



London Street

United Reformed Church

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



**FOCUS
2022**

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - www.basingstokeurc.org.uk

MINISTER:

Vacancy

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Mr Owen Collins
15 Cyprus Road
Hatch Warren
Basingstoke RG22 4UY
Tel: 01256 477425
e.mail - secretary@basingstokeurc.org.uk

TREASURER:

Karen Bell
13 Skyline Plaza, Alencon Link
Basingstoke RG21 7BL
Tel: 01256 352033
e.mail - treasurer@basingstokeurc.org.uk

LETTINGS SECRETARY:

Karen Bell
13 Skyline Plaza, Alencon Link
Basingstoke RG21 7BL
Tel: 01256 352033
e.mail - lettings@basingstokeurc.org.uk

FOCUS:

Mrs Christine Robertson
1208 Skyline Plaza, Alencon Link,
Basingstoke RG21 7AZ
Tel: 07544 466409
e.mail: 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:

Vacancy

Church Secretary:

Paul Gross
22 Pelican Road, Pamber Heath RG26 3EN
Tel: 0118 970 0809
e.mail: paulgross3107@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Mark Ward
10 Hartleys, Silchester, Reading RG7 2QE
e.mail: mandjward@hotmail.co.uk

A Thought for the Month:

I subscribe to U.R.C's Daily Devotions which appear in my emails soon after 6.00.a.m. every day. With a cup of tea I start reading the day's verses and reflection. Recently, the readings were from one of the smallest books of the Old Testament: the historical book of Ruth. Placed between the savagery of Judges and before 1 Samuel, it is a peaceful tale of everyday life in O.T. times told from a woman's perspective.

Elimelech, his wife Naomi and their two sons Mahlon and Chilion went to the land of Moab during a time of famine in Judah. There, Mahlon married Ruth, and Chilion married Orpah. Within a few years the three women were all widowed and without support.

Naomi decided to return to her home in Bethlehem and tried to persuade her daughters-in-law to remain in Moab with their families. However, Ruth was devoted to Naomi and went with her to Bethlehem. There, Ruth foraged for food in a field belonging to a rich, influential relative of her mother-in-law. He protected her and later married her. They had a son Obed who became the grandfather of King David.

A happy ending!

In O.T. times, women lacked power and social status. This is a tale of a foreign woman's devotion to her mother-in-law and finding a new faith. We also learn that Naomi's local influence enabled her to scheme and find a new husband for Ruth. A story of courage, determination, and love it restores hope and goodness to the human scene.

We have returned to reading through the New Testament and I am enjoying the Acts of The Apostles now. I find that my quiet devotion time in the morning sets me up for the day. If you don't have them already, it's a "Holy Habit" I recommend.

Jean Young



Circle of Prayer

Please remember the following in your prayers:

London Street - Beverley Cantwell and family;
Christine Clucas; Kay Cook; the Dumbleton family;
Christine Holt; Sandy and Liz Lindsay; Stan and Sandra Marut; Maggie Morgans and family; Betty Shipway; the Patterson family; Isobel Martin and Doina Rasnita.

Tadley Old Meeting prayer list: Linda Hicks' daughter, Sam; Trevor Eaves and family; Alastair Melrose and family.



Clara Nicholson, 3 years on 16th September
Luke Dumbleton 6 years on 21st September

Church Flowers - September



4th Jenny and Ian McCloy

Daily Bible Readings for September:

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	
1 st	62	2 Corinthians	7	16 th 34:11-22	1 Timothy	5
2 nd	104:24-35	"	8	17 th 68:1-10	"	6
3 rd	139	"	9	18 th 144	2 Timothy	1
4 th	32	"	10	19 th 36:5-12	Reflection	
5 th	63	Reflection		20 th 68:28-35	"	
6 th	140	"		21 st 145	2 Timothy	2
7 th	33:1-12	2 Corinthians	11	22 nd 38	"	3
8 th	65	"	12	23 rd 69:1-6;30-36	"	4
9 th	141	"	13	24 th 146	Titus	1
10 th	33:13-22	1 Timothy	1	25 th 107	"	2
11 th	66	"	2	26 th 70	Reflection	
12 th	105:1-11	Reflection		27 th 147	"	
13 th	34:1-10	"		28 th 40:1-8	Titus	3
14 th	67	1 Timothy	3	29 th 71:1-13	1 John	1
15 th	143	"	4	30 th 148	"	2



