



FOCUS

June 2023



London Street United Reformed Church

Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 7NU

Tadley (Old Meeting) United Reformed Church

Malthouse Ln, Hants, RG26 3NY

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Joy Williams explores how we can make the best of our God given gifts.



1 Peter 4:10 *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

Watching bird behaviour at a feeder is a highly entertaining occupation for us in this country but we are not alone. I found this piece written by a very aptly named American named Jay E. Adams who also finds watching them fascinating, and writes that under the roof in his back yard hangs a hummingbird feeder that he keeps filled with sugar water. There are four openings in it from which birds may suck the nectar. Yet, day after day, from early morning until after dusk, the feeder is the source of their own private version of Star Wars. One bird chases all the others away.

As I said, Adams writes, "There is room for four birds at a time, and fully that number attempt to feed. But the 'top bird' who now 'owns' the feeder, will not let them. All day long he sits on the branch of a nearby apricot tree guarding 'his' feeder and defying others to transgress on what he has established as 'his' territory.

This ongoing slice of life confronts us throughout the day as green and red hummers streak across the yard, the king hummer in hot pursuit of an intruder. While the chase is on, others sneak a sip or two, only to be driven off when he returns.

The whole business has become a sort of parable for our family. Here is an example of grace: I bought the feeder; I supply the sugar water. The birds do not earn it; they receive it all FREE. Yet, day after day, they fight over who may enjoy it.

How like the people of God! All we have or are that is worthwhile is the gift of God's pure grace. And yet we can be proud, self-centred, envious, and quarrelsome. Often, we fight over God's good gifts rather than expressing our gratitude in humility and sharing what we have been given with others. Just as I am confronted daily with rivalry in my yard, even so God is confronted daily with rivalry in His."

Prayer:

Thank you, loving, generous and gracious Father, for all I receive from you day by day. You have given me so much, may I learn from Jesus' life and teaching how to use it in the service of your Kingdom. May I be a faithful steward, sowing and reaping as the Holy Spirit directs knowing that you are always faithful and your resources infinite.

Amen

THE NOTICEBOARD

Information, updates, tips and more.



Happy Birthday to the following members of our church family:

Imogen

Eileen Poulter

Christine Robertson



THANK YOU!

Thank you from myself and our family for the kind condolences re Sandy's passing and the great donations made on the day.

We would also like to thank Ian & Carol Scott for their care and help during Sandy's illness. It was very much appreciated.

-Liz Lindsay



Eco Tip

God's Gift -- Our World

The Environment -- Our Responsibility



Have a pet dog or cat?

Gradually switch from canned food to dried food packaged in cardboard or paper containers. They're lighter, thereby saving on transport costs and energy use and the packaging is less resource- and energy-intensive.

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

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

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



Items needed:

Long Life Fruit Juice, Powdered Milk, Squash, Tinned Meat, Peanut Butter, Chocolate Spread, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Custard, Crisps/ Savoury Snacks, Sweets/Chocolate, Conditioner, Washing Up Liquid, Toilet Rolls, Small Packs Of Washing Machine Tabs/Pods, Cleaning Sprays, Nappies (Size 5).

Please **do not** give Pasta, Rice, Cereal (Hot & Cold), Tea & Coffee, Crackers/Biscuits, Marmite, Non-dairy Milk, Rice Pudding, Tinned Soup, Baked Beans, Baby Food, Pet Food, 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/give-help/donate-food/>

'BIG' SUMMER FAMILY FUN DAY, 12 to 4pm, Sat 17th June

at TADLEY URC – all welcome



**Hook
a Duck**



It's for fun...but also
raising funds for St
Michael's Hospice,
Basingstoke

BBQ

ICE CREAMS PLUS: Paddling
Pool, Children's Lucky Dip, Junk
Modelling, Arts and Crafts, Table Tennis,
and large outdoor games.....





On May 10th we had a party at Memory Tree to celebrate the King's Coronation. Everyone dressed in red, white and blue. The Hook room was decorated with bunting, flags and photos of King Charles III taken over the years. We had lots of cakes, scones with jam and cream, and a beautiful Victoria sandwich decorated with raspberries and blueberries to represent the Union Flag as a centrepiece (thanks to Alison).

Those who wished made a tiara, which they decorated with 'jewels' and glitter! And they were worn during the morning. We had lots of fun finding the answers to a Royal Quiz which Ted had compiled. The highlight of the morning was the pass the parcel game which Isobel had wrapped and a Coronation Teddy was concealed inside!

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this such a fun occasion, which our guests will long remember. -Jenny



Church Away Day with Petersfield URC

Revd Josh Thomas is organising an Away Day for the congregations of Petersfield and London Street URCs to which Old Meeting is also welcome.



It is scheduled for Saturday 30th September at Ditcham Park School from 10.00am until 4.00pm. The main sessions of the day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, will be led by Jo Patterson a Church Related Community Worker based in Peckham. She will focus in a fun way on mission work within the community. Ruth White and her team have been booked to run the children's events.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided, but please bring your own picnic lunch. There will be free time in the afternoon for you to enjoy a walk in the countryside surrounding the school.

There is a sub-committee comprising of representatives of both churches planning the event and further details will follow in due course.

Whilst some will wish to make their own way, a coach will be available to take you to Ditcham Park, leaving Basingstoke at 8.45am and returning by 5.15pm. At this stage to help with planning the event, if you are interested in attending please let me know by Sunday 2nd July.

Thank you,

Owen Collins

FOCUS: Next Issue

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of Focus magazine. If you would like to contribute to the June magazine, please contact the editor by **14th of June**.

