



# London Street

## United Reformed Church

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



**FOCUS**  
**February 2017**

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - [www.basingstokeurc.org.uk](http://www.basingstokeurc.org.uk)

## MINISTER:

Revd Kay Blackwell (*Day off - Monday*)  
6 Camberry Close  
Basingstoke RG21 3AG  
Tel: Vestry - 01256 242152  
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e.mail - [revkblackwell@gmail.com](mailto:revkblackwell@gmail.com)

## CHURCH SECRETARY:

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Hatch Warren  
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## TREASURER:

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## HALL LETTING:

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## FOCUS:

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## **Tadley (Old Meeting) URC**

10.00am Prayer Time followed by Worship at 10.30  
every Sunday

“TASTE” Youth Event at 7pm at the Point (behind the Community  
Centre)

### Minister:

Revd Kay Blackwell

### Church Secretary:

Paul Gross  
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### Treasurer:

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## View from the Manse:

“.....Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1:14-15 NIV)

In January a select group of us from London Street and Old Meeting went to the Ffald-y-Brenin Houses of prayer training day, held at St. Leonard’s Church In Oakley. It was an inspiring day. My only regret was that so few from my two Churches came to hear about how to bless the communities in which we sit.

Just pause and consider for a moment what the Kingdom of God might look like in our communities. For me, it would be in communities that are joyous places, where people’s hearts are softened to hear and live according to the good news of the Gospel; places where all people are treasured and social justice is done; communities where people love and serve one another rather than being preoccupied by selfish desires; a community where great healing occurs, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Could such communities exist? Well, no, not without Jesus. It is through Jesus’ life that we see a glimpse of the kingdom even though it had not yet come in full. Wherever Jesus went people were healed physically, emotionally or spiritually, and often all three. The lowly were lifted, the silenced were given voices and social expectations were turned upside-down. In short Jesus brought social revolution, not with guns and violence, but with words of God’s truth and love.

When Jesus died and rose again He then sent the Holy Spirit to fill his disciples. Today, as disciples of Jesus, we are also filled and empowered by the Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit within us we too carry some of that Kingdom of God power. When we gather in unity, and especially in worship, we are a living sign of the Kingdom of God in our place. As such we are here to bless the communities in which we sit, to demonstrate God’s love through what we do and say and how we behave. This is a huge responsibility, but one that we need to take seriously.

Working with and alongside our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ from other churches in the community is all part of being in the body of Christ. At the end of January the churches in Tadley and Basingstoke celebrated their unity together. Working ecumenically can be time-

consuming and it takes energy and commitment from all involved. For me, working with other church leaders and members is a must. My heart's desire is to see us working much more together and in Basingstoke the shape of working together may well be changing quite radically. The 'Who Cares' mission will, I feel, be part of that growing fellowship together in unity under the authority of Christ.

With a new President in America, uncertain plans for Brexit here, war still raging in Syria, terrorism still at large, many areas of war and civil unrest around the world, a growing movement of refugees and asylum seekers and many financial challenges in this country around the NHS funding, school funding and public transport, the lists of worrying news items for 2017 seem to be growing! So much of this we can do little or nothing about. All we can do is look on at the mess that the world seems to be getting into and continually pray that God's Kingdom will come and God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. However, I hope that 2017 will be an exciting year for us, a year that will have many challenges I'm sure, but nevertheless a year when we can really speak blessings into our communities and work together with the wider Christian fellowship to shine more brightly in difficult and uncertain times.

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:** Katherine Davey (daughter-in-law of Anne and Dick); Richard, Antonia, Grace and Zach Holland (Claire Macro's family in Canada); Claire Macro; Richard Morgans; Pam Ralph; Doina Rasnita; Mark and Julie Ward.

**Long Term:** Annette Bowers (daughter of Sheila Munro); Beverley Cantwell; Christine and Ron Holt; Maggie Morgans and family; Rachel Patterson; Helen Rolton; Molly Shaw; Sarah Williams; Katherine Witts (daughter of Sarah Williams).

# Prayer Focus

Acts 1 v 8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and the ends of the earth.”

One of the greatest joys and privileges a follower of Jesus can experience is God’s working in their lives for the benefit of the world at large. Being a witness for Christ is not only something we do when we see an opportunity, but a way of living a life of total availability to Jesus and His purpose. Being a witness is not an option once the Holy Spirit lives in us. When that happens Jesus said, “You *will* be my witnesses”. The option is whether we are prepared to be a good witness or a bad witness, a true witness or a false witness but either way we cannot escape being witnesses. St. Paul writes in 2 Cor. 5 v15, “And Christ died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.” Our old life has been crucified with Christ, yet we live, but now it is in the strength of the life of Christ, fulfilling His objectives through us. This is being a witness.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, help me to be a good, true witness for You and bring to my attention anything in my life that would speak otherwise. Thank you, Lord.

