



London Street

United Reformed Church

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



Focus
October, 2018

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - www.basingstokeurc.org.uk

MINISTER:

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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:

Revd Kay Blackwell

Church Secretary:

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View from the manse:

Joshua said to them, 'Pass on before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan, and each of you take up a stone on his shoulder, one for each of the tribes of the Israelites,' (Joshua 4:5 NRSV)

This year marks the centenary of the ending of the First World War. A very poignant time for many. This is still just within the living memory of a few as more and more folk are living over 100 years of age. Many families will have a record of someone in their family who was killed in the First World War, whether it be a great uncle, great grandfather or cousin. The popular hobby of tracing family trees has led many to seek the war graves of those lost in World War 1 (sometimes referred to as the '*great war*', but really there was not much *great* about it!). I visited Belgium and the war graves myself in 2013. My great uncle died on the Western Front at around 20 years of age. I was moved as I visited memorial site after memorial site of manicured, neatly lined-up seas of crosses, each bearing the name of another dead child/brother/ husband/father. I was even more moved by the millions of names carved into the Brandenburg Gate of those lost 'presumed dead'; in other words, those whose bodies were never found or accounted for. No matter how we try to sanitise war, war is chaotic, costly, terrifying and cruel. Because of the chaos of war, figures of the human cost of war differ but approximately 37 million died in that war; the war that was supposed to end all wars. Yet just 21 years later the world was thrown into the even greater and wider devastation of the Second World War in which estimates of up to 85 million died, including 6 million Jews through the Hitler-planned Holocaust. Yet, still wars and rumours of wars continue. Many of our congregation have either served in the military or have relatives still serving, still dealing with areas of conflict around the world. Let us never forget the terrible human cost of war. I was saddened to see a series of articles about a debate that has been raging in Cambridge recently.

'Cambridge University's Student Union (CUSU) has voted down a motion to promote Remembrance Sunday amid fears about the "glorification" of conflict.' (Education Telegraph October '18)

For me the act of remembrance has nothing to do with the glorification of war but everything to do with marking and remembering the terrible sacrifices made in the past in order that we can, today, live and learn in freedom. I am a pacifist at heart, I wish that wars and conflict would not happen. I pray for a time when the peace and justice of Christ will reign in the whole earth. But until that great day comes at the return of our Lord, we should remember. Remember so that the likes of the 1st and 2nd World Wars will never be allowed to happen again.

Joshua led the Israelites out of their 40 years wandering in the wilderness following their dramatic escape from slavery in Egypt. As he led them into the promised land, a land of milk and honey, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant (containing the very presence of God) walked into the Jordan and the waters parted. Joshua instructed each tribe to take a stone from the exposed river bed as the Israelites walked through to their new home. These stones marked their freedom, their hope for a brighter future, their recognition of where they had come from. This did not mean that there would not be battles ahead, for Joshua and his army the land of milk and honey was hard fought over. But this moment of freedom needed to be marked. We too need to put down markers of significance which is why memorial sites, stones and plaques are erected in many towns and villages across this nation. We stand in freedom before them because of those who have died in days gone by. Let us strive for the maintenance of peace and never forget the terrible cost of wars. To me, wars are never glorious, even when won. They are a painful reminder of our need for Jesus to return.

'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.' (Laurence Bunyan 1914)

Yours in Christ, Kay



CIRCLE OF PRAYER:

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

Short Term: Barbara Banbury and sons Richard, Michael and Paul; David Corfield; Penny Dilley; Aubrey Dommett (granddaughter of Beverly Cantwell); Claire Macro; David and Patricia Oakley; Hyacinth Ridguard; Betty Shipway; Sandie and Matthew Small; Joyce Smith.

Long Term: Jan Blight and family; Beverley Cantwell; Christine Clucas; Brian and Carys Haywood; Gus and Noorie Khatkur; Ron and Rosemary Martin; Maggie Morgans and family; Patterson family; Molly Shaw; Fay Spurr.

Our prayers are with Jan Blight and her family on the sudden death of her husband, Vernon, on 4th October. A service of thanksgiving for the life of Vernon is to be held at London Street on Friday 2nd November at 2.30pm followed by refreshments. All are invited.

