



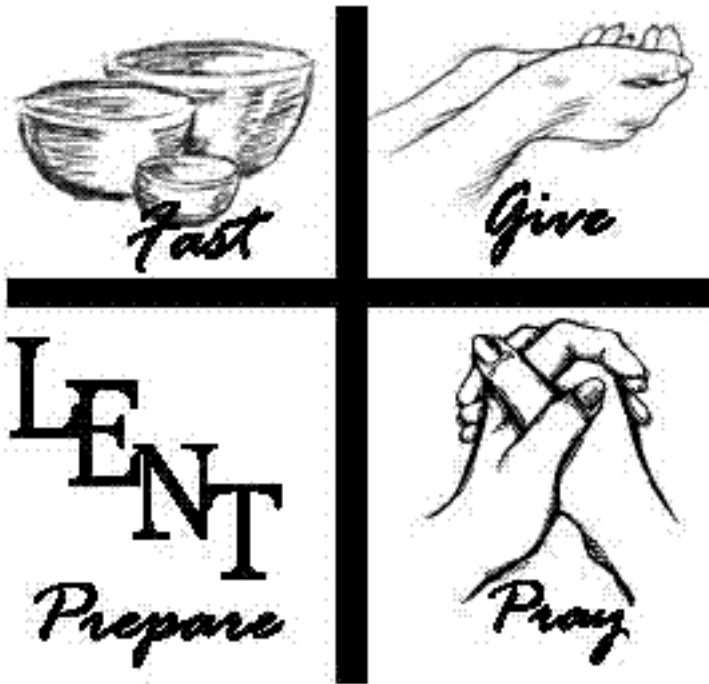
London Street

United Reformed Church

BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE RG21 7NU

and

TADLEY (OLD MEETING) URC



Focus
February, 2018

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - www.basingstokeurc.org.uk

MINISTER:

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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:

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Church Secretary:

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View from the manse:

'Walking the Way: Living the life of Jesus today'

'For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God' (Romans 8:19)

This year the United Reformed Church is focussing on lifelong discipleship and mission. The Greek word for 'disciple' is *mathetes*; Andrew Roberts, author of the book 'Holy Habits', says 'It is often said to mean either a follower or a learner. The literal meaning is "one who learns as they follow".' (*excerpt from Walking the Way leaflet produced by URC Church house*).

As we commence 2018 and continue to roll out some of our responses to the 'Who Cares?' survey, we too will be focussing on what it is to be a disciple of Christ, not just in Church on Sunday but every day of our lives wherever we are. I would recommend two books for you to read, firstly 'Holy Habits' by Andrew Roberts, and secondly 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline' by Mark Green. Both are good reads and both explore principles of whole-life discipleship. The latter is the basis to the course that I am currently running at the manse on Thursday evenings and Joy and Alison are facilitating at the church on Monday afternoons. So, what is this 'front line' thinking all about? In a nutshell, our life in church is really only a portion of our whole life. A week is made up of 168 hours of which people are usually awake for around 120 hours. Most church members spend anything up to 10 hours directly engaging with church related activities so that leaves 110 hours spent elsewhere doing different things, at home, with the family, at work or in the local community. The question is does the 10 hours equip you to live well as disciples of Christ in the other 110 hours? And how does your experience in the 10 affect the activities in the 110? It is so easy to separate the 10 from the 110 yet they are all part of the whole and God can and will work through it all.

How we live out in the world is important. Jesus sent his disciples (and that is us today) out to be salt and light in the world. We are filled with the Holy Spirit to be a Christ-like presence wherever we are 'For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing' (2 Corinthians 2:15). I am not talking about evangelism here, though sometimes we may need to speak about our faith when people ask us. But, I am talking about being aware that we are the aroma of Christ

among others. Allow the spirit of Jesus to infuse you with the good fruits... that is the fruits of the Spirit which are 'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control' (Galatians 5:22-23). Through prayer ask God to show you what he is already doing and then join in.

So think about where your front line might be. Think about what God might already be doing in you and through you in that place, and open your heart so that you might learn as you follow. Let us explore together and learn from one another as we continue on our journeys as whole life disciples of Christ, walking His way every day.

Yours in Christ, Kay

Who Cares? Response phase news:

Fruitfulness on the Frontline – this course continues on Thursday evenings 7.30pm at the manse until 22nd February or Monday afternoons 1.30pm at the church until 26th February.

