



FOCUS

July 2024



London Street United Reformed Church

Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 7NU

Tadley (Old Meeting) United Reformed Church

Malthouse Ln, Hants, RG26 3NY

THE NOTICEBOARD

Information, updates, tips and more.



Happy Birthday to the following member of our church family:

Joan Musselwhite

Eco Tip

God's Gift -- Our World

The Environment -- Our Responsibility



Scientists from the University of Manchester have calculated that the typical family barbecue (cheeseburgers, strawberries & cream) releases as much CO₂ into the atmosphere as a 90 mile car trip. It's the burger that's the main culprit -- barbecuing produces CO₂, producing grain to make the bun and feed the cattle (which also belch methane) sends out more CO₂. Swapping chicken for the burger would bring emissions down to an equivalent 51-mile drive or swapping to veggie sausages and skipping the cheese and cream down to 33 miles.

Don't forget, you can recycle the following items at London Street:

Empty Printer Cartridges, Aluminium Containers and Foil, Batteries, and Plastic Milk Bottle Tops.

THANKS!

I would like to thank the church family for their prayers cards flowers and good wishes following my fall which resulted in a broken hip, I am well on the mend and hope to be back with you all soon.

With many thanks

Joan Mussellwhite

GREAT NEWS!



I am delighted to report the sum of £788 (2023 £409) was raised during the recent Christian week and the simple soup lunch on 12 May 2024.

The final total will be £914.25 when the gift aid is added to the initial total.

Can I set a target of £1000.00 next year? Thank you once again.

Ian Scott

Church Flowers

The Flower Committee would like to thank Sheila Munro for donating July flowers in memory of her husband David & daughter Annette. Flowers arranged by Joyce Cook.

FOCUS: Next Issue

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of Focus magazine. If you would like to contribute to the August magazine, please contact the editor by **18th of July**.

Hearing Aid Batteries

I have a number of hearing aid batteries that I no longer require, with a shelf life of 3 years. They are size 312. If anyone would like them then please contact me.
Regards Owen.



Revd Kay Blackwell Induction Service

The Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church warmly invites all those who know the Revd Kay Blackwell to her induction service to the role of Special Category Minister for the Synod's St Cuthbert's Centre Project on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne.

Due to tides, the service will take place at Wooler United Reformed Church at 2.00 pm on Saturday 31st August 2024. The service will be streamed on YouTube. You can go to YouTube and search for "Wooler URC" or you can use the link below:

<https://YouTube.com/live/jn6MUZczMtE?feature=share>

Blessings

Owen

Congratulations to Julian Macro!

Our friend and formerly our minister, Revd. Julian Macro has been elected as Mayor of Verwood in Dorset. His term will run to 2025 and his chosen charities to support during this time are the Verwood Foodbank (Trussell Trust), and Bournemouth and District Samaritans. We wish him all the best in this new role.



Image: Verwood Town Council

Can you help to make sure that no one in our local community goes hungry?



Items **urgently** needed: UHT Milk, Coffee, Deodorant, Hot/Cold Desserts (e.g. Jelly, Sponge Pudding, Angel Delight), Long Life Fruit Juice, Powdered Milk, Shampoo and Conditioner, Nappies (Size 6), Tinned Fruit.

Items needed: Cleaning Spray, Cooking Sauces, Custard, Loo Roll, Nappies (Size 5 and Above), Savoury Spreads (Marmite, Peanut Butter, Meat Paste etc.), Squash, Sweet Spreads (Jam, Marmalade etc.), Tinned Meat (e.g. Chilli, Stewing Steak, Ham), Tinned Spaghetti/Ravioli, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Veg, Toothpaste, Washing Up Liquid.

Please **do not** give Baby Food, Hand Soap, Hot/Cold Cereal, Nappies (Size 4 and Below), Non-Dairy Milk, Pasta, Pet Food, Pulses, Sanitary Pads, Tinned Beans, Tinned Soup, as these are already in surplus.

Donations can be left at London Street URC in the container provided. For up to date lists, or to find other donation points, go to:

<https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/givehelp/food/>

Or download the BankTheFood app from the Apple App/Google Play store and select Basingstoke Foodbank.



LONDON ST UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY



SUNDAY JULY 21ST 2:30PM

107a Cliddesden Rd,

Basingstoke RG21 3EY

CREAM TEAS, GAMES, QUIZ.

DO COME AND SPEND TIME WITH YOUR
CHURCH FAMILY.

CHILDREN WELCOME

FREE ENTRY BUT DONATIONS WELCOME FOR
THE WORK OF OUR CHURCH

A SUMMER OF SPORT

Rev. Josh Thomas looks at the lessons we can learn as we watch our sporting heroes.



