



# **London Street**

## **United Reformed Church**

**BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE RG21 7NU**

**and**

**TADLEY (OLD MEETING) URC**



**Focus**  
**November, 2017**

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

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

## MINISTER:

Revd Kay Blackwell (*Day off - Monday*)  
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## CHURCH SECRETARY:

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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 Community  
Centre)

## Minister:

Revd Kay Blackwell

## Church Secretary:

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## Treasurer:

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## View from the manse:

*'And I saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them."' (Rev 21:2-4 New Living Translation)*

In October I was part of a conference in London called 'Movement Day UK'. This is an international movement seeking spiritual, cultural and social transformation of our communities; that is, the villages, towns and cities where we live, work and worship. Here we were inspired to hear of Christian fellowships that had really brought about significant transformation to their localities by working together; partnering with other churches, secular organisations and local councils. The aim of the conference was to empower and inspire the body of Christ to engage with all spheres of society such as the arts, politics, business, education, health and media. In other words it was looking at holistic transformation across our localities which will require the whole body with the whole gospel to reach the whole of our villages, towns and cities. This is about joining God in God's Kingdom transformational plan.

The good news is that some of this work has already started in Basingstoke and Deane. We have already been engaging with local councils to discuss the findings of the 'Who Cares?' survey. The new '1 Church Basingstoke' committee is already helping churches to communicate more efficiently and work together more effectively. In December '1 Church Basingstoke' and the Food Bank will partner with us to provide a Christmas day lunch for those who do not want to spend Christmas alone (this will be part of our 'Who Cares?' response). From December to the end of February churches will unite to provide a continuous night shelter for the street homeless with the support of the council, the police and many other local agencies. Just this week I was invited to a local council training day on understanding the effects of trauma as part of the preparation for

coordinating the night shelter. This meeting helped to build links with community officers and other professionals working with the street homeless and 'street attached' in Basingstoke. I believe God is already at work weaving us into every part of our local community and through that work God is starting to transform lives. Unity is bringing about God's transformation, little by little.

The 'Who Cares?' mission response is still in hand. A discipleship course called 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline' is planned for January for the congregation to be a part of. And, after Easter, we will be running a 'Life Explored' course for new and seeking Christians. In the meantime I will be opening up a Thursday evening house/study group, 7-9pm, at the manse from 2<sup>nd</sup> November, so why not come and join me and help the conversation flow?

Yours in Christ, Kay

## CIRCLE OF PRAYER:



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

**Short Term:** Tish Catterall; Doreen Dudman; Sally Friday; Karen Gorf; Christine and Ron Holt; Sonja Knoll and family; Claire Macro; Ian and Jenny McCloy and family; family and friends of Pam Ralph; Doina Rasnita; Hyacinth Ridguard; family of Helen Rolton; Mary Silver; Louise Waller.

**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; Molly Shaw; Fay Spurr; Suzanne Tolley; Les and Iris Wenham; Sarah Williams and her daughter, Katherine Witts.

- .....
- With sadness we report the death of Pam Ralph on 26<sup>th</sup> September. •
  - Pam struggled with ill health during most of her adult life and it is •
  - testimony to her faith and fighting spirit that so many of her friends •
  - and former colleagues were able to join her family for a service of •
  - thanksgiving on 12<sup>th</sup> October. She will be greatly missed. (See page 7) •
- .....

# Prayer Focus:

*1 Peter ch 5 vv 1-4 ....'Be Shepherds of God's flock...'*

Following the Ffald y Brenin readings over the past few months gives us an insight into the situation of those early Christians scattered in small communities.

Frustratingly, of course, we do not know the exact circumstances which caused the letters to be written, some to specific communities and others more likely to a group of churches. Others are more personally directed, as to Timothy and Titus, who seem to be the appointed leaders. Timothy is encouraged as a young man in that leadership and Titus, in Crete, is instructed to appoint Elders for each local community group. Paul for example obviously had some serious problems with the Corinthians in general and some individuals in particular – and they seemed to have had some problems with him also! We are missing 'another' letter which might have explained more perhaps.

But overall it appears that the disputes/debates/disagreements within those early churches were not so different from those within Christian communities today, albeit in a very different environment. Human nature has not changed!

One common theme, as exemplified in the reference above, in 1 Peter 5, is the role of Elders, their expected personal characters, and integrity. Their role as 'Shepherds' and commitment to God's work of service, 'not looking to lord it over those entrusted to you' (verse 3).

