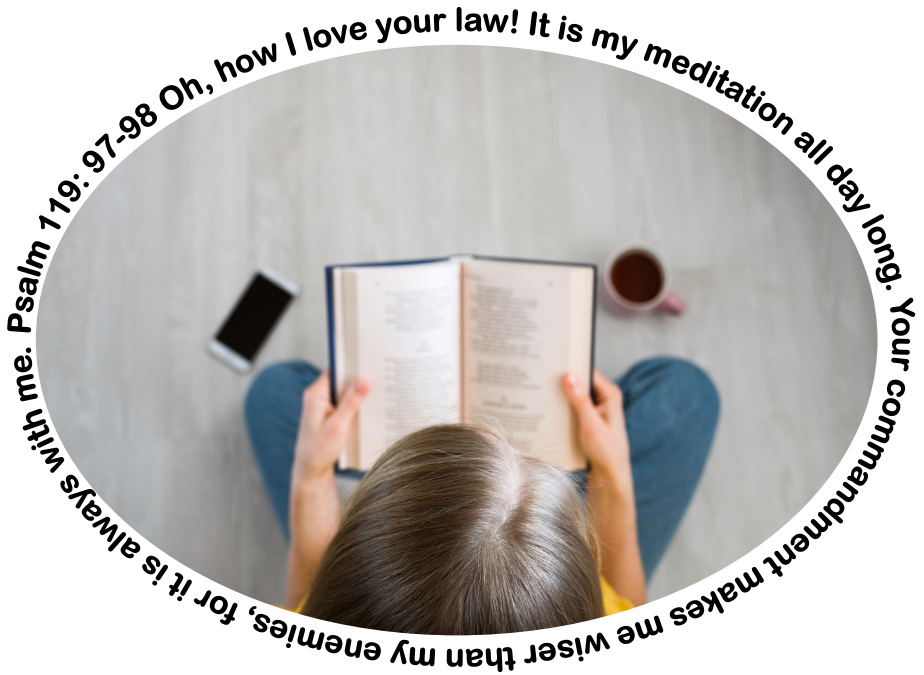




FOCUS

November 2024



Psalm 119: 97-98 Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me.

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 Beryl Wootton guides us through a bible study for Bible Sunday.



BIBLE SUNDAY 27th October 2024

The last Sunday after Trinity is designated in the calendar of the Church of England as Bible Sunday; a day where we give thanks for the Bible and reflect on how the age-old words still relate to us and help us in a life of faith today. So let us put this into practise. Based on a Bible Society Article.

Reading: 2 Timothy 3.14 — 4.5 (NIV)

There are two very different ways of living in these ‘last days’. The Apostle Paul has already addressed the sinful way in verses 1–9, but that’s not the way he expects Timothy to live. Instead, Paul urges Timothy to remain faithful to the teachings he has learned, some from infancy (verse 15). It’s likely that these truths had been passed down to him by his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice, (2 Timothy 2.5). The lives of these women bore witness to the fact that the Holy Scriptures are no ordinary texts; in fact, they ‘make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus’ (verse 15). All Scripture is inspired by God.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

- Chapter 3 offers two ways of living; a sinful way and a biblical way. Have you decided to live God’s way?
- For those who have been raised in Christian families, what might it look like to ‘continue in what you have learned’ (verse 14) from Scripture? What about those who were not raised in Christian families? From whom might they learn and who are their role models? To whom might we pass on the truths of Scripture?
- ‘Knowing the Holy Scriptures’ (verse 15) is vital for the spiritual health of every Christian, as this is how we get to know what God is like, how he operates, and what his plan is for humankind. What do we need to do in order to engage more regularly and more deeply with the Bible? Set a reminder on our phone to

spend time in the word? Get a Bible reading plan? Be accountable to others.

‘All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...’ says Paul in verse 16. This is a hugely important and significant verse, cited regularly by Christians to support the fact that all Scripture is inspired by God himself. It re-affirms what we learned in verse 15, which is that we are not dealing with an ordinary text here. Scripture is useful, or ‘profitable’ as some other translations put it, for ‘teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.’ As well as charting the story of the people of God from creation onwards, and God’s plan for our redemption and restoration, it covers teaching on a myriad topics, such as identity, relationships, friendships, finance, rest, work and so many others. It rebukes and corrects us by challenging us to become more like Jesus, by training us in righteousness. There is a purpose for us knowing Scripture, in that it equips us for every good work (verse 17).

