



# **London Street**

## **United Reformed Church**

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



**FOCUS**  
**September, 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  
Mobile - 07582 056286  
e.mail - [revkblackwell@gmail.com](mailto:revkblackwell@gmail.com)

**CHURCH SECRETARY:**

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

**TREASURER:**

Karen Bell  
47 Tobago Close, Popley,  
Basingstoke RG24 9PX  
e.mail - [treasurer@londonstreeturc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@londonstreeturc.org.uk)

**HALL LETTING:**

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

**FOCUS:**

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

## 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 Community 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](mailto:paulg@silchester.org)

**Treasurer:**

Mark Ward  
10 Hartleys, Silchester, Reading RG7 2QE  
e.mail: [mandjward@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mandjward@hotmail.co.uk)

# View from the manse:

***'For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.'***  
***(1 Corinthians 1:18)***

I'm writing this 'view from the manse' having just completed an intensive week of coordinating and running the third Tadley Churches Together Holiday Club for children aged between 5 and 11 years. The week went really well. We had fifty-three children attending (full capacity for the week for the first time) and 35 volunteers from across nine churches in the area. At the end of the week we ran a barbecue for the children and their families along with the volunteers who, this year, catered for 125 people (again, the largest one we have organised yet!). Since then I have been reflecting on my role of being the 'fool' for Jesus. Every day during the holiday club I appeared as 'Shiner', a quirky, rather deaf and very old man with a long grey beard that came down to my waist. As Shiner, I came to share the wisdom of my years of studying the Bible as I retold Gospel stories stored within my heart. By the end of the week, having experienced themed games, crafts, activities and a film each day around the Gospel story first told in the morning's short play by the Shiner, the children were able to remember the stories in amazing detail.

So why was I being a fool for Jesus? I wanted to communicate the Gospel in whatever way made it more relevant or memorable to the listeners. If my dressing up as an ancient old man with a ridiculously long beard helps the children to get actively involved in hearing the Gospel message, then I will do it. If making people laugh helps them to remember, then I will make them laugh. If singing the Gospel message helps them remember, then I will sing!

In secular thinking, wisdom comes from knowledge, learning, scholarship and philosophy. One dictionary definition I read said that wisdom is about using personal knowledge, gained by human endeavour, and personal experience to make good decisions and judgements. One wonders who, then, discerns the goodness of those decisions and judgements? Humans often desire recognition for their wisdom as a way of gaining power over others. Wisdom comes from personal knowledge, knowledge over the equal power of others.

In Proverbs 1:7 it says 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction'. From a position of faith, true wisdom is God given. In the Biblical tradition there is no such thing as a self-made man or woman. Biblical wisdom is both about one's relationship with God

as well as skill in living in relationship with others. People can be very intellectually intelligent yet emotionally illiterate, others can be emotionally intelligent yet are not at all academic. Christian wisdom is not following a set of rules and commandments, though they are important examples of wisdom, they are not wisdom in themselves. Christ personified the wisdom of God. In Matthew chapter 23 verse 23 Jesus reprimanded the scribes and Pharisees who tied themselves to the detailed letter of the law 'yet neglect the weightier matters of justice, mercy and faithfulness.' We, as Christians, need to have 'listening hearts, which, in Hebrew, is the discernment that Solomon (Solomon whom many regarded as wise) seeks from God. Listening hearts will be attentive and responsive then to the Holy Spirit. To have listening hearts we need to tune into God through prayer, through studying scripture and through maturing in our faith 'to the measure of the full stature of Christ'. Ephesians 4:13.

Jesus came as God's rescue plan for human kind. Humans cannot achieve salvation through their own endeavours, through their own understanding or human wisdom. It is through Christ alone that we come into full relationship with God. Jesus is the key to the kingdom of God that our hearts yearn for. Yet Jesus died alone on the cross. He was humiliated, stripped, beaten, mocked, nailed to a cross before the greatest human might and wisdom of his day, that is, the Roman authorities, the Scribes and Pharisees. He was willing to be made a fool of in order that we might achieve forgiveness of our sins through Him. He has paid the price for our selfishness and sin. But to those outside of the Christian faith, Jesus dying on the cross will be seen as an act of foolishness. Indeed Billy Graham comments that those outside of faith see the cross as 'offensive'. We must put aside the desire for self and humble ourselves before the cross of Christ. Sometimes the wisdom of our faith may be called into question. We may even be mocked for our foolishness in believing. But our believing is not about human understanding; there will always be an element of mystery to what we can understand of God. But by putting aside the power we gain through human intellectual endeavour and faithfully becoming a fool for Jesus we may actually become a little wiser in the eyes of God.

