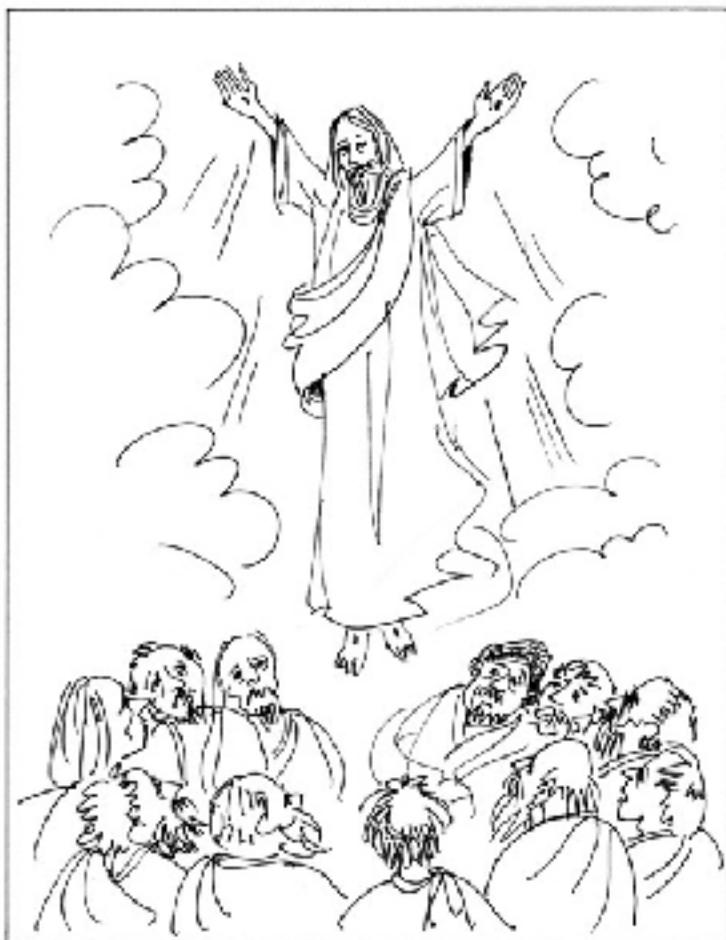




London Street

United Reformed Church

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



May, 2019

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

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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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View from the Manse

'After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.' (Acts 4:31 (NIV))

Just before Easter week, I went with a group of 36 worshippers from the Tadley URC and Methodist churches to visit Spring Harvest at Butlins in Minehead. Spring Harvest celebrated its 40th anniversary this year. It runs in three locations around the country and welcomes around 50,000 guests annually. The theme for 2019 was 'unlimited prayer'. As we move towards Pentecost and the launch of the 'Try Praying' initiative, through One Church Basingstoke, this seemed like a tailor-made topic for us! Actually, it feels like Christians nationally, and even internationally, are being summoned to pray *'for just such a time as this'* (Esther 5:14).

Our country appears to be in political turmoil. This week ordinary people (young and old) have been taking to the streets under the banner of 'Extinction Rebellion'. They demonstrate their frustration at the lack of urgent action from the government in the face of ecological disaster. Some scientists estimate a time scale of around twelve years before the damage to the environment becomes irreversible! Meanwhile, on our streets, knife crime and homelessness are increasing at an unprecedented rate. Numbers of families living below the poverty line are also increasing rapidly, causing many children to go hungry. The whole of society, nationally and globally, seems to be groaning under the strain. I believe the Church *'for just such a time as this'* is being brought to its knees in prayer. Perhaps God is mobilising God's people. We need to take this call to prayer seriously.

Twenty years ago, a student leading a prayer vigil in Guildford went viral. From this the 24/7 prayer movement was started. The 24/7 prayer movement is now an international, interdenominational, movement of prayer, mission and justice. Pete Greig, founder of the 24/7 movement, calls it a non-stop prayer meeting, where the participants *'pray like it all depends on God but live like it all depends on them'*. If you want to know more about the movement I would recommend reading 'Red Moon Rising', 'Dirty Glory' or 'God on Mute' by Pete Greig or look at the 24/7 website. Greig was one of the several keynote speakers at Spring Harvest this year encouraging us to reignite and reaffirm our commitment to prayer.

What I really admire about Greig's approach is both his raw honesty about prayer (he has been through very tough times when his earnest

prayers did not feel like they were being heard or answered), and his simplicity of approach to prayer. At the start of his Spring Harvest talks, Greig gave us three headlines.

Firstly, 'Keep it simple'. God is not interested in long words and complex theologically accurate prayers; God is more interested in the prayers that truly come from our hearts. The Lord's prayer, in its original language, was written in rhyme. It is written to be simple enough to be remembered by children yet is complex enough to sustain us through a lifetime of prayer. Four years ago the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, called the Anglican church to prayer, and his call too has become a global and ecumenical prayer movement but based upon the Lord's prayer. The title is 'Thy Kingdom come' and is focussed around the season of Pentecost each year (see the Thy Kingdom come website). Keep it simple means not only the words we use for prayer but what we pray about. Keep it simple, pray about what we experience on a daily basis, the simple everyday stuff, for the community where we are based. We are rooted in this place to be God's salt and light to those around us, to be Christlike to those we meet and to pray continually that in this place *'God's kingdom will come and God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven'*.

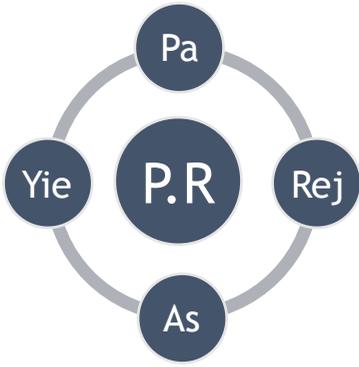
Secondly, keep it real. God wants us to be honest in prayer. Just look at the psalms, here we find every human emotion; the good, the bad and the ugly. God wants us to be ourselves to express the prayers of our heart truthfully. That does mean that we need to allow people to pray as suits their personality. Some pray best when they are walking around; some while they are physically crying out, or singing to God in tongues (see Acts 2 for an example of this); some while they draw, paint, make or colour; some pray best by reading their Bible and adopting a silent contemplative way of communing with God; some want patterns and liturgies to follow while others want freedom. Sometimes the patterns and styles of our own prayer life shift and we find a new way of praying challenges us and helps us to spiritually grow. We just need to keep it real and recognise who we are and that the rhythm of our own life is as it is at the moment, but also don't be afraid to experiment and try something new in our prayer life.

