



Harvest



London Street
United Reformed Church

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



Focus

Sept. 2019

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - www.basingstokeurc.org.uk

MINISTER:

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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:

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View from the Manse



Maybe I should call this article view from the igloo! So, this August we ran our fifth year of the Tadley ecumenically run children's holiday club. This year we all became Polar explorers. You will see that behind Dr. Revd Ruth Midcalf and me sits an igloo made of plastic milk bottles (around 700 of them!!), all lovingly glued together by our excellent set makers Andrew Thompson & Charles Burge. This igloo was revealed at the grand finale on Friday. It was the culmination of our story line. The people and animals of the North Pole (where the story was set) teamed up with those from the South Pole. This was thanks to a penguin who had travelled to the North in a quest to find a new icy home because the ice cap had been melting in the South. Once they realised that the ice was melting in both the North and the South Poles, they decided to start a climate change awareness campaign to go out to the world with the Plastic igloo as their climate change emblem (a symbol of plastic pollution contaminating the poles). A young Inuit girl was filmed taking their message to the United Nations Climate Conference (Greta Thunberg style). Along the journey the characters are taught about New Testament characters from the book of Acts: Peter; Stephen; Phillip; Paul; Timothy and Lydia. These Bible characters' stories encouraged each of the characters in our daily saga to see themselves differently and to be transformed in some way. They learnt that they were never too bad, too ordinary, too young, too unexpected etc. to make a difference in the world when they put their faith in Jesus. This year we had 52 children and 4 young leaders attending the club as well as around 35 volunteers helping to run it. Holiday club truly is a team effort. Every person on the team has a role to play that is crucial to the whole.

For a week of intensive effort and energy we gather from different traditions, different churches and experiences with different skills and we unite in a common focus. Our goal is to welcome these young children and help them to see the relevance of the good news of Jesus Christ in their own lives. The result is we

become an example of the body of Christ in Tadley, a body where each member is valued and active in missional activity.

For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (Romans 12:4-5)

Our unity in body & missional purpose, I believe, makes us attractional. By day five many children are already saying they want to return next year. Many volunteers are already planning for next year too!

What struck me as we opened up the club this year was that what we create for this week is an upside-down church, a counter-cultural church. In our ordinary Sunday churches, it's all about the adults and any children coming along have to fit in by being quiet when we expect them too and learning about the Bible when we make space for them (as long as it doesn't disturb anyone else). The church we create at Holiday club is all about the children and we adults have to fit in with and learn from them, even at times becoming a fool for Christ (and yes, I am often prepared to do that). Jesus was counter cultural.....I wonder what he takes most joy in? The reception-aged children filled with joy and dancing in the front row at Holiday club whilst shouting at the top of their voices that Jesus is their 'Lighthouse', or us sensible grown ups full of cynicism and doubts and often grudgingly mumbling the Lord's prayer on a Sunday morning? What we do at Holiday club is ultimately investing in children and Jesus did that too.....even though others felt that was a scandalous waste of time for their Rabbi ...

'But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them' (Mark 10:14-16).

So, as the new academic year commences let us value all those who dedicate time and effort to working with our children our Sunday School teachers, our toddler group leaders, the Beavers, Cubs & Scouts leaders, the Youth café leaders, those training as mentors and our Messy Church leaders. Please take time to thank them for their hard work and value them for what they do. Also thank all our young children for being part of the groups we run and reminding us what it is to be a joyful child of God.

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; Phyllis Birchmore; Debbie and John Brannam (daughter and son-in-law of Jean Young); Kay Cook; John Haynes; Lilian Meredith and family; Edmund Shaw; Betty Shipway.

Long Term: Beverley Cantwell; David and Tish Catterall; Christine Clucas; Aubrey Dommett (granddaughter of Beverley Cantwell); Penny Dilley; Carys Haywood and family; 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).

.....
: Congratulations to Alison and Lee Grant on the birth of their
: daughter, Aidah , on 3rd August, a sister for Ethan and Amos.
.....

Prayer Focus:

2 Corinthians ch9 vv6-7 'Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously'

September for many people signals a time when things change. It is not only the seasons and the gradually darkening evenings but for many young people in education the change of school; school to college; college to University or into employment. Natural on their part as well as on the part of parents.

This is an important area where our Youth Café staff play such a vital role. Be it a first year in a new environment or the start of the dreaded GCSE/A level year pressures on young people increase.

In the Church we start a new season of our activities, some familiar and well established, others, no doubt, new ventures which God will reveal to us.

