



London Street

United Reformed Church

BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE RG21 7NU

and

TADLEY (OLD MEETING) URC



April, 2019

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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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:

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Church Secretary:

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View from the manse:

“For I tell you, **this scripture must be fulfilled in me**, ‘And he was counted among the lawless’; and indeed **what is written about me is being fulfilled.**” (Luke 22: 37)

In the Bible Society course that many of us are working through I see once again what I have been struck by many times before.



God's plan for all creation has been placed into the very DNA of creation itself.

A fractal is a never-ending pattern. Fractals are infinitely complex patterns that are self-similar across different scales. They are created by repeating a simple process over and over in an ongoing feedback loop. Driven by recursion, fractals are images of dynamic systems – the pictures of Chaos. Geometrically, they exist in between our familiar dimensions. Fractal patterns are extremely familiar, since nature is full of fractals. For instance: trees, rivers, coastlines, mountains, clouds, seashells, hurricanes, etc. (<https://fractalfoundation.org/resources/what-are-fractals>)

When I re-read the Old Testament narratives, I see the rhythm of human behaviours, and God's divine interventions and rescues, recurring both in the New Testament and in our lives today. I wonder when we will ever learn! I am sure God wonders the same thing! Tom Wright (a UK theologian and prolific author) has, I believe, developed a radically new and challenging way of reading the overarching themes of scripture as has Rob Bell (USA author and theologian). They both dig deeper into the narratives of scripture, whose rough edges have been somewhat smoothed off and simplified into banality over time. The Gospel of Jesus, the whole Bible indeed is so much more revolutionary and radical than we realise at times, not least in the crucifixion and resurrection of

The cross of Christ is where all the forces of evil are robbed of their power, according to Wright (see his book 'The day the revolution began' – but be warned....it's a heavy and mind-spinning read at times!). In John's Gospel especially (but in all four in places) Jesus is likened to both the new Adam and new Moses. New but greater than. The overarching narratives show a new Genesis and a New Exodus. In these two books especially, but also specifically in the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Hebrew or Old Testament) and the prophets, we see an ever repeating story of the rebellious people of God. The rebellion is always in the form of Idol worship, from whence sin flows, that is, from a turning away from the authority and presence of God in the tabernacle or temple. From here comes periods of defeat, exile and slavery from which, by grace, God rescues or redeems through divinely led prophets, priests and kings. The call is always for God's people to return to faithfulness. And so, the spiral continues, the patterns repeat, sometimes on a domestic, family scale (such as the book of Ruth) sometimes a national scale (see Exodus or Joshua) and finally through Jesus' death upon the cross when we see the opening out to the global scale (see Acts 2 at Pentecost and its global implications).

At the foot-washing scene in John's Gospel and the Passover feast shared in the others, the symbolism of Jesus' prophetic words and deeds fulfilled so many promises of the Hebrew testament. This is no accident. Jesus came as God's word made flesh. The Temple ultimately is a place where heaven and earth are held together. A place where the presence of God resided with God's people. According to Wright, the seven stages of creation equate to the seven stages of building the temple, the 6th day being the presence and image of God entering the temple (in Genesis 2 humankind is created in the image of God and God then chose to work through humans in the world). In the Passion narrative Pilate proclaims on the 6th day 'Behold the man', acknowledging the proper man, the new Adam, the true image of God. At the Crucifixion Jesus says 'It is Finished' (echoing Genesis 2:1). The 7th day of rest is the period of the Tomb. The resurrection then is the 8th day, the first day of the new week. This then is the start of the new creation. John's Gospel, Wright argues, is a new Genesis with Jesus at its heart. A new temple of Heaven and Earth reality through whom the God of love is unstoppable. Jesus is the fountainhead of the rivers of living water that will now pour out to refresh and renew all of creation. The new Genesis is also the new Exodus, setting all of creation free from the rulers and principalities of the spiritual forces of evil of this world.

Jesus is not just Good News for us then, he is good news for the whole of creation.

Have a very blessed Easter.

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; Dick Davey; David Shaw; Edmund Shaw; Betty Shipway; Rob Williams and family.

Long Term: Beverley Cantwell; Christine Clucas; Aubrey Dommett (granddaughter of Beverley Cantwell); Penny Dilley; Gus and Noorie Khatkur; Claire Macro; Ron and Rosemary Martin; Maggie Morgans and family; Patterson family; Hyacinth Ridguard; Molly Shaw; Joyce Smith; Fay Spurr.

