



London Street

United Reformed Church

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



Focus
June, 2022

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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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

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A Thought for the Month

Really? A thought for the month simply isn't enough!

Politicians tell church leaders to keep out of politics, yet their decisions affect everyday life for us all. Without wishing to make this a political article, my understanding of Christ's challenge to those of us who are fortunate enough to be able to look after ourselves, is simply to do our best to support and care for those who can't, as far as we are able.

We have a situation at the moment in our country, where millions of people are having to choose between eating or keeping warm. The Joseph Rowantree figures state that 31% of our nation's children are living in poverty. Elderly people are suffering too. We face a forecast of a massive increase in the cost of living this Autumn and Winter, which will only exacerbate the situation. Charitable organisations, which are already struggling to help the poor, say the situation can only get worse.

This leaves all those of us with a Christian conscience to try to do what we can to alleviate these hardships, wherever and however we can. Individually our efforts may seem trivial, but collectively these contributions can be enormous. As examples of helping, we can purchase extra household items to donate to a local Foodbank or help on our church's Food Table to give food to desperate people.

Whilst all of those in need should be in our prayers, it is also vitally important that we remain vigilant and aware of the struggles around us....friends, neighbours', even family members' needs may go unnoticed ----it is important that we remain lovingly observant, so that we can try to address a need should it arise.

Although the struggles mentioned earlier are endemic in the UK, we should not miss the massive hardships experienced around the world. During our worship at the beginning of Christian Aid Week, led by Laura Mead, we heard how Christian Aid works with some of the world's most vulnerable communities in 29 countries, in every corner of the globe. They help during emergencies, but their main work is in encouraging local people to work towards a better future for themselves; for example, in Africa Christian Aid works towards peace-building in South Sudan, promoting resilient farming in Kenya

and challenging inequality in Sierra Leone and, with women, to increase their access to sustainable energy in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Malawi.

Maybe one of the plights I have briefly mentioned above will catch your imagination and encourage you to help in some small way---(remember how powerful prayer can be too), but always remember the passage Alison read in church on May 15th as we concentrated on Christian Aid Week: (John 13: 31-35) Verses 34/35 say, 'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another' and also remember a hymn we sang that day reminding us of our Christian responsibility:

'Brother Sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you'

Yours in Christ
Ian McCloy

Christian Aid

I am delighted to report that we have resumed the distribution of Christian Aid envelopes. Even though the distribution is restricted to the congregation of the church it is a good means to remind us of the work done by Christian Aid.

The generosity of the congregation has continued to be very good and in the past the following sums have been donated: 2020 £215.00 and 2021 £310 00. Donations can be made by way of the envelope or by going to the Christian Aid website which is very user friendly. If you wish for your donation to be recorded under the London Street title please tell me and I will report the final total of donations in next month's Focus.

Thank you.

Ian Scott
Christian Aid Coordinator



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; Linda Hicks; Christine Weaver; Phil Ward.



Imogen Marshall-Jones, 7 years on 4th June

Eileen Poulter, 94 years on 25 June

Christine Robertson, 87 years on 27th June

Church Flowers - June

Sheila Munro



Welcome:

On 22nd May we were very pleased to welcome new members Beverley Harris on Baptism and Confession of Faith and Matthew and Rebecca Dumbleton on transfer from Fleet URC and the induction of Joyce Cook and Jenny McCloy to the Eldership.

Memory Tree

Memory Tree meets every Wednesday morning at 10.30. We have been open for approaching 9 years, which seems hard to believe. We are still welcoming some of our original guests! We welcome people with any form of dementia or memory loss and their carers; in fact, many of our guests are carers whose other halves have either died or gone to live in care homes. The carers give each other support as they understand the demands of 24/7 care for a loved one.

Sadly, we have lost 3 of our members recently, one of whom was Roger Pike, who had been a part of Memory Tree since its beginning. He has been greatly missed by everyone.

The atmosphere in Memory Tree is a very happy, light-hearted one. We try to provide an environment in which everyone feels welcome and valued. There is the opportunity to play games like Rummikub, Scrabble or draughts, do jigsaws or just to sit and enjoy conversation. All this is whilst enjoying a drink and home made cakes. Memory Tree gives carers some much needed space.