We are an individual 'Local' Church in our non-conformist tradition, but also part of the wider Christian Church, locally, nationally, and even internationally. Our regular Bible readings in September will continue in Paul's second Corinthian letter and in chapter 9 we see an example of his idea about the interdependence of the group of gentile churches which he has in some part helped to establish.

As one who started his missionary life in Jerusalem and Antioch he has a particular concern for the 'Mother' Church, which appears to be in particular need at the time. He is keen to show these gentile churches that they do have a responsibility to respond to fellow Christians in need, however far away they may be.

It is interesting, even perhaps amusing, to see how he is encouraging the Corinthians to be generous in their giving to his 'collection' (just see how generous the Macedonians have been!).

We may not understand exactly the circumstances and relationships but Paul's basic message is still true today 'whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously'. Of course in this instance Paul is specifically talking about financial generosity since he wants to take money to Jerusalem, but such giving is not the only way of showing our response to the overwhelming generosity of God's grace to us. As Church activities start again it is a good time to re-assess our own giving of our time and talents to God's continuing work at London Street.

Pray for

- all the young people in education as they start their academic lives again
- those within the Church who start our activities again, particularly the Community and Youth Cafés
- Kay and the Elders as they discern God's will and guide the Church in the coming months
- the needs of the wider Church and its work with so many disadvantaged communities worldwide
- our own commitment to the activities in London Street

Daily Bible Readings for September:

	Psalm	New Testament	Psalm	New Testament	
1 st	62	Reflection	16 th 34:11-22	1 Timothy	5
2 nd	104:24-35	2 Corinthians 8	17 th 68:1-10	"	6
3 rd	139	" 9	18 th 144	2 Timothy	1
4 th	32	" 10	19 th 36:5-12	"	2
5 th	63	" 11	20 th 68:28-35	"	3
6 th	140	" 12	21 st 145	Reflection	
7 th	33:1-12	Reflection	22 nd 38	"	
8 th	65	"	23 rd 69	2 Timothy	4
9 th	141	2 Corinthians 13	24 th 146	Titus	1
10 th	33:13-22	1 Timothy 1	25 th 107	"	2
11 th	66	" 2	26 th 70	"	3
12 th	105:1-11	" 3	27 th 147	1 John	1
13 th	34:1-10	" 4	28 th 40:1-8	Reflection	
14 th	67	Reflection	29 th 71:1-13	"	
15 th	143	"	30 th 148	1 John	2

Ffald-y-Brenin

Answers to July/August Crossword:

Across	1.	Riches	3.	Sadhu
	4.	Abners	4.	Arm he
	7.	Soul	5.	Nose
	8.	Damascus	6.	Round
	9.	Statutes	10.	Tutor
	13.	Add	11.	Timid
	16.	Craftsmanship	12.	Sense
	17.	Old	13.	Ashbelite
	19.	Redeemer	14.	Dips
	24.	Walls are	15.	Echo
	25.	Wise	18.	Lhasa
	26.	Target	20.	Exact
	27.	Thieve	21.	Erect
Down	1.	Rest	22.	Flog
	2.	Courtyard	23.	Mede

"Experience is a hard teacher, because she gives the test first and the lesson after."

So, before you assume – **learn the facts**
 before you judge – **understand why**
 before you hurt someone – **feel**
 before you speak – **think**



Flower Rota - September

Sun	1 st	Lesley Harriman
	8 th	Les Wenham
	15 th	Sheila Munro
	22 nd	Elsbeth Athony
	29 th	HARVEST

Night Shelter training dates

Returning Volunteers

21st September

8th October

New Volunteers

28th September

15th October

All at Sarum Hill Centre at 9.30am

If you wish to know more please speak to either
Carol Scott, Gill Miller or the Minister

Thank you...

Ian and Jenny would like to thank everybody for their cards, flowers, gifts and, above all, the love shown to help them to celebrate their recent Golden Wedding Anniversary. A special thank you to Maggie for the stunning flowers in Church on 4th August.



VOLUNTEER TRUSTEE REQUIRED

"Being a trustee gives me an opportunity to put my skills to use helping a small local charity and gives me the satisfaction of knowing that I am giving something back to our community. I also have a lot of fun."
– Jane Brydges, Trustee.