LIFE|EXPLORED

Course- commences from 12th April to 24th May at 7.30pm on Thursday evenings at London Street URC and will include a light supper, a film and discussion groups. This course is open to all. We will be needing church members to help in producing the meals each week and hosting at tables. Please also consider who you might invite along.

Alpha- Old Meeting URC will be joining with the Main Road Methodist Church to run an Alpha on Tuesday evenings 7.30pm from 10th April to 17th July, this too will involve a supper, a film and discussion groups. We will be needing church members to help in producing the meals each week and hosting at tables. Please also consider who you might invite along.

*If at first you don't succeed, try reading the instructions!
(Could this be the message contained in Proverbs 4:13?)*

Flower Rota - February:

4th Rob Williams
11th Rosemary Martin
18th Elspeth Anthony
25th Leng Ayland



CIRCLE OF PRAYER:

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

Short Term: Tish Catterall; Aubrey Dommett (granddaughter of Beverley Cantwell); Sally Friday; Beryl Gazard; Christine and Ron Holt; Claire Macro; Sandra Marut; Doina Rasnita; Ian Rees; Carol and Ian Scott and family.

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

Prayer Focus:

Colossians 1: 15-20

It isn't until you start to unpack a passage of the Bible that one gets to see the enormity of what Paul is getting at. At one of the 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline' meetings we were given these verses to grapple with. Out of it came the picture of Jesus as the creator at the beginning of time; supreme power in whom all things hold together, intimately involved in all aspects of creation. So involved that, to put things right, he came to declare God's nature to mankind and to bring reconciliation to God by the cross, not just of mankind but of 'all things', that is the whole of his creation. In Romans 8 we read that 'the whole creation has been groaning'... waiting for the fulfilment of God's plan. There is a sense of longing for the ultimate renewal to its former self or maybe its final glory and completeness.

His love, care, involvement and delight in the whole of creation is something it is easy to forget and maybe we should look again at the part we should be playing too.

Prayer – Loving Lord, creator of all, it is so easy to have a narrow vision of your purposes to save mankind. Forgive us when we ignore your wider vision and help us to see where we can play our part in the care and renewal of your creation.



*Kay Cook, 84 years on 8 February
Cade Martin, 18 years on 14 February*

Daily Bible Readings for February:

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

Giving - Time, Talents, Money

On 2nd December 2017 we held a London Street Day of Prayer in seeking God's mission for our Church and also the means to enable this to happen.

In pursuing a solution to this challenging situation, Peter Pay from the Wessex Synod has been invited to preach on Sunday 18th February 2018 when he will preach about biblical principles of financial giving. On the following two Sundays (25th February and 4th March 2018) if you feel led to contribute financially, you will have the opportunity to do so.

If you are a taxpayer and have not already done so, please ask Karen for a Gift Aid Declaration Form, so that we can claim tax on any financial giving you make on these days.

The Gift Sundays are not just about giving financially though. Every one of us has God-given gifts that could be used at London Street. Organise a fund raising event; what about decorating or other maintenance work? If you can help in this way then please place your details in an envelope on one of the Gift Sundays.

If you would like to contribute to regular giving and are a taxpayer, then the most effective way is through a standing order, alternatively we have weekly or monthly envelopes available. Please speak to Karen to get details of how to give in this way and for a Gift Aid Declaration Form.

If you are not a taxpayer we are still able to claim gift aid, through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme, on cash put into the weekly offertory of up to £20 in any week. This can also be done if cash is given through weekly envelopes.

Blessings and thank you. Owen, on behalf of the Trustees.

Thank You:

Thank you for all the help and support following the death of my mother in December. Special thanks to Kay for her support and for conducting the service.

Carol Scott and Family

Retiring Collections and online payments for Saxon Wood School over the Christmas period currently total £337.49. Thank you for your generosity.

Prayer Day held on Saturday 2nd December, 2017

Attendance: 32

Notes & Feedback returned: 9 +many prayer leaves.

- I saw an assembly of people at London St., a testimony to the work remaining that the Lord has called us to do, with a river of silver light coming through the doors and out into the street.
- 'Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, PERSEVERE IN PRAYER'. Romans 12.12.
- Valuing one another as we journey together, offering ourselves, our time, our gifts.
- Opportunity to be quiet with the Lord without worldly distractions appreciated.
- General feeling that we are on the right track and that the finances will come. **Trust.**
- Keep on doing what we are and more. There will always be more but be encouraged. "Rejoice in the Lord – always!" London Street URC a Hub.
- Be prepared to be disciples outside the church and to suffer as a result. Act upon this will of God all year not just at Christmas.
- Acknowledge that God is working through us and give him thanks and praise.
- "Write down the vision" (Habakkuk 2 v 2) and plan how to get there. Vision Statement. Let everyone know.
- Direct giving – as people give the Lord will bless.
- Shared ministry – ease the load with house groups.
- Seek first the Kingdom of God. Work for the Kingdom of God.
- Be frank about our situation before God. Pray for definite things, e.g. more members.
- Picture the Holy Spirit as a narrow powerful river falling over a waterfall into the hearts of people waiting below.

