



London Street

United Reformed Church

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



Focus
January, 2022

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - www.basingstokeurc.org.uk

MINISTER: Vacancy

CHURCH SECRETARY: Mr Owen Collins
15 Cyprus Road
Hatch Warren
Basingstoke RG22 4UY
Tel: 01256 477425
e.mail - secretary@basingstokeurc.org.uk

TREASURER: Karen Bell
13 Skyline Plaza, Alencon Link
Basingstoke RG21 7BL
Tel: 01256 352033
e.mail - treasurer@basingstokeurc.org.uk

LETTINGS SECRETARY: Karen Bell
13 Skyline Plaza, Alencon Link
Basingstoke RG21 7BL
Tel: 01256 352033
e.mail - lettings@basingstokeurc.org.uk

FOCUS: Mrs Christine Robertson
1208 Skyline Plaza, Alencon Link,
Basingstoke RG21 7AZ
Tel: 01256 869968
e.mail: christina774robertson@btinternet.com

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: Vacancy

Church Secretary: Paul Gross
22 Pelican Road, Pamber Heath RG26 3EN
Tel: 0118 970 0809
e.mail: paulgross3107@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mark Ward
10 Hartleys, Silchester, Reading RG7 2QE
e.mail: mandjward@hotmail.co.uk

New Year Certainty

Put simply, January 1st is just the day after December 31st, but for most people it has far more significance than that. A New Year engenders many different emotions, looking back on a previous 12 months which we may be glad to get rid of, or looking forward with hope or trepidation, or expectation or gloom. For those of us with birthdays in January the thought that we have lived another year already.

At the beginning of 2020, personally, we had the immediate expectation of a joint 80th birthday celebration with all our immediate family one evening for a meal in London - a truly memorable family occasion to be treasured. But, after that, suddenly the country was in lockdown and the rest, as they say, is history. Since then we have lived with, what at times have seemed confusing restrictions of one sort or another. Some have been legal, some regulatory, some guidelines, some advisory, some personal choice, and that continues. The one word that has become an enduring reality in all this is 'uncertainty'. In the period between my writing this and it appearing in Focus we may even have had another Christmas lockdown. All is uncertain.

And this is where our Christian message is so important for everyone to hear. With God all is not uncertain. For Christians the word 'hope' is used multiple times through both Old and New Testaments, and that hope is for us a certainty. 'In the sure and certain hope in our resurrection to eternal life' is what following Jesus is all about.

The writer of Hebrews states that absolute certainty 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever' (Heb 13v8) and Jesus himself said 'surely I will never leave you or forsake you. I will be with you always to the very end of the age' (Mat 28v20).

So, whatever our personal expectations or anxieties, let us go into the New Year with that one certainty at least, that hope we have in Jesus.

Peter Bentall



Circle of Prayer

Please remember the following in your prayers, together with their families, friends, carers, doctors and nurses.

London Street: Beverley Cantwell; Ian and Jenny McCloy and family; David and Julie Bath; Keng and Rita and family; Christine Clucas and family; Hyacinth Ridguard; Betty Shipway; Maggie Morgans and family; the Patterson family; Victoria Paice and family; Kay Cook; Lou and David Waller; Dick and Anne Davey.



Daniel Moavu, 7 years on 5th January
Scarlett Weller, 8 years on 5th January
Anne Davey, 80 years on 3rd January
Molly Payne, 10 years on 18th January
Amelia Ann Green, 12 years on 19th January
Peter Bentall, 82 years on 19th January

Thank You:

Thanks to those who donated money for the Afghan refugees here in Basingstoke.

The recent retiring collection raised £237 and has been forwarded.

Alison Jamieson

Prayer for Wisdom and Light:

Father of all, you gave Jesus to be the light of the world. Help us to receive His light and to reflect it. Help us not to limit the extent of your love by the restrictions of our own understanding. Give us wisdom to look upwards and outwards and to allow your Holy Spirit to transform us day by day as we serve you. Thank you for the gift of wisdom and for those who respond to your prompting to find Jesus.

In His name, Amen.

Daphne Kitchen

Tesco In-Store Vote

The Community Hot Food Table will be one of the projects in Basingstoke Tesco stores from the 1st week of January to the 31st March.

