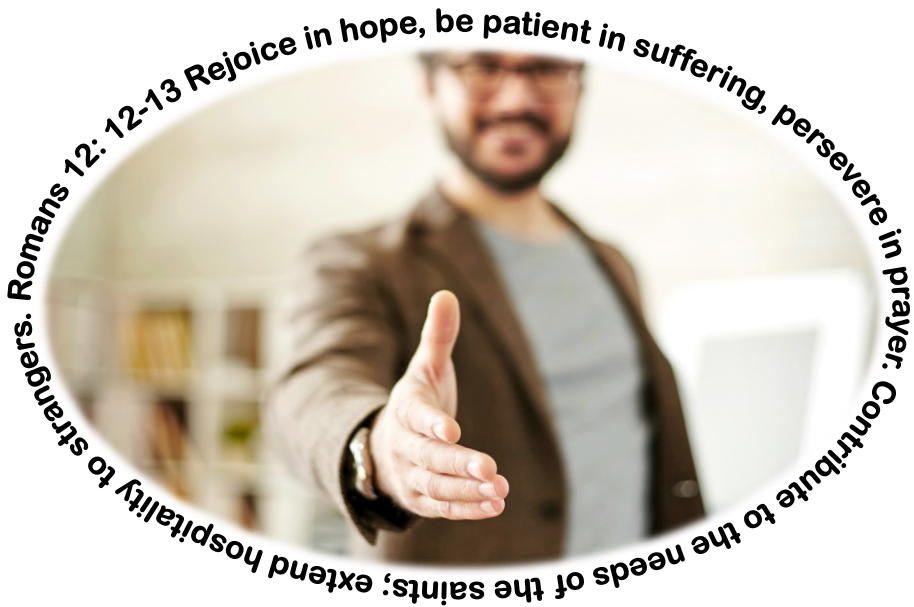




FOCUS

August 2024



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 explores the uplifting impact of a chance encounter.



Last week I was just about to leave the church after a morning in the kitchen, everyone else had left, and as I walked down the concourse, I saw a couple who had been looking in the greenhouse bread store and then moved round to look at the church notice board.

I went out, ready to lock up, but turned to them and enquired if there was anything I could help them with, as they were busy still looking at the notice board. They smiled and explained what they wanted to know, in rather halting English.

They said they were Brazilian and attended the Gateway Church. He is a musician there. They had discovered the old 'Winslade Chapel', which is out in the country and was a sister chapel to London St., it has been deconsecrated and is now used as storage by a farmer. They were wanting to be able to go and play music out there, I think praise music, and wanted to know who owned it now. I thought Joy Williams would know more of the history and so I have put them in touch with her.

The next day Leng Ayland told me that when she was putting the Greenhouse bread store out a lady came to talk to her. She worked at a shop out in Popley. She was concerned that much of their bread was thrown away and, at times, a lot of veg and fruit, as well as groceries. She wanted to know if anyone could pick the food up so that it didn't go to waste. Leng said she would talk to Penny Dilley at CFL, to see how this could be arranged.

It struck me that these were two instances of individuals being in the right place at the right time, where two chance encounters had positive outcomes. They were links in a chain in people's lives.

We read in much of the Gospels of accounts of people coming to Jesus for teaching, to ask him questions, or for requests for healing. There are few accounts of chance meetings with people who don't know who he is. I can think of the widow of Nain (whose son had died and Jesus

raised to life), the lame man at the pool of Bethesda (whom he healed), and the Samaritan woman at the well (where they had a conversation that changed her life and those of many of the population).

I expect that many of us have had experiences when our paths have crossed with those we do or don't know, and we have been able to give information, provide some practical assistance or advice, and possibly held that person and their circumstances in prayer too.

Some would say they were 'God incidences' not just random coincidences; opportunities to show kindness and attention to folk as we listen and do what we can, and that can't be bad, can it?

THE NOTICEBOARD

Information, updates, tips and more.



FOCUS: Next Issue

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of Focus magazine. If you would like to contribute to the September magazine, please contact the editor by **20th of August**.