Thirdly, keep it up. Ask and keep asking, knock and keep knocking. Keep regular times carved out to pray. Develop sacred times and Holy places where you dedicate yourself to praying. *'But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you'*. Personal prayer will be rewarded.

Greig finally gave us the acronym P.R.A.Y. as something to help us in a pattern of prayer.

See Psalm 46:10
'Be still and know that I am God'

See Romans 12:1-2
'Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice'



See Phillipians 4:4-7
'Rejoice in the Lord always'

See Matthew 7:7-11
'Ask, and it will be given to you; search and you will find'

So let us as communities of faith, like Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, set ourselves to prayer with determination even though we know that the road ahead may be hard and long and suffering at times. But remember *'Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame.'* (Isaiah 50:7).

Let us, like those early disciples in the book of Acts, filled with the Holy spirit, pray with such fervour that the very house shakes!

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; Kay Cook; Dick Davey; David Shaw; Edmund Shaw; Betty Shipway; family of Grace Springthorpe; Rob Williams and family.

Long Term: Beverley Cantwell; David and Tish Catterall; Christine Clucas; Aubrey Dommatt (granddaughter of Beverley Cantwell); Penny Dilley; Gus and Noorie Khatkur; Claire Macro; Ron and Rosemary Martin; Maggie Morgans and family; Patterson family; Hyacinth Ridguard; Molly Shaw; Joyce Smith; Fay Spurr; Jo and Steve Tremarco.

Prayer Focus:

'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful,.... (2 Tim ch3 v 16)

The Bible Course that has run at London Street for 8 sessions has reached its conclusion. Starting each Thursday with a meal and fellowship we have all got to know each other at a deeper level by sharing some of our life experiences. Each participant came from a different biblical background, some from childhood, others having only newly started to read it.

The course took us from Genesis, with the authors' vision of a perfect paradise of God's creation; through the OT history of the Hebrew people, their successes and (mainly) failures, to the prophetically predicted coming Messiah with the birth of Jesus.

Perhaps more familiar to most of us were the Gospels, the story of the early Church and the exciting descriptions of the Missionary journeys spreading the message to the Gentiles (and so to us).

Lastly we looked at the book of Revelations and its imaginative description of the time to come and the ultimate paradise for those who, through all life's experiences, remain faithful followers of Jesus...whose names are written in the Book of Life as John describes it.

One of the huge benefits of the course was its ability to show the 'Big Picture' of the whole Bible story from the first paradise to the final one; the overall story of God's plan and purpose for humankind and our personal

place in it. It has inspired us to read the Bible more regularly and at length to learn in more detail what we have studied in outline. There is always more for us to discover however long we have been reading it!

Pray

- that all who hear the Scriptures will be inspired to read them and discover their value in their own lives
- for the continuing work of the Bible Society in bringing God's message to all parts of the world
- for more opportunities at London Street for people to study the Bible together
- for young people about to begin the exam season at school and college
- for all the activities at London Street that reach out to the local community over the summer

Christian Aid Sunday 12th to Saturday 18th May

I am delighted to report that our annual Christian Aid collection has started very well. A net sum of £247.65 was donated on Sunday, 24th March as the result of the church service led by Joanna Tom-Kargbo from Sierra Leone.

The following events will be taking place at London Street URC:

Sunday, 12th May - The Big Brekkie at 8:30am

Sunday, 19th May - a simple meal of soup (there will be a choice of three) and bread.

House to house collection - there is a need for volunteers and I will be happy to discuss the requirements.

Christian Aid 2018 - the collection for London Street URC was just short of £1000. Let us break the £1000 mark this year.

Thank you, Ian Scott.



Flower Rota - May

5th Jean Holton
12th Muriel Haddock
19th Leng Ayland
26th Victoria Pace

Happy  Birthday

Niamh Harriman, 11 years on 13 May

Isabel Stanley, 8 years on 24 May



An exciting evening of locally sourced vegetarian, home cooked food and drink and entertainment from talented local musicians.

Saturday, 4th May – 6.30pm for 7.00 till 11pm
at
London Street URC
Tickets £35

To purchase tickets or for more information please call
07471208269 or e.mail: **theconserveatory@gmail.com**

Fellowship Tours

You may recall that in 2017 we ran a number of Fellowship Tours at London Street. The idea behind having a Fellowship Tour and Tea is twofold. Sunday after morning worship is not always ideal to spend time together in a social setting, so firstly it is an opportunity to meet together; for me to get to know you better and for you to get to know one another better. Secondly, it is an opportunity for you to take a tour of the building and we can explain what goes on in each of the rooms during the week and the plans we have for the future.

London Street church offers a focus for us to be a Christian witness in the centre of Basingstoke and meet the challenges of those in our community, in particular those less fortunate than ourselves. You will be surprised at how our buildings are currently used in meeting some of the demands we currently face and our plans for the future.

We will be running a Fellowship Tour and Tea on Saturday 8th June. The afternoon will commence at 2.30pm when we gather in the concourse for the beginning of our tour of the building. We shall also have a small exhibition of archive material in the concourse. We shall finish the tour in the church sanctuary when I shall lead us in a short period of prayer. We shall then return to the concourse for tea and cake, finishing at approximately 5.00-5.30pm.

If you would like to attend please R.S.V.P. to Owen as Church Secretary by no later than Sunday 26th May. Thank you.
Blessings

Kay

Wounds cannot remain when the light of God's love shines upon them. Absorb it and feel its healing power.

Malachi 4:2

Daily Bible Readings for May:

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	
1 st	66	Matthew 19		16 th 70	Romans	2
2 nd	105:1-11	" 20		17 th 147	"	3
3 rd	34:1-10	" 21		18 th 40:1-8	Reflection	
4 th	67	Reflection		19 th 71:1-13	"	
5 th	143	"		20 th 148	Romans	4
6 th	34:11-22	Matthew 22		21 st 40:9-17	"	5
7 th	68:1-10	" 23		22 nd 71:14-24	"	6
8 th	144	" 24		23 rd 149	"	7
9 th	36:5-12	" 25		24 th 41	"	8
10 th	68:28-35	" 26		25 th 72	Reflection	
11 th	145	Reflection		26 th 150	"	
12 th	38	"		27 th 1	Romans	9
13 th	69	Matthew 27		28 th 108	"	10
14 th	146	" 28		29 th 2	"	11
15 th	107	Romans 1		30 th 42	"	12
				31 st 73:21-28	"	13

Ffald-y-Brenin

It takes a Lifetime

It takes a lifetime to learn how to live,
How to share and how to give.

How to face tragedy that comes your way,
How to find courage to face each new day.

How to smile when your heart is sore,
How to go on when you can take no more.

