



London Street

United Reformed Church



FOCUS
July/August 2016

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - www.londonstreeturc.org.uk

MINISTER:

Revd Kay Blackwell (Day off - Monday)
6 Camberry Close
Basingstoke RG21 3AG
Tel: Vestry - 01256 242152
Mobile - 07582 056286
e.mail - revkayblackwell@gmail.com

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Mr Owen Collins
15 Cyprus Road
Hatch Warren
Basingstoke RG22 4UY
Tel: 01256 477425
e.mail - secretary@londonstreeturc.org.uk

TREASURER:

Karen Bell
47 Tobago Close, Popley,
Basingstoke RG24 9PX
e.mail - treasurer@londonstreeturc.org.uk

HALL LETTING:

Mr Peter Bentall
43 Cliddesden Road,
Basingstoke RG21 3EP
Tel: 01256 475547
e.mail: phbentall@hotmail.com

FOCUS:

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

Tadley (Old Meeting) URC

10.30 every Sunday

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

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

View from the Manse:

'The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will renew you in his love; He will exult over you with loud singing.' (Zephaniah 3:17)

My View from the manse starts today with more of a view from my car. Yesterday I arrived home but remained in my car as I was listening to the news. I sat with tears rolling down my cheeks for someone I had never known as the police announced the sad death of Jo Cox. Jo Cox, a woman of 41 years, the new and energetic MP for Birstall (West Yorkshire), who leaves behind two young children and a loving husband. The next day Brendon, her now widowed husband made this statement in the press:-

'Jo believed in a better world and she fought for it every day of her life with an energy, and a zest for life that would exhaust most people.'

'She would have wanted two things above all else to happen now, one that our precious children are bathed in love and two, that we all unite to fight against the hatred that killed her. Hate doesn't have a creed, race or religion, it is poisonous.'

The news has filled the airways since its announcement. It has been heart wrenching to hear politicians, not often known to be lost for words, and generally amazingly quick witted and fluent in their rhetoric, clearly struggling to find words to express their shock and sadness at Jo's untimely and horrific death. Even in the Canadian parliament, the politician announcing the news (a personal friend of the Cox family) wept as he spoke of her tragic death, and loss to the world of politics.

And in the recent interviews, discussions are starting to question two areas. Firstly, are politicians used as the scape goats for things that are wrong in this country? MP's work in order to serve their constituents, they may not always get everything right and some, like

Jo, may be relatively new to the role so we need to allow them to learn and grow as you do in any job. We have the responsibility of voting them into their roles so we need to support them in what they endeavour to do for the good of the community. Secondly, does the way political rhetoric happens in this country need to become a little less aggressive in style from both MPs and press.

Being an MP is a tough job and I for one would not want that job for all the tea in China. But I am grateful that there are those who want to work in politics and by doing so try to find better, more fair and just ways of running things in this country. But where does Christianity come into all this? Well, some would try to totally separate faith from politics. However, wherever there are groups of people there will be politics. It cannot be avoided.

Maybe what we need to consider as Christians, is seeing beyond the political rhetoric to the hearts of politicians themselves. Not judging them and condemning them as quickly as many seem to. As a Christian, I refer to a higher authority, God through Jesus Christ. 'The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory.' Political rhetoric comes to naught if it is not within the will of God. What we can do in the Christian community is pray for our politicians, for their service to the community. We need to pray that more Christians be called into Government, that they be filled with a righteous desire to do good in society, bringing justice to the poor, the weak and the disenfranchised. One thing I did notice in these days after the murder of Jo Cox is just how many of the politicians interviewed spoke of their 'prayers' being with Jo's husband and children... but I wonder how many **will be** praying for them. Isn't it good to know that in times of crisis it is God that they turn to, even if only in rhetoric? We need to pray that God's love would be shown among them, and God's will be done through them.

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: Chris Ayland; Kay Blackwell and family; Owen Collins and family; Kay Cook; Ron and Rosemary Martin; Mary Silver; Sarah-Jayne; Katherine Witts (daughter of Sara Williams); Joy Williams.

