

# InTouch

Spring 2023



The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come!

Song of  
Songs 2:12



The magazine of  
Fleet and Beacon Hill  
United Reformed Churches

## FLEET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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## A MESSAGE FROM REVD ALISON TOPLAS, BEACON HILL URC



*Dear Friends,*

The days are lengthening, heralding the approach of Lent, and we will embark once more with Jesus on the eventful journey towards Easter. In popular culture Lent is a season for self denial, of giving up one of our usual props or pleasures with a vague idea that there is some kind of virtue in doing so. For the church, Lent is usually a time of doing more not less, or maybe doing different, to deepen our encounter with the God Jesus shows us. Plans are starting to take shape to gather and study together,

but of course we don't all have the inclination or the opportunity to join a group, and so I offer you an idea to consider that you can do in the ordinary course of your day.

Jesus faced many demands for his attention, but his focus was always on the person in front of him in the present moment. And such encounters were transforming. In Japan I was struck how people behaved in a way that acknowledged the presence and importance of others—for example your boarding pass at the airport or your change in a shop is presented with both hands and a slight bow of the head. The crowded transport system in Tokyo is interesting when you have a heavy suitcase and are trying not to lose sight of the rest of your group, but works because people take their time, move in pace with each other, and keep in line by the side of the doors so that others can get off. Even the fire engine, rushing to an emergency, thanks you for getting out of its way. I invite you to try something that goes a little deeper than that, to risk trying to convey something of Jesus in the way we encounter others; and to be open to encounter something of him through them.

Barbara Brown Taylor writes of the spiritual practice of 'encountering others', and doing it in the more casual and mundane encounters of our lives—such as with the person at the supermarket checkout whom you are regarding with annoyance as they ram a heavy can of beans into the bag on top of your delicate salad. The task is to see them not simply as a means to an end, to put aside any irritation you may be feeling about the way they are doing their job, and to take the time to see them as an individual, as Jesus did with people—to see them as someone with hopes and joys and worries and grief that you can know nothing of, to recognise them as your neighbour, to love the stranger because God does. To look them in the eye and acknowledge them and thank them not with empty words said out of habit, but engaging your heart and wishing them well as you say it.

God bless you and keep you,

*Alison*



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, 14—20 MAY

The annual Cake and Plant Sale in support of Christian Aid will be held again this year in the car park of St Philip & St James, Kings Road, Fleet. Please come along and support us—

**Saturday 20th May from 2 to 4 pm**

Contributions of plants and/or cakes (with listed ingredients) will be most welcome. Thank you. *Linda Storey, Fleet URC*

Please note that contributions for the Summer issue of *InTouch* (June—August 2023) should be with the editor, Christine Gibbons, by **14th May**. Thank you.

([christine.gibbons@beech-ride.co.uk](mailto:christine.gibbons@beech-ride.co.uk))



## NOTICE BOARD

### THANK YOU

Gordon and Bee Griffiths would like to express their grateful thanks for all the gifts, flowers and beautiful cards received for their 60th Wedding Anniversary at the end of December.

It was a memorable occasion, made special by your thoughtfulness and kindness.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Please join us this year as we visit Taiwan on **3rd March**

**10 am: Fleet Baptist Church,**  
Clarence Road, Fleet

**7 pm: Fleet URC,**  
Kings Road, Fleet

(See article on page 8)

### DO YOU STRUGGLE TO READ *IN TOUCH*?

If you would like to read this magazine in a larger print please look at our church websites, where the magazine is uploaded in a more accessible format:

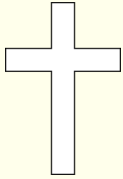
<https://beaconhillurc.com> (scroll down home page)  
or <https://fleeturc.org.uk/newsletter/>

If you don't have access to the internet, please contact me for a printed copy in larger type: Christine Gibbons, 01252 614200





## MONTHLY TUESDAY AFTERNOON SERVICES AT FLEET URC



Helen will lead a regular afternoon service **at 2 pm on the last Tuesday of the month**. Everyone is welcome to this service, and we hope that many who find it hard to get out on a Sunday morning will be able to come. We can arrange transport if needed, and there will be refreshments and a chance to chat after the service.