You all know me well enough to know that I love nothing more than the summer season. The shorts come out, the BBQ gets lit as frequently as possible, and we all enjoy a little bit more, the beauty of God's creation. I must confess a preference to an even year in the calendar though, why? Because of all the sport of course!

I write this article at the very start of the EUROS, and full of optimism! Just last night I watched England rise victorious against Serbia and marvelled at just what a player Jude Bellingham already is aged just 20 years old. Of course, sadly if you follow Scotland, things aren't looking quite so rosy... when the EUROS are over and hopefully England have 'brought it home', we look towards Wimbledon and the great spectacle of that fortnight, showcasing everything we love about Britain... and then, yes, and then! It is also an Olympic and Paralympic year on top of it all. If you can't find me in the next few months, it's probably because I'm glued to the television!

Whether you love or loathe sports, there are many important lessons we can learn from them.

We learn firstly the importance of teamwork. There are many examples in the Bible which point to the importance of working together. The obvious one is 1 Corinthians 12 which says, 'Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it'. We are better when we play to our strengths working together for the good of the church and the community.

Secondly, we learn about perseverance. Hebrews 12 tells us, 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith'. Recently I was reminded of the story of Eric Liddell and the strength of his faith and perseverance, despite having the world at his feet, he

recognised the importance of staying true to his beliefs and enjoyed success away from his main event regardless. We must persevere even when times are tricky.

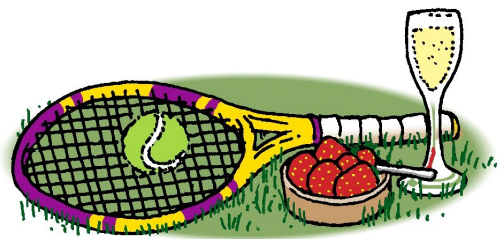
Thirdly and finally, sport teaches us about hope. We all need something to unite us, something to hope in. Our hope as a country at this time is in England's football team and Jude Bellingham, however, this hope is temporary and probably ill-founded.

For us as Christians, that hope is found in the promises made by Jesus, the promise of something better to come, we can use that hope to inspire those around us in our community and in our world to build their hope on something of a firmer foundation.

I finish by offering you the words of one of my favourite worship songs, these words speak truth and are life giving and I hope they offer you some sort of conclusion to this now rambling article!

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but holy trust is Jesus' name. Christ alone, Cornerstone, weak made strong in the Saviour's love. Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.

Blessings to you all as you enjoy the summer months and of course – come on England!



A Quiet Thought...

What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity. They are but trifles, to be sure, but, scattered along life's pathway, the good they do is inconceivable.

Joseph Addison



THE PRAYER CIRCLE

Please remember the following people in your prayers...

Stan & Sandra Marut

David & Gill Vickery

Seb & Dorcas in Uganda

Jim in Scotland

David Swain

David and Libby

Maggie & Richard Morgans

Sam & Ray Honeyball Todd

Dick & Anne Davy

Carys Haywood

Eric & Christine Clucas

Joan Musselwhite

Ted Martin

Bev Harris and Dom

Louise Waller

David & Julie Bath

Jenny McCloy

The Patterson Family - A new Grandson - Edward

Maxine Perkins

Owen Collins

Chris and Leng Ayland and his brother's family

Doina Rasnita

Brian Foster

Barbara Banbury and David Corfield

Students and the long wait after exams

Hamed, who has been moved to Rotherham from the Bibby Stockholm barge. He now has permission to stay in the UK, and his family will soon be able to apply for a visa to join him.

Morteza, as he appeals the decision to refuse him permission to stay in the UK.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS



This month's assigned readings.

	Psalm	New Testament		Psalm	New Testament
1st	78: 17-25	Acts 7: 30-60	17th	84: 8-12	Acts 17: 16-34
2nd	78: 26-39	Acts 8: 1-25	18th	85: 1-7	Acts 18
3rd	78: 40-52	Acts 8: 26-40	19th	85: 8-13	Acts 19: 1-22
4th	78: 53-68	Acts 9: 1-31	20th	86: 1-7	Acts 19: 23-41
5th	78: 69-72	Acts 9: 32-43	21st	86: 8-13	Acts 20: 1-12
6th	79: 1-8	Acts 10: 1-23a	22nd	86: 14-17	Acts 20: 13-38
7th	79: 9-13	Acts 10: 23b-48	23rd	87	Acts 21: 1-16
8th	23	Acts 11	24th	88: 1-9	Acts 21: 17-36
9th	80: 1-7	Acts 12: 1-24	25th	88: 10-13	Act 21: 37 - 22: 29
10th	80: 8-15	Acts 12: 25 - 13: 25	26th	88: 13-18	Acts 22: 30 - 23: 22
11th	80: 16-19	Acts 13: 26-52	27th	23	Acts 23: 23-35
12th	81: 1-7	Acts 14	28th	89: 1-8	Acts 24
13th	81: 8-16	Acts 15: 1-29	29th	89: 9-13	Acts 25: 1-22
14th	82	Acts 15: 30 - 16: 15	30th	89: 14-18	Acts 25: 23 - 26: 11
15th	83	Acts 16: 16-40	31st	89: 19-29	Acts 26: 12-32
16th	84: 1-7	Acts 17: 1-15			

EVENT DIARIES



What's on this month at London St. & Old Meeting URCs.

