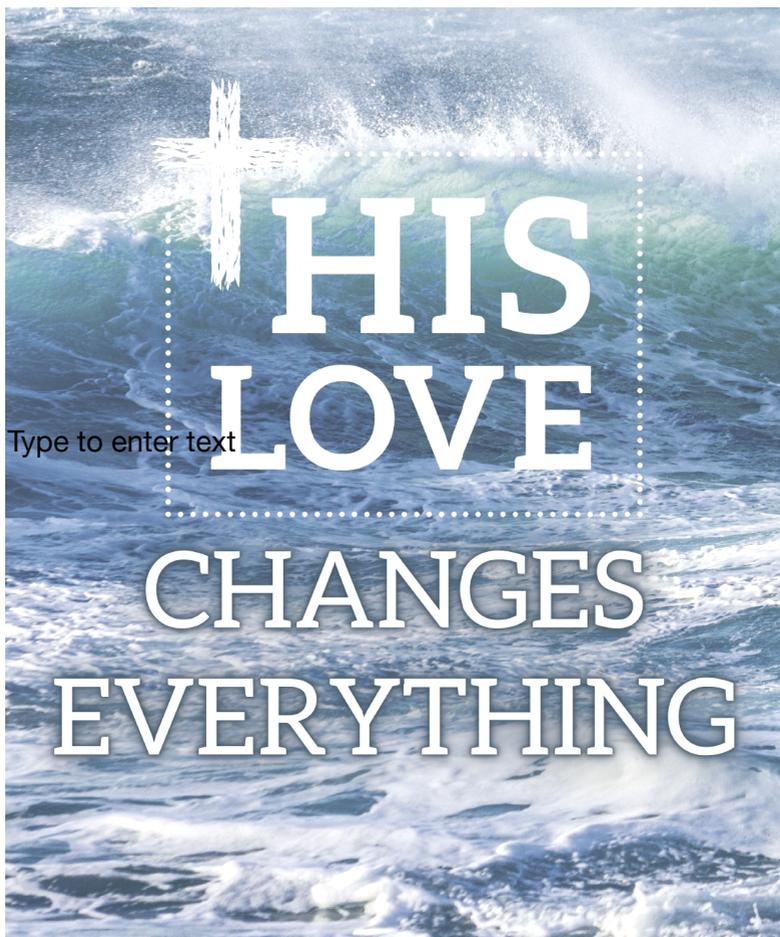




# London Street

## United Reformed Church

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



February, 2019

# 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:**

Mark Ward  
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# View from the manse:

'All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.' (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The literal meaning of the word 'disciple' is 'one who learns as they follow'. Learning and following are both verbs which require us to act. Our faith then requires us not just to believe on an intellectual level but to live out that faith every day.

We are called by Christ as individuals but we are not called to journey alone. Jesus called his disciples and drew them together to become a community. Andrew Roberts, in his book *'Holy Habits'* says this: *'It is in community we practice Holy habits of discipleship, being nurtured in them so that we may live them out in our day-to-day lives'* (Roberts, *'Holy Habits'* pg.106).

How we live in our community of faith is important. It is in community that we should grow and be nurtured and equipped to live as believers of Jesus Christ in every part of our lives; in our jobs; in the clubs we belong to; amongst our family friends and neighbours; in our ordinary daily encounters with others.

We have over the last five years done much in nurturing prayer and Bible study in our community. I have also spoken a lot about growing our sense of community and, with the Elders' leadership, we have been developing more times of fellowship with one another. All this we wish to continue. Whether you have been a Christian for your whole life, a few weeks or you are still exploring what 'being a Christian' might mean, I pray that we will, in our fellowship, welcome in and journey with all. Mature Christians in our community have a role to play in discipling and nurturing new and growing Christians along their journey (this isn't just the minister's job!).