Dates for the next services are: **28th February, 28th March & 25th April**. Please get in touch with Moray Henderson or Helen if you would like more information.

## LENT BIBLE STUDIES AT FLEET URC

Four sessions looking at stories of encounters with Jesus from John's Gospel.



We will explore these stories and discover more about Jesus in our own lives and in our encounters with those around us. Sharing with each other, asking questions of the Gospel writer and each other—come and journey together this Lent.

Each session is self-contained, so you do not have to attend them all. Come as you are, and come as you can.

**Tuesday, 7th March at 2 pm**

The Pharisee in Secret

**Wednesday, 15th March at 11.30 am**

The Woman at the Well

**Tuesday, 21st March at 2 pm**

The Blind Man

**Wednesday, 29th March at 11.30 am**

Lazarus

*Revd Helen Everard*



## FAMILY NEWS FROM FLEET URC

### *Celebrate with us*

We welcome Rosie, the granddaughter of Liz and Colin McClune, who was brought to church by her parents for blessing on Monday 13th February.

A few days later, during morning service on Sunday 19th February, we welcomed Marion Hince to our fellowship by transfer of membership from Tadley URC. At the same service we celebrated the baptism of baby Freya Ruby Sancroft Baker, the great granddaughter of Dorothy and Les Hicklin, who were both long-standing and faithful members of our church and well known to many in our congregation. We were delighted to welcome Freya, along with many of her family and friends, and it was wonderful to see such a full church.



Our Minister, Revd Helen Everard, led both services. We thank God for blessing us all through Rosie, Freya and Marion, and remember them and their families in our prayers.

Freya and her family (from left to right): Grandmother Anne Baker (nee Hicklin) holding Freya; Nick Baker (father); our Minister, Helen; Lisa Baker (mother); maternal grandmother Liz Dyer



## LIFE AS A YEOMAN WARDER

**Saturday, 11th March, at 7 pm, Fleet URC**

A supper of Chilli con Carne with Rice (or alternatives)

followed by a talk by **Moira Cameron**

Tickets: £15 a head, including drinks.

Moira Cameron was the first lady Yeoman Guard at the Tower of London since the founding of the Order by King Henry VIII. She will talk about her life as a Yeoman Warder of His Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress, and a member of the Sovereign's Bodyguard.

There will be an opportunity for questions afterwards.

All money will go to church funds.

For tickets, contact John Gibbons, 07900 908990.

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

All are welcome at any of these services

### FLEET URC

**Sunday, 2nd April**—*Palm Sunday*

10 am Family Worship

**Thursday, 6th April**—*Maundy Thursday*

7 pm Communion Service

**Friday, 7th April**—*Good Friday*

10 am Good Friday Worship

**Sunday, 9th April**—*Easter Day*

10 am Family Worship with Holy Communion

All services will be led by our minister, Revd Helen Everard.

If you would like a lift, please contact Helen or your Elder.



### BEACON HILL URC

**Sunday, 2nd April**—*Palm Sunday*

10 am Family Worship led by Karen Smith

**Thursday, 6th April**—*Maundy Thursday*

6.30 pm Coffee, followed by

7 pm Tenebrae Service with Holy Communion,  
led by Revd Alison Toplas

**Friday, 7th April**—*Good Friday*

11 am Ecumenical Good Friday Service at  
St Albans Church, followed by a Walk of  
Witness through the village

**Sunday, 9th April**—*Easter Day*

8.30 am Agape breakfast in The Hub

10 am Easter Morning Worship with Holy Communion  
(Both will be led by Revd Alison Toplas)





## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

### How it all Started

In the 19th century, when Mission boards were largely male, Christian women in North America began founding numerous effective boards for foreign and home missions. Within these initiatives and between them, women started praying with one another, and days of prayers started to emerge within different Christian denominations.

### The 1920s Vision

Gradually the prayer projects became interdenominational, and in 1910 a series of events across the USA, celebrating 50 years of women's missionary activity, drew people together. This led to two days of prayer on the first day of Lent in 1922. In 1926 the USA distributed their worship service to many countries; the response was enthusiastic, and suddenly World Day of Prayer had begun.