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

To: All Ministers and Church Secretaries on email in Wessex Synod
Committee Conveners and Synod Staff

Dear friends

The URC's Jubilee celebrations will be happening in London on Saturday 1st October. Details of events that day can be found at <https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/our-50th-anniversary/50th-anniversary-tickets/>

Please advertise these events among your congregations, and encourage people to book online:

Service: <https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/our-50th-anniversary/50th-anniversary-tickets/#service-of-thanksgiving-and-celebration>

Open Church House: <https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/our-50th-anniversary/50th-anniversary-tickets/#open-church-house>

Walk to Westminster: <https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/our-50th-anniversary/50th-anniversary-tickets/#walk-to-westminster>

If people are willing to volunteer for a part of the day - either stewarding, or serving communion - then please contact the communications team at 50@urc.org.uk

Best wishes

Clare Downing

Page's Charity Trust

In 1802 Mr Joseph Page, a member of the Independent Meeting House in Basingstoke, which was to become the London Street Congregational Church and in turn the London Street United Reformed Church, put monies in a trust so that cottages could be erected as almshouses. These were for people belonging to the congregation of Protestant Dissenters of the Independent Persuasion of Calvinistic Principles, who met for religious worship at their meeting house in London Street. To qualify for a cottage they had to be in need, hardship or distress.

The original cottages were built in Hackwood Road in 1806. They were replaced in 1930 as bungalows on the corner of New Road and London Road. However during the town's redevelopment in the 1970's they were compulsory purchased by the Council and the monies used to replace them with the current bungalows in 1975. The current bungalows are located just a short walk from London Street in New Road, adjacent to the entrance to Basingstoke Court. Originally six bungalows were built with a seventh added later.

Page's Trust was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission on 2 May 1962. The structure, governance and management of the Trust for both trustees and residents are set out in a governing document dated 2 June 1998, amended in April 2013.

The residents will be persons selected by the trustees who satisfy the qualifications of residency as detailed in the governing document. They must be:

- associated with the URC Basingstoke group;
- a resident of Basingstoke or its surrounding area; and
- they must show to be in need, hardship or distress.

In exceptional circumstances where a suitable resident cannot be selected against the criteria above, the trustees may widen their notification of a vacant bungalow. This will embrace firstly relatives of those associated with London Street URC; secondly those who are associated with the wider URC; and finally Christians from other denominations resident in Basingstoke.

The trustees are giving notice that we have two vacant bungalows and invite anyone wishing to apply for one or would like further information to speak with either myself, Liz Lindsay our secretary or Ian Scott our Treasurer.

Owen Collins
Chair of Page's Charity Trust

Can you help?

Focus magazine - At our church meeting in July I reported that Christine is to stand down as editor of Focus from January 2023. If anyone is interested in taking on this role, please have a word with either Christine or myself.

Church cleaning - Also at our recent church meeting, Ian Scott reported that at present there is no one to cover for Lou Waller our cleaner, when she takes annual leave. Jason Dudley provides some cover as a volunteer but can't do it all. If anyone can spare just a couple of hours to help on the odd occasion on a voluntary basis, please speak with Ian.

ELECTION OF ELDERS

We shall shortly be considering the nomination and election of members to be called to serve as elders. Being an elder is a ministry to which a church member is called by God. This call can come through you as a church member when considering another for nomination and election because of what you discern about that person.

