



London Street

United Reformed Church

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



FOCUS
July/August, 2017

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - www.basingstokeurc.org.uk

MINISTER: Revd Kay Blackwell (*Day off - Monday*)
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Tel: Vestry - 01256 242152
Mobile - 07582 056286
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Basingstoke RG24 9PX
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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
22 Pelican Road, Pamber Heath RG26 3EN
Tel: 0118 970 0809
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View from the Manse

'For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.' (Romans 8:19-25 NRSV).

We live in a place of the now and the not yet. Through Jesus we glimpse the Kingdom of God but the Kingdom of God has not yet come in full. We are living as children of the resurrection, children of the empowered by the Holy Spirit, but we wait in hope for the Kingdom of God to come in full. That will be when Jesus returns, at the second coming. For then there will be no more heaven and no more earth for the two shall become one, all of created order restored, justice restored, peace restored, love restored. The present sufferings of this world will be made minor, for they will pail into insignificance compared to the Glory of God to come.

Here's the amazing thing.....that glory will be revealed in us *'For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed'*. This is why we need to be whole-life disciples. We need to be ready for the great reveal as children of God! Being Christians on Sunday and functional atheists or agnostics out in the world for the rest of the week is not what Jesus calls us to be. As Christians we are the 'children of God' and through us God will reveal God's restoration for the world. Are you ready to be revealed as a child of God in your neighbourhood, in the office where you work, the club that you're a member of? How many of the people in these places outside of church know that you are a Christian? Will that great revelation surprise them?

Last month the Nation was shocked by the killings on London Bridge. Ordinary people going about their ordinary lives. Families will have been changed forever because of this random evil act of violence. This Nation has collectively groaned inwardly at this further act of terrorism. This is a deep guttural spiritual groan, the deep groan of grief. That groan comes at the beginning and end of life. It comes from deep within us, deep within our souls. Birth and death cause that deep guttural groan. It is hard to describe or explain, but it is somehow part of the human existence. I have experienced that groan of childbirth; I have experienced that groan of

bereavement. It is a physical, emotional and spiritual groan that can take us by surprise by its depths. I know many of you will have experienced something similar; it is part of human life in this broken world. We must pray that in all things, God's will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

So we groan but we are not the only ones. All of creation groans we are told. Creation groans in that longing for full restoration, for the pain of decay, disease and death to be no more. Creation is groaning as in the pain of birthing the restored Kingdom of God.

And the spirit too groansthe spirit within us as we see people's pain, their real hurts. Pain is the universal language in this world where sin is. Everybody needs love and desires love. But not everybody feels loved, experiences love on a daily basis or (because of their experience in life) knows how to love. Everybody will have somewhere in their life experienced pain, physical, emotional or spiritual pain. We are asking people to take part in a survey through the 'Who cares?' mission, 'What hurts the most?' or 'What is it in life that you find most difficult to handle?' We will need to consider carefully and sensitively what we do in response to hearing about these hurts, these deep pains. The spirit within us may groan at the real hurts we find hidden within this community. As Christians we live a between existence, groaning at the pain of this world yet choosing to live an existence shaped by the victorious risen Jesus Christ. For in Jesus our hope is found.

When we feel weakest, at our most vulnerable, the Holy Spirit groans within us, intercedes for us and ultimately restores us by God's Grace. The pain of hurt is like grit in the oyster shell. The grit causes damage to the oyster so a chemical is released continually which covers the pain of that cutting grit until the grit becomes a pearl. May the pain in our lives and in the lives of others, be healed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit within us and through us.

Feelings of inadequacy for mission can overwhelm us if we let them. If we look only to ourselves and our weakness then it is true, we cannot do this. We alone can never know enough, be wise enough, love enough, and be Christ-like enough. But through Jesus and the Holy Spirit working through us, we are made strong in our weakness. When we keep our eyes on Jesus every day, not just on Sunday, we become **everyday** disciples, living out our ordinary lives through the divine extraordinary strength of Jesus. Our 'Jesus shaped' lives will then be evident to all. So that, at the '*revealing of the children of God*', God's full Glory will be known to all.

