



# **London Street**

## **United Reformed Church**

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



**Focus**  
**January, 2020**

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - [www.basingstokeurc.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@basingstokeurc.org.uk)

## TREASURER:

Karen Bell  
47 Tobago Close, Popley,  
Basingstoke RG24 9PX  
e.mail - [lsurctreasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:lsurctreasurer@yahoo.com)

## HALL LETTING:

Mrs Joy Williams  
9 Montague Place  
Basingstoke RG21 3DS  
Tel: 01256 326746  
e.mail - [joyamwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:joyamwilliams@gmail.com)

## FOCUS:

Mrs Christine Robertson  
1208 Skyline Plaza, Alencon Link,  
Basingstoke RG21 7AZ  
Tel: 01256 869968  
e.mail: [christina774robertson@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:paulgross3107@gmail.com)

### Treasurer:

Mark Ward  
10 Hartleys, Silchester, Reading RG7 2QE  
e.mail: [mandjward@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mandjward@hotmail.co.uk)

# View from the Manse

Christmas is over. After a frantic month of preparations, special events and services, Christmas day comes and Christmas day goes! By 6<sup>th</sup> January the lights and decorations are removed and stored away for another year. It is all back to business as usual..... or is it?

Twelfth night marks epiphany and the coming of the Magi to visit the Christ child Jesus (who was probably around two years old when they arrived!). They came bearing prophetic gifts of Gold for a King, Myrrh and Frankincense to anoint his body upon his death. What strange gifts for a child of lowly birth! I can just imagine Mary raising her eyebrows in disbelief (secretly thinking 'what on earth am I going to do with this lot?'). The Magi, wise men as we often refer to them are often portrayed as three but in truth that has only come about because they brought three gifts. There could well have been more than three. They are reported in Matthew's gospel as coming from the East. They are likely to have come from Persia and to have been astrologers and educated men. Magi is the word root from which we get the word magician. In our nativity scenes they are often portrayed as exotic foreigners arriving. That is non-Jews, folk who do not believe in the one true God. Yet God leads them to the birthplace of the Christ child using the cosmos itself.

The word epiphany means a moment of sudden and great revelation or realisation. Specifically, in Matthew's Gospel (Matthew 2:1–12), the Magi represent the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. This reinforced the message that Jesus came to be revealed to all people, a light to the world. Indeed, in the early part of our ancient Hebrew scriptures (the Old Testament) Abraham was told by God that from him a great nation would come and this nation was to be a blessing to all other nations.

*'and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.'* (Genesis 28:14 )

So, the wise men came and searched diligently for the child and when they found him, Matthew tells us that they were overwhelmed with Joy and presented to him their gifts and knelt before him to pay homage. Such foreigners, Gentiles, would have been considered 'unclean' in Jewish law. Yet here we see them not only seeking out this infant king but kneeling before him in worship. In Jesus they were overwhelmed by Joy.

So, the twinkling lights of Christmas are packed away once more. May we be reminded, as we think about these exotic Gentile visitors, that receiving

the revelation of the true identity of Jesus should bring us great joy too. Great joy is something we should share with others. Jesus is not just for Christmas. God's word made flesh in Jesus is for us all, for eternity, for our transformation. As we journey on may our hearts and lives be transformed by the revelation that Jesus came to earth as a vulnerable baby just for us. He came because God loves us so much that he gave us his only son. May we love God's son in response to God's love for us all.

May I wish you all a very joyful new year!

Yours in Christ, Kay



The poster features a purple and blue background with a person's hands raised in prayer. The text 'ec essential christian presents' is in the top left, followed by 'SPRING HARVEST' in large white letters. Below that, 'SPRING HARVEST LOCAL' is written in a stylized white font with a yellow brushstroke underline. To the right, three portraits of speakers are shown with their names: Abby Guinness, Paul Weston, and Sam Blake. The event details are listed as 'Thursday 6 February 2020 BASINGSTOKE' at '7.30pm London Street Reformed Church' with 'Doors open at 7pm'. A yellow banner at the bottom contains booking information: 'TO BOOK VISIT SPRINGHARVEST.ORG/LOCAL' and 'Tickets £8 adults, £6 for concessions.\*' with a note that '\*Concessions include: students, under 18s, benefit recipients and OAPs'.



