



London Street

United Reformed Church

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



FOCUS
June, 2016

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - www.londonstreeturc.org.uk

MINISTER:

Revd Kay Blackwell (Day off - Monday)
6 Camberry Close
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Mobile - 07582 056286
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CHURCH SECRETARY:

Mr Owen Collins
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TREASURER:

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47 Tobago Close, Popley,
Basingstoke RG24 9PX
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HALL LETTING:

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43 Cliddesden Road,
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FOCUS:

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1208 Skyline Plaza, Alencon Link,
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
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Treasurer:

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10 Hartleys, Silchester, Reading RG7 2QE
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View from the Manse (literally!):

Living life in the Spirit

‘There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.’ (Romans 8:1-2)

My office at the manse has a window with one large solid pane of glass to the left and, to the right, a large opening window with a small opening window above it. In front of the window I have a wooden Venetian blind. As the weather has been warm in recent days the back door to the garden has been left open on occasions. However, the warm weather has encouraged the bees into the activity of collecting nectar from the Spring blossom. Consequently, several bees have ended up in my office between the blind and the window. Typically they remain on the solid un-opening side of the window and spend hours going around that pane of glass buzzing and head-butting the glass wall. Round and around they go, getting first angry and then exhausted. If they would just move to the right side of the frame they would discover two windows that I have opened wide in order to set them free. I try to gently cajole and encourage my busy, buzzy friends to the open windows but they always seem so reluctant to be steered away from their glass prison, a place that they are familiar with yet keeps them trapped.

How often do we crash into the things of life and feel that we are trapped by them. We can easily end up going metaphorically around in circles, feeling the pain sin, both our own sin or the sin of others inflicted upon us. I work with many such folk who are in real pain, sometimes demonstrated as anger, sometimes as a kind of hopeless exhaustion. They are so trapped in cycles of behaviour patterns that they just seem unable to break free. Jesus is that window to freedom, to life in all its fullness. Through Jesus we can be set free from the pain of this earthly world because through Jesus we become co-heirs of the heavenly spiritual realm. Through Jesus we receive an eternal hope,

beyond the earthly difficulties of now. We, as Christians, can show the way that leads others to freedom but ultimately it is they who have to take that flight of faith. At times it can be frustrating to see how people choose to stay in the earthly cycles of ultimately self-destructive lifestyles because they are too scared to accept the truth of Jesus, the truth of spiritual freedom. The open window is there but they choose to stay trapped by the glass wall even though it hurts because they can understand that hurt in a way. By that hurt they can explain and almost define who they are. Spiritual stuff, the grace and free gift of Jesus, can feel overwhelming to some. It can feel like a narrative, a way of life that they cannot intellectually understand or rationalise and therefore control. And that is right; heavenly stuff *is* often beyond our earthly understanding! I can totally understand that earthly fear, for I once stood in that fear too. But the spirit of Christ Jesus has set me free. God is our heavenly Father and, through Jesus, we are adopted into the great heavenly family. Through Jesus, it is God who protects and guides us, God who fights spiritual battles on our behalf, and gives us ultimate victory. The glass wall of sin that can't always be seen in a physical sense yet traps us and hurts us nevertheless, no longer needs to be *our* prison. For the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus can set you free.... God has opened the window, are you ready to fly?

'The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; He will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing' (Zephaniah 3:17)



Everyone is invited to a Tea Party in London Street on Saturday, 11th June from 3.00pm, to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. Invitations have been extended to all groups who use our premises throughout the week and copies of the Bible Society booklet about the Queen and her faith will be available for every member of the congregation.

If anyone feels able to make a contribution towards the cost of the booklet, this can be done by putting your gift in an envelope marked 'The Queen's Birthday' and placed in the offertory or handed to Owen or Karen.





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; family of Harry Bowers who died on 15th May; Owen Collins and family; Kay Cook; Ron and Rosemary Martin; Mary Silver; Sarah-Jayne; Katherine Witts; Joy 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; Richard, Antonia, Grace and Zach Holland (Claire Macro's family in Canada); 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).

