsmith@hotmail.com)

*Hall Bookings:* **Bridget Mitchell**, 01428 606236  
[bridget.rjm@sky.com](mailto:bridget.rjm@sky.com)

## FROM THE MANSE



### *Dear Friends*

After eight and a half years, this is my final pastoral letter from the church manse.

Over the past few years I have addressed issues of Discipleship, Service, Forgiveness, Resurrection, Mission, Salvation, Hospitality, and of course Love. However, I want to leave you with my thoughts on the most difficult aspect of being a Christian: that is, Trust in God.

- **Do not trust in human power**, but *Trust in God's Power (Faithfulness)*

When a minister leaves, the burden of responsibility weighs heavily on the Elders. Human voices can be loud or soft, strident or reflective, but the most important skill for your Elders, and for the members of the congregation, is to trust in God's power. We all want control over our lives, and indeed future ministry—and I can relate to that more than anyone else. I did not want to retire at this moment due to Long Covid, but I know that God is a faithful God, and I have learned to relinquish my control and trust that God has a greater purpose for me. As a servant of the Kingdom I pray that our human desire for control and organisation will not prevail, and that we can learn to trust our faithful God and sense God's purpose for us in the next phase of ministry at Fleet and Beacon Hill United Reformed Churches.

- **Do not trust in human promises**, but *Trust in the Power of God's Holy Spirit (Discernment)*

Discernment is a word that I think is mainly used in religious circles, where we 'discern' what God is trying to say to us. This is done by the revelation of the Holy Spirit within each one of us. It is that inner voice, that inner sense of what we should be doing, as though God is speaking to us personally via a 1:1 mobile phone network.

In the coming months there will be lots of discussions about how to worship, undertake mission, and address the human needs of God's people, whether locally or globally. We should never make decisions off our own bat, for this is saying that we are greater than God; but we should always pause, and ask ourselves 'what would God want me to do?' Human promises can easily be broken, for we are imperfect; but God's promises for us are never broken. I pray that our human desire to seek the right decisions may be wrapped in the discernment and trust that God's Holy Spirit brings to each one of us.

- **Do not trust in human decisions**, but *Trust in God's Time* (*Koinonia*)

I have preached on this subject before, but we truly need to grasp the difficult concept of *Koinonia*, God's time. In the Old Testament, the prophets, the Kings, the Hebrews, Moses and—yes—Abraham, all realised that trusting in God's time is the right thing to do. The disciples in the New Testament, and all of Jesus' followers looked to Jesus and were horrified when he was crucified, but Jesus trusted God and after pain and death new life emerged through His resurrection. We are impatient people, but this is the trust we must bring before God: Trusting that in God's hands and in God's time, through discernment and faithfulness, it will be God who will prevail. This is the most difficult of all, but if we are to be shining beacons of light, we must trust in God's plan for us.

It has been these three aspects of trust that I have been reflecting on within my life, my ministry, and what the future holds. At this point I have no idea what shape my life may take, but I will trust God.

My prayer for you as members and friends of the two churches, is that you remain faithful to God, discern God's thoughts through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and recognise that God's time is the right time.

*At the right time, God will provide your needs.  
(Psalm 31:15)*

Blessings to you all now, and whatever God brings to you in fellowship and Ministry,

*Ruth xx*



**Ruth's New Address:**

No 7 Point in View Cottages  
Summer Lane  
EXMOUTH  
EX8 5BD

**A Service of Celebration &  
Thanksgiving for the Ministry of  
Reverend Ruth Dillon**

took place on Saturday 27 June  
2021 at 3 pm on Zoom.

The recording of this service is now  
available on the Fleet and Beacon  
Hill URC YouTube channel and on  
our church websites.



## REGULAR MEETINGS CONTINUING ON ZOOM

Although both congregations expect to resume worshipping in their church buildings within the next few weeks, the monthly **Prayer Group** and the **Nurture Group** will continue to meet on Zoom for the time being.  
*(Please note the new time—11 am.)*

### PRAYER GROUP

The monthly Prayer Group will meet on Zoom on **Mondays at 11 am** on the

following dates:

**12 July, 9 August, 13 September**  
(2nd Monday of the month)

Come and join us for 30 minutes of quiet meditation.