As we come into the response phase of the 'Who Cares?' mission this is my prayer for us all...

Loving Lord Jesus, give us listening hearts we pray. Give us listening hearts that we may respond wisely to the needs and hurts that have been revealed to us in this community through the 'Who Cares?' listening phase. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may we unite as your body in this place in order to be your hands, your feet, your ears, your eyes, your mouth, your heart to those that we meet. May we always speak your love through actions and words to those who are in need.

Amen

## CIRCLE OF PRAYER:



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

**Short Term:** Tish Catterall; Owen Collins and family; Mary Friday; Karen Gorf; Christine and Ron Holt; Claire Macro; Pam Ralph; Doina Rasnita; Hyacinth Ridguard; Mary Silver.

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

-ooOoo-

Sadly, we have to report that Joe Collins (Owen's dad) died in hospital on 17<sup>th</sup> August. The funeral service is on 7<sup>th</sup> September at 11am at Basingstoke Crematorium. At this difficult time we remember Owen and the family and friends in our prayers.

## Flower Rota - September



3<sup>rd</sup> Lesley Harriman  
10<sup>th</sup> Iris and Les Wenham  
17<sup>th</sup> Sheila Munro  
24<sup>th</sup> Christine Robertson

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

St Paul wrote in Romans 1 v 16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew and then to the Gentile.”

Unlike Paul I have to admit that sometimes I experience a “cringe factor” when the Gospel of Christ is proclaimed in certain ways. Why is that? Is it them or me? Do I feel embarrassed by some Christian truth because it is in contrast with conventional ideas and I want the Gospel to be acceptable to the hearers? It is all very well to want to be relevant and acceptable but in reducing any part of the uniqueness of the Gospel we do not strengthen it, but weaken it. If we bring Christianity to the lowest common denominator with the world we end up with Christ as the one who serves our needs, fulfils our aspirations, and endorses our values. This makes us feel good but it isn't transforming, it merely affirms most of what we already hold dear. It doesn't address the root of our alienation from God, and the corruptness of the human heart. It doesn't address the wrath of God that was fully satisfied in the cross of Christ, and it doesn't bring us into union with Christ. We simply coast along with no expectation of the work of God in our lives. The Gospel is confrontational because it is transformational. The two go together. We short change the people we long to reach with the Good News if we relay only the parts we think are palatable. People need to know they are sinners and this condition keeps them alienated from God.

There are only two ways we can go in this life. We are either in a state of perishing, which if not rectified through the cross of Christ, will result in eternal separation from God or we can acknowledge that we need saving and that in coming humbly to the cross of Christ we have a Saviour who not only indwells us with His Spirit, but saves us to eternal life.

The Gospel is costly, because it involves submitting our lives to Christ, and living His way for His agenda. He becomes Lord, sovereign in our lives and in exchange, we receive His life, and the unlimited resources made available in Him. That is the adventure of the Christian life, and the Gospel everyone needs to hear.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, in my witness for You, help me not to be concerned about the cringe factor, but to reveal to others what You would have me say. Thank You, Lord.

