

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, Peter Bentall discusses the violence going on across the globe, and its solution.



Psalm 96: 11-12

Let the heavens rejoice; let the earth be glad; let the sea resound; let the fields be jubilant;... then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy.

Suddenly a few days of cloudless blue sky and warm March sunshine and the heavens do indeed rejoice, new life springs from the earth trees and hedgerows burst into bud. A walk through Eastrop or War Memorial Park is all that is needed to lift the spirits. Just about warm enough to sit for a few minutes and thank God once again for winter merging into spring and the evenings getting lighter. Nature in this part of the world is waking up, as beautiful as ever without the help of human hands.

But sadly, this is not the universal picture, as in many parts of the world nature has become more violent, caused certainly in part by some man-made climate change, according to the accepted science, and not easy to control.

Some things though are within human control and yet we seem unable, or in some cases unwilling, to restrain the perpetrators of violence. Ukraine, Syria, Gaza, Yemen, Sudan, are all areas where wanton mass destruction has devastated the lives of some of the poorest people, by a few powerful, personally ambitious, ruthless individuals supplied with the most sophisticated weaponry on the one hand, and old fashioned attritional trench warfare on the other, with little concern for military of civilian life.

As international leaders belatedly try to conjure a solution to these crises the consensus seems to be 'spend more on defence', at the expense of better health and social care, hospitals, and foreign aid. On the one hand, God's creation. On the other, man's destruction (yes man's!), and the answer is not more of the same, the answer is the message of Easter - 'God so loved the world that he gave his Son'. Jesus died, not so that we could bomb each other to death, but for us

to be reconciled to God, and embrace the sure and certain hope of eternal life.

Our prayers are needed more than ever this Lent for God's broken world.

THE NOTICEBOARD

Information, updates, tips, and more.



Easter Decorations

The Church will be open on Saturday 19th April'25 from 10:30 – 12:30 for people to decorate a window sill. Please sign the list on the Notice Board.

Thank you – The Flower Committee.

Eco Tip

God's Gift -- Our World

The Environment -- Our Responsibility



Scrub a stained chopping board with sea salt and lemon juice (also great for softening hands).

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.

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



Items **urgently** needed: UHT Fruit Juice, Hot/Cold Desserts (e.g. Jelly, Sponge Pudding, Angel Delight), Deodorant (Male & Female), UHT Milk, Savoury Spreads (e.g. Marmite), Crackers, Hair Conditioner, Household Cleaning Products and Washing Up Liquid.

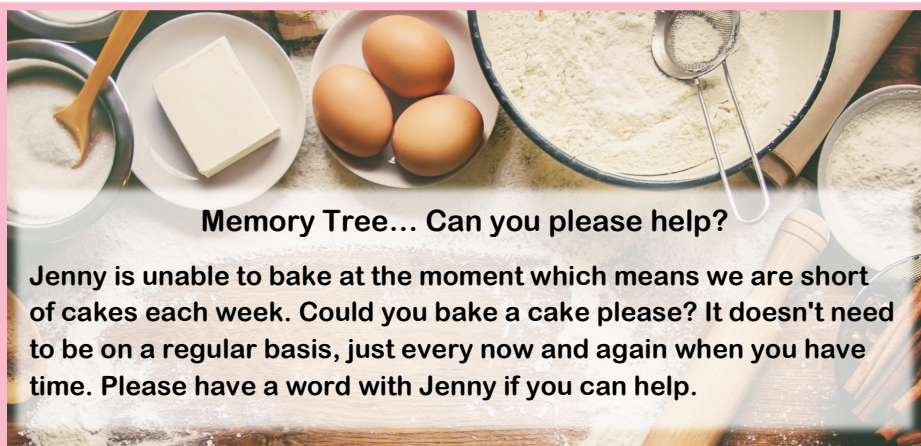
Items needed: Coffee, Powdered Milk, Squash, Sweet Spreads (Jam, Marmalade etc.), Tinned Fruit, Tinned Meat (e.g. Chilli, Stewing Steak, Ham), Tinned Soup, Tinned Spaghetti/Ravioli, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Veg, Pet Food.

