



FOCUS

June 2026



Luke 10: 36-37

“Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

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 discusses Compassion, a charity close to her heart.



I wondered whether you would be interested in knowing a bit more about how Compassion works.

Compassion is an international organisation that sponsors children from poverty-stricken backgrounds. The children are then educated, have health checks, receive food daily, and attend a 'centre' where they are taught about Jesus.

Compassion UK gets British people to sponsor a child/children for £36 per month. We write letters to the child and receive letters back. At first a teacher will write, but once the child is old enough, they write, and their letter is translated into the sponsor's own language.

Some people think this only helps one child and that this is not fair, but nothing could be further from the truth. By helping one child in a family the burden of feeding that child is lifted from the family - so that means more for the others to share. It also means health care for all the family. The child receiving any gifts eagerly shares those gifts, sent by the sponsors, with the rest of the family.

Each Centre is Church Based. **ONLY CHURCH BASED.** (This in turn has meant some churches increasing their congregations from 50 or so at the beginning to 300 after a while as the people see Christ at work in their community). The Motto of Compassion is **Christ Centred, Church Based, Child Focused.** Compassion works in 25 Countries, and more than 3,900 Churches.



I had been sponsoring a child from India for many years. when, sadly, India withdrew from all outside financing, but not until after our lass had grown from 4 years old to a beautiful 16-year-old and her last photo was of her dressed in a new Sari, which she purchased with her birthday money.



So then we sponsored Miluska, from age 10 (from Peru, pictured left). She is now 22 and has studied to be a pharmacist. Her sponsorship continued until her graduation.

Now I sponsor a young lady from Rwanda who was aged 13. She is now 19 and studying hard at university reading Law. She wants to help bring justice to those who cannot defend themselves, and again her sponsorship will last until she graduates. Also, I have added a boy from Togo who was just 11. His dream is to be an electrician.

So, by sponsoring children at a young age we are enabling those young people to acquire an education to lift them and their families out of poverty and enabling them to become useful citizens of their community, Country, and the world.

Last month (May) Compassion asked its members to highlight the work they do, and this is the reason I chose Compassion as my 'Thought for the Month' for June.

To find out more visit: compassionuk.org

The Noticeboard

Information, tips, updates, and more...



Church Flowers

This month, Liz Lindsay will be donating and arranging the Church flowers in memory of her husband, Sandy.

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

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



Eco Tip

God's Gift -- Our World

The Environment -- Our Responsibility

Don't forget to clean around the back of your refrigerator, freezer, or fridge/freezer. Use a brush or preferably your vacuum cleaner with a brush attachment (about twice a year). This will help it run more efficiently.



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

Happy Birthday to the following members of our church family:

Janet Parr

Imogen

Christine Robertson

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.

Welcome Back!

Welcome to Helen, Ruth and Clara who are due to arrive this month. Ruth and Clara are 'long distance' members of our Junior Church!



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



Items **urgently** needed: Fruit Juice, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Pasta, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Veg, Tinned Meat (e.g. Chilli, Stewing Steak, Ham), UHT Milk, Hot/Cold Desserts (e.g. Jelly, Sponge Pudding, Angel Delight).

Items needed: Loo Roll, Rice Pudding, Squash, Marmite, Coffee, Shampoo, Deodorant, Crackers, Custard, Hair Conditioner, Cooking Sauce, Tinned Spaghetti, Powdered Milk, Pet Food, Household Cleaning Products & Washing Up Liquid, Jam, Tuna, 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/2026-05/Summer%2026%20Foodbytes.pdf>

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Adam and Kyla who celebrate their Silver Wedding Anniversary this month, we hope they have a great day.



And congratulations to Alison Grant who recently completed her long journey into nursing. She will be working as an acute surgical nurse.

An Invitation from Memory Tree

The Alzheimer's Society is promoting a fund-raising event in June, as part of its 'Forget me Not' Appeal.

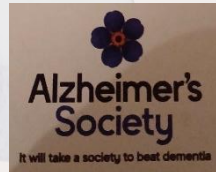
As part of this, Memory Tree guests would like to invite you to a Coffee Morning on Wednesday 17th June between 10:30am and noon. We will be raising money for The Alzheimer's Society. We have set ourselves a goal of raising £50!

Please pop into the Hook Room if you can. Please give 50p as your entrance fee!

We would also appreciate any cakes or biscuits which you could give in aid of this cause, which is close to the heart of Memory Tree.

Thank you,

Jenny McCloy



A New Series... 'Following a Dream'

The following article is the first in what we hope will be a series, written by you, the congregation. This month Alison Grant discusses her journey into nursing and next month Ian McCloy shares his path into teaching. If you have a similar story of a fulfilled dream and you would like to share it then please send it to the editor or Jenny McCloy.

We can't wait to hear more of your stories and learn more about each other!

Following a Dream

Alison Grant shares what, and who, inspired her journey into nursing.



As many of you know, I have been studying nursing for the past four years and have now come to the end of my degree. I'm also very grateful and excited to share that I have secured a position as a Registered Nurse on an acute surgical ward at Winchester Hospital.

These last few years have been some of the hardest, but also some of the most meaningful years of my life. There were many long days, stressful exams, emotional placements, and moments where I honestly questioned whether I could keep going. But looking back now, I can truly see God's hand guiding me through it all.

