



London Street

United Reformed Church

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



Focus
October, 2021

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - 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: Paul Gross
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Greetings From Oxford

Well...what can I say? Thank you everyone for your kind words and many generous and thoughtful gifts. Andrew and I have felt quite overwhelmed and very blessed. I will send updates from time to time but it has been lovely these last couple of weekends to return and say a proper goodbye to you all. I will continue to hold you all in prayer through your time of vacancy. Thank you for continuing to pray for us in our new home and for me in my new chaplaincy role. The Oxford Academy truly needs your prayers, as do I, as I seek to offer spiritual support to both students and staff. With love and blessings to you, Kay & Andrew xx



Circle of Prayer

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

London Street: Hyacinth Ridguard; Betty Shipway; Tony and Gillian Patterson and family; Jean Young; Maggie Morgans and family; Jo Tremarco; Rob Williams; Sarah Williams; Barbara Banbury; Beverley Harris and family; Anne and Dick Davey; Victoria Paice and family, especially granddaughter, Alice; and friends and family of Joan Flint following Joan's passing. Revd Kay Blackwell, the staff and children of the Oxford Academy.

Tadley: Tadley: Christine Weaver; Martin; Kerry; Bill; Oliver, Linda and Sam; Rachel Eaves; Philip Ward.

Please also pray for Peter Pay known to many from the Synod.

A Thought for the Month

Getting back to 'normal', whatever that might be?

It has been a strange few weeks since we have apparently been loosed from all official restrictions and yet know that doesn't mean we can do what we like, or does it? Our 'normal' is not the same as others'. There are those who do or do not wear face masks; do or do not get up close; do or do not have to still stay with work or health constraint, who feel nearer the edge. In some ways there seems to be greater freedom and then in some ways less. We wonder what is safe, now we have been 'jabbed'. There is the promise of 'resuming activities' but what does that mean in the 'new

normal'? Do we have to ask the question how does my resuming 'my normal' impinge on others' present needs? Indeed should what we see as normal continue as it always was, maybe we have to consider whether it needs to change in some aspect to meet the needs of the present and future? We cannot stay where we are!

Matthew 5:13-16 *"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.*

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

It is very easy to lose ones saltiness and light when wrapped up in our own concerns and pressures, however right and good. The salt and light that Jesus is talking about is not our own but that which we absorb from Him, as we draw near to Him and his teaching, only then can we be salt and light. Then we can bring truth with love, a good dose of kindness, understanding, compassion, patience and a way forward to a better and workable 'new normal' for all.

Prayer:

Loving Lord Jesus you said we should be salt and light in this world. Help us to stay close to you, regardless of what is happening in our lives, that, we should know your presence and trust in your promises and teaching.

Help us to stay salty and strong,
Seeing your way of being, speaking and acting,
Even if it puts us out on a limb.

Lord, when we are tempted to stay in our safe accepted 'normal lives'
When we see how things should be different,
Give us courage to let your light shine through us,
And to speak of your mercy and goodness.

Amen.

Eco Tip:

When you've finished using your oven, open the door and let the warm air help to heat your home.

Memory Troubles?

LEST I FORGET



I thought that I should write to you before I go to bed.
For tomorrow I'll forget and write to someone else instead.

I'm used to my arthritis, to my dentures I'm resigned,
I can manage my bi-focals but how I miss my mind.

Sometimes I can't remember when I'm standing on the stair
If I'm going up for something or have just come down from there.

When I stand before the larder my mind is full of doubt.
Have I put some food away or come to get some out?

I go into the other room, intending to do — what?
I can't think for the life of me, already I've forgot.

But remember that I love you and wish that you lived near.
And now it's time I posted this and said goodnight my dear.

I'm standing by the post box and my face is ruby red,
For instead of posting this to you, I've opened it instead!

Anon

—o0o---

Dreams:

"In a famous verse in the book of Joel, God promises to pour out his Spirit...when 'your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions'.

"These ancient and evocative words are surprisingly close to modern reality, according to a survey of a representative sample of 500 people in Britain carried out for Unmissable Ltd, a company which has set out to offer its clients the chance to make their dreams come true. A questionnaire and focus group probed the respondents' dreams and fantasies.