Focus for Prayer:

**The Night Shelter** – for the guests and the hosts that they may be a blessing to each other.

For those who are still sleeping rough but would like to come in from the cold that they may find it possible, in God’s strength, to overcome the obstacles that prevent them.

For all that they may take the first steps towards a new life with new hope.

**The “Who Cares” Mission** – for David Grant and his team as the planning comes to fruition and for the churches taking part that all the members will want to be involved in some way whether big or small.

**Hospitals, the police and other emergency services at this busy time.**

**The Church and Ourselves** – that we may grow in knowledge and love of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, and live to our full potential, in Him, taking to heart and acting upon what he says about those who are his disciples that His Kingdom may come.



## Flower Rota - February

5<sup>th</sup> Karen Bentall  
12<sup>th</sup> Rosemary Martin  
19<sup>th</sup> Victoria Paice  
26<sup>th</sup> Leng Ayland

Anyone wishing to help with the flower arranging or by donating towards the cost of the Church Flower Decorations, please contact Liz Lindsay. Thank you.

## 2017 Church Directory Amendments:

Under the list of serving elders on the inside cover of your directory, you will see Isobel Martin against the number 6. Please delete. Alison Jamieson is number 6; Isobel being number 15 under non-serving elders.



*Kay Cook, 83 years on 8 February*  
*Cade Martin, 17 years on 14 February*  
*Nathan Cox, 18 years on 14 February*

## Ride & Stride



A summary of the outcome of last September's event shows that of the 28 churches listed, six fielded one or more cyclists/walkers, who between them raised £1360 (excluding Gift Aid tax recovery). This is a lower figure than in 2015, due (probably) to the atrocious weather experienced on the day.

Congratulations to Ramsdell, Christ Church, who again scored the highest amount. Thanks to everyone who organised advertising, provision of stewards etc.



This year's sponsored Ride & Stride will be held on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

# FELLOWSHIP, TEA AND TOUR

**SATURDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL, 2017**

Everyone is invited to London Street on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> April at 2.30pm for fellowship, a tour of the building and finishing with tea and cake.

The idea behind having a Fellowship, Tour and Tea at London St. is twofold. Sunday, after morning worship, is not always ideal to spend time together in a social setting. So, firstly, it is an opportunity for us all to meet together; for Kay to get to know you better and for you to get to know one another better. Secondly, it is an opportunity for you all to take a tour of the building and we can explain what goes on in each of the rooms during the week and the plans we have for the future.

London Street church offers a focus for us to be a Christian witness in the centre of Basingstoke and meet the challenges of those in our community, in particular those less fortunate than ourselves. You will be surprised at how our buildings are currently used in meeting some of the demands we currently face and our plans for the future.

The afternoon will commence at 2.30pm when we gather in the concourse for the beginning of our tour of the building. We will also have a small exhibition of archive material in the concourse. We will finish the tour in the church sanctuary when Kay will lead us in a short period of prayer. We will then return to the concourse for tea and cake finishing between 5.00 and 5.30pm.

I know that some of you have already been on one of these tours last year. There are some of you who were unable to attend when invited, some of you have never received an invitation because we had to postpone the tour planned for November. This is the last tour the elders have planned and is an open invitation to everyone.

Thank you, Owen.

# CONCERT IN AID OF CHRISTIAN AID SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2017



On Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, from 7.00pm, London Street is organising and hosting a concert in aid of Christian Aid. The goal is to raise a minimum of £2,000 for those in need and funded through Christian Aid.

Participants include the Basingstoke Male Voice Choir, Berkshire Brass and Peter Dixon on organ. Tickets will be priced at £5.00 per person with a retiring collection for those who wish to contribute further. Please make a note of this in your diaries. Help will be needed, particularly on the evening of the concert, by stewarding and providing refreshments during the interval (cold drinks and a biscuit). An opportunity to showcase our church and welcome visitors. Speak with Owen Collins or Maggie Morgans for further information or for details of how you can help.



## 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*

## Thank You, from The Dwelling Place

The following is an excerpt from a letter from Liz Howe, Manager of The Dwelling Place in Basingstoke:

“On behalf of the residents of The Dwelling Place, I wanted to thank you all at the URC for your thoughtful and generous gift.

“I just wanted to write personally to thank you all for helping us to provide Supporting Housing accommodation for these men, and a number of others, as they take their first tentative steps from life on the streets towards integrated living, resettled into society. Your generous support means that we can offer a safe place to call home, restore health and well-being and re-engage with community.”

### *Helping people like... (not their real names):*

Dave who writes: “I was so low that I decided to take my own life. Fortunately someone just managed to stop me from throwing myself under a train. At this bleak time in my life I was referred into The Dwelling Place. Since then, my life has taken a turn for the better.”

