



London Street

United Reformed Church

BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE RG21 7NU

and

TADLEY (OLD MEETING) URC

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



Focus
June, 2018

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - 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 - minister@basingstokeurc.org.uk

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Mr Owen Collins
15 Cyprus Road
Hatch Warren
Basingstoke RG22 4UY
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e.mail - secretary@basingstokeurc.org.uk

TREASURER:

Karen Bell
47 Tobago Close, Popley,
Basingstoke RG24 9PX
e.mail - treasurer@basingstokeurc.org.uk

HALL LETTING:

Mrs Joy Williams
9 Montague Place
Basingstoke RG21 3DS
Tel: 01256 326746
e.mail - bookings@basingstokeurc.org.uk

FOCUS:

Mrs Christine Robertson
1208 Skyline Plaza, Alencon Link,
Basingstoke RG21 7AZ
Tel: 01256 869968
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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:

Paul Gross
22 Pelican Road, Pamber Heath RG26 3EN
Tel: 0118 970 0809
e.mail: paulg@silchester.org

Treasurer:

Mark Ward
10 Hartleys, Silchester, Reading RG7 2QE
e.mail: mandjward@hotmail.co.uk

View from the manse:

'When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.' (Acts 2 :1-4)

It was heading towards dusk on a beautifully sunny day. The kind of day when I just don't want to be inside. I decided to go to the woods for a walk. Some people run to the sea or to hills as their special place to go for an escape but for me woods are my natural sacred spaces. The lushness of the woods, the late afternoon light, the warmth of the sun and the gentle cooling breeze were very peaceful. As I walked I thanked God for the beauty, intricacy and variety of creation. We are incredibly blessed to live in such a stunningly green part of the country with free access to fields, hills and woodland. As I walked silently alone I just soaked in the colours, textures, shapes, sounds and smells around me. I enjoyed the variety of difference in landscape that I experienced even within that relatively short distance; the stunning light green of the beech wood canopy opening up into water meadows of reeds, long coarse grasses and wild flowers, then the glassy blueness of a still lake and later still the darkness of a blue-green pine forest. When I walk in such places I become alert to what is round me, ready to see and absorb the sights, sounds and smells.

Suddenly she caught my eye, the young doe foraging in the woods. I froze knowing that one move from me would send her running. She took a long hard look at me, sizing me up. Was I friend or foe? She tentatively walked on a little way, still keeping an eye on the stranger within her midst then suddenly and silently bounded away into the forest. This deer was wild, untameable and free which is why meeting one in her natural habitat feels like a sacred moment. I had seen plenty of playful squirrels on my walk and, though fun to watch, they were two a penny. The rareness of the wild deer sighting makes it all the more precious. Last year we had two young cousins from New Zealand come to stay with us. For them, coming from a country without squirrels or deer, seeing either caused great excitement in them and perhaps made me see even our common old grey squirrels with new eyes (for us they are little more than rats with fluffy tails because they are so common!) sometimes we need to be attentive in the everyday and mundane stuff too.

I have been reading a book by Rowan Williams on 'Being disciples'. A chapter I had recently read had captured my imagination. In it he talks about being aware and attentive as disciples of Christ. He says *'A disciple is not there to jot down ideas and then go away and think about them. The disciple is where he or she is in order to be changed; so that the way in*

which he or she sees and experiences the whole world changes' (Being Disciples p.3). He goes on to use the analogy of the bird watcher who waits with an expectant awareness, sometimes waiting for a long time for just the briefest moment, the iridescent flash of a kingfisher's wing, that will make the waiting all worthwhile. The disciples didn't just listen to Jesus they watched, picking up clues and growing in understanding as they went along. For me the flash of the kingfisher's wing, like the glimpse of my wild deer is a sacred moment. This is often how Holy Spirit moments can be with us. Precious sacred moments that stay with us in our memories and can't be captured, caught or photographed, they are often (though not always) deeply personal 'God' moments. What we need as disciples is to develop that '*expectant awareness*' and that is developed in us through prayer. The disciples waited, as they had been told to do by Jesus at his ascension. They waited in the upper room in Jerusalem, waited and prayed, not knowing exactly what they were to expect except that Jesus had told them wait for the advocate, the Holy Spirit to come. As they waited and prayed, I wonder if they adopted the expectant awareness of bird-watchers? When the Holy Spirit came upon them it was more than just the glimpse of the kingfisher's wing, it was with wind and fire! The Holy Spirit came and the disciples were transformed from faithful, yet doubting, passionate yet scared ordinary men into evangelists, preachers, missionaries, church leaders and hope filled carriers of the good news of Jesus. They could no longer sit behind closed doors, they were compelled and empowered to go and tell the world in word and deed. Over two thousand years later the Holy Spirit still moves among Christ's disciples today, guiding and empowering us, transforming us to do God's will on earth for we are his kingdom carriers. However, we still need to come before God with that expectant awareness to see and hear where God is leading us to next.