Please remember to pick up your token at the stores listed below and vote for our project. The money we receive will go towards the cost of the packaging and the utilities.

London Street United Reformed Church The Community Food Table Basingstoke

We offer hot cooked from scratch food to those in the community on a pay as you can basis, using produce supplied by local supermarkets that would have gone into landfill.

Stores to vote for our project

2080	Basingstoke Chineham	RG24 8BE	Superstore
2120	Basingstoke Town Centre	RG21 7LG	Metro
2234	Lychpit, Basingstoke Exp	RG24 8TF	Express
2763	Kempshott Basingstoke Exp	RG22 5NZ	Express
4615	Basingstoke Oakridge Rd	RG21 5SG	Express

To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token.

Sunday Services at London Street:

	Preacher	Musician	Duty Elder	Steward/ Greeter
Jan 2	Mark Ward	AV	Leng Ayland	Joyce Cook
Jan 9	Leprosy Mission	Mark Best	Leng Ayland	Jean Holton
Jan 16	Revd Mike Burrell	Peter Dixon	Leng Ayland	Isobel Martin
Jan 23	Revd Tony Cashman	Ian Rees	Leng Ayland	Liz & Sandy Lindsay
Jan 30	Vivien Gerhold	Mark Best	Leng Ayland	Ian Scott

Climate Change Catch Up

Batteries

Any major retail outlet or supermarket that sells more than 32kg of new batteries every year must take back used batteries under the Battery Directive.

Any portable waste batteries ranging from Coin Cell to D-cell batteries can be taken to high street retail outlets including but not limited to Currys, Robert Dyas, Argos, Poundland, WH Smith etc, all of which have used batteries tubes within their stores.

All major supermarkets also have used battery tubes, normally located within prominent positions within their stores (normally somewhere around the main entrance).

Coffee pods

Different brands offer different take back schemes for used pods. For example Nespresso have over 5000 drop off points or customers can arrange a collection. [Find out more information on Nespresso recycling.](#) Search your preferred brand online for the best way to recycle your pods.

Alternative ways of recycling

Alternatively, you can recycle them via community networks similar to eBay, which do not involve money. Two such networks are [Freecycle](#) and [Basingstoke Freegle](#).



Top-top up

Something new to try, Eco cleansing products with low plastic use. Looks good. See Owen's following article.....

Eco Friendly:

Since July we have at London Street been purchasing eco-friendly cleaning products from Triple O Packaging that are not only kinder to the environment but we are able to refill our existing containers each time we reorder.

Olumide is a member at Christ Church Chineham and helps with the community food hub and I learnt of his company, Triple O Packaging, through Penny.

Triple O Packaging is a new refill business located here in Basingstoke and refill sustainable household products for customers, helping them eliminate single-use packaging waste. And Olumide delivers his products in an electric vehicle to further minimise the environmental impact.

Olumide founded his company in 2020 with a vision and passion to realise a world where packaging is too valuable to be wasted. To encourage us all to rethink our relationship with packaging and move towards circular and reusable systems that reduce single use packaging waste, I invited Olumide to draft an article for Focus.

Blessings Owen

JUST A “LITTLE” STEP – AN ARTICLE BY OLUMIDE OJU-ORATOKHAI

It is no longer news that we are in trouble on many fronts regarding how we have managed the natural resources and environment of our planet thus far. The Netflix documentary - Breaking Boundaries by Sir David Attenborough, based on the works of Johan Rockstrom and other scientists, explained that there are some critical systems and their associated boundaries within which humans can live and sustainably survive on our planet. These include biodiversity loss, climate change, freshwater consumption, ocean acidification, ozone depletion, aerosol/particulate pollutants, novel/unknown chemical pollutions (toxins, plastics, heavy metals, endocrine disruptors), land use (deforestation) and bio-geochemical (atmospheric Nitrogen loss and Phosphorus flows into oceans)¹.

The studies make the simple point that once certain tipping points are reached for these systems, their negative consequences may become irreversible leading to irrecoverable damages that cannot sustain life on the planet as we know it today. It was reported that we're already in risky territory on climate change, biodiversity, land use and nitro-phosphorus cycles and that what we do in this decade ending 2030 will be crucial to our long-term survival on the planet.