Blessings from your sister in Christ, Kay.



CIRCLE OF PRAYER:

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

Short Term: Elena Blackwell (niece of Andrew and Kay); Sally Friday; Richard, Antonia, Grace and Zach Holland (Claire Macro's family in Canada); Louise Holmes; Claire Macro; Pam Ralph; Doina Rasnita; Hyacinth Ridguard; Mary Silver; David Waller; family of Marion Willie.

Long Term: Annette Bowers (daughter of Sheila Munro); Beverley Cantwell and her daughter, Caroline; Eric Clucas; Christine and Ron Holt; Ron and Rosemary Martin; Maggie Morgans and family; Patterson family; Helen Rolton; Molly Shaw; Fay Spurr; Les and Iris Wenham; Sarah Williams; Katherine Witts (daughter of Sarah Williams).

-ooOoo-

The Blackwell and Kenward families would like to thank the congregations at Old Meeting and London Street URCs for their kind words, loving support and the many cards of condolences received over the past few weeks. Thank you especially to those at Old Meeting for hosting Marian's funeral. It was lovely that we were able as a family to exhibit some of mother's art. I think even my mum would have been surprised at how much there was, and sadly most of it had never been exhibited before.

-ooOoo-



Flower Rota -

July

2 nd	Joan Musselwhite
9 th	Lesley Ferguson
16 th	Isobel Martin
23 rd	Joy Williams
30 th	Maggie Morgans

August

6 th	Jenny McCloy
13 th	Stan Marut
20 th	Julia Burrows
27 th	Betty Shipway

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.

Prayer Focus

Psalm 34 vv 11-22

'Come my children, listen to me, I will teach you the fear of the Lord'

As Christians at the present time we are entitled to question what is going on in the world in so many areas of people's lives. Over the last few months, where is it all heading? Our faith is in the Creator who, we believe, is 'in charge' and in His Son who came to bring a message of hope and peace, and who said 'I have come that you may have life in all its fullness'. Yet we look around us and see violence and terrorism, droughts and famines, oppression and poverty, refugee migration and internal displacement, economic struggle and political upheaval ...to mention just a few examples.

Many of these issues are beyond the experience and understanding of most individuals who just want to be able to live 'normal' lives. We want to try to see where God is at work in our world and we need that assurance that, indeed, God is still there, loving and concerned for the whole of His creation, and each individual within it.

Political elections over the last few months in USA, France, Netherlands and UK (with another coming up in Germany) have shown that the old 'certainties' no longer exist, with unexpected and unpredicted results. Maybe younger people are deciding that their voices need to be heard and they need to be 'included'. That at least is one positive in the general chaos.

Our assurance comes, as always, from Scripture and the verses of the psalm noted above is one of many examples of where assurance may be found:

v 17...'the righteous cry out and the Lord hears them'.

v 18...'the Lord is close to the brokenhearted'.

v 19...'the righteous man may have troubles but the Lord delivers him from them'.

v 22...'the Lord redeems his servants, no-one who takes refuge in Him will be condemned'.

The psalmist often questions whether God is still concerned with troubles but he always finishes the psalm with that same statement of assurance ...whatever the situation, God cares. That is what the 'Who Cares?' Mission has at its heart.....whatever hurts most in your life God cares and we, as Christians, want to show that caring.

Pray for:

- the Who Cares? Mission and its various activities; those involved in the direct questioning and all those supporting in so many ways.
- the current political uncertainties in our country and others.
- leaders with integrity to take decisions for the good of all citizens.
- those young people in the midst of important exams affecting their futures.
- those within our fellowship who need our prayers.



