



London Street

United Reformed Church

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



The flowers are blooming, the time of bringing has come! Song of Songs 2:12

**Focus
March, 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: 07544 466409
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

Thought for the month:

Hard Times We Could Make Easier

With all the issues that have been caused by the pandemic and price rises in energy bills we can forget all the people that it has affected and how it has impacted their lives. We keep hearing the saying “Heating or eating” and for those who are already struggling, it will be very hard times.

As Christians, we must not forget our duty to help without grumbling. Philippians Chap. 2 verse 3 says “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves”.

Simply put, I think this means:

Don't think less of yourself.

Think of yourself less,

Prayer:

Gracious God, we thank you for always caring and looking out for us; may we always show the same care and love to others as you have shown to us. In Jesus Name we ask it. Amen

Jason Dudley

SPRING:

An acrostic poem (Taking each letter of the title word to start the next line of the verse)

Spring has arrived with armfuls of blossom,
Petals of every colour and hue,
Rain and sun caressing the earth
Inspiring spring bulbs to come into view
Now is the time of new beginnings
Giving us pleasure all season through.



Circle of Prayer

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

From 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; Dick and Anne Davey; Rosemary Martin and family; Leng and Chris Ayland and family; Sandy and Liz Lindsay and Doina Rasnita.

Tadley Old Meeting prayer list: Alastair Melrose and family, Christine Weaver, Linda, Sam and Oliver, Rachel and Trevor, Martin.



Lizzy Payne, 14 years on 10th March
Sylvia Reynolds, 90 years on 12 March
Les Wenham, 91 years on 20 March
Joyce Cook, 82 years on 21st March

Sunday Services at London Street

	Preacher	Steward/ Welcome	Duty Elder
Mar 6 th	Ruth White	Wai Leng Ayland	Alison Jamieson
Mar 13 th	Open Door	Chris Holt	“
Mar 20 th	Vivien Gerhold inc. Communion	Joyce Cook	“
Mar 27 th	Peter Bentall Mothering Sunday	Ian Scott	“

A message from Church House -

URC 50th anniversary tickets available

Free tickets to the URC's 50th Anniversary Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving are now available.

On the afternoon of Saturday 1st October 2022, in Methodist Central Hall Westminster, London, where the Uniting Assembly of the URC took place in October 1972, a chance to give thanks and to celebrate the five decades of the United Reformed Church. We want as many people as possible from across the denomination to attend.

Several venues, including United Reformed Church House, local URCs and buildings of ecumenical partners, will be available for people to visit during the day, to offer activities, information, workshops, reflection, discussions, singing, catering and other support for visitors before the service.

This is a free event and we will be asking nearer the time for a confirmation of numbers.

Book your tickets through the Eventbrite booking system at: bit.ly/urc50.

If you have difficulty in booking a ticket online, let me know and I will do it for you. You won't be going on your own. I'm aware of a number of folk from London Street who have already obtained their tickets.

Regards Owen

Fairtrade/Climate Change:

Our service on Sunday 13th February focused on Fairtrade and Climate Change and what we as a congregation can do to help, even in a small way.

These are the results of the feedback we had from the congregation during the service:

- when purchasing loose fruit and veg from the supermarket, make use of their material bags that you can wash and reuse
- dispose of unwanted food onto a compost heap for your garden
- take your own bags and containers to supermarkets
- recycle metal goods if you can
- use citrus fruit skins in your garden to deter cats (they last for up to 48 hours) rather than chemicals
- insulate your house
- turn lights and TV off at home when not needed (at the wall)
- think about solar panels
- purchase an electric car
- buy second hand clothes from a charity shop.

Bible Readings for March:

	Psalm	New Testament	
Mar 1 st	96	Acts	26
2 nd	119:81-96	"	27
3 rd	17	"	28
4 th	119:97-112	Hebrews	1
5 th	18:1-19	Reflection	
6 th	51:1-13	"	
7 th	84	Hebrews	2
8 th	97	"	3
9 th	119:113-128	"	4
10 th	18: 20-30	"	5
11 th	119:129-144	"	6
12 th	18:31-42	Reflection	
13 th	52	"	
14 th	119:145-160	Hebrews	7
15 th	85	"	8
16 th	98	"	9
17 th	119:161-176	"	10
18 th	19	"	11
19 th	54	Reflection	
20 th	86	"	
21 st	121/122	Hebrews	12
22 nd	99	"	13
23 rd	20	Galatians	1
24 th	56	"	2
25 th	23/24	"	3
26 th	87	Reflection	
27 th	100/101	"	
28 th	124/125	Galatians	4
29 th	25:1-10	"	5
30 th	126/127	"	6
31 st	25:11-22	James	1

Church Flowers Rota:

6th March - David/Julie Bath



Eco Tip:

Use it up, wear it out.
Make it do, or do without.