Please **do not** give Baby Food, Hot/Cold Cereal, Nappies, 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.



Memory Tree... Can you please help?

Jenny is unable to bake at the moment which means we are short of cakes each week. Could you bake a cake please? It doesn't need to be on a regular basis, just every now and again when you have time. Please have a word with Jenny if you can help.



Happy Birthday to the following members of our church family:

Jean Rae Young

Chris Ayland

An Invitation to Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunrise Service with Breakfast (Posters Pages 7-8)

We would love for you all to come and join us on Maundy Thursday at Tadley United Reformed Church at 7pm for a short, quiet, reflective service of remembering as we recall the events of the day of the last supper and look ahead, with both sadness and hope, towards the cross. Then on Easter morning lets gather early at 6am, Tadley Skate Park (Tadley Common Road, Silchester Road, Tadley RG26 3PX) to welcome in with thankfulness the amazing events of Easter Day when our Saviour Jesus rose from the grave bringing to fulfilment the amazing promises of our Lord and God. After this short early Easter service join us for coffee and tea followed by a full cooked breakfast, cereals and toast etc! It would help if you can let us know for catering purposes if you hope to join us (just send a quick email to tadleyurc@gmail.com). We will be finished in time for us all to be back at London Street for the 10:30am Easter Day service! What great opportunities to worship, and to worship together!

Love in Christ

Your Friends at Tadley URC



Maundy
Thursday
Service
17th April
7.00pm
at Tadley
URC

A reflective service remembering
Christ's last supper with His disciples.

*"A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one
another."*

For more details Paul Gross/Penny O'bee contact@tadleyurc.com

Easter Day
Sunrise Service
20th April 6am, Tadley

He has risen!

Join us at Tadley Skate Park for a short reflective service of songs and readings as the dawn breaks and the sun rises...

8am breakfast at Tadley URC follows. Please RSVP

*Further details Paul Gross or Penny O'Bee
contact@tadleyurc.com*



The Bible Society's **ROMANS course**

**Starting 7:15pm for 7:30pm Monday
12th May through to Monday 21st July**



**Tadley United Reformed Church Immanuel
Centre, Malthouse Lane/Main Road, Tadley
Info & let us know: tadleyurc@gmail.com**

ALIVE 4U

A SERVICE 4 CHILDREN & FAMILIES

**NEXT
SERVICE**

10:30am

11th May

Tadley United

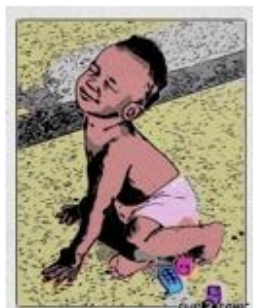
Reformed

Church. Main

Road. Tadley

Info: Mark

07849546894



URGENT APPEAL

MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Families and communities are in fear of their lives after a deadly 7.7 magnitude earthquake devastated Myanmar on Friday 28 March. A second 6.4 magnitude quake followed soon after, making the destruction even more widespread.



Volunteers look for survivors near a damaged building in Naypyitaw, Myanmar.

Women, men and children are without drinking water, food, shelter and power. Homes have been destroyed, and access roads torn up.

With your support, we can provide water treatment kits, food parcels, shelters, and cash for vital supplies, such as medicines, to families who are fighting for their very survival. **Please give today.**

How to donate:

Give your donation to your church representative.

Visit caid.org.uk/HelpMyanmar or scan the QR code to donate online.

Call **08080 005 005** to donate by phone.

