



FOCUS

August 2026



John 13: 34

...“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”

**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, Alison Jamieson presents an extract from a book by URC minister, Neil Thorogood.



During lock down Neil Thorogood decided to draw and paint something each day and the book 'Talking Pictures' is the result along with some thoughts to go with them. This is one of them. Something to ponder on when out for a walk, or on holiday or whilst having a cup of coffee?



'The strongest chains we know come from love'

Daisy chains can come in several forms. In the realms of electronics and electrical engineering, daisy chaining is when a series of devices are connected either to share a power supply or to pass on data. If you're a rock climber, you'll think of the daisy chain as the lightweight ladder of nylon tape loops.

And the, of course, there's my version. A little garland of flowers plucked from the lawn. Slit their stems, insert the next flower and keep going until the chain grows.

Other sorts of chains bind, constrain and hold fast. That can be positive. Think of the weight of the anchor chain in the storm that holds the ship from running into the rocks that wait to catch it. But there are also the chains that weighed the feet and hands and necks of children, women and men captured and transported into slavery. It might be the abuse of power that dominates and bullies others. It might be the crushing weight of memories, or depression, or a sense of worthlessness. Some chains are evil agony.

The Apostle Paul's correspondence with the church in Corinth includes one of the Bible's most beautiful and well-known passages. 1 Corinthians 13 is a magnificent affirmation of love; the sort of love that is at the heart of the Bible's story because it is a reflection of the way

God is. This love is the most profound connectedness. It is a chain of belonging to one another and to God in Christ.

Paul and the Corinthians are having a row. The letter includes several moments when Paul points to their failings: envy (3: 3); boasting (4: 7: 5: 6); arrogance (4: 6, 18-19; 5: 2, 8: 1); injustice 96: 7-9). Having identified what's wrong, Paul gets to the ultimate expression of what is right:

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude; It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, love never ends” (13: 4-8a).

Lord of love and life, may we know your love in all its depth and certainty. Knowing, feeling and trusting, let your love work its miracles within us. Amen

[Neil Thorogood is minister to a couple of churches in the SW, he moved there in 2020 during Covid, prior to this he taught practical theology at Westminster College Cambridge.]

The Noticeboard

Information, tips, updates, and more...



Church Flowers

The Flower Committee would like to thank Jenny & Ian McCloy for donating the Church flowers to celebrate their wedding anniversary. Alison Jamieson will arrange the flowers.

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

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



Items **urgently** needed: Fruit Juice, Peanut Butter, Marmite, Shower Gel, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Veg, UHT Milk, Loo Roll.

Items needed: Tinned Pasta, Tinned Tomatoes, Hot/Cold Desserts (e.g. Jelly, Sponge Pudding, Angel Delight), Rice Pudding, Tinned Meat (e.g. Chilli, Stewing Steak, Ham), Nappies (Size 5-8), Squash, Coffee, Shampoo, Deodorant, Crackers, Custard, Hair Conditioner, Cooking Sauce, Powdered Milk, Household Cleaning Products & Washing Up Liquid, Jam, Tuna, Tampons.

Please **do not** give Soap, Baby Food, Hot/Cold Cereal, Nappies (Size 0-4), 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>

Happy Birthday to the following member of our church family:

Aidah Grant

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.

RESOURCES TOOLKIT RESOURCES

FAITH PICTURES

HELPING CHRISTIANS
TALK ABOUT THEIR OWN
STORY OF FAITH
WITH CONFIDENCE.

“FAITH PICTURES”

6 MONDAY EVENINGS
FROM OCT 19TH TO NOV 23RD
STARTING 7:15 FOR 7:30PM

EVERYONE WELCOME

CHURCH
ARMY
.ORG

AT TADLEY URC IMMANUEL CENTRE,
MAIN ROAD, RG26 3NY

✉ tadleyurc@gmail.com
☎ 07849 546894

 CHURCHES
TOGETHER
AROUND
TADLEY

Messages of Thanks!