### COFFEE MORNINGS— BEACON HILL URC

Occasional coffee mornings are now being held in the church garden. Next one:

**Saturday, 24 July,  
9.30—11 am**



## NOTICE BOARD



### 'NURTURE YOUR FAITH' GROUP

Continuing our series on the prophets, the group will meet on Zoom on **Mondays at 11 am** on the following dates:

**19 July, 16 August, 20 September**  
(3rd Monday of the month)

For more information about the group, see page 7.

### COFFEE MORNINGS— FLEET URC

Our weekly coffee mornings have resumed and are now meeting on **Wednesday mornings, 10 am—12 noon** in the church hall.

Numbers are limited while Covid restrictions are in place, so be sure to reserve your place by phoning John Gibbons (07900 908990)

Come along—meet your friends—make new ones!



## WELCOMING OUR LOCKDOWN BABIES

Here are some lovely photos of the youngest members of our church families, born during the pandemic.

On the right, **Peter Szabo**, son of Istvan and Anita Szabo, is six months old, and will be joining the congregation at Beacon Hill for the first time on 4th July.



Also pictured (left) is seven month old **Isaac Dumbleton** with big brother Luke, sons of Matthew and Rebecca Dumbleton of Fleet URC. According to their Dad, the brothers are already great pals!

We're looking forward to getting to know Peter and Isaac in the coming months!



## REMEMBER ME



St Paul's Cathedral has launched *Remember Me*, an online book of remembrance for those who have died as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. People of all faiths, beliefs or none are invited to contribute to *Remember Me*.

HRH The Prince of Wales, who recorded a video message, said, "This virtual book of remembrance is here not just to recall our loss and sorrow, but also to be thankful for everything good that those we have loved brought into our lives."

Family, friends and carers of those who have died can submit, free of charge, the name, photograph and a short message in honour of a deceased person via the *Remember Me* website. The deceased person must have been living in the UK. *Remember Me* will be open for entries for as long as needed and it is also intended that the site will become a physical memorial at the Cathedral. For more information, see: <https://www.rememberme2020.uk/>

## NURTURE YOUR FAITH GROUP

### Our current series: *'Standing in the Sandals of the Prophets'*

#### *What was discussed in recent sessions?*

We have had an intriguing couple of sessions in recent months on the book of **Nehemiah**, as the first book of some lesser known texts we are discussing in the Nurture Group. We discovered that Nehemiah was born in exile under the command of the Persians who had defeated the Babylonians. God's people returned to the Promised Land in three distinct waves in the 5th and 4th centuries BC. Nehemiah's story is about the third wave and the rebuilding of the city wall in Jerusalem.



We built a word picture of the character of Nehemiah from our readings. Even though he was brought up in exile he had a strong religious faith, devoted to following God's way through prayer and action. The story opens at the Persian King's winter palace in the city of Susa, which had been mentioned in Daniel. Nehemiah was a senior influential official as cupbearer to the King.

The regard in which he was held is revealed in the support the Persian King gave him to ensure a safe passage to Jerusalem for his visit. Nehemiah comes over as a shrewd, organised leader. He overcomes all sorts of opposition from local tribe leaders, who mock and ridicule his efforts to rebuild Jerusalem, and from the Israelites themselves, who waver from enthusiastically embracing the work to being fearful of the might of the outside tribes, and becoming weary of the task. We could identify with these 5th century people as we work to rebuild our presence as church in 21st century England!

We also had a short discussion about Jerusalem—so often mentioned in the New Testament—and whether we understood or knew much about it as a city. The map we looked at showed the division of labour to build the wall, and we could see the East Gate, which is thought to be the gate by which Jesus entered the city on Palm Sunday.