How to laugh when you want to cry,
How to be brave when you say goodbye.
How to still love when your loss is so great,
How to forgive when your urge is to hate.

How to be sure that God is really there,
How to find Him, seek Him in prayer.

Ruth Moyer Gilmour
Sileasian Inspirational Books

Traidcraft Packaging Change

Why has it changed from 'Traidcraft' to 'Tropical Wholefoods' for store cupboard ingredients?

Previously, Traidcraft directly imported bulk raisins and sultanas alongside products sourced by Tropical Wholefoods, which were then packed into our own Traidcraft packaging. The Traidcraft products were/are packed at Tropical Wholefoods. As a business, it made sense for Traidcraft to import these ingredients to support the producers, as we needed these ingredients in our products, including Muesli and GEOBARS - however, our product range has reduced.

With the threat of ceasing trading, the green Traidcraft packaging was not reprinted, and whilst Traidcraft was fighting for a future, Tropical Wholefoods worked in the background to come up with a solution that would support both companies. The result of this was a simpler generic Tropical Wholefoods bag that we could put the Traidcraft range into. At the moment the range is exclusive to Traidcraft and Tropical Wholefoods. We hope to move the range into compostable packaging.

We want to work closely with other suppliers who are ethically aligned with us, which is why we are proud to work with Tropical Wholefoods; they are great at what they do. Traidcraft will no longer be importing the sultanas and raisins. We have enough stock at the moment from the last shipment to last us a year, so we will be working closely with Tropical Wholefoods to bring customers the products that they love.

John and Margaret Carrick Smith

Oasis Café London Street URC

Despite reduced footfall at the top of town, the Oasis Café continues to maintain reasonable levels of trade, largely due to continuing growth in the number of group bookings. However, with the closure of the Post Office and the transfer of its business to W H Smith in The Malls, we can't be sure what further impact this will have on the café business, but there is concern that many of our customers will no longer have an incentive to come up to this part of town. **We ask you to give thanks for God's provision to date and to pray for God's guidance in responding to these changing circumstances.**

Please pray this month for our wonderful café volunteer teams and employed cooks, particularly following a recent restructuring of the teams and rotas. One ministry of the café is to provide volunteer opportunities and support for those who may not be able to otherwise work or who have special needs. To some, being on a team gives them stability, a safe place, and they may struggle with change. **Pray, particularly for those who find change difficult, that they will quickly settle into the new structure and feel cared for.**

Following failure in September 2018 to secure places on a part time catering course for two of our cooks (BCOT cancelled the course due to lack of take up and there was no other appropriate provider), we are planning a fresh approach to BCOT for the school year starting September 2019. This training is important to progress the individuals' development and fulfilment, and is also important to future development of café provision. **Please pray that God will open doors for provision of this training.**

Delivery of free food, collected from various supermarkets, has now increased to providing twelve needy families/individuals each week. M&S have stopped trying to reduce-price their near 'sell buy date' items before giving them to us, which means we get more and with longer time to 'use by' dates. There is now a small team in place to collect from the supermarkets and deliver to the various households but this needs to grow. **Give thanks for the provision from the supermarkets and please pray for additional helpers to deliver the food boxes. If you, or anyone you know of, might be willing to give an hour or two a week please e-mail Penny Dillej at urc.communitycafe@gmail.com**

Youth Café

The café continues to be used by, on average, 20–30 young people each day, mostly 11–13 year olds at present. **Continue to pray for energy and motivation of the volunteer team, and for one or two additional volunteers.**

The proposed mentoring scheme has moved more slowly than we had hoped as we are still looking to finish recruiting mentors. **Our prayer is for the establishment of a team of five mentors by the end of the current school term.**

Youth Café Plus (YC+)

YC+ was opened so that the large numbers of young people expressing an interest in Christianity to the Healing on the Streets (HOTS) outreach team had somewhere to go to follow up the information and prayer that they had been given on the street. To date the few young people that have come to YC+ have not had contact with the HOTS and are not necessarily interested in faith issues, and those that HOTS have interacted with have not come to YC+. Last week we were discussing whether we needed to review the YC+ and whether we were doing the right thing. And then, this week five young people have followed up their interaction with HOTS by coming along to the youth cafe to enquire about YC+. Is God trying to tell us something? We know that once these young people make any kind of commitment or receive prayer on the street that there is an enemy who will try to discourage them from following that up. **So please pray for all the young people who are, each month, expressing commitment or interest through the HOTS team, that they will follow this up in some way, and pray for the YC+ team that we will be sensitive to where God is leading us.**

John Eves

Chairman Community Café Management Committee

ECO TIP

Save water, don't leave the tap running while cleaning your teeth.

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

CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2018



In starting my report for 2018, I would like you to focus your thoughts for a moment on the cross behind me and the message it contains within. For me, it is a symbol of beauty, a symbol of hope and life through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Two thousand years ago it was a symbol of torture and death; something to be feared. So, as a symbol of hope and life, how should we continue to ensure that we draw ourselves closer to God and bring those who have yet to hear the Good News the ability to see the cross as a symbol of a new life, of beauty and resurrection rather than feared? For the first part of my report I will reference how we at London Street, during 2018, have sought to achieve that through discipleship and mission.

In 2018 the United Reformed Church focused on lifelong discipleship and mission. As we commenced 2018, London Street was continuing to think and pray about how to respond to the 'Who Cares?' Survey. In doing so Revd Kay Blackwell, in her *View from the Manse* in the February Focus, touched on what it is to be a disciple of Christ, not just in church on a Sunday but every day of our lives wherever we are. Kay recommended two good reads which explore the principles of whole life discipleship: *Holy Habits* by Andrew Roberts and *Fruitfulness on the Frontline* by Mark Greene.

The latter formed the basis to the course led by Kay and repeated by Alison Jamieson and Joy Williams during January and February. For those who attended, it gave each a liberating view of how God can and does work through us in our daily lives as we focused on the 6 'M's' - six expressions of fruitfulness: Modelling Godly Character - on our frontlines, godly character is both modelled and displayed; Making Good Work - there is dignity and value in the everyday tasks we do; Ministering Grace & Love - God has shown us grace and love, how might we minister to those around us?; Moulding Culture - how can we influence the culture on our frontlines so people flourish more?; Mouthpiece for Truth & Justice - becoming champions of right living and fair dealing on our frontlines; and finally Messenger of the Gospel - growing in confidence in talking about Jesus with people on our frontlines.

