



London Street

United Reformed Church

BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE RG21 7NU

and

TADLEY (OLD MEETING) URC



Focus
September, 2018

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - www.basingstokeurc.org.uk

MINISTER:

Revd Kay Blackwell *(Day off - Monday)*
6 Camberry Close
Basingstoke RG21 3AG
Tel: Vestry - 01256 242152
Mobile - 07582 056286
e.mail - revkblackwell@gmail.com

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
47 Tobago Close, Popley,
Basingstoke RG24 9PX
e.mail - lsurctreasurer@yahoo.com

HALL LETTING:

Mrs Joy Williams
9 Montague Place
Basingstoke RG21 3DS
Tel: 01256 326746
e.mail - bookingslsurc@gmail.com

FOCUS:

Mrs Christine Robertson
1208 Skyline Plaza, Alencon Link,
Basingstoke RG21 7AZ
Tel: 01256 869968
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:

Revd Kay Blackwell

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

View from the manse:

‘Then [Jesus] said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.”’

(Matthew 9:37-38)

It is hard to believe that we are approaching another harvest already! First let us spare a thought for the farmers. The weather conditions have been challenging for those who grow our food. The long wet period at the end of 2017, the extended hard winter with periods of thick snow ending with the ‘beast from the East’ in March 2018, then the lack of rain and soaring temperatures of June, July and August, have all combined to make the harvest, and farming in general, very hard. Our weather patterns, both here and around the world, seem to be less predictable and more erratic as freakish weather events strike. From severe droughts to overwhelming rains, we are at the mercy of the weather no matter how much we think we have learnt to master God’s creation. As August gives way to September, the farmers race to bring in what harvest they have, before the weather changes and rain arrives. I am sure that every year the farmers feel like ‘the harvest is plentiful yet the labourers are few’.

So where are we in our Church life? Well, September starts with some exciting events in the Church calendar! On Sunday 9th at 3pm we will be holding a full immersion adult baptism service at Tadley Immanuel Centre for David Waller and Jason Dudley (from London Street) and Louise Waller will go through a re-dedication of her baptismal vows. Please come and support them on this special day if you are able to. We will have tea together afterwards provided by the café team.

On the following Sunday, 16th September, in the 10.30 service at London Street, we will be holding a membership service, bringing many new folk (around 10!) into membership. Again, please come to support our new members on their journey of faith and help them to feel truly welcomed into our family of fellowship.

On Sunday 30th September London Street will hold its harvest parade service, so if you are able come to help decorate the church with harvest goodies on the morning of Saturday 29th (In the afternoon of 29th September we will have Top of Town Messy Church too!). In the evening of Sunday 30th September One Church Basingstoke will be holding a prayer event at London Street URC for the national week of ecumenical prayer (see p.12). Please come and be part of this prayer for the town. I believe that praying together for our locality is a significant and important act. Prayer has to be foundational to all that we do, as does our willingness to work in unity with our brothers and sisters from other churches in ecumenical partnership.

Finally, on Sunday 7th October John Proctor, who is General Secretary of the United Reformed Church, will be coming to preach and we will have a church lunch on that day. I am sure that John will have interesting things to say. He is a brilliant New Testament scholar, so please book this in your diary too.....and come with a note pad ready to learn!

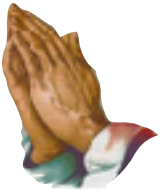
The Youth Café is growing too. This coming term we plan to open for an additional afternoon, on Fridays. This additional day will be Youth Café + (that is plus God) we will invite the young people to come and share in a meal and learn about the Christian faith in this session.

In Tadley we are just recovering from running the Churches together Holiday club for 53 children which was very successful this year and already the dates and themes have been booked into the 2019 diary! We completed an ecumenically run Alpha just before the summer term ended and Julie and Mark Ward will be running an Alpha marriage course in the autumn. Apart from this they are now also coordinating a monthly Sunday roast club for the Church congregation.

“The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.”

Let us pray together for more labourers, for God’s harvest is plentiful indeed! There is much to do, but together God is, I believe, leading us to his bountiful harvest.