# Daily Bible Readings for September:

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	119:161-176	2 Corinthians	8				
2 <sup>nd</sup>	19	Reflection		16 <sup>th</sup>	126/127	Reflection	
3 <sup>rd</sup>		"		17 <sup>th</sup>		"	
4 <sup>th</sup>	54	2 Corinthians	9	18 <sup>th</sup>	25:11-22	1 Timothy	6
5 <sup>th</sup>	86	"	10	19 <sup>th</sup>	57	2 Timothy	1
6 <sup>th</sup>	121/122	"	11	20 <sup>th</sup>	102:1-17	"	2
7 <sup>th</sup>	99	"	12	21 <sup>st</sup>	128/129	"	3
8 <sup>th</sup>	20	"	13	22 <sup>nd</sup>	26	"	4
9 <sup>th</sup>	56	Reflection		23 <sup>rd</sup>	130/131	Reflection	
10 <sup>th</sup>		"		24 <sup>th</sup>		"	
11 <sup>th</sup>	23/24	1 Timothy	1	25 <sup>th</sup>	27	Titus	1
12 <sup>th</sup>	87	"	2	26 <sup>th</sup>	60	"	2
13 <sup>th</sup>	100/101	"	3	27 <sup>th</sup>	89:1-13	"	3
14 <sup>th</sup>	124/125	"	4	28 <sup>th</sup>	102:18-28	1 John	1
15 <sup>th</sup>	25:1-10	"	5	29 <sup>th</sup>	132	"	2
				30 <sup>th</sup>	28	Reflection	

**Hello from Gosport:** Mary Silver writes:

I just want you all to know how grateful I am for your prayers and kind messages, sent via Isobel.

Pleased to say I am doing well at the moment; long may it last.

God bless you all,  
Love and best wishes, Mary

Happy  Birthday



*Johanna Knoll, 5 years on 17 September*  
*Max Knoll, 7 years on 25 September*  
*David McElvenny, 18 years on 29 September*

## Directory Changes:

- Helen Rolton's address is Room 26, Cherry Blossom Manor, German Road, Bramley Green, Tadley, RG26 5GF. Telephone number is unchanged.
- David Waller's address is now 27 Park Gardens, Basingstoke, RG21 3PG (telephone number is unchanged). Louise Holmes is now Mrs Louise Waller. Address and telephone number are unchanged.

## Series of talks:

Roland Pletts will lead a series of three informative and challenging talks. He will be speaking on Biblical prophecies and their relevance to the end time Biblical feasts of Trumpets, Atonement and Tabernacles. The talks will take place in the Hook Room from 7.00 to 9.00pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> (Yom Kippur) and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October (the first day of Sukkot). All are very welcome.

("Roland has spoken in all Christian Denominations and this testifies to his value."

*Malcolm Hedding, past director of ICEJ.*

"Roland is uniquely endowed with ability to see what is currently happening to what God's plans and purposes actually are."

*Jan Nel, International Ministries, Malasia.)*

## Art exhibition:

'Imaging the Story' is an exhibition of art to be displayed at London Street in September. Co-ordinated by a group of artists who have participated in a course at St. Mary's Church, Old Basing, the art works will be connected to Biblical themes and be displayed in the Concourse and the Sanctuary from 15<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017, during Café opening hours. All London Street members are invited to a private view, including talks by some of the artists, on 15<sup>th</sup> September (see p.13).

## Night Shelter:

At the July church meeting, Kay reported on the very successful pilot scheme which ran over the winter of 2016/17. Owen has a copy of the Pilot Project Report referred to by Kay at the meeting should anyone wish to read it.

# 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 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.

# CHURCH DIRECTORY FOR 2018

In anticipation of 2018, 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 2018. 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, 5<sup>th</sup> 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 2017 directory, please ensure that you shred it or tear it up. Thank you. Owen.

## Oberammergau Passion Play:

Revd Michael Hopkins has arranged a trip to the Oberammergau Passion Play and a tour of the Austrian Tyrol on 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> May 2020. Cost £1,320. If you are interested, please download the brochure and booking form from the Wessex Synod website. Single room accommodation is limited so, if you are interested and require a single room, it is essential that you book now.

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## HARVEST 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER

Decorate a Church window sill on Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> September between 10am and 1pm.

Please add your name to the list on the Notice Board or, if you prefer to donate towards the flowers, please contact Liz Lindsay on 01256 363685.