#### *What's Next?*

We meet again on **Monday 19 July at 11 am on Zoom**. Have a chat with some of the church members from both churches who have attended—I hope they will encourage you to come along to listen, enjoy fellowship and grow in discipleship as you bring your point of view on the book of **Amos**. Notes are sent out in advance so that you have an idea of what might be discussed.

*Karen Smith*

## GOLDEN JOTTINGS NO 3: 'ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL'

*The third in a series of reminiscences by Bernard and Mavis Potter, marking their 50 years of membership at Fleet URC.*

When reflecting on our special memories from the past 50 years, the hymn 'All things bright and beautiful' comes to mind for three particular reasons:

**All things bright and beautiful**

Words: C. F. Alexander (d.1895)      Music: W. H. Monk (d.1889)



All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings;  
He made their glowing colours,  
He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,  
The river running by,  
The sunset and the morning  
That brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden,  
He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.

**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, FLEET**  
**MOTHERS DAY—MARCH 20th, 1977**  
**JUNIOR CHURCH**

1. Prior to 1977, Mothers Day gifts were usually posies of wild flowers picked by the Junior Church staff from around the local area. It was decided in this particular year to do something different. A card was produced with the words and music of 'All things bright and beautiful'. The single card was the size illustrated (left). From comments received, they were much appreciated by the recipients.

2. Our Church took its turn with the other churches in the town to lead the weekly Sunday Afternoon Service at Fleet Hospital. It was a simple service, which included hymns, prayers and Bible readings. Usually the patients were invited to choose a hymn, and one of the most popular was 'All things bright and beautiful'. Why? The explanation was: 'We sang it

in Sunday School'. They remembered the words and tune, so they were able to join in and feel that they had made a contribution to the Service.

3. As part of the Annual Carnival Celebrations, Fleet & Crookham Christian Council joined with the Carnival Committee to present a 'Songs of Praise' Evening' on the Fairground Dodgem Track. (Latterly it was held in the Carnival Marquee.) Each Church was asked to provide someone to choose



a hymn and announce it. Our representative on one occasion was a Junior Church member (Emma Gibbons), who chose 'All things bright and beautiful. From what I remember, Emma was probably one of the youngest ever to perform this task, which was much appreciated, as was the hymn.

*Bernard and Mavis Potter, Fleet URC*

\*Over the years copyright and reproduction laws have changed, as have rules on the picking of wild flowers etc. Organisations have changed both in name and input—some would say not always for the best.



## **A PRAYER FOR A MEETING ON A SUMMER EVENING AS WE EMERGE FROM THE PANDEMIC**



Lord, as another glorious summer day draws to a close, we thank you for the opportunity to meet here today, following many anxious months of restrictions to our lives as a result of the COVID virus.

We have all noticed, and give thanks for, the warm loving caring spirit kindled by the restraints of the virus. Many volunteers spontaneously rose to the occasion to keep an eye on their neighbour, often at risk to themselves, but with great courage, dedication and commitment to help those less able to manage the COVID restrictions and all the difficulties they presented.

Many friendships have been formed because of the care and help given to the housebound, frail, lonely, homeless and those with health problems. May they know you are always at their side to support, protect and guide them as they wrestle selflessly with a variety of challenging problems confronting them day by day.

We ask that you make our lives into rays of sunshine to bring joy, peace and comfort to all we encounter in our daily lives.

*Amen*

*Michael Orchard, Beacon Hill URC*



## GUARDIAN OF THE MASON BEES

About four years ago Moray gave me the best Christmas present ever! He enrolled me as a Guardian of Mason Bees.

Mason bees are named for their habit of using mud or other ‘masonry’ products in constructing their nests, which are made in naturally occurring gaps such as between cracks in stones or other small dark cavities. These beautiful bees do not sting or cause any nuisance to us while we are sitting in the garden; they only require a safe place for their release box, with adjacent nesting tubes, local flowers and blossom.