Ian told us that moving into a clean and tidy environment, where people cared, gave him the confidence to take the risk and look for work. “I felt supported and that I had a safety net to take the steps required to take my life to the next level and not feel like a ‘second class’ citizen anymore”

Steve was brought up in care and spent most of his life in borstal and prison battling with his drug addiction. Having lost his accommodation, Steve was sleeping on the streets of Basingstoke until he was referred into The Dwelling Place. He says, “this is great....I’m too old now to do prison. I want to straighten my life out. This is the first time ever I have felt safe.”

“..... On behalf of all the residents who benefit from the support work and housing management we offer, please accept our sincere gratitude. Your wonderful support is very much appreciated and not taken for granted.

“Please do pass on our thanks to all your Church members.”

# Daily Bible Readings for February:

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	
1st	113	Acts	6	15 <sup>th</sup> 77:1-14	Acts	16
2 <sup>nd</sup>	5	"	7	16 <sup>th</sup> 93	"	17
3 <sup>rd</sup>	115	"	8	17 <sup>th</sup> 118:15-29	"	18
4 <sup>th</sup>	6	Reflection		18 <sup>th</sup> 9:1-16	Reflection	
5 <sup>th</sup>		Reflection		19 <sup>th</sup>	Reflection	
6 <sup>th</sup>	46	Acts	9	20 <sup>th</sup> 119:1-16	Acts	19
7 <sup>th</sup>	75	"	10	21 <sup>st</sup> 79	"	20
8 <sup>th</sup>	92	"	11	22 <sup>nd</sup> 48	"	21
9 <sup>th</sup>	116	"	12	23 <sup>rd</sup> 80	"	22
10 <sup>th</sup>	7:1-11	"	13	24 <sup>th</sup> 94:12-23	"	23
11 <sup>th</sup>	117/118:1-14	Reflection		25 <sup>th</sup> 119:17-32	Reflection	
12 <sup>th</sup>		Reflection		26 <sup>th</sup>	Reflection	
13 <sup>th</sup>	8	Acts	14	27 <sup>th</sup> 12	Acts	24
14 <sup>th</sup>	47	"	15	28 <sup>th</sup> 119:33-48	"	25



When things go wrong as they sometimes will,  
 When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
 When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
 And you want to smile but you have to sigh,

When care is pressing you down a bit...  
 By all means pray, and don't you quit.  
 Success is failure turned inside out,  
 God's hidden gift in the clouds of doubt.

You never can tell how close you are,  
 It may be near when it seems afar.  
 So trust in the Lord  
 when you're hardest hit...

It's when things go wrong  
 that you must not quit!



Anon.

## February Dates to note at London Street, unless otherwise stated

Wed	1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast led by Owen Collins
		10.30am	Worship – led by The Minister
Sat	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am- 4.00pm	Who Cares? Project Training
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship – led by the Revd John Whitton
Wed	15 <sup>th</sup>	10.15am	3C's
Sat	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am- 2.00pm	Elders' development training part 2
Sun	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship, including Holy Communion – led by The Minister
Thu	23 <sup>rd</sup>	2.30pm	Friendship Hour
Sun	26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship – led by the Revd Howard Sharp
Mon	27 <sup>th</sup> -		Fairtrade Fortnight
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup> March		

## Tadley Dates:

	<u>Preachers:</u>	<u>Welcome/Coffee:</u>
Sun. 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	– Rob and Jan Lloyd	Ena and George
12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	– Revd Kay Blackwell	Mandy and Dave
19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	– TBC	Ladies Cell
26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	– Sydney Shore	Elaine and Brian
5 <sup>th</sup> March	– Peter Bentall	



**The Greatest possession you have is the 24 hours directly in  
front of you.**

*Ecclesiastes 3:17 '.....for he has appointed a time for every matter, and for every work.'*

## Regular 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 Youth Café for secondary school and  
Term Time college students

### *Tuesdays:*

10am-1.30pm OASIS Café in the Concourse  
10am-12 noon 'LITTLE ANGELS' pre-school Club (Term time)  
3-5.30pm in Youth Café for secondary school and  
Term Time college students  
5.45pm (BEAVER SCOUTS — 8<sup>th</sup> Basingstoke Colony  
7pm (CUB SCOUTS — 8<sup>th</sup> Basingstoke Pack  
7pm (SCOUTS — 8<sup>th</sup> 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  
10.15-11.30am 3Cs **on 3rd Wednesday of each month**  
12.15pm Lunch time worship and prayer meeting  
3-5.30pm in Youth Café for secondary school and  
Term Time 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 Youth Café for secondary school and  
Term Time 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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