



# FOCUS

May 2026



Proverbs 22: 9

***Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.***

**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, Jenny McCloy discusses the history of 'Commitment for Life' a charity we regularly support.

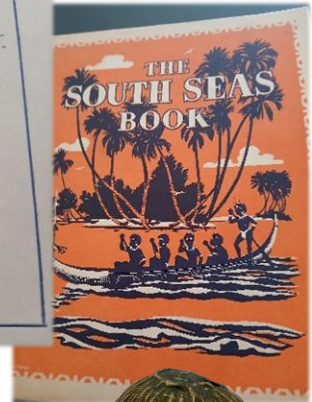


I was surprised recently to discover that many members of our church family are not aware of the work of Commitment for Life.

Every month, our retiring collection after Communion is divided between Commitment for Life and Basingstoke Town Centre Pastors. And yet, many of us are unaware of the work of Commitment for Life.

Let's go back a few steps...

I recently came across a book which was presented to me in 1953 to thank me for collecting ten shillings and five pence (the equivalent of £18.50 today) for the London Missionary Society (LMS). In those days children in our Sunday school were given a collecting box in the shape of an African hut, in which to collect coins during the year (maybe you had one of them). This prompted me to look at the history of the LMS and then explore its links with Commitment for Life and Christian Aid, especially as we are approaching Christian Aid Week when we will celebrate and support its work.



The LMS was founded in 1795 by a congregational minister. It was prominently a Protestant Interdenominational missionary organisation in England—established to spread Christianity round the world, mainly in China, Africa and the South Pacific. Famous names connected with the LMS, of whom you may have heard are:

- John Williams (& ships named after him were built to take missionaries around the world), he was eaten by cannibals in the New Hebrides when he was on a missionary expedition!

- David Livingstone, who was a medical missionary in Africa.
- Eric Liddell the 1924 Olympic Gold Medallist at 400m who worked in China.

In 1966 the LMS merged with the Commonwealth Missionary Society, and its name disappeared, to become the Congregational Council for World Mission. Then in 1973 this became The Council for World Mission, after the formation of the URC thus incorporating the missionary work of the Presbyterian church. This became known as the URC World Development Programme in 1977 and then gained its name of Commitment for Life in 1992.

The LMS, Commitment for Life and Christian Aid are all linked through an historical and organisational combination of mission, aid and global justice work originating from British non-conformist traditions. Commitment for Life works directly with Christian Aid on advocacy and development and is a contemporary programme of the URC which is a successor to the Congregational Church which originally supported the LMS.

Commitment for Life acts as a global justice programme which links local URC congregations with international partners (Palestine, Central America, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe), many individual congregations choose one of the partners to support and have a Commitment for Life Advocate, who coordinates the church's response, both in fundraising and in providing regular updates about the work being done in those countries, Commitment for Life relies heavily on Christian Aid in all of its work around the world. Both organisations share a long-term goal of transforming lives, moving from the traditional missionary work of the LMS to the modern international development and justice advocacy of Commitment for Life.

*Father,*

*We remember those who travelled across the world facing danger and unknown challenges in their efforts to take the news of the Gospel to new lands. They faced dangerous journeys in flimsy crafts, no luxury flying for them. They faced new peoples who distrusted them and found it difficult to welcome strangers into their communities. But the missionaries had such a strong faith in you and in what you were asking of them, that they were willing to face the unknown to show the love of Christ to all the people they met. We thank you for all they achieved in building faith filled communities and in bringing medical care where it*

*was needed. They built the foundations of faith which people continue to build on today. We thank you for those who today take your love into the unknown....we pray especially for those who work for Mission Aviation Fellowship, who take medical care and education flying into remote communities, and in doing so they show your love to all they meet, like the missionaries of long ago.*

*We hold all these in our prayers.*

*Amen.*

## The Noticeboard

Information, tips, updates, and more...



### Church Flowers

The Flower Committee would like to thank Maggie Morgans for donating the Church flowers. Joyce Cook is the arranger.

If you wish to celebrate an important occasion by donating the Church flowers, please contact Liz Lindsay.



### Eco Tip

God's Gift -- Our World

The Environment -- Our Responsibility

Clean windows using warm water with a squirt of washing up liquid and a dash of vinegar; polish dry with newspaper for a streak-free shine.



Don't forget, you can recycle the following items at London Street:  
Empty Printer Cartridges, Aluminium Containers and Foil, and Batteries.

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



Items **urgently** needed: Tinned Meat (e.g. Chilli, Stewing Steak, Ham), Fruit Juice, Coffee, Deodorant, UHT Milk, Loo Roll.