That Christmas I was given the release box and nesting tubes in a pipe—and then the process began. In late March the new cocoons arrived by post. We put them in our cool garage until the end of April, then we put them out in their release box and waited. It was wonderful to see that as soon as our apple blossom came out the males started buzzing about the release box trying to wake up the females—a very romantic procedure, as they bite their bottoms to make them hatch!



*The Kit*

Once the females wake up they mate, then lay eggs until they die about 12-14 weeks later. They work tirelessly to fill the tubes with their eggs, leaving some pollen for them to eat before they seal each egg chamber with mud and go on to lay another one. (We have an area that we keep muddy for them so that they can collect mud easily.) An amazing thing is that the bee knows whether her egg will be a male or a female, and leaves the correct quantity of pollen—a small amount for the males and a larger amount for the females. Occasionally she gets a bit mixed up and a large male or a small female will emerge.



As the apple blossom comes out so do the bees. You can still have these bees in your garden if you don't have an apple tree, but this is a blossom they particularly like.

At the end of the summer, when they have stopped laying, we Guardians return the capped tubes to the Mason Bees HQ, where they open the tubes and record their findings. They screen the

*(Left) Tubes being filled by the bees*



*Eggs inside the tubes*

eggs for parasites before placing them into safe storage over winter. Then they let each Guardian know what they have found inside their tubes and send them new cocoons in spring—along with a replacement tube refill for each one. Last year I sent 180 pupae back, and this year I was sent 80 to start.

This year everything was behind due to the awful spring weather, but you should see my bees now—they are filling the tubes so quickly they deserve a medal!

The company MasonBees Ltd is a small, family-run business based in Shropshire. Founded in 2012, they currently employ two humans and tens of thousands of Red Mason Bees! They hope to encourage more people to take on the responsibility of installing nesting tubes for solitary bees and caring for their cocoons, and they also work with commercial fruit growers, with the aim of establishing Mason Bees as a prime pollinator in British orchards.

So why do we do this? Well, as virtually all of the solitary bees at home and abroad are endangered, it is important that we all work together and share knowledge to conserve the different species worldwide. We believe we all have a role to play if we want to prevent the extinction of these precious and remarkably valuable creatures who have a huge impact of pollination. I believe this endeavour should become a cultural norm—akin to feeding the birds—and I feel so honoured to be called a Guardian.



*The pipe and tubes in situ*



Please ask me if you'd like to know more; or to become a Guardian like me, contact MasonBees at <https://www.masonbees.co.uk/>, or email: [contact@masonbees.co.uk](mailto:contact@masonbees.co.uk).

They need your help.

*Darrell Henderson, Fleet URC*

## A REWILDING UPDATE

Last summer we did not mow our front lawn, as you may have read in the last edition of *In Touch*. We even scattered wild flower seeds in the autumn to encourage more species to grow in our mini-meadow as part of the Blue Campaign, which promotes rewilding parts of gardens in support of nature. We now display our 'blue heart' to demonstrate that support.



To date we have had our beautiful ox-eye daisies return, more prolific than ever. Earlier in spring we had primroses, dog violets, dandelions (an excellent plant for bees, so don't be too quick to remove them), groundsel, daisies, speedwell and red dead nettle. As spring progressed new flowers have emerged, including lesser trefoil and a proliferation of yellow rattle. They are accompanied by buttercups, ribwort plantain, hawkweeds and common chickweed. I'll be keeping my eyes peeled for new arrivals as the year progresses. A beautiful bee fly was spotted amongst the primroses earlier in the year, making the most of the early flowers!

If rewilding is not for you, perhaps there are other ways you can make your garden and your gardening more green? One of my projects for this summer is to create a pile of logs to leave for insects as they rot. I also have some tatty and very well-used garden canes that I am hoping to cut into shorter lengths to create a 'bug hotel'. Bees, spiders and ladybirds would all benefit from a shelter such as a bug hotel, and all of them will help keep other unwanted pests away!



