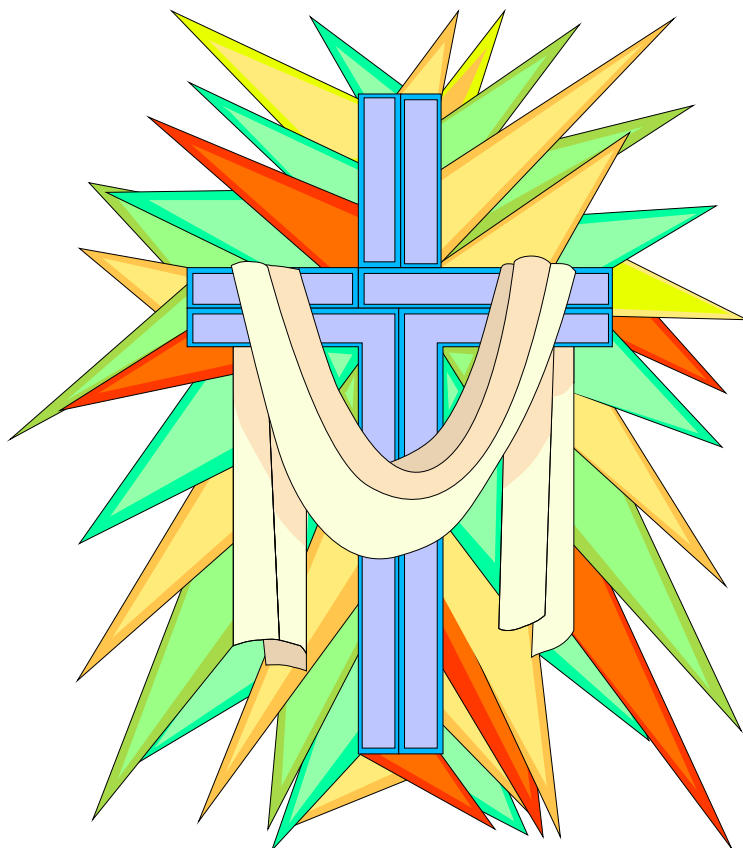




London Street

United Reformed Church

**BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE RG21 7NU
and
TADLEY (OLD MEETING) URC**



FOCUS
April, 2016

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - www.londonstreeturc.org.uk

MINISTER:

Revd Kay Blackwell (Day off - Monday)
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CHURCH SECRETARY:

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Hatch Warren
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FOCUS:

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Basingstoke RG21 7AZ
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Tadley (Old Meeting) URC

10.30 every Sunday

“TASTE” Youth Event at 7pm in the Immanuel Centre

Minister:

Revd Kay Blackwell

Church Secretary:

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22 Pelican Road, Pamber Heath RG26 3EN
Tel: 0118 970 0809
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Treasurer:

Mark Ward
10 Hartleys, Silchester, Reading RG7 2QE
e.mail: mandjward@hotmail.co.uk

View from The Manse:

'I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.'

(Romans 8:18-21)

Christ is risen.... Hallelujah!

At the recent healing conference held at London Street, Mark Marx reiterated to us just how much authority we have as brothers and sisters in Christ,

'For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.' (Romans 8:14)

We have, through Jesus, been adopted into God's family. This means that, along with Jesus, we are co-heirs of the Kingdom of God! We are then Holy. We carry with us the presence of the Kingdom of God. Yet the truth of it is that we often fail to live our lives with that level of confidence. We fail to grasp that truth that Jesus Christ has not only set us free from the burden of sin, he has also empowered us through his spirit which is within us. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and saviour, his blood, shed on the cross, becomes part of our DNA, through Baptism and then communion shared with one another.

'We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.' (Romans 6:4)

Christians often think of themselves as sinners saved by Grace; people who are sinners in the core of their being, but who clothe themselves in Christ in order to conceal that sin. But actually, through Jesus, our spirit becomes a new creation; we become Holy, Christ-like in our very being. However, what sometimes conceals our newly created spirit is a cloak of sin from this world which weighs us down. We need to become confident in who we have become through Jesus, a new creation, Holy. The more confident we become in our Christ identity the more we cast off

the burdens of this world that conceal our true identity and become free to live as God designed us to live, in harmony with God, one another and all creation.

