



London Street

United Reformed Church

BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE RG21 7NU

and

TADLEY (OLD MEETING) URC



Focus
April, 2018

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Website - www.basingstokeurc.org.uk

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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)

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View from the manse:

'For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles' (1 Corinthians 1:22-23).

I spoke about the cross in my last view from the manse article. But as we journey on through the post resurrection stories, we wait now in hope for the next milestone moment in the Christian calendar, that is, the transformation of Pentecost. Pentecost is when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples of Christ which was, some consider, the birth of the church. The theologian Tom Wright, in his weighty tome *'the day the revolution began'*, reminds us that the Cross, an image of suffering, pain and defeat in the Roman world, was totally transformed by Jesus. Wearing a cross could be comparable to wearing an item of torture, a hangman's noose or a golden lethal injection syringe around your neck. But because of Jesus' resurrection, because of his victory over death, the cross for Christians is no longer a sign of death in physical time and space. It is instead a sign of hope and life for all people in all times and all places.

The truth is that the death and resurrection of Jesus over 2000 years ago, still holds so much power over humanity. On paper, intellectually, Christ's death on the cross seems hideous, pointless, even foolish. Yet that is what we proclaim, it is after all what the Gospels tell us. He died an agonising, publicly humiliating death, followed three days later by his unearthly, supernatural resurrection.

Jesus, in his time on earth, gave us a glimpse of the Kingdom of God by what he did. That is, he came as the divine shepherd to bring healing, to find the lost, to restore the excluded and to express God's love for all. He commissioned his disciples and us in turn to 'go and do likewise'.

According to Wright, through his death and resurrection, Jesus began a divine revolution, the overthrowing of the prince of darkness. This was the commencement of a new Genesis and a new Exodus, both a new creation and a new escape into the promised land.

Jesus taught us to pray '*Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven*' what he came to do then, was to start that process of heaven coming to earth which will come to fruition at his second coming. Jesus was and is the divine priest over all of creation, the temple of God's presence, the word of God made flesh. He came to restore creation to its

heavenly, fruitful purpose. In Christ we become a new Exodus people, a sign of hope, image bearers of the new creation for the world.

A great composer may write an inspirational symphony, but that composer will then use the talents and skills of many musicians to bring that symphony to life so that all may benefit from its creation. We are then the musicians in God's work of new creation. This is why we need the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide us in this commission to bring the new creative order on earth. Where there is hurt may we bring comfort; chaos, may we bring order; injustice, may we bring justice; hate, may we bring love. We are to be a living parable of hope in a world where people have often lost sight of it.

Through the courses we are about to run in Basingstoke and Tadley I pray that we may all fully grasp our individual roles as fruitful disciples for Christ. Grasping the opportunity to be examples of light, hope and love to our guests.

Yours in Christ, Kay

Who Cares? Response phase news



The Life explored course commences 7pm (*please note earlier time than previously shown*) on Thursday evenings at London Street URC from 12th April to 24th May and will include a light supper, a film and discussion groups. This course is **open to all** but please fill out a registration

form (available in church). We will be needing church members to help in producing the meals each week, to host at tables, to be involved in the discussions and to commit to praying for each week so please let me know what you are able to help with.

Please also consider **who you** might invite along and if you invite someone you will then need to support them, in prayer and companionship during the course.



CIRCLE OF PRAYER:

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

Short Term: Tish Catterall; Gill Craft; Aubrey Dommett (granddaughter of Beverley Cantwell); Sally Friday; the family of Beryl Gazard; Christine and Ron Holt; Claire Macro; Sandra Marut; Doina Rasnita; Christine Williams.

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; Frank Tovey; Les and Iris Wenham; Sarah Williams and her daughter, Katherine Witts.

Prayer Focus:

Revelation 1 Vision of Christ (abridged)

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and the patient endurance that are ours in Christ Jesus, was on the island called Patmos and I heard behind me a loud voice ...

Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me

When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. But He placed His right hand on me, saying, 'Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive for ever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.'

Revelation or apocalypse means the sudden unveiling of a previously hidden truth. John is suddenly witnessing a scene and even being invited to be part of God's ongoing drama. The temple in

Jerusalem was thought of as the place where heaven and earth met and merged but the early Christians believed that Jesus had become, in person, the place of merger. By meditating on Him, they believed they could see right into God's own world and understand things about His purpose nobody had imagined before. By so doing He enabled them to persevere in the face of persecution and continue to witness to their faith in Jesus as the Messiah and, by faith, receive the promise of eternal life.

The early Christians, just like us, were faced with many challenges. Why was God allowing Jesus' followers to suffer? What line should they take when faced with the cult of Caesar worship? Should they resist? Rome built grand temples for Caesar but they were poor and meeting in people's houses. What would Jesus say about that? Was Jesus a little 'no hoper' and Caesar the lord of the world? Revelation says a very definite NO to this and reveals Jesus the Messiah in a new way. Old traditions, which in themselves were revelations of God and His purposes, come up in new ways. God Almighty says I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the One who Is and Is to come. Jesus has accomplished God's purpose through his love for us, his freeing of us by his self sacrifice, his purpose of putting us to important work in His service. It will be difficult at times but hang on in there, supporting each other and believing God's Word rather than what the world around us says. Jesus will return. He has the last word. He will set up his kingdom on earth as in heaven!

FOCUS FOR PRAYER

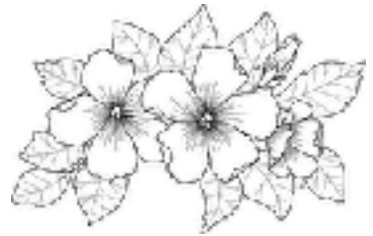
- Our brothers and sisters in Christ facing persecution for their faith.
- For agencies like Open Doors, seeking to support them.
- For ourselves that we will witness and testify to what Jesus has done for us.
- That the Holy Spirit will enable us to persevere when we grow tired of praying and begin to lose the hope that is in us.



Joan Beattie, 92 years on 17th April

Flower Rota - April:

- 1st EASTER
- 8th Margaret Carrick Smith
- 15th Maggie Morgans
- 22nd Elspeth Anthony
- 29th Karen Bentall



Daily Bible Readings for April:

<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	
1 st 57	Reflection		16 th 103	Matthew	8
2 nd 102:1-17	James	3	17 th 135	"	9
3 rd 128/129	"	4	18 th 31:1-10	"	10
4 th 26	"	5	19 th 138	"	11
5 th 130/:131	Matthew	1	20 th 31:11-24	"	12
6 th 27	"	2	21 st 62	Reflection	
7 th 60	Reflection		22 nd 104:24-35	"	
8 th 89:1-13	"		23 rd 139	Matthew	13
9 th 102:18-28	Matthew	3	24 th 32	"	14
10 th 132	"	4	25 th 63	"	15
11 th 28	"	5	26 th 140	"	16
12 th 18:1/134	"	6	27 th 33:1-12	"	17
13 th 61	"	7	28 th 65	Reflection	
14 th 30	Reflection		29 th 141	"	
15 th 89:14-29	"		30 th 33:13-22	Matthew	18



Also, please note a big fundraising event being held at London Street URC. A 'Conservatory' supper club with entertainment! You pay a set fee per head and have a lovely sociable evening with good and tasty vegetarian home-cooked food. If you are not vegetarian you may well be surprised at just how delicious vegetarian food can be! The food will be locally and ethically sourced. There will

be good food, good entertainment and good company and we will also be raising some much-needed funds for the growing mission and life of London Street URC! Save the date (23rd June), tell your friends and details will follow.

