



London Street

United Reformed Church

BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE RG21 7NU

and

TADLEY (OLD MEETING) URC



Focus
July/August, 2018

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - www.basingstokeurc.org.uk

MINISTER:

Revd Kay Blackwell (Day off - Monday)
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e.mail - revkblackwell@gmail.com

CHURCH SECRETARY:

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15 Cyprus Road
Hatch Warren
Basingstoke RG22 4UY
Tel: 01256 477425
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TREASURER:

Karen Bell
47 Tobago Close, Popley,
Basingstoke RG24 9PX
e.mail - lsurctreasurer@yahoo.com

HALL LETTING:

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Tel: 01256 326746
e.mail - bookingslsturc@gmail.com

FOCUS:

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1208 Skyline Plaza, Alencon Link,
Basingstoke RG21 7AZ
Tel: 01256 869968
e.mail: christina774robertson@btinternet.com

Tadley (Old Meeting) URC

10.00am Prayer Time followed by Worship at 10.30 every Sunday
"TASTE" Youth Event at 7pm at the Point (behind Community
Centre)

Minister:

Revd Kay Blackwell

Church Secretary:

Paul Gross
22 Pelican Road, Pamber Heath RG26 3EN
Tel: 0118 970 0809
e.mail: paulg@silchester.org

Treasurer:

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10 Hartleys, Silchester, Reading RG7 2QE
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View from the manse:

‘But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.’ (Ephesians 2: 13)

This month I have a friend coming to stay with me from Burkina Faso. I met Dorcus about eight years ago when I was at theological college in Cambridge. She had come to the college to do some research for her doctorate. It was just coming up to Christmas and when I found out that she was potentially going to be on her own for the festivities I invited her to come and stay with my family. I am sure that Christmas with the Blackwells was a bit of a culture shock for Dorcas, but I loved hearing her daily devotions, sung in French, early every morning.

When Dorcas left Cambridge early the following Spring term I felt very sad. I was unsure that we would meet again. As it happens, Dorcas has been to stay with us a couple more times. This time she is coming to give a talk in Scotland based around her thesis about the role of women in developing the mission of the church in Burkina Faso. I have often reflected on our friendship, especially as I am terrible at keeping in touch, but we have always been connected by our faith in Christ. I look forward to finding out how God is using her in her mission to the disenfranchised women and girls of Burkina Faso.

One of the great privileges of our Christian faith is knowing that we can meet a Christian from any part of this world and know that we are fundamentally connected through Jesus. We may have very different ways of expressing or living out that faith but fundamentally we are connected. For though we may live in different earthly cultures on this earth, we are *‘citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God’* (Ephesians 2:19). We are united in the one body, with Jesus as the head of the Church. Our differences of theologies and practices may occur on this earth, but we are all filled by the one Holy Spirit. We are called by the *‘One Lord to one faith, one baptism, one God and father of all, who is above all and through all and in all’* (Ephesians 4:5). When I meet

Christians from other parts of the world I am reminded of the precious oil of unity poured on the head of Aaron in Psalm 133, unity of the spirit is a blessing from God.

Just as I have been writing this article my eye was caught by this news headline on the internet:

'Over two-thirds of Brits describe their neighbours as 'strangers' in a sign of declining community spirit, study says.' Yet the Bible tells us *'How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!'* (Psalm 133:1). Our Unity through the spirit is not just a blessing, it is unique. Perhaps our unity should be a sign that we belong to a different Kingdom, the Kingdom of God. So, as you go on holidays this year, perhaps travelling to foreign lands, or meeting others that travel from foreign lands to here, consider your oneness in the spirit to your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ no matter where they are from. Our Unity in Christ is a rich blessing indeed. It is unique that we are united in Christ when so many parts of our world have become increasingly disconnected. Have a blessed summer.

Yours in Christ
Kay



CIRCLE OF PRAYER:

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

Short Term: Jane Budd (sister of Ian Rees); Tish Catterall; David Corfield; Aubrey Dommatt (granddaughter of Beverley Cantwell); Sally Friday; Christine and Ron Holt; Claire Macro; Perveez Mirza and family; Roger Pike; Doina Rasnita; Ian Rees; Christine Williams.