The former formed the basis of the Elders' training over two weekends in May and then September. Led by Revd Mary Thomas, the first weekend focused on the 4 dimensions of church growth including biblical discipleship, that is the relationship between a teacher (discipler) and student (disciple) and holistic discipleship as modelled by Christ. We shared examples of elements of discipleship within London Street. Kay then tasked the elders with reading *Holy Habits*. We then met again in September to consider how, at London Street, we could build on discipleship as a model of how we could and should live our lives in reflection to Jesus' example and His mission. This involves a journey not only of personal faith with God, but sharing that faith with other people, and building up more disciples. With the foundations firmly laid that mission will develop during 2019 and beyond.

We all want to be happy so why is lasting happiness so hard to find? During April and May, and again as a direct consequence of some of the responses from the 'Who Cares?' Survey, Kay led the 'Life Explored' course. This course focused on sharing the gospel in today's highly visual culture. Each session started with a video with the aim of helping people uncover what they're really living for and showing that the greatest pleasure in life is enjoying God himself.

Encouraging prayer is one of our missions adopted in 2014 as part of our Vision20/20. At the end of 2017 we held a London Street Day of Prayer in seeking God's mission for our church and also the financial and practical means to enable this to happen, and thanks go to Joy Williams for organising that. Joy provided feedback to that day in the February Focus. It was encouraging to read that in prayer, by calling upon our Father God, nothing is impossible and through prayer and listening to God's response he will meet our need so that we continue to have a presence here in Basingstoke. In addition to the prayer day we also invited Peter Pay from the Wessex Synod to come and preach about the biblical principles of financial giving and our two Gift Sundays raised a total of over £17,000.

Returning again to 2017 for a moment, you may recall that in November of that year Dr Aiden Gregg, a research psychologist from the University of Southampton, ran a psychology study here with a number of you taking part. Dr Gregg was testing a hypothesis about human psychology and required participants who happened to be devout and practising Christians. He also invited a group of Christians from the university to participate as well. Details of his findings can be found in the April

Focus. In summary he found that Christians, on the whole, showed a greater concern for others than themselves. As a thank you to London Street Dr Gregg made a donation to the church of £100.

If we, as Christians, show a greater concern for others than ourselves, where at London Street can we find the evidence to support that?

Let us start with Traidcraft. In their report for 2018, John and Margaret Carrick Smith state that the stall here at London Street sold over £1,600 worth of items through sales and orders from church folk, an increase of 11% on 2017 which is good news. They continue:

Our total sales, including Oasis, Tadley, personal consumption and other customers, grew to just over £2,600, a similar increase. Unfortunately the sales of some items have diminished such that stock has been going out of date and we have had to discontinue selling them. October brought devastating news that, unless a solution could be found to their financial problems, Traidcraft plc would cease trading on 31st December 2018 (and John and Margaret provided further detail in the November Focus). It is encouraging to find that a way forward has been found and Traidcraft is continuing to trade. At present we are unsure what the final situation will be but do know that the loss-making crafts sales are being dropped from the catalogue and that most of the staff in Gateshead have been made redundant. Your support counts if Traidcraft is to have a future. We finish our report by giving thanks to all our customers for their commitment to fair trade and a special "Thank you" to Gillian and Tony Patterson for looking after the stall when we have been away.

Thank you John and Margaret.

Alison Jamieson in her report on behalf of the World Mission Group states that the year started with a focus on Fairtrade, firstly with Fairtrade Fortnight looking at the Traidcraft Exchange project 'Hidden Entrepreneurs' where with small grants many folk, often women, in the developing world started small businesses. These can often mean provision of a sufficient income for them and their families. And secondly with a Traidcraft stall in the Oasis Café, giving an opportunity to talk to passing folk about fair trade ethics and what they can mean for many people in the world. You may also recall that a number of you went to see the documentary film on fair trade shown at the Anvil in March.

Alison continues:

In May we had Christian Aid week and raised £960 through door to door collection, church envelopes, the Junior church 'Big Brekkie' and the Christian Aid lunch. On the Sunday, Katie Roberts from Christian Aid gave us a memorable talk about the charity's response to crisis intervention.

By Easter, with the help from the 8th Basingstoke Scouts, we became a collection point for all sorts of plastic food containers that could not be put in the usual collection bins and also for batteries. The response was terrific and I think we all felt really pleased that we could recycle so much more. It was sad that in the autumn the plastic collections had to stop as there was no local outlet. Let's hope they can be restarted soon.

Returning to Traidcraft Exchange, in June they publicised the low pay and poor working conditions of tea plantation workers in Northern India. The World Mission Group encouraged everyone to contact major tea providers in this country whose tea we drank, to register our concern that their tea came from 'good' plantations.

In the autumn at our Harvest Festival we thought about the work of the bees but also we remembered in prayer the farms who had had to cope with the 'Beast from the East' in the spring time and then the long drought of the summer – a testing year.

We rounded off the year in receiving the Eco Church Bronze Award which covers: eco issues covered in worship; the management of our buildings; our involvement in eco issues in our community and abroad; and our personal management of eco issues on a daily basis. The framed certificate is up in the concourse, well done.

Thank you Alison and the members of the World Mission Group for all you do.

Isobel Martin in her report for the Craft Group states:

We continue to meet weekly on Monday mornings in the Hook Room. Membership is a mixture of people from both the congregation and the wider community. We have a wide variety of interests including knitting, painting, crochet, card making and toy making. We donated £200 direct to church funds in 2018 as well as contributing over £100 from sales at our stall on Bring and Buy coffee mornings. We produced angels for the decoration of the church and concourse at Christmas, as well as continuing to make blankets for the homeless, hats for the Sailors Society and twiddle

muffs for dementia patients at the hospital. Members of the Craft Club also supplied the materials and made 100 Christingles for the congregations of both London Street and Tadley.

Isobel finished her report by thanking all of those who have donated wool, ribbons and other items which have allowed the group to produce such a variety of items to support these good causes. Thank you Isobel.

In her report Isobel touched on the Bring and Buy coffee mornings. These were established as part of our response to raising much needed funds for our church and were successful in doing so, raising just over £1,000. Thanks to those who helped organise the coffee mornings, in particular Joyce Cook, Ian and Jenny McCloy, Isobel Martin, Christine Robertson, Alison Jamieson and Chris Ayland.

Of course there were other fund raising events during 2018. Thank you to Joyce who organised a skittles evening in November, but by far the most successful raising £825, and I'm sticking my neck out here by saying the most fun, was the Supper Club in July organised by Kay and her family. Credit and many thanks must go to Kay's daughter, Alma, for the delicious food as well as the Blackwell family for the 'entertainment'.

In ministering to those around us let us turn our attention to children, young adults and the vulnerable in our community.

