



FOCUS

September 2026



1 Peter 5: 1-3

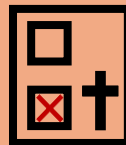
...I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock.

London Street United Reformed Church
Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 7NU

Tadley (Old Meeting) United Reformed Church
Malthouse Ln, Hants, RG26 3NY

Election of Elders at London Street URC

Gill Miller, our church secretary, provides guidance to members about the upcoming election.



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, in your consideration of another member who you feel would be suitable for nomination and election as an elder.

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 serving Elders for the coming year. This year there is only one elder who has completed 3 years and is eligible for re-election. That elder is Leng Ayland.

The recommendation to the July church meeting from Elders' meeting was that we retain the number of serving Elders at 12. This was agreed unanimously, therefore resulting in the one vacant Elder's position to be filled at this year's election.

A list of those eligible to serve as Elders will be handed to those members on the current church roll. Each member will be entitled to nominate up to two more church members than the maximum to be elected. For this election in 2026 you will therefore be asked to nominate up to three church members. 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 members 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 understand the constitutions of the United Reformed Church and that of London Street.

What is the Role of an Elder?

The call to eldership is a high calling and although it can be a challenging job, 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 may appear daunting. It includes ensuring that public worship is regularly offered and the sacraments are duly administered. Ensuring pastoral care for the congregation. Being responsible for the institution and oversight of work among children and young people. Making recommendations to the church meeting for arrangements for the proper maintenance of buildings. Having general oversight of all financial responsibilities.

Who do you see as being called to carry out these functions?

Your current eldership, as a team, is 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.

It is not reasonable to expect that every member should possess all the gifts of the Holy Spirit to enable them to carry out every function of eldership.

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.

The faith required is the same faith that makes us a Christian. We do, at times, 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.



The Noticeboard

Information, tips, updates, and more...



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.

Church Flowers

The Flower Committee would like to thank Joyce Cook for donating and arranging the Church 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, Tinned Fruit, Cooking Sauce, Tinned Veg, UHT Milk, Tinned Pasta, Tinned Tomatoes, Hot/Cold Desserts (e.g. Jelly, Sponge Pudding, Angel Delight), Rice Pudding, Custard, Tinned Meat (e.g. Chilli, Stewing Steak, Ham), Nappies (Size 5-8), Deodorant, Loo Roll, Shampoo and Conditioner.

Items needed: Squash, Peanut Butter, Marmite, Shower Gel, Coffee, Crackers, Powdered Milk, Household Cleaning Products & Washing Up Liquid, Jam, Tuna, Tampons.

Please **do not** give Tinned Potatoes, 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>

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



Remembrance Service Sunday November 8th, 2026

As part of our Remembrance Sunday service, we would like to create a special display to remember and honour those who served and those who lost their lives in times of war.

If you have any items that you would be willing to lend for the display, we would be very grateful. These might include:

- Photographs of family members who served
- Medals or service decorations
- Uniforms, hats or badges
- Letters, diaries or documents
- War- time memorabilia
- Personal stories or memories
- Other items connected with military service

These will be collected prior to our service to display and will be handled with care and returned afterwards.

If you have something you would like to contribute, please speak to Gill, Alison, or Jenny.

Thank you for helping us create a meaningful display of remembrance.

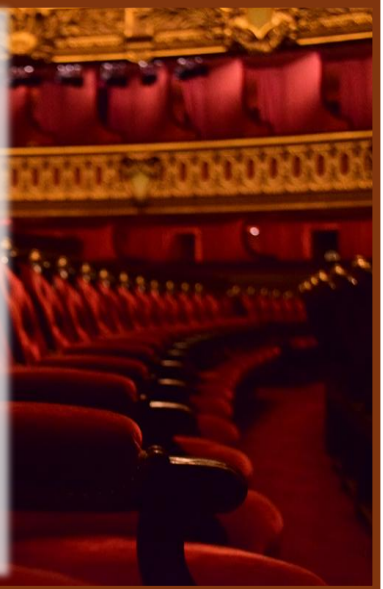
A Theatre Trip Opportunity

I have managed to get a good offer for some tickets for Jesus Christ Superstar at the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton. They are for the matinee on Wednesday 8th September 2027.

The cost of each ticket in the stalls is £46.00, and I need to pay by 24th November 2026. This is a group discounted price.

Please could people who are interested contact me as soon as possible.

-Joyce Cook



A New Arrival!

Raya is celebrating the birth of his niece (daughter of his brother), who is called Nila (photo right). We send congratulations from everyone at London Street!



Memory Tree

Luke Murphy MP's postponed visit to Memory Tree has been rearranged for September 16th. We look forward to welcoming him to join our group.

We have had a few musical sessions recently two ladies from a group called 'Home Instead' which, as the name implies, organises care in people's own homes for as long as possible, rather than admission to a Care Home. One thing these ladies do is to lead singing sessions at Milestones Museum on the third Wednesday each month. They came to our group to give us a taster of what is involved. It was great fun—we thoroughly enjoyed the singing and the actions which accompanied it.

We are also due to welcome the granddaughter of one of our guests who is going to sing for us. We always enjoy musical sessions, especially those where Mark Best entertains us on the piano and with his singing. We are very appreciative of Rob Williams' willingness to bring Mark (Secretly, I think he comes for the cake!! Speaking of cake...) We are always glad of donations to our cake table from new donors. Jason has started baking some unusual varieties for us, which our guests enjoy!