"Among the findings were the ages at which people actually make lists of the things they dream of doing in their lives. Three people in every five have done this. The peak dreaming ages proved to be the very young and the seriously mature. Unsurprisingly, adolescence is the great age for making a wish list, with nearly 70% of under 24s writing down their life's goals.... The figures show that as people grow older the wish list is put away, but at 55 it comes out again, with 64% of people in this group keeping a list which is revised, updated and finally used as an agenda for the rest of life."

Celia Brayfield, *The Times*, 6th March 2001

From 'A Bucket of Surprises, J. John and Mark Stilbe, Monarch Books

LONDON STREET WELL-BEING WALKS

I expect many of you know about Basingstoke Council Well-being Walks, but I wonder if anyone would be interested in London Street's own Well-being Walks?

I am willing to co-ordinate 1-2 morning walks per week starting and ending at L.S.U.R.C. but we will need a volunteer leader and a volunteer deputy leader for each walk. The deputy will be needed for anyone who needs to be escorted back to the assembly point before the walk ends. I will obtain copies of the self-guided short walk routes and distribute to the walk leaders when needed. Arrangements for refreshments/lunch together can be organised. Maybe every 2 or 3 months transport could be booked for a visit to another area, perhaps at Old Meeting, Tadley?

If anyone is interested, please contact me on 350926 or e.mail jeanrayyoung@gmail.com and I will arrange a short meeting to discuss what your needs are and what you would like, e.g. Nature Walks, Tree Trails etc.

Blessings,
Jean Young.



10.30 Worship Rota for October:

	Preacher	Musician	Duty Elder	Steward
3 rd	<i>8.30 Prayer Breakfast in the Hook Room</i>			
	Revd Mike Burrell	Ian Rees	Keng Moavu	Liz
10 th	Peter Bentall	Joyce Cook	Keng Moavu	Ian S
17 th	Revd Julian Macro	Peter Dixon	May Honeyball	
24 th	Revd Chris Savage	Mark Best	May Honeyball	Christine R
31 st	World Mission Group	Mark Best	May Honeyball	

Storms

Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks?

The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm. It simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm.

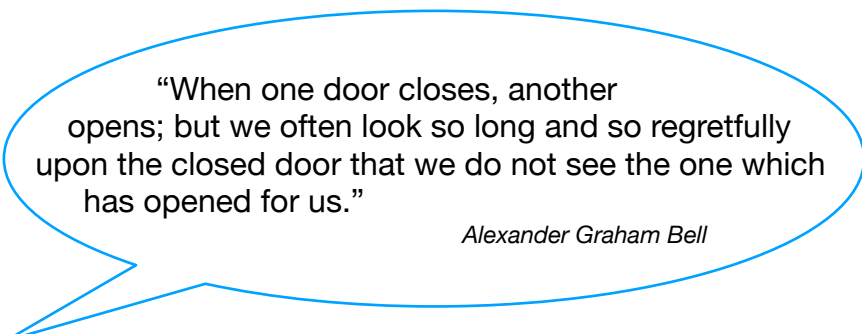
When the storms of life come upon us — and all of us will experience them — we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief towards God. The storms do not have to overcome us. We can allow God's power to lift us above them.

God enables us to ride the winds of the storm that bring sickness, tragedy, failure and disappointment in our lives. We can soar above the storm.

Remember, it is not the burdens of life that weigh us down, it is how we handle them.

The Bible says, *“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles.”*

Isaiah 40:31



“When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.”

Alexander Graham Bell

From a Bucket of Surprises

Bible Readings for October:

		Psalm	New Testament	
Fri	1 st	40:9-17	1 John	3
Sat	2 nd	71:14-24	Reflection	
Sun	3 rd	149	"	
Mon	4 th	41	1 John	4
Tue	5 th	72	"	5
Wed	6 th	150	2 John	1
Thu	7 th	1	3 John	1
Fri	8 th	108	1 Peter	1
Sat	9 th	2	Reflection	
Sun	10 th	42	"	
Mon	11 th	73:21-28	1 Peter	2
Tue	12 th	90	"	3
Wed	13 th	111	"	4
Thu	14 th	3	"	5
Fri	15 th	112	John	1
Sat	16 th	4	Reflection	
Sun	17 th	43	"	
Mon	18 th	74:12-23	John	2
Tue	19 th	91	"	3
Wed	20 th	113	"	4
Thu	21 st	5	"	5
Fri	22 nd	115	"	6
Sat	23 rd	6	Reflection	
Sun	24 th	46	"	
Mon	25 th	75	John	7
Tue	26 th	92	"	8
Wed	27 th	116	"	9
Thu	28 th	7:1-11	"	10
Fri	29 th	117/118:1-14	"	11
Sat	30 th	8	Reflection	
Sun	31 st	47	"	

Ffald-y-Brenin

The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary

Climate Change

Sunday 5th September was designated Climate Sunday, ahead of the UN's climate change conference, COP26, in Glasgow during November. How should we approach the challenge of climate change?