### The British Isles

Mrs Grace Forgan from the United Kingdom attended a service in Jerusalem in 1928. she took the news back home to Scotland, where the first service was held in 1930. England followed in 1932, Wales the year after, the Republic of Ireland in 1935, and Northern Ireland in 1943.

### After the War

After 1945 the movement spread dramatically. By 1968 it was agreed that an international meeting should be held every 4-5 years, with representation from every national committee in the world. To date an International Executive Committee oversees the worldwide work made up of women from the seven WDP regions: Africa, Asia, Caribbean and North America, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and Pacific. Each country has its own national committee.

### The Date

The original date—first Friday of Lent—has changed to the first Friday in March.

### Is it Just about Prayer?

Certainly not: preparing the day, studying the materials, learning about another world culture—all these help to create 'informed prayer'. Today, 120 countries take part. The service is translated into more than 90 languages.

### And Now

**Please join us this year as we visit Taiwan on 3rd March.**

**10 am: Fleet Baptist Church, Clarence Road; 7 pm: Fleet URC, Kings Road**

*Darrell Henderson, Fleet URC*

## LE WEEKEND COMES TO FLEET



On Friday 31st March, Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd April, Fleet URC will host a gathering of people from Wessex Synod and from our French partner Synod in Northern France and Normandy, for a meeting we call 'Le Weekend'.

These weekends have been held since 2009 and are a chance for ordinary people to get together and chat, with everything being translated. We have some discussion, some food, a chance to do some sightseeing and visit a pub, and to worship together.

Bee, Sandra, and Mary, Melvin and Mahima have been to these events before. We haven't held one since 2019 and we are hoping to re-start them, with a theme of New Beginnings.

Planning is at an early stage, but I hope we can provide a friendly place for our meetings and some food. I will be asking for help with catering and ideas for places the visitors can go and see.

It is always fun to meet friends from elsewhere in the Synod and abroad. The French have a new leader, Revd Charles Klagba, who did some training in Birmingham and speaks great English.

So please put the date in your diary and prepare to come, have fun and meet some new friends.

*Revd Helen Everard, Fleet URC*

### AN EASTER PRAYER OF THANKS

Gracious, loving Father,

Thank you for the wonderful reality of Jesus' resurrection on that first Easter Day.

Thank you that, because Jesus is alive, life has meaning and purpose.

When we don't understand why some things happen, when life is difficult, when we are struggling through pain and loss, help us to know your risen presence and love in our lives.

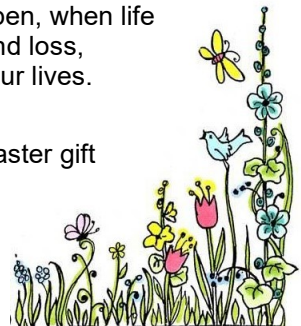
Help us to choose to trust you.

Help us always to be thankful for your amazing Easter gift of life and hope.

In Jesus' name,

*Amen*

*Daphne Kitching, The Parish Pump*



## MOTHER EARTH IS DYING

Please have a care,  
For our Mother Earth so dear  
Withholds great despair.  
She's always been here  
For us, her children.  
Now it's time to give our love  
To her I do declare.

Earth is incredibly volatile now  
So much we demand of her.  
Our needs by far exceed Earth's  
Ability to provide, that's clear.

Please put down our silly weapons of destruction,  
Look to our Mother Earth,  
At the heartache we are causing her.  
Without her support, we as a race  
Cannot live, for sure.  
But she needs something  
From all of us now  
To enable us to have a future.

With each other we need to sympathise  
Then for Mother Earth we can empathise.  
Our lives with each other  
We need to balance and harmonise.

No more fighting among ourselves,  
No more hatred or each other despise,  
Spread peace, love, happiness,  
Appreciate what we have,  
Value ourselves, each other, and Mother Earth  
Is what we need to realise.

For our Future is to love and understand  
Mother Earth is sighing  
We abuse, exploit our resources and each other  
Whilst Mother Earth is crying.  
We fail to share peace with each other,  
Yet harbour so much anger and pain,  
As Mother Earth is dying.