Long Term: Annette Bowers (daughter of Sheila Munro); Beverley Cantwell; Christine and Eric Clucas and grandson, Colm McCulloch; Penny Dilley; Gus and Noorie Khatkur; Ron and Rosemary Martin; Maggie Morgans and family; Sheila Munro; Patterson family; Molly Shaw; Betty Shipway; Fay Spurr; Frank Tovey; Louise Waller; Les and Iris Wenham; Sarah Williams and her daughter, Katherine Witts.

Prayer Focus:

Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks?

The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm. It simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm.

When the storms of life come upon us — and all of us will experience them — we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief toward God. The storms do not have to overcome us. We can allow God's power to lift us above them.

God enables us to ride the winds of the storm that bring sickness, tragedy, failure and disappointment in our lives. We can soar above the storm.

Remember it is not the burdens of life that weigh us down, it is how we handle them.

The Bible says, *“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles.”*

Isaiah 40:31

From A Bucket of surprises, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books

Loving God, we bring to you our world of so much pain, so much need and sorrow; a world you care for so deeply that you willingly gave your all for it, living and dying among us through your Son, Jesus Christ.

We pray for those who pay the price of human folly — the poor and hungry, homeless and dispossessed, victims of war, violence and crime. Help them and us to rise above the storms and to remember that we can cope with your strength sustaining us. Amen

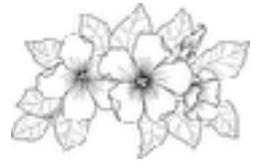
Flower Rota -

July:

1st Wedding
 8th Jenny McCloy
 15th Isobel Martin
 22nd Muriel Haddock
 29th Joy Williams

August:

5th Lesley Ferguson
 12th Stan Marut
 19th Julia Burrows
 26th Betty Shipway



Daily Bible Readings -

July:

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>		<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	
1 st	12	Reflection		16 th	18:1-19	Luke 14
2 nd	119:33-48	Luke	4	17 th	51:1-13	" 15
3 rd	13	"	5	18 th	84	" 16
4 th	81:1-10	"	6	19 th	97	" 17
5 th	95	"	7	20 th	119:113-128	" 18
6 th	119:49-64	"	8	21 st	18:20-30	Reflection
7 th	15	Reflection		22 nd	119:129-144	"
8 th	119:65-80	"		23 rd	18:31-42	Luke 19
9 th	16	Luke	9	24 th	52	" 20
10 th	50:1-15	"	10	25 th	119:145-160	" 21
11 th	82	"	11	26 th	85	" 22
12 th	96	"	12	27 th	98	" 23
13 th	119:81-96	"	13	28 th	119:161-176	Reflection
14 th	17	Reflection		29 th	19	"
15 th	119:97-112	"		30 th	54	Luke 24
				31 st	86	1 Corinthians 1

August:

1 st	121/122	1 Corinthians	2	16 th	130/131	1 Corinthians	13
2 nd	99	"	3	17 th	27	"	14
3 rd	20	"	4	18 th	60	Reflection	
4 th	56	Reflection		19 th	89:1-13	"	
5 th	23/24	"		20 th	102:18-28	1 Corinthians	15
6 th	87	1 Corinthians	5	21 st	132	"	16
7 th	100/101	"	7	22 nd	28	2 Corinthians	1
8 th	124/125	"	8	23 rd	133/134	"	2
9 th	25:1-10	"	9	24 th	30	"	3
10 th	126/127	"	9	25 th	61	Reflection	
11 th	115	Reflection		26 th	89:14-29	"	
12 th	57	"		27 th	103	2 Corinthians	4
13 th	102:1-17	1 Corinthians	10	28 th	135	"	5
14 th	128/129	"	11	29 th	31:1-10	"	6
15 th	26	"	12	30 th	138	"	7
				31 st	31:11-24	"	8

Christian Aid 2018

I am pleased to report the sum of £960.90 was collected this year. The sum of £2,267.82 was collected in 2017 but this was inflated by the concert (£1,538.86) held at London Street URC. Two notable events held at London Street were the Junior Church's Big Brekkie (£93.00) and the Christian Aid lunch (in excess of £100). The total sum attributed to London Street URC was £573.00. The need for fresh fund-raising ideas continues and I would appreciate any comments. As a church, we nearly broke the £1,000 barrier this year – let's look forward to set our target for 2019.

