



FOCUS

June 2025



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, Joy Williams discusses the growth of our church.



Matthew 13: 31-32 ... *“The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”*

Alison Jamieson and I, as elders of this church, were asked to attend an ecumenically designed course that the Synod was running entitled “Leading Your Church into Growth”. A lot of practical teaching was packed into three, day long, sessions in September, November, and February, at the White Hart Hotel in Salisbury. (Serious stuff in which the Synod is making a big investment and should be taken seriously by us all.)

In the January Focus under Thought for the Month I included the prayer which we are encouraged to use during this time of challenge in our churches and in our personal walks with Jesus, day by day. (See below.) Without prayer - talking things over with God and being alert to his replies - nothing lasting happens so the starting point for growth in any and every area is prayer.

How is everyday culture affecting Church Growth? Surveys show that 46% of the population of this country still see themselves as nominally Christian and local churches often have a large and warm ‘fringe’. The ‘Talking Jesus’ report basically shows that around 20% of people are still interested in talking more about Jesus with children, teens and young adults being most open.

The world around us is more open to Jesus than many of us might think but what is the culture of our church here at London Street? What do we talk about most? Prayer? Jesus? Growth?

If the leadership, elders, and congregation talk a lot about prayer, a culture of prayer will gradually grow like a plant from a bulb. If, however, the dominant conversation is about building issues, financial struggles, and lack of volunteers then a ‘We are beset by problems’ culture will arise like weeds in a garden.

When the leaders and elders set out to prayerfully and regularly talk about growth then a culture of growth will push its way to the surface. When this discussion is shared with the congregation then the vision, hope, and desire for growth will become the norm in the life of the church. The first step therefore is to pray and to acknowledge with thankfulness every small shoot of growth in the life of London Street and in our own, personal lives.

Ezekiel 36: 26 *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."*

PRAYER: Leading your Church into Growth

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, joy to our worship and power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE NOTICEBOARD

Information, updates, tips, and more.



Church Flowers

The Flower Committee would like to thank Alison Jamieson for donating a vase of flowers on the 8th June'25.

Also Beverley Cantwell on the 15th June'25 in memory of her husband.

Liz Lindsay is donating and arranging the flowers on the 1st June'25.

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



Items **urgently** needed: UHT Milk, UHT Fruit Juice, Savoury Snacks, Shower Gel, Loo Roll, Toothpaste, Deodorant (Male), Shopping Bags.

Items needed: Tinned Meat (e.g. Chilli, Stewing Steak, Ham), Hot/Cold Desserts (e.g. Jelly, Sponge Pudding, Angel Delight), Savoury Spreads (e.g. Marmite), Cup-a-Soup, Crackers, Coffee, Tampons, Hair Conditioner, Household Cleaning Products and Washing Up Liquid, Powdered Milk, Squash, Sweet Spreads (Jam, Marmalade etc.), 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.



The latest Foodbytes magazine can be found by following this link:

<https://mailchi.mp/a5eaf31df8cd/summer-2025>

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Mark and Julie Ward, from Tadley, who completed a walk of over 100km on the Isle of Wight, raising money for Great Ormond St Children's Hospital. They raised over £1,500. And thank you to members of London St. who added donations to the total.



