



London Street

United Reformed Church

BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE RG21 7NU
and
TADLEY (OLD MEETING) URC



FOCUS
September 2016

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: **01256 477070**

Website - www.londonstreeturc.org.uk

MINISTER:

Revd Kay Blackwell (*Day off - Monday*)
6 Camberry Close
Basingstoke RG21 3AG
Tel: Vestry - 01256 242152
Mobile - 07582 056286
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CHURCH SECRETARY:

Mr Owen Collins
15 Cyprus Road
Hatch Warren
Basingstoke RG22 4UY
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TREASURER:

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47 Tobago Close, Popley,
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Basingstoke RG21 7AZ
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Tadley (Old Meeting) URC

10.30 every Sunday

“TASTE” Youth Event at 7pm in the Immanuel Centre

Minister:

Revd Kay Blackwell

Church Secretary:

Paul Gross
22 Pelican Road, Pamber Heath RG26 3EN
Tel: 0118 970 0809
e.mail: paulg@silchester.org

Treasurer:

Mark Ward
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View from the Manse:

'The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.' (Ephesians 4: 11-13)

Yet again, autumn is on its way! But August has, and continues to be, an eventful month for me and the Blackwell household. I'm sure you will be hearing about some of it in my preaching this term.....let's just say it has been a time of great highs.....and some lows!

I am currently recovering from helping to plan and run a children's (Bible) Holiday Club in Tadley. I am now in that strange place of feeling physically exhausted from the high intensity of the week's activities but also spiritually exhilarated by the good experience of and feedback from the Club. This year we had 52 children attending, aged between 5 and 11 years old, and around 25 volunteers to help run the Club. The Club was called 'Waste Watchers' (that's waste, not waist!) and the children, over the week, became 'urban eco-warriors' seeking to recycle rubbish into beautiful things. Each morning the children's club started with a daily drama set in a park. During the course of the drama our rather graffiti-covered and litter-strewn park was transformed to its former glory and the characters in the park drama also became spiritually transformed in some way too! Both the children and the volunteers had a great time and many are already asking about next year's date and theme!

In these summer months I generally go for an early morning prayer walk around the local park.....it's often when God gives me my best moments of clear thinking and inspiration (especially when writing Holiday Club Scripts!). I also often end up picking up other people's litter! Litter really, really bothers me. When I was a young girl, living in the beautiful countryside of Surrey in a little village called Horsley, I became, what you might call, a bit of an eco-warrior of my day; yes, I became a Womble! I found a large brown paper bag with handles on, glittered a large W (for 'Womble') on both sides, then wandered around the local woods and country lanes (in the days when children were a little freer to do such things!) picking up other people's litter. My poor mother was mortified when she found out what I was doing! I also (rather embarrassingly) became a defender of the wild orchids in the local woods, pouncing on those I saw crushing or picking the beautiful, and now rare, wild flowers. I

think I must have been a lonely child! But the thing is, looking after all of God's wonderful and diverse creation is part of what we, as Christians, should do. Looking after God's creation also means looking after one another in Christian love.

What I value greatly in running events such as the holiday club is the opportunity to work more closely alongside my brothers and sisters in Christ from different churches in the area. The Holiday Club in Tadley had volunteers from at least seven churches. During the week we pulled alongside one another to fully express being the body of Christ in that place. We shared highs and lows over the week, and supported one another in prayer throughout our time together and beyond. It is an intensive yet inspiring experience. We all come with God-given gifts (sometimes we may not be fully aware of what they are until we serve in faith) and willing to be servants of Christ by supporting one another with those gifts. Whether it be in script writing, acting, tea making, craft, or just being a servant. God can, and does, use us all as part of the greater body. This is the fellowship that we need to model within our fellowships here at Old Meeting and London Street too. But not just for an intensive week. This needs to become, on a daily basis, just who we are as a body of Christ where God has placed us in fellowship. Serving one another wherever service is needed and praying for one another always. Being woven together by the spirit as true brothers and sisters in Christ, not just people who happen to worship in the same space once a week. This autumn I will be encouraging the next stage of the Ffald-y-Brenin prayer, learning to support one another in daily blessings and becoming a true houses of prayer for the communities in which we sit. I will be introducing two new courses. A course on 'Christianity Explored', for newer Christians and those wishing to explore more of what faith means. I will also run a new course called 'Paraclesis' for more experienced Christians wanting to learn about journeying together at a deeper level as disciples of Christ. It is important that we never stop learning as Christians. It is a lifelong academy of learning, so we must never stop growing and allow ourselves to become stale or complacent. So come, journey with me and see what new things God may want to teach us..... *'until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.'*

Yours in Christ, Kay

You cannot win if you do not begin.

Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have.

2 Corinthians 8:11



CIRCLE OF PRAYER:

Please remember the following in your prayers, together with their families, friends, carers, doctors and nurses:

Short Term: *Chris Ayland; Kay Blackwell and family; Owen Collins and family; Kay Cook; May Honeyball and family; Ron and Rosemary Martin; Richard Morgans; Joy Williams; Katherine Witts (daughter of Sara Williams).*

Long Term: *Christine and Tony Addis; Judith Best (mother of Mark Best); Annette Bowers (daughter of Sheila Munro); Beverley Cantwell; Barbara and Peter Dixon; Morag Hill; Christine and Ron Holt; Marian Kenward; Maggie Morgans and family; Rachel Patterson; Hyacinth and Eaton Ridguard; Helen Rolton; Molly Shaw; Betty Shipway; Gwen Simms (mother of Tina Digweed); Joyce Smith; Fay Spurr; Chris and Suzanne Tolley; Rachel Walker (granddaughter of Les and Iris Wenham).*

Prayer Focus

1. Cor. Ch12 v27

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it”

After the comparative lull in activities at London Street during August, September sees a re-awakening. For young people the prospect of a new school/college year beginning and so many moving up to new educational experiences. These can be anxious and sometimes worrying times. For us we see the Community and Youth Café opening again to provide physical and spiritual service to the local community. For many organisations using our premises their autumn and winter programmes start again.

It gives us all the opportunity to reflect and take stock, and ponder again this very familiar verse that Paul wrote to the Corinthians. If we are part of the fellowship of London Street each of us is an integral and essential part of the body of Christ. Each equally important if His body is to be fully effective and each one given a particular gift by His Spirit in order to play the part each of us has been assigned by Him.

He will not ask of us what we do not have the capacity to accomplish, and His is the strength we have to carry it out. So this is a good time to reflect prayerfully about our part in Christ's body which is our fellowship of London Street. Maybe God is calling us to do something new or different.

One thing that is certain, through our prayers as individuals and as a Fellowship He will reveal His plans for us and our Church.

Happy Birthday

*Sam Bulley, 21 years on 5 September
David McElvenny, 17 years on 29 September*



Flower Rota -



Sept 4 th	Lesley Harriman
11 th	Les and Iris Wenham
18 th	Christine Robertson
25 th	Stan Marut

Harvest Festival

The Church will be open on Saturday 1st October from 10.00 to 13.00 to enable people to decorate the windowsills.

A form will be on the notice board for you to choose your windowsill. Please help us to ensure the Church is beautiful for Harvest.

Thanks – Liz Lindsay

Congratulations and Best Wishes

to

Iris and Les Wenham

as they celebrate their **Diamond Wedding**

on

8th September



Our days are identical suitcases – all the same size – but some people can pack more into them than others.

Be very careful then how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity...

Ephesians 5:15,16

Daily Bible Readings for September:

	<u>Psalms</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalms</u>		<u>New Testament</u>	
1 st	19	2 Corinthians	8	2 nd 54		2 Corinthians	9
3 rd	86	Reflection		4 th		Reflection	
5 th	121/122	2 Corinthians	10	6 th 99		2 Corinthians	11
7 th	20	"	12	8 th 56		"	13
9 th	23/24	1 Timothy	1	10 th 87		Reflection	
11 th		Reflection		12 th 100/101		1 Timothy	2
13 th	124/125	1 Timothy	3	14 th 25:1-10		"	4
15 th	126/127	"	5	16 th 25:11-22		"	6
17 th	57	Reflection		18 th		Reflection	
19 th	102:1-17	2 Timothy	1	20 th 128/129		2 Timothy	2
21 st	26	"	3	22 nd 130/131		"	4
23 rd	27	Titus	1	24 th 60		Reflection	
25 th		Reflection		26 th 89:1-13		Titus	2
27 th	102:18-28	Titus	3	28 th 132		1 John	1
29 th	28	1 John	2	30 th 132/134		"	3