Role Title: Trustee

Location: Basingstoke, Hampshire

Salary: Unremunerated / voluntary

Championing and promoting opportunities for disabled people, Basingstoke & District Disability Forum (BDDF) is the only local non-specific disability charity in Hampshire. We promote opportunities for disabled people by creating social and networking opportunities; organise learning courses; raise awareness; and offer signposting services. We work with people affected by disability, their families and carers together with our partners in the community. We promote the independence, inclusion and representation of disabled people in the borough of Basingstoke and Deane and the surrounding areas.

Undertaking the role of Trustee offers the opportunity to shape and develop the strategy and governance of a small local charity and assist the organisation in achieving its community objectives and goals in the coming years.

To be a Trustee on this fresh Board is an exciting and fulfilling role, primary objective is to ensure that BDDF fulfils its duty to its members and delivers on our vision, mission and values.



General requirements

To attend monthly Board meetings (along with regular communication via email), approximately 4-5 hours per month.

To implement the business plan; ensure governance and management of BDDF; to be an advocate for BDDF and raise awareness of the charity; to assist with fundraising efforts; be able to speak your mind;

have good independent judgement and strategic vision; and commitment to BDDF plus the willingness to devote necessary time and effort.

To apply, please email your CV to Tony Capon, Chair at: tony@bddf.org.uk.

The story behind the hymn: *How Great Thou Art*

This well-loved, world famous Christian hymn began in Sweden, moved to Germany and Russia, and thence to England and the USA, where it became world famous as the signature song of George Beverly Shea in the great Billy Graham Crusades.

In about 1887 Carl Boberg was a young lay-pastor in Sweden, walking home from church near Kronoback, Sweden, and listening to the church bells. Suddenly a violent storm blew up, with lightning and thunder and wind – and just as quickly it departed. In the calm following the storm, a rainbow appeared, and all nature was at peace. Boberg was inspired to write a poem, '*O Store Gud*', on the greatness of God in Nature. He set it to an old Swedish folk tune, and it was first sung in Varmland in 1888.

'*O Store Gud*' became popular, and it began to spread. By 1907 it had been taken to Germany by a wealthy Baltic Baptist nobleman. From there it moved to Russia in 1912, where it was called *Velikiy Bog* – or 'Great God'. By 1925 it had been translated into English '*O Mighty God*' by a professor at North Park College in Illinois. But this gave way in 1949 to a different English translation, done by a British missionary to the Ukraine, Stuart K. Hine, who called it *How Great Thou Art*, and rewrote some verses.

It was Hine's version which went on to gain wide popularity in the USA. It was first recorded by a Bill Carle in 1958, and then the Manna Music version of the song was popularised in the 1950s at the Billy Graham Crusades. It was sung in the 1955 Toronto campaign, and then it really took off in 1957 in Madison Square Garden, New York, where Shea sang it 100 times during the campaign.

George Beverly Shea's recording of the hymn has been ranked number 204 on the top recordings of the 20th century. Billy Graham once said: "The reason I like '*How Great Thou Art*' is because it glorifies God. It turns Christian's eyes toward God, rather than upon themselves. I use it as often as possible because it is such a God-honouring song."

How Great Thou Art was voted the United Kingdom's favourite hymn by BBC's Songs of Praise programme, and it was second on the list of the 'favourite hymns of all time' in a 2001 survey by *Christianity Today* magazine.

(From *Parish Pump*)

IAN SCOTT INTERVIEWS OUR CHURCH SECRETARY

Ian - Thank you Owen for agreeing to be the first to be interviewed in what we hope will become a regular feature of Focus as we get to know members of our congregation a bit better. So, how long have you been a Christian?

Owen – I've been attending 'church' a lot longer than being a Christian. I was brought up in Kirkby, on the outskirts of Liverpool. In 1960 my mother became a teacher at the infant school I had previously attended. Although not a church school we had a strong association with the local CofE church, St. Chad's. I recall my mum establishing a Christian After School Club for primary age children with Revd Terence Gibson from St. Chad's. Looking back, it was the equivalent of what we do now at London Street with Messy Church. The club was still going when I left to go to seniors in 1964. It was also in 1960 that, as a family, my parents, maternal grandmother and two brothers, started to attend St. Chad's. I joined the Church Lad's Brigade and the church youth club. We didn't have a junior church at St. Chad's. Formal teaching on Christianity, therefore, didn't really begin until I was 10 when I started to attend confirmation classes. I left the Church Lad's Brigade when I left primary school but continued attending Sunday services and the youth club until I was 13.

Ian – What happened then?

Owen – My father was criticised by the church for working on a Sunday. He was a long distance lorry driver which necessitated him working occasionally at weekends. My parents felt they were no longer welcome and that was that. We left.