Yours in Christ, Kay

Barbara Taylor

Sadly, Barbara died on 28th April.

Although unable to attend church in recent years, due to health problems and failing eyesight, Barbara was always interested to hear London Street news. She was a Church Member and, in the days when I used to record Focus onto a tape, she was one of the people who used to receive it.

Jean Holton

CIRCLE OF PRAYER:

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



Short Term: Tish Catterall; David Corfield; Gill Craft; Aubrey Dommett (granddaughter of Beverley Cantwell); Sally Friday; the family of Beryl Gazard; Christine and Ron

Holt; Claire Macro; Perveez Mirza and family; Roger Pike; Doina Rasnita; family of Barbara Taylor; Christine Williams.

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

During a recent visit to Wales, I was able to have a relaxed catch-up with Suzanne Tolley. She sends her best wishes to all at London Street.

Jean Holton

Leprosy Mission - Used Stamps

As reported in the May edition of "FOCUS", I have ceased to collect the stamps which members and friends bring to the Church. The reason for my action is because I need to devote more time each week to caring for my wife.

However, as the Leprosy Mission would still like to receive the stamps, if anyone would like to carry on this work, I would gladly give advice as to what is required.

I took this task on in January, 2013 when dear Frank Tovey had to give it up for the same reason.

Les Wenham



Iris Brixton, 91 years on 9th June

Eileen Poulter, 90 years on 25th June

Prayer Focus:

Psalm 96: *'Sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord all the earth'.*

In Genesis 1 we read that after God had finished His creation (verse 31) 'God saw all that He had made, and it was very good'.

It is at this time of year that we expect to see around us the evidence of a created world that is beautiful to behold, with nature displaying all its glory as spring continues through into summer.

We have already had some exceptionally beautiful, calm, hot days when there is nothing better to do than stop, sit, and drink in the variety of the world around us - and in this country too we also have the long warm summer evenings to enjoy. We feel life is good and praise God!

It is a time above all to turn to the Psalms and particularly those where the writer expresses an outpouring of praise to the glory of God's creation. Psalm 96 is but one of many...'let the heavens rejoice: let the earth be glad.....let the fields be jubilant...then the trees of the forest will sing for joy'.

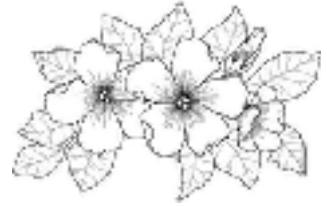
We expect more days of warm sunshine and the message of the Psalmist again is 'be still and know that I am God'. Make time to do just that, we rush around too much. Be still and contemplate God in all the beauty around us.

Pray for:

- continue to pray for local students involved in exams
- pray for the trouble areas of the world, particularly the Middle East
- pray for wise leadership in the ongoing Brexit negotiations
- pray for all the summer activities in London Street as we continue to reach out to our community
- pray for those taking holidays that they may be refreshed and renewed

Flower Rota - June:

3rd Val McKenzie
 10th Phylis Birchmore
 17th Joan Musselwhite
 24th Yvonne Thornton



Daily Bible Readings for June:

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	
1 st	90	Romans	14	16 th 116	Reflection	
2 nd	111	Reflection		17 th 7:1-11	"	
3 rd	3	"		18 th 117/118:1-14	Philippians	3
4 th	112	Romans	15	19 th 8		4
5 th	4	"	16	20 th 47	Colossians	1
6 th	43	Ephesians	1	21 st 77:1-14	"	2
7 th	74:12-23	"	2	22 nd 93	"	3
8 th	91	"	3	23 rd 118:15-29	Reflection	
9 th	113	Reflection		24 th 9:1-16	"	
10 th	5	"		25 th 119:1-16	Colossians	4
11 th	115	Ephesians	4	26 th 79	Philemon	1
12 th	6	"	5	27 th 48	Luke	1
13 th	46	"	6	28 th 80	"	2
14 th	75	Philippians	1	29 th 94:12-23	"	3
15 th	92	"	2	30 th 119:17-32	"	4

What's your name, again?