Bereavement Care Awareness Day
Saturday 21st April
10.00 am–4.00 pm £15 per person
St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, RG23 7ED
Contact 01256 782724 or
church.office@oakleywithwootton.org.uk
Book online www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk

The clothes rack near the Elders' vestry is once again gathering unwanted items. Any items left on the clothes rack by Tuesday 3rd April will be taken to a charity shop. Thank you.

ONE CHURCH BASINGSTOKE
Choir in Castle Square on **Easter Monday at 11.30 and 12.30**. The timing means that after the event there will be time for other Bank Holiday activities!

Focus on Fair Trade

What is the Traidcraft stall to you? Is it something you look for thinking what you might want? Or do you pass it by as irrelevant to you? Margaret and I are most grateful to those among you who choose to buy from the stall, not because we benefit from it personally – we don't, but because it makes a real difference to the producers supplying Traidcraft.

Traidcraft suppliers are chosen from the poorest people who have skills that can be developed. Traidcraft helps with training, not only for skills to produce whatever items are appropriate, but also the business management skills necessary to use their developing income to the best effect. Then they provide a market for those goods, and with their increased skills the suppliers are able to develop local markets as well.

We are naturally offended when we learn the history of the slums of Victorian England where mill owners squeezed the maximum amount of work from the workforce for the minimum reward, and workers were forced to live in squalid conditions. Yet this is precisely paralleled by what happens to some of the poorest workers in the world as a result of international trade deals and lack of opportunity and education.

An early strap-line for Traidcraft was “Trading as if People Matter”. It is the trade which lifts the suppliers out of poverty. The training is “aid” but that comes from the charitable arm of Traidcraft, Traidcraft Exchange. Traidcraft Exchange is a separately funded charity. All the proceeds of our purchases go to the trading arm of Traidcraft. It needs to be said that Traidcraft does as much as it can to ensure that all the supplier development produces an environmentally sustainable result. So it is fair to people and planet.

Not all Traidcraft items have the recognisable Fair Trade logo on them. This is because accreditation of sources takes time. However, **it is important to look for it** when buying fair trade goods from supermarkets. This is because some of the UK supermarkets are introducing their own version of “fair trade” with their own definition of what is “fair”. This will not be externally verified in the way that is necessary to be able to use the official Fair Trade logo. (To learn more go to <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>.)



I think all of us would expect to be paid enough for our hard work to allow us at least a modest standard of living. By buying Traidcraft goods you are extending this opportunity to people who as a result are able e.g:-

- To have a water pump installed rather than have to go to the canal with a bucket for water.
- Send their children to school.
- Build a toilet.

It doesn't seem to be asking a lot to be able to do these things.

So what is the downside of fair trade? There is, of course, a price to pay. Traidcraft goods can be, although not always, more expensive than non-fair trade equivalents. They can also be more expensive than fair trade versions bought in a supermarket (but see warning above). I know some church folk are on very limited incomes and are therefore more constrained than others of us. But I encourage you all to make a choice to buy regularly perhaps just one item. Chocolate seems a popular choice for some of you!

Look at the catalogue – we supply them free. And, if you can, browse the web-site <http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/> for more items not in the catalogue. If you want to order through us you will not have to pay postage. We will also handle goods that need to be returned if necessary.

Please have a think. Someone, somewhere distant perhaps, will be helped by your positive choice.

Thank you

John and Margaret CarrickSmith

Giving:

There is a story of a minister who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building programme. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

Result of the psychology study undertaken at London Street on 19th November 2017 led by Dr. Aiden P. Gregg, a research psychologist from the University of Southampton:

Hello to all at London Street URC,

I'm Dr Aiden P Gregg, an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Southampton. You may be wondering what I am doing here, making an impromptu appearance in your church magazine.

Well, here's why. On 19th November 2017, several loyal members of London Street very kindly agreed to take part in a psychology study that I was running. You see, I was testing a hypothesis about human psychology. To test that hypothesis properly, I required participants who happened to be devout and practising Christians. To be clear, I wasn't studying devout and practising Christians *themselves*, or trying to come to any conclusions about them. Instead, I was taking advantage of the fact that I could make a key assumption about them with high confidence, namely, they would *hold God in very high esteem*.