*Alice Knight, Beacon Hill URC*



## WORKING WITH WHITMORE VALE HOUSING ASSOCIATION

There has been a link between the church and a local Housing Association in Beacon Hill for many years. Whitmore Vale includes the Hindhead Supported Living Service, giving support to adults with autism, a learning disability and/or mental health needs to live a full and independent life in their facilities in the village. Before lockdown, we visited once a month to join in a short service and have tea with some of the residents.

As with so many things since lockdown, the relationship is now done differently. We are delighted that the Association now invites residents to sign up to visit the church premises once a week to hold activities, have some lunch and snacks in The Hub, and socialise.



At Christmas time we hosted a short Christmas service, with our minister Alison leading a telling of the Christmas story and familiar carols and songs. Everyone joined in very enthusiastically, and particularly enjoyed the mince pies and biscuits afterwards. One of their activity sessions included creating a Grotto and visiting Father Christmas in The Hub.



Recently they marked the Chinese New Year with arts and crafts and food.

We are now talking about how else we can work together. We do know that anything with food will be well supported!

**Beacon Hill URC**

*[Permission given to share photographs by individuals shown]*

## HOW TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES

Life presents us with so many choices, both big and small... What shall I wear today? What shall I have for breakfast? Which book shall I read next? In these examples, the difference between one choice and another is whether you'll be warm or cool enough, whether you'll need a snack before lunch to prevent a rumbling tummy or how entertained or informed you'll be by your reading matter. None of these choices make much difference in the long run.

Other choices have much bigger consequences. Should I move house? Should I change my job? These decisions can change the course of your life in ways you might not even have anticipated.



Then there are the choices which will have a huge impact on our planet. How will I travel to my destination? Who will I bank with? What will I spend my money on? I have covered some of these topics in previous editions of *In Touch*, but what we need to remember is that almost everything we do has an environmental consequence. Walking, cycling and public transport are better options than driving, where possible. Choosing an ethical bank means your money is not being used to finance fossil fuels,

deforestation in the Amazon, or nuclear weapons, for example. Buying local, in season, second hand and from independent shops are all better than ordering from Amazon or from big corporations.

So how do we know what the right choices are? Hopefully, you have become better informed by reading some of my articles, but where does my information come from? My top tip is to stay open to new information and to act on it where you can. If you are on Facebook, perhaps look up some of the following: 'Plastic Free Home—Zero Waste and Living More Sustainably', a page from a fairly local family, 'Going Zero Waste', written by an American lady, 'Zero-Waste Chef', a Canadian lady who focuses on food as well as other tips, or '1 Million Women', an Australian group. Or simply search for 'Zero Waste' or 'Plastic Free'; not forgetting 'Keep Hart Clean', an absolute gold-mine of very local information!

Alternatively, there are various publications available. I receive *Ethical Consumer Magazine*, but I have also read the magazine of the *Centre for Alternative Technology* (based in Wales); and the *National Trust Magazine* often discusses what they and you can do for the environment. If anyone would like to borrow any of my *Ethical Consumer* back copies, please let me know! *Zero Waste Home*, by Bea Johnson, is a very thorough book full of practical tips for reducing all kinds of waste in your home. I picked up a copy in a charity shop, and am happy to loan this out too.

The biggest mistake is to think that you can't make a difference. You can! Be open to learning more and changing what you can!

**Grace Bagshaw, Fleet URC**

## GOLDEN JOTTINGS NO 8: FAITHFUL SERVANTS

*Bernard and Mavis Potter look back at 50 years of membership at Fleet URC.*



On Saturday 5th August Buddug Griffiths, affectionately known as Bee, will have been a member at Fleet United Reformed Church for 50 years. A truly GOLDEN MOMENT in the life of our Church. If I was asked to describe Bee in one word, it would be FAITHFULNESS. Bee has been a friend of all, right across the age range, and especially of the children and young people. We have appreciated her work as Junior Church Leader, Pilots Leader, Elder, Church Visitor, and much more.