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

- If, as the Bible says, ‘All scripture is God-breathed’, how do we deal with the parts that we disagree with or don’t understand? Do we simply ignore them, or do we grapple with their context and meaning?
- Reading the Bible in community, such as in a prayer triplet, Bible Study group, or home group situation can be an excellent way of going deeper into God’s word, as it provides us with the opportunity to learn from one another and ask difficult questions
- The word of God is described in Hebrews 4.12 as being ‘alive and active’ in that we can read the same passage a number of times, yet the Holy Spirit can illuminate something different to us each time we read it. Consider sharing an example with the congregation where you have found this to be true
- Bible Society believes that the Bible is God’s gift to the world. We share it because we want everyone to discover its message for them and because we believe it changes lives for good. We collect testimonies of how the Bible changes lives here,

biblesociety.org.uk/latest/mybible Please feel free to share one or more of these stories with your congregation.

At the start of 2 Timothy 4, the Apostle Paul looks forward to the second coming of Christ, but he is also aware that there is much work to be done before that happens. Therefore, he gives Timothy a charge (verse 1). Bearing in mind that a charge is a solemn declaration made before witnesses in a legal case, Paul is both serious and clear about what needs to be done with the truths that Timothy knew; the word needed to be shared with others. There is most certainly an urgency in Paul's words here as he declares that 'a time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear' (verse 3).

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

- Not all of us are called to preach from a pulpit, but we can all share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others in some capacity. In fact, one of the most effective ways of sharing Jesus with others is simply by opening our homes to them and eating a meal together. Others might find opportunities to share about God in a sports club, or at the school gate, or maybe even in their workplace. Consider where your 'pulpit' is and how you might turn up the volume of your 'preaching' of the Good News
- In the United Kingdom we're blessed in that we can meet openly in our places of worship without fear of being shut down or persecuted in some way. Sadly, this is not the case elsewhere in the world (Such as Iranian refugees seeking Jesus).

Later in 2 Timothy 4, Paul talks about having 'finished the race, and kept the faith.' (verse 7). Reading the Bible requires discipline, training and perseverance. It takes discipline to set aside time every day to read an excerpt from Scripture. We may not see instant results as we get 'trained in righteousness' by God's word, but as we intentionally familiarise ourselves with those God-breathed words, we're certain to become more like Jesus. This Bible Sunday, why not resolve to persevere in your study of the Bible and pray that you might grow in your knowledge and understanding of the things of God? Bible Society believes that the Bible is for everyone. When we read it we

discover more about ourselves; and more about the world. We want to see a world where everyone can experience Scripture and its power to transform lives and societies for the better. Healthy churches and spiritually healthy Christians always place value and worth on reading and applying Scripture.

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: Coffee, Conditioner, Loo Roll, Powdered Milk, Savoury Snacks/Crisps, Small Packs of Tea, Tinned Meat (e.g. Chilli, Stewing Steak, Ham), Tinned Soup.

Items needed: UHT Milk, Cooking Sauces, Custard, Deodorant, Hot/Cold Desserts (e.g. Jelly, Sponge Pudding, Angel Delight), Nappies (Size 5 & Above), Rice Pudding, Squash, Sweet Snacks/Kids' Treats, Sweet Spreads (Jam, Marmalade etc.), Tinned Fruit, Tinned Spaghetti/Ravioli, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Veg, Washing Up Liquid.

Please **do not** give Baby Food, Hot/Cold Cereal, Nappies (Size 4 & Below), Non-Dairy Milk, Pasta, Pulses, Rice, Sanitary Pads, Tinned Beans, 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:

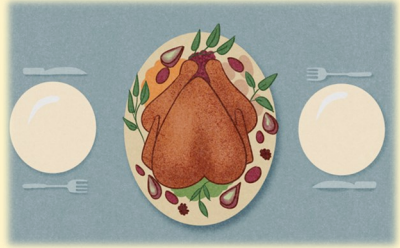
<https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/givehelp/food/>

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



Alone at Christmas?

If you are going to be alone on Christmas Day and would appreciate company, then please have a word with me. Equally if you are at home at Christmas and wouldn't mind welcoming a member of the congregation to share the day with you, then please also have a word with me.



Thank you. Owen.

Eco Tip

God's Gift -- Our World

The Environment -- Our Responsibility



You can save 10 to 30 per cent on fuel bills just by driving more thoughtfully. Accelerate and decelerate more slowly Keep the car rolling along rather than stopping and starting (can shave 5 per cent on the bill).