## It's Sponsored Ride & Stride Time again:

[http://www.hihct.org.uk/rideStride\\_taking.php](http://www.hihct.org.uk/rideStride_taking.php)

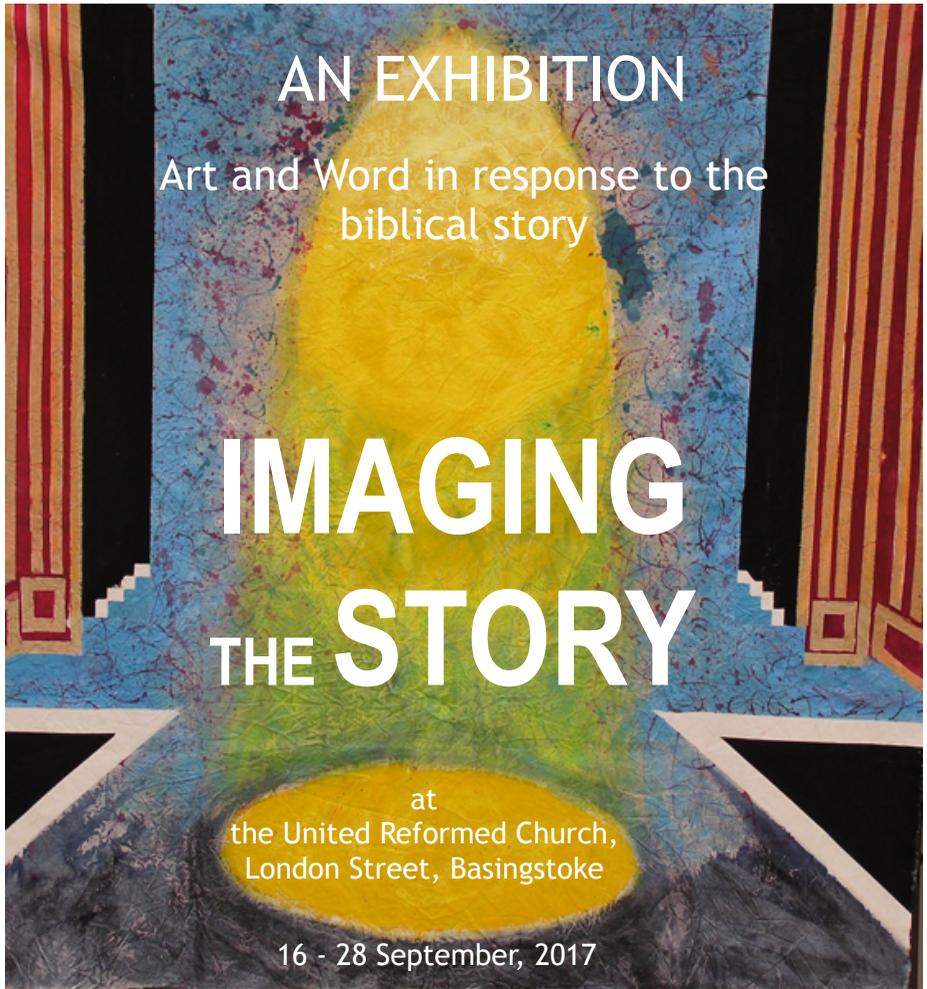
The date is Saturday 9th September 2017 and we are free to choose our own route and to visit as many of the churches in our area as we are able, between 10 am and 6 pm. We may cycle, walk, run, ride or drive to raise money for the region's historic churches and chapels. The money we raise from our sponsors will be divided between the Hants & Isle of Wight Historic Churches Trust and a church of your choice (hopefully London St. URC). Sponsor sheets and a list of Participating Churches will be available or can be downloaded directly from their website. You will be amazed at the variety of churches you will find in quite a small area.

Obviously the point is to raise money so to get sponsors is important but it has also proved to be a very enjoyable afternoon drive of discovery through the beautiful countryside. Joy Williams and Alison Jamieson hope to fill their cars again this year and perhaps you would like to join them or take a car load yourself. Indicate your interest to Joy or Alison.

Looking for a route to walk or cycle please see some [suggested routes](#) or maybe the [Dever Valley](#) or [Itchen Valley](#).