Meeting weekly, Kay continues to lead the Little Angels group for toddlers and their parents or carers with help from Louise Waller, Anne Davey and Chris and Leng Ayland. And meeting here bi-monthly, supported by All Saints Church, we have the Top of Town Messy Church. The latter is an ecumenical venture open to anybody who would like to come. It is 'church' for those families who do not normally come to worship.

Ian McCloy in his report states:

Each session has a biblical theme, with craft activities aimed at different levels and age groups. Parents, grandparents and carers are encouraged to join in the craft activities with the children. Each activity is linked to the biblical theme and aims to stimulate discussion of the theme and help children to understand it. After the crafts everyone goes into church for story time, singing and prayers which again are linked with the theme.

The session closes with the children, adults and leaders sharing in a meal together; the menu is again linked with the theme where possible.

Numbers in 2018 continued to grow averaging 24 children with many of the families who come linked to 'Little Angels', either by currently attending or having previously attended.

Whilst an encouraging and successful venture, it is not without some concerns. In finalising his report, Ian highlights problems experienced on several occasions with staffing. If we are called to serve the community in this way we need more helpers to attend not only the Saturday itself, but also the preparation meetings so that we can bounce ideas off each other as we decide on how to demonstrate God's love to our guests, through our crafts and activities. This problem has of course been compounded by the retirement of Revd Ros Rutherford from All Saints and this, in turn, has resulted in an additional burden falling on Kay's shoulders which is not ideal. The message is clear. We are in danger of losing this opportunity to minister if we don't have more volunteers. Thank you Ian for your report and to Kay and the messy church helpers.

The Youth Café is another outlet of our ministry. Penny Dilley in her report states:

We have continued to have the commissioning services at the beginning of each school term which are open to all who are interested in supporting this work. These give us the opportunity to reflect on the work of the Cafés and give thanks to God for all He has done and to pray for the coming term's work of the Cafés and the staff.

We continue to have had well over 500 young people attend Youth Café many of whom are regular attendees. The groups are largely year 7/8 and 9 with occasional year 12/13s. They continue to enjoy playing football and pool. We have had a good number of girls attend over the past year although currently we are again mainly boys. As we work with these young people we share the ups and downs of their lives and this can at times be very challenging for the Youth Café team.

We thank God for the new members of the team who are adding to the work with experience and wisdom.

I'm sure that you will be encouraged to see that the number of youngsters attending the Youth Café remain strong and it is by God's grace in answering the prayers of so many that this is happening. The increase in numbers has led to a new initiative with the young people which started in September 2018. This is an extra evening taking place on a Friday from 4.00pm to 6.00pm devoted to providing a safe place to discuss Christianity using a course entitled "Explore Christianity".

Penny reports that there are teams coming in alternate weeks to engage with the youngsters and food is provided. So far around 12 young people have attended. We are grateful to Penny and also to John Eves for their leadership of the Youth Café.

One project that is just starting is a Youth Mentoring scheme. Penny states that:

Many young people lack strong role models in their home lives and for many years we have been looking to start a Youth Mentoring project within the Youth Café. We have attended a training course and we now have some mentors signing up to start. We also have some school access which is essential. As these things come into place we expect to be able to offer Youth Mentoring later in 2019 to some teenagers.

Another youth group that meet here is of course the 8th Basingstoke Scout Group. As Group Scout Leader, Gill Craft cannot believe that yet another year has passed and we are once again looking back over the last 12 months. During 2018 Gill reports that numbers for the group have dropped off a little, with older ones leaving to go to Explorer Scouts and some going due to pressures of school work. Gill continues:

We offer a varied programme to all the children involving Group, District and County events. There have been plenty of camping, days out, the regular sleepover at Tadley Old Meeting, followed by Church Parade. We also ran a visit to the Ice Rink in September and a sleepover at London Street followed by Church Parade, though why we continue to call them "sleep" overs is beyond me!

The Beavers have been allowed to camp out for a few years now and are taking advantage of it. They attended the District Camp last year and much fun was had by all. The New Year Party was well attended as was the trip to Paultons Park. Although there are plenty of fun games to play we still offer the traditional knot tying skills and it is amazing how quickly the young people catch on and remember their reef knots and want to learn more.

The Cubs attended the District Activity Day, and have worked hard both on Tuesday evenings and at home to gain activity and challenge badges. Once again we went to the District Cub Camp. Great fun was had by all and it's good to see so many children out in the fresh air enjoying themselves. There was a special guest at the camp; James Ketchell who came along to tell us about how he had overcome injury and once he had regained his health, of his adventures and how he works to promote Scouting to All and a positive message that you can do anything if you put your mind to it.

Scouts continue to camp out at the drop of a hat. Plenty of outdoor activities on a Tuesday evening. Balloon shaving was a popular night for some reason. The Scouts attended the Remembrance Parade in November to commemorate the end of World War 1. They also had a trip to RAF Odiham, and went Snow-Tubing in Bracknell, gained the photography badge and many more.

The Scouts and Cubs went to a Jamboree camp held in Dorset with the theme of a Monsters Day Out. Although there were 3 trips to casualty no one was seriously hurt and they all had a great time. The Scout Group had a birthday in 2018 and was 90 years young!! This was celebrated with a camp for the whole group. Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Leaders enjoyed a fantastic camp at Pincent in Winchester. The weather was great, the activities well prepared and good fun. We all enjoyed a fun water fight with plenty of water balloons, and then wheelbarrows filled with water and cups to scoop up and generally get everyone wet.

The camp finished with a BBQ for parents, children, District and Church representatives and grown ups that were once scouts themselves. Thanks to Christian (an ex-scout) for providing the bouncy castle which was very well used. Also thanks to all of the leaders and helpers that contributed to make it a great weekend.

We ran the recycling at the church for a while until it was discontinued by the company who were running it. This was a good opportunity for the children to get involved in additional recycling. Our thanks to Alison Jameson for her support in this venture.

Thank you Skip for your report and your valued leadership.

Carol Scott, as one of our Junior Church leaders, has provided a report for our Junior Church. In it Carol states that:

Most Sundays we have had 2 or more children with us, some Sundays it's 6 plus!

It's a lovely noisy time in the Hook room, with lots of activities from straightforward colouring to making things related to teaching the children about God.

We follow the Roots book, this gives us lots of ideas relating to children based on the theme for the Sunday.

The children have learnt through a game about being a refugee, and how difficult this can be. For Armistice the children made poppies

and then brought them into church to put them under the cross, very moving.

I am very grateful for the group of adults who help each week; Jenny, Alison, Tony, Anne, Leng, David, Julie, Margaret and Chris. If you wish to help on a Sunday morning please let me know. No formal qualifications required, only a love to help our children learn about the message of God brought to us through the scriptures.