We continue the role of Elder today and we thank God for those called to serve in London Street to fulfil those same tasks.

Prayer

1. For those called to be Elders in our Church
2. For all those called in so many other ways to commit to the many tasks within the Church
3. For the next phase of the 'Who Cares?' mission
4. For all those who use our building that they may experience the presence of God and feel the love of Jesus for them
5. For the wider world with its many trouble areas – political, economic, violence and terror related.

# Flower Rota - November



5<sup>th</sup> Joyce Cook  
12<sup>th</sup> REMEMBRANCE  
19<sup>th</sup> Owen Collins  
26<sup>th</sup> Yvonne Thornton

We have a few spare dates for 2018. If you would like to sponsor the flowers on a Sunday, which are then delivered to Church people who are ill or celebrating, please get in touch with Liz Lindsay (01256 363685).

Thank you.



*Lucas Stanley, 9 years on 2<sup>nd</sup> November*  
*Ethan Honeyball, 9 years on 24<sup>th</sup> November*

## Printer Ink:

I have recently changed my printer and have a number of ink cartridges (black and colour) for an Epson Stylus SX435W. If you'd like them in exchange for a contribution to church funds, please have a word. Thank you. Owen.



Dave and I thank everyone who supported us at our wedding and for all the lovely gifts and cards.

*Louise Waller*

## Thanksgiving for Pam

Pam Ralph was born in Basingstoke and lived here all her life. She started coming to Friendship Hour around 1998 and made friends with Eileen Poulter. I knew her from 2003 when I moved back to Basingstoke. At this time Pam was normally at the weekly Friendship Hour meeting, especially if it was a meeting connected with crafts or travel, both very close to her interests.



Unfortunately illness and pain restricted Pam's movements and ability to get out regularly and even with her mobility scooter there were times when she was housebound. Her home at this time was a flat in Flaxfield Road. She loved her cat, Lucy, and many secrets were shared with the cat. When the noise from neighbours was too much, life became extremely hard for Pam. Fortunately, the last straw came just as the bungalow became available at Pages. She was delighted to be given the chance to move in with Lucy and really enjoyed her time as a resident. Pam loved the bungalow with the quietness we enjoy living there in the middle of town. It also meant she could get to the Church for services and also for the Craft Club and Friendship Hour; all things she really enjoyed being involved with. Being close to the Church was a bonus for Pam and we were very happy when she came into full Membership of London Street a few years ago. Her faith meant a great deal to her and sustained her.

She has been a member of Friendship Hour for a few years more than me. In recent years we have been very grateful for the work she has done as Treasurer. Always a warm welcome when she was at the table, sometimes that smile making you feel she was not in pain. When she was able to do cooking her neighbours would be offered a small jar of home made jam, or sometimes even a pudding which she felt like making even though she couldn't eat it. She loved collecting the blackberries and making jam with them.

Her skill at craftwork was seen recently with some of her work being on display in the Church Window. This year she was also very proud of the sunflowers she had grown and, indeed, they were very colourful and tall. Her Thanksgiving service was very well attended and her family appreciated the support from the congregation.

She was too young to lose but I must say I am happy that she is released from the constant pain that she endured.

*Joyce Cook*

# Daily Bible Readings for November:

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	
1 <sup>st</sup>	144	John	13	16 <sup>th</sup> 40:9-17	1 Thessalonians	3
2 <sup>nd</sup>	36:5-12	"	14	17 <sup>th</sup> 71:14-24	"	4
3 <sup>rd</sup>	68:28-35	"	15	18 <sup>th</sup> 149	Reflection	
4 <sup>th</sup>	145	Reflection		19 <sup>th</sup>		
5 <sup>th</sup>		"		20 <sup>th</sup> 41	1 Thessalonians	5
6 <sup>th</sup>	38	John	16	21 <sup>st</sup> 72	2 Thessalonians	1
7 <sup>th</sup>	69	"	17	22 <sup>nd</sup> 150	"	2
8 <sup>th</sup>	146	"	18	23 <sup>rd</sup> 1	"	3
9 <sup>th</sup>	107	"	19	24 <sup>th</sup> 108	2 Peter	1
10 <sup>th</sup>	70	"	20	25 <sup>th</sup> 2	Reflection	
11 <sup>th</sup>	147	Reflection		26 <sup>th</sup>	"	
12 <sup>th</sup>		"		27 <sup>th</sup> 42	2 Peter	2
13 <sup>th</sup>	40:1-8	John	21	28 <sup>th</sup> 73:21-28	"	3
14 <sup>th</sup>	71:1-13	1 Thessalonians	1	29 <sup>th</sup> 90	Jude	1
15 <sup>th</sup>	148	"	2	30 <sup>th</sup> 111	Revelation	1