Training courses and learning events for the Autumn term:

- Wed 14th Sept – 8pm at Old Meeting Tadley URC a Ffald-y-Brenin 'House of prayer' training session.
- From Wed 21st Sept to 16th Nov (8 weeks excluding 26th Oct) 1.30-3pm weekly at London Street URC 'Christianity Explored' course (possibly with an away day on Fri 11th Nov or Sat 12th Nov). Please contact Kay ASAP on tel: 01256 242152 or revkblackwell@gmail.com to register as study books need to be ordered.
- Fri 23rd – Sun 25th Sept 'Lee Abbey' Church weekend away.
- From Thu 29th Sept to 10th Nov (6 weeks excluding 27th Oct) 7.30pm weekly at London Street URC 'Paracletis' course. Please contact Kay ASAP on tel: 01256 242152 or revkblackwell@gmail.com to register as study books need to be ordered.

ELECTION OF ELDERS -

We shall shortly be considering the nomination and election of members to be called to serve as elders. Being an elder is a ministry to which a church member is called by God. This call can come through you as a church member when considering another for nomination and election because of what you discern about that person.

Procedure for nomination and election as provided for by the constitution of London Street

Church meeting shall determine the maximum number of elders whose election is sought. A list of those eligible to serve as elders shall be handed to those on the current church roll. Each member will be entitled to nominate up to two more church members than the maximum to be elected. All those nominated by at least 4% of church members shall be considered validly nominated. They will be visited to ascertain whether they are willing to accept nomination.

All of those who have accepted nomination shall be listed on a ballot paper, which will be made available to all on the current church roll, for election to serve as an elder for a term of 3 years. The ballot shall normally take place at the November church meeting.

What does it mean to be an elder at London Street and within the United Reformed Church?

Being an elder means that a church member has been called to be part of a 'team', since an elder is someone who joins with others to form the Elders' meeting of London Street. It is important though to remember that in accepting a call to serve as an elder, that person is not just an elder of London Street but an elder of the United Reformed Church. A person can only be nominated for eldership if they are on the church roll of members for a minimum of 12 months. As a church member, they will have an understanding of the constitutions of the United Reformed Church and that of London Street.

What does an elder do?

The functions of eldership in the United Reformed Church have been laid down in the Basis of Union. The list appears daunting. They include:

ensuring that public worship is regularly offered and the sacraments are duly administered, to ensuring pastoral care for the congregation; to be responsible for the institution and oversight of work among children and young people, to recommending to the church meeting arrangements for the proper maintenance of buildings and general oversight of all financial responsibilities.

Who do you see as being called to carry out these functions?

Your current eldership is, as a team, already fulfilling the functions of eldership to a greater or lesser extent. When nominating or electing a person to serve as an elder, you are being asked to consider prayerfully who God is seeking to join them in continuing with this work. When praying you are not seeking to find an individual who is gifted in all the functions of eldership. This is collective work. Some responsibilities are ongoing, others are more dependent on circumstances. Some may be done by small groups, some by everyone.

An elder is no different from any other church member in that we are all called to develop and grow in faith, through prayer, worship, sacraments and learning. The call to eldership is a renewed call to these things as well. So the faith required is the same faith that makes us a Christian. But, at times we all feel lacking in faith, or commitment, or ability. We all feel inadequate in our various callings and service to the church. That is when we need the support and the faith of the rest of the church around us, as well as the grace of God. That is why it is so important to take your time through prayer when considering who to nominate and elect as an elder.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS OF SQUARES:

We are just a couple of blankets short of a total donation of 150 blankets to May Place.



I would ask that all you knitters of squares let me have any squares that you have by the end of September. I will sew them up and pass them on but I will not be able to continue with the sewing up after that. If anyone else would like to volunteer to sew the squares together I would be happy to help with the crochet edging if that is needed. I thank you all for your support to this cause over the years and you can all be very proud of your contributions to a very worthy cause.

