

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 & Ruth Bentall reflect on their marriage as we approach their diamond anniversary.



'Great is Thy faithfulness Oh God our Father

Morning by morning new mercies I see'

'New every morning is the love

Our waking and uprising prove'

Perhaps the person responsible for scheduling the authors for these Thoughts had divine inspiration to put me down for September- just happening to be the month of our Diamond Wedding!

60 years is a long time in anyone's life and to have been actually married for that long is quite a thought!

But one thing is clear, the words of the old hymn writers ring as true today as they always have done. They are one thing that has kept our relationship strong over all these years.

'Morning by morning new mercies I (we) see'

'New every morning is the love'

I'm sure those couples in London Street who have already reached this milestone will confirm this experience.

Ours was the most unlikely union as I had never knowingly met a Catholic girl let alone spoken to one while growing up, such were the differences in Christian upbringing in those days. We would never have met in this country.

So nothing but the hand of God could have brought us together as volunteers in that workcamp in north-west Greece in 1963 and that same hand has kept us together ever since.

The existence of God cannot be proved but it certainly can be experienced.

'All we have needed thy hand has provided

Great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me (us)'

Back in the day many women gave up their careers to become wives and mothers as did Ruth, but not many found themselves following an Engineer's professional career involving living in four separate countries including giving birth to our third child in a remote town in Uganda! It is the wives that so often are the ones keeping home and family together.

Through most of those 60 years we have had the 'pain' of not being able to share fully in each other's worship although this has eased over latter years. To balance that we have always had the fellowship support of our respective congregations wherever we have lived, here and abroad.

We have been, and continue to be, richly blessed as we hold onto Paul's words to the Romans:

'for I am convinced that neither life nor death.....nor anything in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord'

THE NOTICEBOARD

Information, updates, tips, and more.



Diamond Wedding Celebrations!

We would like to invite our London Street Friends to join us in our Diamond Wedding Celebrations:



Sunday September 7th from 2:30pm

for a Garden Party in the London Street URC tradition.

A list is up on the noticeboard, could those wishing to attend please add their names to this list.

- Peter & Ruth Bentall

Church Flowers

The Flower Committee would like to thank Beryl Wootton for donating the Church flowers on the 7th, in memory of her husband and what would have been their 60th Wedding anniversary. Liz Lindsay will arrange the flowers.

We would also like to thank Peter & Ruth Bentall for donating the flowers on the 14th in celebration of their 60th Wedding anniversary. Joyce Cook will arrange the flowers.



Eco Tip

God's Gift -- Our World

The Environment -- Our Responsibility

Hole preventer kits for trainer heels and toes can be obtained from Trainerarmour.com

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, UHT Milk, Tinned Meat (e.g. Chilli, Stewing Steak, Ham), Hot/Cold Desserts (e.g. Jelly, Sponge Pudding, Angel Delight), Savoury Spreads (e.g. Peanut Butter, Marmite), Noodles, Shopping Bags.

Items needed: Tinned Spaghetti, Tinned Soup, Tinned Tomatoes, Sweet Treats, Coffee, Squash, Tinned Fruit, Powdered Milk, Savoury Snacks, Sweet Spreads (Jam, Marmalade etc.), Cup-A-Soup, Nappies (Size 6 & Above Only), Tampons, Men's Deodorant, Household Cleaning Products and Washing Up Liquid, Hair Conditioner, Toothpaste, Loo Roll.

Please **do not** give Baby Food, Hot/Cold Cereal, Nappies (Size 5 & Below), Non-Dairy Milk, Pasta, Pulses, Rice, Sanitary Pads, or 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://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/249/2025/08/Autumn-25-Foodbytes.pdf>



NOTE: There is also an SOS for 'Bags for life', strong enough for tins of food and tetra packs of milk etc. If you can help, please put them in the 'Foodbank' box in the concourse (on the way into the church).

A Very Special Service

Congratulations to Peter and Ruth Bentall on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on September 4th. They will celebrate by renewing their vows at a special Communion Service on September 14th.

Please try to come to support them. The service will be conducted by Rev Mike Burrell.



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.**

Happy Birthday to the following members of our church family:

Ava Esther (Elong Ebonkeng)

Clara Nicholson

Marguerite Hurford

Luke Dumbleton

Aime Blaise (Elad Elong)

If you know someone who is 80+ that would like their birthday added to the list in Focus, please let Jenny McCloy or the Editor know.



‘Reframe’ Bible Study at Tadley URC (Poster on page 9)

Following our success with running the Bible Societies "Romans Course", Tadley URC are now running a new 10 week DVD based course promoted by Bible Society called "Reframe".

The course will run Monday evenings at Tadley URC Immanuel Centre Hall starting 22nd September (breaking for 1/2 term).

We begin at 7:15pm with cake and refreshments before commencing at 7:30pm.

Ample car parking is available. Everyone is welcome. Come for as many or few sessions as you are able to make!

Love in Christ,

Mark, and all at Tadley URC

A Quiet Thought...

Man and woman may only enter Paradise hand in hand. Together, the myth tells us, they left it and together they must return.