Your own compost heap will provide plenty of nourishment for growing plants, but if buying plants or bagged compost, please avoid any containing peat. The

government have now set 2024 as the date by which peat sales will be banned to gardeners. Alternatives are out there now, so why not beat the deadline?

Natural alternatives are always worth trying... Use copper, crushed egg shells or beer traps to deal with slugs and snails and use a natural string or twine rather than plastic ties. Wherever you can, re-use things over and over, reduce what you buy new, and recycle or compost what you can.

Let's hope for some beautiful weather this summer to enjoy the wonder of nature that surrounds us.

*Grace Bagshaw, Fleet URC*

(For more information about the Blue Campaign, visit: [www.bluecampaignhub.com](http://www.bluecampaignhub.com))



## **YOUR CHURCH NEEDS**



We are all eager to return to our church buildings, to resume worshipping and meeting together as a church family. We have sorely missed the friendship and support we find there.

However, for this to happen we need your help. We no longer have enough people to ensure that vital jobs are covered. We also need to make sure that the weight of responsibility for a task doesn't fall solely on one person's shoulders.

We all have unique, God-given talents. Will you consider prayerfully if there is a practical contribution you could make? In the next few weeks our elders will be asking for our help in various areas of our church life. Let's all work together as a team to build our churches up again!

*Christine & John Gibbons, Fleet URC*

## TOOLS WITH A MISSION

In their garden shed, understairs cupboard, loft or garage I expect most people have some tools which they haven't used for some years, but which they keep 'just in case I'll need them', or which they would like to pass on/not put in the bin for landfill if only they knew how to go about this. I certainly had a lot of 'spare' tools (and probably still do—just a few, just in case...!).

This year at the end of March I had a clear-out and took nearly all of my spare, duplicate or no longer needed tools to Beacon Hill URC. We were having a collection of second-hand tools for Tools with a Mission (TWAM, <https://www.twam.uk>) as part of our Easter road run to members of our congregation. An amazing quantity of tools (for gardening, carpentry, plumbing, car maintenance, sewing etc) was generously donated and stored temporarily in our Osborne Hall (see photo) before being taken to the TWAM collection hub in Chichester.

TWAM is an ecumenical Christian charity which was formed in 1984 and based originally in a double garage and shed in Bexleyheath. Now TWAM has a big central warehouse in Ipswich. This takes in tools from TWAM regional centres like Chichester, sorts them, carries out basic refurbishment and maintenance work (like oiling and sharpening) and packs them into shipping containers for transport to TWAM's partners (churches, charities, colleges etc) in Sub-Saharan countries like Zambia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Zimbabwe, where tools are desperately needed for agriculture, building work and cottage industries. In recent years TWAM has been sending annually about 20 shipping containers with a total of about 300 tonnes of tools to its partners in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Although TWAM does not take absolutely all types of tool, or tools which are broken, the range of items it does take is very broad and includes sewing machines, haberdashery consumables, and Windows 7 or later computers (see <https://www.twam.uk/findcollector>).

TWAM is such a worthwhile charity, and collecting for it at Beacon Hill was not particularly onerous—the tools poured in as donations during our March road run, and we are still intermittently receiving quite a number of tools from the families, friends and contacts of members of our congregation. We are thinking we might offer ourselves as a local TWAM hub—tool refurbishment





and maintenance would be beyond our limited resources, but we could receive tools from the local community before taking them on to one of the TWAM regional centres.

This appears on TWAM's Core Values web page:

*'And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.'* (Hebrews 10: 24-25)

*Hugh Le Fanu, Beacon Hill URC*



## **BORN ON THE EDGE ('FISH & CHIP' BABIES\*)**

Having not met up during all the Lockdowns, our Knit and Natter group has donated a year's worth of knitted 'Fish & Chip' vests and hats for new born babies in Africa.

This year our contributions have come not only from our Knit and Natter group at The Hub Coffee Bar, but also from friends and neighbours, and from knitters at the URC our daughter attends, in Southbourne, Dorset. This current 45-set bagful, along with the Mothers' Union vests from St Albans Church, Hindhead, will be sent to Liverpool University before starting the journey to Africa.