Long Term: Christine and Tony Addis; Judith Best (mother of Mark Best); Annette Bowers (daughter of Sheila Munro); Beverley Cantwell; Barbara and Peter Dixon; Morag Hill; Richard, Antonia, Grace and Zach Holland (Claire Macro's family in Canada); Christine and Ron Holt; 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).

Tribute to Harry Bowers

Sheila Munro and the Bowers family thank everyone for their kind thoughts and support following the death of Harry on 16th May. A special "thank you" to Kay and everyone involved in the Thanksgiving Service.

Harry was born in Stockport in 1929 and joined the Royal Air Force at the age of 18, serving for 22 years as a Flight Engineer and working latterly on helicopters at Odiham. His service took him all over the world and included a short spell with the UN.

On leaving the RAF, Harry trained as a teacher and became Head of the Sixth Form at Little Heath School in Reading. His hobbies included sailing, golf and wood-turning. He used his wood-turning skills to make various items for the London Street Christmas Fairs, including a rocking horse which is still in use to-day. He also served the Church as a Trustee for the Pages Bungalows and was involved with printing the Church magazine.

Harry's spirit of adventure and Christian living will long be remembered — a legacy for his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

—ooOoo—

Prayer Focus

Becoming more like Jesus Galatians 5:22-25

We who have been in the church since childhood know, if we are honest, how hard it is to live up to what we believe we should be as Christians. We set ourselves standards of living which we so often fail at. We know we can be forgiven, which is a help but somehow it can be an uphill struggle at times when the love, joy and peace can seem to be missing.

I have come to realise over the last few years that there are other ways to approach life, present, past and future. The following prayer from one of Eddie Askew's books, 'A Silence and a Shouting,' seems to be going in the right direction. I hope it helps.

Lord it's easy setting up rules.

Easy to persuade myself that if only I could live by them you'd be pleased, and I'd be happy.

The trouble is I can't even live by my own rules. It doesn't work.

It's not that my standards are too high. Too stringent.

It's just that I don't have the strength, the consistency. Not on my own.

And no matter how hard I try the love joy and peace and all the rest of it is pretty thin on the ground.

Lord. Help me to realise I'm starting at the wrong end.

When I look at you, Lord I can't quite tell if you any crying at my misery or laughing at my foolishness.

Because there you are offering me the answer.

Free. Yourself. All I have to do is open up my life and let you in.

It's not all that easy, Lord, because when I do it I've got to let everything else go.

But it's good Lord. Because when you take over my world changes.

The rules don't matter anymore. And the life I live is your life.

You living in me. Working in me. Changing me.

Watering the seeds of love, joy, peace, which you brought in and planted.

They grow slowly, in fits and starts. Sometimes the dark turns their leaves yellow and limp, but they do grow.

Surely. Because you are there, working. Not from the outside, but from within.

Gradually building me in your own image.

Thank you:

I'd like to thank everyone for their cards, kind words and prayers following the death of my Mum recently, and especially to Kay for her support to my family. All very much appreciated.
Blessings, *Owen*.

What a wonderful tea party we had on Saturday, 11th June to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. Thank you to everyone involved in all the preparation — for the delicious food, the decorations in the concourse and the good fellowship; so many folk that there were tables in the precinct. Thank you everyone.

Joan Mussellwhite

Christian Aid

I am pleased to report the sum of £1000.89 (£1099.29 last year) was collected during the recent Christian Aid week. Many thanks for your continuing support in terms of your financial contribution and for collection teams.

Ian Scott



CHURCH GARDEN PARTY- 17th July at 3pm at 107a Cliddesden Road

Once again we are grateful to Jeffrey and Maggie Morgans for making their garden available for our annual Garden Party.

Come and enjoy afternoon tea and a chat with friends in congenial surroundings.

Help would be appreciated on the day to serve the tables and to donate cakes, scones, cream, strawberries and cheese scones. If you can help, please sign the list on the church noticeboard and, if possible, bring donations to Church on the morning of the 17th.



