



London Street

United Reformed Church

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



July/August, 2019

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - www.basingstokeurc.org.uk

MINISTER:

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Tadley (Old Meeting) URC

10.00am Prayer Time followed by Worship at 10.30 every Sunday
"TASTE" Youth Event at 7pm at the Point (behind Community Centre)

Minister: Revd Kay Blackwell

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View from the Manse

'From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded.' (Exodus 17:1a)

Recently, when away at ministers' spring school, I visited the Salisbury Cathedral early one morning. It was one of those beautiful crisp, yet sunny mornings. The bright morning sunlight streamed through the cloisters and cast bold shadows on the internal walls (*see cover picture*). The aisles of walk ways with a definite destination seemed criss-crossed by the shadows of the passed structures. As I gazed between the columns into the interior garden, where a large ancient Yew tree spread its branches in the midst of the neatly manicured lawn, I pondered many things. The way forward was confused by the dark shadows of passed structures. The growth of the tree, old though it probably was, in the midst of the ancient man-made and beautifully crafted architecture. Then, to top it all, between the cloister arches, the Cathedral spire could be seen as if straining upward to the glory of God. It was just a short time of solitude, yet God spoke to me in that moment. There is something curious yet appealing to me about the spaces of intersection, the places in-between. The places where old meets new, man-made meets God's creation, bright sunlight meets dark shadows, man's aspirations to reach heavenward, meet God's sacred presence. Such spaces of transition disturb us, unnerve us and, on occasions, disorientate us.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded (Exodus 17:1a). The Israelites felt disorientated. All that was familiar, even though it was hated, was now gone. They were at a place in-between; in-between slavery and the promised land yet to come. They journeyed on in stages, as the Lord led them, yet the people continually looked back to what they had known, with strangely rose-tinted glasses it seems. How could living in bondage under an oppressive regime seem preferable to trusting in God and being led to a promised land of milk and honey?

It seems ridiculous. Yet are we not just as fickle today? Do we not often hold on to our little rafts of sin (because that's what gets us through) rather than truly letting go and truly letting God become sovereign of our lives. It means we have to trust utterly, even when we cannot clearly see where we are being led.

Wilderness periods, as for the Israelites in the wilderness of sin, are desert periods. Desert periods are times in which God will teach us and move us on in our thinking and understanding. In the desert the people longed for water, they moaned to Moses *'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?'* (Ex 17:3). Yet, against all physical odds, God changed the situation. Directing Moses to strike the rock at Horeb with his staff, God brought forth the flow of living water to quench the people's thirst. It quenched their physical thirst for a time, yet still they moaned, those *'stiff-necked'* people!

Are we truly willing to be guided by God even when the future seems uncertain and unclear? Are we ready for the challenges of change and not always harking back to what has once been, even though, in truth, we may not have been happy there?

Dear Lord, may we be your servants wherever you may send us. Lead us ever onward and transform us in our desert times. Show us where the rocks are in our lives that we must strike in order to make your living waters flow in us and revive us once more. Amen.

Yours in Christ, Kay

Blessings and Best Wishes to Jo and Steve Tremarco who renewed their marriage vows at a special service on Sunday, 16th June.



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; Carys Hayward and family; Rita Kahdoh, Ken and Daniel and Kenita; Lilian Meredith and family; David Shaw; Edmund Shaw; Betty Shipway.

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; Matt Wise and family (wife Tiff and daughters Elsie and Amelie).

We particularly think of and pray for Carys Hayward and family of Brian Hayward (a member at London Street URC for many years). Brian died peacefully at 4.30am on Saturday 15th June at St. Michael's Hospice. Funeral Service at 12.30pm on 9th July at the Crematorium.
and for
Beverly Cantwell and family of John Cantwell (not a member). John died peacefully at 8.30am on Saturday 15th June in Basingstoke Hospital. Funeral Service at 3.15pm on 2nd July at London Street.

Prayer Focus:

Genesis 2: v 7-9 - *then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life: and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east: and there he put the man whom he had formed.....*

A few weeks ago I was listening to someone read this, the second account of the creation story from Genesis. In chapter 1 we hear of God 'speaking' everything into being. There is a sense of the power and authority that caused the universe and our world to be created out of nothing. Big stuff and awe inspiring.

As I listened I had a serendipity moment, for the use of the verbs 'formed' and 'planted' gives a very down to earth picture of God getting his hands dirty with earth. I could imagine God going round with his wheelbarrow of plants, kneeling down, trowel in hand, watering can at the ready and placing plants where they would thrive and give the most pleasure. He was creating a special place where man could also thrive and enjoy the beauty, variety and potential of the garden! A fanciful idea I know but those verses, I think, illustrate God's great and very intimate love for all of his creation.