We also enjoy outings, from trips on the Watercress Line, to a morning's drive in the countryside, followed by lunch at a garden centre. We were also delighted that some of our guests came to the URC's Big Day Out recently.

We are planning a Jubilee Party in June when, hopefully, some of the guests will bring memorabilia from the Queen's long reign, and we will decorate the Hook Room with bunting and balloons.

We have a great team of volunteers who prepare refreshments, play games with the guests or are around to chat or to listen. We have been especially grateful recently to 'the two Beverleys' (Cantwell and Harris), who have taken on the very important work in the kitchen. Since changes to the Oasis Cafe we have been responsible for providing all our own refreshments and clearing away. It is physically demanding and it was becoming increasingly hard for those of the volunteers who are not getting any younger. Therefore we really appreciate the work of the two most recent additions to our team. We also appreciate Doina's contribution, she often works through a great deal of pain, but surprises us all with her knowledge of everyone's drink and cake preferences! Unfortunately a couple of our volunteers have had to step down from

regular helping, but we are grateful for all the help which Jean and Jo have given over recent years.

We are always glad of any additional help so if you ever have a spare couple of hours on a Wednesday morning you would be made most welcome. Also, if you know of anybody who might benefit from a couple of hours at MT then why not suggest they give us a try.

If you would like to know more about us then why not chat to Joyce Cook, Isobel Martin, Ian or Jenny McCloy or Louise Waller— or, if you might be able to add your name to the list of regular cake bakers on the weekly rota, that would be wonderful (Just mention it to Jenny).

May 16th to May 22nd is 'Dementia Awareness Week, which is a national event that sees the UK public taking action to improve the lives of people affected by dementia. This year the Alzheimer's Society is trying to raise awareness of the condition, hoping that it will stimulate people to seek help.... it is estimated that around 400,000 people in the UK have dementia but do not know it.

Jenny McCloy

Daily Bible Readings for June:

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		
1 st	90	Romans	12	16 th	116	Philippians	1
2 nd	111	"	13	17 th	7:1-11	"	2
3 rd	3	"	14	18 th	117/118:1-14	"	3
4 th	112	"	15	19 th	8	"	4
5 th	4	"	16	20 th	47	Reflection	
6 th	43	Reflection		21 st	77:1-14	"	
7 th	74:12-23	"		22 nd	93	Colossians	1
8 th	91	Ephesians	1	23 rd	118:15-29	"	2
9 th	113	"	2	24 th	9:1-16	"	3
10 th	5	"	3	25 th	119:1-16	"	4
11 th	115	"	4	26 th	79	Philemon	1
12 th	6	"	5	27 th	48	Reflection	
13 th	46	Reflection		28 th	80	"	
14 th	75	"		29 th	94:12-23	Luke	1
15 th	92	Ephesians	6	30 th	119:17-32	"	2

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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 3rd Wednesday of each month)
	10.30am-	Memory Tree Social Club
	12 noon	
	12.15pm	Lunchtime Prayers

Diary - June, 2022

(at London Street, unless otherwise stated)

Sun 5 th	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast in the Hook Room
	10.30am	Worship, led by Revd Julian Macro
Sun 12 th	10.30am	Worship led by Alistair Smith (Mission Aviation Fellowship)
Wed 15 th	10.15pm	3Cs
Deadline for articles for July/August FOCUS		
Sun 19 th	10.30am	Parade Service led by 8 th Basingstoke Scouts
Sat 25 th		Away Day at Tadley (see May FOCUS)
Sun 26 th	10.30am	Communion Service led by Sydney Shore

TADLEY Services (at Old Meeting unless otherwise stated)

Sun 5 th		Joining with CTAT at the Treacle Fair
Sun 12 th	10.30am	Rob and Jan Lloyd at Old Meeting, including Communion
Sun 19 th	10.30am	Mark Ward
Sun 26 th	10.30am	Karen Jones and John Featherstone

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 2pm (once a fortnight) - Men's Shed - contact Paul Gross
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.

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