A huge thank you from Janice and myself to everyone at London Street URC for the presentation made at the beginning of what I had agreed would be my final service on Sunday 19th July. It really did take me by surprise and reinforced just how much the church at London Street always meant to both of us during the time of my ministry and still does. Although it's some eighteen years now since my retirement from full time ministry, returning to Basingstoke to lead the occasional Sunday worship and catch up with old friends as well as more recent members of the congregation I had also come to know, was always very special and for which I felt privileged as well as grateful to have the opportunity to do. We shall of course continue to keep in touch and not least by way of the Focus magazine which is always a joy to read. In the meantime, I pray that God will continue to bless all that happens at London Street church in the mission of spreading the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ just as I pray for that same blessing on each and every one of you. And so, to everyone at London Street URC, from Janice and me thank you for your friendship and your love.

- Mike Burrell



Jenny McCloy would like to thank all members of the church family for visits, flowers, cards and good wishes during her recent surgery and subsequent recovery. She has felt the prayerful support of all. Hopefully, she will be back in church soon.



A big thank you to everyone who sent me greetings on my Birthday in June. I'm not too sure about the number but the greetings were much appreciated!

Blessings,

Alison Jamieson

Happy Anniversary!

31st August is the Anniversary of Rev Kay Blackwell's Ordination in 2013. We send her good wishes from everyone here at London Street URC.



Eco Tip

God's Gift -- Our World

The Environment -- Our Responsibility

Vinegar is a natural fabric softener add half a cup to the rinse cycle of your machine. Why not get a bottle of white vinegar in your next shopping expedition -- it can be used for so many things.

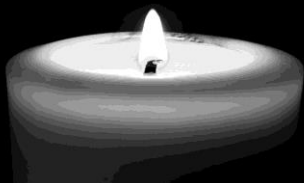


Don't forget, you can recycle the following items at London Street:
Empty Printer Cartridges, Aluminium Containers and Foil, and Batteries.

A Quiet Thought

*Darkness is merely the absence of
light, and fear is merely the absence
of love.*

Marianne Williamson



Following on from Ruth White's service theme on Sunday 5th July, which was "The body", the poem on the next page was mentioned. This work has been printed before in Focus but as some time has passed since then and as its subject (the health consequences of the huge rise in obesity) still threatens our Health Service today, we thought it deserved a reprint.

-Editor

A Plea for Moderation



A reprint of a poem by Maggie Morgans.

How often do we all proclaim
The wonders of the human frame
The way we run and leap and walk
And see and hear and touch and talk?

How often are the praises sung
Of kidney, liver, heart and lung,
And, most intriguing of them all,
The alimentary canal

Which copes, a quite amazing feat,
With everything we choose to eat
And seldom fails in this presumption
Despite our profligate consumption

The miracle of reproduction
Is yet another awesome function
And what controls this linked up chain?
That great computer called our brain.

Its permutations reach infinity
And tune these organs with agility
Day and night without our knowing,
In harmony, they all keep going

We need to nurture this creation
Not damage it with exploitation,
Use health and talents with propriety
God's unique gifts in their variety

Be mindful of the body's beauty
And see it as our simple duty
Not to consume to such excess
We jeopardise the N.H.S!

The Prayer Circle



Please remember the following people in your prayers...

Our Iranian friends, anxious about friends and family in Iran

The Scott family, especially their daughter, Charlotte

Barbara Banbury and David Corfield

The Patterson family, especially Tony

Rob Williams

Owen Collins

Lizzy Payne, exploring her calling, at Wessex Synod's Mission House

Louise & David Waller

Peter & Ruth Bentall

Christine & Eric Clucas

Bev Harris and Dom

Hyacinth Ridguard

Stan & Sandra Marut

Karen Bell

Doina Rasnita

Jean Young

Jenny McCloy

Joyce Cook

Joan Mussellwhite

Jason Dudley

Sheila Munro

Claire Macro

Philip Jones

Dick & Anne Davey

Quaira

John's daughter Laura

Mark Ward's brother's family

Elaine & Brian Cole's family

**The young people from the Hub Church on their Brazilian adventure,
and safe return in the Autumn (to tell us all about it!)**

Daily Bible Readings



This month's assigned readings.