Eco Tip

God's Gift -- Our World

The Environment -- Our Responsibility



Up to half of journeys made by car in the developed world are less than 2 miles long - when car engines are least efficient and most polluting. Try to make it a rule to walk or cycle journeys less than 2 miles.

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.

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



Items **urgently** needed: Deodorant, Hot/Cold Desserts (e.g. Jelly, Sponge Pudding, Angel Delight), Long Life Fruit Juice, Toilet Rolls, Rice Pudding, Savoury Spreads (Marmite, Peanut Butter, Meat Paste etc.), Shampoo, Conditioner, Squash, Tinned Fruit.

Items needed: UHT Milk, Coffee, Cooking Sauces, Custard, Nappies (Size 5 & Above), Powered Milk, Savoury Snacks, Crisps, Sweet Spreads (Jam, Marmalade etc.), Tinned Meat (e.g. Chilli, Stewing Steak, Ham), Tinned Spaghetti/Ravioli, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Veg.

Please **do not** give Baby Food, Hand Soap, Cereal, Nappies (Size 4 & Below), Non-Dairy Milk, Pasta, Pet Food, Pulses, Sanitary Pads, Tinned Beans, Tinned Soup, as these are already in surplus.

Any help you can give is particularly gratefully received at this time, to help families struggling without extra support through the summer holidays.

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/givehelp/food/>

Or download the BankTheFood app from the Apple App/Google Play store and select Basingstoke Foodbank.



BanktheFood

Hearing Aid Batteries

I have a number of hearing aid batteries that I no longer require, with a shelf life of 3 years. They are size 312. If anyone would like them then please contact me.

Regards Owen.





Church Flowers

The Flower Committee would like to thank Ian & Jenny McCloy for donating the August flowers to celebrate their Wedding Anniversary. The flowers will be arranged by Elspeth Anthony.

Revd Kay Blackwell Induction Service

The Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church warmly invites all those who know the Revd Kay Blackwell to her induction service to the role of Special Category Minister for the Synod's St Cuthbert's Centre Project on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne.

Due to tides, the service will take place at Wooler United Reformed Church at 2.00 pm on Saturday 31st August 2024. The service will be streamed on YouTube. You can go to YouTube and search for "Wooler URC" or you can use the link below:

<https://YouTube.com/live/jn6MUZczMtE?feature=share>

Blessings

Owen

A Quiet Thought...



Love is a fruit in season at all times.

Mother Teresa

THE PRAYER CIRCLE

Please remember the following people in your prayers...

David Vickery's grandson

Seb & Dorcas in Uganda

Maggie & Richard Morgans

David & Julie Bath

Sam & Ray Honeyball Todd

Dick & Anne Davy

Barbara Banbury and David Corfield

Bev Harris and Dom

Christine & Eric Clucas

Carys Haywood

Christine Robertson

Claire & Alex Macro

Stan & Sandra Marut

Hyacinth Ridguard

Betty Shipway

Owen Collins

Jenny McCloy

Leng's brother: Chee Tong Chan

Vijaya's brother: Kamalakar

Brian Foster

Rob William's family

Alison & David

Lisa

Maxine

Mateen (& Sanaz & Parsa who arrived in the UK in July)

Morteza, awaiting his appeal hearing

Students awaiting exam results in August

And all children starting out on Summer holidays, may they be rested and enjoy lots of fun.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS



This month's assigned readings.

	Psalm	New Testament		Psalm	New Testament
1st	89: 30-37	Acts 27: 1-26	17th	23	Romans 13
2nd	89: 38-46	Acts 27: 27-44	18th	96: 1-6	Romans 14
3rd	89: 47-52	Acts 28	19th	96: 7-13	Romans 15
4th	23	Romans 1	20th	97: 1-6	Romans 16
5th	90: 1-10	Romans 2	21st	97: 7-12	1 Corinthians 1
6th	90: 11-17	Romans 3	22nd	98	1 Corinthians 2
7th	91: 1-8	Romans 4	23rd	99	1 Corinthians 3
8th	91: 9-16	Romans 5	24th	100	1 Corinthians 4
9th	92: 1-8	Romans 6	25th	101	1 Corinthians 5
10th	92: 9-15	Romans 7	26th	102: 1-12	1 Corinthians 6
11th	93	Romans 8: 1-17	27th	102: 13-17	1 Corinthians 7: 1-24
12th	94: 1-11	Romans 8: 18-39	28th	102: 18-22	1 Corinthians 7: 25-40
13th	94: 12-15	Romans 9	29th	102: 23-28	1 Corinthians 8
14th	94: 16-23	Romans 10	30th	103: 1-5	1 Corinthians 9
15th	95: 1-5	Romans 11	31st	103: 6-12	1 Corinthians 10
16th	95: 6-11	Romans 12			