Whilst I'm no doomsday preacher, and even if the science may sound complicated and contains some unknowns, age-old easily understandable concepts like conservation of resources come to similar simple conclusions that if you use up anything more than your/its ability to regenerate it/itself, you will simply run out. This applies to many things from the money in your bank account, the crude oil in the ground and the fish in the ocean. Likewise, if pollutants (be it aerosols, microplastics, heavy metals or toxins) accumulate in the body or environment beyond what our biological mechanisms can cope with or filter out, things begin to go awry. One of our unsustainable ways is the buy-use-dispose lifestyle we've all become used to with supermarketing. It is wasteful and leads to unmanageable waste/litter ending up in wildlife and affecting their lifespan, productivity and eventually threatening biodiversity and our own food supply.

This nicely brings me to the point on what we (as "little" individuals) can do in the face of such massive problems. The good thing is that individuals have something that businesses want. Businesses always follow the latest consumer trend to satisfy what consumers want or need. More crudely, businesses want a bit of your money and they will do what you want to get it. Although not everyone can be an Attenborough, Johan or Gretha and create big awareness campaigns, you can contribute an equally effective voice by voting with your purse. Once you start to make simple adjustments and buy into more sustainable, low impact, less wasteful products and services, you are effectively creating a trend that businesses will want to invest in and satisfy, especially when you tell your friends and family to do the same. You could start with things like buying local produce, buying in-season loose fruits and vegetables as much as possible, and refilling to minimise packaging waste. Such little changes become big trends when more and more of us buy into them.

These are simple choices that only require a small shift in shopping style. You can start with refill services like Top Up (here in Basingstoke) where your own existing containers can be refilled with sustainable (ethical consumer

recommended²) cleaning, body-care and laundry products. They set up pop up stands at Christ Church in Chineham on Wednesdays and at Basingstoke Garden Centre in Dummer on Saturdays. They can also come to refill at your door with their zero-emissions mobile factory if you live within Basingstoke. Check them out at www.top-topup.co.uk.

Although the uptake for reusable consumer packaging is currently below 3%, the case for refill is valid because a 20-time reuse of a packaging produces only 5% of the waste and environmental impact from using the same packaging only once³. Imagine the scale of waste reduction that can be achieved if more of us choose to top up only a few products per year instead of continuing to use the packaging once and disposing. These benefits of reuse also outweigh those of just recycling.

On a positive note, it's been encouraging to see London Street URC take their starting steps towards refills with their first top up in Plastic-Free. Top Up estimates that every time you refill a similar order like the one placed in July, you will be preventing the wastage of about 5 bottles weighing a combined 720g, thus avoiding the associated 2.4kg of CO2 equivalents, which is similar to the emissions from travelling 8 miles in an average petrol car.

With more people and organisations refilling and topping up instead of creating single-use packaging waste from every purchase, we can hopefully send the message to big business/big supermarket about how we now prefer to shop. And believe me, they will follow your money and make refill become larger scale, more accessible, more economical, more efficient and more impactful, thus reversing the dangers we face on one of the pollution boundaries of our planet. Consequently, we and future generations can enjoy this God-given, life-supporting planet till Thy Kingdom Come!

1. <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries.html>
2. Ethical Consumer, Jul/Aug 2021 Edition 191. www.ethicalconsumer.org
3. Sarah Greenwood, Materials World, Jul/Aug 2021, Vol 29, Number 7 & 8. pg 39.

*Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap
but by the seeds that you plant.*

Robert Louis Stevenson.

Missionary Work in Africa:

Seb, who is a continuing member of the URC at Tadley/Basingstoke, joined AIM in 2010 as a short termer and in 2011 as a full termer and currently works with them as their mobilisation and church partnership coordinator, based in Kampala, Uganda but travelling and connecting with churches in South Sudan, DRC, Rwanda, Chad and more recently Burundi. Seb is fully committed to his work in Africa with AIM travelling 'home' to the UK only every couple of years. If you want to find out more about Seb's work in Africa or how you can help support Seb in his work please let us know.

