



London Street

United Reformed Church

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



FOCUS
May, 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
e.mail - revkayblackwell@gmail.com

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Mr Owen Collins
15 Cyprus Road
Hatch Warren
Basingstoke RG22 4UY
Tel: 01256 477425
e.mail - secretary@londonstreeturc.org.uk

TREASURER:

Karen Bell
47 Tobago Close, Popley,
Basingstoke RG24 9PX
e.mail - treasurer@londonstreeturc.org.uk

HALL LETTING:

Mr Peter Bentall
43 Cliddesden Road,
Basingstoke RG21 3EP
Tel: 01256 475547
e.mail: phbentall@hotmail.com

FOCUS:

Mrs Christine Robertson
1208 Skyline Plaza, Alencon Link,
Basingstoke RG21 7AZ
Tel: 01256 869968
e.mail: christina774robertson@btinternet.com

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
10 Hartleys, Silchester, Reading RG7 2QE
e.mail: mandjward@hotmail.co.uk

View from the Manse:

'For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing'. (2 Corinthians 2:15-17)

As I am writing this I am sitting not in the manse but in the office at London Street. In the Sanctuary next door 100 pristine new Bibles are stacked ready to be blessed and distributed among the chairs, ready for worship and Bible study together into the future. I am very excited to have the new Bibles and one of the big blessings of this is that we now have 80 or so of our old 'Good News Bibles' to give away! So, if you meet anyone and get chatting with them, work alongside someone, or are friendly with a neighbour and feel that they might be interested in having a Bible of their own....why not give them a gift of a Bible with blessings from London Street? On Sunday I not only intend to bless our new Bibles but also to give thanks for and bless all of our old Bibles. I pray that each would be given in love and bring light to dark places, perhaps places where God's word has not been heard before. As we give these Bibles to others may they spread the aroma of Christ to God among people?

The big theological debates, important to think through though they are, are rarely what convince others to follow the way of Christ. Actually leading big theological debates was not what we saw Jesus doing. What Jesus did was looked at each human case on its own merits, not creating from each case blanket rules then to be applied to all, but loving them one by one for who they were. Loving people one by one is what Jesus both role modelled for us and then commissioned us to do. It is, I believe, what Church is here for. A sign of the Kingdom

'For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing'.

This week I listened to a medical programme on radio 4 about the sense of smell. The journalist leading the programme, because of a hereditary problem, lived without the sense of smell. The thing that struck me was the danger element of her

condition (being unable to smell gas being left on for instance) but also the impact on taste and emotional loss. The journalist's biggest regret was that when her husband was not with her for any reason, she could not and would not ever have a memory of his smell. Her husband did jokingly suggest that her not being able to smell him may be a blessing at times! But joking apart, I cannot imagine not being able to pick up an item of clothing in the home and burying my nose in it, thereby being able to soak in the aroma of people whom I love most. Smell is incredibly evocative. No early warning for danger, no taste and no memory trigger for deep emotional bonds and memories. To lose the sense of smell is to lose a great deal. Equally, to be the Aroma of Christ to God among believers and non-believers is indeed a worthy task with probably a greater impact than we sometimes give it credit for. People brought up in the Church who have fallen by the wayside and lost their way are often drawn back by a good one-to-one relationship which calls to mind for them that evocative sweet smelling aroma from their past...the aroma of Christ to God.

May our Bibles, both old and new, and who we are in Christ, be the aroma of Christ to God for all whom we meet, believers, non-believers and believers who have gone astray.

Yours in Christ, Kay

CIRCLE OF PRAYER:

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



Short Term: Owen Collins; Christine and Ron Holt; Ron and Rosemary Martin; Mary Silver; Katherine Witts (daughter of Sarah Williams).

Long Term: Christine and Tony Addis; Judith Best (mother of Mark Best); Annette Bowers (Daughter of Sheila Munro); Harry Bowers; Beverley Cantwell; Morag Hill; Richard, Antonia, Grace and Zach Holland (Claire Macro's family in Canada); 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).

Christian Aid Week: May 15th - 21st

A time to help raise funds for the wonderful work that they do to help people in the many developing countries who are in need. If you can help with the door to door collection please contact Ian Scott on Tel 01256 478100. There will also be envelopes available at the church for you to pass to your friends and neighbours and yourself of course. Round the week off by sharing in the *Christian Aid 'Short Straw Lunch'* on Sunday 22nd May, after the morning service.



One day a young boy asked an old man:

“Sir, which is the best day to pray?”

The wise old man replied:

My son, the best day to pray is the day before you die.”

The boy was astonished and replied:

“Sir, how can I know the day of my death?”

The old man answered:

“No one knows the day of his death,
that is why we need to pray every day.”