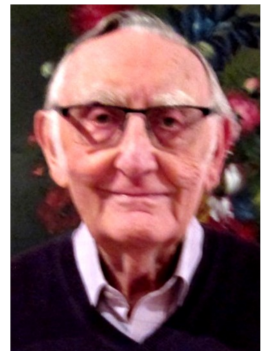
Over twenty years ago it was Bee's idea to start our popular weekly Coffee morning as an outreach to the community, and she has served it week by week ever since. She has also represented Fleet URC in India and our wider denomination in Zambia. Always cheerful and enthusiastic, we can learn a lot from her example.

On behalf of all the Church Family, Thank You, Bee. We look forward to many more Golden Moments with you.

*Bee became a member at Fleet with her Mother Mrs Davies on transfer from St John's Congregational Church, Thornton Heath.*

- oOo -

Mr Sydney Shore CBE has decided to retire from his role as a Lay Preacher. Sydney has visited our Church for 40 years or more, and his contribution to Sunday Worship has been immense. He acted as our Interim Moderator prior to the appointment of Revd Stephen Thornton. He was the preacher at our Centenary service on Sunday, 8th July 2012, when our Church celebrated its inauguration. His theme that day was 'Our Turn for the Baton' - very appropriate, as the service was one month prior to the start of the London Olympics. It was also a challenge to us all to play our part in building on the foundations of those who had gone before. The children and young people were each presented with a commemorative Bible. Personally I was impressed that his services were normally prepared six weeks prior to the day. What discipline!



We shall miss Sydney's visits, often accompanied by his wife Joyce (always a bonus for the church), and we extend our grateful thanks for all his golden insights in the services he conducted. Thank you, Sydney.

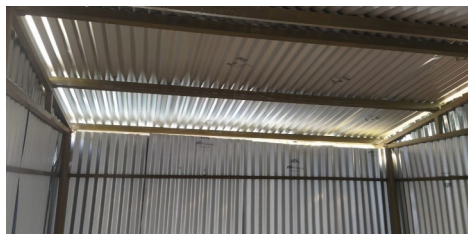
*Bernard & Mavis Potter, Fleet URC*



## PALANI MISSION UPDATE

We have been heartened to hear from Revd John Abraham recently that the Palani ministry is growing, and has now enabled the spread of the Good News through 54 villages. Seekers and believers are being added regularly, and five new members will be baptised at the beginning of March. Revd John asks for our prayers for all these people

Our sponsorship has enabled four houses from different villages to be repaired using corrugated metal constructed roofs, and this project is nearing completion. The homes will be used as local worship houses for the glory of God. Further sponsorship is needed to continue this valuable work.



*Above: Roofs before and after*

Revd John reports that the two community nurses we are sponsoring are doing well and are good at their studies. Two new trainees will be selected to start their two-year courses in September 2023.

In addition to more roof repairs, there is a great need to help those who are experiencing hardship and cannot afford necessary medical treatment. In the past we have sponsored medical health camps, which people from far and wide have attended, and it may be possible to do this again.

Revd John says that words are not enough to express the Mission's gratitude for our prayers and support.

He finishes by saying, 'From the

depths of my heart I extend our sincere thanks and offer my prayers for you all. May God bless each one of you with good strength, Grace and Joy'.

The Friends of Palani Mission thank everyone who supports their fundraising efforts for Palani. Every penny sent to the Mission comes from special events held for this purpose: no money comes from general church funds, so your support is very much appreciated.

*John Gibbons, on behalf of Friends of Palani Mission, Fleet URC*



## MY FAVOURITE HYMN: 'THE SERVANT SONG'

*Brother, Sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.*

*('The Servant Song', verses 1 & 2)*

My favourite hymn, known as 'The Servant Song', was written by British New Zealander Richard Gillard in 1977.

'The Servant Song' is such a beautiful expression of the Christian call to community and friendship marked by selfless service, a walking alongside and the bearing of one another's joys, sorrows and fears.



*Above: Bee and Val with the Junior Church of Palani Mission in 2019*

When I retired from teaching over 20 years ago, some amazing opportunities were presented to me through the Wessex Synod of the United Reformed Church, and through my home church here in Fleet.

I visited Zambia with three ladies from our Synod on a women's exchange, and some years later had two visits to Kerala and Palani, India, with my husband Gordon, Ruth our then Minister, and Val Cox. They were some of the best experiences of my life.