Seb writes from Uganda with an update and his prayer points:

"I become more and more convinced that we will see a movement of missionaries from the universities in this country, and so in looking at mobilisation and the sending of Global professionals from Uganda to the Arab world there are countless opportunities for discipleship, speaking in services, small group discussions and connecting people for ministry with unreached people groups here in the city. God in his sovereignty has brought people to this city from some of the world's hardest to reach places, and it's a joy to see several churches and university chapels respond to this. Global mission doesn't always mean leaving home – we are seeing a growing burden in the lives of several students as they play football and seek to build relationships with our friends from other faiths.

"St Francis Church, which I attend, graciously gave me office space to use, based at Makerere University near the town centre, and as I write this I'm on a bus heading to the East to meet a university there and explore more how we can partner together. I am thankful for many partnerships with universities, churches and organisations – often I've asked 'what is my place, and what is AIM's place at the table in mobilisation here?' Churches and indigenous mission organisations are growing and so what is our place? Several people and the Lord have made it clear that our place is in making connections – creating partnerships nationally and globally, networking and through this helping to build capacity in these churches and organisations for global mission.

"It truly is a great privilege to connect with so many people weekly as well as walking with several students and church leaders.

"Please pray:

- For continued good connections and networks to be established to help facilitate a movement of missionaries from Uganda to the world,

- For the refugees in this country from some of the world's most unreached places – please pray they will hear and respond to the gospel,
- For the Lord to continue what he is doing in our universities, we are believing for a movement of people taking their profession to make disciples in Uganda and across the world.”

Thank you so much for your support for Seb. Do continue to pray for Seb as he couldn't be serving with AIM without your support, so thank you for the part you are playing in this important ministry through your gifts and prayers.

May God bless you richly in your partnership with him in the Gospel.

Yours in Christ,
Steve

Steve Vesse / Donations Administrator

0115 983 8132 / donations.eu@aimint.org

Africa Inland Mission / 0115 983 8120

AIM International, Halifax Place, Nottingham NG1 1QN

<http://www.aimint.org/eu>



New Year Prayer 2022

Lord of all the years,

Thank you for steering us through the fragmented landscape of two pandemic-riddled years. Here we stand at the beginning of a new year, not knowing what lies ahead. Our only security lies in you, Lord. Please take our hands and guide us, day by day, into January and beyond. We will not be afraid Lord, because you have promised never to leave us, never to forsake us. And you keep your promises. We are safe.

2022, here we come... expectantly,

In Jesus' name,

Amen

By Daphne Kitching

Bible Readings for January:

		Psalm	New Testament	
Saturday	1 st	146	Reflection	
Sunday	2 nd	107	Reflection	
Monday	3 rd	70	Mark	1
Tuesday	4 th	147	"	2
Wednesday	5 th	40:1-8	"	3
Thursday	6 th	71:1-13	"	4
Friday	7 th	148	"	5
Saturday	8 th	40:9-17	Reflection	
Sunday	9 th	71:14-24	Reflection	
Monday	10 th	149	Mark	6
Tuesday	11 th	41	"	7
Wednesday	12 th	72	"	8
Thursday	13 th	150	"	9
Friday	14 th	1	"	10
Saturday	15 th	108	Reflection	
Sunday	16 th	2	Reflection	
Monday	17 th	42	Mark	11
Tuesday	18 th	73:21-28	"	12
Wednesday	19 th	90	"	13
Thursday	20 th	111	"	14
Friday	21 st	3	"	15
Saturday	22 nd	112	Reflection	
Sunday	23 rd	4	Reflection	
Monday	24 th	43	Mark	16
Tuesday	25 th	74:12-23	Acts	1
Wednesday	26 th	91	"	2
Thursday	27 th	113	"	3
Friday	28 th	5	"	4
Saturday	29 th	115	Reflection	
Sunday	30 th	6	Reflection	
Monday	31 st	46	Acts	5

What is Faith?

When we say that we have faith, it means that we believe something is true, even when we can't see it.