Thank you Carol and to Jenny McCloy and to all who help in Junior Church.

So, what about the more vulnerable in our community? The Memory Tree Social Club is a weekly coffee morning for people diagnosed with Alzheimer's and other types of dementia, and their loved ones. It is a unique and special place where people with dementia and their carers can relax, enjoy themselves and make new friends. Thanks to Ian and Jenny McCloy, Isobel Martin, Joyce Cook and Claire Macro and the team of bakers who provide freshly baked cakes every week.

In caring for the community, London St also supports two groups of vulnerable people on our streets through the work of the Street Pastors and also the Night Light Winter Shelter.

Street pastors are trained volunteers from local churches and they are on patrol from 10.00pm to 4.00am every Friday and Saturday night to care for, listen to and help people who are out on the streets. Their base on Friday and Saturday evenings is here at London Street. As well as leaders from local churches, they are supported and work in partnership with the police, local council and other statutory agencies.

In 2018 the Basingstoke Street Pastors celebrated 10 years of working in the town. The first team went out on patrol on Friday 25 July 2008 and on Friday 6 July 2018 they held a Service of Celebration here at London Street. To mark this special occasion, Revd Les Isaac, the founder of Street Pastors in the UK, was the guest speaker.

For rough sleepers, having somewhere to get a hot meal and to sleep safely at night makes a huge difference. Now in its third year the Night Light Winter Shelter is a dedicated volunteer run service which provides Basingstoke's most vulnerable people with a bit of respite during the winter months. In 2017/18 the Shelter ran for its second year with London Street providing shelter for two nights a week during December 2017 and January/February 2018. It was in fact extended in 2018 because of the 'Beast from the East'.

On 13 April London Street hosted a service of celebration and worship for the Night Light Winter Shelter and you may recall Carol Scott, as one of the co-ordinators for the Shelter, reporting at church meeting that during 2017/18 when the Shelter was open, 42 fewer people slept out on the streets of Basingstoke and the Shelter received an Excellence Practice Award from Housing Justice.

Originally run at various church venues for five nights a week, the Shelter from December 2018 now operates seven nights a week at Key House, a fixed location in Sarum Hill with London Street having responsibility for Friday evenings and Saturday mornings.

Our thanks to Kay, a key figure in both Street Pastors and the Night Light Winter Shelter; to Penny Dilley and her catering team for the provision of meals for the homeless who attend the Shelter; to Carol Scott one of the team leaders for 2017/18 and again in 2018/19 and the team leaders also for 2018/19. Thank you also to the volunteers from London Street

For those who were to spend Christmas on their own, London Street took the lead in organising a celebration lunch on Christmas Day. It went extremely well and our thanks once again go to Kay and also to Jenny McCloy who took on the role of administrator. Thank you also to the volunteers from London Street who contributed to the success of the lunch.

Whilst on the subject of food, for those with little to spend on food, we are a collection point for the Food Bank supported by Alison Jamieson and Chris Ayland. Thank you to both.

In the wider community we have supported vulnerable children. 2018 marked the 50th anniversary of the Children's Society bringing Christingle to this country with a service held in Lincoln Cathedral in 1968. To celebrate this landmark anniversary, the Children's Society ran the Christingle 50 campaign, with the aim of supporting vulnerable young people through raising funds at Christingle events. With the blessing of church meeting the money raised from our Christmas retiring collections totalling £316.05 went to the Children's Society.

We also marked a second 50th anniversary last year. In September we celebrated with Revd Julian Macro, a former minister here at London Street, the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination. Our Church Archivist Jean Holton, reports that material from the church archives was used for two small exhibitions during 2018, one of which was over the weekend of 8th and 9th September with London Street as the venue for Julian's service of

celebration. The items selected by Jean covered the period of Julian's ministry here from 1977 to 1996 with one item from each of the years in question. It of course included the major renovation and rebuilding of our premises with which Julian was much involved.

In his letter to London Street, Julian remarked that it was very moving to be able to mark the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination with the event at London Street as well as the opportunity to renew friendships made throughout his ministry. Dorothy and Julian were most grateful to all involved, particularly Jean Holton for preparing a year-by-year display of memorabilia; and deeply appreciative of the support and encouragement of so many people during his ministry, not least in coping with his mistakes!

Thank you Jean for the work you do as archivist and Alex I'd be grateful if you would convey on behalf of London Street our thanks once again to both your parents for their ministry here.

Fifty years is also a key figure for Friendship Hour, but not in a celebratory way. In her report, Joyce Cook states Friendship Hour ceased meeting after 50 years. Contact continued in 2018 with many housebound members, but with insufficient numbers attending the afternoon club, the decision was made to close. The group started 50 years ago as primarily a young wives group meeting on a Thursday afternoon as that was half day closing. Gradually the same members continued to keep coming and the average age rose. So from a group with an average age of around 30 at the founding of the Club with up to 40 at each meeting, Friendship Hour in 2018 had reached an average age of around 70 with under 10 members attending.

As chair of Friendship Hour, Joyce would like to thank Eileen Poulter who has been a member for 30 years and secretary for the last 15 years. On behalf of the church thank you to both Joyce and Eileen.

One anniversary during 2018 we shall never forget is of course the centenary of the ending of the First World War. A very poignant time for many and for myself the Service of Remembrance led by Kay was one of the most powerful and moving remembrance services I have attended and I'm not ashamed to admit that I had a lump in my throat and a tear in my eye. In remembering the terrible human cost of war, members of our congregation with a link to the various armed forces shared their experiences of conflict; recited prayers, poems and readings; we laid down a river of red poppies streaming from the cross and we finished by remembering those from our congregation, long gone, who sacrificed

their lives during the two world wars. In the second part of Jean Holton's report she states:

The second exhibition was on Remembrance Sunday. Bound into books, the Basingstoke and District Congregational magazines provide a wealth of information. The books covering 1914 to 1918 were on display in the sanctuary with pages flagged covering appropriate references. In doing the research I was very moved by how the soldiers so far away appreciated, and were helped by, the support received from London Street through prayers, letters, gifts; etc. Their church was very important to them. The list of those who gave their lives in both World Wars was also on show, and their names are commemorated on the Memorial Window in our Memorial Room. Other personal items from members of the congregation also formed part of the exhibition.

Let us never forget the terrible sacrifices made in the past in order that we can today live and learn in freedom, and to meet together to worship our Lord.