Many thanks to everyone who has made this current delivery possible, and to those who have already started knitting the next ones! We now have 65 hats to knit to accompany the 65 vests already made for the next delivery!

(\*They are called 'Fish & Chip' babies because, if they did not have these vests and hats to return home in after being born in hospital, they would be wrapped in newspaper—like fish and chips—as they have no clothes of their own.)

*Bridget Mitchell, Beacon Hill URC*



## CLIMATE CHANGE & CHRISTIAN AID:

### WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

*Following on from her inspirational talk at our Pentecost worship service, Laura Mead, our local Christian Aid representative, suggests ways we can support Christian Aid to reduce the impact of climate change:*

While the world has focused on the Coronavirus pandemic since February last year, the climate crisis has not gone away. The world continues to warm—creating more floods, more storms, more droughts. Time is running out to limit the worst impacts of climate breakdown for millions and millions of people. And as Christian Aid has been saying for decades—it is the poorest and most marginalised people who are suffering.



**People like Rosalia Kusungu Ndangih from Kitui, Kenya. Rosalia says: ‘We have gone almost seven years without experiencing reliable rainfall, and drought has hit the area for about two years. We have not received rains. I am worried: I am not sure if it will rain in the coming season.’**

The only way to solve the crisis is for the governments of rich countries like the UK to take responsibility for the catastrophe we’ve helped create. We must urgently reduce our emissions, and support communities that are living with the impacts.

We have a unique opportunity to push for justice in the UK in 2021. This year the UK government is host to both the G7 and the crucial UN climate talks, COP26. The UK wants to be seen to be playing a leading role on the world stage. And so we must raise our voices to push our government to be as ambitious as possible, and hold them to account.

Katalina Tahaafe Williams, a theologian from Tonga, says: ‘The prophetic role of the Christian Church is to provide hope-filled possibilities for action to reduce the impact of climate change. It courageously challenges vested

interests for the sake of the whole wounded creation, the poor, and future generations.'

**You can get involved as an individual or as a community in many ways. Would you commit to taking at least one of these actions this year?**

You can sign our Petition here: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/climate-justice-2021>.

If you'd like to learn more, you can sign up to become a Climate Campaign Organiser: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/climate-campaign-organisers-sign-up>.

As a church community you can:

- Join thousands of others in the Wave of Hope, calling on world leaders for a better future; see: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/wave-hope>
- Organise a prayer event in your local church/community (why not invite your MP too?): <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-chain>
- Support the 'Rise to the Moment' relay from G7 to COP: <https://www.yccn.uk/>

If we truly love our neighbours, as we are called by Jesus to do, we must strive to right wrongs and implement justice. Let's work together to make 2021 a more hopeful year for everyone.

*Laura Mead, Christian Aid*



## CHRISTIAN AID CAKE & PLANT SALE

This year's Cake and Plant sale for Christian Aid was certainly different—we held it in a car park in the fresh air! We were socially distanced and we were even able to offer take-away coffee. For the first hour the weather was very kind to us, and it was lovely to catch up with friends and colleagues face to face. However, a heavy downpour arrived for the last half an hour, and we packed up in the pouring rain—but what a successful afternoon! We raised £1,548.50. An amazing result, and we'd like to thank all our supporters and everyone who braved the weather to come along and support us. We couldn't do it without you.

*Linda Storey & Liz McClune, Fleet URC*

## FRESH START

*A poetic retelling of the reinstatement of Peter,  
based on John 21:15-19.*

When Jesus met Peter on that beach,  
after Peter had denied knowing him three times,  
Jesus didn't:

confront him and make him feel small;  
hold a grudge for years;  
ask him to grovel and plead in the sand;  
order him to work hard for his forgiveness.

When Peter met Jesus on that beach,  
after he had denied knowing him three times,  
Jesus asked him three times:

'Do you love me?'

And then he gave him a new start, a fresh beginning.  
'Come, be my disciple,' he said, 'follow me.'