A story that might help us to understand it better:

One day, a little girl got lost in the woods on a farm near where she lived. The farmer who owned the land found the little girl and said to her, "Don't be afraid; I'll take you home." The little child looked up at him, and with a smile, said "I'm not afraid. I knew you would come; I was waiting for you." "Waiting for me?" said the man. "What made you think I was coming?" "I was praying that you would," she said. "You were praying?" the farmer asked. "When I first heard you, you were just saying A-B-C-D-E-F-G. What was that for?" She looked up again and said "I wasn't sure exactly what to say, so I was praying all the letters of the alphabet and letting God put them together the way He wanted them to be. He knew I was lost, and He knew how to put the letters together better than I do."

Even though the little girl could not see God, she had faith that he loved her and cared for her. She had faith that if she asked him to help her, he would. How much faith is enough? Do we need to have a lot of faith, or will just a little bit do?

Anon.

---oOo---

'Those who are filled with joy, practise without preaching!'

Another one:

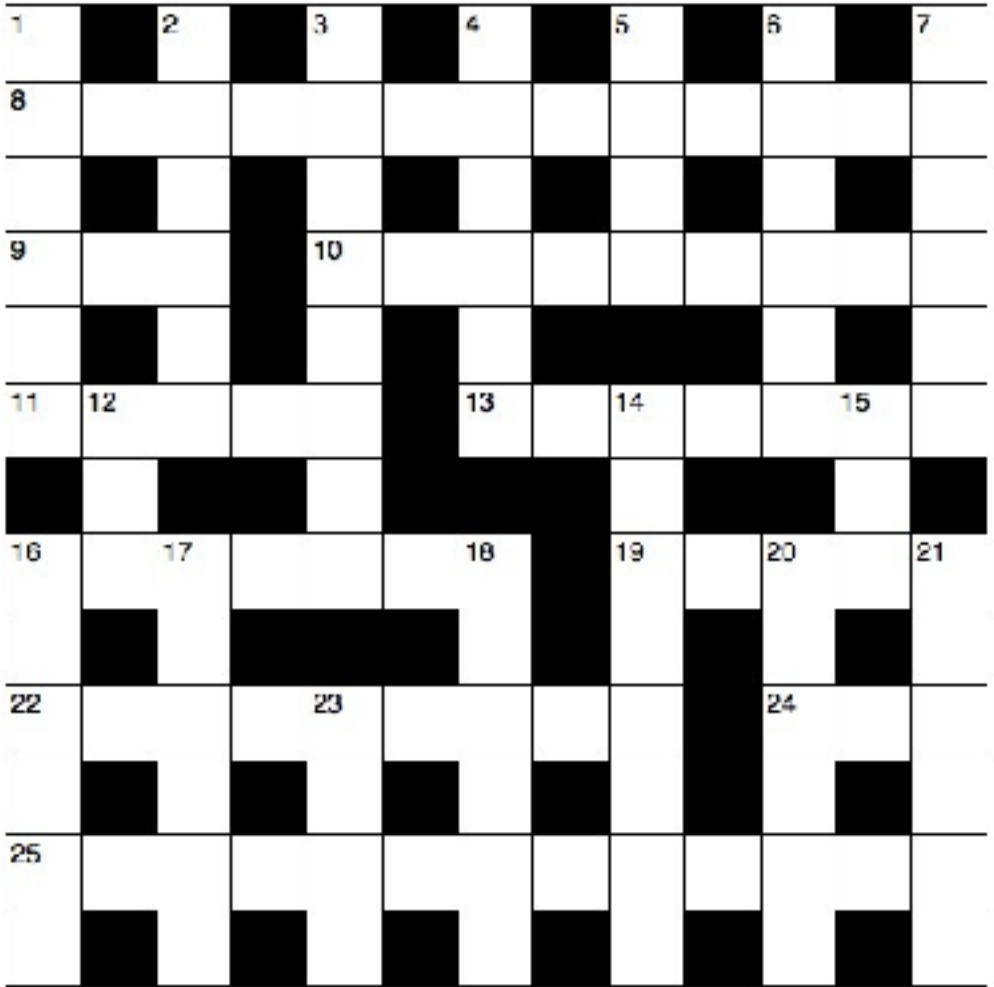
One of the ways we can share God's love is through encouragement. Someone once said that the word 'encourage' means 'to fill the heart, to puff it up, to enlarge it'. By encouraging a friend, we give that person a special gift.