Any gardener can identify with what he was up to, where vision, knowledge, planning and then choice play their part in creating a beautiful garden, somewhere to be enjoyed. And this is true of any creative activity, whatever the medium. There is a personal part of us incorporated into each of our creative activities that speaks of our being created in God's image.

So let us, whatever the weather this summer, give thanks for and appreciate His present to us of the garden he planted for us at the beginning of time. Of course the story doesn't end there and Jesus came to make it possible for that garden ultimately to be regained. Let us praise him!

Prayer Dear Lord thank you for the ways in which you reveal yourself to us; through our senses; through our hearts, minds, imaginations and giftings; through the love and care of other people; and most of all through the life and death of Jesus. May we live our lives in the light of that love and care. Amen

Focus for prayer:

- Give thanks for the wonders of creation.
- Pray for families over the summer holidays that it may be a time of enjoyment and building of relationships.
- Pray for families who will be under financial pressure during the school holidays.
- Pray for the pressure spots in the world that peace and justice may prevail.
- Pray for Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo where a new outbreak of ebola has started that there may be the resources to fight the outbreak.



Flower Rota -

July:

7th Yvonne Thornton
14th Isobel Martin
21st Joy Williams
28th Lesley Ferguson

August:

4th Jenny McCloy
11th Stan Marut
18th Karen Bell
25th Betty Shipway



*Joan Mussellwhite, 92 years on 10th July
Eleanor Green, 6 years on 23 August*



Christian Aid:

I am delighted to report that the final total for Christian Aid 2019 is £1,338.47 (2018 £960.90). This year there were three events which were held outside the usual house-to-house collection and, once again, the congregation supported all events. Fresh ideas continue to be welcomed for fund raising events and I am happy to discuss any ideas. The downside for this year's marvellous total is that we have a higher benchmark to aim for. Once again many thanks.

Ian Scott

Daily Bible Readings for July:

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	
1 st	12	Luke	3	16 th	Luke	14
2 nd	119:33-48	"	4	17 th	"	15
3 rd	13	"	5	18 th	"	16
4 th	81:1-10	"	6	19 th	"	17
5 th	95	"	7	20 th	119:113-128 Reflection	
6 th	119:49-64	Reflection		21 st	18:20-30	"
7 th	15	"		22 nd	119:129-144 Luke	18
8 th	119:65-80	Luke	8	23 rd	18:31-42	"
9 th	16	"	9	24 th	52	"
10 th	50:1-15	"	10	25 th	119:145-160	"
11 th	82	"	11	26 th	85	"
12 th	96	"	12	27 th	98	Reflection
13 th	119:81-96	Reflection		28 th	119:161-176	"
14 th	17	"		29 th	19	Luke
15 th	119:97-112	Luke	13	30 th	54	"
				31 st	86	1 Corinthians
						1

Ffald-y-Brenin

Daily Bible Readings for August:

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	
1 st	121/122	1 Corinthians	2	16 th	130/131	1 Corinthians
2 nd	99	"	3	17 th	27	Reflection
3 rd	20	Reflection		18 th	60	"
4 th	56	"		19 th	89:1-13	1 Corinthians
5 th	23/24	1 Corinthians	4	20 th	102:18-28	"
6 th	87	"	5	21 st	132	"
7 th	100/101	"	6	22 nd	28	2 Corinthians
8 th	124/125	"	7	23 rd	133/134	"
9 th	25:1-10	"	8	24 th	30	Reflection
10 th	126/127	Reflection		25 th	61	"
11 th	25:11-22	"		26 th	89:14-29	2 Corinthians
12 th	57	1 Corinthians	9	27 th	103	"
13 th	102/1-17	"	10	28 th	135	"
14 th	128/129	"	11	29 th	31:1-10	"
15 th	26	"	12	30 th	138	"
				31 st	31:11-24	Reflection

Ffald-y-Brenin

BASINGSTOKE and TADLEY URCs' **'BIG' SUMMER PICNIC GARDEN PARTY,** **1pm, Sun 21st July**

***** Free Food, Free Entry, Great Fun... Tickets on request or sign the list! *****

On 21st July we will be holding a 'BIG' SUMMER PICNIC GARDEN PARTY at Tadley URC, Immanuel Centre, Main Road, Tadley, RG26 3NY. The event is free and picnic and garden party 'style' food will be provided at no cost to attendees (donations will be welcome though!). This year we want to try to reach out to all those around us and invite them along - our neighbours, our friends, work colleagues and family – or others that have any connection to either of our churches! The event will be a ticket event (so that we can work out catering needs) BUT the tickets are FREE and available on request! There are lists at London Street and Tadley for you to sign up on if you want to come along and if your name(s) is on the list you will be automatically reserved a ticket(s) for you and any guests you name!