Having touched on a service led by Kay, this is perhaps an appropriate time in my report on behalf of everyone here at London Street to thank our minister, Revd Kay Blackwell for all she does. We meet with the freedom to learn and worship together and we do so with the power of the Holy Spirit through Kay. With the support of the elders, the way in which we are spiritually fed is primarily down to Kay's leadership. The work we support in the community and the wider church always involves input and leadership from Kay. Worryingly working extremely long hours at times, we are extremely grateful Kay for all that you do. Thank you.

Central to our learning is our Sunday morning worship. We are of course richly blessed to have Kay preaching on most Sundays but Kay serves Tadley URC as well as London Street and is the URC minister for Christ Church, Chineham. In times of Kay's absence we are grateful to our visiting preachers and thank you to Mark Best who organises the rota.

Thank you also to our musicians throughout 2018 – Mark Best, Peter Dixon, Ian Rees, Maggie Morgans, Alex Macro and David Shaw, with occasional input from Joyce Cook and the digital hymnal, and of course Kay and Andrew Blackwell. Sunday worship though is more than just the ministry of word and sacrament. There are many who work before and after the service and I'd like to thank all of them. There is Rob Williams who ensures that the heating is on if we need it, and Carol Scott as performing and copyright co-ordinator. So what were the most recorded

and consequently popular hymns for 2018? From Rejoice and Sing; *Brother, Sister let me serve you and Crown him with many crowns* were the most popular, followed by: *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah; From heaven you came, helpless babe; Lord, you give the great commission;* and *All my hope on God is founded*. I'm pleased to say that of the hymns on the printed sheets the most popular were *As the deer pants for water* and *Sisters and brothers*. Thank you Carol for the work you do each week. We also have the drivers who give lifts to those who need one, the greeters at the door organised by Jean Holton, the stewards organised by Joyce Cook, the sound system organised by Alex Macro, the bible readers organised by Joy Williams, the flowers organised by Liz Lindsay and her team, the provision of teas and coffees organised by Ian and Jenny McCloy, the Traidcraft stall run by John and Margaret Carrick Smith assisted by Tony and Gillian Patterson, the ladies who wash and return the communion glasses organised by Elspeth Anthony, the counting of the offertory organised by the Finance Committee, the distribution of taped services by Alison Jamieson; our Junior Church staff and helpers, myself in co-ordinating and printing the diary and order of service and the duty elders.

Attendance at Sunday worship during 2018 remained very similar to 2017 averaging 65 to 70. The average attendance at church meetings was 26. With 85 church members on the church roll as at 31 December 2017, our quorum for 2018 was 13. One of our members Revd Clare Downing, Moderator of the Wessex Synod who, together with Peter Pay one of our visiting lay preachers, were both elected as the Moderators of General Assembly 2020-2022. Congratulations to both.

Cast your minds back to Sunday March 18th and the return of snow courtesy of the Beast from the East and we had to cancel morning worship. We did enjoy glorious weather though for two of our outdoor events, firstly in June when many of us went to watch a powerful biblical outdoor drama in the grounds of the Wintersall Estate as we followed hundreds of actors bring the story of Jesus to life in an open air epic production. Secondly in July we enjoyed fellowship and the warmth of the summer sun at the family BBQ with Tadley URC at their Immanuel Centre.

As July gave way to August and in turn to September, where were we in our Church life? Well on 15 September we welcomed 13 new members to London Street: on confession of faith – Jean Young, Alison Grant, Beverley Cantwell, Jason Dudley, Doina Rasnita, Louise Waller, Lilian Meredith and Roger Pike; on re-affirmation of faith – Sarah Williams; and by transfer – Gill Miller, Janet Parr, Kengjise Moavu and Rita Kahdoh.

We baptised 4 people in 2018; infant baptism to Oliver Charles Nathan (grandson to Ian and Carol Scott) and Kenita Leeyes Matiga Moavu; (daughter of Ken and Rita and sister to Daniel); and by full immersion to two adults – Jason Dudley and David Waller. There was one wedding which took place in June between David Smart and Corrine Hill. It was also with great sadness that we lost some very dear friends; Beryl Gazzard, Barbara Taylor, Iris Wenham, Annette Bowers, Vernon Blight and Iris Brixton.

We are created by God in all our diversity, and we rejoice in the diversity of the membership here at London Street. In doing so we should actively seek to use the diverse gifts we have to enhance our church's mission. Ever since the choosing of the twelve Apostles, God has continued to call people to his service. Everyone here as a member, through baptism has a ministry and there is a diverse range of ministries on offer. God provides for the church here at London Street and as a United Reformed Church we have a model of inclusive leadership; sharing and supporting one another.

The group with the greatest responsibility for overseeing this is the eldership. At the beginning of 2018 we had 11 serving elders: Leng Ayland, Margaret Carrick Smith, Anne Davey, May Honeyball, Liz Lindsay, Ian McCloy, Jenny McCloy, Carol Scott, Ian Scott, Joy Williams and Rob Williams. In addition we had 6 non-serving elders with a pastoral group each: Chris Ayland, Joyce Cook, Gill Craft, Alison Jamieson, Isobel Martin and Tony Patterson. During 2018 we had 11 elders' meetings and 1 extra-ordinary meeting. Every member of the congregation has been remembered by the elders in prayer in our devotionals. Items for discussion have been many including the long term let of the Winslade Room for the Methodist Homes; annual review of our policies; ecumenical events; fund raising events; prayer days; training; worship; mission; communication; maintenance of our buildings; the application of the General Data Protection Regulation; and finance. Within the eldership we have a number of focus groups or sub-committees.

In addition to the two already mentioned, we have the Buildings and Fabric Group, the Communications Group and the Finance Committee. Joy in her report on behalf of the Buildings and Fabric Group states:

During 2018 the group's main occupation seems to have been changing light tubes – there are a lot of lights in the building! In spite of replacing with long life ones we have not yet seen the benefit. The drains on the other hand, over the second half of the year, since we reverted to old fashioned towels (replaced daily) and placed large bins for nappy liners etc., have become blocked less often.

Some clearing out of cupboards and the disposal of some large broken sports equipment and staging has freed up space for current storage needs.

The leaks in the Concourse continued to be a nuisance in heavy rain and wind and in spite of clearing the centre gutter and checking the lead flashing it is a problem that needs ongoing attention as does the renovation of the men's toilet which is still outstanding.

With the increasing use of the Quiet Room by hirers for training courses the carpet was cleaned, in house, and more suitable chairs purchased. The Winslade Room was made ready for the Methodist At Home team to move in during May.

Wi-Fi coverage within the building was extended and made more widely available to users.

At the Manse the bathroom ceiling was replaced following water damage and the guttering outside was cleared and realigned. The annual landlord's gas safety certificate was obtained.

During 2019 it will be necessary to redecorate and/or thoroughly clean most of the smaller rooms which we hope will be done in house.