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Grace Springthorpe

It was with sadness that we heard that Grace had died on Thursday, 28th February. She was in her 96th year and had been living at Basingfield Residential Home for the last few years. Grace was a long-standing part of the life at London Street and had contributed so much to its life over the years in a quiet and faithfilled way.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to family and friends and Kay will conduct a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Grace on Friday 26th April at London Street at 1.45pm. Refreshments served after the service.

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Prayer Focus:

Lent often gets a bad press. It is presented as a period of doom and gloom. It is sometimes seen almost exclusively as a time to give things up and, therefore, a time to stop having any fun. But that does Lent no justice at all. The original word suggests something different. It comes from the anglo-saxon word LENCTEN, the time of spring when the days begin to lengthen after winter. Spring is a time for freshening up, clearing away the dregs of winter and enjoying the beginnings of new life all around. Lent is just that, a time of preparation for the new beginning that is Easter. Since Easter is the great baptismal feast when we share in the death and

resurrection of Christ, Lent takes on the aspect of preparing for baptism or being a reminder to those who have been baptised already. It means turning away from sin and living more fully in Christ. That is why Lent is necessarily a time of penance, because we need penance if we are ready to renew our baptismal promises, make a fresh start and celebrate Easter with great joy.

Isaiah 53: 2,4,5, JB

Like a sapling he grew up in front of us,
like a root in arid ground.

Without beauty, without majesty (we saw him); No looks to attract
our eyes...

And yet ours were the sufferings he bore,
ours the sorrows he carried.

But we, we thought of him as someone punished,
struck by God and brought low.

Yet he was pierced through for our faults,
crushed for our sins.

On him lies a punishment that brings us peace,
and through his wounds we are healed.

Prayer

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints. **Ephesians 1: 17-1**

Do you want to fast this Lent?

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with hope.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Words of Pope Francis

Happy 🕯 Birthday

Jean Young, 80 years on 16th April

Joan Beattie, 93 years on 17th April



Flower Rota - April

7 th	Owen Collins
14 th	Maggie Morgans
21 st	EASTER/ Elspeth Anthony
28 th	Lilian Meredith



The Conserveatory is delighted to welcome you to another exciting night of local cuisine and unique entertainment. Held at the beautiful United Reformed Church in Basingstoke's London Street, the evening will consist of tapas style, vegetarian eats using local produce, and an intimate live band. A wonderful opportunity to meet new people and share something a little unusual with friends. Doors open at 6:30pm to eat at 7pm. A glass of wine or soft drink will be provided with the meal. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the URC Church. Tickets are £35. To purchase tickets Email theconserveatory@gmail.com or call on 07471208269. We look forward to hosting you!

Daily Bible Readings for April:

New Testament				New Testament			
	Psalm				Psalm		
1st	57	James	2	16th	103	Matthew	8
2nd	102:1-17	“	3	17th	135	“	9
3rd	128/129	“	4	18th	31:1-10	“	10
4th	26	Matthew	5	19th	138	“	11
5th	130/131	“	1	20th	31:11-24	Reflection	
6th	27	Reflection		21st	62	“	
7th	60	“		22nd	104:24-35.	Matthew	12
8th	89:1-13	Matthew	2	23rd	139	“	13
9th	102:18-28	“	3	24th	32	“	14
10th	132	“	4	25th	63	“	15
11th	28	“	5	26th	140	“	16
12th	131/134	“	6	27th	33:1-12.	Reflection	
13th	61	Reflection		28th	65	“	
14th	30	“		29th	141	Matthew	17
15th	89:14-29	Matthew	7	30th	33:13-22	“	18

Ffald-y-Brenin

Biblical Anagrams

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Chairs Tin | 11. Rule James |
| 2. Ace Areas | 12. A Sad Scum |
| 3. Am As Air | 13. The Be Helm |
| 4. O Mess | 14. A Lush Theme |
| 5. I Moan | 15. Violent Era |
| 6. Christian No | 16. Nailed |
| 7. Enhance Buzzard | 17. As Mule |
| 8. See Sign | 18. Evil Is Cut |
| 9. Social Sons | 19. Thy Bean |
| 10. Smog Fools Noon | 20. Hog Tail |

Answers from Les Wenham for a donation of £1 for church funds.