However, this event won't be a success without YOUR



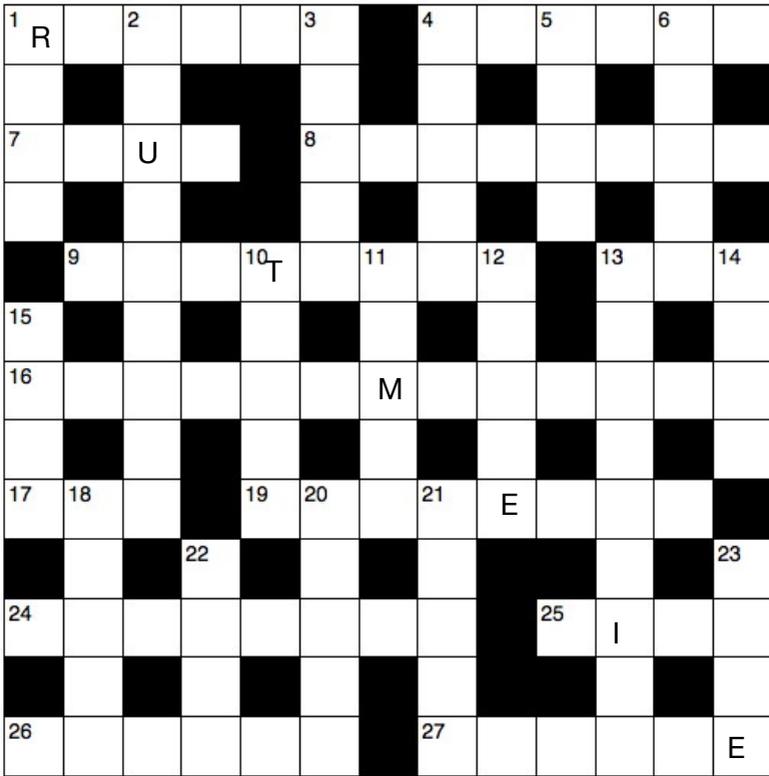
Picnic

SUPPORT! We need you to invite those you know along and encourage them to join us for the afternoon! We also need assistance with donations of cakes and puddings (from London Street Church) and savouries (from Tadley Church). The aim is to have a combination of fun

stalls and games, soothing background music and great food topped off with good company and a warm, friendly and relaxing atmosphere. We have planned ahead and already booked the sunshine... please don't leave it to the last minute.... request your tickets asap for yourself, your friends, neighbours, work colleagues and acquaintances and also please volunteer asap if you are to help out with either a stall/game or catering in some way! Please also volunteer at London Street if you can provide lifts for others (and let someone know if you need a lift).

It will be a great family friendly event! Don't miss it!

Kay and the Elders at Tadley and London Street URCs



Crossword Clues (using the New International Version):

Across

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)
- 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
- 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
- 8 See 5 Down
- 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
- 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
- 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)
- 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)
- 19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)
- 24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)
- 25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)

- 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)
 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

Down

- 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)
 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)
 3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)
 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)
 5 and 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)
 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)
 10 Trout (anag.) (5)
 11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)
 12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)
 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)
 14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me" (Mark 14:20) (4)
 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)
 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (sometimes known as the Forbidden City) (5)
 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)
 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)
 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)
 23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)

Answers to June Crossword:

- | | | |
|--------|-------------------|--------------|
| Across | 8. Grandchildren | 4. Thorns |
| | 9. Pro | 5. Blue |
| | 10. Marvelled | 6. Armllet |
| | 11. Strut | 7. On Edge |
| | 13. Startle | 12. Tea |
| | 16. Babysit | 14. Adoption |
| | 19. Orate | 15. Lot |
| | 22. Eucharist | 16. Breach |
| | 24. Map | 17. Become |
| | 25. Commissioners | 18. Thirst |
| Down | 1. Agapes | 20. Armies |
| | 2. Favour | 21. Expose |
| | 3. Edomites | 23. Avid |

15th July St Swithun (or Swithin) - saint for a rainy day

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

(Parish Pump)

House Groups:

We invite you to come to one of the House Groups (see the Diary on page 14).