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to playing cards a few times a week.

One day, when playing cards, one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me. I know we've been friends for a long time, but I just can't think of your name. I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is."

Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes she just stared and glared. Finally she said "How soon do you need to know?"

JOINT SOCIAL
EVENT -
FAMILY BBQ AT
THE IMMANUEL
CENTRE, TADLEY
URC

Taking place on Sunday 15th
July starting at 1.00pm. Tick-
ets are priced at £5 per adult
and £2.50 per child and are
now available for those at
London Street from Owen.
When purchasing your tickets
please let me know if you re-
quire a lift from London Street
or can provide a lift. Cars
may be parked at the Me-
thodist Church opposite Old
Meeting. Thanks. Owen.

CHANGE OF E.MAIL
ADDRESSES FOR
CHURCH OFFICERS

Minister: Revd Kay Blackwell:
minister@basingstokeurc.org.uk
Church Secretary: Owen Collins:
secretary@basingstokeurc.org.uk
Treasurer: Karen Bell:
treasurer@basingstokeurc.org.uk
In addition, if you wish to book a
room at London Street at any
time, you should email Joy
Williams at
bookings@basingstokeurc.org.uk
The changes are effective
immediately.
Thank you. Owen.

Basingstoke Choral Society Concert:

At the Anvil Theatre on Saturday 9th June.

To mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, the Choral Society, along with the Southampton Philharmonic Choir, are singing Benjamin Britten's "War Requiem". This was composed for the consecration of the rebuilt Coventry Cathedral after the Second World War. Britten puts to music the words of the Latin Requiem Mass and the poetry of Wilfred Owen to give the message of the futility of war and of the need for peace. Over the year it will be sung many times across the country.



BASINGSTOKE STREET PASTORS
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US AS WE

celebrate

OUR 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY WITH A
SERVICE OF CELEBRATION

FRIDAY 6TH JULY AT 7.30 PM

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, LONDON STREET,
BASINGSTOKE, RG21 7NU

GUEST SPEAKER REV LES ISAAC OBE (founder of Street Pastors)

RSVP: basingstokesps@outlook.com

or book your free tickets on the link supplied.

All London Street and Old meeting URC members are invited to join in this special service of celebration being held for the 10th anniversary of the Street Pastors.

The
Conserveatory



Supper and Sangria

Charity event @ London Street URC,
Basingstoke. Saturday 23rd June 6:30

Come and enjoy a night of
Twisted Tapas, Sangria and secret
Entertainment!

For Tickets and Info:

Call: 07471208269

Or Email: theconserveatory@gmail.com

theconserveatory.weebly.com



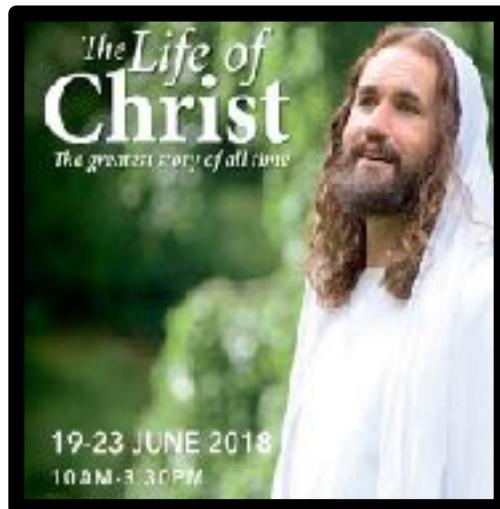
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Continued from page 9....

Fundraising event at London Street United Reformed Church (raising funds for maintenance of the building and in support of the community mission of the church).

A supper club on the 23rd June at 6.30pm. The cost will be £30.00 per head and that will include a delicious tapas vegetarian meal, a glass of Sangria or non-alcoholic drink, good company and some surprise entertainment! Come and join in the fun and help raise funds for the church community mission.

Please book in advance as spaces will be limited. Tickets available on line through Alma theconserveatory@gmail.com or through Revd Kay Blackwell.



