



London Street

United Reformed Church

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



Focus
February, 2022

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tel: 01256 477070

Website - www.basingstokeurc.org.uk

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Vacancy

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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:

Vacancy

Church Secretary:

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Treasurer:

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Thought for the month:

CHRISTIANITY AND ANGER

Daily on television we see our political leaders making excuses for breaking the rules they imposed on the rest of society. Rules that were intended to limit the spread of the current Covid Pandemic. No surprise then, that people feel betrayed, duped and impotent. A strong recipe for an angry reaction.

At an individual level, we often hurt others when we feel frustrated, lack patience and react with a sharp tongue. The trouble with anger is, that it is seductive, energising, even exhilarating and escalating into rage.

When I feel disgruntled, I turn to James 1:19-20: "You must understand this my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness".

Here, James is addressing a group of Christians in a part of the Greco-Roman world, not one particular church. He is giving guidance on how they should treat one another. How can we put James' counsel into practice?

Chogyam Trungpa, the Tibetan teacher's reply is; "Don't suppress anger. But don't act on it."

For impulse control try these 6 steps:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Red light | 1) Stop, calm down, and think before you act. |
| Yellow light | 2) Say the problem and how you feel. |
| | 3) Set a positive goal. |
| | 4) Think of lots of solutions. |
| | 5) Think ahead to the consequences. |
| Green light | 6) Go ahead and try the best plan. |

So, this involves insight and I return to James 3:13: "Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom."

PRAYER

Loving Father, we pray for our government and all our political leaders with responsibility in society; that they show integrity and be guided by your wisdom and serve the common good.

Forgive us when we are weak and fail you. Help us to follow James' guidance and please give us the patience and understanding that we so often lack. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Jean Young



Circle of Prayer

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

London Street prayer list: Beverley Cantwell, Ian and Jenny McCloy and family, David and Julie Bath, Keng and Rita and family, Christine Clucas and family, Hyacinth Ridguard, Betty Shipway, Maggie Morgans and family, the Patterson family, Victoria Paice and family, Kay Cook, Lou and David Waller, Dick and Anne Davey, Rosemary Martin and family, Sarah Williams and family, Jason Dudley.

Tadley Old Meeting prayer list: Alastair Melrose and family, Christine Weaver, Linda, Sam and Oliver, Rachel and Trevor, Martin.

Sunday Services at London Street

	Preacher	Musician	Duty Elder
Feb 6 th	Revd Tony Cashman and Peter Bentall	Ian Rees	Jenny McCloy
Feb 13 th	Worship Committee	Mark Best	Jenny McCloy
Feb 20 th	Joy Williams inc. Communion	Peter Dixon	Jenny McCloy
Feb 27 th	Revd Julian Macro	Alex Macro	Jenny McCloy

Steward/Welcome

Feb 6 th	Joyce Cook
Feb 13 th	Jean Young
Feb 20 th	Isobel Martin
Feb 27 th	Liz/Sandy Lindsay

Bible Readings for February:

	Psalm	New Testament	
Feb 1 st	75	Acts	6
2 nd	92	"	7
3 rd	116	"	8
4 th	7: 1-11	"	9
5 th	117/118: 1-14	Reflection	
6 th	8 "		
7 th	47	Acts	10
8 th	77: 1-15	"	11
9 th	93	"	12
10 th	118: 15-29	"	13
11 th	9: 1-16	"	14
12 th	119: 1-16	Reflection	
13 th	79	"	
14 th	48	Acts	15
15 th	80	Acts	16
16 th	94	"	17
17 th	119: 17-32	"	18
18 th	12	"	19
19 th	119: 33-48	Reflection	
20 th	13	"	
21 st	81: 1-10	Acts	20
22 nd	95	"	21
23 rd	119: 49-64	"	22
24 th	15	"	23
25 th	119: 65-80	"	24
26 th	16	Reflection	
27 th	50: 1-15	"	
28 th	82	Acts	25

Leng Aylard

22nd December 2021

Dear Leng,

On behalf of Stop Domestic Abuse I would like to thank you for the amazing donation of Christmas gifts and food for the refuge that you have given to us. We appreciate your donation greatly and the donations have been given to the residents to help ensure a lovely Christmas.

We are extremely busy in the house and in the wider community and are so appreciative of the support we get from organisations such as yourselves. If you or anyone else you know would like more information about us you can take a look at our website www.stopdomesticabuse.uk

I would like to take this opportunity again for thinking of us and how thankful we are for your donation.

Yours sincerely



Kirsty Chandler
Lead refuge

Church Flowers Rota:

6th February - Ian Scott



Church bulletin blooper:

The youth group has raised almost \$500 for drug abuse.

Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin:
'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct to read '12 noon.'

Supporting Parishes who are resettling refugees

The Church of England is setting up a new group to support local churches who are resettling refugees in partnership with the Home Office.

The initiative will support parishes and dioceses who have begun working closely with local authorities and other community partners, to provide practical resources for the resettlement of vulnerable refugees. Since 2015, dozens of parishes have taken part in community sponsorship and welcomed families from Syria, with at least 20 serving as lead sponsor.

