



FOCUS

July 2023



London Street United Reformed Church

Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 7NU

Tadley (Old Meeting) United Reformed Church

Malthouse Ln, Hants, RG26 3NY

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

This month Alison Jamieson looks at the second creation story in Genesis.



Genesis 2: 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 Gods 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. And the treasures of it that are still being revealed to mankind in all their intricacy and wonder. 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 gifting's; 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, thinking especially of the Ukraine, that peace and justice may prevail.
- Pray for the 24 Oakridge families who have lost their homes and belongings in the fire in May.

THE NOTICEBOARD

Information, updates, tips and more.



Happy Birthday to the following member of our church family:

Joan Musselwhite

FOCUS: Next Issue

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of Focus magazine. If you would like to contribute to the August magazine, please contact the editor by **19th of July**.

Eco Tip

God's Gift -- Our World

The Environment -- Our Responsibility



Recycling just one aluminium can saves enough energy to run a TV for 3 hours, just don't forget to crush it first.

Don't forget, you can recycle the following items at London Street:

Empty Printer Cartridges, Aluminium Containers and Foil, Batteries, Plastic Milk Bottle Tops, and Empty Medicine Blister Packets.

Can you help to make sure that no one in our local community goes hungry?



Items needed:

Long Life Fruit Juice, Squash, Tinned Meat, Tinned Veg', Honey, Jam, Hot/Cold Desserts, Tinned Fruit, Crisps/Savoury Snacks, Sweets/Chocolate, Hair Conditioner, Ladies/Gents Deodorant, Washing Up Liquid, Toilet Rolls, Cleaning Sprays/Surface Cleaner, and Nappies (Size 7 Only).

Please **do not** give Pasta, Rice, Hot/Cold Cereal, Tea/Coffee, Crackers/Biscuits, Marmite, Non-Dairy Milk, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Soup, Kitchen Roll, Baked Beans, Baby Food, or Pet Food as these are already in surplus.

Donations can be left at London Street URC in the container provided. For up to date lists, or to find other donation points, go to:

<https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Recycling of Medication Blister Packs



Over the last 18 months our collection point at London St. has collected about five of our containers full of blister packs each month. I think this is quite amazing!

These were taken down to the Superdrug recycle centre. Sadly Superdrug will no longer accept our bulk donations, though they will happily accept individual persons donations, so please take your blister packs there, if you are able.

As far as I know there is no other recycling centre in Basingstoke that will take them, so as from now we are closing our collection point for this item. Thank you for your enthusiastic support for the 'Recycle Extra' collection point.

Alison Jamieson

THE PRAYER CIRCLE

Please remember the following people in your prayers...

Christine Weaver

Linda Hicks

Paul Gross

David Bennett

Karen Jones

Doina Rasnita

Chris Jones' grandson Archie

Jason Dudley

Beverley Cantwell

Sandra Marut

Claire Macro

Barbara Banbury

Betty Shipway

Liz Lindsay and family

Eric and Christine Clucas

The family of Les Wenham

The Patterson family



CORONATION MEMORIES

Richard Davey recalls a very different experience of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation day.

When Josh asked if anyone had seen the previous coronation I thought, no - but I know where I was. This was in the Command Post of C Battery, First Field Artillery Observation Battalion, US Army. I was the only British soldier attached to this unit which was in its turn attached to the Commonwealth Division. My job as a member of Counterbombardment troop was to send 6 figure and 8 figure map references of the Chinese artillery back to HQ whilst the Americans sent them back to Corp HQ. I had a remote control to my radio that was next to my bed in my bunker alongside the CP. In the passage dug out behind my bunker I had a chorehorse for charging the spare batteries and oil, petrol and distilled water.