Scan me



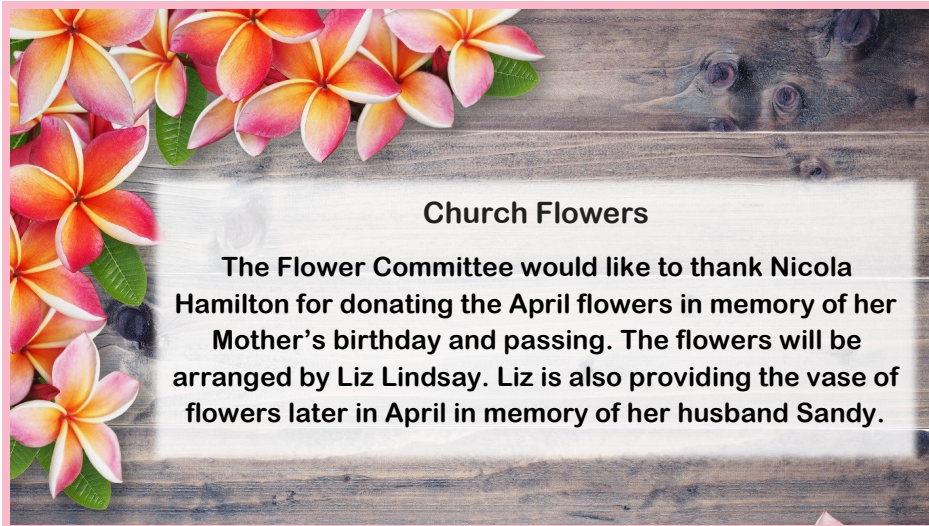
Thank you



Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Alliance: Eng and Wales charity no. 1105851 Scot charity no. SC039150 Company no. 5171525 Christian Aid Ireland: NI charity no. NIC101631 Company no. NI059154 and charity no. 20014162 Company no. 426928. The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid. © Christian Aid Christian Aid Photo: AP Photo/Aung Shine Oo March 2025



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**



Church Flowers

The Flower Committee would like to thank Nicola Hamilton for donating the April flowers in memory of her Mother's birthday and passing. The flowers will be arranged by Liz Lindsay. Liz is also providing the vase of flowers later in April in memory of her husband Sandy.

FOCUS: Next Issue

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

CHURCH FAMILY GET TOGETHER

Joyce Cook wants your input on ideas for days out, concerts, and even a few days away as a church family.

At our first Sunday Lunch last month, it was a great atmosphere and chance to chat. I remember London Street having Car Treasure Hunts, Junior Church Outings, Church Days Out, Senior Days. This time spent outside the Church Building created friendships and gave great fun. Yes, I am going back 30 to 40 years when petrol was very much cheaper. We also had a very active drama group who put on productions on a Saturday as well as sometimes during Morning Worship. **BUT TIMES CHANGE AND COVID CAME AND CHANGED US AGAIN.**

Unfortunately, one thing that was a positive, diminished, which was the active family feeling we had as a Church Fellowship.

- The Monthly lunches are going very well and will continue but I have

been asked to see about some days out, concerts etc. We might even look for a weekend break again – similar to one we did about 10 years ago to Lea Abbey.

Here are a couple of ideas, plus one that is a definite date:

- How about a coach or minibus to Marwell Zoo, Longleat, Monkey World or Cotswold Wildlife Park? (I would suggest a Saturday in July or August.)



- A day to the seaside? (One member suggested Bournemouth, but venue to be decided on your reactions.)

- I have managed to get a booking for the Royal Albert Hall on December 4th, for the John Rutter Christmas Matinee Concert, 3pm start. I have Seats Reserved and, including the coach fare, we will be looking at approximately £45 per place. We would leave midday to get there for lunch before the concert. We did this one about 45 years ago from Church. I can take names now for this. For those of you who might not have heard of John Rutter here is a little information:



He will be 80 in the Autumn and is a prolific composer of church music – including anthems and hymns. Also very well known as a conductor. Each Christmas Concert there is a new Carol and you hear it as the composer intended it to sound!!

Ask me for more information or other ideas you may have. For those of you who might not know me I have a long history of arranging tours since I was a travel agent.

THE PRAYER CIRCLE

Please remember the following people in your prayers...

Isobel's husband Ted, a great support at Memory Tree, who is recovering amazingly well after surgery on a broken hip.