One of our volunteers, Mary Boys, who is a member of St Bede's church in Popley, keeps us on our toes by leading us in exercises each week. They obviously work as a very spritely Mary celebrated her birthday with us in August with cards, gifts and flowers.



Why not pop in one Wednesday morning to say hello!

The Prayer Circle



Please remember the following people in your prayers...

Hamed & family

Gill Craft

The Scott family, especially their daughter, Charlotte

Barbara Banbury and David Corfield

The Patterson family, especially Tony

Rob Williams

Owen Collins

Lizzy Payne, beginning her stay at 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

Dick & Anne Davey

Mark Ward's brother and family

John's daughter Laura

Seb in Uganda

Katie and Tom and baby Charlotte

**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	103: 13-18	1 Corinthians 11	16th	106: 6-12	2 Corinthians 8
2nd	103: 19-22	1 Corinthians 12	17th	106: 13-23	2 Corinthians 9
3rd	104: 1-9	1 Corinthians 13	18th	106: 24-33	2 Corinthians 10
4th	104: 10-18	1 Corinthians 14: 1-25	19th	106: 34-41	2 Corinthians 11
5th	104: 19-26	1 Corinthians 14: 26-40	20th	106: 40-48	2 Corinthians 12
6th	104: 27-30	1 Corinthians 15: 1-34	21st	107: 1-9	2 Corinthians 13
7th	104: 31-35	1 Corinthians 15: 35-58	22nd	107: 10-16	Galatians 1
8th	23	1 Corinthians 16	23rd	107: 17-22	Galatians 2
9th	105: 1-7	2 Corinthians 1	24th	107: 23-32	Galatians 3
10th	105: 8-15	2 Corinthians 2	25th	107: 33-38	Galatians 4
11th	105: 16-22	2 Corinthians 3	26th	107: 39-43	Galatians 5
12th	105: 23-30	2 Corinthians 4	27th	108: 1-5	Galatians 6
13th	105: 31-38	2 Corinthians 5	28th	108: 6-13	Ephesians 1
14th	105: 39-45	2 Corinthians 6	29th	23	Ephesians 2
15th	106: 1-5	2 Corinthians 7	30th	109: 1-5, 30-31	Ephesians 3

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	10am	Craft Group	In the Hook Room.
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.

September Worship Diary

6th	Led by Worship Group; Musician: Mark Best.
13th	Led by Gabby North (Leprosy Mission); Musician: Revd. Denis Smith.
20th	Led by David Grant; Musician: Mark Best.
27th	Service includes Holy Communion Led by Mark Ward; Musician: Peter Dixon.

Duty Elder for the month: Beryl Wootton.

Next Church Meeting:

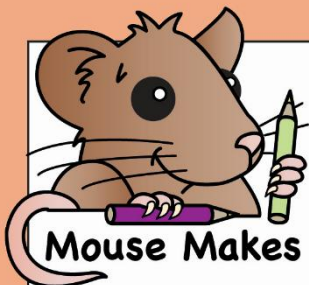
September 16th (Wednesday) at 7:30pm (in the Hook Room)

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.

September Worship Diary

6th	'Alive' children and families service. Led by Mark Ward.
13th	Led by Helen Williams.
20th	Led by Karen Jones and John Featherstone.
27th	No service at Old Meeting. Worship at London Street URC led by Mark Ward.



Mouse Makes



READ
John 15:1-17

How many
times does Jesus
use the word
FRUIT?

What does
Jesus command?
To _____
one another.
John 15:12,17

THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

John 15:1

What does Jesus
ask us to do?
"Go and bear
_____"

John 15:16

What happens
to the branches
that do not remain
in the vine?
Thrown into the

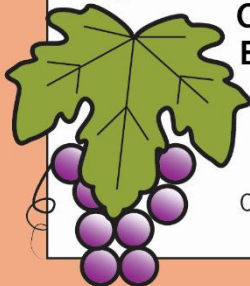
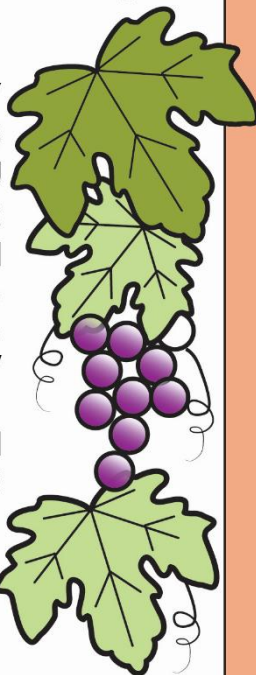
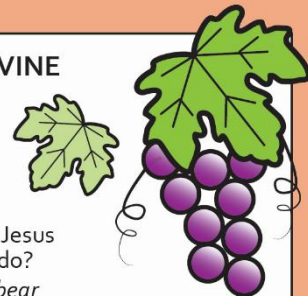
and

How many
times does Jesus
command us
to LOVE
one another?

John 15:6

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

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
GARDENER • FRUIT • FRUITFUL
BRANCH • PRUNES • CUT • WITHERS
CLEAN • THROWN AWAY • FIRE • BURNS
REMAIN • ABIDE • DISCIPLES • JOY





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.

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]