

## Friends of Palani Mission

Fleet URC has set up a 'Friends of Palani Mission' group which meets regularly to oversee its involvement in India, to pray for the work of the Mission, and to consider new fundraising initiatives to assist the partnership and provide additional support.

Our Friends meetings are open to everyone and we particularly welcome new ideas and views. The date and place of our next meeting is advertised on our 'Friends of Palani Mission' Facebook page:

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



*Miss Leela Priya &  
Miss Amutha Priya—  
our two new nurses in training*

Please join us in praying for the Mission,  
and for the girls we are supporting.

## For More Information:

For the latest information about the partnership between Fleet URC and Palani Mission, and for fundraising events, please see our Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/friendsofpalanimission](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofpalanimission);  
or email: [fph@fleeturc.org.uk](mailto:fph@fleeturc.org.uk)

If you wish to donate to the work of the Mission, please contact our Church Treasurer John Gibbons on 01252 614200, or email: [jmgibbons@hotmail.com](mailto:jmgibbons@hotmail.com)



Fleet United Reformed Church  
25 Kings Road  
Fleet, GU51 3AF

Tel: 01252 623629 (ansaphone)  
email: [admin@fleeturc.org.uk](mailto:admin@fleeturc.org.uk)  
<https://fleet.urc.org/palani-mission>

Nov 2021



## FLEET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH & PALANI MISSION



## About Palani Mission

The Palani Mission is in a remote part of the southern province of India called Tamil Nadu, and it belongs to the St Thomas Evangelical Churches of India. It has two objectives: firstly, to provide religious teaching based upon the life and work of Jesus, and secondly, to relieve the poverty and suffering of the poor. In the case of the latter it is very much a charity, providing shelter, food and clothing—the very basics of life.



In the province today Christians are tolerated by the Indian Hindu majority, but often they are restricted to the lower caste orders, with few work opportunities. They often suffer discrimination and abuse, and remain as outcasts on the edge of communities.

To many the Palani Mission represents hope, and with its open generosity it provides a welcoming place for all people. Revd John Abraham and his wife, Sheebajohn, devote their lives to tending to the needs of the congregation.

The Minister also works full time at the nearby Mission Hospital as a pharmacist, and it is this relationship that allows the possibility of training young people to work in a variety of roles at the hospital and within the local community.

## Our Partnership

Our partnership with Palani Mission is based upon the funding of vocational training and a variety of projects which can become self-sustaining.

We have successfully sponsored six young women to become midwives and community nurses. These qualifications are life-changing for the young people, their families and the local community. It also relieves some of the demands and pressure on the Mission.

During the visit of our then Minister, Ruth Dillon, in October 2019, various projects were commissioned. For example goats were purchased, so that under the watchful eye of a local shepherd families can milk and breed from them. Some new waterproof roofs were put on existing houses, medical camps were set up, and a deep well was drilled at one of the churches, with a cistern to hold fresh water pumped from a contaminant-free water table.



Ruth had planned to return to the Mission in October 2020, accompanied by a small group from Fleet URC; however the pandemic has stopped personal visits for the time being.

Our vision is for a long-term partnership between the churches in Fleet and Palani, and we hope that we will grow closer as we learn more about the strengths and work of each church.



## Medical Camps

An important aspect of our partnership is the funding of medical camps where people come from many miles to seek treatment and medication. The staff of Palani Mission Hospital do not charge for their services. Many serious conditions, previously undetected, have been diagnosed and treated.