EASTER: the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month', but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

From Parish Pump

Basingstoke Festival Friday 21st June–6th July 2019

This Year One Church Basingstoke aim to have a more visible presence in the Basingstoke festival. On Friday 21st June there will be the private viewing of an exhibition by Revd Gill Sakakini called 'sacred Rhythms - art and the unexpected', to be held in the sanctuary. This will be a collection of sketches made in and around Winchester Cathedral over the year . We are also planning for the young embroiderers guild to mount an exhibition in the Café concourse at the same time.

On Saturdays 22nd and 29th June the Oasis Café will be open (10-4pm) for business so that the exhibitions can be viewed. On both Saturdays the craft group, along with the embroiders guild and other keen craft and sewing volunteers, will be running a community craft project in the concourse to create a large patchwork banner/wall hanging made from squares decorated by visiting members of the public. The banner theme will be 'The best of Basingstoke' so all the squares should reflect what folk like best about their home town. The activity is open to all people, young and old.

On Saturday 29th June a professional music group called 'Epiphany' will also be in the café and sanctuary doing sound portraits of visitors throughout the day. In the evening of 29th June 'Epiphany' will also perform in an interactive concert from 7 to 8.30pm. The evening concert will be ticketed. Tickets will be available to purchase in advance at the café from Easter onwards, or available at the door on the evening and will be £10 each (or £8 concessions). Please put the dates in your diaries to support them and help where you are able as we will require plenty of volunteers.

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Palm Crosses

At our Palm Sunday service on 14th April, each member of the congregation will be given a Palm Cross. We order them from African Palms.



The African Palms project was started in 1965 by Fr. Alan Talbot, an Anglican priest, who served for 6 years as a missionary in the diocese of Masasi Tanzania. His aim was to give really poor villagers the means to earn some extra money to supplement their meagre income.

Want to help? Well, you can! Make a note in your diary as we shall have a retiring collection on Palm Sunday.

See pages 8 and 9 of the March FOCUS for the full story.

Thank you, Owen.

Invitation from Luke Bazeley, church secretary at Christ Church, Newham URC

REBUILDING AT CHRIST CHURCH NEWHAM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY - OPEN DAY SATURDAY APRIL 27TH

Dear Owen,

Ever since we have been in touch with you, Newham has been a place of change. In the 1990s Newham was home to refugees from conflict in Africa, South America and Europe. Unemployment was high. Under the leadership of gifted ministers the URC churches in Stratford and Plaistow responded with social outreaches as well as establishing lively congregations.

Since then Newham has changed and prospered with much redevelopment 'gentrifying' the area and education improving hugely. However, much of the overcrowding and low income of those days is still with us. People come and go, moving out to find suitable cheaper housing.

Christ Church Newham URC was formed out of the Stratford and Plaistow URC congregations nearly 10 years ago. We remain a church committed to being and sharing Good News to those around us, though we have fewer people available to be involved in formal social outreach. Constants are the good sized children's and youth groups.

In 2014 we reviewed our main buildings - both of which were in need of much work. We decided to sell the Stratford building and progress with a redevelopment of the site at Plaistow. Just over four years later we are at the point where we are about to place the plans to the builders to go ahead with rebuilding. We have core funding for the building itself and are looking to fit it out so it works well for the community and church in the 21st Century.

Please come and join us on the 27th - to be encouraged by what is going on here, to find out how you can support the rebuild, maybe to get ideas for plans of your own!

God bless you and your church.

Luke Bezeley, on behalf of the Church Building Project Team

I have details of the programme for the day if you wish to know more.