Thank you, *Ian Scott*

Revd Julian Macro

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Revd Julian Macro's Ordination. This will be marked on Saturday 8th September at London Street and all are invited from 3.00pm.

There will be a short service around 3.30pm followed by refreshments. We expect that the event will end at about 5.00pm

Visitors are expected from all the pastorates where Julian was a minister, as well as from the wider United Reformed Church, so it will be a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and to make some new ones. To help with catering please let Alex Macro know if you expect to be present - but come anyway!



BASINGSTOKE STREET PASTORS
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US AS WE

celebrate

OUR 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY WITH A
SERVICE OF CELEBRATION

FRIDAY 6TH JULY AT 7.30 PM

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, LONDON STREET,
BASINGSTOKE, RG21 7NU

GUEST SPEAKER REV LES ISAAC OBE (founder of Street Pastors)

RSVP: basingsstokesps@outlook.com

or book your free tickets on the link supplied.

All London Street and Old Meeting URC members are invited to join in this special service of celebration.

“Synod calling”



What are your gifts?

How do you share them?

Sometimes we think our gifts are too humdrum to be much use to other people, but this is just not true.

Look again at these well-known verses from 1 Corinthians 12 in “The Message” version:

“You are Christ’s body—that’s who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your ‘part’ mean anything. You’re familiar with some of the parts that God has formed in his church, which is his ‘body’:

Apostles, prophets, teachers, miracle workers, healers, helpers, organizers, those who pray in tongues.”

We are all somewhere on that list! We just need to “accept our part”.

And then comes the question: where are we called to play that part – in our community, in our local church, in the wider church?

The work of Wessex Synod relies on the many volunteers who generously play their part and share their gifts.

At the moment, we are in need of:

- Someone with legal and accounting skills to serve as a Trustee.
- People willing to take minutes at some of our Committee meetings.
- People interested in social justice issues to serve our Church and Society group.

But the needs are constantly changing. Why not find out more about the work we do by looking at the Synod website

<http://wessexsynodurc.org.uk/>

If there is an area of our work that interests you, **please contact Sue Brown to find out more:** clerk@urcwessex.org.uk or 01329 232454.

From the Church secretary:

I am delighted to report that, following a recommendation from the Finance Committee and approval by Elders' Meeting, London Street now has an E.bay account for the sale of goods from members of the congregation, with the proceeds from the sale going towards church funds.

The E.bay account is to be managed by Mel, daughter-in-law of Iris Brixton. Mel has agreed to take the necessary photos, draw up the adverts for E.bay and insert them, answer any e-mails, collect the money and despatch or arrange the collection of goods to the purchaser. However, any bulky items such as furniture would need to be photographed in situ by the seller and details e.mailed to Mel. If the item is then sold, it would be collected from the seller's house.

The small items being offered for sale should be delivered to the home of Iris (address and contact details in church directory).

Our thanks go to Iris and to Mel for taking this on. Please address any questions to Iris.

Please note the following e.mail changes:

Minister: Revd Kay Blackwell - revkblackwell@gmail.com

Secretary: Owen Collins - secretary@basingstokeurc.org.uk

Treasurer: Karen Bell - lsurctreasurer@yahoo.com

In addition, if you wish to book a room at London Street, you should e.mail Joy Williams at bookingslsturc@gmail.com