Now, why would I want to do that? To explain, I need to back up a bit.

By and large, people *self-enhance*. That is – give or take a neurotic symptom or two – most people, most of the time, are tolerably fond of themselves. There are several direct signs that this is so. Take, for example, the *better-than-average* effect. Most people believe that they are more gifted than the average person when it comes to possessing everyday desirable traits – such as getting along with others, or being a good driver. Furthermore, people show self-serving biases in how they deal with interpersonal feedback: they are generally more sceptical of criticism, but more welcoming of praise.

But there are also some intriguingly *indirect* signs that people self-enhance. Suppose I were to show you a grid containing all the letters of the alphabet, and then ask you to quickly pick out, without thinking about it, the one letter you liked the most. Guess what? Letters in your own name – particularly your initials – are much more likely to feature as your favourite. Some psychologists argue that such subtle preferences show that, deep down, we have an ingrained and automatic liking for ourselves, no matter how humble we consciously think we are or verbally claim to be.

There is another type of odd task that yields a similar sort of finding. This task is called the *Implicit Association Test*, or *IAT* for short. Essentially, the IAT is a sorting task. The respondent's job is put a list of items, such as words, into the correct categories, represented by labels, as quickly as they can without making errors.

Suppose you had four categories of items: NICE words (like *goodness*, *love*, and *peace*); NASTY words (like *evil*, *hate*, and *war*); ME words (like *me*, *myself*, and *mine*); and THEM words (like *they*, *themselves*, and *theirs*). In the IAT, you would try to sort these words into their respective categories. The key to the IAT is that respondents sort the list of words *twice*, in two *different ways*; and if they find it easier to do one way rather than the other, it can be inferred that they have *automatic associations* in their heads. Here's how.

Suppose I gave you the following sorting instruction, call it Rule 1: *Every time you see a ME word or a NICE word, indicate this with your left hand; and every time you see a THEY word or a NASTY word, to indicate this with your right hand.*

Next, I give you a different sorting instruction, call it Rule 2: *Every time you see a THEM word or a NICE word, indicate this with your left hand; and every time you see a ME word or a NASTY word, to indicate this with your right hand.*

Many psychology studies find that most people find sorting according to Rule 1 considerably easier than sorting according to Rule 2. This suggests that ME & NICE and THEM & NASTY both go together better than ME & NASTY and THEM & NICE both do. Or, in simpler language, people automatically prefer ME to THEM. Note that this preference is inferred from people's IAT performance. People are *not* verbally asked about their preference.

But not so fast. Some sceptical psychologists suspected that this result might be due to the fact that the category ME was specific and personal, whereas the category THEM was general and abstract. Hence, it's not really a fair contest. So, they re-did the IAT, but this time replaced THEM with something more specific – individuals that they might be expected to love dearly. Like their *best friend*, or their *partner*, or their *children*.

But here's the funny thing: on the IAT, people *still* exhibited a preference for ME! Verbally, they insisted that they loved their friends, partners, or children more than they loved themselves. But on the IAT, their patterns of responses suggested the opposite. The implication: we might be covert egotists.

So, this got me wondering: Was their *anything at all* that could compete with ME on the IAT, such that people might show a preference for it? Or was the self truly the most wonderful thing ever, at an automatic psychological level?

Now, what is the most wonderful thing that one could possibly think of? What thing exists that literally nothing else is better than? Yes – you can see where I am going with this. That wonderful thing – or person – would be *God*: the eternal, perfect, all-knowing, all-powerful, all-loving creator and sustainer of the universe! And in the mind of a devout and practising Christian, God would be expected to be *perceived* just this way too. So, if any competing category in the IAT could dislodge ME from its egotistical throne on the IAT, then it would be GOD.

