



# **London Street**

## **United Reformed Church**

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



**Focus**  
**July/August, 2022**

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - [www.basingstokeurc.org.uk](http://www.basingstokeurc.org.uk)

**MINISTER:**

Vacancy

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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:**

Vacancy

**Church Secretary:**

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**Treasurer:**

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# A Thought for the Month

Matthew ch 6 v 25-34

v 34 'Do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day.'

It seems that, according to a recent study, a majority of people these days are deliberately shutting themselves off from the news. That's no surprise as we look at the world situation with war, famines, natural disasters being regularly highlighted, and our own country being in political and economic turmoil. The rising cost of living is driving many people to despair... 'the choice is between heating and eating' has become the common cry, as energy bills in particular go through the roof (thank goodness at least that its summer).

The situation makes the reading of this well known passage from Matthew, part of Jesus' sermon on the mount, so difficult to truly understand. Jesus is saying don't worry about tomorrow, and he draws these examples from nature of the birds and the flowers 'If God looks after them, how much more will He look after you'.

But these are anxious times. Sadly, we cannot live without having concerns for tomorrow in some ways about ourselves, our families and our communities. Is there a difference between worry and concern? Worry will keep us awake at night, can we manage to leave our concerns as Jesus says to the next day? Not many can truthfully say that. Can we have the faith, as Jesus says, to rely on God to see us through? Jesus says 'seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be yours as well'.

We need to come closer to God through prayer and in our fellowship so that we can help each other through difficult times and reach out to our local community.

'Let the day's troubles be sufficient for the day' is not an easy thought to believe but Jesus also said (Matt.ch 11 vv28-29) 'Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden.....and I will give you rest'. This is the certainty we need.

*Peter Bentall*



## Circle of Prayer

Please remember the following in your prayers:

**London Street** - Victoria Paice & family; Kay Cook; Sandy & Liz Lindsay; Doina Rasnita; Jo Tremarco; Stan & Sandra Marut; Dick & Anne Davey; Rosemary Martin & family; Beverley Cantwell; David & Julie Bath; Christine Clucas & family; Hyacinth Ridguard; Betty Shipway; Maggie Morgans & family; the Patterson family; Bev Harris and Dom Prentice; and Lou and David Waller.

**Tadley Old Meeting** prayer list: Alastair Melrose and family; Linda Hicks; Rachel and Trevor Eaves; Christine Weaver; Phil Ward.



Joan Mussellwhite, 95 years on 10<sup>th</sup> July

Aidah Grant, 3 years on 3<sup>rd</sup> August

Eleanor Green, 9 years on 23<sup>rd</sup> August

## Church Flowers - July/August

3<sup>rd</sup> July - Joyce Cook

7<sup>th</sup> August - Liz Lindsay



## Basingstoke and Deane Disability Forum

Our mission as your local adult disability charity is to make sure we are reaching those who need us. Please can you help us to reach members in our community who don't have or want access to the internet?

We are hoping to reach more Disabled adults of all ages and those supporting the Disabled community in a caring capacity. Do you have a neighbour, friend or relative who would benefit from receiving a regular printed newsletter, posted direct to their address, full of information about services available to them in Basingstoke please contact me.

Leave your name and address on our secure voicemail by calling 01256 423869; or email [Amanda@BDDF.org.uk](mailto:Amanda@BDDF.org.uk), or drop a note into us at The Orchard, White Hart Lane. Amanda will arrange for a copy of our most recent newsletter to be posted. The newsletter, as with all BDDF services, is free to receive.

Please also advise if you require a certain format and we will do our best to accommodate.