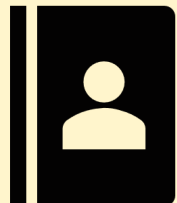
Don't forget, you can recycle the following items at London Street:

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

Church Directory 2025

A reminder that work will commence shortly in updating our 2024 Church Directory for 2025. Please check your entries and let me know of any amendments by Friday 15th November.

Thank you. Owen.



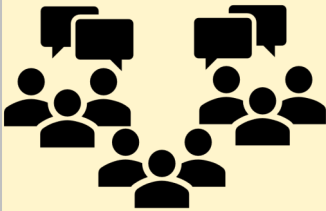


Happy Birthday to the following member of our church family:

Beryl Wootton

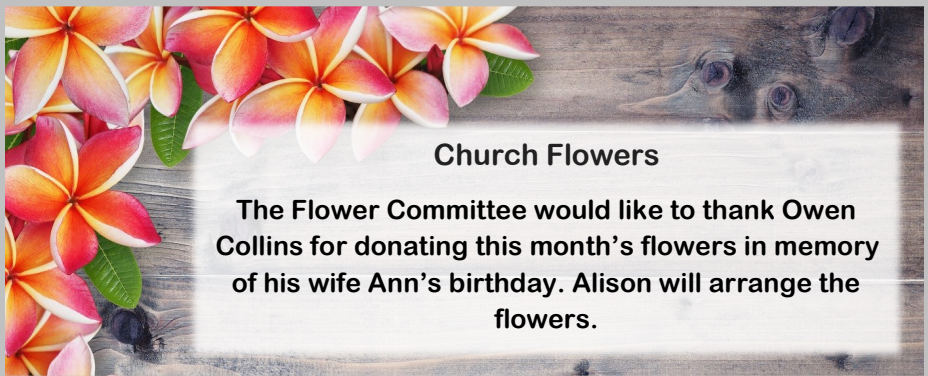
Ethan Grant

Church Meeting



This will be held on Sunday 24th November at 1.15pm and will include the election of Elders for the three years commencing 1st January 2025 and the appointment of a new Church Secretary also from 1st January. The meeting will take place in the Hook Room. You will recall from our September meeting that members were asked to

consider whether or not there should be a lunch at church before the November meeting. After some discussion it was agreed that those planning to attend the meeting should bring with them a packed lunch which could be eaten before the meeting.



Church Flowers

The Flower Committee would like to thank Owen Collins for donating this month's flowers in memory of his wife Ann's birthday. Alison will arrange the flowers.

FOCUS: Next Issue

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of Focus magazine. If you would like to contribute to the December magazine, please contact the editor by **16th of November**.

WHERE LOVE BECOMES ACTION

Penny O'Bee shares her experiences of the work of Adonai Family Uganda "where love becomes action".

This is an NGO (Non Government Organisation) which many folks in Tadley have seen develop and been privileged to help since 2006 when 16 of us went to visit Uganda. Aloysious and wife Abby took orphaned and abandoned children into their own home. Since then through a whole series of miracles and sheer hard work they own land on which currently can be found buildings for boys and girls to live, a primary school from nursery to Primary 7's, teachers accommodation, a whole water sterilising system and a medical clinic for maternity and primary care within the community. New accommodation for volunteers has been built above the centre.

Here running a charity shop for a couple of weeks in Whitchurch for 3 years raised enough money to buy a 19acre farm. This has provided a great deal of food which helps feeds the Adonai community, though not totally. A smaller farm of 6acres purchased last year near the centre means pupils can practice their lessons in agriculture and further help feed the growing community. During lockdown the older boys made concrete paving blocks at the centre which transformed a mud slide during rainy session into a clean attractive walk way for-the school.

Most recently 2022 and 23 Tadley raised £10,000 which helped to enlarge the teenage girls hostel built in the garden of Aloysious and Abbey home now for 16 pupils at secondary school. As orphans they are especially vulnerable and need mentoring and protection. Some of the money paid for a geographical analysis and deep well at Aloysious' house in Buddo an area sorely lacking water. The Rotary club Uganda were so impressed with what was being done they have paid for the system to be extended to the local area.

Adonai project is a vital part of the local community where it also helps others in need such as elderly widows. Some of these still have young grandchildren to care for as parents have died from AIDS or malaria/ accidents.

Thank you so much for letting me come and share a little about Adonai. All the help given over 23 years was initiated by the Ugandans and the amazing achievements are theirs. Please pray for them victory over the hardships they face and wisdom and love for all the young people they mentor and nurture seeking to build God's kingdom in Africa. Be blessed.