Many of Paul's letters start by reaffirming our new identity in Christ.

'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.' (Galatians 5:1)

That is Slavery to sin. Stand tall then, for you are children of God, you are chosen ones, Holy ones. The yoke of Christ is easy. Wherever you go you carry with you the light of Christ. You have within you the authority to both bless and heal in the name of Christ.

'As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"' (Romans 10:15)

At the Lent study group based on the 'King's Speech' film, many of us were reminded not only to build one another up by speaking to encourage one another in faith, but also to take on the mantle of responsibility we have as Christians in society. We should speak God's truth into society where many do not know God. We are the carriers of the good news of the Gospel. With the Christ authority that we have been freely given, we are commissioned to set others free. I pray that we become more confident in our Christ-like identity; we are after all, sons and daughters of the creator of heaven and earth. So let us share our amazingly rich inheritance of the Kingdom of God with the people of our town and remember that 'creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.'

Yours in Christ, Kay



CIRCLE OF PRAYER:

Please remember the following in your prayers, together with their families, friends, carers, doctors and nurses:



Short Term: Owen Collins; Christine and Ron Holt; Ena Menarry (elder at OM); Ron and Rosemary Martin; Mary Silver; Katherine Witts (daughter of Sarah Williams)

Long Term: Christine and Tony Addis; Judith Best (mother of Mark Best); Annette Bowers (Daughter of Sheila Munro); Harry Bowers; Beverley Cantwell; Morag Hill; Richard, Antonia, Grace and Zach Holland (Claire Macro's family in Canada); Marian Kenward; Maggie Morgans and family; Rachel Patterson; Hyacinth and Eaton Ridguard; Helen Rolton; Molly Shaw; Betty Shipway; Gwen Simms (mother of Tina Digweed); Joyce Smith; Fay Spurr; Chris and Suzanne Tolley; Rachel Walker (granddaughter of Les and Iris Wenham).

A big 'THANK YOU' for all the prayers, help and love I have received from everybody over the past weeks. They have been very much appreciated.

Love, *Kay Cook*

Erratum: March Issue, pages 5 and 6 — The name 'Welbeck' should read 'Welbrock'. Apologies to the Welbrock family and to Jean Holton.

Ed.

Church Directory:

Amend Karen Bentall's e.mail address to:

karen.bentall@gmail.com

Prayer Focus:

A couple of things happened before Easter that have been quite challenging.

Firstly a number of us studied the Lent course based on the film 'The King's Speech', which portrays the immense struggles that George VI had to say 'yes' to a public life that he did not want and to cope with and overcome a stammer that threatened to derail any attempt to meet the challenge. We came to see parallels in the film with the high Christian calling to follow Jesus and be his witnesses in the world and the concurrent internal struggles, our past experiences and fears, imaginary or otherwise, that so easily stop us and divert us from the best. Over the weeks we have come to recognise that at some point, like Bertie, we have to face the challenges, even if they are only small ones. And if we face the difficulties there is practical and spiritual help to overcome them.

The other event was the Healing Conference held at London Street. The speaker was Mark Marx, who I was told was well worth listening to, so I went to hear him. Well, as a speaker he was not brilliant. He tended to waffle and in the first evening he said he had five points to make and only got through one! But over the two days what did come through was that here was a man who had put his head up above the parapet. His longing to bring the love of God and His healing to a hurting world; his vast experience over the past 15 or so years of 'The Healing on the Streets Ministry' and the quiet, practical gentleness with which he went about things, was very impressive and challenging.

There is no doubt that God spends a lot of time asking his children to take on tasks that they do not feel up to and then saying 'Do not be afraid, I am with you and you will get the help and support you need.' We just need to take a deep breath and say 'OK!'

Prayer

*Dear Loving Lord,
We are only small people in a big scary world,
We stumble over our words and our actions,
And often we fail to speak or act at all.
We come now in trust*

-that you can make strength out of our weakness,

-that you love us and you call us,

-and that you give us the friendship of your Holy Spirit.

In that trust, we are willing to step out and speak up.

Give us grace to be fully what you want us to be.



Amen.