Some words/phrases that stood out to those waiting on the Lord:

John 16 v 1. Ex 18 vv 8 & 9. Eph 4 – In Christ each of us is clothed with power. Call upon our Father God and then nothing is impossible. We know God will meet our need so that we can continue with his work here. We need to listen in order to hear – “He (the Holy Spirit) will speak whatever He hears”.

Unity “When they heard it they raised their voices together and praised God”. In Revelation 2 & 3 – good works of the churches were praised before weaknesses revealed.

Relationship – “I love loving God”. “The people recognised that they (the believers) had been with Jesus.”

We may need to spend in order to save money. Some practical suggestions made.

More Days of Prayer are planned for later in the year – watch this space!

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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.

February Diary

at London Street, unless otherwise stated

Thu	1 st	7.30pm	<i>'Fruitfulness on the Frontline'</i> Session 5 course at The Manse
Sun	4 th	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast – Leader TBC
		10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister – <i>Who Cares?</i> <i>Sermon 5: Coping with work, lack of time, and the stresses they cause</i>
		12.15pm	Church Meeting
Mon	5 th	1.30pm	Course <i>'Fruitfulness on the Frontline'</i> <i>Session 5</i>
Wed	7 th	1.15pm	Discussion of 4 th Feb. Sermon – in the Worting Room
		7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Thu	8 th	7.30pm	<i>'Fruitfulness on the Frontline'</i> Session 6 at The Manse
Sun	11 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Mark Ward
Mon	12 th	1.30pm	<i>'Fruitfulness on the Frontline'</i> <i>Session 6</i>
			Youth Café closed for Half Term
Thu	15 th	7.30pm	<i>'Fruitfulness on the Frontline'</i> Session 7 at The Manse
Sun	18 th	10.30am	Worship, including Holy Communion – led by Peter Pay
Mon	19 th	1.30pm	Course <i>'Fruitfulness on the Frontline'</i> <i>Session 7</i>
			Schools return and Youth Café re-opens
Wed	21 st	10.30am	3C's (Coffee, Chat, Company) in the Oasis Café – All welcome
Thu	22 nd	2.00pm	Friendship Hour – All welcome
		7.30pm	<i>'Fruitfulness on the Frontline'</i> Session 8 at The Manse
Sun	25 th	10.30am	Worship (Gift Sunday) – led by the Minister
Mon	26 th	1.30pm	<i>'Fruitfulness on the Frontline'</i> <i>Session 8</i>

Services at Old Meeting, Tadley

February

Sun. 4th - Andy Mahers
Sun. 11th - Rev Kay Blackwell
Sun. 18th - Philip Jones
Sun. 25th - Christine Watson

Welcome and Coffee Rota

Ena and George
Mandy and Dave
Ladies Cell
Janet and Paul

March

Sun 4th - Sydney Shore

Forward planning:

3rd Feb 6.30pm New Year skittles night at AWE (for those who have booked)

Alpha-

Tuesdays 10th April – 17th July at 7.30pm Tadley Old Meeting with the
Main Road Methodist Church
(see p. 4)

FOCUS

In order to cut down on the cost of producing FOCUS, the Communications Group have agreed that, except for special occasions, we will not produce hard copies in colour. Colour will, of course, still show on electronic copies or if viewed on the Church's web site. If you have computer access and would like to receive a copy electronically, please let Joy Williams know.

Any donations towards production costs would also be gratefully received and can be made by placing them in an envelope in the Sunday Offering.

ECO TIP

The UK generates 30,000 tonnes of household batteries a year but less than 1,000 tonnes are recycled. Make sure you recycle all of yours. Better still, use rechargeable batteries in future.

God's Gift – Our World
Our Environment – Our Responsibility

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

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

5.45pm

7pm

7pm

7-8.00pm

(BEAVER SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Colony

(CUB SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Pack

(SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Troop

PRAYER MEETING at Tadley URC or St Paul's

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 — Last 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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