One thing that kept me going was the support and encouragement from both my church family and my own family. Every prayer, kind word, message, and check-in meant more than people probably realised. My family stood by me through the stressful moments, encouraged me when I felt drained, and celebrated every small victory along the way. At the same time, being able to support and care for my family through difficult moments also reminded me why I chose nursing in the first place. Through it all, I was constantly reminded that I was never walking this journey alone.

My faith became something I leaned on daily. Whenever I felt overwhelmed, I would remind myself of Philippians 4: 13, "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*" I also held onto Proverbs 3: 5-6, trusting that even when I couldn't see the way forward, God already had a plan for me.

Nursing has taught me so much, not only academically, but personally and spiritually too. It has shown me the importance of compassion, patience, and simply being there for people in their most vulnerable moments. In many ways, it reminded me of Jesus' teaching in Mark 10: 45 — that we are called to serve others with love and humility.

As I step into this next chapter, I feel incredibly thankful. Thankful to God for carrying me through every challenge, thankful to my family for their constant love and sacrifices, and thankful to my church family for walking alongside me in faith, prayer, and encouragement throughout this journey.

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

Carol & Ian Scott's daughter, Charlotte, who is recovering from
emergency surgery

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

Stephen's Dad

Greg Williams

John and his daughter Laura

Elaine & Brian Cole and their family

Mark & Julie Ward

Gill Vickery as she settles into her care home

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 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.

June Worship Diary

7th	Led by Prof. Dr. Phebe Mann; Musician: Revd. Denis Smith.
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14th	Led by 8th & 1st Basingstoke Scouts; Musician: Mark Best.
21st	Led by Revd. Julian Macro; Musician: Alex Macro.
28th	Service includes Holy Communion Led by Revd. Stephen Thornton; Musician: Peter Dixon.

Duty Elder for the month: Ian Scott.

Next Church Meeting:

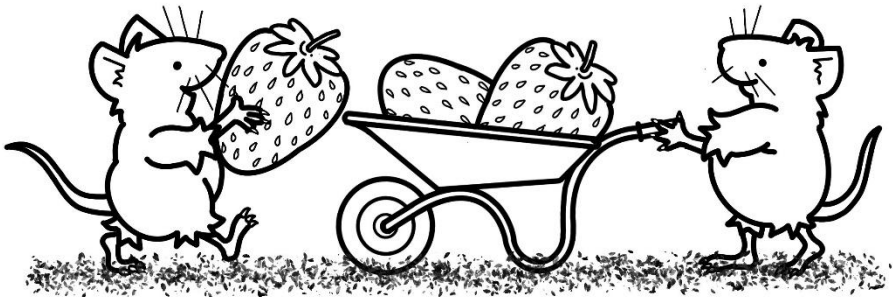
July 13th (Monday) at 7:30pm (in the Hook Room)

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.

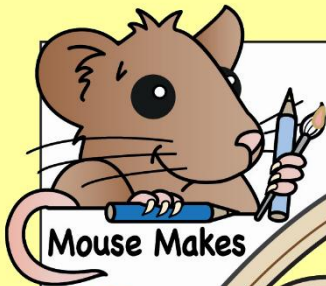
June Worship Diary

7th	Includes Junior Church. Led by Mark Ward.
14th	Service includes Holy Communion. Led by Greg Whittick.
21st	Includes Junior Church. Led by Karen Jones and John Featherstone.
28th	Led by Philip Jones.



Colour In!





Mouse Makes



"May the grace of the Lord
JESUS CHRIST and the
 love of **GOD** and the
 fellowship of the
HOLY SPIRIT be
 with you all."

2 Corinthians
 13:14



V
 HIW
 VENLR
 SLAEP LG
 HALDOOR
 EMEWORD
 PBREADW
 HLABPHA
 EEMCGJY
 RMEHOEK
 DMIR SST
 SAVIOUR
 PNESNSU
 OUNTLOT
 MESSIAH
 RLGBFIS
 KEOMEGA

JESUS • CHRIST
 SON • SAVIOUR • LORD
 EMMANUEL • MESSIAH
 SHEPHERD • LAMB • WAY
 TRUTH • LIFE • DOOR
 BREAD • WORD • HEALER
 VINE • ALPHA • OMEGA

O
 ISD
 JYIAM
 ACGODJM
 LROCKUA
 MELORDJ
 IABBAGE
 GTDEBES
 HOYRFET
 TRAHATY
 YGHOIEF
 VSWLARA
 OHEYENT
 JEHOVAH
 IKINGLE
 SHIELDR
 SAVIOUR

GOD • FATHER
 ABBA • LORD • JEHOVAH
 YAHWEH • ALMIGHTY
 HOLY ONE • SAVIOUR
 ETERNAL • CREATOR
 KING • MAJESTY • JUDGE
 SHIELD • ROCK • I AM

V
 UDE
 TRUTH
 THAHSRI
 OSPOWER
 ULFLIFE
 POWYNDR
 AWISDOM
 DBEPBVC
 VWTIREO
 OIEREFM
 CTRIAIF
 ANNTTRO
 TEACHER
 ESLGIFT
 DSGUIDE
 THELPER

HOLY SPIRIT
 GIFT • HELPER • WITNESS
 COMFORTER • GUIDE
 ADVOCATE • WISDOM
 POWER • TRUTH • BREATH
 LIFE • ETERNAL • DOVE
 WIND • FIRE • TEACHER





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.

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.

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Church Charity [reg. no. 1130801]