Daily Bible Readings for April:

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	
1 st	86	James	3	16 th	102: 1-17	Reflection
2 nd	121/122	Reflection		17 th		Reflection
3 rd		Reflection		18 th	128/129	Matthew
4 th	99	James	4	19 th	26	"
5 th	20	"	5	20 th	130/131	"
6 th	56	Matthew	1	21 st	27	"
7 th	23/24	"	2	22 nd	60	"
8 th	87	"	3	23 rd	89: 1-13	Reflection
9 th	100/101	Reflection		24 th		Reflection
10 th		Reflection		25 th	102: 18-28	Matthew
11 th	124/125	Matthew	4	26 th	132	"
12 th	25: 1-10	"	5	27 th	28	"
13 th	126/127	"	6	28 th	133/134	"
14 th	25: 11-22	"	7	29 th	30	"
15 th	57	"	8	30 th	61	Reflection

Happy  Birthday

Harry Bowers, 87 years on 13th April
Joan Beattie, 90 years on 17th April



Flower Rota - April

- 3rd Sonja Knoll
- 10th Sylvia Reynolds
- 17th Marion Willie
- 24th Elspeth Anthony

Five Enjoyable Wednesday Afternoons Through Lent!

Peter Bentall was our guide through a Lent York Course “The Psalms – prayers of the church”, written by Stephen Cottrell with contributions each week on CD from five Christian leaders offering insights from a wide spectrum of Christian experience. The Psalms studied were 100, 130, 13, 23 and 127. Each afternoon was a stand-alone study so, although most of us missed at least one week, we did not have to struggle to catch up or feel that we had lost the thread. We learned a lot from and about each other too, as Peter gently led us through the various discussion points with humour and wisdom. We look forward to the next one and hope you will join us then!

How wrong can you be?

A note from the archive “Sunday Link” 1990: We are quick to make snap judgements

Just over a century ago, a vicar’s wife presented her husband with a son. They named him Bernard. He might have followed his father into the church, but he opted for an army career.

At Sandhurst an officer didn’t think much of him. “You’re quite hopeless”, he rapped. “You’ll get nowhere in the army.” But young Bernard persisted. He narrowly escaped death in the First World War and helped to win the second. He became a Field Marshal, known by his men as Monty, ending up more formally as Viscount Montgomery of El Alamein.

Life is full of mistaken assessments. Winston Churchill was dubbed a duffer at school, staying in the third form three times as long as anyone else. Acquaintances used to mutter and whisper about that foolish young fellow, Ralph Vaughan Williams, who would go on working at music when he was so hopelessly bad at it. Bad errors of judgement about people abound in biography.

They said rough and scandalous things about Jesus but he went out and showed them — showed them the way of life built on love which, these 2000 years on, cannot be bettered or even equalled.

New Church Bibles (New Revised Standard Version) are here! They will be blessed and dedicated during worship on Sunday, 17th April.

Would you like to sponsor one? The cost of sponsorship is £25 for two bibles. Please let Owen Collins have your details by Sunday, 10th April. If you pay Income Tax we can claim gift aid on your donation.



Meeting the Parents

A young woman brought her fiancé home to meet her parents. After dinner her mother told her father to find out about the young man.

The father invited the fiancé to his study for a talk.

‘So what are your plans?’ the father asked the young man.

‘I am a Biblical scholar,’ he replied.

‘A Biblical scholar, Hmmm,’ the father said. ‘Admirable, but what will you do to provide a nice house for my daughter to live in?’

‘I will study,’ the young man replied, ‘and God will provide for us.’

‘And how will you buy her a beautiful engagement ring, such as she deserves?’ asked the father.

‘I will concentrate on my studies,’ the young man replied. ‘God will provide for us.’

‘And children?’ asked the father. ‘How will you support them?’ ‘Don’t worry, sir. God will provide,’ replied the fiancé.

The conversation proceeded like this, and each time the father questioned, the young idealist insisted that God would provide.

Later, the mother asked, ‘How did it go, Henry?’

The father answered, ‘He has no job and no plans, and he thinks I’m God!’