.....  
: "I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day;  
: I had so much to accomplish that I didn't have time to pray.  
: Problems just tumbled about me and heavier came each task;  
: 'Why doesn't God help me?' I wondered. He answered,  
: 'You didn't ask.'  
: I wanted to see joy and beauty but the day toiled on grey and bleak.  
: I wondered why God didn't show me; He said,  
: 'But you didn't seek',  
: I tried to come into God's presence; I used all my keys in the lock.  
: God gently and lovingly chided,  
: 'My child, you didn't knock.'  
: I woke up early this morning, and paused before entering the day;  
: I had so much to accomplish that I had to take time to pray."  
.....

*Author unknown*



# AN EXHIBITION

Art and Word in response to the biblical story

# IMAGING THE STORY

at  
the United Reformed Church,  
London Street, Basingstoke

16 - 28 September, 2017

## Opening View and Reception

on Friday 15 September  
at 6 pm

Artist talks at 7 pm

## Opening Hours

Saturday 16 Sept	10 am - 4 pm
Mon 18-Thurs 21	10 am - 2.30 pm
Friday 22	Closed
Saturday 23	10 am - 4 pm
Mon 25 -Thurs 28	10 am - 2.30pm

(see p.8)

# 'Becoming an Eco Church'

Looking after our environment continues to be a high profile topic in our world today and, as Christians charged with the Biblical responsibility to look after God's creation, it is something we should take seriously. Many of the mainstream churches are looking to address this through the 'Eco Church' movement. The following is an article written by Jean Wilde, who heads up the 'Eco Church' at Christ Church, Chineham, in which she outlines the history, aims and progress of the project there.

## **Article.....**

At Christ Church Chineham we took the decision to take part in the eco project supported by the diocese of Winchester and announced by Justin Welby in January 2016. It was not a difficult decision as we had in the past received a diocesan environmental award at bronze level and our assistant minister, Gordon Randall, is Stewardship Adviser for the diocese. The church council subsequently decided to include working on green issues within the community as part of the Parish Mission Action Plan and we were presented with the bronze award by the Bishop of Basingstoke at Easter.

The project is organised by A Rocha UK in partnership with the Church of England, Christian Aid, Tearfund and the Methodist Church. It is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world. Their Churches and Theology Director, Dr Ruth Valerio, has written several books on the topic and was a guest last November when Christ Church hosted an evening entitled 'Tools for Transformation'.

The project is an ecumenical one and there has been a joint working group set up on climate change and theology convened by the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. The Methodist Church is building on its existing Eco-Congregation Award scheme which encompasses spiritual, practical and communal activities to set up its Eco Circuit Award which links in with Christian environmental movements including A Rocha.

The United Reformed Church produced its statement of intent in its Environmental Policy for the United Reformed Church 2016 affirming as a church the need for caring for creation, the just sharing of the world's resources and concern for the environment. This document is well worth reading as it also sets out the Biblical basis for taking on such responsibilities.

The eco award covers five distinct areas and you will see that at London Street you are already doing things which would count, such as Christian

Aid, Fairtrade and I believe some people went on the climate change march. These are the categories: Worship and Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community and Global Engagement and finally Lifestyle. We began by naming me as the contact 'eco champ' as I had been involved in Greening Chineham as part of Basingstoke Green Week. Some churches have set up a small green team. We held a few swap shopping events, set up a designated notice board and began putting items in the church magazine. We are already known in the local community as a recycling centre.

It is as time consuming and arduous as you want it to be and I have met many new people within the church and the wider community. If you are thinking of getting involved and want more information please contact me on [jeanmartyn123@btinternet.com](mailto:jeanmartyn123@btinternet.com). At the end of the day, however, it is not really about winning awards is it? – we are doing what God has called us to do.

Thank you Jean for this.

A number of our members attended the evening event in November 2016 mentioned by Jean and since then the Elders have been looking to see how we can work toward a Bronze award, we still have a little way to go. Watch this space!

Alison Jamieson

We are a Christian counselling service based in the centre of Basingstoke.



Due to the increased demand for our services at Cedar Tree Counselling we are looking for someone who could regularly commit to 2-3 hours per week, on a Tuesday morning, to act as a volunteer welcomer/receptionist at our premises in central Basingstoke. No experience required and training would be given.