Isobel Martin

Friendship Hour Recruitment Drive:

Friendship Hour is held on the 4th Thursday of each month (except in December when we have our Christmas Lunch on the 3rd). It is a friendly meeting, ably led by Joyce Cook and is open to all ladies and gentlemen, members of other churches and none. We have a varied programme and outings. Next May will be our 50th Anniversary which we hope will be extra special.

Come to the Hook Room from 2pm onwards for tea and biscuits before we start at 2.30pm. We look forward to welcoming you.

Eileen Poulter (Secretary)



CHURCH DIRECTORY FOR 2017

In anticipation of 2017, we are again looking to update our church directory for people who are church members or who regularly attend our services on a Sunday.

The directory is a useful resource to find someone's address, phone number or email address. During September you will receive from your elder a letter from me seeking your permission for your details to be included in the directory for 2017. Jean Holton and I will be compiling the directory in December for issue in the New Year. To meet this deadline I will be asking you to return the address slips attached to the letter by Sunday, 6th November. If you haven't received a letter by the end of September, please let me know.

When the time comes for you to dispose of your 2016 directory, please ensure that you shred it or tear it up. Thank you. Owen.

Safeguarding

*Safeguarding is taken seriously by the United Reformed Church.
Safeguarding is taken seriously by London Street.*

As a church, London Street acknowledges children's and adults' right to protection from abuse, regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs. We consider that the welfare of children is paramount and we have in place a safeguarding policy which follows legislation, statutory guidance and recognised good practice in order to protect vulnerable people in our church.

The aim of this policy is to provide procedures for promoting safeguarding, preventing abuse and protecting children, adults at risk and staff. It includes clear procedures for taking appropriate action when safeguarding concerns are raised involving children and vulnerable adults within our church, or those who attend our activities and events.

So who does this policy apply to? Approved and endorsed by the Elders, it applies to everyone who attends London Street. Not just members of our congregation, but to all organisations who hire our building with the agreement to operate under London Street's safeguarding policy.

By reading this article, YOU have a duty of care to all beneficiaries of the church, whether adults or children, as we seek to establish a caring environment in which there is an informed vigilance about the dangers of abuse.

The URC Wessex Synod is running a series of training courses on safeguarding, not just for people within the church who work with vulnerable adults, young people and children; but for all if we are to ensure that everyone promotes safeguarding. There is a training course here at London Street on Saturday, 10th September from 10.00am to 4.00pm (registration from 9.30am). The elders are encouraging everyone to attend. If interested you need to register with the Synod Office - development@urcwessex.org.uk or phone 023 8067 4513.

Harvest Festival

Please bring your harvest gifts on Sunday, 2nd October as we celebrate Harvest. The Elders recommended that, as in 2015, gifts should be shared between the Women's Refuge and Little Angels, with a special basket to be shared amongst the residents of the Pages bungalows. This was agreed unanimously at our recent Church meeting.

Sebastian's Action Trust

The Bluebells in North Waltham is a holiday respite home supporting seriously ill children and their families, both locally and nationwide; it is run by Sebastian's Action Trust and you can get more information from Gemma Simpkins, Community Partnerships Officer on GemmaS@sebastiansactiontrust.org. She can also arrange a tour of the Home.

TWO LITTLE BOYS

A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be assured that if any mischief occurred in their town their two young sons were in some way involved.

The parents were at their wits end as to what to do about their sons' behaviour. The mother had heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past, so she asked her husband if he thought they should send the boys to speak with the clergyman.

The husband said, 'We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper!' The clergyman agreed to speak with the boys, but asked to see them individually. The 8 year old went to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, 'Where is God?'

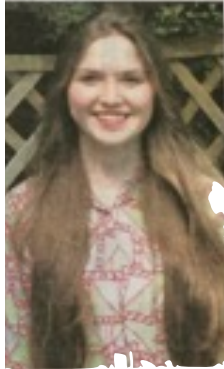
The boy made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, 'Where is God?' Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face, 'WHERE IS GOD?'

At that the boy bolted from the room and ran directly home, slamming himself in the closet. His older brother followed him into the closet and asked what had happened. The younger brother replied, 'We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it.'