The Church's first National Representatives for Community Sponsorship, Domenica Pecoraro and Canon Gareth Jones, are looking forward to their new role, as they "seek to make a difference in the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people".

Domenica Pecoraro said: "My hope is to help as many people as possible find safety in the UK through Community Sponsorship, and at the same time, help our parishes, our agents of Love and Grace, to experience and be renewed by these encounters."

The recent events in Afghanistan have challenged the churches to increase their support for refugees.

From Parish Pump

Eco Tip

Wonderful Baking Soda

Forget fancy cleaning products, try Baking soda as an all-purpose cleaner: scouring powder, polish and fungicide and, with what's left, do some baking.

Candlemas - the Presentation of Christ in the Temple

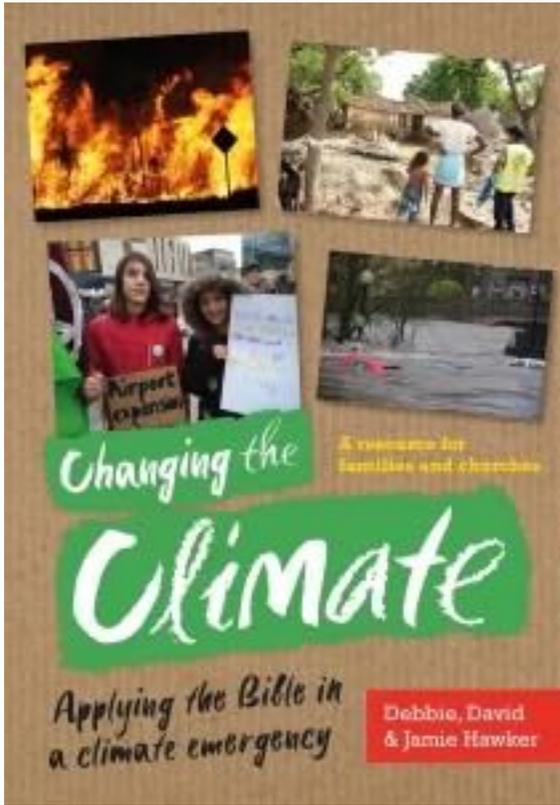
In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child – to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day – hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

From Parish Pump



**Changing the Climate:
applying the Bible in a
climate
emergency
By Debbie
Hawker, David
Hawker and
Jamie Hawker,
BRF, £9.99**

The climate crisis is one of the most important issues of our time, threatening lives

and livelihoods. The Bible teaches us that God the Creator put humans on the Earth to take care of it; to show love to all, and to care for the poor and vulnerable.

This workbook shows how the Bible is relevant to environmentalism, and how we can all play our part in limiting the negative effects of climate change. Each of the 12 chapters looks at a particular Bible passage, connects it with climate action, poses questions and suggests practical steps that can be taken.

St Valentine's Day



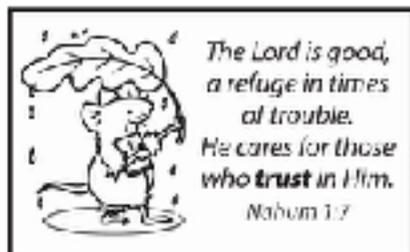
There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century – one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day -14 February – the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love – Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.



Answers to last month's
Crossword



stories

lost

Pharisees

coins

Jesus

special

friends

angels

teaching

teachers

small

sheep

watched

sweep

woman

person

listen

light

repent

heaven

everyone

celebration

found

rejoice

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS AND MEETINGS

(all at London Street, unless otherwise stated)

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10.30am

<i>Mondays:</i>	10.15am	Craft Group
<i>Tuesdays:</i>	10.15am	Little Angels
	5.30pm	Beavers) IN TERM TIME
	6.30pm	Cubs) all in the Wessex Hall
	7.30pm	Scouts)
<i>Wednesdays:</i>	10.15am	3Cs (Coffee, Chat and Company on the 3rd Wednesday of each month)
	10.30am-	Memory Tree Social Club
	12 noon	
	12.15pm	Lunchtime Prayers

Sunday Services at London Street: See page 4.

TADLEY SERVICES:

Feb 6 th	9.30am - joining with St Mary's Breakfast service
13 th	10.30am - joining with Main Road Methodists
20 th	10.30am - meet at Immanuel Centre for Community Litter picking
27 th	10.30am - Mark Ward

Regular Weekly events -

Monday afternoon	- Ladies Cell Zoom meeting (contact Penny O'Bee)
Monday	7.30 pm - evening Cell group Zoom (contact Mark Ward)
Tuesday	7pm - Prayer meeting on Zoom (St Paul's and Tadley URC) (Penny O'Bee)
Wednesday	7pm - Prayer meeting on Zoom (Tadley URC) (Mark Ward)
Thursday	10-12 noon - Little Angels toddler group in Immanuel Centre (contact Ena Menarry)
Friday	2-3 pm - Men's Shed at Immanuel Centre (alternate weeks) (Paul Gross)

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]