Procedure for nomination and election as provided for by the constitution of London Street

Church meeting shall determine the maximum number of elders whose election is sought. Leng Ayland and May Honeyball each complete 6 years and will not be eligible to be re-elected, and Keng Moavu has served 3 years and is eligible for re-election. The recommendation to the July Church meeting from Elders' meeting was that we retain the number of serving Elders at 12 to serve in 2023. This was agreed unanimously resulting in 5 vacant Elder's positions to be filled at this year's election.

A list of those eligible to serve as elders shall be handed to those on the current church roll. Each member will be entitled to nominate up to two more church members than the maximum to be elected. All those nominated by at least 4% of church

members shall be considered validly nominated. They will be visited to ascertain whether they are willing to accept nomination.

All of those who have accepted nomination shall be listed on a ballot paper, which will be made available to all on the current church roll, for election to serve as an elder for a term of 3 years. The ballot shall normally take place at the November church meeting.

What does it mean to be an elder at London Street and within the United Reformed Church?

Being an elder means that a church member has been called to be part of a 'team', since an elder is someone who joins with others to form the Elders' meeting of London Street. It is important though to remember that in accepting a call to serve as an elder, that person is not just an elder of London Street but an elder of the United Reformed Church. A person can only be nominated for eldership if they are on the church roll of members for a minimum of 12 months. As a church member they will have an understanding of the constitutions of the United Reformed Church and that of London Street.

What does an elder do?

The call to eldership is a high calling and although it is a difficult job to do, it is essential for the good health and direction of the church and can be exceedingly rewarding. The functions of eldership in the United Reformed Church have been laid down in the Basis of Union. The list appears daunting. They include ensuring that public worship is regularly offered and the sacraments are duly administered, to ensuring pastoral care for the congregation; to be responsible for the institution and oversight of work among children and young people, to recommending to the church meeting arrangements for the proper maintenance of buildings and general oversight of all financial responsibilities.

Who do you see as being called to carry out these functions?

Is it reasonable to expect that every member should possess the gifts of the Holy Spirit to carry out every function of eldership? Your current eldership is, as a team, already fulfilling the functions of eldership to a greater or lesser extent. When nominating or electing a person to serve as an elder, you are being asked to consider prayerfully who God is seeking to join them in continuing with this work. When praying you are not seeking to find an individual who is gifted in all the functions of eldership. This is collective work. Some responsibilities are ongoing, others are more dependent on circumstances. Some may be done by small groups, some by everyone. However you should expect the person you are nominating or electing to have potential and eagerness for growth in accepting the movement of the Spirit within them.

An elder is no different from any other church member in that we are all called to develop and grow in faith, through prayer, worship, sacraments and learning. The call to eldership is a renewed call to these things as well. So the faith required is the same faith that makes us a Christian. But, at times we all feel lacking in faith, or commitment, or ability. We all feel inadequate in our various callings and service to the church. That is when we need the support and the faith of the rest of the church around us, as well as the grace of God. That is why it is so important to take your time through prayer when considering who to nominate and elect as an elder.

CHURCH MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

On 30th May I wrote to every member of the congregation inviting you to attend an Away Day on 25th June to explore our mission. Just over 30 attended, representing a third of those invited. It was an informative as well as enjoyable day. Led by Revd Mary

Thomas, we explored not just our mission to the community we serve, but also our traditions of hospitality to each other.

At our Church Meeting on Wednesday 21st September at 7.30pm in the Hook Room, I will summarise the outcome of the day for you. We cannot cover in one meeting everything we concluded at the Away Day. Our focal point at the September meeting will be to agree our mission – our discipleship; and with the pending appointment of an Interim Minister here at London Street, I explained the reasoning behind this at our last Church Meeting.

So with that in mind I want to zero in on one session – our Framework for Growth, and in particular on one aspect – Growing Out. This was focusing on our mission within the community but interestingly it bordered also on another aspect which was Growing Together. I remember when the Elders about 4 years ago held a training day when we considered discipleship, one of the notes I made was that if you aim at nothing you are bound to hit. Aiming at something will bring challenges and sacrifices, but by remaining faithful to God's word and listening to what the Lord is calling us to do, it can also be a journey of wonder, joy and pleasure for us all.