Thank you Joy and to the members of the Buildings and Fabric Group, Bram Corn, Rob Williams and Chris Ayland. Isobel in her report on behalf of the Communications Group states:

Throughout the year we have continued to update and supply Welcome packs and information leaflets in several languages to visitors and new members of the congregation.

The main thrust of our effort has been in designing and siting new directional signs to help visitors navigate their way round the building. At the present time they are in temporary positions whilst we evaluate their effectiveness. New signs displaying instructions for Health & Safety and keeping rooms tidy have also been implemented.

Thank you Isobel and to members Alison Jamieson, Christine Robertson, Margaret Carrick Smith and myself.

The Finance Committee, chaired by Alex Macro, are responsible with Karen Bell as our Treasurer in caring for our finances. In accordance with our Constitution and in line with the guidelines of the Charity Commission they will make recommendations to the Trustees and in turn church meeting on income and expenditure. Thank you to Alex, Karen and to members Joy Williams, Ian Scott, Julia Burrows, Julie Bath as well as

myself and Kay. Alex resigned from the role as Chair at the end of December with Julia kindly taking this role on. Thank you Alex for all you have done and thank you Julia for taking on this important role. Thank you also to Margaret Carrick Smith who was appointed by church meeting as assistant to Karen in her role as Treasurer.

The income we generate from our lettings plays an important role in enabling us to undertake our work of discipleship and mission and we are extremely grateful to Joy Williams as Lettings Secretary for the work she does. In her report, Joy states:

There were about 30 groups who were regular users of our premises weekly, fortnightly or monthly during the year. In addition there were several one off bookings. Due to the considerable increases in the cost of utilities, insurance, cleaning etc., the annual increase in charges per session was higher than usual and this caused some of the small groups who had been meeting here to find cheaper alternative meeting places or to fold but gradually other groups found us and the building was buzzing most days.

The majority of our hirers are now local authority, NHS (particularly mental health and young people) and private associations working in the community. On most days you will find counselling training, a workshop or disability social group meeting here and the Quiet Room, right at the top of the building, is now in regular use, in addition to the other rooms. Christian groups using the premises include, Praying Mothers, El Shaddai, Calm Church and Abundant Life Church.

In May a Tenancy at Will was signed with the Methodist Homes Association (MHA) for them to use the Winslade Room as an office from which to run the Basingstoke and North East Hampshire 'Live at Home' Group. Their monthly lunch club is held on our premises in Oasis as well.

Staying with Oasis for a moment, Penny Dilley in her report for Oasis states:

Business continues to struggle as the top of town becomes less populated and viable due to the closure of key businesses. The post office closing in March 2019 will no doubt have an impact also on footfall.

In order to maintain some profitability we have discontinued our usual offers which were run throughout the year at various times. This included the Soup Festival in October and the January Jackets. These do not seem to have been missed by our regular customers.

We have provided meals for 30 for the night shelter on Thursdays and Fridays from December 2018 to the end of February 2019; and served over 160 Christmas lunches which were enjoyed by various different groups; the Macular Degenerative Group, Memory Tree, Hillstead Court, Methodist Housing Association and others as well as local families.

We have increased our catering for groups either within the church or from other organisations. We provide a monthly meal for MHA and continue to prepare food for church events.

We have added several new members to our staff team and those who are able and willing have completed their Food Hygiene Certificate. For some this was the first training they have received for many a year and the first online course they have ever done.

Again careful collection of our Tesco points meant we were again able to take the staff out for a subsidised Christmas meal.

Continuing with my thanks, thank you to our cleaners, Roy and Sharon and to Ian Scott as their line manager. When it comes to our shop window and decorating our church, many thanks to Alison Jamieson and to the contribution made by Ian McCloy. Thank you to Christine Robertson for producing Focus and to Joan Beattie who posts copies to friends now living away from Basingstoke; and to John and Elaine Coakes for ordering and distributing Reform.

I want to finish my report by making reference to a family address that Kay led during Advent. Ingredients when baking a cake: eggs, butter, flour, baking soda, sugar. You wouldn't contemplate eating them on their own, but mix them together in the right way they make a wonderfully delicious cake. God works the same way when he calls us. His love of diversity is reflected in the gifts we have to offer. As an individual we may not achieve much, but collectively we can achieve a 'delicious cake'. We are all beautifully designed and hand-crafted parts of God's creation. At the beginning of my report I asked you to focus on the cross behind me. The work of the restoration of all creation started at the cross through Jesus, a symbol of hope and life. We can continue collectively to ensure that we draw ourselves closer to God and bring those who have yet to hear the Good News the ability to see the cross as a symbol of a new life, of beauty and resurrection as part of a wonderfully delicious cake. Amen.

That concludes my report for 2018. Thank you.

May, 2019 Diary

at London Street, unless otherwise stated

Sat	4 th	6.30pm	Supper Club
		for 7.00pm	
Sun	5 th	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast
		10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister.
Mon	6 th		Oasis and Youth Café closed for Bank Holiday
Wed	8 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Fri	10 th	7.30pm	Messy Church planning meeting
Sun	12 th	8.30am	Christian Aid Big Brekkie
		10.30am	Worship led by Vivien Gerhold
			Deadline for articles for June FOCUS
Wed	15 th	10.15am	3C's (Coffee, Chat, Company) in the Oasis Café – All welcome
Sun	19 th	10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister and including Holy Communion
		12.15pm	Christian Aid Lunch
Sat	25 th	3.30pm	Top of Town Messy Church
Sun	26 th	10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister
Mon	27 th		Oasis Café closed for Bank Holiday and Youth Café closed for Half Term

Services at Old Meeting, Tadley – May, 2019

Preachers

Welcome

5 th	Brenda Baldwin
12 th	Rev Kay Blackwell
19 th	Mel Euerby
26 th	Adam Payne

Ena and George
Mandy and Dave
Ladies Cell
Elaine and Brian

Synod Dates:

1. Thursday 30th May 2019 at Crowe Hill Methodist Church, Ringwood. A walking quiet day in the New Forest, led by Mike and Louise Shrubsole. Places are limited, please book early to avoid disappointment.

2. Provisional date (Saturday 26 October 2019 tbc). A reflective day on “Mindfulness and Christian Spirituality” led by specialist Tim Stead. Exploring how mindfulness and Christian spirituality relate, including trying exercises in mindfulness which might enhance and enrich our spiritual life. Venue to be confirmed. Places limited to 20.

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
6.00pm (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 Term Time Youth Café for secondary school and college students

Fridays:

4-6.00pm YC+ 'Explore Christianity'
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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