We have damaged God's creation: God delights in His creation: 'God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.' (Genesis 1:31). However, we have damaged this world and impacted people, created in His image. The burning of oil or gas and cutting down forests is increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. The global average temperature could increase by 1.5°C in 2030, resulting in significant damage to our planet. Already, increasing temperatures are melting ice caps, raising sea-levels, changing rainfall patterns and creating extreme climate events. It's the 70% of the world's poorest population who are being impacted most!

Hope is found in Jesus: He has an intimate knowledge of the workings of creation. 'For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.' (Colossians 1:16,17). Our hope for the future lies in what Jesus has done and continues to do in the world. He is the one who sustains creation and will bring everything to completion.

An invitation to respond: Simple everyday actions can help to sustain our planet, including recycling of waste, energy saving and changes in our lifestyle and diet to help the planet. We can fix our eyes on Jesus, as we pray for our world and for our world leaders, gathering in Glasgow, asking that they should reach a good agreement for the future of our world.

From Parish Pump

CAROL SERVICE ON DECEMBER 11th

London Street URC has always enjoyed singing especially at the Carols For All evenings. I wonder how many of you come along and at the end of the service think "I enjoyed that but my favourite was missing".

This year we are very lucky that Peter Dixon is coming to play the organ for us.

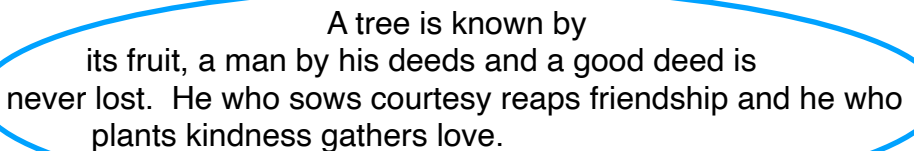
This is where your choice comes in. Near the end of October a form will be given to you to enter your three favourite carols that you would like to be included. Do not worry whether or not they are in the hymn book as I am sure we will find the words and music amongst our collection or on line. Perhaps you might like to add a reason why that carol is special to you.

These forms will come back to me near the end of November and we can collate the answers. Obviously the aim is to get a good balance of the whole story of Christmas with your choice.

So whichever Carols (Christmas Songs) are selected you will have had a chance of your favourite being one of those we sing if you fill in and return the form.

I aim to distribute the form by the end of October with a return deadline of 22nd November.

Joyce Cook.



A tree is known by
its fruit, a man by his deeds and a good deed is
never lost. He who sows courtesy reaps friendship and he who
plants kindness gathers love.

St Basil

For you to colour in:

LOOKING FOR
DIRECTION?

GOD SAID:

I WILL INSTRUCT
YOU & TEACH
YOU IN THE
WAY YOU
SHOULD GO

PSALM 32:8

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>	5.30pm	Beavers) IN TERM TIME
	6.30pm	Cubs) all in the Wessex Hall
	7.30pm	Scouts)
<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*

*Zoom invite code can be found on the church website www.basingstokeurc.org.uk

Diary - October, 2021

(at London Street, unless otherwise stated)

Sun 3 rd	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast in the Hook Room
	10.30am	Harvest Festival, led by Revd Mike Burrell
Sun 10 th	10.30am	Worship, led by Peter Bentall
Sun 17 th	10.30am	Worship, led by Revd Julian Macro
Deadline for articles for November FOCUS		
Wed 20 th	10.15pm	3Cs
Sun 24 th	10.30am	Worship led by Revd Chris Savage
Sun 31 st	2.00am	British Summer Time Ends
	10.30am	Worship led by World Mission Group

TADLEY

On 3rd October at 10.30am - Worship with Tadley Community Church at The Link.

REGULAR EVENTS AT TADLEY:

Other regular activities from September -

Monday evening Cell group - contact Mark Ward or Paul Gross for details

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.

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