Joan Mussellwhite, 90 years on 10th July
Eleanor Green, 4 years on 23rd August



3Cs coffee morning at
Potters Barn
Skippetts Lane East
on Wednesday, 16th August
10.15am onwards
Everyone is welcome.



Do not worry, be still.
God is never blind to your tears,
Never deaf to your prayers
and He is never silent to your pain.
All things are possible with him.

Daily Bible Readings for July:

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	
1 st	4	Reflection		17 th	117/118:1-14	Luke 14
2 nd		"		18 th	8	" 15
3 rd	43	Luke	4	19 th	47	" 16
4 th	74:12-23	"	5	20 th	77:1-14	" 17
5 th	91	"	6	21 st	93	" 18
6 th	113	"	7	22 nd	118:15-29	Reflection
7 th	5	"	8	23 rd		"
8 th	115	Reflection		24 th	9:1-16	Luke 19
9 th		"		25 th	119:1-16	" 20
10 th	6	Luke	9	26 th	79	" 21
11 th	46	"	10	27 th	48	" 22
12 th	75	"	11	28 th	80	" 23
13 th	92	"	12	29 th	94:12-23	Reflection
14 th	116	"	13	30 th		"
15 th	7:1-11	Reflection		31 st	119:17-32	Luke 24
16 th		"				

Daily Bible Readings for August:

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	
1 st	12	1 Corinthians	1	17 th	119:97-112	1 Corinthians 13
2 nd	119:33-48	"	2	18 th	18:1-19	" 14
3 rd	13	"	3	19 th	51:1-13	Reflection
4 th	81:1-10	"	4	20 th		"
5 th	95	Reflection		21 st	84	1 Corinthians 15
6 th		"		22 nd	97	" 16
7 th	119:49-64	1 Corinthians	5	23 rd	119:113-128	2 Corinthians 1
8 th	15	"	6	24 th	18:20-30	" 2
9 th	119:65-80	"	7	25 th	119:129-144	" 3
10 th	16	"	8	26 th	18:31-42	Reflection
11 th	50:1-15	"	9	27 th		"
12 th	82	Reflection		28 th	52	2 Corinthians 4
13 th		"		29 th	119:145-160	" 5
14 th	96	1 Corinthians	10	30 th	85	" 6
15 th	119:81-96	"	11	31 st	98	" 7
16 th	17	"	12			

Men:

In the beginning there was Adam...

So God asked him, "What is wrong with you?"

Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to. God said that he was going to make Adam a companion and that it would be a woman.

God said, "This person will gather food for you, cook for you, and when you discover clothing she'll wash it for you. She will always agree with every decision you make. She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. She will not nag you and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you've had a disagreement. She will never have a headache and will freely give you love and passion whenever you need it."

Adam asked God, "What will a woman like that cost?"

God replied, "An arm and a leg."

Then Adam asked, "What can I get for a rib?"

The rest is history.

From "A Bucket of Surprises": J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books

SWAP:

A friend of mine has two tickets for the 2017 Champions League final, both box seats. He paid £2.50 for each ticket but he didn't realise when he bought them that this was going to be on the same day as his wedding - so now, therefore, he can't go! If you know of someone who would be interested and would like to go in his place, it's at St Peter's Church in London at 5pm. Her name is Deirdre, she is 5'4", about 115 lbs, a good cook, makes £100k a year! She will be the one in the white dress...

Happenings in Cliddesden Road in July:

AT No. 43 (RG21 3EP)
(home of Peter and Ruth Bentall)

and at
31 Wallis Road (RG21 3DN)
on
1st July 2 – 5pm

OPEN GARDENS
in aid of St Joseph's Refugee Fund

Entrance £3 per adult —
covers both gardens

Plant Sales
Teas, coffees and cake
Raffle

Limited wheelchair access at both gardens and please park with consideration. Parking also available in the Irish Centre, Council Road



AT No. 107A (RG21 3EY)
on 23rd July

Maggie Morgans is hosting the Church Garden Party in her beautiful garden.