Prayer Focus:

1 Samuel 17 verse 11: “On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.”

Even as Christians there are times in our individual lives and in the world around us when we can easily be dismayed and terrified by the things we see, think and hear. Our text comes from the well known story of the Israelite shepherd boy, David, versus the 9ft Philistine giant, dressed in incredibly intimidating armour, Goliath. King Saul was the obvious choice to be Israel’s champion. He was not only a head taller than all the others but he was the anointed king, armed with the promise that God would deliver Israel out of the hands of the Philistines. This promise was totally irrelevant to Saul’s thinking and he sent David off to do battle with the words “Go, and the Lord be with you”. Had Saul truly believed this for himself, he would have gone himself but he didn’t.

It is easy to sing about and know all the spiritual jargon about trusting in the Lord for victory, but have we really taken it on board? What we truly believe is revealed when we face a crisis. Fear is a reality to us all, but as Christians, we are equipped with the greatest resource: not just God but God in us! He is bigger and more powerful than any “giants” or trials life may bring our way, so what have we to fear with Him on our side?

Prayer: *Almighty God, fear can so easily overwhelm me, but thank You for being greater than any circumstances or struggles I may face. I trust You, Lord, knowing You are with me and in me.*

Prayer Pointers:

- Those suffering as a result of flood, earthquake, storms.
- Those who have no home to call their own.
- Those trying to overcome bad habits.
- World leaders, especially our own.
- Those we meet as we go along our way or who pass by our window.
- Our town.

Traidcraft plc

As you may have heard, there has been sad news regarding Traidcraft plc, in that it seems very likely that it will have to cease trading on December 31st this year. The causes of this are complex but Traidcraft report the main ones as: 1) the fall in the value of the £ following the Brexit vote (they pay suppliers in US dollars); 2) the difficult retail environment in the UK and 3) a problematic relaunch of their web-site. The first item cost them £¼million on the day of the vote. The decision is not absolutely final and we can still hope that a way forward can be found.

Meanwhile, Traidcraft have said that the very best way we can support them is to make the current quarter the best ever in terms of sales, so we want to encourage you to come to the stall and see if there is anything we can tempt you with – there are lots of good things to eat as well as a wide range of Christmas cards. It can be difficult to find cards with a Christian theme elsewhere, but Traidcraft has a good selection. Also, do pick up a copy of the catalogue or look at the website www.traidcraftshop.co.uk and browse the lovely handmade items on offer. We have already bought some Christmas presents and are very pleased with them.

Remember that if you order through us you will not be charged postage, and do not pay unless or until you are happy with the goods. If for any reason the items ordered do not suit we will take them back. (If you prefer, you can, of course, order direct from Traidcraft, but in that case you may have to pay delivery costs.)

Traidcraft was the pioneer of fair trade and could do so much more to help those in the poorest countries to help themselves. Traidcraft Exchange, the charitable arm of the organisation will continue its work. Let us pray that a way will be found for the work of the trading company to continue.

Margaret and John Carrick Smith



Flower Rota - November:

4th Jan Blight
 11th Remembrance
 18th Owen Collins
 25th Joyce Smith



Lucas Stanley, 10 years on 2 November
Ethan Honeyball, 10 years on 24 November

Daily Bible Readings - November:

<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>
1 st 77:1-14	John	14	16 th 95	1 Thessalonians 4
2 nd 93	"	15	17 th 119:49-64	Reflection
3 rd	Reflection		18 th 15	"
4 th 118:15-29	"		19 th 119:65-80	1 Thessalonians 5
5 th 9:1-16	John	16	20 th 16	2 Thessalonians 1
6 th 119:1-16	"	17	21 st 50:1-15	" 2
7 th 79	"	18	22 nd 82	" 3
8 th 48	"	19	23 rd 96	2 Peter 1
9 th 80	"	20	24 th 119:81-96	Reflection
10 th 94:12-23	Reflection		25 th 17	"
11 th 119:17-32	"		26 th 119:97-112	2 Peter 2
12 th 12	John	21	27 th 18:1-19	" 3
13 th 119:33-48	1 Thessalonians	1	28 th 51:1-13	Jude 1
14 th 13	"	2	29 th 84	Revelation 1
15 th 81:1-10	"	3	30 th 97	" 2

Decoration of Church Window Sills for Christmas -

If you would like to help with the decoration please add your name to the list on the noticeboard. Church Groups have been asked to participate. The theme this year is:

The Message
The Bringing of the Message
The Carrying of the Message
The Taking of the Message

The Church will be open on Saturday 8th December from 10 am to 12 noon.

Liz Lindsay

Can you help?

We all enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and fellowship shared after worship. It is always a great way of welcoming those who are new to our church family and chatting to old and new friends. We are grateful to those who provide this opportunity for us.