Items needed: Crackers, Squash, Custard, Marmite, Hair Conditioner, Cooking Sauce, Tinned Spaghetti, Powdered Milk, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Veg, Tinned Tomatoes, Pet Food, Household Cleaning Products & Washing Up Liquid, Jam, Tuna, Rice Pudding, Hot/Cold Desserts (e.g. Jelly, Sponge Pudding, Angel Delight), Tampons.

Please **do not** give Shower Gel & Soap, Baby Food, Hot/Cold Cereal, Nappies, 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://cms.trussell.org.uk/sites/default/files/2026-02/Spring%2026%20Foodbytes.pdf>

## Christian Aid Lunch

Our next church meeting is the ACM on (Sunday) May 3rd and will be preceded by a shared lunch of bread and soup as part of our Christian Aid actions.



## Angels

Due to the success of the Angels, we have started knitting ones for this year.

They are quick and easy to knit; I have the pattern if anyone wants to join knitting them.

Or come along on a Monday morning to Craft Group!!!

God bless, Carol Scott



**Happy Birthday** to the following member of our church family:

**David Bath**

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.

## Charity Event at Tadley (Poster on next page)

Tadley URC are organising a fun evening out to raise funds for Adonai School in Uganda (7pm, 16th May). Many of you may recall hearing about the vital work that this organisation does in caring for and schooling orphans, the poor and needy, and the under privileged in Uganda. Last year Adonai School took on 100 more needy children, and we want to help them with the large cost burden that this act of love has resulted in. Come and join us and have great fun with a team at our "Almost Family Fortunes Evening" and help raise funds for a great charitable cause too.

Teams can be any number from 4-8 and any age. Bring your own drinks and snacks and come prepared to have a laugh and enjoy yourself!

Love in Christ,  
Mark and All at Tadley URC



The logo for 'All Star Family Fortunes' is the background of the top half of the poster. It features the words 'All Star' in a cursive font at the top, 'FAMILY FORTUNES' in large, bold, block letters in the center, and a row of five stars at the bottom. The entire logo is set against a dark blue background with a subtle grid pattern and some light effects.

# Almost

*Just a Fun  
Night Out!*

**Raising Much Needed  
Funds for Adonai Uganda**

**Teams of up to 8**

**£7.50/person**

**7pm, May 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Tadley URC Immanuel Centre, Tadley. RG26 3NY**

**For Tickets contact Mark 07849 546894**

**mandjward@hotmail.co.uk**

**Bring Your own Drinks & Snacks**

## A Message From Church Secretary

Gill Miller, London Street's Church Secretary, sends you this message of thanks and invitation.



As I prepare for the Annual Church Meeting, I have a chance to reflect over the past year.

Would I have accepted the position of Church Secretary if I had known then what I know now?

That is the question!

It has certainly been a journey and an enormous amount to learn.

I must give thanks to all those who have helped me along the way. I would particularly like to mention Margaret Carrick Smith, who was such a support in my early months when Owen was absent. Tony as well, who has brightened my hours in the Vestry and always been willing to offer any help. Owen's support has been invaluable, and I hope I have proved to be a reasonable follow on. I have done my best.

There are many more to thank and I hope I will do justice to that at our Annual Church Meeting.

August was a special moment for me when I finally, after 56 years, decided to give up work and retire. What a joy that has been. Every day is a weekend, as they say! My workload has probably increased but now I am setting the pace!

As a church, we continue our time "In Vacancy" and I know this has been a challenging time for us all. I do hope that, with prayer and fortitude, we may soon hear more positive news.

It is thanks to so many in the Church that we have continued with weekly worship and fellowship.

I am reminded so often how precious it is that we can gather to worship together. Thank you to those who read, pray, welcome, serve refreshments, arrange flowers, prepare music, count collections, organise rotas, and keep everything running smoothly behind the scenes.

Each service prepared, each prayer offered, each quiet act of kindness, and each moment of shared laughter or shared tears has helped shape us into the community we are.

We praise God for the blessings of the Holy Spirit that surround us as we journey along our road together.

I invite you to our Annual Church Meeting on Sunday May 3rd, following a Christian Aid lunch, when we shall have the opportunity to review our Church life.

May we continue to worship with joy, serve with compassion, and walk together in hope. God has been faithful, and we trust that he will continue to guide us in the time to come so we may continue to care for one another in Christ's Love.

## Christ Is All-In-All



A poem by Sam Doubtfire.

We hold you and your treatment  
at the heart of every prayer,  
And we ask our God who loves you  
Just to hold you in His care.

May He make His presence known  
To you in every way He can  
While the healing balm of Christ is placed  
In the hands of mortal man.