This year, in fact over the next two years, we plan, with the elders' guidance, to be working our way through the 'Holy Habits' outlined in Roberts book. We will, of course, be practising all of the Holy Habits most of the time in our fellowship, but we want to, as it were, take a magnifying glass to each habit at a time as we journey on so that the significance of each is highlighted to us through learning and experiences together. The ten Holy Habits are as follows:-

1. Biblical teaching
2. Fellowship
3. Breaking of bread
4. Prayer
5. Giving
6. Service
7. Eating together
8. Gladness and generosity
9. Worship
10. Making disciples

This term our magnifying glass will be focused on Biblical teaching. For this, amongst other things, we will be running 'The Bible Course' (written by the Bible Society) starting 7pm on 14<sup>th</sup> February in the Hook room (or the Sanctuary if the size of group requires that). The course runs for eight weeks but there is a week off after our introductory week for half term. We will be commencing each evening with a fellowship supper in the Hook room. Please sign up in advance for this so that catering can be planned; the sign-up sheet is on the notice board.

Don't forget the new house group running at the home of Carol and Ian Scott on Wednesday evenings if you want more fellowship (further details will be given in the diary), and next term we hope to develop further fellowship opportunities.

So, let us all continue to follow Christ and learn together as we go and grow in faith and understanding!

Yours in Christ, Kay



## CIRCLE OF PRAYER:

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

**Short Term:** Barbara Banbury and sons Richard, Michael and Paul; David Corfield; Dick Davey; David Shaw; Edmund Shaw; Betty Shipway.

**Long Term:** Jan Blight and family; Beverley Cantwell; Christine Clucas; Aubrey Dommett (granddaughter of Beverley Cantwell); Penny Dilley; Brian and Carys Haywood; Gus and Noorie Khatkur; Claire Macro; Ron and Rosemary Martin; Maggie Morgans and family; Patterson family; Doina Rasnita and family; Hyacinth Ridguard; Molly Shaw; Joyce Smith; Fay Spurr; Rev John and Marion Whitton.

## Prayer Focus:

Acts ch 10 vv 34-43

In January the daily readings have been from the Gospel of Mark. As we are aware, each of the Gospels is written from a different standpoint, with a different objective and, mainly, for a different audience.

Mark retains the framework of early Christian instruction and, of course, written many years after the events about Jesus which he records. It is worth noting how closely this Gospel example, or personal evangelism of Peter, at the home of the Gentile Cornelius (Acts chapter 10) Peter begins his summary with John the Baptist's preaching and ends with the resurrection, and Mark follows that sequence.

It is Matthew and Luke who, in their different ways, answer the questions that arose later from early believers, about where Jesus actually came from and how John fits into the whole story.

One key message for us, I believe, is that Jesus does not appear suddenly, in a puff-of-smoke, like the conjurer's rabbit. God prepared fully for Jesus' appearance, both in time and place, at around 30 years old, at the height of John's ministry. John gathered huge crowds from all around the region and talked of 'one who comes after me who is greater than I am'.

So, one thing we should take from this, any time we may be trying to tell someone about Jesus, is that God will have been there before us and, somehow, will have prepared the ground. It is never just up to us, going in 'cold', and we may be just a link in a chain of events, the outcome of

which we may never know. We just take the opportunity as it appears and leave the rest to the work of the Holy Spirit.

## Prayers

- Pray for the troubled and violent areas of our world, particularly the Middle East.
- Pray for our country, for the healing of divisions, and respect for opposing views.
- Pray for our young people in schools, colleges and our Youth Café and Uniformed organisations.
- Pray for our Minister and Elders as they lead the fellowship at London Street.

## Humility...

At times it is important to remember just how small we are. Franklin D. Roosevelt used to have a little ritual with the famous naturalist William Beebe.

After an evening's chat the two men would go outside and look into the night sky. Gazing at the stars they would find the lower left-hand corner of the big square of Pegasus. One of them would recite these words as part of their ritual:

“That is a spiral galaxy of Andromeda.  
It is as large as our Milky Way.  
It is one of a hundred million galaxies.  
It is 750,000 light years away.  
It consists of one hundred billion suns, each larger than our sun.”

They would then pause and Roosevelt would finally say, “Now I think we feel small enough. Let us go to bed.”

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

# Happy Birthday

*Kay Cook, 85 years on 8 February*



## Flower Rota - February

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Julia Burrows
- 10<sup>th</sup> Rosemary Martin
- 17<sup>th</sup> Gill Miller
- 24<sup>th</sup> Eileen Poulter

## Thank you...

- Dick Davey sends the following message:
- Thank you for all the messages and prayers during my recent operation.
- The good news is that all the cancer was removed from my lung and I will not need any radiotherapy or chemotherapy. Undoubtedly, I will still be having radiotherapy every 2 years or so for the lymphoma, but that's a different department. Also by the time you read this I will have had the first of my eye operations done.