Welcome, through Baptism

Amos Grant on 1st May

Theodore Alderman on 29th May

We pray that the Lord
will watch over them,
will guide their footsteps and keep them from evil,
and grant them health and strength, joy and fulfilment
throughout their lives

Happy Birthday

Helen Rolton, 87 years on 7 June

Evelyn Blackwell, 18 years on 25 June

Eileen Poulter, 88 years on 25 June





Flower Rota - June

5th Helen Rolton
12th P. Birchmore
19th J. Musselwhite
26th Maggie Morgans

Thank You

Beverley Cantwell wishes to thank everyone for their prayers for her daughter Abbie, and new granddaughter, Genevieve, and for Abbie's partner, Dan, who has recently found a new job after being made redundant.

Prayer Focus

The Old Testament has a significant emphasis on God's Chosen People, the Hebrews, from the initial call of Abraham through whom God promised to make a great nation. The impression is given almost of 'them' and 'us' with the Jews believing that God was exclusively theirs and the other nations (Gentiles) were basically outcasts and unclean.

Yet, as a chosen people, they hardly enjoyed unrestrained favour, losing 10 of the 12 tribes; being taken into exile for many years; and suffering under some disastrous kings! Prophet after prophet came preaching repentance and a return to their Covenant with God, with many indicating that God's concern is for all people, all nations.

Even at the beginning of the early Church after Pentecost the apostles, all Jews, followed Jewish laws and traditions and attended the Temple. Christian worship went side by side but with less emphasis on law-keeping than on Jesus' command 'to love one another' in community. Then, with Peter (meeting Cornelius) and Paul's missionary journeys with Barnabas, Silas and Mark do we see the real spread of Christianity and Jesus' instruction to 'go into all the world and preach the Gospel'. It is not about what gender you are; where you were born; which sect you belong to; it is about us as individuals and our relationship with God through Jesus, his way of life, his teachings and our own commitment to surrender our lives to him.

Daily Bible Readings for June:

<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>
1 st 145	Romans 13	17 th 72	Philippians 3
2 nd 38	" 14	18 th 150	Reflection
3 rd 69	" 15	19 th	"
4 th 146	Reflection	20 th 1	Philippians 4
5 th	"	21 st 108	Colossians 1
6 th 107	Romans 16	22 nd 2	" 2
7 th 70	Ephesians 1	23 rd 42	" 3
8 th 147	" 2	24 th 73: 21-28	" 4
9 th 40: 1-8	" 3	25 th 90	Reflection
10 th 71: 1-13	" 4	26 th	"
11 th 148	Reflection	27 th 111	Philemon 1
12 th	"	28 th 3	Luke 1
13 th 40: 9-17	Ephesians 5	29 th 112	" 2
14 th 71: 14-24	" 6	30 th 4	" 3
15 th 149	Philippians 1		
16 th 41	" 2		

Basingstoke Foodbank:

Stocks are very low and items from the following list are urgently required. They can be placed in the collection box in the concourse:

Milk – (Long-life 1L)	Fruit Juice (Long-life 1L)
Tinned Ham, chicken, Corned Beef	Tinned Fruit
Tinned Spaghetti/Ravioli or similar	Peanut Butter/Marmite
Dry Crackers/crispbread	Jars of cooking sauces
Desserts/Rice Puddings (Long-life – cold or microwavable)	Instant Potato Mash
Deodorants (roll-on) Shower Gels	Squash Drinks
Biscuits and Chocolate treats	Sugar

Thank you for your support.

 Change of address for Paul and Karen Bental:
 1 Richmond Road, Basingstoke RG21 5NX



Bible Quiz:

Who said:

1. "Why was not this ointment sold for 300 denarii and given to the poor?"
 Judas Simon Jesus Mary
2. "let me die with the Philistines,"
 Moses Elijah Samson Goliath
3. "What is truth?"
 Annas Pilate Jesus Peter
4. "Why hast thou conceived this thing in your heart?; thou hast not lied unto man, but unto God."
 Paul Peter Jesus Luke
5. "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."
 Peter Philip Paul Timothy
6. "Am I my brother's keeper?"
 Jacob Joseph Cain Seth
7. "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"
 Paul Barnabas John the Baptist Stephen
8. "Speak, for thy servant hears."
 David Samuel Elijah Enoch
9. "I know that my redeemer liveth."
 Job David Isaiah Daniel
10. "I am innocent of the blood of this just person; see ye to it."
 Caiaphas Herod Pilate Judas

Answers on page 10.