## CIRCLE OF PRAYER:

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

**Short Term:** Barbara Banbury; Phyllis Birchmore; Kay Cook; Bram Corn; Lilian Meredith and family; Eileen Poulter; Edmund Shaw; Betty Shipway; Yvonne Thornton.

**Long Term:** Beverley Cantwell and family; Christine Clucas; Penny Dilley; Claire Macro; Ron and Rosemary Martin; Maggie Morgans and family; Gillian and Tony Patterson and family; Hyacinth Ridguard; Joyce Smith; Fay Spurr; Jo and Steve Tremarco.

## Prayer Focus

Obviously, as I write this for the January Focus, Christmas isn't yet over. There are lots of extra things that need to be remembered but at the same time, like many of you, I have been trying to cope with two diaries and a calendar for myself and one for 'work'. It is all too easy to get homed in on working with the 2020 ones and forget still to keep an eye on what is happening in the here and now – a dangerous thing to do when so many things are on at this time of year. We need to plan ahead but we also need to live in the present. Be still and know that God is God. "I can't do that" I hear you say "I have much too much to get done before I have to go and do this, that or the other." Even on holiday there is so much to see and do that we often have little time left to be still. Being still and being busy are not incompatible. Time is God's gift to us, we need to include Him in our planning, in our 'being' and in our doing – so that it becomes a way of life. He knows the plans he has for us, plans to prosper us, not to harm us, plans to give us hope and a future. If we seek him with all our heart we will find him because he is already seeking us. Jesus is the proof.

Prayer: Jesus take me as I am, I can come no other way. Take me deeper into you, make my self-life melt away. Make me like a precious stone, crystal clear and finely honed. Life of Jesus shining through, giving glory back to you. Thankyou Music 1978

Prayer pointers:

- For peace, hope and love to increase throughout the world.
- For the new parliament returned to Westminster.
- For those called to take on responsibility in government.
- For the Queen as Head of State and as a wife and mother.
- The homeless, the lonely and those with little to do.
- The overworked that they may find those moments of stillness.

## Church Directory

If you would like an electronic copy of the 2020 Church Directory, please email Owen: [secretary@basingstokeurc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@basingstokeurc.org.uk)



## Flowers Rota - January

5<sup>th</sup> Christmas Decorations  
 12<sup>th</sup> Christine Holt  
 19<sup>th</sup> Kay Cook  
 26<sup>th</sup> Ian Scott



*Daniel Moavu, 5 years on 5th January*  
*SCARLETT Weller, 4 years on 5th January*  
*Molly Payne, 7 years on 18th January*  
*Peter Bentall, 80 years on 19<sup>th</sup> January*  
*Amelia Ann Green, 9 years on 19<sup>th</sup> January*

## Daily Bible Readings for January:

<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> 146	Mark	1 16 <sup>th</sup> 2	Mark 12
2 <sup>nd</sup> 107	"	2 17 <sup>th</sup> 42	" 13
3 <sup>rd</sup> 70	"	3 18 <sup>th</sup> 73:21-28.	" 14
4 <sup>th</sup> 147	"	4 19 <sup>th</sup> 90	Reflection
5 <sup>th</sup> 40:1-8	Reflection	20 <sup>th</sup> 111	"
6 <sup>th</sup> 71:1-13	"	21 <sup>st</sup> 3	Mark 15
7 <sup>th</sup> 148	Mark	5 22 <sup>nd</sup> 112	" 16
8 <sup>th</sup> 40:9-17	"	6 23 <sup>rd</sup> 4	Acts 1
9 <sup>th</sup> 71:14-24	"	7 24 <sup>th</sup> 43	" 2
10 <sup>th</sup> 149	"	8 25 <sup>th</sup> 74:12-23	" 3
11 <sup>th</sup> 41	"	9 26 <sup>th</sup> 91	Reflection
12 <sup>th</sup> 72	Reflection	27 <sup>th</sup> 113	"
13 <sup>th</sup> 150	"	28 <sup>th</sup> 5	Acts 4
14 <sup>th</sup> 1	Mark	10 29 <sup>th</sup> 115	" 5
15 <sup>th</sup> 108	"	11 30 <sup>th</sup> 6	" 6
		31 <sup>st</sup> 46	" 7