They will be informal sessions, with no pressure and no expectations. We will be following the Minister's recent theme of 'Try Praying' and both House Groups will follow Pete Greig's Prayer Course which is an 8 week course exploring The Lord's Prayer. In each session there will be a video, followed by discussion and a practical prayer activity to explore together.

The sessions will be relaxed and fun, we will get to know each other and there will be cake!

Why not give it a try and 'Try Praying' with us.

Carol & Ian Scott and Jenny & Ian McCloy

| A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of a local
| superstore. As he waited, he was approached by a man who
| asked "Son, can you tell me where the Post Office is?"
| The little boy replied, "Sure! Just go straight down the street and
| at the end turn to your right!"
| The man thanked the boy kindly and said "I'm the new minister
| in town. I'd like you to come to my church on Sunday. I'll show
| you how to get to Heaven."
| The little boy replied with a chuckle "Awww, come on You
don't even know the way to the Post Office!"

Signs found outside churches:

- It is unlikely there'll be a reduction in the wages of sin.
- If you don't like the way you were born, try being born again.
- This is a ch__ch. What is missing? (U R)
- Forbidden fruit creates many jams.

Diary

July, 2019

London Street, unless otherwise stated

- Wed. 3rd 7.30pm Elders' Meeting
Thu. 4th 7.30pm House Group at 33 Amport Rd, Sherfield Park
Sun. 7th 8.30am Prayer Breakfast
10.30am Worship – led by Revd Jonathan Clark
Wed. 10th 7.30pm House Group at 5 Magnus Drive, Hatch Warren
Fri. 12th 10am-4pm Elders' Away Day at Immanuel Centre, Tadley
7.30pm Messy Church planning meeting
Sun. 14th 10.30am Worship – led by Revd Adam Payne
Wed. 18th 10.15am 3C's (Coffee, Chat, Company) in the Oasis
Café – All welcome
7.30pm House Group at 33 Amport Rd, Sherfield Park
Sun. 21st 10.30am Worship – led by the Minister and including
Holy Communion
from 1pm Summer picnic at Immanuel Centre, Tadley
(please complete list on notice board)
Wed. 24th **Oasis and Youth Cafés closed for Summer holiday**
7.30pm House Group at 5 Magnus Drive, Hatch Warren
Sat. 27th 3.30pm Top of Town Messy Church
Sun. 28th 10.30am Worship – led by the Minister

August, 2019

- Sun. 4th 8.30am Prayer Breakfast
10.30am Worship – led by the Minister
Thu. 8th 7.30pm House Group at 33 Amport Rd, Sherfield Park
Sun. 11th 10.30am Worship – led by Revd Julian Macro
Deadline for articles for September FOCUS
Wed. 14th 7.30pm House Group at 5 Magnus Drive, Hatch Warren
Sun. 18th 10.30am Worship – led by Revd Clare Downing and
including Holy Communion
Thu. 22nd 7.30pm House Group at 33 Amport Rd, Sherfield Park
Sun. 25th 10.30am Worship – led by the Minister
Wed. 28th 7.30pm House Group at 5 Magnus Drive, Hatch Warren

Diary

July, 2019 Services at Old Meeting, Tadley

Preachers

7th Penny O'Bee
14th Mark Ward
21st TBC
28th Revd Adam Payne

Welcome

Ena and George
Mandy and Dave
Ladies Cell
Bryan and Elaine

August, 2019

4th TBC
11th Revd Kay Blackwell
18th TBC
25th Revd Adam Payne

Ena and George
Mandy and Dave
Ladies Cell
Bryan and Elaine



ECO TIP

Reuse is the best form of recycling - so, do you need something repaired?

Basingstoke Repair Cafe will be open 14 July and 13 October 12 noon to 4 pm at Makerspace, Maritime House, 65 New Road, RG21 7PW.

There is no charge for repairs; however, you are encouraged to make a donation to cover costs of material etc.

Items handled previously include: lots of sewing repairs, laptop fan reconnected, electrical repairs and testing, woodwork, minor jewellery repair (silver soldering).

Coffee, tea and cake are generally available at £1 an item to help fund the cafe.

More details at <https://www.facebook.com/events/356028315188808/>

**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

Monday's:

10am-1.30pm OASIS Café in the Concourse (Term Time)
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

Tuesday's:

10am-1.30pm OASIS Café in the Concourse (Term Time)
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) Term
7pm (CUB SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Pack) Time
7pm (SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Troop)
7-8.00pm PRAYER MEETING at **Tadley URC or St Paul's**

Wednesday's:

10am-1.30pm OASIS Café in the Concourse (Term Time)
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

Thursday's:

10am-1.30pm OASIS Café in the Concourse (Term Time)
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

Friday's:

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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