



FOCUS

September 2024



London Street United Reformed Church

Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 7NU

Tadley (Old Meeting) United Reformed Church

Malthouse Ln, Hants, RG26 3NY

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

This month Ian McCloy discusses new beginnings, and how small changes for us individually can combine to make something big happen.



It's that time of the year again when we are making new beginnings. We are coming to the end of the summer, and a new term is beginning for students of all ages. Many students have had an anxious wait for exam results, including Lizzy, Adam and Kyla's daughter, who starts 6th Form College next term. Whatever their results have been they will now be embarking on a new journey. We pray for success in whatever path they choose.

Our country has recently started out on a new path after the General Election, and whatever our political opinion we will be following a new path, in many ways.

Each morning is a new beginning in our lives and a new opportunity to live our lives as Christ would have us do. When Christ came to earth as a man, his goal was to change the hearts and minds of everyone, to encourage them to find a new path in life and change the world around them. You might be tempted to think: 'What can I do?' Remember Christ had the help of his disciples, and we too have the help and support of others. Even the tiniest act of care and love, when multiplied by millions of like-minded people, can make an enormous difference. For example:

The Foodbank Network was founded in 2004 after 4 years of developing the original Foodbank in Salisbury. Carol and Paddy Henderson founded The Trussell Trust based on a legacy left by Carol's mother, Betty Trussell. Whilst, at first, Betty was focussing on children's projects in Bulgaria, Paddy, her son in law, received a phone call from a mother in Salisbury who was struggling to afford food for her children. This alerted him to the need close to home and he started the Salisbury Foodbank from his garden shed. This was a new beginning, started by one man following a new path and the model of providing 3 days emergency food was born, based on Matthew 25: 35-36 ('For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink'). Twenty years

later The Trussell Trust now supports a network of Foodbanks across the UK. You may have heard recently about a pop star called Taylor Swift; she has had sell out concerts all over the world. Tickets for her current Eras Tour range from £59 to £198!! This seems unbelievable, until you realise what she does with some of the money she earns through her concert dates. She has donated enough money to cover the food bills for an entire year across eleven foodbanks in Liverpool, and she has done this in every city she has toured in the UK. These donations have been hailed as incredible by charity leaders.

A group of people at London Street have spent time since Covid trying to ease the pain felt by so many in our town. They saw a need and decided to set out on a new path, again a small idea has grown into a project across the town, creating food hubs, our Food Table and the Hot Food Table. These try to support people who are desperate, right here on our doorstep. Imagine how you would feel if you had to rely on the food table or a foodbank to feed your family. It is hard to believe that we, who live in one of the richest nations in the world, still have (according to recent figures) over 40% of our nation's children living in poverty. This isn't acceptable, but we can help to change this statistic.



Remember, we can make small steps down new paths to change the world! The challenge is, how do we get involved? We need only look around our local area, within our church community outreach even, to find ways in which we can get involved. Please explore ways in which you could help and remember that new beginning! A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

THE NOTICEBOARD

Information, updates, tips and more.



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



Items **urgently** needed: Custard, Hot/Cold Desserts (e.g. Jelly, Sponge Pudding, Angel Delight), Long Life Fruit Juice, Powdered Milk, Rice Pudding, Savoury Spreads (Marmite, Peanut Butter, Meat Paste etc.), Squash, Sweet Snacks/Kids' Treats, Tinned Fruit.

Items needed: UHT Milk, Coffee, Cooking Sauces, Deodorant, Loo Roll, Nappies (Size 5 & Above), Savoury Snacks/Crisps, Shampoo and Conditioner, Sweet Spreads (Jam, Marmalade etc.), Tinned Meat (e.g. Chilli, Stewing Steak, Ham), Tinned Spaghetti/Ravioli, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Veg.

Please **do not** give Baby Food, Hand Soap, Hot/Cold Cereal, Nappies (Size 4 & 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.



Happy Birthday to the following member of our church family:

Luke Dumbleton



Eco Tip

God's Gift -- Our World

The Environment -- Our Responsibility



Use bars of soap, avoiding the plastic bottles of liquid soap.

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.



Church Flowers

The Flower Committee would like to thank Beryl Wootton for donating the September flowers in memory of her husband Chris and their Wedding Anniversary. The flowers will be arranged by Alison.

FOCUS: Next Issue

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of Focus magazine. If you would like to contribute to the October magazine, please contact the editor by **20th of September**.



A Quiet Thought...

Keep your face always toward the sunshine, and the shadows will fall behind you.

Anonymous

ELDER ELECTIONS

Elections are happening soon at London Street, so here's a reminder of how it works and what to consider.

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.

The procedure for the nomination and election of members to serve as Elders is provided for by the constitution of London Street Church. It is church meeting that determines the maximum number of Elders whose election is sought. Alison Jamieson completes 6 years and will not be eligible to be re-elected. Margaret Carrick Smith, Joyce Cook, Jenny McCloy, and Tony Patterson complete 3 years and all are eligible to be re-elected. Kengjise Moavu was elected by church meeting in April 2024 to serve as our Church Treasurer and will no longer continue as a serving elder.

The recommendation to the July church meeting from Elders' meeting was that we retain the number of serving Elders at 12 to serve for a term of 3 years from January 2025 to December 2027. This was agreed unanimously resulting in 8 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 who are nominated by at least 4 per cent of Church Members or by 4 Church Members, whichever is the greater, 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 and completed a self-declaration form headed 'Safer Election of Elders' shall be listed on a ballot paper, which will be made available to all on the current church roll. The ballot will 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.

