



Parish of Hornchurch Dorcas Society (Sewing Circle)

Dorcas Societies are named after Dorcas (also called Tabitha), a person described in the Acts of the Apostles (Chapter 9, v.36)



[Edwin Long](#)'s *A Dorcas Meeting in the 6th Century* (painted 1873–1877) imagines a Dorcas society of [Late antiquity](#).



Section of *Healing of the Cripple and Raising of Tabitha* by [Masolino da Panicale](#), 1425.

Acts recounts that when she died, she was mourned by "all the widows...crying and showing (Peter) the robes and other clothing that she had made while she was still with them" ([Acts 9:39](#)).^[1] The Greek construct used in this passage indicates that the widows were the recipients of her charity,^[3] but she may also have been a widow herself.^[4] It is likely that she was a woman of some means, given her ability to help the poor.^[5] The disciples present called upon [Peter](#), who came from nearby [Lydda](#) to the place where her body was being laid out for burial, and raised her from the dead.^[5]

This narrative concerning Tabitha/Dorcas indicates her prominence in the community at Joppa.^{[5][6]} This might also be indicated by the fact that Peter took the trouble to come to her from a neighbouring city, when requested by the community members.

The accounts of Dorcas (Tabitha) in the bible is the inspiration for this sewing circle therefore its formation is based on the biblical principles of Dorcas/Tabitha's charity, care for others and our world as we sew, share, learn and fellowship with each other.

Concepts, projects, and tasks that centre around: sustainability, recycling, upcycling, development of technical sewing skills and surface decoration.

It is known that many during lockdown either bought sewing machines or reconnected with their sewing machines and now as we come out of lockdown, we have an opportunity to connect in person and share with one another what we have been doing and to see where that takes us.

Keywords: Holy Spirit Lead, Fellowship, Outreach, Flourishing, Enterprise, Charity, Generosity, Care, Love, Passion, Joy, Wholeness.

Core group members:

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