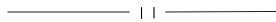


We are Opening a Pop-up
Charity Shop

29th April to 12th May
at

20 London Street Whitchurch Hants RG28 7LQ

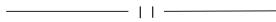
Donations of New or nearly New saleable items will be gratefully accepted (Sorry no Electrical Goods)



To Donate or Volunteer your time in the Shop
please contact Pat

on :- 07785 312 486 or email:- pfm1906@aol.com

For larger items a collection may be arranged



Please help boost the funds by visiting the shop

and encourage your friends to join you



Thank You



All donations are very welcome during the 2 weeks we're open AND prior to the event, as we have a temporary storage facility in Basingstoke. (Phone Pat, see poster).

Fancy yourself in retail? Do add your name to the VOLUNTEERS DOODLE ROTA link below for a morning or afternoon slot. (Ideally we need 2 or max 3 Volunteers per half day (+ supervisors who have already been allocated their days)

Volunteers should click on this link <http://doodle.com/poll/im8qasnm5k5wema2> and then Click the 'Show all 25 options', then enter your name and tick the box for the half day slot(s) you are willing to work.

Please note – if you find you are no longer available for the slot you have committed to, simply click on the link again and change the times you are available – that way the list will manage itself.

Many thanks for your on-going support.

Dates to note at London Street, unless otherwise stated:

March:

Tue 28th 10.00am Oasis Café reopens

April:

Sun	3 rd	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast led by Joy Williams
		10.30am	Worship
Wed	6 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Sun	10 th	10.30am	Worship led by Revd Howard Sharp (former Moderator of Mersey Province)
DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR FOCUS			
Mon	11 th		Youth Café reopens
Tue	12 th	10.00am	Little Angels restarts
Sun	17 th	10.30am	Worship (inc. Holy Communion) followed at by lunch (choice of roast lamb or a vegetarian option - sign up by putting your name on the noticeboard) and at
		12.30pm	
		2.00pm	Annual Church Meeting
Wed	20 th	10.15am	3Cs
Thu	21 st	2.00pm	Friendship Hour – Games/Quiz afternoon
Sun	24 th	10.30am	Worship
		7.30pm	Commissioning Service for Community Café

Forward Dates

May	15 th		Christian Aid week begins
	22 nd	10.30am	Worship followed by austerity lunch in aid of Christian Aid
	25 th	7.30pm	Church meeting

Old Meeting, Tadley:

Preachers:

3rd April – Derek Clarke
 10th April – Revd. Kay Blackwell
 17th April – Andy Taylor
 24th April – Brenda Baldwin
 1st May – Lionel Goodfellow

Welcomers:

George and Ena
 Mandy and Dave
 Ladies Cell
 Elaine and Brian

Regular Weekly Events and Meetings

at London Street unless otherwise stated

The Sanctuary is open for prayers every weekday from 9.30 to 10am and again from 12.15 to 12.30pm

Mondays

10am-1.30pm	OASIS Café in the Concourse
10.15am	Craft Group
2.30-4pm	HOME GROUP normally at 39 New Road: prayer time, Bible exploration and fellowship
3-5.30pm in Term Time	Youth Café for secondary school and college students

Tuesdays

10am-1.30pm	OASIS Café in the Concourse
10am-12 noon	'LITTLE ANGELS' pre-school Club
3-5.30pm in Term Time	Youth Café for secondary school and college students
5.45pm	(BEAVER SCOUTS — 8 th Basingstoke Colony
7pm	(CUB SCOUTS — 8 th Basingstoke Pack
7pm	(SCOUTS — 8 th Basingstoke Troop

wednesdays

10am-1.30pm	OASIS Café in the Concourse
10.30-12 noon	MEMORY TREE SOCIAL CLUB
12.30	Lunch time worship and prayer meeting
3-5.30pm in Term Time	Youth Café for secondary school and college students

Thursdays

10am-1.30pm	OASIS Café in the Concourse
9.30-11.30am	TADLEY LITTLE ANGELS in the Immanuel Centre
10-11.30am	CCBBies Parent and Toddler Group at Christ Church, Chineham
2.30-3.30pm	FRIENDSHIP HOUR — 4th Thursday of each month
3-6pm in Term Time	Youth Café for secondary school and college students
7.30pm	PRAYER MEETING at Tadley URC

Fridays

8-9.30pm	TGIF Youth Club at Christ Church, Chineham
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Saturdays

8-9am	PRAYER MEETING at Tadley
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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 Registered charity
London Street (Basingstoke) United Reformed Church Charity [reg. no.1130801]**