However, it is always good to have lots of people on a regular rota or as emergency 'stand by' people. It would be good if we could have more help, as this would spread the load and ensure that the same people are not on duty too often.

Could you volunteer to be on this important rota? Don't worry if you would be new to our kitchen, you would always have somebody who is experienced alongside you. If you are interested, please speak to me as soon as possible as I will soon be compiling the rota for 2019!!

Thanks in advance,
Jenny McCloy (jennymccloy@hotmail.co.uk or on 07834559541)

Remembering...

Wilfred Owen - 1st World War Poet and Hero

British poet and soldier Wilfred Owen was killed 100 years ago this month, on 4th Nov 1918. He died leading his troops across a canal in Northern France exactly a week before the war ended. He was 25.

Owen, who was noted for his shockingly realistic poetry about the horrors of trench warfare, was born in 1893 in Shropshire. On leaving school he became a teaching assistant, and in 1913 went to France for two years to work as a language tutor.

But in 1915 he returned to England to join the army. After harrowing experiences in the trenches he suffered from shell shock and went for treatment at Craiglockhart War Hospital, near Edinburgh, where he met fellow poet Siegfried Sassoon.

Owen went back to France despite Sassoon's pleas, and was awarded the Military Cross for bravery after capturing a machine-gun post almost single-handed.

Brought up according to his mother's strong beliefs, Owen had thought of becoming a priest. For a while he was lay assistant to the vicar of the Oxfordshire parish of Dunsden.

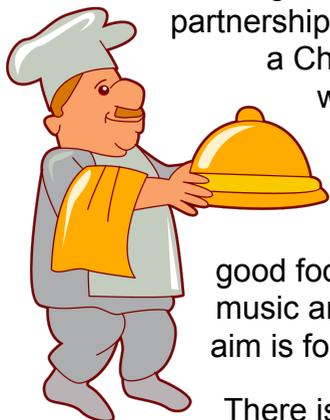
His only volume of poems, edited by Sassoon and published in 1920, contains some of the most poignant English war poetry, including *Dulce et Decorum Est* and *Anthem for Doomed Youth*.

Apples...

The children were lined up for lunch in the cafeteria of a Christian elementary school. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples with a note posted on the tray, 'Take only ONE, God is watching.'

At the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cakes, next to which, in a child's handwriting, was a sign, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples.'

Christmas Day Lunch



Once again, Basingstoke churches OneChurch in partnership with the Basingstoke Foodbank are hosting a Christmas Day Lunch in our church for those who would otherwise be alone or who prefer not to cook this meal.

It will be a fun time, with all the things a good Christmas should include: a feast of good food, good company, quizzes and games, music and carols and of course Christmas gifts. The aim is for it to feel like a real family event.

There is no charge for the meal (although a donation can be made) as it is our gift to those in need. Places will need to be booked in advance so that catering can be organised. Invitations are now available (through which places are booked), so if you would like one for yourself, or you know of somebody who would enjoy this event, please ask me.

Of course such an event relies on volunteers to make sure everything runs smoothly, I have volunteer forms which you can complete, advising us of your availability. Volunteers are needed for various jobs, including supermarket shopping for food before the event, preparation on Christmas Eve morning and actually at the meal on Christmas Day.

Please speak to me for further information, invitations or volunteer forms. Please help to make this a great event if you can.

Jenny McCloy (jennymccloy@hotmail.co.uk or on 07834559541)



Helping Hands

More than a century ago, a mother wanted to encourage her son's progress at the piano and bought tickets to a performance by the great Polish pianist Paderewski. When the evening arrived, they found their seats near the front of the concert hall and eyed the majestic Steinway waiting on the stage. Soon the mother found a friend to talk to and the boy slipped unnoticed away.



At eight o'clock, the lights in the auditorium began to dim, the spotlights came on, and only then did they notice the boy - up on the piano bench, innocently picking out 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'. His mother gasped in shock and embarrassment but before she could retrieve her son, the master himself appeared on the stage and quickly moved to the keyboard.

He whispered gently to the boy, 'Don't stop. Keep playing.' Leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in the bass part. Soon his right arm reached around the other side with a delightful improvisation. Together, the old master and the young novice held the audience mesmerised with their blended and beautiful music.

Little of what we achieve is without learning and support from others. Throughout our lives, we receive helping hands. Equally, we ourselves have countless opportunities to provide helping hands to others. We can make a difference and pass this experience and help on to others whenever the opportunity arises.

from www.parishpump.co.uk

"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,

In all the places you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."