Yours in Christ, Kay



CIRCLE OF PRAYER:

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

Short Term: Jane Budd (sister of Ian Rees); Tish Catterall; David Corfield; Aubrey Dommett (granddaughter of Beverley Cantwell); Sally Friday; Christine and Ron Holt; Claire Macro; Perveez Mirza and family; Roger Pike; Doina Rasnita; Ian Rees; Christine Williams.

Long Term: Beverley Cantwell; Christine and Eric Clucas and grandson, Colm McCulloch; Penny Dilley; Gus and Noorie Khatkur; Ron and Rosemary Martin; Maggie Morgans and family; Sheila Munro; Patterson family; Molly Shaw; Betty Shipway; Fay Spurr; Frank Tovey; Louise Waller; Les Wenham and family; Sarah Williams and her daughter, Katherine Witts.

REMEMBRANCE:

Please hold in your prayers —

Les Wenham and family on the death of his wife, Iris, on 13th July.

Les writes — ‘My grateful thanks to all the friends who sent cards and messages of condolence on the recent death of Iris.’

Sheila Munro on the death of her daughter, Annette Bowers, on 27th July

Sheila writes — ‘Thanks you to those at London Street who sent messages of goodwill to Annette whilst she was ill and subsequently the messages of condolences and flowers.’

Prayer Focus:

John 10 : 10

Life is often described as a journey full of experiences, some common to all and others unique to us as individuals. Choices are made; there are chance meetings that have lifelong consequences. We follow the activities that interest us and the people who we feel comfortable with or who challenge us. We put effort into the activities that we want to get better at; and out of this comes, we hope, a mature, well rounded, balanced person surrounded by loving family and friends and the knowledge of a reasonably

'successful' life. Well, that's what most people would hope for isn't it? And nothing wrong with that.

For the Christian it could look like that too except we have been called to a more exciting journey into the unknown. In our calling and acceptance we have committed ourselves to be Jesus' disciples. To be willing to say 'yes' to going where he sends us, mixing with people he brings to us, acknowledging and living in beliefs and views that a large part of the population would find difficult and never to experience Retirement! Yet, as we commit to follow Him, he has promised us life in all its fullness. There is so much more to learn and experience in our life with Him. We may not feel we are up to this but, as He has promised, He will meet our needs on a daily basis. There is so much more to the Christian life than the ordinary secular life, as many Christians can bear witness to. So courage; let us take each day as it comes and keep close to Him.

P.S. Even better if we do this together to encourage and support each other.

Dear Lord, you gave your all and carried all that is wrong, sinful and hateful about mankind to the cross. We ask for forgiveness and desire to follow you for you have the words of life and truth and wholeness. We ask that you will give us seeing eyes and hearing ears that we may be attentive to your voice and a willing spirit. And we ask that you will be patient as we can be slow to learn. Amen

Flower Rota -

September:

2 nd	Leslie Harriman
9 th	Les Wenham
16 th	Sheila Munro
23 rd	Christine Robertson
30 th	Pat Oakley



Daily Bible Readings - September:

<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>
1st 62	Reflection	16th 34:11-22	Reflection
2nd 104:24-35	"	17th 68:1-10	1 Timothy 6
3rd 139	2 Corinthians 9	18th 144	2 Timothy 1
4th 32	" 10	19th 36:5-12	" 2
5th 63	" 11	20th 68:28-35	" 3
6th 140	" 12	21st 145	" 4
7th 33:1-12	" 13	22nd 38	Reflection
8th 65	Reflection	23rd 69	"
9th 141	"	24th 146	Titus 1
10th 33:13-22	1 Timothy 1	25th 107	" 2
11th 66	" 2	26th 70	" 3
12th 105:1-11	" 3	27th 147	1 John 1
13th 34:1-10	" 4	28th 40:1-8	" 2
14th 67	" 5	29th 71:1-13	Reflection
15th 143	Reflection	30th 148	"

ELECTION OF ELDERS

We shall shortly be considering the nomination and election of members to be called to serve as elders. Being an elder is a ministry to which a church member is called by God. This call can come through you as a church member when considering another for nomination and election because of what you discern about that person.