	Psalm	New Testament		Psalm	New Testament
1st	89: 30-37	Acts 27: 1-26	17th	23	Romans 13
2nd	89: 38-46	Acts 27: 27-44	18th	96: 1-6	Romans 14
3rd	89: 47-52	Acts 28	19th	96: 7-13	Romans 15
4th	23	Romans 1	20th	97: 1-6	Romans 16
5th	90: 1-10	Romans 2	21st	97: 7-12	1 Corinthians 1
6th	90: 11-17	Romans 3	22nd	98	1 Corinthians 2
7th	91: 1-8	Romans 4	23rd	99	1 Corinthians 3
8th	91: 9-16	Romans 5	24th	100	1 Corinthians 4
9th	92: 1-8	Romans 6	25th	101	1 Corinthians 5
10th	92: 9-15	Romans 7	26th	102: 1-12	1 Corinthians 6
11th	93	Romans 8: 1-17	27th	102: 13-17	1 Corinthians 7: 1-24
12th	94: 1-11	Romans 8: 18-39	28th	102: 18-22	1 Corinthians 7: 25-40
13th	94: 12-15	Romans 9	29th	102: 23-28	1 Corinthians 8
14th	94: 16-23	Romans 10	30th	103: 1-5	1 Corinthians 9
15th	95: 1-5	Romans 11	31st	103: 6-12	1 Corinthians 10
16th	95: 6-11	Romans 12			

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.

August Worship Diary

2nd	Led by Vivien Gerhold; Musician: Mark Best.
9th	Led by Nicola Hamilton; Musician: Revd. Denis Smith.
16th	Led by Joy Williams; Musician: Mark Best.

23rd	Service includes Holy Communion Led by Revd. Julian Macro; Musician: Peter Dixon.
30th	Led by Revd. Stephen Thornton; Musician: Mark Best.

Duty Elder for the month: Tony Patterson.

Next Church Meeting:

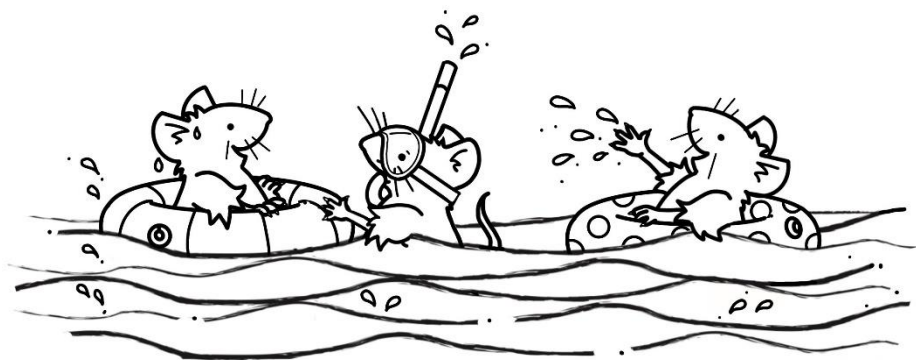
September 16th (Wednesday) at 7:30pm (in the Hook Room)

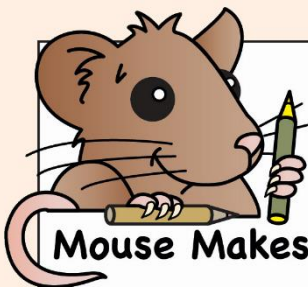
At Tadley (Old Meeting) URC (unless otherwise stated):

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.

August Worship Diary

2nd	Service includes Holy Communion. Led by Penny O'Bee.
9th	No Service at Old Meeting.
16th	Led by Eve Baker.
23rd	Led by Marie Grout.
30th	Led by Philip Jones.





Mouse Makes

1. To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2



2. Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?

Acts 16:9-10

MOAB

5. Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?

Ruth 1:22



6. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?

Acts 13:51

4 across

After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?

Acts 14:19-20

LYSTRA

B I B L E

4 down

Where was Saul travelling to when Jesus appeared to him?

Acts 9:3



EGYPT



JERUSALEM

7 across

Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?

Acts 11:22

J O U R N E Y S

7 down

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?

Genesis 8:4

9. To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?

Acts 8:5

10. To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?

Mark 1:5



13

11. After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?

Acts 20:6

GALILEE

12. Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?

Exodus 15:4

8. To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?

Matthew 2:13



13. Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?

Acts 18:1

JUDEA



Next Issue...

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of Focus magazine. If you would like to contribute to the September magazine, please contact the editor by 22nd of August.

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]