*Amanda Knowle  
of BDDF free postal newsletter service.*

# Daily Bible Readings for July:

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	
1 <sup>st</sup>	12	Luke	3	16 <sup>th</sup>	18:1-19	Luke 14
2 <sup>nd</sup>	119:33-48	"	4	17 <sup>th</sup>	51:1-13	" 15
3 <sup>rd</sup>	13	"	5	18 <sup>th</sup>	84	Reflection
4 <sup>th</sup>	81:1-10	Reflection		19 <sup>th</sup>	97	"
5 <sup>th</sup>	95	"		20 <sup>th</sup>	119:113-128	Luke 16
6 <sup>th</sup>	119:49-64	Luke	6	21 <sup>st</sup>	18:20-30	" 17
7 <sup>th</sup>	15	"	7	22 <sup>nd</sup>	119:129-144	" 18
8 <sup>th</sup>	119:65-80	"	8	23 <sup>rd</sup>	18:31-42	" 19
9 <sup>th</sup>	16	"	9	24 <sup>th</sup>	52	" 20
10 <sup>th</sup>	50:1-15	"	10	25 <sup>th</sup>	119:145-160	Reflection
11 <sup>th</sup>	82	Reflection		26 <sup>th</sup>	85	"
12 <sup>th</sup>	96	"		27 <sup>th</sup>	98	Luke 21
13 <sup>th</sup>	119:81-96	Luke	11	28 <sup>th</sup>	119:161-176	" 22
14 <sup>th</sup>	17	"	12	29 <sup>th</sup>	19	" 23
15 <sup>th</sup>	119:97-112	"	13	30 <sup>th</sup>	54	" 24
				31 <sup>st</sup>	86	Corinthians 1
						<i>Ffaldy y Brenin</i>

# Daily Bible Readings for August:

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	
1 <sup>st</sup>	121/122	Reflection		16 <sup>th</sup>	130/131	Reflection
2 <sup>nd</sup>	99	"		17 <sup>th</sup>	27	1 Corinthians 12
3 <sup>rd</sup>	20	1 Corinthians	2	18 <sup>th</sup>	60	" 13
4 <sup>th</sup>	56	"	3	19 <sup>th</sup>	89:1-13	" 14
5 <sup>th</sup>	23/24	"	4	20 <sup>th</sup>	102:18-28	" 15
6 <sup>th</sup>	87	"	5	21 <sup>st</sup>	132	" 16
7 <sup>th</sup>	100/101	"	6	22 <sup>nd</sup>	28	Reflection
8 <sup>th</sup>	124:125	Reflection		23 <sup>rd</sup>	133/134	"
9 <sup>th</sup>	25:1-10	"		24 <sup>th</sup>	30	2 Corinthians 1
10 <sup>th</sup>	126/127	1 Corinthians	7	25 <sup>th</sup>	61	" 2
11 <sup>th</sup>	25:11-22	"	8	26 <sup>th</sup>	89:14-29	" 3
12 <sup>th</sup>	57	"	9	27 <sup>th</sup>	103	" 4
13 <sup>th</sup>	102:1-17	"	10	28 <sup>th</sup>	135	" 5
14 <sup>th</sup>	128/129	"	11	29 <sup>th</sup>	31:1-10	Reflection
15 <sup>th</sup>	26	Reflection		30 <sup>th</sup>	138	"
				31 <sup>st</sup>	31:11-24	2 Corinthians 6
						<i>Ffaldy y Brenin</i>

## Different Expectations:

It is very easy when searching in the Archives for one thing to go off at a tangent and start looking at something else! This happened again recently. Bearing in mind our present ministerial vacancy, my attention was caught by the following opening paragraph of the 1947 Basingstoke Group Congregational Magazine 'The Sanctuary'.

"The year 1946 will be remembered by many as being a very wet one!...The year will also be remembered by our Church as another turning point in its history, when one of our Ministers has left us to carry on his Master's work in a midland town. *The Reverend Wilfred Salmon left in the Spring of 1945*)... Our Church at the end of the year is stronger and more active than at the beginning — Why is this? Surely because we realise the seriousness of our position and have used our great privilege of prayer. We have kept together as a team and kept united. It is sincerely hoped that early in 1947 our pulpit will be occupied by a new Minister — let us go on praying."

**Then six months later, in June 1947** — "Many of our members have become concerned at the length of time that has passed since the Rev Wilfred Salmon left us to take up ministerial work at Sutton Coldfield. The matter has been fully discussed at the church meetings, and a short while ago a unanimous invitation was sent to the Rev. Hugh Jenkins M.A., to come to us until such time as we shall have a resident minister. We are pleased to report that he has accepted this invitation and he will be commencing his ministry among us on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Hugh Jenkins, whose home is in Weston-super-Mare, was the Moderator of the South Western Province for many years and is known to a large number of us at Basingstoke. We shall give him a warm welcome when he comes to us and we shall appreciate his wise counsel and advice in the affairs of our Church. May God richly bless his ministry at London Street!"