The words of this hymn remind me of the faithful Christians I met in both countries. We stayed in the homes of local people, who looked after us so well and transported us many miles to see different Church projects. We were able to witness how the Church dealt with problems in their communities: they were doing Christ's work in their part of the world.

Worship in their churches was very special and so different from ours because it was so spontaneous. The Zambian singing and dancing and the fervent prayers from the heart of the Christians in Palani are memories that will stay with me forever.

*Bee Griffiths, Fleet URC*

The Servant Song © 1977 Scripture in Song; Reproduced under CCLI 6025

*[Would anyone else like to share their favourite hymn in a future edition of In Touch? - Editor]*



## ‘STAND BY ME’

In the last two editions of *In Touch* we have learned some more about the children we are sponsoring via *Stand By Me*: Laurith in Columbia and Arsema in Ethiopia. The third child we are currently sponsoring is Pau Sian Muang who lives in Myanmar (also known as Burma), and he is 6 years old.



*Pau*

Pau lives in the town of Kalaymyo, which is in the north west of the country, about 230 miles from Mandalay and 370 miles from the capital city, Naypyidaw. Many of the population of Kalaymyo are ethnic Chin and the majority of Chin are Christians as opposed to the Buddhist majority of the country as a whole. The city is said to have over 600 churches of different denominations—mainly Baptist, but also Catholic, 7th Day Adventist, Wesleyan and Reformed Presbyterian.

*Stand By Me* adopted Lois School in Kalaymyo in 2003, purchasing a larger building to cater for the growing need in an area where poverty is high and there is a great risk of illness and death from

diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. The school now cares for over 500 children including 100 orphans who live in the local *Stand By Me* children's homes: Hope, Sian Siam and SOS.

Pau's family could not afford school fees to send Pau to school, as his family's income only covers their rent and daily needs. Pau was able to join nursery class at Lois School after his parents asked for support, and when he joined he could not say any words. He has been catching up quickly and can now share his likes and dislikes with his parents and big brother Samuel (16) and enjoys all that being at school entails. As time goes by he will receive lessons in music, computing, art, maths, science, English, PE, social studies and healthy lifestyles, and the school also has a community nurse ever watchful of the children's health issues.

Unlike for our other two sponsored children, communication to and from Pau is particularly difficult at the moment due to the ongoing military coup. One of the directors in Myanmar summed up the situation in summer of 2022, saying:

“Living in Myanmar this year is very hard and risky, which I have never experienced before. Schools have been closed for two years due to the pandemic and the man-made disaster in our country. Thankfully, everyone is very healthy and even though there are no schools open, all our children



have been learning English and other important subjects on Zoom. Many people have lost their jobs, and because of inflation many people are struggling for daily provisions. But the children in our care are fed with the best food so that they may be healthy. I pray that the Lord may continue to bless you and use you to help more needy people like our children.”

We pray for Pau and the other children and their communities in Myanmar.

For more information on *Stand By Me's* work in Ethiopia, look online at:

<https://www.standby.me/countries/burma> and

<https://www.standby.me/countries/burma/news>

*Helen Bailey, on behalf of Footsteps, Fleet URC*



## GOD’S WONDERFUL WORLD—PUSSY WILLOWS

As I look out into our garden I see signs of spring, and hope that the pussy willow (or *Salix discolor*, to give it its proper name) does well this year. The fuzzy velvet buds on these pretty springtime branches are actually flowers just before they fully bloom. Their soft coating of hairs, which look so much like a kitten’s fur, acts as insulation to protect these early bloomers from cold temperatures.

When fully bloomed, the pussy willow blossom fluffs out in a yellow coat—pollen, of course. Such flowers are called catkins, from *katteken*, the Old Dutch word for kitten, no doubt because of their resemblance to cat’s tails. Catkins are wind-pollinators: they use the wind to spread their pollen, as opposed to butterflies and bees.



There is an old Polish legend which tells how pussy willows got their name. According to this legend, a litter of kittens fell into a river one springtime while chasing butterflies on the riverbank. The willows at the river’s edge heard the mother cat crying as her kittens were in danger of drowning, and longed to help. They swept their long, graceful branches into the water so that the kittens could grip hold of them and be brought safely to shore. This is why, according to the legend, every springtime the willow branches sprout tiny fur-like buds at their tips, where the tiny kittens once clung.