## Eco Church catch up.....

First of all, 'Thank you' for your enthusiastic take up by bringing all that plastic to church for recycling and 'Thank you' to the Scouts and Beavers and Gill Craft for taking it all to the recycling bin, sometimes two very large, full bags each week. It is sad that the Council has had to stop this initiative because there is no outlet to actually do the recycling. I hope an answer to this problem will be found soon and that we can then restart the collection.

But, on a very positive note, we have been awarded a Bronze Eco Church Award which is something of which to be proud. This covers the following areas: worship and teaching, management of buildings and land, community and global engagement and personal lifestyle. There is always room for doing more but this award shows that we are taking the care of God's creation seriously. Well done!

*Alison Jamieson*

# Daily Bible Readings for February:

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	
1st	75	Acts	8	16th 94:12-23	Reflection	
2nd	92	Reflection		17th 119:17-32	"	
3rd	116	"		18th 12	Acts	19
4th	7:1-11	Acts	9	19th 119:33-48	"	20
5th	117/118:1-14.	"	10	20th 13	"	21
6th	8	"	11	21st 81:1-10	"	22
7th	47	"	12	22nd 95	"	23
8th	77:1-15	"	13	23rd 119:49-64.	Reflection	
9th	93	Reflection		24th 15	"	
10th	118:15-29	"		25th 119:65-80	Acts	24
11th	9:1-16	Acts	14	26th 16	"	25
12th	119:1-16	"	15	27th 50:1-15	"	26
13th	79	"	16	28th 82	"	27
14th	48	"	17			
15th	80	"	18			

Ffald-y-Brenin



## Aromatherapy Massage



- I would like to tell you of an opportunity to have a hand massage with wonderful aromatic essential oils.
- I have trained, in the NHS, as an aromatherapist and have for many years used massage with essential oils as a tool for relaxation and well being.
- Drops of essential oils, distilled from flowers, leaves, roots, wood, are diluted with a base oil (not containing nuts). Amongst others I have lavender, bergamot, geranium, chamomile, sandalwood and rosemary, obtained from a reputable supplier. They work by the absorption of minute quantities of the oil through the skin, and also through inhalation of the aroma. Two or more are used to produce a blend that is effective and has a beautiful aroma.
- I have offered massage at the Church Bring-and-Buy mornings and will continue to do so. The massage lasts for 6 to 8 minutes for a minimum donation of £2, all of which is given to church funds.
- It would be a pleasure to see you. All welcome,

*Lilian Meredith*

# WELCOME TO THE PAYNE FAMILY

It's not every day that we welcome new members of the congregation from overseas so it's a pleasure to welcome Adam, Kyla, Lizzie and Molly from the USA to London Street. To get to know them a little better I asked them to provide a few words for Focus:

## **What part of the USA are you from?**

'Our family is from southern Indiana, one of the "flyover states" in the Midwest. It's a very rural state, filled with corn and soybean fields. I know everyone thinks their hometown is boring but, in our case, it's definitely true.'

## **Why come to the UK?**

'We decided to come to the UK because we've always had a love for the culture, and particularly the history. Kyla and I came over on holiday in 2017 and instantly fell in love. We went home and instantly began looking for ways to get us over here. We found it through Kyla's profession. She has been an emergency room nurse for over a decade and, as nurses are a critical shortage in the UK, we began working with a recruitment agency to make our dream a reality.'

## **Why Basingstoke?**

'As for Basingstoke in particular, that seems to have been in God's hands. The recruitment company originally told us about possibilities in London and Cambridge. We love London, but aren't crazy enough to want to live there. We were starting to plan on Cambridge, but their nurse recruiter was out on maternity leave, so they were moving extremely slow. In the meantime, the agency got back to us about places in Winchester or Basingstoke (some place we'd never heard of), and honestly, we picked Basingstoke almost at random. We've definitely felt God's presence in that choice, especially in leading us to a church home.'

