



London Street

United Reformed Church

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



FOCUS
October 2016

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - www.londonstreeturc.org.uk

MINISTER:

Revd Kay Blackwell (*Day off - Monday*)
6 Camberry Close
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Tel: Vestry - 01256 242152
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CHURCH SECRETARY:

Mr Owen Collins
15 Cyprus Road
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TREASURER:

Karen Bell
47 Tobago Close, Popley,
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FOCUS:

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1208 Skyline Plaza, Alencon Link,
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Tadley (Old Meeting) URC

10.30 every Sunday

“TASTE” Youth Event at 7pm in the Immanuel Centre

Minister:

Revd Kay Blackwell

Church Secretary:

Paul Gross
22 Pelican Road, Pamber Heath RG26 3EN
Tel: 0118 970 0809
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10 Hartleys, Silchester, Reading RG7 2QE
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View from the Manse:

*The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.'*
(Numbers 6:24-26)

Over my holiday, one of the books I read was 'The Promise of Blessings' by Kate Patterson. I do commend this book to you, it is an easy read but contains much to challenge you. The blessing from the book of Numbers (shown above and known as the Aaronic Blessing) is one that I frequently use. Patterson reminds us that this was the blessing that Aaron the priest (brother to Moses) was instructed to speak over the Israelites by God. He was to use this blessing, but not over a people who were on a great spiritual high, and nor was he a priest of great holiness. In the absence of Moses (who was busy communing with God on the mountain) Aaron had permitted, even facilitated, the people to create a golden calf to worship in order to replace the apparently no longer present leader or God. The Israelites were in the desert after their miraculous and God-led exodus from Slavery in Egypt through Moses. What short memories people can have. So ready to rant against God in the bad times, worship God in the spiritually mountain-top moments then quick to give up in the spiritually desert-like moments. How quick are we to create our own golden calves that distract our energies and attention from what really matters. Aaron had made a big mistake in allowing the people to create their golden calf sculpture. The Israelites had made a big mistake in failing to truly trust in God. Yet even though both Aaron and the people found themselves, through their own disobedience, in this physical and now spiritual desert, God provided them with this greatest and most extravagant of Blessings, the Aaronic blessing, or as Patterson calls it, the shining blessing. God continues 'So I will put my name on them and I will bless them' (Numbers 6: 27). God blesses God's people that they may, in turn, bless others. God's blessing on us is not earned or necessarily deserved but comes when we yield to God. God's Blessing on the Israelites prepared them for the future promised land.

God creates and God desires to bless all that God has created. God blessed Adam and Eve, Noah, Abram and Sarai, Moses and Aaron, the Israelites, Joshua, Solomon, King David and Mary (Mother of Jesus). At the birth of Jesus, God's intent was that all would become heirs of that blessing given to Aaron. Jesus continues to bless us on a daily basis (our daily bread) in order that we become a blessing to others.

This world sometimes seems such a dark and broken place where so many walk through life feeling torn, broken and lost. Jesus came into such a world. Jesus came to bring hope and light into this world. To bless us in turn that we should bless one another and the world. When we choose to follow Jesus we become part of the priesthood of all believers and, as priests, we are given the authority to bless, just like Aaron, despite our own personal inadequacies. Words can be used to build up or knock down, words have power. When words are spoken in the authority of the name of Christ they are significant words, life changing words indeed.

Over the forthcoming year we will be thinking hard about our call to become disciples of Christ and what that really means in thought and deed. I was reminded the other day that the plural of disciples is 'church'. When we come *into* faith we come *into* community, for which the community of Father, Son and Holy Spirit is our role model. We are here to be blessed and bless the people around us, the communities in which we sit. So let us study alongside one another, led by the Holy Spirit, so that we may fully grasp Jesus' call on our individual lives and our church communities. May we love one another as Jesus loves us. Bless one another as Jesus blesses us. May we be a symbol, a signpost, to the kingdom of God yet to come in full.