Ian - How come you now live in Basingstoke?

Owen – When I left school in 1971 unemployment in Liverpool was high and I couldn't secure a job. I decided to look further afield. I've always enjoyed maps and applied to the Ordnance Survey in Southampton for a job as a Surveyor. It was in October 1971 that I had my interview in Manchester. It was only after my interview that they told me that they had no vacancies for posts as a Surveyor but they offered me a position to train as a Cartographic Draughtsman, which I accepted. The down side was that the training didn't start until March 1972 so I got a temporary job as a sales assistant at Owen Owen, a department store in Liverpool, which later on my two daughters, Louise and Jenny, would refer to it as 'Daddy's shop'!

Ian – So you moved to Southampton in 1972 but then you moved to Basingstoke.

Owen – Yes, that's right. I loved my work with the Ordnance Survey, but after 12 months I started to get headaches which I later discovered were migraines associated with my working environment. My GP advised seeking another role. There were still no vacancies to train as a Surveyor so, as the Ordnance Survey was part of the Civil Service, rather than resign I was transferred to the Civil Service Commission in Basingstoke in November 1973.

Ian – And is that when you started to attend London Street?

Owen – Not straight away. At the Commission I met Ann who was a member at London Street and we used to come to the Lounge (now Oasis) for lunch. I came to the Youth Club occasionally and met with Revd David Welbrock and then came occasionally with Ann to worship on a Sunday. Ann and I were engaged in June 1975 and, shortly after, Ann started her nursing training at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading. We secured a flat to rent in Sonning on Thames in 1976 and married at London Street on 2nd April, 1977. We couldn't afford to buy anything in Reading so Ann decided to finish her training in Basingstoke and we looked for somewhere to buy in Basingstoke, moving to Brighton Hill in 1978. Louise was born in August 1979 and we then started to attend London Street on a regular basis, with Jenny being born in March 1981.

Ian – How was your faith at that time?

Owen – Developing, as always. It helped that we had bible study groups and plenty of folk at London Street of a similar age with whom you could engage. You must remember those days Ian as you were part of that group. Ann also helped me because she trained as a Lay Preacher and then later for the Ministry. Certainly with the latter, as a family, we would attend the summer schools at Exmouth and Windermere and I would accompany Ann to her lectures at Oxford.

Ian – That couldn't have been easy with a young family as well to support.

Owen – It wasn't, although when Ann started training for the Ministry I had returned to Basingstoke having worked in London for most of the 80's. I was also a school governor at the time and in 1990 I was appointed as a Justice of the Peace.

Ian – I recall you left London Street for a period in the 90s.

Owen – Yes, that's right. We moved from Brighton Hill to Hatch Warren in 1992. Ann was ordained on 8th November 1992 at London Street. She

worked for a while as Associate Minister primarily working in the community from London Street but was posted by the Synod to the church here on Hatch Warren which, at the time, was an ecumenical project with the Church of England and Methodists so, as a family, we worshipped at the Hatch Warren church. We were there for 3 years before returning to London Street in early 1996.

Ian – How did it feel to return to London Street?

Owen – Mixed emotions. We had made good friends at Hatch Warren but, equally, we had friends at London Street. Ann, at that time, was extremely poorly and we couldn't make plans more than 24 hours in advance so our attendance became less frequent on a Sunday. It was not a good time. From the beginning of May, Ann was spending more and more time at the hospice and, when at home, friends from the Hatch Warren church would rally round organising a rota to sit with her whilst I went to work. My faith was all over the place. Praying for Ann, for the Lord to take me rather than Ann because, as teenagers, the girls needed a mother. Yet Ann's faith never wavered. Ann died on 12th June and I was angry, very very angry.

Ian – Did your faith help you?

Owen – With hindsight, yes, but at the time, no! My whole world had just been turned upside down. Anyone in that situation will empathise with me when I say you cease to function. I was just grateful to have the girls. Before Ann died we had booked a holiday in Oban for a week. The girls and I decided to go as that is what Ann would have wanted us to do. That journey was a turning point and an indication from God that we were not alone. We went to Iona for the day. We went into the prayer chapel and there, on the lectern, the Bible was open at the reading Ernest, Ann's father, had read at the Service of Thanksgiving for Ann.

Ian – So you returned to London Street?

Owen – I did yes, but Louise and Jenny didn't. I also returned to work.

Ian – And how did that work out?