Everyone is invited to come along and share the fun. Why not bring a friend too or maybe somebody from your family?



Donations of cake or scones will be really appreciated. Please would you let Jenny McCloy know by 9th July if you are able to help? There will be a list on the noticeboard to which you can add your name if you can help and to identify which kind of cake you can donate.



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

A man of 92 years, short, very well-presented, and takes great care of his appearance, is moving into an old people's home today. His wife of 70 years has recently died, and he is obliged to leave his home.

After waiting several hours in the retirement home lobby, he gently smiles as he is told that his room is ready. As he slowly walks to the elevator using his cane, the assistant describes his small room to him, including the curtain for the window.

'I like it very much', he says, with the enthusiasm of an 8-year-old boy who has just been given a new puppy.

'Mr. Todd, you haven't even seen the room yet. Hang on a moment, we are almost there.'

'That has nothing to do with it, he replies. 'Happiness is something I choose in advance. Whether or not I like the room does not depend on the furniture, or the decor – rather it depends on how I decide to see it.

'It is already decided in my mind that I like my room. It is a decision I take every morning when I wake up.

'I can choose. I can spend my day in bed enumerating all the difficulties that I have with the parts of my body that no longer work very well, or I can get up and give thanks to heaven for those parts that are still in working order.

'Every day is a gift, and as long as I can open my eyes, I will focus on the new day, and all the happy memories that I have built up over my life.

'Old age is like a bank account. You withdraw in later life what you have deposited along the way. So the advice to you is to deposit all the happiness you can in your bank account of memories.

Remember these simple guidelines for Happiness:

Free your heart from hate.

Free your mind from worry.

Live simply.

Give more and expect less.



Who's Who?

Ena Menarry, Tadley, writes:

I was born in Liverpool in 1942, so I remember the air-raid shelters that we played in after the war! Rationing was still going on and I remember going to buy sweets with my mother's Ration Book!

George, my husband of 56 years, and I went to the same Primary and Junior schools, the same Sunday School and our Grand-mothers played whist together! I was in the Guides and then the Rangers and George was in the Life Boys and then the Boys' Brigade at our local Congregational Church which we called the 'Congie'

When I left school I went to work at Liverpool University Library and George had an apprenticeship as a Mechanical Engineer. We became childhood sweethearts and married in 1961 at 'The Congie.' I continued to work in the Library at Liverpool University; I was in my element there as I have always loved books.

We lived with George's parents until we could afford a place of our own and in 1963 we moved out of Liverpool to Hough Green, a lovely country village backing onto a Golf Course. We really thought we were 'POSH'. Our eldest son, Paul, was born before we moved out of Liverpool and he was very proud of that and a staunch Liverpool football fan.

In 1964 George got a job at AWRE, as it was called then, and we moved to Tadley. We made lots of friends in Tadley. George joined the Motor Cycle Club and Football Club at AWRE.

Our youngest son Andrew was born in 1965.

I worked both in the Hairdressers and The Fish and Chip Shop in Franklin Avenue in Tadley. I cleaned in the Hairdressers, so I got a free 'hair-do' and cooked and served in the Chippie so I got a free supper to take home - plus 1 Guinea (21 shillings in pre-decimal currency).

In 1971 we got involved in a self-build group and between us we built 10 beautiful houses in Basingstoke. We lived in Basingstoke for

11 years during which time Paul had a very nasty injury to his leg whilst playing football and, on seeing the injury, I passed out! I realised that I needed to be able to cope with such injuries as, by now, not only were George and Paul playing football but Andrew was too!

I joined The Red Cross in Basingstoke and was required to do voluntary work at the hospital. It was the Mini then (the hospital we know now hadn't been built then). It was at this time I felt the need to know more and to be able to help patients cope better so I became an Auxiliary Nurse in 1973.