From Best English Quotes

FOCUS –

Please let Christine Robertson have any articles and/or letters for inclusion in the JUNE FOCUS no later than SUNDAY, 15TH MAY

Daily Bible Readings for May:

<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>
1 st	Reflection	17 th 65	Romans 2
2 nd 89: 14-29	Matthew 19	18 th 141	" 3
3 rd 103	" 20	19 th 33: 13-22	" 4
4 th 135	" 21	20 th 66	" 5
5 th 31: 1-10	" 22	21 st 105: 1-11	Reflection
6 th 138	" 23	22 nd	"
7 th 31: 11-24	Reflection	23 rd 34: 1-10	Romans 6
8 th	"	24 th 67	" 7
9 th 62	Matthew 24	25 th 143	" 8
10 th 104: 24-35	" 25	26 th 34: 11-22	" 9
11 th 139	" 26	27 th 68: 1-10	" 10
12 th 32	" 27	28 th 144	Reflection
13 th 63	" 28	29 th	"
14 th 140	Reflection	30 th 36: 5-12	Romans 11
15 th	"	31 st 68: 28-35	12
16 th 33: 1-12	Romans 1		

Flower Rota - May



- 1st Friendship Hour
- 8th Mrs J. Smith
- 15th Jean Holton
- 22nd Victoria Paice
- 29th Val McKenzie

Happy  Birthday

Niamh Harriman, 8 years on 13 May
Isabel Stanley, 5 years on 24 May



On the March:

Advent Sunday last November saw Ruth and me hot-footing once again to London to join the latest major demonstration, this time about Climate Change and its consequences. This was timed just ahead of the Paris Conference which did for once produce a few more positive results than usual.



Over the years we have clocked up many march-miles in many locations, apart from London. The most famous was the anti-Iraq War march when over a million people on conservative count marched peacefully through central London from the Embankment to Hyde Park. Hundreds of police watched all day without leaving their vans!

Other marches have included G 8 Summits in Cologne, Genoa and Edinburgh; Make Poverty History in Birmingham and several Parliamentary Lobby demonstrations about development, climate and other national and global issues.

As Christians we often wonder what we, as individuals, can do to 'make a difference' and joining such demonstrations, along with tens of thousands of others is one possibility.

On the Climate Change Demo we first listened to a panel of speakers from different concerned organisations, religious and secular, at a Synagogue in Knightsbridge. We then joined thousands of others gathering in Park Lane ready to march to Westminster. Accepting free banners and placards we progress slowly as a vast mass being entertained by costumes, music, chanting, one-man-bands and other spontaneous performances. One drawback was the scarcity of opportunities to sit and rest our feet!

Finally at Westminster there were more lively musical offerings and exhorting speeches, including some children emphasising it was their future we were concerned with. All this was displayed on huge screens accompanied by much cheering and applause.

The weather was kind (for November!) and we left with a real 'feel-good' feeling just hoping we would find a seat on the train home. It is an experience to be recommended!

Peter Bentall (World Mission Group)

Sharing:

Meaning - Apportion, split, divide, allocate, participate in, etc.

Do you remember the old advertisement 'Quality Street is made for sharing' or 'you get more joy from giving than receiving'?

We have so many opportunities to experience this joyous feeling: An immediate response to receiving good news is to want to share it with others. In the excitement we may even share it with complete strangers! Other important aspects find us sharing our time, talents, resources, even the body and blood of Christ.

But — are we being fair and sharing enough? Could we lighten the load of some who are 'overloaded' and volunteer to serve on one of the many church rotas? (After Service refreshments, monthly breakfasts, Focus collating, stewarding, flower arranging, providing transport, Messy Church, Little Angels, Memory Tree — see Church Secretary's Annual Report).

Most of all, like **Paul and Peter**, can we raise a burning desire to share THE GOOD NEWS

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

Hebrews 13 v.16

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

"I was hungry and you formed a humanitarian club and discussed my hunger.

"I was imprisoned and you crept off quietly to your chapel and prayed for my release.

"I was naked and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance.

"I was sick and you knelt and thanked God for your health.

"I was homeless and you preached to me of the spiritual shelter of the love of God.

"I was lonely and you left me alone to go and pray for me.

"You seem so holy, so close to God.

"But I am still very hungry and lonely and cold."

Author unknown

The Value of Old Age:

Remember - old folks are worth a fortune - with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a little older since I saw you last and changes have come into my life. I am quite a frivolous old girl!!! I am seeing five gentlemen each day.

As soon as I wake up in the morning, Will Power helps me out of bed, then I go to see John. Next, its time for Mr Quaker who gives me my oats. They leave and Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day. He doesn't stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day I am ready for bed with Johnny Walker.