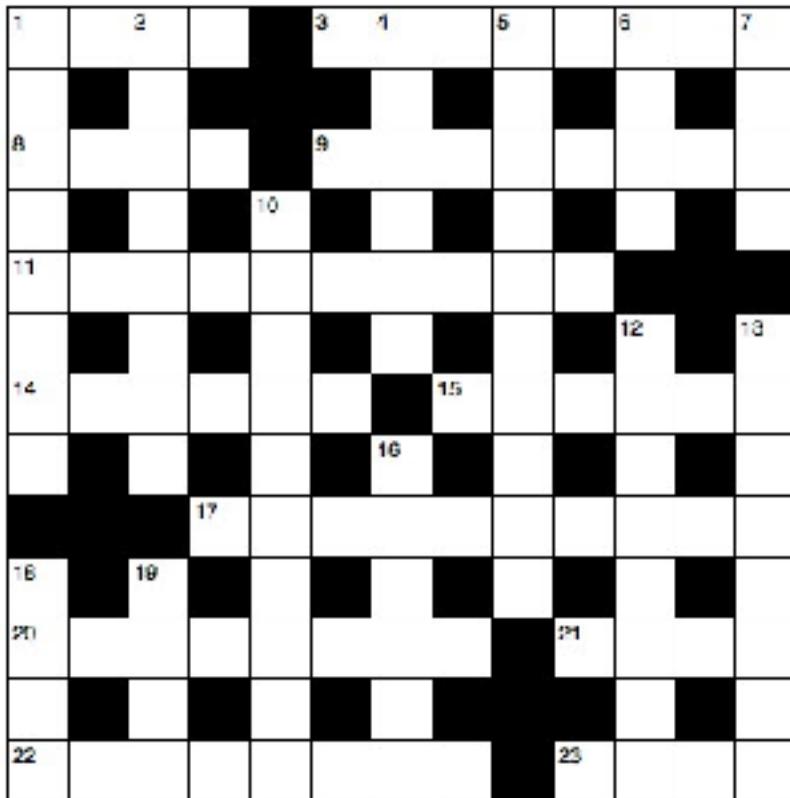
If you need to contact Penny Dilley you should e.mail her at urc.communitycafe@gmail.com

Thank you, Owen.

The worst moment for the atheist is when they are really thankful, and have nobody to thank.

---oOo---

A religion that costs nothing does nothing.



Crossword Clues (Answers on p.15)

ACROSS

- 1 Proverbs describes her as being 'of noble character' (Prov. 31:10) (4)
- 3 'Shall we go up again — — against the Benjamites, our brothers?'
(Judges 20:23) (2,6)
- 8 A descendant of Shem (Genesis 10:28) (4)
- 9 'Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my —'
(Luke 14:27) (8)
- 11 Resentment (Ephesians 4:31) (10)
- 14 In Cain (anag.) (6)
- 15 'Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to —' (Psalm
139:6) (6)
- 17 Intense (1 Thessalonians 4:5) (10)
- 20 Third Order of the Roman Catholic Church (8)

- 21 'At midnight the cry rang out, "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to — him"' (Matthew 25:6) (4)
- 22 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in — ' (2 Corinthians 12:9) (8)
- 23 'As the — pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God' (Psalm 42:1) (4)

DOWN

- 1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A. Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)
- 2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations 2:22) (5,3)
- 4 'We three kings of — are' (6)
- 5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)
- 6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)
- 7 'Open your — and look at the fields!' (John 4:35) (4)
- 10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John 10:22) (10)
- 12 Area that saw the healing of two demon-possessed men and a herd of pigs stampeding to their deaths (Matthew 8:28) (8)
- 13 Forebear (James 2:21) (8)
- 16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha (6)
- 18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis 25:34) (4)
- 19 Rear (anag.) (4)

Could this help you?

On July 11th from 1030am we will be welcoming Vikki Matthews from South East Water to The Memory Tree. She is coming to tell us about the 'Priority Service Register' which South East Water offers to vulnerable customers. Basically this means that, should there ever be an emergency which causes water supplies to be cut off, South East Water would distribute bottled water to those on their 'Priority Service Register'. They offer other benefits too, which Vikki will outline for us and then we would have the opportunity to sign up to the register, should we wish. Everyone in church is invited to come along to listen to Vikki and then decide whether or not to join.

Please speak to me if you need any further information.

Jenny McCloy

ECO TIP

DON'T WASTE WATER

Longer grass retains moisture better and stays green longer than short, so in hot weather allow it to grow a bit longer thus avoiding brown patches and unnecessary watering.

Measure and only use the amount of water required when making tea or coffee and when washing dishes.

In some hot countries the local population use far less water than tourists (sometimes locals are rationed) so be considerate in your usage when on holiday.

**God's Gift – Our World
Our Environment – Our Responsibility**

Worry:

Fresh out of business school, a young man answered an advertisement for an accountant and was being interviewed by a very stressed man who ran a small business that he had started himself.

"I need someone with an accounting degree," the man said. "But mainly, I'm looking for someone to do my worrying for me."

"Excuse me?" the accountant said.

"I worry about a lot of things," the man said. "But I don't want to have to worry about money. Your job will be to take all the money worries off my back."

"I see," the accountant said. "And how much does the job pay?"

"I'll start you at 80 thousand."