So, even before I came to London Street, I ran three experiments to test this, pitting ME against GOD in the IAT. I asked: Which rule would devout and practising Christians find easier? Rule 1: ME=NICE & GOD=NASTY? Or Rule 2: GOD=NICE & ME=NASTY? In other words, whom would Christian prefer at an automatic psychological level, GOD or ME?

Bad news, I'm afraid. On average, they still preferred ME to GOD!

Well, that's how it goes. Maybe I had tapped into those dark and devilish depths of the mind that reflect original sin. Or maybe there was some other peculiarity of the IAT that was responsible for the result. I had already taken care to rule out some other alternatives. Still, there were one or two that remained. The purpose of my visit to London Street was to test out those alternatives, just to be absolutely sure. These alternatives were subtle, and perhaps only of interest to nerdy researchers like me. But, for the record, here's what they were.

Both alternatives had to do with the precise choice of words in the IAT. First, some of the words in the NICE and NASTY categories might have been more relevant to ME than to GOD, and they might better be replaced with words that could be more *relevant to God*. Second, to make sure that the IAT was picking up people's *own attitudes* – and not their perceptions of attitudes that other people might have – the labels NICE and NASTY might better be replaced with "I LIKE..." and "I HATE". So, I made both the relevant changes. And then I created a pencil-and-paper version of the IAT, for group administration. Here, participants could tick boxes to the left or right of each page to sort the relevant words into categories, under a stopwatch imposed time limit.

Next, the members of London Street stormed into action. For the better part of half an hour, they ticked page after page of boxes like they had

never ticked before. They wondered, with good reason, just what they had got themselves into. But, whether puzzled and perplexed, whether confounded and confused, they did the task diligently and cheerfully. And, for good measure, I also had a bunch of Christian students from the University of Southampton do the same task.

So, what did I find this time?

Well, this time I wiped a smile of the devil's face. This time, the pattern was clear: devout and practising Christians...preferred GOD to ME!

So, where does that leave the psychology of self-enhancement? A bit ambiguous, alas. I don't think there was anything *that wrong* with the original IATs. But the fact that I could make the direction of the effect flip around suggests that some unanticipated feature of the IAT might be driving the effect. Or it simply could be that the current batch of Christians are *especially saintly*. Whatever the explanation, the waters are now a bit muddier than they were. But that's science. So I'll be considering my next steps carefully.

Meanwhile, if you are curious about self-enhancement, here's a link to a review article I co-wrote a little while back.

<http://www.soton.ac.uk/~crsi/Sedikides%20%20Gregg%202008%20PPS.pdf>

Finally, a big thank you both to Reverend Kay Blackwell and to Church Secretary Owen Collins, for permitting me to run the study, and again, to all my very obliging participants. I was happy to make a donation to London Street of £100 on behalf of all your valiant efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Aiden P Gregg
Associate Professor
University of Southampton

7th March 2018

Fund Raising for London Street:

Thank you to those who took time to make suggestions for raising additional funds for London Street. A small number of members met together to consider the suggestions and have produced the following diary of events for 2018:

- there will be a coffee morning and bring and buy sale of quality goods on the 2nd Saturday of each month in the concourse from 10.00am to 12 noon;
- a library to exchange books and jigsaws available with the coffee morning or/and one Sunday a month after the service;
- the craft group will make items for sale at the coffee morning;
- a supper club at London Street in June;
- a BBQ, joint with Tadley URC, in July;
- a skittles evening in November;
- bring in your loose change and pop into the offertory plate or fill a Smartie carton and bring in;
- drivers to organise a day or half-day out, advertise and invite members of the congregation to join you for a contribution.

To make a success of these events, help in organising is needed, initially for the coffee mornings and lending library. Joyce Cook has agreed to organise the first two coffee mornings but we still need someone to organise the library.

Items for sale at the coffee mornings must be displayed and, if not sold, taken home or to a charity shop as there are no storage facilities at church.