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**

Eco Tip

God's Gift -- Our World

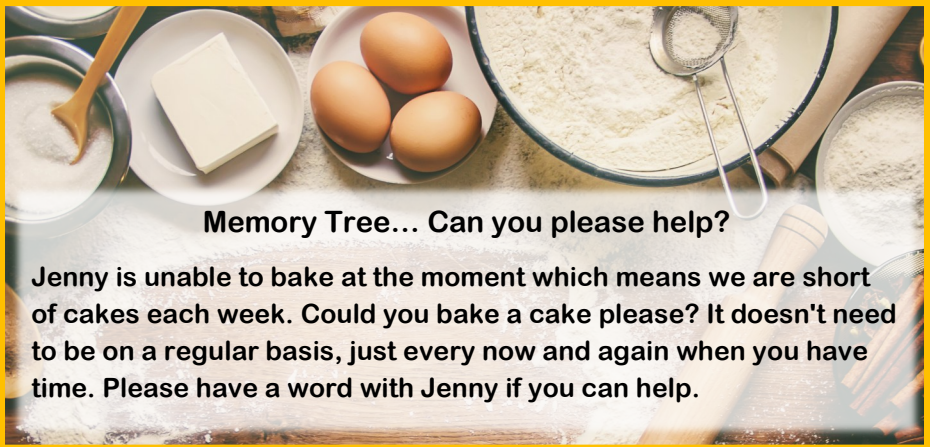
The Environment -- Our Responsibility



Lithium-ion batteries hate high temperatures, so don't leave your mobile phone in the sun or your laptop on a bed with the cooling vents blocked.

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.



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.

Thank You!

Thank you to the Synod Children's team, and everyone involved in the Children's Camp, who work hard to ensure that the children have a great time while exploring their faith.

Thanks also to everyone who contributed to the church fundraising for the camp which has allowed 8 of our children to take up this opportunity.



Basingstoke Mencap GreenFingers

Elizabeth Road Allotments, Elizabeth Road,
South Ham, Basingstoke RG22 6AX



Plant and Woodwork Sale Saturday 31 May 2025 10am-1pm



Plants:
annuals/perennials,
shrubs, vegetables and
fruits



Handcrafted wooden
items: Bug and bird boxes,
planters, decorative
items.



Refreshments and
produce (veg/fruit)
donations kindly received)



01256 361964



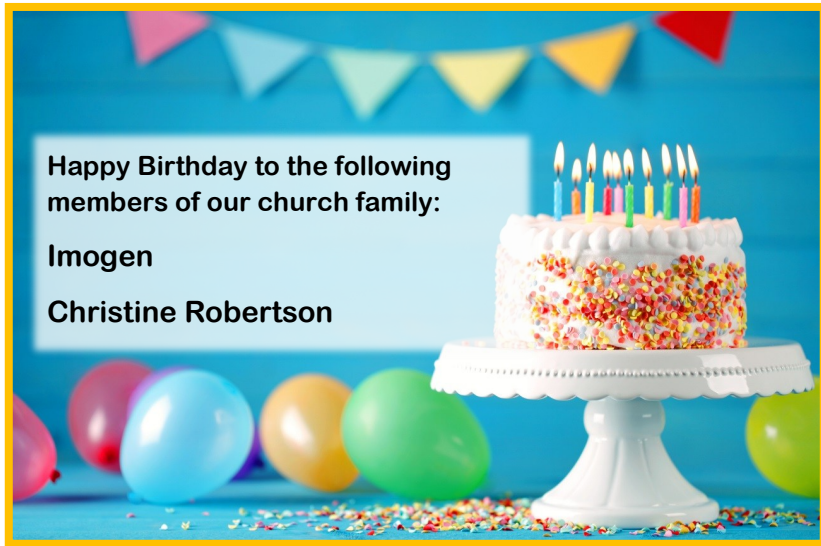
greenfingers@basingstokemencap.org.uk



Basingstoke Mencap GreenFingers



www.basingstokemencap.org.uk



Happy Birthday to the following
members of our church family:

Imogen

Christine Robertson



FOCUS: Next Issue

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



A Quiet Thought...

A diamond is a lump of coal that stuck with it.

Anonymous

‘LE WEEKEND’ AT LUNERAY

Gill Miller shares her experiences from her trip to France. Photos provided by her fellow traveller, Jason Dudley.

A trip to France is always a joy, but a trip accompanied by the Wessex Synod Moderator, his daughter, and six other members of the United Reformed Church has to be written about.

Jason and I visited France as part of Wessex Synod’s “Le Weekend” 2025. Revd. Helen Everard, Minister of Fleet URC, was the leader of our group of seven and our journey took us from Newhaven to Dieppe leaving Helen’s home at 4:30am!

A smooth crossing and we arrived in Dieppe in time for a stroll along the waters edge and lunch in a local café. Our journey then took us on to Luneray, a small town of farming and light industry, situated in the Pays de Caux, some eleven miles southwest of Dieppe.