WHAT WE BUILD ON EARTH

Revd. Josh Thomas discusses our tendency to discard rather than repair, in all matters.



We recently took a trip out to the Weald and Downland Museum just outside of Chichester. I had been there as a child but not for many years. Sometimes when you go somewhere as a child, you remember it differently, usually it is a lot smaller than you remember it, in fact I experienced this just the other day as I had an all-day meeting in Romsey where my Grandparents lived when I was young. I took a walk around the local park which used to seem massive to me as a child but as an adult, was disappointingly compact!

Back to the Weald and Downland though... this did not feel smaller, in fact it seemed much bigger to me as an adult! Perhaps, this was because I took much more interest in the history of the buildings or, perhaps, it was because I was dragging two small children of my own around the place, I must remember to ask my parents whether this was their experience!!

My Father-in-law was incredibly excited to visit the museum as it is, of course, home to the BBC television series 'The Repair Shop'. The premiss of this programme, I believe, has much to teach us today as Christians. In today's society, we are too quick to discard things that we consider are broken and not worth repairing, we give up far too easily and just go out and purchase something new. Now, of course, we know that this has environmental ramifications but that's someone else's problem, right? Well, no, not really... but that's another article.

We do this too often as people though, someone does something or says something that jars with who we are and what we believe, and we decide to ourselves that this relationship is over and replace that

person with somebody else. Is this what God calls us to do? When a painting needs repairing in the Repair Shop, they don't just stick a patch on the canvas and paint over it. They strip it back, carefully cleaning off years or decades worth of dirt as well as the grime from previous attempts at "fix-it" jobs. They slowly weave the threads of the canvas back together, restoring it to its originally intended foundations. This is what restoration looks like in The Repair Shop. Not a disposal of the old thing, but a stripping back, a cleansing, a renewal of what was already there.

Paul talks about this in 1 Corinthians 3:12-15, he says; 'If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

Paul says that what we "build" here on earth, whether it's big things like relationships, structures, congregations and ministries, or the little things our days are made up of - the good things will survive when God renews all things, and the bad things will be burned away.

When it comes to the final day, all the corruption, evil and poor attempts at bodge it fix-up jobs will be cleared away. The things that remain will be goodness, love, purity in heart. What we do here and now, the effort that we put into our relationships with one another, really does matter, not just for now, but for all eternity.

'Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.' **1 Corinthians 15:58.**

THE PRAYER CIRCLE

Please remember the following people in your prayers...

Christine Weaver

Linda Hicks

Paul Gross

David Bennett

Karen Jones

Barbara Banbury

Chris Jones' grandson Archie

Carys Haywood

Shirley Craft

Doina Rasnita

Tony Chan

Eric and Christine Clucas

Stan and Sandra Marut

Liz Lindsay and family

Claire Macro

Beverley Cantwell

Joyce Cook

The Patterson family



DAILY BIBLE READINGS



This month's assigned readings.

	Psalm	New Testament		Psalm	New Testament
1st	68: 7-14	John 10: 22-42	16th	72: 15-20	John 18: 25-40
2nd	68: 15-20	John 11: 1-16	17th	73: 1-12	John 19: 1-27
3rd	68: 21-27	John 11: 17-44	18th	73: 13-20	John 19: 28-42
4th	68: 28-35	John 11: 45 - 12: 11	19th	73: 21-28	John 20: 1-18
5th	69: 1-5	John 12: 12-36	20th	74: 1-8	John 20: 19-31
6th	69: 6-12	John 12: 37-50	21st	74: 9-17	John 21
7th	69: 13-18	John 13: 1-17	22nd	74: 18-23	Acts 1
8th	69: 19-28	John 13: 18-38	23rd	75: 1-5	Acts 2: 1-28
9th	69: 29-36	John 14: 1-14	24th	75: 6-10	Acts 2: 29-47
10th	70	John 14: 15-31	25th	76: 1-6	Acts 3
11th	71: 1-8	John 15: 1-25	26th	76: 7-12	Acts 4: 1-31
12th	71: 9-18	John 15: 26 - 16: 15	27th	77: 1-9	Acts 4: 32 - 5: 16
13th	71: 19-24	John 16: 16-33	28th	77: 10-15	Acts 5: 17-42
14th	72: 1-7	John 17	29th	77: 16-20	Acts 6
15th	72: 8-14	John 18: 1-24	30th	78: 1-8	Acts 7: 1-29

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	
	7:30pm	Take Time Meditation (Exploring Mark's Gospel)	On Zoom. Contact Church Secretary for password.
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	3Cs Coffee, Chat	3rd Wednesday of the Month Only (21st).
	10:15am	Memory Tree Social Club	
	12:15pm	Lunchtime Prayers	

Other Events

Sun 4th	8:30am	Prayer Breakfast	In the Hook Room.
Weds 14th	7:30pm	Elders' Meeting	On Zoom.
Sat 17th	12 (noon) - 4pm	Family Fun Day	At Tadley URC.

Sat 24th	Elders' Conference	At Salisbury.
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June Worship Diary

4th	Led by Revd. Josh Thomas; Musician: Joyce Cook; Duty Elder: Gill Miller.
11th	Led by Revd. Mike Burrell; Musician: Peter Dixon; Duty Elder: Gill Miller.
18th	Led by Peter Bentall; Musician: Peter Dixon;
25th	Includes Holy Communion. Led by Revd. Julian Macro; Musician: Alex Macro; Duty Elder: Gill Miller.

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.

June Worship Diary

4th	Helping CTAT at the Tadley Treacle Fair.
11th	Led by Ed Vassie.
18th	Communion Service. Led by Mark Ward.
25th	No service at Old Meeting.

London Street United Reformed Church

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]