## **Why come to London Street?**

'Our original plan was to "church shop". We were going to visit London Street on our first Sunday, the Methodist Church the next, then follow up with a Church of England congregation before we made a choice. However, we left London Street that first morning with Molly (6) going on about how much fun she had at Children's Church, Lizzy (10) raving about Revd Kay's sermon and how much it had influenced her, and Kyla and myself feeling extremely welcomed and valued. We were about halfway down Winchester Street when the girls took a breath, I looked at Kyla and said, "Well, I think we've found our church home."

## How does your church back home differ to London Street?

‘Church has always been an important part of our lives. In the States, we were part of the United Church of Christ, which is a kind of cousin to the URC, so London Street feels very familiar to us both in terms of worship and structure. The only difference I’ve noticed is that London Street feels more relaxed. In the States, everyone is in a hurry, even on Sunday mornings. If service goes over an hour, people start getting antsy and run out the minute it’s done. Here, people seem more focused on worship and even the fellowship afterwards.’

## What do you miss about the States?

‘While we’re settling in well in the country, there are things we miss about the States. Molly says that she missed “family”. For Lizzy, it’s “family and familiar food”, for Kyla, it’s electrical outlets in the bathroom, and for Adam, it’s iced tea.’

Thank you Adam, Kyla, Lizzie and Molly. On behalf of everyone at London Street, **welcome**.

Blessings, *Owen*.

## Thank You...

It is never too late to say ‘Thank You’: so, let us go back to December and thank all those (too many to name) who spent hours making the sanctuary and Oasis Café look so beautiful for the services and activities we enjoyed over the Christmas period, and to the ‘Christingle’ makers and providers of refreshments and music.

Looking back, ecumenically, we thank all those who organised and provided such a splendid, 5-star, Christmas Day Lunch and entertainment for 70+ people who otherwise would have been unable to share in the celebrations.



More recently, thank you to everyone who gave donations to the Bible Society appeal which raised £210.

**HOLY HABITS - THE BIBLE COURSE** As we enter the New Year, we will start working through the 'Holy Habits' outlined in the book of the same name written by Andrew Roberts (available to purchase online). Our first Holy Habit will be looking at the Bible. Starting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February at London St. and ending on 11<sup>th</sup> April (excluding 21<sup>st</sup> February for half term) we will follow the Bible Course from the Bible Society. This is to help us explore the world's best seller and should enhance and inform our ongoing Bible studies. Whether you are new to the Bible or want to go deeper there will be something for all of us to learn. Using a unique storyline, the course shows how the key events, books and characters all fit together. You'll get to see the BIG picture and discover how the Bible applies to your life. The session will start at 7.00pm with a fellowship supper. This needs to be signed up for in advance. See the church notice board.

**HOLY HABITS - ARTS AND MEDIA** Taken from the book *Holy Habits* by Andrew Roberts you may be interested in the following references to the many films and books containing scenes about Biblical Teaching:

## **FILMS**

**God on Trial** - A group of Jews awaiting death in a concentration camp put God on trial to determine whether he has gone against his covenant with humanity.

**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** - Four children travel through a magical wardrobe to Narnia, where they discover their destiny to free the land from the evil White Which, with the help of a mystical lion.

**The Matrix** - The first of a series of three. Follows the tale of Thomas Anderson who discovers that the world is actually a simulated reality called the 'Matrix'. He is invited to enter the fight against the machines which have enslaved humanity for energy. It is prophesied that the 'One' will come and will overpower the machines. The parallels between this film and the Bible are striking, although radically different, and it is worth watching through that lens.

**Noah** - A retelling of the biblical story of Noah.

**The Prince of Egypt** - A retelling of the story of Exodus and the life of Moses

## BOOKS - FICTION

**A Lineage of Grace by Francine Rivers** - Five stories and five women who challenged and changed the world. This book unpacks the Bible in a new way.

**The Neverending Story by Michael Ende** - Story of a young boy who steps into the world of the story and has lots of adventures. He grows through the experience and eventually steps back into his normal life as a changed person who is better equipped to deal with things and help people.

**The Shadow of the Galilean by Gerd Theissen** - The story of a Jewish merchant forced into spying for the Romans and sent to discover whether Jesus is a threat to Roman rule.