Procedure for nomination and election as provided for by the constitution of London Street

Church meeting shall determine the maximum number of elders whose election is sought. A list of those eligible to serve as elders shall be handed to those on the current church roll. Each member will be entitled to nominate up to two more church members than the maximum to be elected. All those nominated by at least 4% of church members shall be considered validly nominated. They will be visited to ascertain whether they are willing to accept nomination.

All of those who have accepted nomination shall be listed on a ballot paper, which will be made available to all on the current church roll, for election to serve as an elder for a term of 3 years. The ballot shall normally take place at the November church meeting.

What does it mean to be an elder at London Street and within the United Reformed Church?

Being an elder means that a church member has been called to be part of a 'team', since an elder is someone who joins with others to form the Elders' meeting of London Street. It is important though to remember that in accepting a call to serve as an elder, that person is not just an elder of London Street but an elder of the United Reformed Church. A person can only be nominated for eldership if they are on the church roll of members for a minimum of 12 months. As a church member they will have an understanding of the constitutions of the United Reformed Church and that of London Street.

What does an elder do?

The functions of eldership in the United Reformed Church have been laid down in the Basis of Union. The list appears daunting. They include ensuring that public worship is regularly offered and the sacraments are duly administered, to ensuring pastoral care for the congregation; to be responsible for the institution and oversight of work among children and young people, to recommending to the church meeting arrangements for the proper maintenance of buildings and general oversight of all financial responsibilities.

Who do you see as being called to carry out these functions?

Your current eldership is, as a team, already fulfilling the functions of eldership to a greater or lesser extent. When nominating or electing a person to serve as an elder, you are being asked to consider prayerfully who God is seeking to join them in continuing with this work. When praying you are not seeking to find an individual who is gifted in all the functions of eldership. This is collective work. Some responsibilities are ongoing, others are more dependent on circumstances. Some may be done by small groups, some by everyone.

An elder is no different from any other church member in that we are all called to develop and grow in faith, through prayer, worship, sacraments

and learning. The call to eldership is a renewed call to these things as well. So the faith required is the same faith that makes us a Christian. But, at times we all feel lacking in faith, or commitment, or ability. We all feel inadequate in our various callings and service to the church. That is when we need the support and the faith of the rest of the church around us, as well as the grace of God. That is why it is so important to take your time through prayer when considering who to nominate and elect as an elder.

Thank you, Owen.

—oOo—

Visit of General Secretary

I'm very pleased to inform you that the URC General Secretary, Revd John Proctor, will be sharing morning worship at London Street on Sunday 7th October 2018. It is expected that a number of visitors from the synod will attend.

As General Secretary, John is responsible for maintaining a strategic overview of the development, order, and wellbeing of the URC. This involves being an ex officio member of all the committees, liaising regularly with the synods through their moderators and clerks, and working to ensure the vibrant health of the councils of the Church, significantly General Assembly. John is also responsible for enabling the Assembly-appointed staff to work together collaboratively. He takes a personal role in fostering healthy relationships with partner churches at home and abroad.

John has spent many years studying the New Testament and teaching at Westminster College, Cambridge, and has written a number of books which are available to purchase on the main site for the URC:

www.urc.org.uk

We shall have the opportunity after the service to enjoy a meal together. To help with catering please sign the form on the church notice board.

Thank you, Owen.

'The only thing I know about love is that love is all there is...Love can do all but raise the dead.'

Author unknown

Oberammergau Passion Play 2020

Oberammergau in Bavaria is known throughout the world for its 'Passion Play', which has been performed (almost) every ten years since 1634. The next production will take place in 2020.

In 1632 the bubonic plague swept through the village of Oberammergau and by 1633 nearly everyone had experienced a death in the family. The villagers made a sacred vow that if God would protect them from more deaths, every ten years they would perform a 'Passion Play' depicting the suffering and last days of Christ, to be held in the town's cemetery. Their prayers were answered and on Pentecost 1634 the population of Oberammergau performed the first 'Play of suffering, crucifixion and revival of our Lord Jesus Christ' on a stage which was built at the cemetery, directly over the graves of those who died of the plague. The performance combined material from two other plays; a passion play from the second half of the 15th century and a Christian Reformation Tragedy by the Mastersinger, Sebastian Wild of Augsburg. It covered the final period of Christ's life, from his journey through Jerusalem to his crucifixion.