**Could that be you?**

If you might be interested, and would like to chat to me about it, I would love to hear from you.

Julie Crawley (01256) 851003/07703 72096  
or email me at [enquiriescedartree@gmail.com](mailto:enquiriescedartree@gmail.com)

# God's Plan for Ageing:

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom, God decreed that seniors become forgetful so that they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So, if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

Important facts to remember as we grow older:

1. Death is the number one killer in the world.
2. Life is sexually transmitted.
3. Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
4. Men have two main motivations: hunger and hanky panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.
5. All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
6. In the 60s people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

*Anon.*

Today there are so many gadgets around that can do the jobs which people once used to do – perhaps it is no wonder we sometimes get confused!

A young engineer was leaving the office at 5.45pm when he found the CEO standing in front of a shredder with a piece of paper in his hand. “Listen,” said the CEO. “this is a very sensitive and important document and my secretary’s not here. Can you make this thing work?”



“Certainly,” said the young engineer. He turned on the machine, inserted the paper and pressed the start button.

“Excellent, excellent!” said the CEO as his paper disappeared inside the machine. “I just need one copy.”

LESSON: Never, never, ever assume your boss knows what he’s doing!



and



## Making Decisions:

*Difficult or easy? Will I get out of bed now or stay for a while? Will I travel by 'bus or by train? Will I accept or decline the offer?*

I'm not a strong swimmer; I didn't learn to swim until I was in my late twenties and regret leaving it for so long. When I was a small child I wanted to jump in the pool and enjoy the fun but I found it very difficult to trust myself to the water and needed to keep one foot firmly on the floor. As a result I neither sank or swam. To my disadvantage, I sat on the fence and missed out!

I can count many times in my life when 'sitting on the fence' or 'hedging my bets' has ended up with my achieving nothing. It is not always possible to play it both ways. Throughout our lives difficult choices will assuredly arise and we have to be clear about our priorities. Compromise is an attempt to secure the best or both worlds, and may end up securing neither.

*'No one can serve two masters, for they will either hate the one and love the other, or cling to the one and spurn the other. You cannot simultaneously serve God and this world.'* Matthew 6:24)

CR.

-oOo-

## He Asks So Little And Gives So Much:

What must I do to ensure peace of mind?  
Is the answer I'm seeking so hard to find?  
How can I know what God wants me to be?  
How can I tell what's expected of me?  
Where can I go for guidance and aid  
To help me correct the errors I've made?  
The answer is found in doing three things  
And great is the gladness that doing them brings.

Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk honestly with God  
For, with these three things as you rule your rod,  
All things worth having are yours to achieve  
If you follow God's words and have faith and believe.

Anon.

# September Diary

at London Street, unless otherwise stated

Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast led by Jenny and Ian McCloy
		10.30am	Worship led by Peter Pay
Mon	4 <sup>th</sup>		Schools return
Wed	6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Sat	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am- 6.00pm	Sponsored 'Ride and Stride' (see p.12)
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship led by Melanie Townsend
Mon	11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Oasis Café reopens
Sat	16-28 <sup>th</sup>		Art and Word Exhibition (see p.13)
Sun	17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship, including Holy Communion – led by The Minister
Wed	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.15am	3Cs in the Oasis Café - all welcome
		7.30pm	Church Meeting
Sun	24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister
Thu	28 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Friendship Hour – all welcome
Fri	29 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Roland Pletts' talk in the Hook Room
Sat	30 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Do. Do. (Yom Kippur)
		10.00am- 1.00pm	Decorate Church for Harvest

## Looking forward:

### October:

Sun	1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Harvest Thanksgiving and Parade Service
Wed	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting

## Services at Old Meeting, Tadley

### September

### Welcome and Coffee Rota

Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	To be confirmed	Ena and George
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup>	Revd Kay Blackwell	Mandy and Dave
Sun	17 <sup>th</sup>	Derek Clarke	Ladies Cell
Sun	24 <sup>th</sup>	Andy Taylor	Elaine and Brian

### October

Sun	1 <sup>st</sup>	To be confirmed	Ena and George
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## 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 (*reopens on 11<sup>th</sup> September*)  
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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