Richard Garnett

**Enter into the big story of
Scripture and explore how
the gospel reframes all of
life.**



**ReFrame is a 10-Session
video-based Bible study that
brings faith to life.**

**Starting 7:15pm for 7:30pm Monday
22nd Sept through to Monday 1st Dec**

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



REFRAME



REFRAME



ALIVE 4U

A SERVICE 4 CHILDREN & FAMILIES



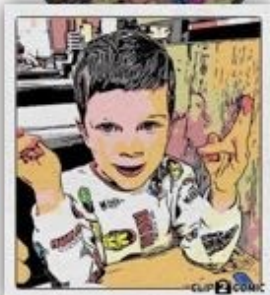
10:30am


**NEXT
SERVICE**

7th Sept

**Tadley United
Reformed
Church. Main
Road. Tadley**

**Info: Mark
07849546894**





COME AND SING THE ARMED MAN

A MASS FOR PEACE
BY KARL JENKINS

Director: Oliver Tarney
Saturday 20th September, 2025

London Street United Reform Church,
Basingstoke, RG21 7NU

Registration 9.30am
Rehearsal 10am
Lunch Break 1pm
The Armed Man: a Mass for Peace 2pm



Full Participation fee: **£20** Under 21s: **£5**
including music hire and refreshments

The Armed Man (2pm): **Free** (donations welcome)

www.wessexchamberchoir.co.uk



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FaithTalk: Everyday Evangelism in the URC

FaithTalk at Christmas – Thinking Ahead!

Tuesday 23 September 7pm



How do we make the most of wonderful opportunities to talk about our faith during Advent and Christmas... how can we talk about our faith personally at this time, and how can our church talk?

Join us online for a relaxed conversation to share ideas and experiences and find out about helpful resources.

Register for the link at:

mission@urc.org.uk

SUN, FUN, AND FOREVER FRIENDS

On the 20th of July Carol Scott invited a couple of families round to her home...



These young ladies grew up together at London St. and now their children are friends. Unfortunately Ruth and Clara have now returned home to the USA, in time for their new term at school. They are still a part of our Junior Church family! The good news is we will see them at Christmas.

We wish all of our Junior church a happy start to their new year of school, especially those changing school or in their first year, and we hope you will make lots of new forever friends.

ELECTION OF ELDERS AT LONDON STREET

Elections are happening soon at London Street, so here's a reminder, from our church secretary, 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. Ian McCloy and Ian Scott complete 3 years and both are eligible to be re-elected.

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 2026 to December 2028. This was agreed unanimously resulting in 4 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 percent 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 their name has been on the Church Roll for a period of at least twelve months immediately prior to taking up office. 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.



GOD'S WHISPER TO ME

The following poem was inspired by a lady called Phil Bevan who responded to God's call to take aid to Myanmar after floods there, many years ago...

God whispered in my ear one day
And said how it would be
I shrugged and turned away and said
"No way, You can't mean me!"

Next time it wasn't a whisper
He spoke quite loud and clear
He had a job for me to do
He said "have faith, don't fear".

So I took the challenge offered
But how should I begin?
This task was much too big for me
I had to trust in Him.

When the problems overwhelmed me
And I couldn't see my way
I'd put my faith and hope in Him
Fall to my knees and pray.

And my God, He never failed me
Through good days and through bad
He filled me with a courage
I never knew I had.

So if you feel God calling you
Don't doubt and answer "no"
He knows the plans He has for you
Step out in faith...and go!

By Mallie Sharpe



THE PRAYER CIRCLE

Please remember the following people in your prayers...

David Swain, and Alison who is supporting him

Barbara Banbury and David Corfield

Marguerite Hurford and her son Michael

Nicola Walwyn and family

Chris Jones' grandson, Archie

Alma Blackwell

Carol Scott

Louise & David Waller

Joan Musselwhite

Dick & Anne Davey

Jason Dudley

Christine & Eric Clucas

Carys Haywood

Maggie & Richard Morgans

Bev Harris and Dom

Claire Macro

Stan & Sandra Marut

Hyacinth Ridguard

Ruth Bental

Jenny McCloy

The Patterson family

Seb Allwright, following the loss of his wife Dorcas

Elaine and Brian's daughter Zoe and family

Gill Vickery



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

This month's assigned readings.



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



September Worship Diary

7th	Led by Ruth White; Musician: Mark Best; Duty Elder: Maggie Morgans.
14th	Led by Revd. Mike Burrell; Musician: Revd. Denis Smith; Duty Elder: Maggie Morgans.
21st	No Service at London Street. We join with Tadley URC at Old Meeting.
28th	Service includes Holy Communion. Led by Joy Williams; Musician: Peter Dixon; Duty Elder: Tony Patterson.