## BOOKS - NON-FICTION

**Bible and Mission: Christian witness in a postmodern world by Richard Bauckham** - An engaging study which provides a new way of looking at scripture and that takes seriously the biblical idea of mission in the contemporary world.

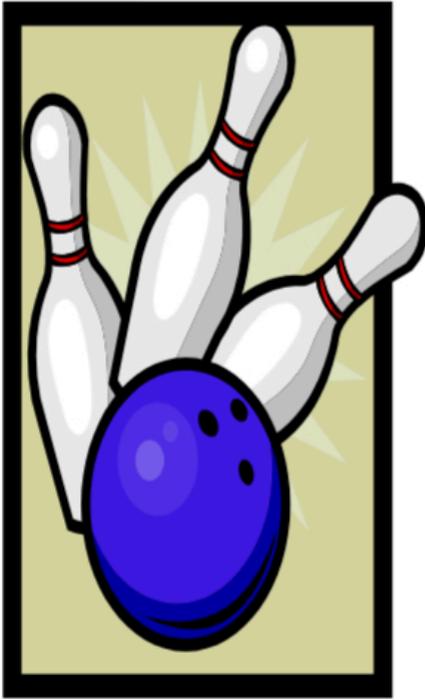
**Defenceless Flower: A new reading of the Bible by Carlos Mesters** - A fascinating series of chapters exploring the importance of the Bible in growing Christian communities in Latin America.

**Introduction to Biblical Studies by Steve Moyise** - A fascinating introduction to a vast range of approaches to the Bible.

**Scripture and the Authority of God by Tom Wright** - The author demonstrates the indispensable role of scripture as the primary resource for teaching and guidance in the Christian life. Includes case studies.

**Why Read the Bible? by Tom Wright** - A little book of guidance on the contents, inspiration, meaning and authority of the Bible for anyone looking for easy ways into the topic.

**The Year of Living Biblically by A. J. Jacobs** - One person's spiritual journey as he attempts to obey every rule in the Bible.



**Limited places –  
strictly 1<sup>st</sup> come  
1<sup>st</sup> served!**

**Church  
Family  
'Very late'  
New Year  
Skittles  
Night - All  
Welcome**

**Sat, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 6.30pm,  
AWE Rec Soc, Tadley.**

**Buffet included and pay bar available.**

**£10.00 / Person (concessions £5)**

(Cheques to Tadley URC, Please see any Elder in confidence if the cost is a difficulty)

Tickets from any Elder or Mark and Julie  
([mandjward@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mandjward@hotmail.co.uk))  
(may be difficult to get us during February!)

**London Street members should contact Owen Collins for tickets.**

## "GREEN PASTURES" - RELEASING THE CHURCH TO END HOMELESSNESS

Green Pastures is a Christian charity that buys property for churches and Christian charities so that they can reach out and house the homeless in their area. They provide all the paperwork, expertise and ongoing support to operate successful supported housing projects. To date, through a network of over 55 churches and Christian charities (Partners), they have had the resources to house and care for 1003+ people in the UK.

The Dwelling Place is one such house in Basingstoke - some of you will have heard about it and met the residents, probably without even knowing it! They have been running for about five years but more are needed.

Through the Green Pastures charity's financial help in purchasing the property, their local partners in Basingstoke are able to provide solace and calm to five vulnerable men who have found themselves homeless or in difficulty and to support them back into society over a period of years.

In order for Green Pastures to purchase more much needed properties like the Dwelling place in Sarum Hill they need money to be able to do it. Donations, of course, are always very gratefully received but there is another way we can really make the lasting difference we long to see in the lives of those living rough on our streets. We can INVEST some of the money sitting in our bank accounts, earning very little interest, in Green Pastures. On their website you can read all about their work, you can see what return in interest and in the number of people helped your investment would bring and you can obtain the necessary paper work. Investments can be anything from a minimum of £1,000, for a period of 1 year at a choice of interest rates up to 5%. The need for the vicious circle of homelessness to be broken is obvious. Perhaps you are in a position to help at this point in time. Please seriously and prayerfully consider making your money work in this way. To learn more Google: "Dwelling Place" and/or "Green Pastures"



## 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  
7.30pm House Group at 5 Magnus Drive, Hatch Warren

### *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.**

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