So may the good Lord bless you  
As He holds you in His grace;  
And may He ever let His peace  
Be known in every place

Where your journeying will lead you;  
In whatever may befall:  
That you will know in everything  
How Christ is all-in-all.

## The Prayer Circle



Please remember the following people in your prayers...

Our Iranian friends, anxious about friends and family in Iran

Margaret Carrick Smith and family.

Barbara Banbury and David Corfield

Marguerite Hurford and her son Michael

Lizzy Payne as she explores her calling, at Wessex Synod's Mission House

Louise & David Waller

Maggie & Richard Morgans

Christine & Eric Clucas

Bev Harris and Dom

Hyacinth Ridguard

Stan & Sandra Marut

Peter & Ruth Bentall

Doina Rasnita

Jean Young

Carol Scott

Ian McCloy

Joan Mussellwhite

Dick & Anne Davey

Jason Dudley

The Patterson family

Claire Macro

Jenny McCloy

Beryl Wootton

Joyce Cook

Sheila Munro

Karen Bell

Rob Williams

Seb (in Uganda)

Greg Williams

John and his daughter Laura

Elaine & Brian and their family

Mark & Julie and their family

Gill Vickery

## Daily Bible Readings

This month's assigned readings.



	Psalm	New Testament		Psalm	New Testament
1st	54	Luke 20: 1-26	17th	61: 4-8	John 3: 22-36
2nd	55: 1-8	Luke 20: 27 – 21: 4	18th	62: 1-8	John 4: 1-26
3rd	55: 9-16	Luke 21: 5-19	19th	62: 9-12	John 4: 27-42
4th	55: 17-23	Luke 21: 20-38	20th	63: 1-5	John 5: 1-23
5th	56: 1-8	Luke 22: 1-30	21st	63: 6-11	John 5: 24-47
6th	56: 9-13	Luke 22: 31-53	22nd	64	John 6: 1-24
7th	23	Luke 22: 54-71	23rd	65: 1-8	John 6: 25-47
8th	57: 1-6	Luke 23: 1-25	24th	65: 9-13	John 6: 48-71
9th	57: 7-11	Luke 23: 26-49	25th	66: 1-7	John 7: 1-24
10th	58	Luke 23: 50 – 24: 12	26th	66: 8-15	John 7: 25-53
11th	59: 1-9	Luke 24: 13-35	27th	66: 16-20	John 8: 1-30
12th	59: 10-13	Luke 24: 36-53	28th	23	John 8: 31-59
13th	59: 14-17	John 1: 1-28	29th	67	John 9: 1-17
14th	60: 1-4	John 1: 29-51	30th	68: 1-6	John 9: 18-41
15th	60: 5-12	John 2	31st	68: 7-14	John 10: 1-21
16th	61: 1-3	John 3: 1-21			

## Event Diaries



What's on this month at London Street & Old Meeting URCs.

At London Street URC (unless otherwise stated):

### Regular Events

Sunday Worship 10:30am			
Mondays	10:15am	Craft Group	
Tuesdays	5:45-6:45pm	Squirrels	In Term Time. All in the Den except Scouts and Beavers, who meet in the Wessex Hall.
		Beavers	
	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.

### May Worship Diary

3rd	Led by The Worship Group; Musician: Mark Best.
10th	Led by Tony Patterson; Musician: Revd. Denis Smith.

17th	Led by Nicola Hamilton; Musician: Mark Best.
24th	Service includes Holy Communion Led by Peter Bentall; Musician: Mark Best.
31st	Led by Ruth White; Musician: Peter Dixon.

Duty Elder for the month: Joyce Cook.

Next Church Meeting (is the ACM):

May 3rd (Sunday) at 1:15pm (in the Sanctuary)

**At Tadley (Old Meeting) URC (unless otherwise stated):**

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. 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.

# May Worship Diary

3rd	'Alive' Children & Families Service. Led by Ruth White.
10th	Service includes Holy Communion. Led by Marie Grout.
17th	Service and Sunday School. Led by Helen Williams.
24th	No Service at Old Meeting. Joining with London Street.
31st	No Service at Old Meeting. Congregation helping at Tadley Treacle Fair.



## WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_  
Genesis 1:2

The \_\_\_\_\_  
of the Father.  
Acts 1:4

What happened when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost?  
read Acts 2:1-41  
How many believers were baptised that day?

The Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_  
A \_\_\_\_\_  
Romans 8:15

H \_\_\_\_\_  
John 14:26

The Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_  
John 16:13

The Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 16:7

The Fruit of the Spirit  
Galatians 5:22-23

\_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_

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

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER  
ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE  
GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND



*Next Issue...*

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

# 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  
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Church Charity [reg. no. 1130801]