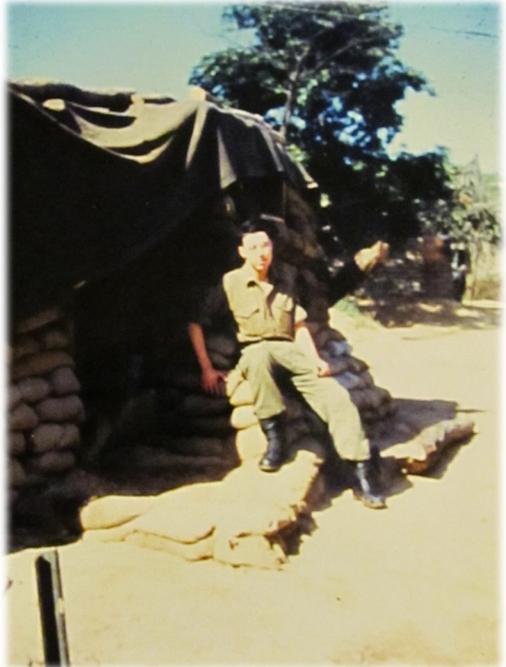
One hill that was essential to hold was named The Hook and, during the 19th to 29th May, the third battle of the Hook took place - the Chinese artillery targeted it firing over 20,000 shells, 10,000 of which were fired on the 28th. The Chinese infantry made many assaults on the 28th and 29th; The Hook was being defended firstly by The Dukes, who were relieved by the Royal Fusiliers on the 29th and was held despite losses and being outnumbered about 5 to 1. During the main 2 days of the battle Commonwealth artillery, supported on the flank by Turkish and American artillery, fired 37,818 shells at various targets. Had the communists taken The Hook they would have had an open view down the Uijongbui corridor to the heat haze of Seoul. There was massive interference on the radio from the 27th to the 29th and I was unable to get through to HQ; I tried the Hot loop telephone line but that was out of action, then tried via the switchboard by 2 different routes but was still unable to get through; however, I was able to radio through to the outpost attached to the Canadians who were able to forward my reports via their telephone line. Over the 3 days I snatched sleep here and there. After the main battle a relief radio operator was sent up so I could get my head down for a few hours.

After the truce was signed I returned to HQ and later, when the POWs were returning, we in Counterbombardment went to a Canadian hospital unit which had been renamed "Britannia Camp" there we had

the job of documenting them, arranging for them to send a message home for which they could choose phrases from a list. As in those days the only long distance radio was Morse code the phrases were numbered, e.g. 135 could be 'I am well', 369 'I'm looking forward to getting home' and so on. We also took all their clothing away which was doused in DDT, they then entered the showers, we didn't see them again as they left by another exit and we had the afternoon off. While there I had to see the optician as my glasses had metal frames which had to be changed to plastic before the winter.

As far as weather is concerned Korea is a land of extremes, hot summers, a monsoon season and extreme cold, here's a quote from a book on Korea by M Pembroke "The source of Korea's uniquely harsh winter is the Siberian High...the world's greatest cold air source ... The cold surges, which can produce ... temperatures as low as minus 30 degrees to minus 50 degrees occur on average 3 times a month in December, 5 times a month in January and 3 times a month in February."

Before boarding the ship (normal troopship 6 weeks to get back, I'd gone out on the one fast troopship 4 weeks 3 days) to come back I visited the UN cemetery in Pusan, I went to the British section where 817 of the 1,078 Britons are buried and searched for the grave of a near neighbour to take a photograph for his mother. John had been one year ahead of me at school.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS



This month's assigned readings.

	Psalm	New Testament		Psalm	New Testament
1st	78: 9-16	Acts 7: 30-60	17th	82	Acts 17: 16-34
2nd	78: 17-25	Acts 8: 1-25	18th	83: 1-8	Acts 18
3rd	78: 26-31	Acts 8: 26-40	19th	83: 9-12	Acts 19: 1-22
4th	78: 32-39	Acts 9: 1-31	20th	83: 13-18	Acts 19: 23-41
5th	78: 40-49	Acts 9: 32-43	21st	84: 1-7	Acts 20: 1-12
6th	78: 50-55	Acts 10: 1-23a	22nd	84: 8-12	Acts 20: 13-38
7th	78: 56-64	Acts 10: 23b-48	23rd	85: 1-7	Acts 21: 1-16
8th	78: 65-72	Acts 11	24th	85: 8-13	Acts 21: 17-36
9th	79: 1-7	Acts 12: 1-24	25th	86: 1-7	Acts 21: 37 - 22: 29
10th	79: 8-13	Acts 12: 25 - 13: 25	26th	86: 8-13	Acts 22: 30 - 23: 22
11th	80: 1-7	Acts 13: 26-52	27th	86: 14-17	Acts 23: 23-35
12th	80: 8-15	Acts 14	28th	87	Acts 24
13th	80: 16-19	Acts 15: 1-29	29th	88: 1-9a	Acts 25: 1-22
14th	81: 1-7	Acts 15: 30 - 16: 15	30th	88: 9b-18	Acts 25: 23 - 26: 11
15th	81: 8-12	Acts 16: 16-40	31st	89: 1-8	Acts 26: 12-32
16th	81: 13-16	Acts 17: 1-15			