When we meet Jesus each morning,  
after another day of ups and downs,  
Jesus doesn't:

confront us and make us feel small;  
hold a grudge for years;  
ask us to grovel and plead in the sand;  
order us to work hard for our forgiveness.

Instead,  
Jesus asks us again:

'Do you love me?'

even with the little love we have,  
and he offers us a new start, a fresh beginning.  
'Come, be my disciple,' he says, 'follow me.'

*Dave Hopwood*  
© engageworship.org

## ST SWITHUN

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15 July, it will rain for the following 40 days.

It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the ten years Swithun was there Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862 he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

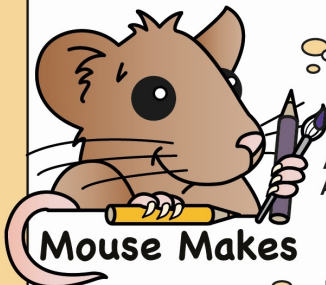
If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years? But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester Cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages and supposedly a site of numerous miracles. It was destroyed in 1538 during the Reformation but restored in 1962.

*The Parish Pump*



*Please note that* items for the Autumn issue of *In Touch* should be with the editor, Christine Gibbons by **Sunday 5th September** ([christine.gibbons@beech-ride.co.uk](mailto:christine.gibbons@beech-ride.co.uk)).



Read the full story in  
Luke 10:25-37

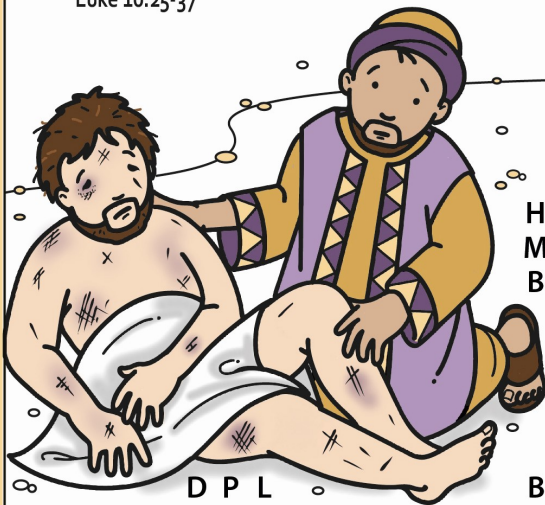
### The Parable of the Good Samaritan

A man asked Jesus "Who is my neighbour?"  
and Jesus replied with this parable:

A man was attacked by robbers, they tore  
his clothes, beat him and left him almost dead.  
A priest saw him but walked by on the other side.  
A Levite saw him but walked by on the other side.

A Samaritan saw him and took pity on him,  
he poured oil and wine on his wounds and then  
bandaged them. He lifted the man onto his  
donkey, took him to an inn and cared for him.  
The next day he gave the innkeeper two  
denarii to look after the man until he returned.

Which of the three travellers do you think was  
the neighbour to the man who was attacked?



C L O T H E S P  
H N J E S U S R A  
M E R C Y S L O S  
B I R O B B E R S  
G J M P W V A E  
H E P A O I J D  
B R A R U T E C  
O I S A N E R A  
U C S B D E U R  
D P L  
B R H I L S B S E  
W A S L O I L D S A M A R I T A N O O E E O A P  
P R I E S T A O A M A G O O D C N I N N T U L A  
G O D O I G C W W I N E A T A K W J O U R N E Y  
E N T D E N A R I I D T W O P O U R E D M

JESUS • PARABLE • JERUSALEM • JERICO • JOURNEY • MAN • ROBBERS • SAW  
CLOTHES • DOWN • ROAD • PRIEST • PASSED • PLACE • SIDE • LEVITE • CARE  
GOOD • SAMARITAN • COMPASSION • BOUND • WOUNDS • POURED • OIL  
WINE • MERCY • INN • TWO • DENARII • REPAY • BACK • NEIGHBOUR • GO DO