Equally, we need a person(s) to organise the library and, with no storage, the books and jigsaws should be taken back home. Suggested fee 50p for a book and £1 for a jigsaw.

Organising trips is down to the driver. Trips out can be anywhere. It may be an opportunity to go to Marks and Spencer at Camberley; Gunwharf Quay at Portsmouth; a National Trust property; RHS at Wisley; historic churches; or simply a drive in the countryside. Those invited would be responsible for paying their own entrance

fees and costs for food and to make a contribution to the church funds. Owen would be happy to put an entry in the diary for you or send an email round to church members or give an article to Christine Robertson for Focus.

Please put the following dates in your diaries:

14th April from 10.00am until 12 noon – Coffee morning/bring and buy sale/book and jigsaw exchange

12th May from 10.00am until 12 noon – Coffee morning/bring and buy sale/book and jigsaw exchange

9th June from 10.00am until 12 noon – Coffee morning/bring and buy sale/book and jigsaw exchange

23rd June from 7.00/7.30pm – Supper Club in the Hook Room organised by Alma Blackwell

7th July from 10.00am until 12 noon – Coffee morning/bring and buy sale/book and jigsaw exchange

15th July from 1.00pm – BBQ at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC

11th August from 10.00am until 12 noon – Coffee morning/bring and buy sale/book and jigsaw exchange

17th November from 6.30pm – Skittles evening at Basingstoke Town Bowling Club, organised by Joyce Cook.

ECO TIP

Make sure that your radiator system is working efficiently. Bleed the air out regularly, fit reflective material such as aluminium foil on the wall behind them and fit a shelf a couple of inches above so that the heat is directed into the room rather than up the wall.

—oOo—

A father was scolding his son for not doing his homework.

“If I had a computer, it would be so much easier,” said the son.

“You don’t need a computer,” replied the father. “When Abraham Lincoln was your age, he studied by candlelight in a log cabin.

“And when he was your age,” the son replied, “he was President of the United States!”

Alpha at Old Meeting URC will be joining with the Main Road Methodist Church to run an Alpha on Tuesday evenings.

ALL WELCOME.



Alpha Programme – Tuesday evenings 7.15-9.15pm (inc. meal)

Guide to timings 7.15-7.30 – registration,
7.30-8.00 – meal, 8.00-9.15 – DVD talk and group discussion.

- 17th April – IMMANUEL CENTRE, URC** (*no Ruth*)- *‘Is there more to life than this?’*
- 24th April – MAIN ROAD METHODIST CHURCH – ‘Who is Jesus?’**
- 1st May – IMMANUEL CENTRE, URC** (*no Kay*) – *‘Why did Jesus die?’*
- 8th May – MAIN ROAD METHODIST CHURCH – ‘How can I have faith?’**
- 15th May – IMMANUEL CENTRE, URC – ‘Why and how should I pray?’**
- 22nd May – MAIN ROAD METHODIST CHURCH** (*no Ruth*) – *‘Why should I read the Bible?’*
- 5th June – IMMANUEL CENTRE, URC – ‘How does God guide us?’**
- 8th June – SATURDAY AWAY DAY – SILCHESTER METHODIST CHURCH 10am-4pm** (Reading RG7 2NY) – *‘Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do?’*
- 12th June – IMMANUEL CENTRE, URC – ‘How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?’**
- 19th June – MAIN ROAD METHODIST CHURCH – ‘How can I make the most of the rest of my life?’**
- 26th June – IMMANUEL CENTRE, URC – ‘How can I resist evil?’**
- 3rd July – MAIN ROAD METHODIST CHURCH** (*no Ruth*) – *‘Why & how should I tell others?’*
- 10th July – IMMANUEL CENTRE, URC – ‘Does God heal today?’**
- 17th July – MAIN ROAD METHODIST CHURCH – ‘What about the Church?’**

Venues:

IMMANUEL CENTRE, Old Meeting United Reformed Church, Tadley, RG26 3NL

MAIN ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, 4 Main Road, Tadley, RG26 3NL

Contacts: Revd Kay Blackwell (URC) – email:

revkblackwell@gmail.com Mobile: 07582056286

Revd Ruth Midcalf (Methodist) – email:

ruth.midcalf@methodist.org.uk Tel: 0118 9700139

Please book your place in advance for catering purposes. Forms available in Old Meeting URC, Tadley.