At London Street URC (unless otherwise specified):

Regular Events

Sunday Worship 10:30am			
Mondays	10:15am	Craft Group	
Tuesdays	2:30pm	Take Time Meditation (Exploring Luke's Gospel)	On Zoom. Contact Church Secretary for password.
	5:45-6:45pm	Beavers	In Term Time.
	7-8:30pm	Cubs	All in the Den except Scouts who meet in the Wessex Hall.
	7-9pm	Scouts	
Wednesdays	10:15am	Memory Tree Social Club	
	12:15pm	Lunchtime Prayers	

July Worship Diary

7th	Led by Revd. Josh Thomas; Musician: Mark Best.
14th	Led by John Sinclair; Musician: Joyce Cook.
21st	Service includes Holy Communion. Led by Revd. Mike Burrell; Musician: Peter Dixon.
28th	Led by Andy Taylor; Musician: Mark Best.

Duty Elder for the month is: Ian McCloy.

Next Church Meeting:

8th July (Monday), 7:30pm (in the Hook Room)

Other Events

Sun 21st, 2:30pm	Church Garden Party (see page 7)
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At Tadley (Old Meeting) URC (unless otherwise specified):

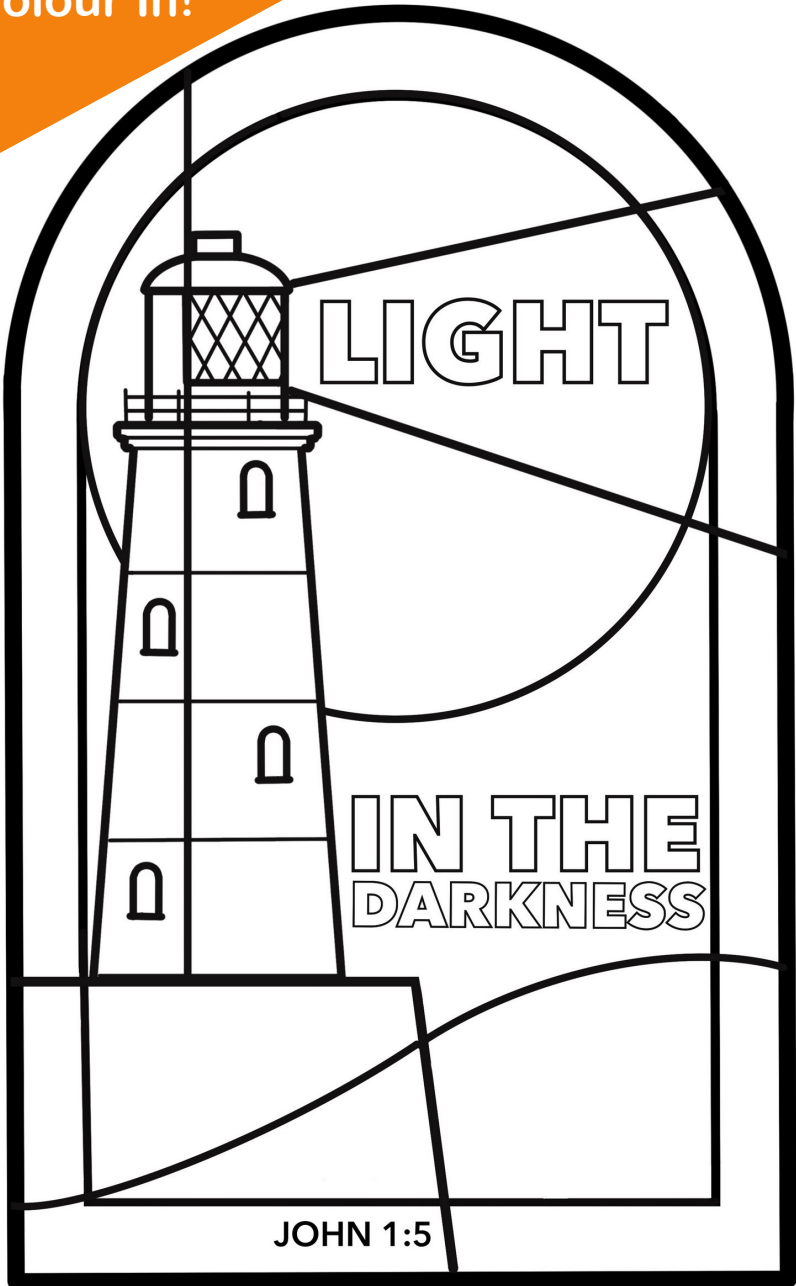
Regular Events

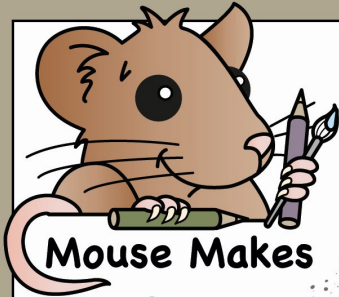
Sunday Worship 10:30am		
Monday Afternoons	Ladies' Cell Group	Contact Penny O'Bee.
Monday Evenings	Cell Group	Contact Mark Ward or Paul Gross.
Tuesday Evenings	Joint Prayer Time with St Paul's	Contact Penny O'Bee.
Wednesday Evenings	Prayer via Zoom	Contact Mark Ward.
Friday Afternoon	Men's Shed	2pm, once a fortnight. Contact Paul Gross.

July Worship Diary