The sun was shining as we arrived at Eglise Protestante Unie and we were greeted by church members awaiting our arrival. We were served tea and cakes in true church fellowship fashion. After chatting and making new acquaintances we were introduced to our host for the weekend. Christine is an English lady who has resided in France for many years, so Jason and I had the best of both worlds – a fluent French speaker who could also chat away in English. We were made most welcome in her home and the first evening was spent sharing a meal with her.



On Saturday we met up with all at the “chalet”, or church hall, and had a café style discussion and presentation, led by Revd. Dr. Michael Hopkins, on the weekends theme “The Word”. We had a singing time to agree on our Songs of Praise for our Sunday service. It was fun to discover hymns that we all knew, even if

the words were foreign! We were served a delightful picnic lunch, with wonderful French cheeses, cold meats, and prepared salads.



In the afternoon we were treated to a visit to the Chateau du Bosmelet. This chateau was built in 1632 and is a magnificent testimonial to Louis XIII architecture. If you ever feel you have too many “knick knacks” or treasures displayed in your home then do what the renowned French sculptor, musician, and artist, Alain Germain did. He bought a chateau to display his art. We were treated to a tour of the chateau by Alain himself as he pointed out the beautiful architecture, the chapel, and his ensemble of opera costume, drawings, paintings, and stage set elements from his collection. On our return to Luneray it was time to eat again, and we all shared a beautiful meal together in the “chalet”.



Sunday morning saw us take the short stroll toward the Eglise passing the local Lumeray market which attracts people from a wider area who come to buy fruit, vegetables, and those wonderful French cheeses. As we arrived at the Eglise a five-piece jazz band was setting up. We took our seats ready for the morning service.



Revd. Dr. Michael Hopkins was joined by a French Pastor who had come for the weekend and to share in our worship.

As the service began the jazz band struck up the Jungle Book song “I Wanna Be Like You”. I felt this was an unusual choice, but it certainly added to the joyful gathering.

The service followed a very similar pattern to our own and we were able to join in with hymns. Revd. Helen Everard read the lesson in English and Michael assisted with communion. As communion was served, all were invited

to the front where we all stood in a circle and took communion together. It was a very moving service and one that I am sure Jason, and I, will not forget. It was then back to the chalet for an aperitif, lunch, and a sip of Calvados.

It was soon time to say goodbye, with many thanks to our hosts, and a promise to meet on their return to England. The journey from Dieppe to Newhaven soon passed and we finally arrived back at Pages bungalows at midnight.

A splendid weekend and many thanks to all those whose hard work went into making it a memorable experience.



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.

Nicola Walwyn and family

Carol Scott and the family of Bev Ward

Gill Patterson's cousins, Christin & Col, and their dog Bella

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



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

This month's assigned readings.



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

June Worship Diary

1st	Led by The Worship Group; Musician: Mark Best; Duty Elder: Alison Jamieson.
8th	Led by 8th Basingstoke Scouts; Musician: Revd. Denis Smith; Duty Elder: Alison Jamieson.
15th	Led by Peter Bentall; Musician: Mark Best; Duty Elder: Joy Williams.
22nd	Service includes Holy Communion. Led by Revd. Mike Burrell; Musician: Peter Dixon; Duty Elder: Peter Bentall.
29th	Led by TBC; Musician: Peter Dixon; Duty Elder: Peter Bentall.

Next Church Meeting:

7th July (Monday) at 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 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.