And that is how the pussy willow got its name!

*Darrell Henderson, Fleet URC*



## OCEAN STARS UPDATE

As you may know, I am travelling out to Sri Lanka in October with Calthorpe Park School and Ocean Stars Trust. I am part of a group of 21 students, with an overall target of £9,000 to raise before we go. That makes everyone's individual target approximately £429.

Since the last edition of *In Touch* I set up my Christmas craft stall a further three times, including at Velmead Junior School and our Church Christmas coffee morning.

I have also been baking treats to sell at church, which has raised £36 so far.

Please don't forget to carry on 'Saving Your Silver' and copper coins for Ocean Stars. Thank you to everyone who has continued to support me.

*Alice Bagshaw, Fleet URC*

<https://oceanstars.org.uk/home>



## KEEP FIT WITH CAROL

Carol Ainsworth's 'Pilates for over 50s' class on Mondays at Fleet URC has proved so popular that she is now starting a second class on **Fridays, from 12 noon—1 pm**. This is a great opportunity to join a fun and friendly group, while keeping in shape.

There are also spaces on Carol's 'Adult Ballet for Beginners' class, which meets on **Saturdays from 10 to 11 am**. All adults are welcome to come along, whether they have a little or no experience. If you have always wanted to learn to dance, here is the perfect opportunity for you!

The cost for 6 sessions of either class is £30, which includes a bonus 7th 'free' lesson. **All** of the money is donated to our church funds, for which we are very grateful.

Carol Ainsworth, whom many of us know as Carol Woods, is an experienced and friendly teacher and a life member and Associate of the Royal Academy of Dance. For more information, or to sign up for these enjoyable classes, email: [carolainsworth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carolainsworth@yahoo.co.uk).

## MYSTERY NATIVITY SET

*To all you amateur sleuths out there!*

Does anyone know when this nativity scene was made, and by whom?

I found it at the back of a cupboard in the old vestry, and it is so well made and complete it is a shame that there isn't any history with it. I particularly love the type-written instructions adhered in place with sticky tape that has now become brown.

I must admit that the actual figures have caused a few comments as it seems that they were very popular in the late 1950s—1960s. I do remember seeing the 'blue' donkey before.



So if anyone can help, we would be so pleased. (I have already asked Bernard, Mavis and Bee.) Thank you.

*Darrell Henderson, Fleet URC*

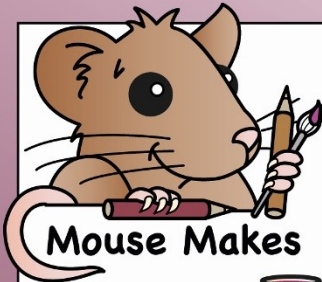


## THE LORD GOES WITH YOU—A BLESSING

*"My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."  
(Exodus 33:14)*

Go, and know that the Lord goes with you: let him lead you each day into the quiet place of your heart, where he will speak with you; know that he loves you and watches over you—that he listens to you in gentle understanding, that he is with you always, wherever you are and however you may feel: and may the blessing of God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—be yours for ever. *Amen*

*(Author unknown)*



What did Jesus give thanks for and share?

Matthew 26:27

What did Jesus say this represented?

His \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew 26:27-28



SUPPER  
LAMB • LORD  
DISCIPLES  
TOGETHER  
EVENING  
ROOM • JAR  
WATER • TWELVE  
JESUS • CHRIST  
NIGHT • TOOK  
THANKS  
BLESSING  
BROKE • GIVEN  
COVENANT  
DRINK • EAT  
FORGIVENESS  
SINS • HOLY  
COMMUNION  
EUCHARIST

What was the special meal Jesus was preparing to eat?

Matthew 26:18



What did Jesus take, bless and break?

Matthew 26:26

What did Jesus say this represented?

His \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew 26:26



Jesus instructed his disciples to continue to break bread and share the cup "in

of me."

1 Corinthians 11:24-25



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

Find the words from the questions too!