There is a web site for updates; adonaiuk.org

Child sponsorship is always helpful; childsponsorship@adonaiuk.org



A Quiet Thought...

Pursue some path, no matter how narrow and crooked, in which you can walk with love and reverence.

Henry David Thoreau



THE PRAYER CIRCLE

Please remember the following people in your prayers...

Seb and Dorcas

David & Gill Vickery

Elaine and Brian's granddaughter Rebecca.

David Bennett

Maggie & Richard Morgans

Louise & David Waller

David & Julie Bath

Sam & Ray Honeyball-Todd

Dick & Anne Davey

Christine & Eric Clucas

Carys Haywood

Barbara Banbury and David Corfield

Joan Musselwhite

Ian & Carol Scott

Marguerite Hurford and her son Michael

Chris, Leng and their families

Christine Robertson

Bev Harris and Dom

Claire Macro

Stan & Sandra Marut

Hyacinth Ridguard

Betty Shipway

Owen Collins and family

The Patterson family

Chris Jones' grandson, Archie

Beryl Wootton

Brian & Liz Foster

Alison and David

Morteza

Maxine Perkins



DAILY BIBLE READINGS



This month's assigned readings.

	Psalm	New Testament		Psalm	New Testament
1st	119: 89-96	Titus 2	16th	124	Hebrews 11:
2nd	119: 97-104	Titus 3	17th	125	Hebrews 12
3rd	119: 105-112	Philemon	18th	126	Hebrews 13
4th	119: 113-120	Hebrews 1	19th	127	James 1
5th	119: 121-128	Hebrews 2	20th	128	James 2
6th	119: 129-136	Hebrews 3	21st	129	James 3
7th	119: 137-144	Hebrews 4	22nd	130	James 4
8th	119: 145-152	Hebrews 5	23rd	131	James 5
9th	119: 153-160	Hebrews 6	24th	132: 1-5	1 Peter 1
10th	119: 161-176	Hebrews 7	25th	132: 6-12	1 Peter 2
11th	23	Hebrews 8	26th	132: 13-18	1 Peter 3
12th	120	Hebrews 9	27th	133	1 Peter 4
13th	121	Hebrews 10: 1-18	28th	134	1 Peter 5
14th	122	Hebrews 10: 19-39	29th	135: 1-7	2 Peter 1
15th	123	Hebrews 11: 1-16	30th	135: 8-14	2 Peter 2

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	
Thursdays	7:15-9:15pm	Explorers	In Term Time. In the Den.

November Worship Diary

3rd	Led by The Worship Group; Musician: Mark Best.
10th	Remembrance Sunday. Led by Andy Taylor; Musician: Denis Smith.
17th	Service includes Holy Communion. Led by Revd. Julian Macro; Musician: Peter Dixon.

24th	Led by Mark Ward; Musician: Mark Best.
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Duty Elder for the month: Alison Jamieson

Next Church Meeting:

24th November (Sunday), 1:15pm (in the Hook Room)

Includes the election of Elders and appointment of a new Church Secretary.

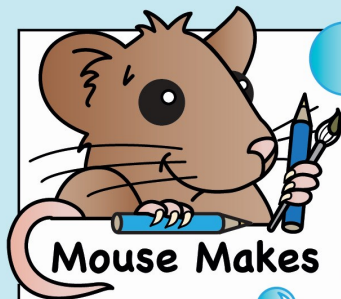
At Tadley (Old Meeting) URC (unless otherwise specified):

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.

November Worship Diary

3rd	Led by Ed Vassie.
10th	No service at Old Meeting.
17th	Communion Service. Led by Mark Ward.
24th	Led by Eve Baker.



Mouse Makes



READ
the story in
John 13:1-17

"DO AS I HAVE DONE FOR YOU."

The disciples had met with Jesus in an upper room to share a meal together, but there were no servants to wash their dusty feet. Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer clothing, wrapped a towel around his waist and began to wash the disciples' feet just like a servant would do.



Then Jesus said:

"Do you understand what I have done for you? Now that I, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example, that you should do as I have done for you."

By washing his disciples' feet, Jesus showed that as God's people we are never too important to serve and care for others.

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

JESUS
 DISCIPLES
 PASSOVER
 FEAST • SUPPER • MEAL

PETER
 SCRIPTURES
 LORD • TEACHER
 SERVANT • MASTER

GARMENTS • CLOTHING • TOWEL • WAIST • WATER • BASIN • WASH • FEET • WIPE
 CLEAN • UNDERSTAND • OTHERS • EXAMPLE • DO • LOVED • CHOSEN • BLESSED



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]