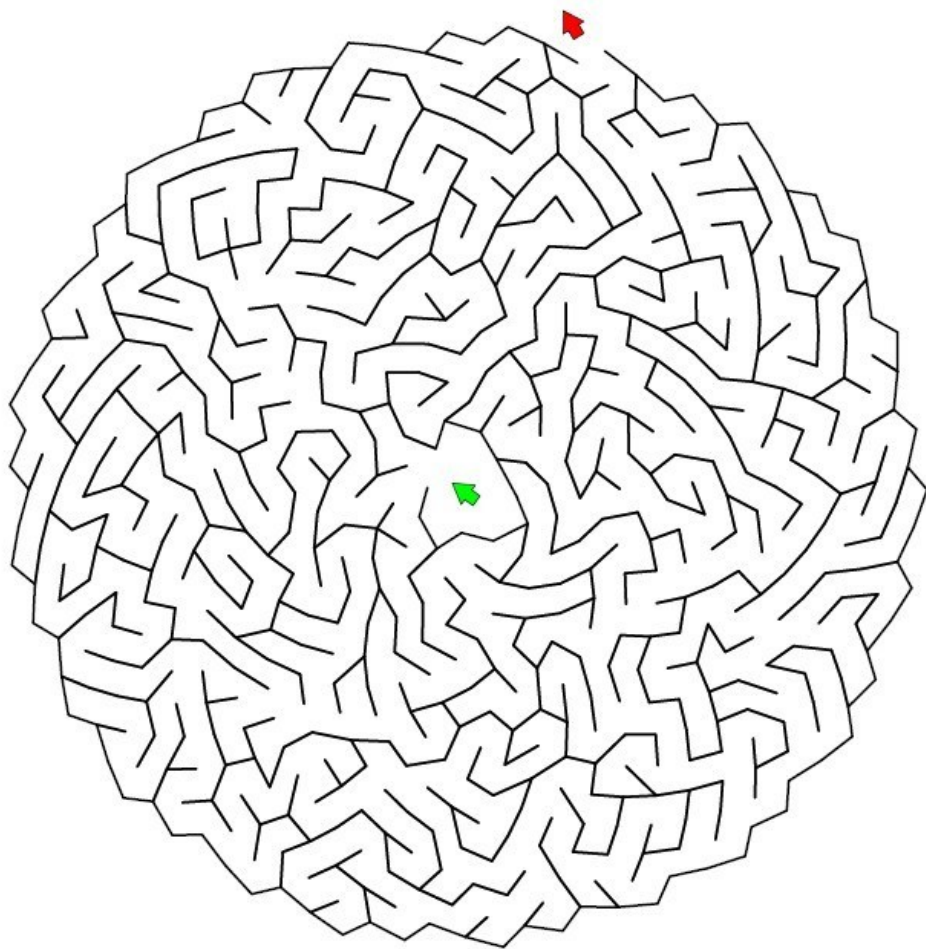
June Worship Diary

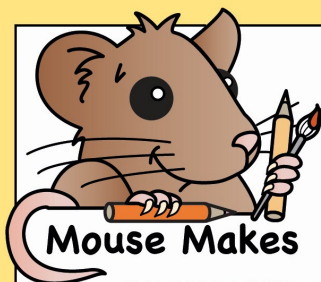
1st	Joining with the Tadley Treacle Fair CTAT stall.
8th	Led by Philip Jones.
15th	Service includes Holy Communion. Led by Mark Ward.
22nd	Led by Ed Vassie.
29th	Led by Mel and Jane Euerby.

Colour In!



Can you reach the end of the maze?