The production is a formidable joint effort by the whole village. For the 2020 production planning will begin in February 2019, when the residents of Oberammergau will grow their hair long and men will stop trimming their beards. Those wishing to play lead roles such as Jesus or Mary will defer marriage, to conform to the original casting traditions.

In April 2019 the actors will be announced and at the beginning of November more than 2,000 residents will work on their scenes with the director. Separately, the musical director together with 120 choir members and 70 members of the orchestra will practise and polish the musical compositions of the composer, Rochus Dedler of Oberammergau. Many of those who have seen the Passion Play are astonished by the powerful role that music plays within the performance. Almost a third of the five and half hour performance is taken up by musical compositions, almost equivalent to a complete oratorio.

This meticulous preparation over 12 months is carried out in order to accomplish what the Evangelist Luke described in his Gospel: "And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home beating their breasts."

Want to know more? I know of two people at London Street who have seen the Passion Play - Peter Bentall and Gill Miller. They would be delighted to share their experiences with you.

Want to see the Passion Play in 2020? The play is repeated over May to September 2020 and there are details of a trip to see the play on the notice board which is organised by a Christian travel agency. There are of course a number of companies which can be found on the internet. You do need to book now though as tickets do sell very quickly. You don't want to wait until 2030!

—oOo—

Jenny McCloy shares the following letter (dated 23rd July) from Andy Braunston, Coordinator of Daily Devotions from the URC Project:

The Apostles' Creed

Dear Jenny

I hope you found our journey through Titus rewarding and that you feel you know this Epistle better than before.

Our next series looks, in detail, at the Apostles' Creed. The URC upholds, amongst others, the Apostles' Creed. We tend only to use it during baptismal services which is a shame. Other traditions recite it more often as part of Sunday worship.

The Creed is a basic statement of Christian belief. It is first mentioned in the year 390 and note is then made of it being old and venerable. It was once believed to have been composed by the Apostles themselves but that belief is unlikely. Instead, it seems to have come from the Early Church as a simple statement of Christian belief. In Calvin's Geneva this was one of the things that he ensured people learnt and he, and his pastors, expounded upon. It's not a bad discipline for us now. We will spend the next two weeks looking at each clause, the Scriptures behind it and reflect on it as a help for everyday discipleship.

If you enjoy these devotions - share them with others! Forward the email to friends who you think might like to read them, ask your newsletter editor to plug them in your church newsletter. People can read old ones and sign up for the current ones via devotions.urc.org.uk.

National Prayer Weekend



28-30 September 2018

Your prayers
Impacting **your** street
Affecting **your** community

We know that God can do immeasurably more
than we can even imagine...

Prayer Evening

Sunday 30th September

7.00 pm - 8.30 pm

London Street United Reformed Church

Come and join us as we pray for our town

For further details see www.onechurchbasingstoke.org/



Get involved with the National Prayer Weekend 2018
and bring God's love to your community


national-prayer-weekend.com

Find us  and follow us  @NPWtogether

CWR Applying God's Word
to everyday life and relationships

evangelical alliance
better together

HOPE
in our villages, towns & cities

 **24-7 PRAYER**

 **Prayer Across
the Streets**

 **Neighbourhood
PRAYER.NET**



Navigating Life Together

Life Skills for Couples



Navigating Life together as a couple can be both exciting and exhilarating. In today's hectic, 'roller-coaster' world, committed, loving relationships offer us all a safe-haven in which to find fulfilment and fun!

This course offers the life skills to couples, old or young, in which to discover and develop the special intimacy of a truly close relationship. Suitable for married and co-habiting couples alike, 'The Marriage Course' is a series of seven sessions, designed to help you invest in your relationship and get more out of it.

The course was developed by Nicky and Sila Lee (authors of the book 'The Marriage Course') to provide couples with practical, intelligent support to assist and enable them to strengthen and develop their relationship. The course will help you build strong foundations together, learn to communicate more effectively and resolve differences with a positive approach to problem solving. Discover the 'tips' and 'tricks' of enhancing your relationship.