Owen – Not well. It was in early September that I had a complete breakdown and after treatment at the hospital here and in Southampton, I was off work for 6 months. Wanting to engage once again with London Street, it was probably round Easter 1997 that I came back to London Street to worship regularly. Shortly after, I was appointed as a trustee of Pages Charity and also Church Treasurer. I had to resign as Treasurer

after 3 years because I had accepted a posting in London which meant long working hours.

Ian – And your work stayed in London until you retired?

Owen – That is correct. I worked my way along Whitehall. Having worked for the Treasury and the Cabinet Office, I accepted a position with the Land Registry and finally the Foreign Office. And I continued working as a Justice of the Peace and as Chair of the Pages Charity.

Ian – Was there ever conflict with your faith when working in Court?

Owen – Conflict with some fellow magistrates, yes. I always remained true to my faith when sitting in Court. When sentencing I would normally find something positive in the defendant you could work with whilst adhering to the sentencing guidelines. Of course, there were times when you had to draw the line and say enough is enough and impose a custodial sentence. It is always interesting when people accuse magistrates of imposing 'soft' sentences. The true facts of a case are almost never made public, reports for magistrates are confidential and quite rightly so. Let me give you one example – when I was sitting as Chair, a young man appears in Court charged with possession of a bladed instrument outside St. Michael's church. A serious offence that carries a custodial sentence. This young man had been living under the kitchen sink when the 'boyfriend' came to live with his mother. He was then 'moved' to the garden shed and, finding life at home intolerable, was sleeping rough in the town centre only to be urinated on and beaten up one evening. He had the knife for protection. My faith kicks in. With the other two magistrates we refused to close the Court sitting until secure, safe accommodation (which had previously been denied to the magistrates as a sentencing option) was found for him. He was no criminal. I'd like to think that the opportunity we gave him in providing a safe environment to live in for a short time was the start of a new life for him.

Ian – Can we move onto your current role as Church Secretary – was it a difficult decision to accept?

Owen – It wasn't the first time I had been asked to consider this role but I had never felt called to accept until 4 years ago when Joy was due to retire. So, in answering your question the decision was not mine but a positive response to a calling. We all have God-given gifts and my call at that time was to London Street as Church Secretary and I believe that calling remains.

Ian – So what are your responsibilities as Church Secretary?

Owen – How long is a piece of string Ian? There is no job specification for a Church Secretary. Within reason I will do whatever is required. Although the Church Secretary is appointed as one of three leadership roles in the church, my strengths lie in management rather than leadership, having been a manager for a number of years in the Civil Service.

Ian – Isn't that a bit dictatorial?

Owen – Not at all. It's being efficient with the resources you have.

Ian – Let's return to your faith Owen. Is it still growing?

Owen – Without a doubt. My life has been full of ups and downs, particularly with the death of Ann and, looking back now, my mindset for a number of years has not been open as it is at present to absorbing more of the Bible. London Street is extremely blessed to have Kay as minister. With the help of the Holy Spirit, through the teachings led by Kay in study and sermons on a Sunday, my faith is in a better place now than it has ever been.

Ian – Are there any changes planned for London Street?

Owen – It is important to constantly review the ministry here at London Street and our work in the community and the wider church. Just because we are doing something well doesn't mean we can't do it better; equally, cut out something that isn't working. We have a limited resource of people at London Street and it is important that they are engaged in working as disciples of Jesus Christ and supported through prayer and stewardship. I mentioned that we individually possess God-given gifts. Why is it then that serving elders are currently given the same role in, for example, pastoral care, when gifts for some perhaps lie elsewhere? I would certainly like to explore the role of elders here at London Street.

Ian – You are involved in working for the wider URC as well?

Owen – That is correct. I have been a member of the panel dealing with cases of discipline involving Ministers or Church-Related Community Workers for over 30 years now, working for both the Synod and Church House.

Ian – Thank you Owen. Can I ask you if there is anything that members perhaps don't know about you and would be surprised to learn?

Owen – Apart from being arrested and interrogated by the KGB when in the Soviet Union as a 19 year old, I don't think so.

ELECTION OF ELDERS

We shall shortly be considering the nomination and election of members to be called to serve as elders. Being an elder is a ministry to which a church member is called by God. This call can come through you as a church member when considering another for nomination and election because of what you discern about that person.

Procedure for nomination and election as provided for by the constitution of London Street

Church meeting shall determine the maximum number of elders whose election is sought. A list of those eligible to serve as elders shall be handed to those on the current church roll. Each member will be entitled to nominate up to two more church members than the maximum to be elected. All those nominated by at least 4% of church members shall be considered validly nominated. They will be visited to ascertain whether they are willing to accept nomination.