## CREATION STEWARDS. (Genesis)

God made the heavens, created the earth  
 In just six days, He made it work.  
 "Let there be light" He was heard to say.  
 Light appeared and He called it 'day'.  
 Then darkness fell, and He called it 'night'  
 And in His eyes it all looked right.

Water appeared, with strips of land  
 Around their edges there was sand.  
 Many creatures filled the seas—  
 there was fruit aplenty – many trees,  
 with animals living side by side,  
 both domestic and those wild.

Man was created to rule over all—  
 including those that swim or crawl.  
 Eve, from Adam's rib was formed  
 but "leave the tree of knowledge", warned!  
 So Adam and Eve creation stewards became.  
 We are all empowered to do the same.

## Inspiration for later years:

I would like to share with you the following poem by an 85 year old friend who has just died, nine months after writing it and a year after having some children's books published. She enjoyed reading her stories to young children and her daughters found some manuscripts ('Little Terry Tiddlemouse and his Countryside Friends' and 'Little Terry Tiddlemouse - Time for Tea and Dressing Up') when they were helping with her removal into sheltered accommodation, and sent them to a publisher. I'm so glad she was able to see them illustrated and in print.

*Christine Robertson*

### **A MESSAGE FROM JOAN**

As my memory fades and the years pass me by,  
I think of the good times with a contented sigh.

I've been blessed in this life with the memories I own,  
With the family I've raised and how they've all grown.

My daughters who watch over me day after day,  
The great grandchildren who make me laugh as they play.

My husband in heaven, watching over me still;  
We shared so much together, I still miss you Bill.

The friendships I've made, I'll cherish forever,  
We've had some laughs and fun times together.

I'm delighted I've accomplished a lifelong ambition,  
My stories being read to children was my ultimate mission.

I'm not doing too badly for eighty-five,  
Enjoying sitting back as my family thrive.

I can be forgetful and repeat myself at times,  
But as my books will show, I'm pretty good with rhymes.

I still feel young, I love to giggle and jive,  
I don't like to feel morbid, I'm glad to be alive.

So here's some advice from this daft old woman –  
Stay positive, be happy and love life while you can.  
Not much has changed, I'm still the Joan that you see;  
I may have Alzheimer's, but it does not have me.

*by Joan Porter*

# Day of Prayer for London St. URC

Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2017

10am - 4pm

This is an important day for each one of us from the oldest name on our membership roll to the newest and also for those who have not yet made the decision of membership but think of this as 'their' church. Please put this date in your diary and come along. Spend as long or as short a time as you are able to **Focus on our Mission Vision and to seek God for the Provision.**



It is an important day because, through the years, we have experienced God's amazing faithfulness in so many areas, not least the provision of this amazing building from which the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been preached and lived out in the community for 217 years. This is the place where we meet to worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ, where some came to faith in Him and where the faith of all of us has been enriched by the teaching and preaching. We are blessed with a minister of strong faith and a heart for the needy and lost. The harvest is ready but the harvesters are few - the need and the opportunity to show the love of Christ to others is there for all to see but our resources of people and money are dwindling, therefore it is right, first of all, to make sure our mission priorities are in line with God's plans for us and this will be our aim as we wait upon him in prayer. God has His plans for us and every one of us has a part to play in them. If we are on the right track He has promised that in Christ Jesus He will supply the resources we need. As committed Christians all that we have is His. He will be faithful but He asks it of us too.

Please make this a priority. Book the date! Kay and the elders want your input!



## Christmas Day Lunch 2017



**'One Church' in partnership with the Basingstoke Food Bank invites you to join us for a Traditional Christmas Day Lunch from 12.30 pm to 4.00 pm.**

If you are alone for Christmas, or unable to cater for yourself, why not come and share Christmas Day with us in a relaxed and family environment at London Street United Reformed Church in Basingstoke, RG21 7NU

Invitation/registration form will be available shortly from Joy Williams, the Lunch Administrator.