So what are we aiming for? I have just returned home from an Extra-ordinary Elders' Meeting when we debated two questions arising from the feedback to Growing Out and Growing Together. How do we respond to the invitation to serve the community? How do we respond to the invitation to serve each other?

The community in which we serve changes, the congregation of which we are a part of changes. Hospitality featured strongly as a response to Growing Out. This included not only the work that we are currently engaged with 'food', i.e. community food link, the food table, Saturday hub, Youth table/cafe; but also Memory Tree, Little Angels and the Craft Group. Covid brought fatigue and struggle to many. Normality in many ways is so different.

The Lord leads us to the light, free to start living again in the new normal. The elders will be sharing their views with you at Church Meeting but the conclusion was very much that we should remain engaged by standing up for the marginalised in society.

Hospitality featured strongly as a response also to Growing Together, so not forgetting our own needs, as a start opening up the Oasis cafe for teas and coffee. The decision on taking this all forward is very much for Church Meeting to decide.

This is very much the beginning of a journey for all. There will be other aspects to consider and we will do so in time. You may be concerned that you are limited because of age or physical disability to help. That doesn't exclude you from helping. Energise yourself with the Spirit to pray, to support financially.

Christian discipline and discipleship is the very heart of Christian life – seeking to know and share God's love. Let us do that with the community we serve and with each other.

I want to finish this article by reminding you that there is another important item to discuss at our Church Meeting, and that is the appointment of Revd Josh Thomas as our Interim Minister. Josh will be attending the meeting and will address you on his role at London Street and answer any questions you may have.

Blessings, Owen

Eco Tip:

Every now and then leave your wallet at home and go out for a walk. Try joining the International Buy Nothing Day on the fourth Saturday of every month.

Tadley Holiday Club

This year we were able to be a part of God's amazing creation, seeing children grow and learn about loving God. We had not able to meet for 2 years due to covid restrictions.



A few months ago I received an e.mail asking if I would like to volunteer again. There was no doubt as I enjoy every year and every year is different - this one is my 5th time volunteering. This year I asked Bev if she would like to help and I was delighted when she said yes. This year's theme was Doug Hoorly Crazy Science, covered two days and was a great success with 44 children attending. The children had so much fun and we were filled with the holy sprit seeing that seed being planted. Full of God's love, glory and creation. They made home made clocks and drums.

I enjoy my role in the kitchen chopping up fruit and veg for children to snack on, serving cold drinks and making sure the volunteers have hot drinks, biscuits and cake.

I am very excited for what is in store for a whole week 2023 when the theme will be 'The Circus'.

Lou Waller

Christian Aid

Once again the generosity of the congregation has continued to be very good and I am pleased to report that the sum of £434.10 has been given. The following donations were given in a) 2020 £215.00 and b) 2021 £310.00.

Many thanks.

Ian Scott
Christian Aid Coordinator

The Doctors' Orchestra - A concert in aid of Freedom from Torture

Enjoy a live concert, featuring The Doctors' Orchestra, at London's prestigious Cadogan Hall on Monday, 19th September 2022. The Doctors' Orchestra brings together a unique ensemble of 75 musically gifted doctors to play in aid of 'Freedom from Torture', under the leadership of conductor Stephen Brearley, and features outstanding violinist Nathan Mierdl, in his first appearance with the Doctors' Orchestra, presenting a beautiful Nordic inspired programme.

Tickets cost £32, £25 and £15, (plus handling fee) and are available from the Box Office, www.cadoganhall.com or phone 020 7730 4500

Don't fancy trekking up to London? Enjoy the concert in the comfort of your own living room via live stream. Live stream tickets are just £11 and are available on <https://freedomfromtorture.eventcube.io/>

The proceeds of all ticket sales go to the charity 'Freedom from Torture', (Registered charity: England 1000340).