Yours in Christ, Kay

Training courses and learning events for the Autumn term

- From Wed 21st Sept to 16th Nov (8 weeks excluding 26th Oct) 1.30-3pm weekly at London Street URC 'Christianity Explored' course (possibly with an away day on Frid 11th Nov). Please contact Kay ASAP on tel: 01256 242152 or revkblackwell@gmail.com to register as study books need to be ordered.
- 'Paracletis' discipleship course from Thurs 29th Sept to 10th Nov (6 weeks excluding 27th Oct) 7.30 pm weekly at London Street URC. Please contact Kay ASAP on tel: 01256 242152 or revkblackwell@gmail.com to register as study books need to be ordered.
- 'Who Cares' (ecumenical mission initiative) launch celebration 8th October 2016, 7:30 pm at the Richard Aldworth School in Basingstoke . See church notice board for sign up details.
- Ffold-y-Brenin house of prayer training at St. Leonard's, Oakley on Saturday 14th January 2017 (time to be confirmed).

CIRCLE OF PRAYER:



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

Short Term: *Chris Ayland; Kay Blackwell and family; Owen Collins and family; Kay Cook; May Honeyball and family; Ron and Rosemary Martin; Richard Morgans; Joy Williams; Katherine Witts (daughter of Sara Williams).*

Long Term: *Christine and Tony Addis; Judith Best (mother of Mark Best); Annette Bowers (daughter of Sheila Munro); Beverley Cantwell; Peter Dixon and family; Morag Hill; Christine and Ron Holt; Marian Kenward; Maggie Morgans and family; Rachel Patterson; Hyacinth and Eaton Ridguard; Helen Rolton; Molly Shaw; Betty Shipway; Gwen Simms (mother of Tina Digweed); Joyce Smith; Fay Spurr; Chris and Suzanne Tolley.*

It is with great sadness that we hear that Rachel Walker, granddaughter of Les and Iris Wenham, passed away on 31st August. Please remember the family in your prayers.



We thank everyone for their cards, kind words and prayers following the recent death of our lovely granddaughter Rachel. All were very much appreciated. Iris and Les.

Prayer Focus

Matthew 24 vv 31 46 “.....Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? The King will reply ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine you did it for me’”

What a cosmopolitan town Basingstoke has become! One cannot walk down the street, go into shop, ride on a bus or stand in a queue without hearing a foreign language. Reliable sources report that there are at least 73 different ones on record as being spoken here in this town. How many people that represents I have no idea but they will include people of all

ages - singles, couples and families, some fluent in English but many only knowing enough to just about get by and some knowing none at all. Imagine being a child or an elderly person and finding yourselves in a strange country, with a different culture and being unable to understand or speak the language. Imagine how a child with no English might feel starting school and imagine how lonely it must be for adults, especially the elderly, finding it difficult or impossible to adjust to the different culture. People come to our town for many different reasons and most have not experienced the freedom, peace, tolerance or standard of living that we almost take for granted. Their behaviour and our own is conditioned by the environment in which we live so it isn't easy to break the ice and make contact but the week October 23rd - 30th is designated as One World Week - may it be an opportunity for this church to learn more and welcome the folk from overseas who have come to Basingstoke to live. Spare a thought also for those who long to come here and for whom provision awaits but red tape prevents it happening.

Just as we cannot avoid noticing the foreigners in our midst so too we cannot avoid seeing the homeless and the addicts on the streets. The Food Bank regularly makes us aware of the many in this town who are hungry, poor, jobless or between jobs with no benefit coming in and also the many with long term health problems. A current prayer list is available from the Church Secretary. The Food Bank also is a way for us to give ongoing practical help and prayer for them. The box is in the Concourse.

Focus for Prayer:

- That opportunities will arise for us as individuals and as a church to be friendly and welcoming to those new to our shores.
- For those with little or no English - the children starting school.
- For the older couples and especially the wives.
- For the families being supported back home by those here to work.
- For the quota of Syrian refugees coming to this country to be expedited.
- For the Food Bank - its helpers, clients and donors.
- For the work of the Inter Faith Group.

Happy 🕯️ Birthday

Iris Wenham, 85 years on 7 October

Beryl Gazard, 88 years on 19 October

Jamie Richards, 16 years on 20 October

Grace Springthorpe, 93 years on 23 October

Esther McElvenny, 15 years on 26 October

Vernon Blight, 89 years on 28 October



Congratulations and Best Wishes

to

Ron and Rosemary Martin who
celebrate their Golden Wedding
on 29th October.



They are celebrating this milestone on Saturday 5th November with a service of blessing in the Church at 2.30pm followed by refreshments in the Hook Room and Concourse. All friends welcome.