The next course starts Wednesday 10th October for 7 weeks in Tadley, Nr Basingstoke, Hants, RG26 3NY

For more details or to reserve a place contact:

Mark & Julie Ward, 0118 9701125, mandjward@hotmail.co.uk

Paul & Janet Gross, 0118 9700809, paulgross3107@gmail.com

ECO TIP

Shun chemical-containing 'air fresheners', make use of natural more satisfying aromas instead; such as pot pourri, lavender, herbs - or fresh bread and coffee.

**God's Gift – Our World
Our Environment – Our Responsibility**

Charities Christmas Card Sale

Saturday 6th October

9.30am till 2.30pm in the Concourse

A warm invitation to you all to visit the Charities Christmas Card Sale when a number of Charities will have a wide selection of Christmas cards and small gifts for sale. The charities include Christian Aid and Traidcraft, RNLI, St Michael's Hospice, Holdsworth Hospital in South India and several others

Refreshments will be available all day including light lunches.
Look forward to seeing you then.

Many thanks
Elspeth Anthony

Congratulations and best Wishes

to Daniel Bentall on attaining 3 'A' grades in his exams, taking him off to Leeds University

and to

Evie Ayland who is going to Southampton to do a Master's in Law!

September Diary

at London Street, unless otherwise stated

Sun	2 nd	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast
		10.30am	Worship – led by Melanie Townsend
Wed	5 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Sat	8 th	3.00pm	50 th Anniversary of Revd Julian Macro's Ordination
Sun	9 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Peter Bentall
		3.00pm	Service of Adult Baptism at Tadley - led by The Minister
Mon	10 th	Oasis and Youth Cafés re-open	
Wed	12 th	7.30pm	Church Meeting
Fri	14 th	7.30pm	Messy Church planning meeting
Sun	16 th	10.30am	Membership Service – led by The Minister and including Holy Communion
DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR OCTOBER FOCUS			
Wed	19 th	10.15am	3C's (Coffee, Chat, Company) in the Oasis Café – All welcome
Sat	22 nd	9.30am - 4.00pm	Elders' Training
Sun	23 rd	10.30am	Worship – led by The Minister
Sat	29 th	10.00am - 1pm	Decoration of Church for Harvest
		3.30pm	Top of Town Messy Church
Sun	30 th	10.30am	Worship - Harvest Festival led by The Minister
		7.00pm	Ecumenical Evening of Prayer

On Sunday 11th November we will have our Service of Remembrance, led by Revd Kay Blackwell. If you have served in the Armed Forces or have connections with the Armed Forces and would like to take part in the service, please let Kay know. Kay will source the material for you.

Sunday Services at Old Meeting, Tadley

September	<u>Preachers</u>	<u>Welcome</u>
2 nd	Philip Jones	Ena and George
9 th	Revd Kay Blackwell	Mandy and Dave
16 th	Peter Bentall	Beryl and Steve
23 rd	Mark Ward	Elaine and Brian
30 th	Rob Lloyd	TBA

Regular 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**

Monday's:

10am-1.30pm	OASIS Café in the Concourse
10.15am	Craft Group
2.30-4pm	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

Tuesday's:

10am-1.30pm	OASIS Café in the Concourse
10am-12 noon	'LITTLE ANGELS' pre-school Club (Term time)
3-5.30pm in Term Time	Youth Café for secondary school and college students
5.45pm	(BEAVER SCOUTS — 8 th Basingstoke Colony
7pm	(CUB SCOUTS — 8 th Basingstoke Pack
7pm	(SCOUTS — 8 th Basingstoke Troop
7-8.00pm	PRAYER MEETING at Tadley URC or St Paul's

Wednesday's:

10am-1.30pm	OASIS Café in the Concourse
10.30-12 noon	MEMORY TREE SOCIAL CLUB
10.15-11.30am	3Cs on 3rd Wednesday of each month
12.15pm	Lunch time worship and prayer meeting
3-5.30pm in Term Time	Youth Café for secondary school and college students

Thursday's:

10am-1.30pm	OASIS Café in the Concourse
9.30-11.30am	TADLEY LITTLE ANGELS in the Immanuel Centre
10-11.30am	CCBBies Parent and Toddler Group at Christ Church, Chineham
3-6pm in Term Time	Youth Café for secondary school and college students

Friday's:

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.

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