Eventually, being an Auxiliary wasn't enough and I applied to train as a State Registered Nurse. Surprisingly, the GCEs I had were enough for me to be accepted for the training which I began in 1980.

Both our boys, of course, were growing up rapidly and Paul went into the Royal Navy and Andrew joined the RAF.

George worked in different places in Basingstoke and our number of friends grew rapidly. When I passed my State Finals I went to work in A&E which I loved and eventually went to work at Tadley Medical Practice as, by that time, we had moved back to the area, living in our lovely bungalow in West Heath.

Sadly for me, last year I had a stroke which left me with a numbness down my right side and so I was unable to carry on working as a Practice Nurse and Diabetes Nurse at the surgery.

BUT, I had worked there for 30 years and loved every moment. I looked forward to going to work every single day. 'All good things come to an end' they say, whoever 'they' are!!!

Now I am very busy with other things and especially my work as an Elder at Old Meeting. I did feel very daunted at first but gradually I am beginning to feel, YES, I CAN DO IT. My work with Kay at Little Angels is a real bonus.

I did ask, when I was approached to become an Elder, 'Why ask me? I can't sing, play a musical instrument or preach - I was told that I could talk!!!!?' I am still trying to work that one out!

FREE Puddings and Promises

8th July, 7.00pm

Tadley United Reformed Church,
Main Road Tadley

for childrens work in Uganda

FREE
Entrance...



FREE
Puddings...

...and an Auction of Useful Promises

Bring your
own drinks
and nibbles

For more information:-

Mark & Julie, mandjward@hotmail.co.uk (0118 970 1125)

Paul and Janet, paulg@silchester.org (0118 970 0809)

George & Ena georgeandena@gmail.com (01256 8502855)

July Diary

at London Street, unless otherwise stated

Sun	2 nd	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast led by Owen Collins
		10.30am	Worship led by The Minister
Wed	5 th	7.30pm	Elders' meeting
Sun	9 th	10.30am	Worship led by Sydney Shore
Fri	14 th	7.30pm	Messy Church preparation
Sun	16 th	10.30am	Worship, including Holy Communion – led by The Minister
Wed	19 th	10.15am	3Cs in the Oasis Café - all welcome
		7.30pm	Church Meeting
Sun	23 rd	10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister Garden Party at 107A Cliddesden Road (see page 10)
Tue	25 th		Schools Break
Thu	27 th	2.30pm	Friendship Hour AGM and Tea – all welcome Oasis Café closes and re-opens 11 th September
Sat	29 th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sun	30 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Revd Gordon Randall

August Diary

at London Street, unless otherwise stated

Sun	6 th	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast led by: TBA
		10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister
Sun	13 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Revd Julian Macro
Wed	16 th	10.15am	3Cs Coffee Morning (see page 7)
Sun	20 th	10.30am	Worship, including Holy Communion – led by Revd Mike Burrell
Sun	27 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Mrs Joy Williams

Services at Old Meeting, Tadley

July

Welcome and Coffee Rota

Sun	2 nd	Sydney Shore	Ena and George
Sun	9 th	Revd Kay Blackwell	Mandy and Dave
Sun	16 th	TBA	Ladies Cell Group
Sun	23 rd	Mel Euerby	Janet and Paul
Sun	30 th	Rob Lloyd	TBC

August - TBA

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

See page 15 for summer closures

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
Youth Café for secondary school and
college students

3-5.30pm in
Term Time

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
(BEAVER SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Colony
(CUB SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Pack
(SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Troop
PRAYER MEETING at Tadley URC or St Paul's

5.45pm
7pm
7pm
7-8.00pm

Wednesdays:

10am-1.30pm
10.30-12 noon
10.15-11.30am
12.15pm
3-5.30pm in
Term Time

OASIS Café in the Concourse
MEMORY TREE SOCIAL CLUB
3Cs on 3rd Wednesday of each month
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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