'Life of Christ' is an open air immersive theatre experience set in the Wintershall estate in Surrey. Following the narrative of Jesus from birth to resurrection. A coach will collect us from the Basingstoke leisure park at 8am on Friday 22nd June and return us around 5pm. You will need to bring something to sit on, a pack lunch and sensible provision for whatever the weather might bring. The cost is £30 for coach and event ticket, or £28.00 concessions. Please contact Joyce Cook at London Street or Revd Kay Blackwell at revkblackwell@gmail.com urgently if you wish to come.

In the beginning....

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com, did take unto himself, a healthy young wife, by the name of Dorothy (Dot for short).

Dot Com, was a comely woman, large of breast, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com. And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town, with thy goods, when thou canst trade, without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between, to send messages, saying what you have for sale, and they will reply, telling you who hath the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable, (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had, at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighbouring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system, that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew, to The People (HTTP).

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS. And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed, he did insist on drums to be

made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay, as it came to be known. He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are." And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators."

"YAHOO," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the, young, Gregarious, Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside.

It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

That is how it all began!

—oOo—

I hate buttermilk...

One Sunday morning at a small country church the new pastor called on one of the older deacons to lead the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate Lard."

Now the pastor was totally perplexed. The deacon continued "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour either. But, after you mix them all together and bake them, I just love biscuits.

"Lord help us to realise when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, we need to wait and see what You are making.

After You get through mixing and baking, it will probably be something better than biscuits. Amen."

My boyfriend was working as an attendant in Canterbury Cathedral when, one afternoon, he was approached by two American tourists.

“Are you a monk?” one of them asked eagerly.

“No,” he replied, “I wear this robe as part of my job, but I’m not a member of any religious order.”

“Then, where are the monks?” asked the woman, looking around.

My boyfriend explained: “Oh, there haven’t been any monks here since 1415.”

Hearing this, the woman looked at her watch and announced to her friend, “Betty, we missed the monks.”



—oOo—

Alpha at Old Meeting URC with the Main Road Methodist Church.

ALL WELCOME.

Alpha Programme – Tuesday evenings

5th June to 17th July 7.15-9.15pm

(including meal)

Guide to timings 7.15-7.30 – registration,

7.30-8.00 – meal, 8.00-9.15 – DVD talk and group discussion.

Alternating Venues:

IMMANUEL CENTRE, Old Meeting URC, Tadley, RG26 3NL

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

Contacts: Revd Kay Blackwell (URC) – email:

minister@basingstokeurc.org.uk Mobile: 07582056286

Revd Ruth Midcalf (Methodist) – email:

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

Sunday Services at Old Meeting, Tadley

June	<u>Preachers</u>	<u>Welcome</u>
3 rd	No service at Old Meeting - joining with St Paul’s at 9.30am	Ena and George
10 th	Revd Kay Blackwell/Mark Warner Café-style church	Mandy and Dave
17 th	Penny O’Bee	Ladies Cell
24 th	Mel Euerby	Julie and Mark

June Diary

at London Street, unless otherwise stated

Sun 3 rd	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast
	10.30am	Worship – led by Mark Ward
Wed 6 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Sat 9 th	10.00am	Coffee morning and 'Bring and Buy' Sale
	-12 noon	
Sun 10 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Joy Williams
Sun 17 th	10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister and including Holy Communion

DEADLINE FOR THE JULY/AUGUST FOCUS

Wed 21 st	10.15am	3C's (Coffee, Chat, Company) in the Oasis Café – All welcome
Fri 22 nd	Tadley 7.30am / Leisure Centre, Basingstoke 8.00am to	Outdoor Drama at Wintershall Estate
Sat 23 rd	7.30pm	Supper Club (see pages 9 and 10)
Sun 24 th	10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister
Wed 27 th	7.30pm	Church Meeting

ECO TIP

LED light bulbs are now available, priced from £1.49. These are in the same shape as the old incandescent bulbs. If you changed to fluorescent in the past, the LEDs will save even more electricity. If you want to try them out, just change the bulb that you use the most. The approximate equivalents to the incandescent are:

6 W = 40 W
9 W = 60 W
12 W = 100 W

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 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 — 8th Basingstoke Colony)
7pm (CUB SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Pack)
7pm (SCOUTS — 8th 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
3-6pm in Youth Café for secondary school and college students
Term Time

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.

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