Liz Lindsay

Happy Birthday

Eleanor Green, 3 years on 23 August



Flower Rota -

July:

3rd Lesley Ferguson
10th Karen Bentall
17th Isobel Martin
24th Julie Bath
31st Wedding



August:

7th Jenny McCloy
14th Joy Williams
21st Julia Burrows
28th Betty Shipway

Blessings

A man whispered 'God, speak to me.'
And a meadowlark sang
but the man did not hear.

The man looked around and said 'God, let me see you.'
And a star shone brightly
but the man did not notice.

And the man shouted 'God, show me a miracle!'
And a life was born
but the man did not know.

So, the man cried out in despair
'Touch me God, and let me know that you are here!'
Whereupon God reached down and touched the man
but the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on.

MORAL: Don't miss out on a blessing because it isn't packaged the way you expect.

Author unknown

Daily Bible Readings for July:

<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>
1 st 43	Luke 4	17 th	Reflection
2 nd 74: 12-23	Reflection	18 th 47	Luke 15
3 rd	"	19 th 77: 1-14	" 16
4 th 91	Luke 5	20 th 93	" 17
5 th 113	" 6	21 st 118: 15-29	" 18
6 th 5	" 7	22 nd 9: 1-16	" 19
7 th 115	" 8	23 rd 119: 1-16	Reflection
8 th 6	" 9	24 th	"
9 th 46	Reflection	25 th 79	Luke 20
10 th	"	26 th 48	" 21
11 th 75	Luke 10	27 th 80	" 22
12 th 92	" 11	28 th 94: 12-23	" 23
13 th 116	" 12	29 th 119: 17-32	" 24
14 th 7: 1-11	" 13	30 th 12	Reflection
15 th 117/118: 1-14	Luke 14	31 st	"
16 th 8	Reflection		

Daily Bible Readings for August:

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

Old Meeting, Tadley July:

Preachers:

3rd Harish Patel (London City Mission)
10th Revd. Kay Blackwell (Infant
Baptism Service)
17th Paul Young (Off The Fence)
24th Mark Warner (Sailors Society)
31st TBC

Welcomers:

Ena and George
Mandy and Dave
Ladies Cell
Janet and Paul

August:

7TH TBC
14th Revd. Kay Blackwell
21st TBC
28th Mark Ward

Ena and George
Mandy and Dave
Ladies Cell
Elaine and Brian

Basingstoke Choral Society

Handel's "Theodora"

with the
Hanover Band

on

Saturday, 2nd July at 7.45 pm

at

The Anvil Theatre, Basingstoke

Items for inclusion in the September issue of FOCUS should
be with Christine Robertson

NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, 14th AUGUST.

Dates to note at London Street, unless otherwise stated:

July:

Fri	1 st	7.30pm	Messy Church preparation meeting
Sun	3 rd	8.30am	Prayer breakfast
		10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister
Sun	10 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Trevor Roff, Open Doors
Sun	12 th	10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister
Wed	13 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Thu	14 th	3.00pm	Last day for Youth Café
Sat	16 th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sun	17 th	10.30am	Worship (including Holy Communion) – led by Revd Ian Bentley
		3.00pm	Church Garden Party (see page 7)
Wed	20 th	10.15am	3Cs
		7.30am	Church Meeting
Sun	24 th	10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister
Thu	28 th	10.00am	Last day for Oasis Café
Sat	30 th	1.00pm	Wedding of Tom Callaghan and Natalie Reynolds
Sun	31 st	10.30am	Worship – led by the Minister

August:

Sat	6 th	3.00pm	Elders' quarterly tea
Sun	7 th	8.30am	Prayer breakfast
		10.30am	Worship – led by ??????
Sun	14 th	10.30am	Worship – led by Vivien Gehold
Wed	17 th	10.15am	3Cs at the home of Joan Mussellwhite, Potter's Barn, Skippets Lane East
Sun	21 st	10.30am	Worship (including Holy Communion) – led by Revd Julian Macro
Sun	28 th	10.30am	Worship – led by ??????

Regular Weekly Events and Meetings
(but see page 11 for July/August)
(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
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
12.30 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
2.30-3.30pm FRIENDSHIP HOUR — 4th Thursday of each month
3-6pm in Youth Café for secondary school and
Term Time college students

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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