What a life - and, oh yes - I am flirting with Al Zymer. The vicar came the other day and said that at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do. No matter where I am, if I am in the kitchen or upstairs or in the basement, I ask myself - now, what am I here after?"

Anon.

PATIENCE

Be patient with everyone, but above all with yourself. I mean, do not be disturbed because of your imperfections, and always rise up bravely from a fall. I am glad that you make a new beginning daily; there is no better mans of progress in the spiritual life than to be continually beginning afresh, and never think that we have done enough.

St Francis de Sales

Church Service – 2020 ???

PASTOR: “The Lord be with you!”

CONGREGATION: “And with your spirit.”



PASTOR: “You can log on to the church wi-fi using password ‘God_Talk’.

“The opening hymn will appear on your personal screens. You can use your earbuds to listen as you follow along.

“Please turn on your PC, iPad, smart phone and Kindle Bibles to 1 Corinthians, 13:13 and please switch on your Apps, BBM, Twitter and Facebook, and chat with God.

“Now, let us pray, committing this week into God’s hands.”

S-i-l-e-n-c-e

“As we take our Sunday tithes and offerings, please have your credit and debit cards ready using the password ‘Lord900887’. The ushers will circulate mobile card-swipe machines.

A “Those who prefer to make electronic fund transfers are directed to computers and laptops at the rear of the church.

B “Those who prefer to use iPads can open them.

C “Those who prefer telephone banking, take out your cell phones to transfer your contributions to the church account.

“The church accepts credit cards without additional fees.”

The holy atmosphere of the church becomes truly electrified as ALL the smart phones, iPads and laptops beep and flicker!

Final blessing and closing announcements:

A This week’s ministry cell meetings will be held on the various Facebook group pages where the usual group chatting takes place. Please log in and don’t miss out.

B Thursday’s Bible Study will be held live on Skype at 19.00hrs GMT. Please don’t miss out.

C You can follow your Pastor on twitter this weekend for counselling and prayers.

“God bless and have a nice day.”



And Jesus wept ...

Dates to note at London Street, unless otherwise stated:

May:

Sun	1 st	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast
		10.30am	Worship
Mon	2 nd		Oasis and Youth Cafés closed (Bank Holiday)
Wed	4 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Sun	8 th	10.30am	Worship led by Revd John Whitton
Sat	14 th	3.00pm	Elders' Quarterly Tea
Sun	15 th	10.30am	Worship (inc. Holy Communion)
Christian Aid Week begins			
Wed	18th	10.15am	3Cs
Sun	22 nd	10.30am	Worship followed by austerity lunch in aid of Christian Aid
Wed	25 th	7.30pm	Church Meeting
Thu	26 th	2.00pm	Friendship Hour
			Last day for Youth Café
Sat	28 th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sun	29 th	10.30am	Worship (inc. Baptism of Theodore Alderman)
Mon	30 th		Oasis Café Closed (Bank Holiday)

Old Meeting, Tadley:

Preachers:

Welcomers:

1 st May	– Lionel Goodfellow	Ena and George
8 th May	– Revd. Kay Blackwell	Mandy and Dave B
15 th May	– Philip Jones	Ladies Cell
22 nd May	– Rob Lloyd	Janet and Paul
29 th May	– Andy How	Karen and John
5 th June	– Peter Cyungi	

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	OASIS Café in the Concourse
10.15am	Craft Group
2.30-4pm	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	OASIS Café in the Concourse
10am-12 noon	'LITTLE ANGELS' pre-school Club
3-5.30pm in Term Time	Youth Café for secondary school and college students
5.45pm	(BEAVER SCOUTS — 8 th Basingstoke Colony
7pm	(CUB SCOUTS — 8 th Basingstoke Pack
7pm	(SCOUTS — 8 th Basingstoke Troop

Wednesdays:

10am-1.30pm	OASIS Café in the Concourse
10.30-12 noon	MEMORY TREE SOCIAL CLUB
12.30	Lunch time worship and prayer meeting
3-5.30pm in Term Time	Youth Café for secondary school and college students

Thursdays:

10am-1.30pm	OASIS Café in the Concourse
9.30-11.30am	TADLEY LITTLE ANGELS in the Immanuel Centre
10-11.30am	CCBBies Parent and Toddler Group at Christ Church, Chineham
2.30-3.30pm	FRIENDSHIP HOUR — 4th Thursday of each month
3-6pm in Term Time	Youth Café for secondary school and college students
7-8.00pm	PRAYER MEETING at Tadley URC or St Paul's

Fridays:

8-9.30pm	TGIF Youth Club at Christ Church, Chineham
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Saturdays:

8-9am	COMMUNITY PRAYER MEETING at Tadley (check by calling 0118 9814880)
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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.

London Street United Reformed Church is a working name of Registered charity
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