Help...

The Community Food Table serves the community with hot food and drinks at lunch time that would normally be disposed of by supermarkets, yet is perfectly safe to eat.

We are in desperate need of more volunteers to help in the kitchen with the preparation and serving of food on a Thursday and Friday. Can you spare 3 hours to help? You don't have to offer each and every week. The more people willing to help means we can draw up a rota.

At least one person in the kitchen must have a Level 2 Certificate in Food Hygiene. If you volunteer and wish to undertake the course, the church will pay for you to complete it which can be done on line. You don't have to do this course at home. Arrangements can be made for you to do it at church if you wish.

If you're interested please have a word with Alison, Karen or Owen.

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April FOCUS: Please let the Editor have articles for the April Focus by **20th March.**

Warning:

Stamps that say '1st' or '2nd' class are going to become unusable from 31st January 2023

Royal Mail is shaking up the rules on stamps, so if you've got a supply of stamps that say '1st' or '2nd' class on them then by 31st January 2023 you'll no longer be able to use them. This is because Royal Mail is moving to a new barcode system, which these stamps don't have.

If you try to use these stamps – and this includes all those with the Queen's head on them that say '1st' or '2nd' class, or any other price, or those that are Christmas-themed – after this cut-off date they will not be valid and you will have to pay a surcharge. Though Royal Mail is yet to confirm what this surcharge is or how it will work in practice. You will, however, be able to exchange current stamps for barcoded ones for free under Royal Mail's new 'Swap Out' scheme, which opens on 31st March 2022 and will run until 31st March 2023.

Sausages...

Taken from the URC website, the Revd Dr Michael Hopkins, Clerk of the United Reformed Church (URC) General Assembly and Minister of The Spire Church, Farnham, tells us why he'll be eating a sausage for Ash Wednesday:

Eating a sausage on Ash Wednesday 2022 marks the 500th anniversary of a very important event, and sausage is far more appropriate than an act of piety at home or in church! The Reformation began in Zurich on Ash Wednesday 1522 – 500 years ago this year – and it all started with a sausage, or rather several sausages.

Ulrich Zwingli was the Pastor of a church known as the Grossmünster in Zurich, Switzerland. This wasn't the first time Zwingli was in trouble – he had form from preaching along the same lines as Erasmus and Luther, but this was Zwingli's first rift with the established religious authorities. During the Lenten fast of 1522 Zwingli was invited to join a sausage supper that Christoph Froschauer, a printer in the city, served to his workers who were seemingly worn out from printing a new edition of The Epistles of Saint Paul. Various civic and church leaders were present, and the meal involved Swiss Fasnachtskiechli and some slices of sharp smoked hard sausage. The eating of meat during Lent was prohibited, and Froschauer was arrested.

Though Zwingli did not eat the sausages himself, he quickly defended Froschauer from allegations of heresy, giving a detailed defence of this call in a sermon called “Von Erkiesen und Freiheit der Speisen” (Regarding the Choice and Freedom of Foods), in which he used Martin Luther's teachings to show that “Christians are free to fast or not to fast because the Bible does not prohibit the eating of meat during Lent”, that is to say that fasting should be entirely voluntary, not mandatory. Zwingli was setting out the view of the Reformers that Lent was a matter for personal choice, rather than a rule for everyone.

Once news of this outrage broke, Hugo von Hohenlandenberg, the Bishop of Konstanz, was so wound up by Zwingli's preaching that he called for a rule banning the preaching of any of the Reformation doctrines in Switzerland. This was too little and too late, as Zwingli went on to be a revered figure in Swiss Protestantism.

The Zurich sausage affair was seen as a demonstration of Christian freedom and is generally accepted to be of similar importance for the Reformation in Switzerland as Martin Luther's 95 theses were for the German Reformation in Germany. Will you join me in remembering and celebrating this with a sausage?

Ash Wednesday (1st in Lent):

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you?

Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting us to come to Him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

From Parish pump

Looking

In Swansea there used to be a well-known firm of solicitors called W G Christian and Sons. A letter sent to them from overseas was addressed simply: W. G. Christian, South Wales. It eventually arrived at their office with a note from the Post Office attached. It read: "No Christians in Cardiff – try Swansea."

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

Sunday Services at London Street: See page 4.

TADLEY SERVICES:

Mar	6 th	10.30am - visiting Salvation Army for cafe style worship
	13 th	10.30am - special prayer morning for the future of the church at Old Meeting
	20 th	10.30am - Penny O'Bee at Old Meeting
	27 th	10.30am - Philip Jones 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	7.00 pm - Prayer meeting on Zoom (St Paul's and Tadley URC) (Penny O'Bee)
	Wednesday	7.00 pm - 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)

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