There is also a **letter from the Reverend Hugh Jenkins** — "It is evidently one of the decrees of Province that you and I are not to be strangers. We met first on Palm Sunday 1927...We have met together in work and worship on other occasions. Now, just to prove that we are not set to tire of one another, you have asked me to come temporarily as your Minister-in-Charge, and this is my acceptance. In what more congenial fellowship could one desire to spend one of the last laps of service...But I shall also try to be a Good Shepherd... A principal

concern, never absent from thoughts and prayer, will be that of finding a worthy and permanent minister.”

It sounded like a happy and popular appointment all round. The Reverend Jenkins moved into The Manse which, at that time, was at No. 2 London Road. *Demolished many years ago together with adjoining buildings. The pedestrian entry to the Council Offices is near to where The Manse would have been).*

**October, 1947** — “After a long period of 18 months without a minister there is a real feeling of thankfulness to God that He is sending one of His servants to be our Pastor and Leader. We shall give the Rev. and Mrs Glyn Evans and their baby daughter a real welcome when they come among us next month.”

The Reverend Glyn Evans had preached with a view and Church Meeting “without a dissentient voice” gave a call to become the Pastor, which was accepted. His induction service was on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November, 1947 and on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 1947 he commenced his ministry, conducting both morning and evening services. He was here until 1958.

Compared to our own vacancy situation, I was struck by the fact the congregation felt 18 months was a long vacancy. *(It probably was in those days)!* But how similar their aims and ours to work together as a team, to keep united in caring for each other, and remember the importance of prayer.

*Jean Holton*  
Church Archivist

## Social Media...

I often wonder what Jesus would do if he was here in human form now, would he have any form of social media? If he did have social media, what would he post? Would he post daily, would he post pictures/ videos, would he add comments, would he block people? I know that many of you have no idea what I am talking about, and what does this have to do with London Street? London Street has a Facebook page which has over 160 followers. The followers are from all over the world, we have people from USA, Australia, Scotland, London as well as local people. Some of these people are former members who have moved away, some are people who attended the Church years ago and others are just people interested in churches. Rightly or wrongly social media is a part of the world that we live in.

The information that we share is who is doing the service that week, any church events that are open to the public, any general information (for example, we shared photos of the layout when reopening), the church magazine. We share information about church groups that might interest people. We have an active message book, which means that people can message us directly and we pass on this information to the relevant people; through the message book we have heard, sadly, about two former members who passed away and their families got in touch with us.

More and more people are using social media to find information about places they are going to visit, people they might be meeting and events to attend.

Before people say that, as a Congregation, we are on the slightly older generation, quite a few followers are in their 70s, 80s and even 90s. It's been lovely to have comments about services that have happened and information that we shared, through our Facebook page we are really reaching out to more people, yes those 160 plus followers don't necessarily come to church on a Sunday, but they know about our little Church in Basingstoke and one day they might turn up (I do believe we have enough coffee and tea to share)!

At this time when we have no minister you never know - a future minister might look at our page! So please like our page and share it with your friends and family.

*Emily Marshall-Jones*  
(Carol and Ian Scott's daughter)



## Mission Aviation Fellowship

Are flying to deliver urgent supplies, education, health care and the Gospel to remote areas in the world for the love of Christ.

Would you like to support them? They are collecting **post cards, old and new** and we, at London St URC are acting as a centre to receive them. Please bring them, or post them marked for MAF, to the church and put them in the box provided.

Want to know more about MAF?

Their web site is: [www.maf-uk.org](http://www.maf-uk.org)

London St United Reformed Church, London St, Basingstoke RG21 7NU





## Please pray for: Mission Aviation Fellowship

On Sunday 12th June at the morning service we heard from Alistair Smith about the current work that MAF is carrying out in Chad, South Sudan and Liberia to provide transport to aid connection between some of the most isolated people and different organisations who provide health care, education, urgent supplies and the Gospel.

We have been asked to pray for the work of MAF, particularly in the following areas:

### Prayer Pointers

- Safety as MAF delivers COVID vaccines and equipment to remote areas.
- Guinea – to establish new partners and increase flights.
- Peace workshops in South Sudan, as people return to a war torn area.
- Recruitment of Christian pilots, engineers and support staff (both men and women)

You may also find the map a useful aid to prayer.

Thank you.