All of those who have accepted nomination shall be listed on a ballot paper, which will be made available to all on the current church roll, for election to serve as an elder for a term of 3 years. The ballot shall normally take place at the November church meeting.

What does it mean to be an elder at London Street and within the United Reformed Church?

Being an elder means that a church member has been called to be part of a 'team', since an elder is someone who joins with others to form the Elders' meeting of London Street. It is important though to remember that in accepting a call to serve as an elder, that person is not just an elder of London Street but an elder of the United Reformed Church. A person can only be nominated for eldership if they are on the church roll of members for a minimum of 12 months. As a church member they will have an understanding of the constitutions of the United Reformed Church and that of London Street.

What does an elder do?

The functions of eldership in the United Reformed Church have been laid down in the Basis of Union. The list appears daunting. They include

ensuring that public worship is regularly offered and the sacraments are duly administered, to ensuring pastoral care for the congregation, to be responsible for the institution and oversight of work among children and young people, to recommending to the church meeting arrangements for the proper maintenance of buildings and general oversight of all financial responsibilities.

Who do you see as being called to carry out these functions?

Your current eldership is, as a team, already fulfilling the functions of eldership to a greater or lesser extent. When nominating or electing a person to serve as an elder, you are being asked to consider prayerfully who God is seeking to join them in continuing with this work. When praying you are not seeking to find an individual who is gifted in all the functions of eldership. This is collective work. Some responsibilities are ongoing, others are more dependent on circumstances. Some may be done by small groups, some by everyone.

An elder is no different from any other church member in that we are all called to develop and grow in faith, through prayer, worship, sacraments and learning. The call to eldership is a renewed call to these things as well. So the faith required is the same faith that makes us a Christian. But, at times we all feel lacking in faith, or commitment, or ability. We all feel inadequate in our various callings and service to the church. That is when we need the support and the faith of the rest of the church around us, as well as the grace of God. That is why it is so important to take your time through prayer when considering who to nominate and elect as an elder.

ECO TIP

For the production of their food, a vegetarian requires only three-eighths and a vegan only a quarter of the land needed to feed a meat eater. Time to start reducing our reliance on meat and dairy? The army has begun having meat-free Mondays, you could easily add to this by also changing to include fish on Fridays.

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

Diary - September, 2019

London Street, unless otherwise stated

Sun.	1 st	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast
		10.30am	Worship – led by Revd Jonathan Clark
Wed.	4 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Thu.	5 th	7.30pm	House Group at 33 Amport Road, Sherfield Park
Fri.	6 th	7.30pm	Messy Church Planning Meeting
Sat.	7 th	10.00am-noon	Table Top Sale and Coffee Morning (see p.9)
Sun.	8 th	10.30am	Worship led by Revd Adam Payne
Mon.	9 th		Oasis and Youth Cafés re-open
Wed.	11 th	7.30pm	Church Meeting
Sat.	14 th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sun.	15 th	10.30am	Worship – including reception of new members and Holy Communion
		4.00pm	Canal trip on narrow boat from Newbury Wharf with Tadley URC
		7.30pm	Community Café Commissioning Service
Wed.	18 th	10.15am	3C's (Coffee, Chat, Company) in the Oasis Café – All welcome
		7.30pm	House Group at 5 Magnus Drive, Hatch Warren
Thu.	19 th	7.30pm	House Group at 33 Amport Road, Sherfield Park
Sat.	21 st		Night Shelter training for returning volunteers (see p.8)
Sun.	22 nd	10.30am	Worship – led by Vivien Gerhold
Thu.	25 th	7.30pm	House Group at 5 Magnus Drive, Hatch Warren
Sat.	28 th		Night Shelter training for new volunteers (see p.8)
Sun.	29 th	10.30am	Worship - Harvest Festival Service and Parade Service – led by 8 th Basingstoke Scouts and the Farmers' Network

Diary

September, 2019 Services at Old Meeting, Tadley

Preachers

Welcome

1 st	Philip Jones
8 th	Kay Blackwell
15 th	Sydney Shore
22 nd	Adam Payne
29 th	Mel Euerby

Ena and George
Mandy and Dave
Ladies Cell
Mark and Julie
TBA

Regular Events and Meetings

(at London Street unless otherwise stated)

The Sanctuary is open for prayers every weekday from 9.30 to 10am and again from 12.15 to 12.30pm

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)
7pm (CUB SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Pack) Term
7pm (SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Troop) Time
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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