John Wesley



Crosslink was started in Tadley in February, 1987 under CTAT, to offer Christian care to anyone referred to us and for whom we had a suitable volunteer. Amazingly, we are still able to offer such a service more than 30 years later. Despite many changes, such need remains and here we are thanking God and our volunteers for making it possible, at a celebration party at the AGM in October.

Church Fund Raising:

Book now for your fun evening of Skittles at Basingstoke Town Bowls Club on

Saturday, 17th November from 6.30pm

Speak with Joyce Cook for more information

(Tel: 01256 466996)



You are warmly invited to join us in Tadley on Christmas Day



You are warmly invited to spend Christmas Day with us in Tadley this year. Enjoy good food, good company, music, fun & celebration in the Christmas spirit, on this special day together. There is no charge for this event and this invitation is for all who want to join us and spend time with others at Christmas.



music and easy entertainment. There is no cost for this day - just come along and be with friends old and new. If you can make it we would love to hear from you (hopefully by Mid-December so we can organise food and catering!)

You will be welcomed at the Ambrose Allen Centre, Franklin Avenue, Tadley at 12.00 noon for coffee, drinks & biscuits when the festivities will begin. Afterwards enjoy the Christmas atmosphere in good company, with conversation and soft music as Christmas dinner is prepared, served and enjoyed! Then relax with an afternoon of fun,



If you are able we would also love to welcome you at our morning Christmas service which will be take place at the Ambrose Allen Centre starting at 10:30am.

Love from all your friends already discovered.... & those still to know. Be a part of our family this Christmas.

To book or for more information: **Mark & Julie**
Tel: 0118 970 1125, mandjward@hotmail.co.uk



November Diary

at London Street, unless otherwise stated

Sun	4 th	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast
		10.30am	Worship – led by Revd Howard Sharp
Wed	7 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Sat	10 th	10.00am - noon	'Table Top Sale' with coffee and Cake Event
Sun	11 th	10.30am	Worship – Service of Remembrance – led by the Minister

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY FOCUS

Thu	15 th		Advent Study Group
Sat	17 th	6.30pm	Skittles Evening at Basingstoke Town Bowls Club
Sun	18 th	10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister and including Holy Communion
Wed	21 st	10.15am	3C's (Coffee, Chat, Company) in the Oasis Café – All welcome
Thu.	29 th		Advent Study Group
Sat	24 th	3.30pm	Top of Town Messy Church
Sun	25 th	10.30am	Worship - led by the Minister Lunch followed by Church Meeting, including election of Elders
Thu	29 th		Advent Study Group

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.

ADVENT STUDY GROUP THURSDAY, 15th NOVEMBER to THURSDAY, 20th DECEMBER. *This will be at the church and there will be supper. Please keep the dates free. More details will follow.*

Sunday Services at Old Meeting, Tadley

November	<u>Preachers</u>	<u>Welcome</u>
4 th	Brian Baldwin	Ena and George
11 th	Mark Ward, Paul Gross, Penny O'Bee	Mandy and Dave
18 th	Sydney Shore	Ladies Cell
25 th	TBC	Elaine and Brian

ECO TIP

Tread lightly

It is inevitable that places of natural beauty attract many admirers but heavy footfall can disturb habitats and also lead to soil erosion, so always stick to established paths to ensure that others will be able to admire the same beauty in the future.

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



Plastic and carton recycling:

Unfortunately there has been a drop in the market for recycling mixed plastics, making it unviable for the company providing mixed plastic bring banks in the borough to sell on the material for recycling. This is a national issue affecting other local authorities around the country. It is important that the items collected at these banks are being recycled or, if this is not possible, then to use the most efficient and environmentally friendly method of disposal. To guarantee this it has been decided, for the moment, to close the plastic recycling banks with immediate effect.

In view of the above, please stop bringing plastic food trays etc, to church for recycling as we are unable to continue this service.

Church Notices (Outside adverts)

1. When the restaurant next to a church put out a big sign with red letters that said, 'Open Sundays', the church reciprocated with its own message: 'We are open on Sundays too. **And** we have live music.'
2. A singing group called 'The Resurrection' was scheduled to sing at a church. When a big snowstorm postponed the performance, the minister fixed the outside sign to read: 'Resurrection postponed – due to snow.'

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

8-9.30pm	TGIF Youth Club at Christ Church, Chineham
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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
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