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	
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.
	7-8:30pm	Cubs	All in the Den except Scouts who meet in the Wessex Hall.
	7-9pm	Scouts	
Wednesdays	10:15am	Memory Tree Social Club	
	12:15pm	Lunchtime Prayers	

August Worship Diary

4th	Led by Peter Bentall; Musician: Denis Smith; Duty Elder: Derek & Elspeth Anthony.
11th	Led by The Worship Group; Musician: Mark Best; Duty Elder: Peter Bentall.
18th	Service includes Holy Communion. Led by Vivien Gerhold; Musician: Alex Macro; Duty Elder: Derek & Elspeth Anthony.
25th	Led by The Worship Group; Musician: Mark Best; Duty Elder: Derek & Elspeth Anthony.

Next Church Meeting:

9th September (Monday), 7:30pm (in the Hook Room)

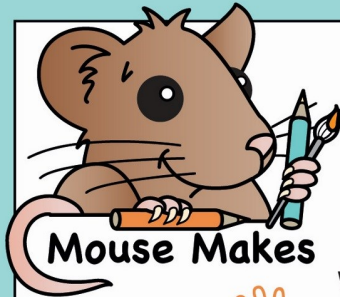
At Tadley (Old Meeting) URC (unless otherwise specified):

Regular Events

Sunday Worship 10:30am		
Monday Afternoons	Ladies' Cell Group	Contact Penny O'Bee.
Monday Evenings	Cell Group	Contact Mark Ward or Paul Gross.
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.

August Worship Diary

4th	Sharing Service, followed by Church Meeting over a shared lunch. Led by Penny O'Bee.
11th	Led by Mark Ward.
18th	No Service at Old Meeting.
25th	Sharing Service.



Mouse Makes

“AND WHEN YOU PRAY,
PRAY THEN LIKE THIS ...”

Where does Jesus say
to go to pray?
Matthew 6:6



What does God know
before you ask Him?
Matthew 6:8



What can we ask God
to deliver us from?
Matthew 6:13

If you forgive others
what will God do?
Matthew 6:14



“Always be full of joy.
Never stop praying.
Whatever happens,
always be **thankful**.”
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

D	L	O	R	D	S	P	R	A	Y	E	R
L	F	W	R	E	A	R	T	H	K	S	O
D	A	I	L	Y	K	E	D	A	S	K	O
E	T	L	V	T	H	Y	E	L	H	D	M
B	H	L	A	M	E	N	L	L	O	O	I
T	E	M	P	T	A	T	I	O	N	N	H
S	R	A	R	A	V	I	V	W	O	E	E
S	K	N	A	M	E	T	E	E	U	V	A
I	C	J	Y	V	N	E	R	D	R	I	R
N	O	U	R	N	A	V	B	R	E	A	D
S	M	E	W	I	K	I	N	G	D	O	M
J	E	S	U	S	U	L	Y	O	U	R	J
N	E	E	D	S	F	O	R	G	I	V	E

ROOM • PRAY • ASK • NEEDS • HEARD • JESUS
LORDS PRAYER • OUR • FATHER • HALLOWED • HONOURED
NAME • THY • KINGDOM • COME • YOUR • WILL • DONE
EARTH • HEAVEN • DAILY • BREAD • FORGIVE • DEBTS
SINS • TEMPTATION • DELIVER • EVIL • AMEN





London Street United Reformed Church

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