Maundy Thursday Service

18th April 7.00pm

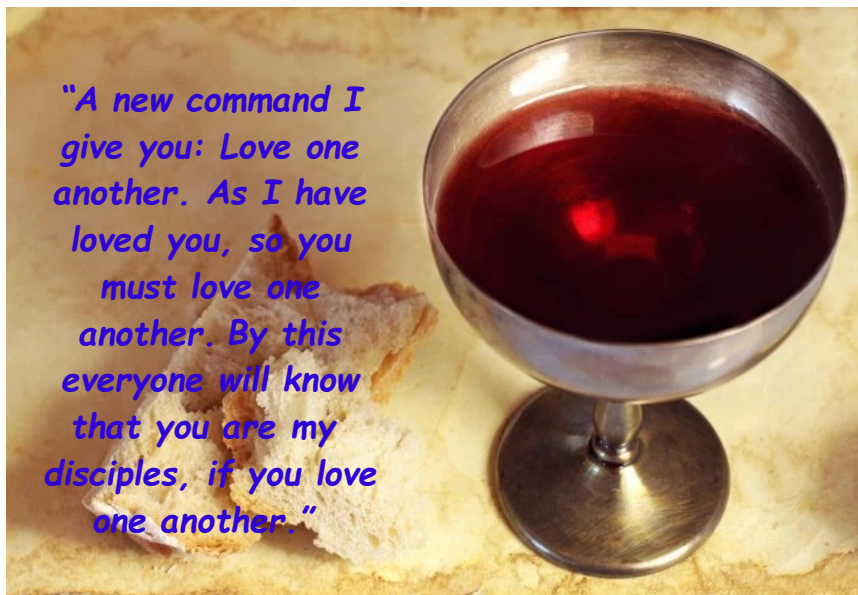
at Tadley URC



Everyone welcome!

A reflective service

remembering Christ's last supper with
His disciples.



*"A new command I
give you: Love one
another. As I have
loved you, so you
must love one
another. By this
everyone will know
that you are my
disciples, if you love
one another."*

Rev Kay Blackwell
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Easter Day Dawn Service

21st April 5.45am, Tadley Skate Park



Everyone welcome! Join
us at Tadley Skate Park
and celebrate the real



meaning of Easter. A short reflective
service of songs and readings as the dawn
breaks and the sun rises...



Rev Kay Blackwell
Tadley United Reformed Church
contact@tadleyurc.com
www.tadleyurc.com



Two Quiet Days organised by the Wessex Synod.

1. Thursday 30th May 2019 at Crowe Hill Methodist Church, Ringwood. A walking quiet day in the New Forest, led by Mike and Louise Shrubsole. Places are limited, please book early to avoid disappointment.

2. Provisional date (Saturday 26 October 2019 tbc). A reflective day on "Mindfulness and Christian Spirituality" led by specialist Tim Stead. Exploring how mindfulness and Christian spirituality relate, including trying exercises in mindfulness which might enhance and enrich our spiritual life. Venue to be confirmed. Places limited to 20.

Fund raising - Table Top Sale and coffee morning on 6th April from 10.00am until noon. Donations of books, bric-a-brac, cakes and craft would be appreciated as would your support on the day.



ECO TIP

If someone sends you an attachment to an email set in Arial that you really do want to keep, before printing change the font to Times. This will reduce the amount of ink you use and, if of several pages, it may save you a sheet of paper - this may also be achieved sometimes by changing to narrower margins.

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



April, 2019 Diary

London Street, unless otherwise stated

Wed	3 rd	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Thu	4 th	7.00pm	Bible Course (Session 7)
Sat	6 th	10.00am	Table Top Sale and Coffee Morning till noon
Sun	7 th	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast
		10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister.
		12.15pm	Lunch followed by Annual Church Meeting
Mon	8 th		Youth Café closed for Easter Holiday
Thu	11 th	7.00pm	Bible Course (Session 8)
Sun	14 th	10.30am	Worship led by Revd Mike Burrell
Deadline for articles for May FOCUS			
Wed	17 th	10.15am	3C's (Coffee, Chat, Company) in the Oasis Café – All welcome
Thu	18 th	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Worship at Tadley, including Holy Communion
Fri	19 th	10.30am	Good Friday – Service of Reflection and Meditation – led by the Minister
Sun	21 st	5.45am	Dawn Service at Tadley Common (Skate Park) followed by Breakfast at Immanuel Centre
		10.30am	Easter Sunday Worship – led by the Minister and including Holy Communion
Mon	22 nd		Oasis Café closed for this day only
Tue	23 rd		Youth Café reopens
Wed	24 th		Minister on Annual Leave till 30 th
Fri	26 th	1.45pm	Thanksgiving Service for Grace Springthorpe
Sun	28 th	10.30am	Worship – led by World Mission Group 'Open Doors'
		7.30pm	Community Café Commissioning Service – led by John Eves

Services at Old Meeting, Tadley

April, 2019

	<u>Preachers</u>	<u>Welcome</u>
7 th	Penny O'Bee	Ena and George
14 th	Rev Kay Blackwell	Mandy and Dave
18 th	7.00pm Maundy Thursday – Reflective Service led by Rev Kay Blackwell	
21 st	5.45am Sunrise Service at Skate Park followed at	Ladies Cell
	10.30am Easter Day Service at London Street	
28 th	Rob Lloyd	Julie and Mark

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

Mondays:

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

Tuesdays:

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

Wednesdays:

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
7.30pm	House Group at 5 Magnus Drive, Hatch Warren

Thursdays:

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

Fridays:

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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