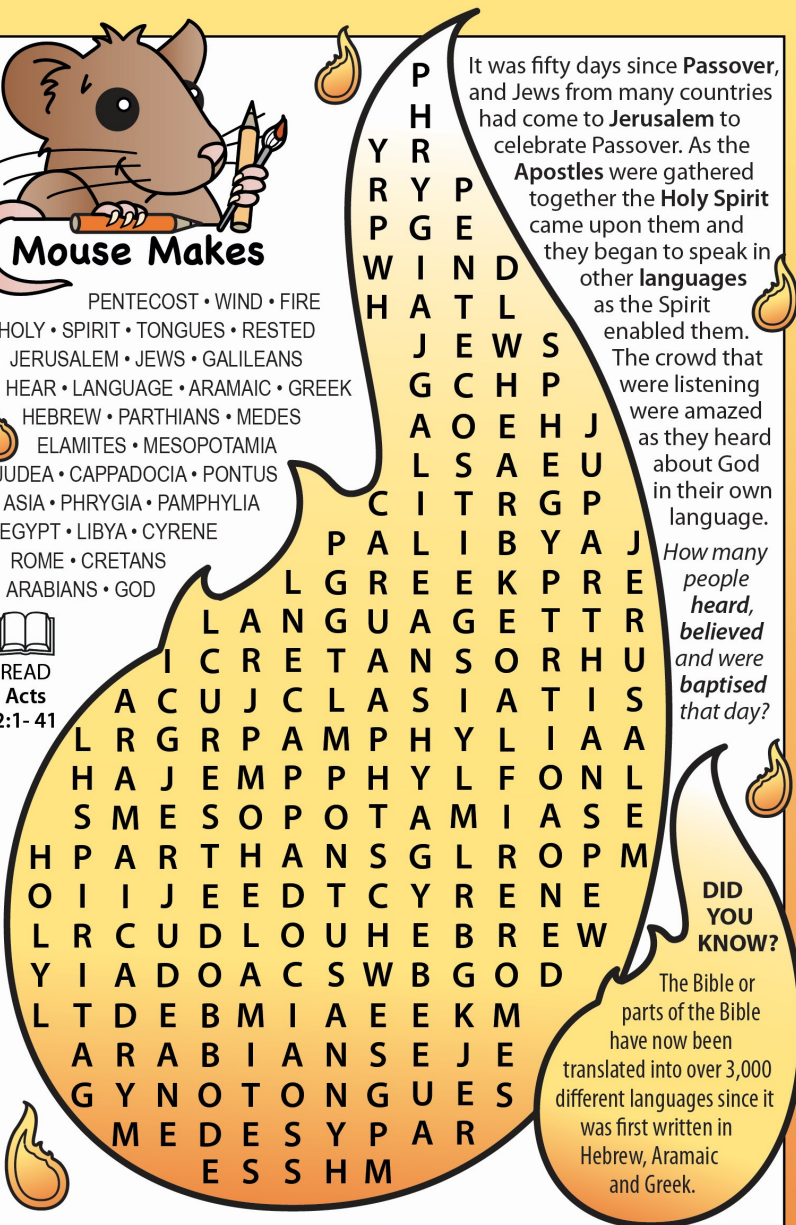


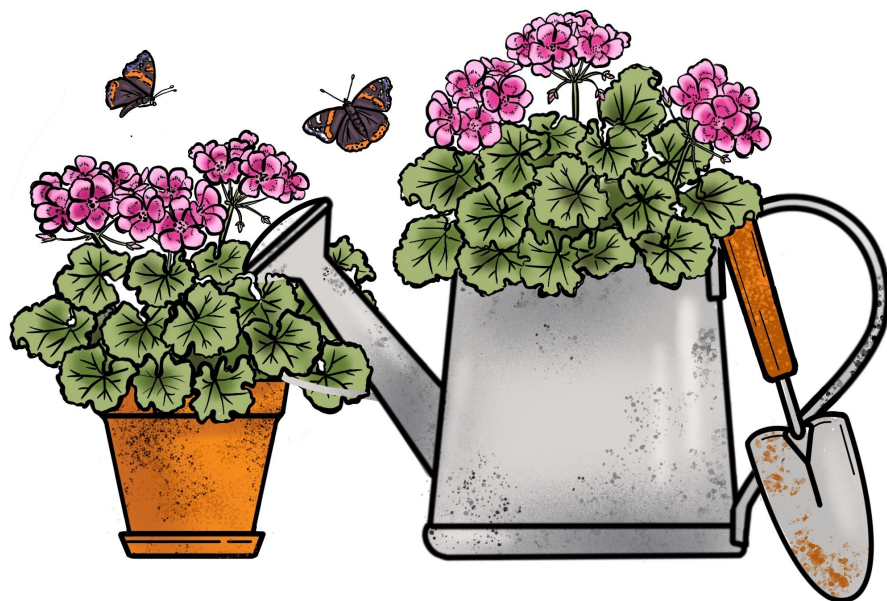


PENTECOST • WIND • FIRE
 HOLY • SPIRIT • TONGUES • RESTED
 JERUSALEM • JEWS • GALILEANS
 HEAR • LANGUAGE • ARAMAIC • GREEK
 HEBREW • PARTHIANS • MEDES
 ELAMITES • MESOPOTAMIA
 JUDEA • CAPPADOCIA • PONTUS
 ASIA • PHRYGIA • PAMPHYLIA
 EGYPT • LIBYA • CYRENE
 ROME • CRETANS
 ARABIANS • GOD



READ
 Acts
 2:1- 41





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]