EVENT DIARIES



What's on this month at London St. & Old Meeting URCs.

At London Street URC (unless otherwise specified):

Regular Events

Sunday Worship 10:30am			
Mondays	10:15am	Craft Group	
	7:30pm	Take Time Meditation (Exploring Mark's Gospel)	On Zoom. Contact Church Secretary for password.
Tuesdays	2:30pm	Take Time Meditation (Exploring Luke's Gospel)	On Zoom. Contact Church Secretary for password.
	5:45-6:45pm	Beavers	In Term Time. All in the Den except Scouts who meet in
	7-8:30pm	Cubs	
	7-9pm	Scouts	
Wednesdays	10:15am	3Cs Coffee, Chat and Company	3rd Wednesday of the Month Only (19th).
	10:15am	Memory Tree Social Club	
	12:15pm	Lunchtime Prayers	

Next Church Meeting:

July 24th (Monday), 7:30pm - In the Hook Room

Other Events

Sun 2nd	8:30am	Prayer Breakfast	In the Hook Room.
Weds 5th	7:30pm	Elders' Meeting	On Zoom.
Thurs 6th	The Building Will Be Closed All Day		
Fri 7th	1:30pm	Celebration and Thanksgiving Service for the life of Les Wenham	Trinity Methodist Church.
Weds 19th	7:30pm	Finance Committee Meeting	On Zoom.
Fri 21st	(All Day) Cleaning And Tidying The Building		
Sun 23rd	6:30pm	Anniversary Service at London Street celebrating 15 years service within the community	Refreshments will follow the service. All are invited.

July Worship Diary

2nd	Led by Worship Committee; Musician: Mark Best; Duty Elder: Jenny McCloy.
9th	Led by John Sinclair; Musician: Joyce Cook; Duty Elder: Jenny McCloy.
16th	Includes Holy Communion Led by Joy Williams; Musician: Peter Dixon; Duty Elder: Jenny McCloy.
23rd	Led by Vivien Gerhold; Musician: Mark Best; Duty Elder: Jenny McCloy.
30th	Includes Adult Baptism Led by Revd. Josh Thomas; Musician: Mark Best; Duty Elder: Alison Jamieson.

At Tadley (Old Meeting) URC (unless otherwise specified):

Regular Events

Sunday Worship 10:30am		
Monday Afternoons	Ladies' Cell Group	Contact Penny O'Bee.
Monday Evenings	Cell Group	Contact Mark Ward or
Tuesday Evenings	Joint Prayer Time with St Paul's	Contact Penny O'Bee.
Wednesday Evenings	Prayer via Zoom	Contact Mark Ward.
Friday Afternoon	Men's Shed	2pm, once a fortnight. Contact Paul Gross.

July Worship Diary

2nd	Led by Mark Ward. Includes Holy Communion.
9th	Led by Mel Euerby.
16th	Led by Greg Whittick.
23rd	Led by Philip Jones.
30th	Led by Karen Jones & John Featherstone.

London Street United Reformed Church

London Street URC, Basingstoke seeks to ensure that all content and information published in this issue of FOCUS is current and accurate. The information included does not in any way constitute legal or professional advice and the church cannot be held liable for actions arising from its use.

London Street United Reformed Church is a working name of Registered Charity London Street (Basingstoke) United Reformed Church Charity [reg. no. 1130801]