Show You Care is the challenge being presented by Traidcraft this autumn. It is based on the idea that everyone might choose to make more of their regular grocery purchases 'FairTrade', and of course, preferably buy from Traidcraft. Fairly traded goods may cost a little more than regular equivalents but that little bit more makes an enormous difference to the suppliers. Through the fair trade premium the growers are able to work themselves out of poverty and to build sustainable livelihoods for themselves and families. Fair trade through Traidcraft is different and special. Traidcraft works with those suppliers who are beyond the reach of supermarket fair trade contracts, helping them to develop their skills and product quality. The training often comes from the charitable arm of Traidcraft called Traidcraft Exchange. Please see what you might be able to buy regularly from the stall, and if there is something in the catalogue that you want to buy we can get it and you won't pay postage.

John and Margaret.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Not a very inspiring topic I admit, but nevertheless a topic that impacts on each and everyone of us. All churches have a number of legal obligations that they must comply with. Elders' meeting will ensure that London St. comply with such obligations, but everyone who uses London St. (AND THAT INCLUDES YOU) has a responsibility to co-operate with each other in ensuring that such obligations are adhered to. When it comes to matters of Health and Safety for example, everyone using our premises has a responsibility to take reasonable care of themselves and others.

Elders' meeting have arranged for Chris Evans from the Wessex Synod to come and speak to us about our legal obligations and answer any concerns we may have. The meeting will take place in the Hook Room on Wednesday 9th November, 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. The meeting will finish at 9.00pm. Tea, coffee and cake will be served from 6.30pm.

Please make every effort to attend. Thank you. Owen.



CORE Skills Training

The aim of CORE is to develop and extend key skills for children's ministry, and aspects of youth ministry.

- Date:** Saturday 5 November 2016
Time: 2pm - 4.30pm (arrivals from 1.30pm)
Venue: Petersfield URC
College Street, Petersfield, GU31 2AG
Trainer: Ruth White
Children's & Youth Development Officer
Wessex—South

The session being covered is:

All Age and Family Ministry

The aim is to explore ways of working with families in the church and to explore all age worship ideas.

There will be lots of resources and practical ideas.

For more information and to book your place, please contact:

Ruth Heine
URC Wessex Synod
bookings@urcwessex.org.uk
023 8067 4513

Flower Rota -



Oct 2nd HARVEST

9 th	Pat Oakley
16 th	Alison Jamieson
23 rd	Karen Bell
30 th	Joan Flint

Harvest Festival

The Church will be open on Saturday 1st October from 10.00 to 13.00 to enable people to decorate the windowsills.

Liz Lindsay

CHARITIES CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

SATURDAY 1ST OCTOBER

9.30am - 2.30pm in the CONCOURSE



It's time once again for the Charities Christmas

- Card Sale to be held at London Street; St Michael's Hospice,
- Christian Aid and Traidcraft, Wessex Cancer Trust, RNLI, Holdsworth
- Memorial Hospital and WWF will all be there with a wide selection of
- cards and small gifts.
- Refreshments will be available all day so do come along with your
- friends and enjoy a coffee or light lunch and help to support these
- excellent Charities.

Les and Iris Wenham thank all those who sent cards to them on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding on 8th September. They were all very much appreciated.

ATTENTION KNITTERS OF SQUARES

Further to my note in last month's Focus we now have a volunteer to sew up squares so you can all carry on knitting. Christine Williams (Rob's wife) has kindly volunteered to take on the sewing up. Please pass your completed squares to Rob, or to me, and we will ensure Christine gets them. May Place will be very grateful for any contribution we make. Thanks to Christine for taking on this task. Any other volunteers would be appreciated.

Isobel Martin

Daily Bible Readings for October:

<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	
1 st 30	Reflection		2 nd	Reflection	
3 rd 61	1 John	4	4 th 89:14-29	1 John	5
5 th 103	2 John	1	6 th 135	3 John	1
7 th 31:1-10	1 Peter	1	8 th 138	Reflection	
9 th	Reflection		10 th 31:11-24	1 Peter	2
11 th 62	1 Peter	3	12 th 104:24-35	"	4
13 th 139	"	5	14 th 32	John	1
15 th 63	Reflection		16 th	Reflection	
17 th 140	John	2	18 th 33:1-12	John	3
19 th 65	"	4	20 th 141	"	5
21 st 33:13-22	"	6	22 nd 66	Reflection	
23 rd	Reflection		24 th 105:1-11	John	7
25 th 34:1-10	John	8	26 th 67	"	9
27 th 143	"	10	28 th 34:11-22		11
29 th 68:1-10	Reflection		30 th	Reflection	
31 st 144	John	12			

Memories of Barbara Dixon.