A message from the Farming Community Network

“Many of the traditions surrounding Rogation have fallen away over the years yet that doesn’t remove the need to ask God to protect us and our crops from disaster. Sadly, we have become familiar with pictures of flooding in various parts of the country and falling prices paid for milk and other food commodities are adding to the pressures on farmers, even causing some to leave the land completely. While we expect to be able to choose from a wide selection of wholesome produce, often with little thought to how much hard work and effort has gone into ensuring that we can sit down to a nourishing meal, the farmers who produce the food to feed the nation must battle against the weather and commercial challenges in order to put food on our table — and there are many occasions when that is no easy task.

“In addition, we must not lose sight of the fact that our farmers also carry the responsibility of caring for the earth which God has given to us. It is they who maintain the hedges and the stone walls, keep the ditches and drains clear of obstructions and ensure that conditions are right for the wildlife to flourish. It is hardly surprising that there are times when farmers and farming families find themselves facing challenges and difficulties; times when they need support. The volunteers of the Farming Community Network take their example the risen Christ on the road to Emmaus and will walk with farmers to provide support until the problems are resolved, the difficulties are dealt with and life returns to normal. It doesn’t matter if the problems are with the farm business or within the family and support is available for however long it takes.

“May we ask that you remember in your prayers the farmers of Britain and those who strive to support them during difficult times.”

Bible Quiz answers:

(NRSV edition)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (1) Judas (John 12:5) | (2) Samson (Judges 16:30) |
| (3) Pilate (John 18:38) | (4) Peter (Acts 5:4) |
| (5) Philip (John 14:8) | (6) Cain (Genesis 4:9) |
| (7) John the Baptist (Matthew 3:7) | |
| (8) Samuel (1 Samuel 3:10) | (9) Job (Job 19:25) |
| (10) Pilate (Matthew 27:24) | |

God Knows:

When you are tired and discouraged from fruitless effort, God knows how hard you have tried.

When you've cried so long your heart is in anguish, God has counted your tears.

If you feel life is on hold and time has passed you by, God is waiting for you.

When nothing makes sense and you are confused or frustrated, God has the answer.

If suddenly your outlook is brighter and you find traces of hope, God has whispered to you.

When things are going well and you have much to be thankful for, God has blessed you.

When something joyful happens and you are filled with awe, God has smiled on you.

Remember that wherever you are or whatever you are feeling, God knows.

Author unknown

Dates to note at London Street, unless otherwise stated:

June:

Wed	1 st	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Sun	5 th	8.30am	Prayer breakfast led by Ian and Jenny McCloy
		10.30am	Worship, including Parade Service
Mon	6 th	3.00pm	Youth Café reopens
Sat	11 th	3.00pm	Tea Party to celebrate the Queen's 90 th Birthday
Sun	12 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Melanie Townsend
Wed	15 th	10.15am	3Cs – Coffee, company and chat
Sun	19 th	10.30am	Worship (including Holy Communion) – Fathers' Day
Thu	23 rd	1.00pm	Friendship Hour – Mystery Tour leaving from the Red Lion car park (returning approx. 4.30pm). Names to Joyce Cook a.s.a.p. Cost approx. £12.
Sun	26 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Peter Bentall

Old Meeting, Tadley:

Preachers:

5 th	June	– Peter Oyungi
12 th	June	– Revd. Kay Blackwell
19 th	June	– Mark Ward
26 th	June	– Mel Euerby

Welcomers:

Ena and George
Mandy and Dave
Ladies Cell
Elaine and Brian

The next issue of FOCUS will cover July and August and any items for inclusion should be with Christine Robertson

NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, 12th JUNE.

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
7-8.00pm	PRAYER MEETING at Tadley URC or St Paul's

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

Fridays:

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

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