Memo from God:

Reference: Life

I am God. Today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help.

If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do) box. It will be addressed in My time, not yours. Once the matter is placed in the box, do not hold on to it.

If you find yourself stuck in traffic, don't despair. There are people in this world for whom driving is an unheard-of privilege.

Should you have a bad day at work, think of the man who has been out of work for years.

Should you despair over a relationship gone bad, think of the person who has never known what it's like to be loved in return.

Should you grieve the passing of another weekend, think of the woman in dire straits, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed her children.

Should your car break down, leaving you miles away from assistance, think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take that walk.

Should you notice a new grey hair in the mirror, think of the cancer patient in chemotherapy who wishes she had hair to examine.

Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what is life all about, asking what is my purpose? Be thankful, there are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity.

Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities, remember things could be worse. You could be them!

Always remember... "The greatest oak was once a little nut that held its ground."

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

April Diary

at London Street, unless otherwise stated

Sun	1 st	5.45am	Easter Sunday Dawn Service at Tadley, followed by breakfast at Immanuel Centre
		10.30am	Easter Worship at London Street including Holy Communion (joint with Tadley) – led by the Minister
Mon	2 nd		Youth Café closed for Easter Holidays Oasis Café closed for this day only.
Tue	3 rd		Clearance of Coat Rack
Sun	8 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Sydney Shore
Wed	11 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Thu	12 th	7.00pm	'Life Explored' Session 1 (see page 4)
Fri	13 th	7.30pm	Celebration and worship service for the Night Light Winter Shelter
Sat	14 th	10.00am – 12 noon	Coffee morning/bring and buy sale/book and jigsaw exchange
Sun	15 th	10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister
		12 noon	Lunch, followed by Annual Church Meeting
Wed	18 th	10.15am	3C's (Coffee, Chat, Company) in the Oasis Café – All welcome
Thu	19 th	7.00pm	'Life Explored' Session 2 (see page 4)
Sun	22 nd	10.30am	Worship – led by David Josey.
		7.30pm	Community Café Commissioning Service
Thu	26 th		Friendship Hour will be going out for their final meeting. More details after Easter.
		7.00pm	'Life Explored' Session 3 (see page 4)
Fri	27 th	7.30pm	Messy Church Planning Meeting
Sun	29 th	10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister

Services at Old Meeting, Tadley

April

Flowers: Mandy Haines

Sun 1st Dawn Service at 5.45am, followed by breakfast at 8.00am in Immanuel Centre and Easter Worship, including Holy Communion, at 10.30am at London Street.

Preachers

Welcome

Sun	8 th	Rev Kay Blackwell	Mandy and Dave
Sun	15 th	Joy Williams	Ladies Cell
Sun	22 nd	Lionel Goodfellow	Julie and Mark Ward
Sun	29 th	Brenda and Brian Baldwin	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

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 Term Time	Youth Café for secondary school and 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 Term Time	Youth Café for secondary school and college students
5.45pm	(BEAVER SCOUTS — 8 th Basingstoke Colony
7pm	(CUB SCOUTS — 8 th Basingstoke Pack
7pm	(SCOUTS — 8 th 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 Term Time	Youth Café for secondary school and 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 Term Time	Youth Café for secondary school and college students

Fridays:

8-9.30pm	TGIF Youth Club at Christ Church, Chineham
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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.

London Street United Reformed Church is a working name of Registered charity
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