Our memories of Barbara might be summed up by 4 'F's:- Family, Food, Flowers, and Friends. She looked after Peter, Anthony and Matthew with great care, making sure that she fulfilled her rôle of wife and mother diligently. She was a good cook and we have enjoyed meals that she prepared, always with thought for balance of flavours etc., and always cooked to delight her guests. Barbara was conscientious and had a very practical outlook, which meant that she became a valued staff member at Simmons and Sons where she worked after her sons had grown old enough. In church, if we noticed that the flowers were especially splendid, there was a good chance that Barbara had arranged them. In social gatherings Barbara would be smiling and always had a group of friends around her. She had a clear sense of right and wrong, and was quite capable of speaking up if she felt something needed saying, particularly if she perceived an injustice. Later in life Barbara dealt with her health issues with a positive approach and determination. A cheerful, caring and generous person who will be much missed.

John and Margaret Carrick Smith

Dates to note at London Street, unless otherwise stated:

October:

Sat	1 st	10.00am – 1.00pm	Church open for Harvest Decoration till
Sun	2 nd	8.30am 10.30am	Prayer Breakfast led by Ian and Jenny McCloy Harvest Festival Worship – led by The Minister
Wed	5 th	1.30pm	Christianity Explored course
Thu	6 th	7.30pm	Paraclesis course
Sun	9 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Rev John Whitton
Wed	12 th	1.30pm 7.30pm	Christianity Explored course Elders' Meeting
Thu	13 th	7.30pm	Paraclesis course
Sun	16 th	10.30am	Worship (including Holy Communion) – led by The Minister
Wed	19 th	10.15am 1.30pm	3Cs Christianity Explored course
Thu	20 th	3-5.30pm 7.30pm	Last day for Youth Café (School Break) Paraclesis course
Sun	23 rd	10.30am 12 noon	Worship – led by the Minister, followed at by extra Church Meeting
23rd – 30th		ONE WORLD WEEK	
Thu	27 th	2.15pm	Friendship Hour - TBA – All welcome
Sat	29 th		One World Week Café
Sun	30 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Mark Ward

Preachers for October for Tadley

- Sun 2nd - Andy Dickens
- Sun 9th - Rev Kay Blackwell
- Sun 16th - TBC
- Sun 23rd - Mel Euerby
- Sun 30th - Penny O'Bea
- Sun 6th - Brian Baldwin

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 : **November FOCUS:** Articles for the November :
 : FOCUS should be with Christine Robertson by the end of :
 : **Sunday, 16th October.** :
 :

Regular Weekly Events and Meetings
(at London Street unless otherwise stated)

The Sanctuary is open for prayers every weekday from 9.30 to 10am and again from 12.15 to 12.30pm

Mondays:

10am-1.30pm

10.15am

2.30-4pm

OASIS Café in the Concourse

Craft Group

HOME GROUP normally at 39 New Road:

prayer time, Bible exploration and fellowship

3-5.30pm in

Term Time

Youth Café for secondary school and

college students

Tuesdays:

10am-1.30pm

10am-12 noon

3-5.30pm in

Term Time

OASIS Café in the Concourse

'LITTLE ANGELS' pre-school Club (Term time)

Youth Café for secondary school and

college students

5.45pm

7pm

7pm

7-8.00pm

(BEAVER SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Colony

(CUB SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Pack

(SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Troop

PRAYER MEETING at Tadley URC or St Paul's

Wednesdays:

10am-1.30pm

10.30-12 noon

10.15-11.30am

12.30

3-5.30pm in

Term Time

OASIS Café in the Concourse

MEMORY TREE SOCIAL CLUB

3Cs on 3rd Wednesday of each month

Lunch time worship and prayer meeting

Youth Café for secondary school and

college students

Thursdays:

10am-1.30pm

9.30-11.30am

10-11.30am

OASIS Café in the Concourse

TADLEY LITTLE ANGELS in the Immanuel Centre

*CCBBies Parent and Toddler Group at Christ Church,
Chineham*

2.30-3.30pm

3-6pm in

Term Time

FRIENDSHIP HOUR — 4th Thursday of each month

Youth Café for secondary school and

college students

Fridays:

8-9.30pm

TGIF Youth Club at Christ Church, Chineham

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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