Ffald-y-Brenin

# Carol Scott interviews Peter Bentall - Lay Preacher

**Carol** – Thank you Peter for agreeing to be interviewed. We are trying to get to know a little more about members of our congregation.

**First question** – How long have you been a Christian?

**Peter** – I was brought up in a Congregationalist family so always went to church when young. At school we went to chapel every day and twice on Sundays, but I really did not begin to understand about being a Christian until University.

**Carol** – You were not born in Basingstoke so how did you end up here?

**Peter** – I was born in Tonbridge, Kent and I went to University in Nottingham (Civil Engineering). That was when I was introduced to the Congregational/Presbyterian community. More on this later. My first job was for Kent County Council, then I took a year out in NW Greece with a VSO-type organisation and there I met Ruth (a Catholic!); this gave me the interest in working overseas. So, off we went to Uganda for 2 years, Kenya for 2.5 years then back to Maidstone. I went to work for Scott Wilson in London and they decamped in 1973 to Basingstoke. In 1986 I went to work for the International Labour Organisation in Ghana for 3.5 years, came back for a year, then off to Zimbabwe for 3 years, then became an independent consultant in 1994. This meant short trips – mainly Africa; in fact I have been to 19 different countries in Africa and 26 around the world. I retired at the age of 70 in 2010.

**Carol** – You have had a very varied career and you and Ruth raised a family.

**Peter** – We have 4 children, 1 born in Uganda! Ruth travelled with the children in tow; when young the three elder children never really lived in the UK.

**Carol** – What brought you to London Street.

**Peter** – As I was non-conformist and lived in Oakley, I attended the Methodist Chapel there but my Grandmother was a Sapp, an old London Street family, so it was logical for me to join London Street and it was the only Congregational Church in Basingstoke.

**Carol** – You were an Elder for many years, what made you give it up?

**Peter** – I was an ordained Elder for many years, and made the conscious decision to give it up to encourage others to take an active part in the church. I have concentrated on Lay Preaching, which started in Nottingham University when the Presbyterian/Congregational Society took the Sunday evening services in the area; there may have been only 8-10 in the congregation. I was always grateful for all local Christian fellowships in all the countries where I worked.

**Carol** – Can you tell us what you are involved with at London Street?

**Peter** – I'm a Lay Preacher. Wednesday lunch time worship is a real commitment. People from outside drop in and in these worship sessions listening is so important. I also attend or lead Lent, Advent and other study groups.

**Carol** – Would you change anything at London Street?

**Peter** – Courses – it often seems it's the same people that attend, we need to encourage different people to attend. I understand the pressures of work of the next generation, and children's sporting activities mean we need to be more flexible with church times to encourage young people to attend, like Messy Church. We are so blessed that many people at London Street are involved in activities.

**Carol** – What do you do for leisure activities?

**Peter** – I play tennis twice a week and squash, this I have played since I was 13 years old! I am, and have been, a member of the cricket club since 1974. Of course, I watch Kent cricket, travelling to see them when I can. Ruth and I try to be involved in both of our churches, we go to concerts at the Anvil and Haymarket and go to London to see Clare, our daughter, in an amateur orchestra. Then there are the 8 grandchildren with ages 4-19!

**Carol** – Is there anything members might be surprised to learn?

**Peter** – Yes, I have actually played cricket at Lord's (at school) and Trent Bridge (at University).

**Carol** – Thank you for sharing your journey through life and for God's part in this journey. May this journey continue with God's guidance.