"Eighty thousand dollars!" the accountant exclaimed. "How can such a small business afford a sum like that?"

"That," the owner said, "is your first worry."

July Diary

at London Street, unless otherwise stated

Sun	1 st	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast
		10.30am	Worship – led by Peter Pay
Wed	4 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Fri	6 th	7.30pm	Street Pastors Commissioning Service
Sun	8 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Mark Ward
Tue	10 th	10.00am	Little Angels Teddy Bear Picnic
Sun	15 th	10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister and including Holy Communion
		1.00pm	Family BBQ (London Street and Tadley) and 'Bring and Buy' Sale at Immanuel Centre, Tadley. Tickets on sale from Owen or Kay (Adult £5, Children £2.50),
Wed	18 th	10.15am	3C's (Coffee, Chat, Company) in the Oasis Café – All welcome
Sat	21 st	3.00pm	Top of Town Messy Church
Sun	22 nd	10.30am	Worship – led by Joy Williams
Wed	26 th	Oasis and Youth Cafés close till 10th September	
Sun	29 th	10.30am	Worship - led by the Minister

August Diary

Sun	5 th	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast
		10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister
		7.30pm	Holiday Club Commissioning Service at Tadley URC
Mon	6 th -10 th		Holiday Club at Tadley
Sat.	11 th	10.00am	Coffee morning and 'Bring and Buy' Sale
		-12 noon	
Sun	12 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Vivian Gerhold
			DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR SEPTEMBER FOCUS
Sun	19 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Revd Mike Burrell and including Infant Baptism
Sun	26 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Colin Ferguson

Alpha at Old Meeting URC with the Main Road Methodist Church.

ALL WELCOME.

Alpha Programme – Tuesday evenings

till 17th July 7.15-9.15pm

(including meal)

Guide to timings 7.15-7.30 – registration,

7.30-8.00 – meal, 8.00-9.15 – DVD talk and group discussion.

Alternating Venues:

IMMANUEL CENTRE, Old Meeting URC, Tadley, RG26 3NL

MAIN ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, 4 Main Road, Tadley, RG26 3NL

Contacts: Revd Kay Blackwell (URC) – email:

revkblackwell@gmail.com Mobile: 07582056286

Revd Ruth Midcalf (Methodist) – email:

ruth.midcalf@methodist.org.uk Tel: 0118 9700139

Sunday Services at Old Meeting, Tadley

July

Preachers

Welcome

1 st	Eve Hughes	Ena and George
8 th	Revd Kay Blackwell (Scout Parade)	Mandy and Dave
15 th	Mel Euerby	Beryl and Steve
22 nd	TBC	Elaine and Brian
29 th	John Ledger (from MAF)	TBA

August

5 th	TBA	Ena and George
12 th	Revd Kay Blackwell	Mandy and Dave
19 th	TBA	Beryl and Steve
26 th	Mark Ward	Julie and Mark

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Wife. 3, To battle. 8, Obal. 9, Disciple. 11, Bitterness. 14, Niacin. 15, Attain. 17, Passionate. 20, Tertiary. 21, Meet. 22, Weakness. 23, Deer.

DOWN: 1, Woodbine. 2, Feast day. 4, Orient. 5, Accusation. 6, Type. 7, Eyes. 10, Dedication. 12, Gadarene. 13, Ancestor. 16, Esdras. 18, Stew. 19, Area.

Regular 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 Youth Café for secondary school and
Term Time college students

Tuesdays:

10am-1.30pm OASIS Café in the Concourse
10am-12 noon 'LITTLE ANGELS' pre-school Club (Term time)
3-5.30pm in Youth Café for secondary school and
Term Time college students
5.45pm (BEAVER SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Colony)
7pm (CUB SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Pack)
7pm (SCOUTS — 8th Basingstoke Troop)
7-8.00pm PRAYER MEETING at **Tadley URC or St Paul's**

Wednesdays:

10am-1.30pm OASIS Café in the Concourse
10.30-12 noon MEMORY TREE SOCIAL CLUB
10.15-11.30am **3Cs on 3rd Wednesday of each month**
12.15pm Lunch time worship and prayer meeting
3-5.30pm in Youth Café for secondary school and
Term Time 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
3-6pm in Youth Café for secondary school and college students
Term Time

Fridays:

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

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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