Blessings Owen



THE PRAYER CIRCLE

Please remember the following people in your prayers...

Seb and Dorcas in Uganda

David & Gill Vickery

Joan Musselwhite

Maggie & Richard Morgans

Sam & Ray Honeyball-Todd

Barbara Banbury and David Corfield

Bev Harris and Dom

Carys Haywood

Claire & Alex Macro

Hyacinth Ridguard

Ian Scott

Archie (Chris Jones' grandson)

Leng's brother: Chee Tong Chan

Liz Foster as she takes on the responsibility and joy of leading our Junior Church

Morteza, awaiting his appeal hearing

Revd. Kay Blackwell as she answers her call to serve in the URC church on Holy Island, Lindisfarne

Students and children starting school for the first time, new classes, new schools, college, or university. Especially those leaving home for the first time.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS



This month's assigned readings.

	Psalm	New Testament		Psalm	New Testament
1st	103: 13-18	1 Corinthians 11	16th	106: 6-12	2 Corinthians 8
2nd	103: 19-22	1 Corinthians 12	17th	106: 13-23	2 Corinthians 9
3rd	104: 1-9	1 Corinthians 13	18th	106: 24-33	2 Corinthians 10
4th	104: 10-18	1 Corinthians 14: 1-25	19th	106: 34-41	2 Corinthians 11
5th	104: 19-26	1 Corinthians 14: 26-40	20th	106: 40-48	2 Corinthians 12
6th	104: 27-30	1 Corinthians 15: 1-34	21st	107: 1-9	2 Corinthians 13
7th	104: 31-35	1 Corinthians 15: 35-58	22nd	107: 10-16	Galatians 1
8th	23	1 Corinthians 16	23rd	107: 17-22	Galatians 2
9th	105: 1-7	2 Corinthians 1	24th	107: 23-32	Galatians 3
10th	105: 8-15	2 Corinthians 2	25th	107: 33-38	Galatians 4
11th	105: 16-22	2 Corinthians 3	26th	107: 39-43	Galatians 5
12th	105: 23-30	2 Corinthians 4	27th	108: 1-5	Galatians 6
13th	105: 31-38	2 Corinthians 5	28th	108: 6-13	Ephesians 1
14th	105: 39-45	2 Corinthians 6	29th	23	Ephesians 2
15th	106: 1-5	2 Corinthians 7	30th	109: 1-5, 30-31	Ephesians 3

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	

September Worship Diary

1st	Led by Revd. Josh Thomas; Musician: Denis Smith; Duty Elder: Leng Ayland.
8th	Service includes Holy Communion. Led by Joy Williams; Musician: Mark Best; Duty Elder: Leng Ayland.
15th	Led by Penny O'Bee; Musician: Peter Dixon; Duty Elder: Leng Ayland.
22nd	Led by Mark Ward; Musician: Mark Best; Duty Elder: Leng Ayland.

29th	Led by Revd. Julian Macro; Musician: Alex Macro; Duty Elder: Derek Anthony.
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Next Church Meeting:

9th September (Monday), 7:30pm (in the Hook Room)

At Tadley (Old Meeting) URC (unless otherwise specified):

Regular Events

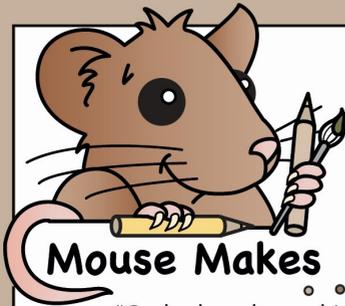
Sunday Worship 10:30am		
Monday Afternoons	Ladies' Cell Group	Contact Penny O'Bee.
Monday Evenings	Cell Group	Contact Mark Ward or Paul Gross.
Tuesday Evenings	Joint Prayer Time with St Paul's	Contact Penny O'Bee.
Wednesday Evenings	Prayer via Zoom	Contact Mark Ward.
Friday Afternoon	Men's Shed	2pm,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

September Worship Diary

1st	No Service at Old Meeting.
8th	Led by Ed Vassie.
15th	No Service at Old Meeting.
22nd	Led by Karen Jones and John Featherstone.
29th	Service includes Holy Communion and will be followed by a church meeting over a bring and share lunch. Led by Mark Ward.

Colour In!





Mouse Makes

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

"May the peoples
_____ you, O God!
May all the peoples praise you!
The land yields its harvest;
God, our God blesses us."

Psalm 67:5-6 NIV

"God ... has shown kindness by
giving you rain from heaven
and crops in their seasons.

He provides you with
plenty of _____. He fills
your hearts with joy."

Acts 14:16-17 NIV

"Honour the Lord with your wealth
and the first part of your harvest."

Proverbs 3:9 ERV

"Let us fear and respect
the Lord our God.

He gives us autumn and
spring _____
at the right time.

He makes sure that we
have the harvest at
just the right time."

Jeremiah 5:24 ERV

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

HARVEST • THANKSGIVING • LAND • EARTH • FERTILE • SOIL • SEED • SOWN
NEED • WATER • SUN • SEASON • AUTUMN • SPRING • YIELD • PRODUCE
FRUIT • GATHER • CROPS • PLENTY • PRAY • GOD • PROVIDE • JOY
BLESSED • GOODNESS • SHARE

Find the words from the questions too!



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]