## RELIGIOUS TRIVIA...

- Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?  
A. Ruthless.
- Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?  
A. German Shepherd.
- Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?  
A. Samson. He brought the house down.
- Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?  
A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.
- Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?  
A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.
- Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?  
A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.
- Q. Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?  
A. Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.
- Q. Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?  
A. The area around Jordan. The banks were always overflowing.
- Q. Who is the greatest baby sitter mentioned in the Bible?  
A. David. He rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.
- Q. Which Bible character had no parents?  
A. Joshua, son of Nun.



## Answers to December 2019 Crossword

**ACROSS:** 1, Lame.  
3, Obtained. 8, Omit.  
9, Merchant. 11, Burdensome.  
14, Crafty. 15, Please. 17,  
Blacksmith. 20, Splendid. 21,  
Tier. 22, Singeing. 23, Hand.

**DOWN:** 1, Look back. 2, Main  
road. 4, Breast. 5, Accomplish.  
6, Near. 7, Date.  
10, Pestilence. 12, Basilica. 13,  
Tethered. 16, Action.  
18, Asa's. 19, Clan.

## ECO TIP

Get going..

Drive off as soon as you start your car's engine. Modern engines don't need time to warm up, so idling creates unnecessary pollution and mechanical wear.

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

## COMPUTER CLASSES FOR SENIORS

The Charity, Age Concern Hampshire, organises one-to-one computer tuition and assistance with volunteer IT experts in Basingstoke every Tuesday during school term time, between 10.00am and 12 noon at South Ham Library, Paddock Road. This is aimed at older people. Each session lasts one hour and the cost is a minimal £5.00 which is a small contribution to affray costs.

Participants may use their own lap top, tablet or phone and a wifi connection is available.

Further information can be obtained from the Age Concern Hampshire Area Manager on 01256 423874. Stan Marut, a member of London Street URC, is a regular user of this facility and you can also contact him on 07403 001101.



2020  
*happy new year  
 to all our readers*

## Diary - January

London Street, unless otherwise stated

Thu	2 <sup>nd</sup> )		Night Shelter
Fri	3 <sup>rd</sup> )		"
Wed	4 <sup>th</sup>	10am-4pm	First Aid Course (Registration from 9.30am)
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast
		10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister
Wed	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Thu	9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Messy Church planning meeting <b>at Manse</b>
Thu	9 <sup>th</sup> )		Night Shelter
Fri	10 <sup>th</sup> )		"
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship – led by Peter Bentall
		7.30pm	Community Café Commissioning Service
			<b>Deadline for contributions to February FOCUS</b>
Thu	16 <sup>th</sup> )		Night Shelter
Fri	17 <sup>th</sup> )		"
Sun	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister and including Holy Communion and the Induction of Elders
		12.15pm	Extraordinary Church Meeting
Thu	23 <sup>rd</sup> )		Night Shelter
Fri	24 <sup>th</sup> )		"
Sat	25 <sup>th</sup>	3.30pm	Top of Town Messy Church
Sun	26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister
Thu	30 <sup>th</sup> )		Night Shelter
Fri	31 <sup>st</sup> )		"

## Services at Old Meeting, Tadley

### Preachers

### Welcome

5 <sup>th</sup>	Mark Ward	Ena and George
12 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Kay Blackwell	Mandy and Dave
19 <sup>th</sup>	Derek Clarke	Ladies Cell
26 <sup>th</sup>	Adam Payne	Mark and Julie

## 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 (Term Time)
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 (Term Time)
10am-12 noon	'LITTLE ANGELS' pre-school Club (Term time)
3-5.30pm in Term Time	Youth Café for secondary school and college students
6.00pm	(BEAVER SCOUTS — 8 <sup>th</sup> Basingstoke Colony )
7pm	(CUB SCOUTS — 8 <sup>th</sup> Basingstoke Pack ) Term
7pm	(SCOUTS — 8 <sup>th</sup> Basingstoke Troop ) Time
7-8.00pm	PRAYER MEETING at <b>Tadley URC or St Pauls</b>

### *Wednesdays:*

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

### *Thursdays:*

10am-1.30pm	OASIS Café in the Concourse (Term Time)
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

**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]  
.....