Freedom from Torture provides specialist psychological therapy, group therapy in areas such as music and art, as well as offering vital legal and welfare aid to help asylum seekers and refugees who have survived torture to recover and rebuild their lives in the UK. The charity also provides training for professionals working with torture survivors. As well as working with survivors to bring about change in the UK and across the world, they help to raise awareness and influence decision-makers about torture and its impact.



A reminder from September 2015 FOCUS



but still relevant for to-day:

Having recently accepted an offer to have my favourite newspaper (which, at the time, I only bought occasionally) delivered daily at much reduced rates. My thinking was that, with winter approaching, I would have more time to read it and to pray about what I read, more time to try to complete the crossword and other puzzles and to keep up with the sports news. As a result, I am a little more up to date with the news, I have a number of half completed crosswords to go back to, and a strong smell of newsprint as soon as I enter the living room - it is all getting a bit overwhelming so perhaps just buying "Newsweek" would be better! However, there are plenty of things in what I do read needing prayer and that can be overwhelming too. It is all too easy to think that we have to pray for them all and forget that God has an army of other Christian believers out there praying as well as us! Maybe it is better for us to focus our prayers on those people and events that God really lays on our hearts day by day. These may be something or someone in the newspaper or known personally to us. The important thing is that we pray for God's will to be done. So, having asked him to guide our prayers we can then pray with faith and expectation that if we are in step with him it will be done and seemingly impossible situations will be changed. Our prayers are important in the spiritual battle against evil.

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS AND MEETINGS
(all at Old Meeting, Tadley unless otherwise stated)
SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10.30am

September:

- Sun 4th No service at Old Meeting
- Sun 11th Ed Vassie
- Sun 18th Joining with St Mary's, Tadley
- Sun 25th Philip Jones
Church Meeting with bring and share lunch after the service.

REGULAR Weekly EVENTS AT TADLEY:

- Monday evening - Cell group - contact Mark Ward or Paul Gross
- Tuesday evening - joint prayer time with St Paul's - contact Penny O'Bee
- Wednesday evening - prayer - 7pm via Zoom - contact Mark Ward
- Friday afternoon - Men's Shed - contact Paul Gross
(2pm once a fortnight)
- Saturday afternoon - Ladies Cell group - contact Penny O'Bee



*"My parents blame school me for hell the day.
Then I blame school them on technology for the
other hell."*



REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS AND MEETINGS

(all at London Street, unless otherwise stated)

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10.30am

<i>Mondays:</i>	10.15am	Craft Group
<i>Tuesdays:</i>	10.15am	Little Angels
	5.30pm	Beavers) IN TERM TIME
	6.30pm	Cubs) in the Hook Room
	7.30pm	Scouts) in the Wessex Hall
<i>Wednesdays:</i>	10.15am	3Cs (Coffee, Chat and Company on the 3rd Wednesday of each month)
	10.30am	Memory Tree Social Club
	-12 noon	
	12.15pm	Lunchtime Prayers

Diary - September, 2022

(at London Street, unless otherwise stated)

Duty Elder: Kengjise Moavu

Sun 4 th	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast in the Hook Room
	10.30am	Worship, led by Vivien Gerhold
Sun. 11 th	10.30am	Worship, led by Open Doors - Trevor Roff
Sun 18 th	10.30am	Worship, including Holy Communion, led by Mark Ward
Wed 21 st	10.15am	3Cs
	7.30pm	Church Meeting
Sun 25 th	10.30am	Worship, Harvest Service led by the Junior Church

There will be an opportunity for members of the congregation to decorate a window sill for the service. It was agreed at the July Church Meeting that the congregation bring to the service non-perishable produce for distribution as follows:

- the Food Table;
- the Women's Refuge;
- members of our own congregation who may be struggling financially.

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]