7th	Led by Ed Vassie.
14th	No Service at Old Meeting.
21st	Led by Philip Jones.
28th	'Sharing Service'.

Colour In!





Mouse Makes

How many days did the Lord tell Joshua to march around the city of Jerico?

Joshua 6:3



What did the priests carry that were made from rams' horns?

Joshua 6:4

What was carried along behind the priests?

The _____
Joshua 6:4



On the seventh day how many times did they march around Jerico?

Joshua 6:6



Who was saved from Jerico along with her family?

Joshua 6:17

READ

the story in Joshua 5:13-6:27

A word search puzzle with a grid of letters and scattered pieces of stone or brick. The grid contains the following words:

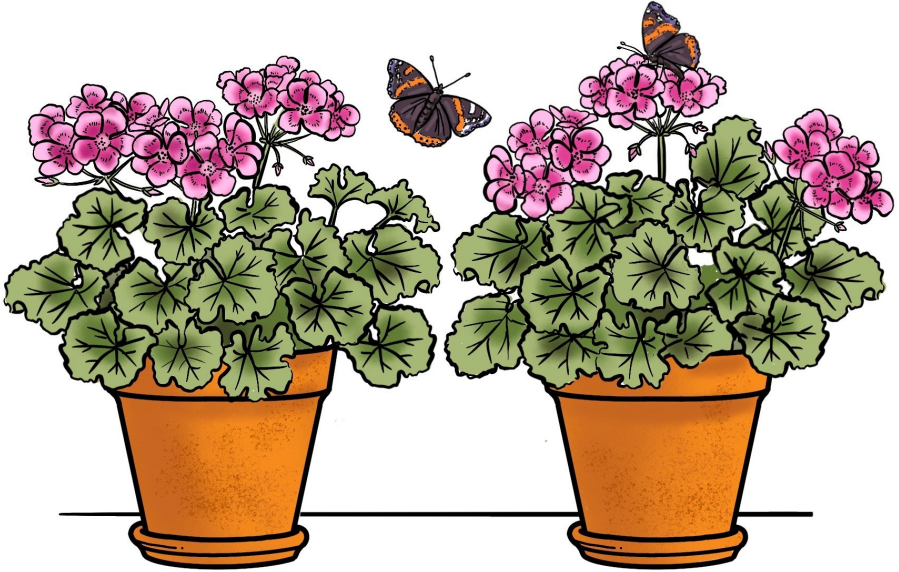
DAY S A W A L K
 A J O S H U A R K E
 S E V E N I O F L A T W
 Y N T R F X U E L B O I
 I P R I E S T S O U N D
 A A U C L I S W R R C A
 R I M O L K I B D N E W
 O S P S C A M P H O R N
 U R E C G U A R D B K
 N A T I F I R E X L I
 D E S T R U C T I O N
 E L R Y R A H A B W G

Below the grid is a list of words to find:

JERICO • LORD • JOSHUA • ISRAEL • KING • PRIESTS • GUARD
 CAMP • MARCH • AROUND • DAYS • WALK • ONCE • BLOW • HORN • SOUND
 DAWN • SHOUT • CITY • WALL • FELL • FLAT • FIRE • BURN • DESTRUCTION

Find the question answers in the word search too!

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London Street

United Reformed Church

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