And:

The gift of a prayer: let your friends and loved ones know you pray for them.....and then do it!

These were all written by Barbara Johnson, a speaker and author and founder of 'Spatula Ministries'...'designed to peel parents off the ceiling with a spatula and start them on the road to recovery!'

Submitted by Jenny McCloy



Crossword Clues

Across

- 8 How the Abyss (NIV) is described in the Authorized Version (Revelation 9:1) (10,3)
 9 Frozen water (Ezekiel 1:22) (3)
 10 The Ten Commandments (9)
 11 In Roman Catholic theology, neither heaven nor hell (5)
 13 Des cons (anag.) (7)
 16 'Though [your sins] are red as — , they shall be like wool' (Isaiah 1:18) (7)
 19 Keen (Romans 1:15) (5)
 22 Repugnant, loathsome (Jeremiah 24:9) (9)
 24 Drink like an animal (Judges 7:5) (3)
 25 First and last (Revelation 22:13) (5,3,5)

Down

- 1 Father of Ahi, a Gadite (1 Chronicles 5:15) (6)
- 2 Where David found the stone with which he killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (6)
- 3 'Hour by hour fresh lips are making thy — doings heard on high' (8)
- 4 'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their — at night' (Luke 2:8) (6)
- 5 United Society for Christian Literature (1,1,1,1)
- 6 'If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would — — or a tax collector' (Matthew 18:17) (1,5)
- 7 Where Paul was taken when things became difficult for him in Berea (Acts 17:15) (6)
- 12 Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank) (1,1,1)
- 14 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new — ; the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17) (8)
- 15 Used to colour ram skins red for use in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:5) (3)
- 16 Vat car (anag.) (6)
- 17 'Be joyful — — , patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (6)
- 18 'The parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts — — special treatment' (1 Corinthians 12:23) (4,2)
- 20 Ancient rowing boat (Isaiah 33:21) (6)
- 21 Say again (2 Corinthians 11:16) (6)
- 23 What Jesus did in the synagogue in Nazareth after he stood up (Luke 4:16) (4)

Answers next month.

Who's Counting?

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;

Count your gains instead of your losses,

Count your joys instead of your woes;

Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears;

Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean;

Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth;

Count on God instead of yourself.

This is by that well-known person, Anonymous

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS AND MEETINGS

(all at London Street, unless otherwise stated)

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10.30am

<i>Mondays:</i>	10.15am	Craft Group
<i>Tuesdays:</i>	10.15am	Little Angels
	5.30pm	Beavers) IN TERM TIME
	6.30pm	Cubs) all in the Wessex Hall
	7.30pm	Scouts)
	9.00pm	Night Time Prayers on Zoom*
<i>Wednesdays:</i>	10.15am	3Cs (Coffee, Chat and Company on the 3rd Wednesday of each month)
	10.30am-12 noon	Memory Tree Social Club
	12.15pm	Lunchtime Prayers
	3.00pm	Well-being on Zoom*
<i>Thursdays:</i>	5.30pm	Midweek Prayers on Zoom*

Sunday Services at London Street: See page 5.

TADLEY SERVICES:

Jan. 2 nd	10.30am - joining with London Street
9 th	10.30am - Christine Watson, Old Meeting
16 th	10.30am - 'Alternative' Service at Old Meeting - TBC
23 rd	10.30am - 'Sharing Service' at Old Meeting
30 th	10.30am - Sydney Shore at Old Meeting

Regular Weekly events -

Monday afternoon	- Ladies Cell Zoom meeting (contact Penny O'Bee)
Monday	7.30 pm - evening Cell group Zoom (contact Mark Ward)
Tuesday	7pm - Prayer meeting on Zoom (St Paul's and Tadley URC) (Penny O'Bee)
Wednesday	7pm - Prayer meeting on Zoom (Tadley URC) (Mark Ward)
Thursday	10-12 noon - Little Angels toddler group in Immanuel Centre (contact Ena Menarry)
Friday	2-3 pm - Men's Shed at Immanuel Centre (alternate weeks) (Paul Gross)

Due to current covid restrictions, the service and meeting dates shown in this edition of Focus are uncertain. Please check as necessary.

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]