Louise & David Waller

Joan Musselwhite

Mrs Noorie Khatkur

Dick & Anne Davey

Christine & Eric Clucas

Carys Haywood

Barbara Banbury and David Corfield

Marguerite Hurford and her son Michael

Alison and David

Bev Harris and Dom

Claire Macro

Stan & Sandra Marut

Hyacinth Ridguard

Ruth Bentall

Owen Collins and family

The Patterson family

Chris Jones' grandson, Archie

Maggie & Richard Morgans

Zoe, Rebecca, and Caitlin

Gill Vickery

Seb and Dorcas

Nicolle and Gavin's wedding



A Quiet Thought...

Forgiveness is the key to action and freedom.

Hannah Arendt

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

This month's assigned readings.



	Psalm	New Testament		Psalm	New Testament
1st	39: 1-6	Luke 6: 1-26	16th	46: 8-11	Luke 12: 22-34
2nd	39: 7-13	Luke 6: 27-49	17th	23	Luke 12: 35-59
3rd	40: 1-10	Luke 7: 1-28	18th	47	Luke 13: 1-21
4th	40: 11-17	Luke 7: 29-50	19th	48: 1-8	Luke 13: 22-35
5th	41: 1-6	Luke 8: 1-25	20th	48: 9-14	Luke 14
6th	41: 7-13	Luke 8: 26-39	21st	49: 1-11	Luke 15: 1-10
7th	42: 1-6	Luke 8: 40-56	22nd	49: 12-20	Luke 15: 11-32
8th	42: 7-11	Luke 9: 1-20	23rd	50: 1-6	Luke 16: 1-15
9th	43	Luke 9: 21-43a	24th	50: 7-15	Luke 16: 16-31
10th	44: 1-7	Luke 9: 43b-62	25th	50: 16-23	Luke 17: 1-19
11th	44: 8-19, 26	Luke 10: 1-24	26th	51: 1-6	Luke 17: 20-37
12th	44: 20-26	Luke 10: 25-42	27th	51: 7-12	Luke 18: 1-17
13th	45: 1-9	Luke 11: 1-28	28th	51: 13-19	Luke 18: 18-43
14th	45: 10-17	Luke 11: 29-54	29th	52	Luke 19: 1-27
15th	46: 1-7	Luke 12: 1-21	30th	53	Luke 19: 28-48

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	5:45-6:45pm	Beavers	In Term Time. All in the Den except Scouts who meet in the Wessex Hall.
	7-8:30pm	Cubs	
	7-9pm	Scouts	
Wednesdays	10:30am	Memory Tree	
	12:15pm	Lunchtime Prayers	
Thursdays	7:15-9:15pm	Explorers	In Term Time. In the Den.

April Worship Diary

6th	Led by Revd. Howard Sharp; Musician: Mark Best.
13th	Led by Joy Williams; Musician: Revd. Denis Smith.
20th	Led by Revd. Tim Meadows; Musician: Alex Macro.
27th	Led by Revd. Julian Macro; Musician: Peter Dixon.

Duty Elder for the month: Tony Patterson.

Next Church Meetings:

