



# FOCUS

September 2023

**Matthew 15: 18-20 ...what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart**



**come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person...**

**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 Peter Bentall explores the difference between what is true and what is the 'truth'.



John 14: 6

*'Jesus said, I am the Way , the Truth, and the Life'*

'What is Truth?' Pilate asked Jesus when the two were together in Pilate's judgement hall. Jesus had just responded to his question 'You are a King then!?' by saying 'for this reason I was born to testify to the truth'

More and more it seems these days that we are confronted with that same question 'what is the truth?'

Fake news; Alternative facts; AI; and above all Statistics (there are lies, damn lies and statistics as Churchill once said).

So we get the common situation that something said may in fact be 'true' but it is not necessarily the 'truth'. A politician (usually them!) announces for example that the number of patients treated has doubled in a month! That may be true but it doesn't say whether that is from 5 to 10 or 500 to 1000 which would be much more informative and present a more 'truthful' picture. True facts can sometimes (with deliberate intent) convey the opposite impression to the reality. 'The rate of inflation has dropped dramatically in the last month!' said perhaps to give the impression that prices are falling! Not true, they are just rising less sharply (and wage rises are generally still less than the inflation rate). Whichever way you look people are even less well off - that is the 'truth'.

Read the Gospel of John and note the number of times Jesus uses the word 'truth'. Above all we read in John 16 verse 13 'When he the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth'

It is only by listening to the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus sent to be with us after He himself had gone to the Father that we can understand the 'truth' as opposed to just what is 'true'

Above all beware of leaders, politicians, business executives and others who categorically assure us ...'the truth is...!'

## THE NOTICEBOARD

Information, updates, tips and more.



### Eco Tip

God's Gift -- Our World

The Environment -- Our Responsibility

Check that you're using your cooker top in the most economical way:

- Put lids on saucepans to stop heat escaping.
- Select a pan no bigger than you need.
- Chop food into smaller pieces so that they cook more quickly.
- Use a pressure cooker when you can.



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

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

### FOCUS: Next Issue

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of Focus magazine. If you would like to contribute to the October magazine, please contact the editor by **16th of September**.

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



Items needed: Tinned Fruit, Tinned Veg, Puddings (Hot/Cold), Instant Mashed Potatoes, Powdered Milk, Tinned Meat (e.g. Chilli, Hot Dogs, Stewing Steak), Long Life Fruit Juice, Toilet Rolls, Ladies/Gents Deodorant, Reusable Shopping Bags, Sweets/Chocolate/Other Sweet Treats, Squash, Washing Up Liquid, Ladies Shampoo, Hair Conditioner.

Please **do not** give Pasta, Rice, Tinned Soup, Tinned Beans, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tea/Coffee, Hot/Cold Cereal, Baby Food/Formula, Non-Dairy Milk, Dog 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/>

### Decorating the Church

The Church will be open on Sat 30th Sept 10:30am-12noon for people to decorate a windowsill to celebrate Harvest. Please sign up on the list that's on the noticeboard.

Thank you,

The Flower Committee



## ELECTION OF ELDERS

Elections are happening soon at London Street, so here's a reminder of how it works and what to consider.

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. Carol Scott and Joy Williams each complete 6 years and will not be eligible to be re-elected, and Keng Moavu was elected by Church Meeting in November 2022 to serve for 12 months eligible for re-election for a period of two years.

The recommendation to the July Church meeting from Elders' meeting was that we retain the number of serving Elders at 12 to serve in 2024. This was agreed unanimously resulting in 4 vacant Elder's positions to be filled at this year's election. 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.

The ballot will 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 call to eldership is a high calling and although it is a difficult job to do, it is essential for the good health and direction of the church and can be exceedingly rewarding. 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?**

Is it reasonable to expect that every member should possess the gifts of the Holy Spirit to carry out every function of eldership? 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. However you should expect the person you are nominating or electing to have potential and eagerness for growth in accepting the movement of the Spirit within them.

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.



## THE PRAYER CIRCLE

Please remember the following people in your prayers...

Doina Rasnita	Beverley Cantwell
Eric & Christine Clucas	Stan & Sandra Marut
Claire Macro	Barbara Banbury
Archie, grandson of Chris Jones	
David Corfield	Betty Shipway
Joyce Cook	Ali Jannesari
Hamid Baradaran	The Patterson family
Maggie Morgans and family	



## DAILY BIBLE READINGS



This month's assigned readings.

	Psalm	New Testament		Psalm	New Testament
1st	103: 1-5	1 Corinthians 11	16th	106: 1-5	2 Corinthians 8
2nd	103: 6-12	1 Corinthians 12	17th	106: 6-12	2 Corinthians 9
3rd	103: 13-18	1 Corinthians 13	18th	106: 13-23	2 Corinthians 10
4th	103: 19-22	1 Corinthians 14: 1-25	19th	106: 24-33	2 Corinthians 11
5th	104: 1-9	1 Corinthians 14: 26-40	20th	106: 34-39	2 Corinthians 12
6th	104: 10-18	1 Corinthians 15: 1-34	21st	106: 40-48	2 Corinthians 13
7th	104: 19-26	1 Corinthians 15: 35-58	22nd	107: 1-9	Galatians 1
8th	104: 27-30	1 Corinthians 16	23rd	107: 10-16	Galatians 2
9th	104: 31-35	2 Corinthians 1	24th	107: 17-22	Galatians 3
10th	105: 1-7	2 Corinthians 2	25th	107: 23-32	Galatians 4
11th	105: 8-15	2 Corinthians 3	26th	107: 33-38	Galatians 5
12th	105: 16-22	2 Corinthians 4	27th	107: 39-43	Galatians 6
13th	105: 23-30	2 Corinthians 5	28th	108: 1-5	Ephesians 1
14th	105: 31-38	2 Corinthians 6	29th	108: 6-13	Ephesians 2
15th	105: 39-45	2 Corinthians 7	30th	109: 1-5	Ephesians 3

## 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			
<b>Mondays</b>	10:15am	Craft Group	
<b>Tuesdays</b>	5:45-6:45pm	Beavers	In Term Time.
	7-8:30pm	Cubs	All in the Den except Scouts who meet in the Wessex Hall.
	7-9pm	Scouts	
<b>Wednesdays</b>	10:15am	3Cs Coffee, Chat and Company	3rd Wednesday of the Month Only (20th).
	10:15am	Memory Tree Social Club	
	12:15pm	Lunchtime Prayers	

### September Worship Diary

3rd	Led by Revd. Josh Thomas; Musician: Joyce Cook; Duty Elder: Ian Scott.
10th	Led by Revd. Adam Payne; Musician: Mark Best; Duty Elder: Ian Scott.
17th	Includes Holy Communion Led by Revd. Mike Burrell; Musician: Peter Dixon; Duty Elder: Joyce Cook.
24th	Led by the Worship Group; Musician: Mark Best;

## **Next Church Meeting:**

**September 13th (Wednesday), 7:30pm - In the Hook Room**

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

### **Regular Events**

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

### **September Worship Diary**

<b>3rd</b>	<b>Led by Penny O'Bee.</b>
<b>10th</b>	<b>No Service at Old Meeting.</b>
<b>17th</b>	<b>Led by Ed Vassie.</b>
<b>24th</b>	<b>Led by Mark Ward.</b>

# 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]