Congratulations and well done

to **Evelyn Blackwell** who has donated her beautiful, long hair to the Little Princess Trust to be made into a real-hair wig for children who have undergone chemotherapy. In addition to that sacrifice she set herself a target of raising £1,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust which aims to improve the speed and quality of diagnosis of cancer in teenagers. Evelyn had her head shaved outside the Church in London Street and, with the support of family, friends and passers-by she has raised over £2,000.



BRAS PLEASE!! Would you please take a moment to go through your drawers at home and pull out any unwanted bras. No matter how worn out, ill fitting or discoloured, no matter what size, they can be put to good use. A friend of my stepdaughter is collecting them for women in Africa. As the women have to leave the safety of their camps to collect firewood for cooking, it leaves them vulnerable to rape. The wearing of a bra indicates that the woman is higher up the social scale and is more likely to have powerful family and friends who would retaliate for the attack. Therefore, wearing a bra makes them safer. Please bring them to me or leave them in the box in the concourse and I will pass them on. Thanking you in anticipation.

Heather (Oasis Café)

Dates to note at London Street, unless otherwise stated:

September:

Sun	4 th	8.30am	Prayer breakfast, led by Chris and Mark Best
		10.30am	Worship – led by Joy Williams
Mon	5 th		Oasis and Youth Cafés reopen
Wed	7 th	7.30pm	Elders’ Meeting
Sat	10 th		Ride and Stride
		10 - 4pm	Safeguarding Course at London Street
Sun	11 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Rev John Whitton
		8.00pm	Commissioning Service for Community Café
Tue	13 th	10.30am	Little Angels reopens
Wed	14 th	8.00pm	Ffald-y-Brenin ‘House of prayer’ training session at Tadley (see page 7).
Sun	18 th	10.30am	Worship (including Holy Communion) – Led by The Minister
Wed	21 st	10.15am	3Cs
		1.30pm	‘Christianity Explored’ course (see page 7).
		– 3.00pm	
		7.30pm	Church Meeting
Fri	23 rd		Church Holiday to Lee Abbey, Devon till 25 th
Sun	25 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Revd Mike Burrell
Thu	29 th	7.30pm	‘Paracletis’ discipleship course (see page 7).

October

Sat	1 st	10.00am	Church open for Harvest Decoration
		– 1.00pm	
Sun	2 nd	10.30am	Harvest Festival and Parade Service

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 : **October FOCUS:** Articles for the October FOCUS :
 : should be with Christine Robertson by the end of **Sunday, 11th** :
 : **September.** :
 :

Regular Weekly Events and Meetings
(at London Street unless otherwise stated)

The Sanctuary is open for prayers every weekday from 9.30 to 10am and again from 12.15 to 12.30pm

Mondays:

10am-1.30pm

10.15am

2.30-4pm

OASIS Café in the Concourse

Craft Group

HOME GROUP normally at 39 New Road:

prayer time, Bible exploration and fellowship

3-5.30pm in

Term Time

Youth Café for secondary school and

college students

Tuesdays:

10am-1.30pm

10am-12 noon

3-5.30pm in

Term Time

OASIS Café in the Concourse

'LITTLE ANGELS' pre-school Club (Term time)

Youth Café for secondary school and

college students

5.45pm

7pm

7pm

7-8.00pm

(BEAVER SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Colony

(CUB SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Pack

(SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Troop

PRAYER MEETING at Tadley URC or St Paul's

Wednesdays:

10am-1.30pm

10.30-12 noon

12.30

3-5.30pm in

Term Time

OASIS Café in the Concourse

MEMORY TREE SOCIAL CLUB

Lunch time worship and prayer meeting

Youth Café for secondary school and

college students

Thursdays:

10am-1.30pm

9.30-11.30am

10-11.30am

OASIS Café in the Concourse

TADLEY LITTLE ANGELS in the Immanuel Centre

CCBBies Parent and Toddler Group at Christ Church,

Chineham

2.30-3.30pm

3-6pm in

Term Time

FRIENDSHIP HOUR — 4th Thursday of each month

Youth Café for secondary school and

college students

Fridays:

8-9.30pm

TGIF Youth Club at Christ Church, Chineham

London Street URC, Basingstoke seeks to ensure that all content and information published in this issue of FOCUS is current and accurate. The information included does not in any way constitute legal or professional advice and the church cannot be held liable for actions arising from its use.

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