(Annual Church Meeting) 6th April (Sunday) at 1:15pm

14th May (Wednesday) at 7:30pm

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

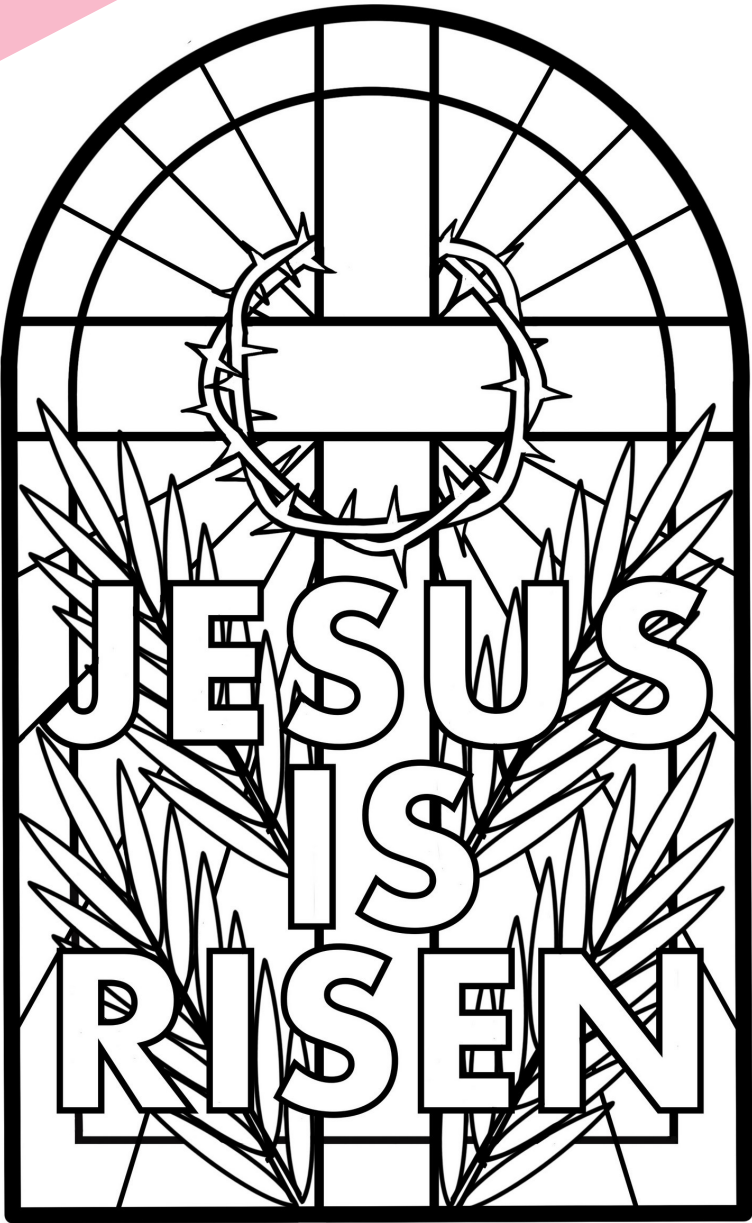
Regular Events

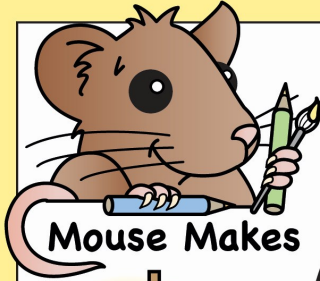
Sunday Worship 10:30am		
Monday Afternoons	Ladies' Cell Group	Contact Penny O'Bee.
Monday Evenings	Cell Group	Contact Mark Ward or Paul Gross.
Tuesday Evenings	Joint Prayer Time with St Paul's	Contact Penny O'Bee.
Wednesday Evenings	Prayer via Zoom	Contact Mark Ward.
Friday Afternoons	Men's Shed	2pm, once a fortnight. Contact Paul Gross.
Saturday Mornings	Ladies' Breakfast & Talk	10am, 2nd Saturday of each month. Everyone welcome.
	Men's Breakfast & Talk	10am, 4th Saturday of each month. Everyone welcome.

April Worship Diary

6th	Led by Paul Gross.
13th	No service at Old Meeting
17th (Thurs)	Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm.
20th	Easter Morning Dawn Service, 6am, at Tadley Skate Park. (Followed by breakfast at the Immanuel Centre at
27th	TBC

Colour In!





On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,
and showed us the resurrection to
come by His raising to new life!



Mouse Makes



Jesus is risen!

The angel said:
"Jesus ...is not here, for He
has risen, just as He said."
Matthew 28:6

Jesus is here

Jesus said:
"Where two or three
come together
in my name I am
there with them."
Matthew 18:20



READ the story of
the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29
and **21:1-14**

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



Jesus will come again!

Jesus said:
"I will come back
and take you to
myself so that you
will be where I am."
John 14:3



JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN
LORD • SAVIOUR • KING
RESURRECTION
PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS



MESSIAH • REDEEMER
CHRIST • SON OF GOD
HOSANNA • PRAISE
GO TELL • EASTER





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]