### **Volunteer Helpers are also needed**

On **Saturday 23rd December** 3pm–5pm to lay tables, fold napkins, wrap presents and prepare vegetables and fruit.

And on **Christmas Day, 25th December** 12noon – 5pm to welcome guests and act as hosts for the day, serve drinks and wait at tables, run quizzes and games, join washing up teams and clear up at the end.

Volunteers are invited to sit down to the Christmas feast & join in the fun too!

Please contact Joy Williams if you can help in any way as you will need to complete a volunteer's form.

Email: [joyamwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:joyamwilliams@gmail.com) Tel 01256 326746



# Magic Bank Account:

Imagine that you have won the following “PRIZE” in a game: Every morning your Bank would deposit £86,400 in your private bank account.

The rules are:

1. Everything unspent during each day is taken away
2. You may not transfer money into another account
3. The Bank can end the game at any time, without warning and close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you do? Would you try to spend it all because you knew it would be replenished in the morning? It would be difficult to spend that amount on yourself every day, even including on those you love and care for and those you don't even know.

The GAME is REAL. We are **already winners** - We just don't see it!

The PRIZE is “TIME”.

1. Each morning we waken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of LIFE.
2. When we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is not credited to us.
3. What we haven't used up that day is lost forever.
4. Yesterday is gone forever.
5. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve the account at any time WITHOUT WARNING.

SO, what will you do with your 86,400 seconds? Those seconds are worth so much more than the same amount in pounds. Think about it and remember to enjoy every second of your life because time races by so much quicker than we think.

Take care of yourself, be happy, love deeply and enjoy life!

*(Adapted from an article in Gosport United Reformed Church's "The Link".*



# Join us for Christmas Day



**You are warmly invited to spend Christmas Day with us this year. Enjoy good food, good company, music, fun & celebration in the Christmas spirit, on this special day together.**

You will be welcomed at the new venue of the **Ambrose Allen Centre**, Franklin Avenue, Tadley at 12.00 noon for coffee, drinks and biscuits when the festivities will begin. Afterwards enjoy the Christmas atmosphere in good company, with conversation and soft music as Christmas dinner is prepared, served and enjoyed!

Then relax with an afternoon of fun, music and easy entertainment. There is no cost for this day. Just come along and be with friends. If you can make it we would love to hear from you, hopefully by 11th December (or sooner), so that we can organise food and catering!

Reply or get more information  
from:

**Mark & Julie**

Tel: 0118 970 1125,  
mandjward@hotmail.co.uk



**Love from all your friends already  
discovered.... and those still to know.  
Be a part of our family this  
Christmas.**



# NOT EVERYONE CAN READ THIS

If you can read this, you have a strange mind too. I couldn't believe that I could audaciously understand what I was reading. The phenomenal power of the human mind, according to a research at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter be in the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without a problem. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole. Amazing huh? Yeah and I always thought spelling was important! If you can read this **SHARE IT**

Can you read this?  
Only 55 people out of 100 can.



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**Basingstoke Choral Society**

**New London Sinfonia**

*Conductor David Gibson*

present

**A Night at the Opera**

on

**Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm**

at

**The Anvil, Basingstoke**

*Favourite Arias and Choruses*

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# November Diary

at London Street, unless otherwise stated

Wed	1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast – Leader TBC
		10.30am	Worship led by the Minister
Sat	11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Fun Quiz Night at Tadley
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b> – Worship led by Revd Clare Downing

## Deadline for December/January FOCUS

Wed	15 <sup>th</sup>	10.15am	3Cs in the Oasis Café - all welcome
Sun	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship, including Holy Communion – led by Revd Howard Sharp
Sun	26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister
		12 noon	Lunch, followed by Church Meeting and the election of Elders
Thu	30 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Friendship Hour – all welcome

## December

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> 10am-4pm Day of Prayer for London Street URC

# Services at Old Meeting, Tadley

## November

## Welcome and Coffee Rota

Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	Revd Sydney Shore	Ena and George
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup>	Revd Kay Blackwell	Mandy and Dave
Sun	19 <sup>th</sup>	Mel Euerby	Ladies Cell
Sun	26 <sup>th</sup>	TBC	Elaine and Brian

## December

Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Revd Kay Blackwell



"What program does God use  
to upload the sun every morning?"

## 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 — **Last 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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