Next Church Meeting:

17th September (Wednesday) at 7:30pm (in the Hook Room)

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

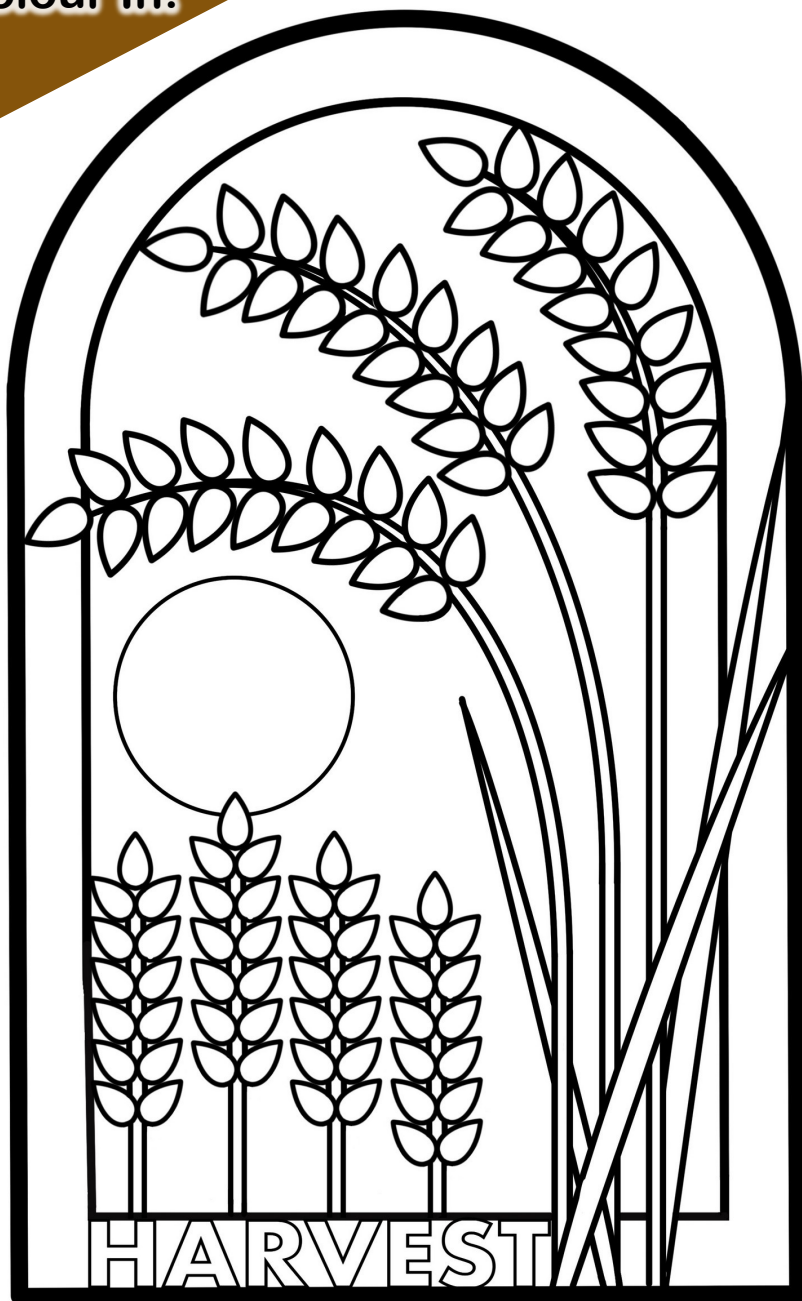
Regular Events

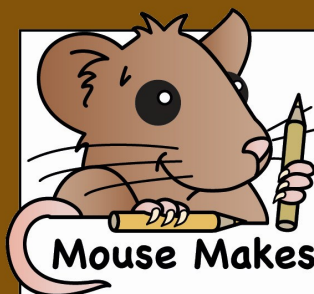
Sunday Worship 10:30am		
Monday Afternoons	Ladies' Cell Group	Contact Penny O'Bee.
Monday Evenings	Cell Group	Contact Mark Ward or Paul Gross.
Tuesday Evenings	Joint Prayer Time with St Paul's	Contact Penny O'Bee.
Wednesday Evenings	Prayer via Zoom	Contact Mark Ward.
Friday Afternoons	Men's Shed	2pm,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

September Worship Diary

7th	'Alive 4U' Children & family service (poster on page 10). Led by Mark Ward.
14th	Led by Ed Vassie.
21st	We are joined by London Street. Led by Mark Ward.
28th	Service is followed by a bring and share lunch and church meeting. Led by Philip Jones.

Colour In!





Mouse Makes

"May the people **praise** you **God**...
The **land yields** its harvest, God,
our God **blesses** us."

- from Psalm 67:5-6

"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God.
He gives **autumn** and **spring** rains
at the right time. He makes sure that we
have the harvest at just the right **time**."

- from Jeremiah 5:24

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

- Proverbs 3:9

"God... gives you **rain** from
heaven and good harvests
at the right times. He gives
you plenty of **food** and
fills your hearts with **joy**."

- from Acts 14:16-17

"So the one who **plants** is not
important, and the one who **waters**
is not important. Only **GOD** is
important because He is the one
who makes things **grow**."

- 1 Corinthians 3:7

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

Find the words in **bold** type in the bible quotes in the
wordsearch then look for the words below too!

PLOUGH • FIELD • SOIL • SCATTER • SOW • SEEDS • SUN
REAP • PICK • CROPS • GRAIN • CORN • BARN • BREAD • THANKSGIVING



London Street

United Reformed Church

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