## Return to Sender...

(Isaiah: 55:10-11)

I'd posted my letter and was waiting eagerly for a reply, each day growing increasingly impatient at the delay. 'What could be keeping them?' I wondered. How much longer would it be? Three weeks later the letter arrived — not the letter I was anticipating but the one I had sent with a curt message scribbled across the front: 'Return to sender. Address not known.' Life can be like that sometimes, can't it? We think we've done something, only to find it's gone wrong. We believe we've completed a job only to discover it needs doing all over again.

With God, it's different. What he says he will do, he does. What he accomplishes is accomplished once and for all. We may frustrate him, impede him, even oppose him but, ultimately, his will shall be done. Hold on to his promises, trust in his word, for neither will return to him empty.

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# Hearing Difficulties?

I have hearing loss. I want to be able to talk with you, but please make it easier for me:

- Attract my attention before starting a conversation.  
*I am less likely to inadvertently ignore you. Approach me from in front.*
- Face me.  
*I lip-read a bit, so if I can't see your mouth I don't get that help.*
- Set the context for the conversation.  
*It helps if I know what the subject area is, so if I miss something I am more likely to be correct if I have to guess.*
- Speak clearly and at a moderate speed, keeping the normal rhythm of speech.  
*This helps everyone understand, not just the hard of hearing. But it is more important for them.*
- Be patient.  
*I may need you to repeat something. If I am having difficulty understanding then rephrase what you are saying using a different set of words.*
- Let me tell you what will help me.  
*I won't ask you to do anything that you might find difficult, and if I don't tell you you won't know to make it easier.*
- Use complete sentences.  
*You would be surprised at how much easier they are to understand.*
- A noisy place is extra difficult.  
*Either move with me to a quieter place or wait until the noise has subsided.*
- Don't exaggerate mouth movements.  
*They are a distortion of normality and so more difficult to understand. They also make you look patronising.*
- Don't shout.  
*My hearing aid amplifies the sound enough, I need help with the clarity of the sound.*
- Don't give up.  
*It is frustrating when someone starts a conversation but then won't finish it. Please make the effort.*

It's not much to ask, is it?

Thank you

## 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 ) in the Hook Room
	7.30pm	Scouts ) in the Wessex Hall
<i>Wednesdays:</i>	10.15am	3Cs (Coffee, Chat and Company on the <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month}</b> )
	10.30am	Memory Tree Social Club
	-12 noon	
	12.15pm	Lunchtime Prayers

### Diary - July, 2022

(at London Street, unless otherwise stated - Duty Elder: Kengjise Moavu)

Sat.	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3-5pm.	Garden Party at 107a Cliddesden Road. All welcome.
Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast in the Hook Room
		10.30am	Worship, led by Mark Ward
Sun.	10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship, to be arranged
Wed	13 <sup>th</sup>	10.15pm	3Cs
		7.30pm	Elders' Meeting on Zoom
Sun	17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship, to be arranged
Sun	24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion, led by Rev. Mike Burrell
Wed	27 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Church Meeting in Sanctuary
Sun	31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Worship, to be arranged

### Diary - August, 2022

(at London Street, unless otherwise stated - Duty Elder: Carol Scott)

Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast in the Hook Room
		10.30am	Worship, led by Revd Howard Sharp
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship, to be arranged
			<b>Deadline for articles for September FOCUS</b>
Wed	17 <sup>th</sup>	10.15pm	3Cs
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion, led by Sydney Shore
Sun	28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship, led by Revd Julian Macro

## REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS AND MEETINGS

(all at Old Meeting, Tadley unless otherwise stated)

### SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10.30am

#### July

Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Mark Ward at London Street
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mel and Jane Euerby
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Ed Vassie
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	NO SERVICE AT OLD MEETING
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Christine Watson

#### August

Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Penny O'Bee
No services at Old Meeting on 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> August and 4 <sup>th</sup> September		

#### REGULAR Weekly EVENTS AT TADLEY:

- Monday evening - Cell group - contact Mark Ward or Paul Gross
- Tuesday evening - joint prayer time with St Paul's - contact Penny O'Bee
- Wednesday evening - prayer - 7pm via Zoom - contact Mark Ward.
- Friday afternoon - Men's Shed - contact Paul Gross ( 2pm once a fortnight )
- Saturday afternoon - Ladies Cell group - contact Penny O'Bee

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]