



FOCUS

June 2024



London Street United Reformed Church

Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 7NU

Tadley (Old Meeting) United Reformed Church

Malthouse Ln, Hants, RG26 3NY

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

This month Jean Young discusses war in our world, its effects, and our hope for peace.



Every day on our televisions we see news reports of global conflicts with countries being bombed and scenes of people trapped in collapsed buildings, injured children and babies rushed to bombed hospitals. It is upsetting and also disturbs our own relatively tranquil lives. For nearly 80 years the people of The United Kingdom have been free of an enemy's bombs dropping on us. Sadly, many believe that we should distance ourselves from the current conflicts and their resolutions will not affect us or the rest of the world.

There have always been wars. In The Old Testament era, wars were a fact of life. Saul and David mobilised fit men from the whole nation and created an embryonic army. Troops slept in bivouacs rather like the old American West (1 Samuel 26 v 1-7). The average battles were more akin to border raids and their repulse. They were a test of strength and courage rather than a test of skills, strategies or tactics. In "The Rules of Warfare" (Deuteronomy 20 v 5-8), we learn that certain groups of people were exempt from military service. Officials addressed the troops saying "Has anyone built a new house but not dedicated it? He shall go back to his house or he might die in the battle and another dedicate it. Has anyone planted a vineyard but not enjoyed its fruit? He should go back to his house or he might die in the battle and another be first to enjoy its fruit."

In the days of The New Testament, the use of military force was repudiated. When reading about The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus in John 18 v 33-36, Pilate asks Jesus if he is the King of the Jews. Jesus answers "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews..."

However, war was expected to continue (Luke 14 v 31), "Or what king going out to war against another king will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with 10,000 to oppose the one who comes against him with 20,000?". We learn from Ephesians 6 v 12 that war

continued but was used in the sense of spiritual conflict.

With today's wars, we are faced with the dilemmas of who we think is right or wrong. We are a broad church, but feelings are running high and disunity can develop quickly, even in our Christian family. I find the following words in John 14 v 27 give me strength and comfort. Jesus says "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give it to you as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled, and do not let them be afraid".

So, although we may still feel anxious and powerless to change global events, we can do something: we can pray.

PRAYER (adapted from my pocket booklet of "Inspiring Prayer"):

Loving Father, send your peace to this world, to this country, to my family, friends and loved ones.

Lord, give me your peace and then help me to give it away.

Amen.

THE NOTICEBOARD

Information, updates, tips and more.



Eco Tip

God's Gift -- Our World

The Environment -- Our Responsibility



Save water, it may be short later.

Though some water-saving showerheads cost hundreds of pounds, cheaper ones can still make a big difference and still produce a decent spray.

Don't forget, you can recycle the following items at London Street:

Empty Printer Cartridges, Aluminium Containers and Foil, Batteries, and Plastic Milk Bottle Tops.



Media Secretary Appointed

Maxine is now our media secretary with responsibility for our Facebook page and church website. Thank you Maxine for offering to take on this important role.



Church Flowers

Many thanks to Liz Lindsay for donating and arranging the June flowers in memory of her husband, Sandy.

FOCUS: Next Issue

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of Focus magazine. If you would like to contribute to the July magazine, please contact the editor by 20th of June.

Can you help to make sure
that no one in our local
community goes hungry?



Items **urgently** needed: Tinned Fruit, Shampoo, Hot/Cold Desserts (e.g. Jelly, Sponge Pudding, Angel Delight), Long Life Fruit Juice, Deodorant, Savoury Spreads (Marmite, Peanut Butter, Meat Paste etc.), Hair Conditioner.

Items needed: Cleaning Spray, Coffee, Cooking Sauces, Custard & Evaporated Milk, Loo Roll, Nappies (Size 5 & Above), Savoury Crackers, Savoury Snacks/Crisps, Squash, Sweet Spreads (Jam, Marmalade etc.), Tinned Meat (e.g. Chilli, Stewing Steak, Ham), Tinned Spaghetti/Ravioli, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Veg, Toothpaste, UHT Milk, Washing Up Liquid.

Please **do not** give Baby Food, Hand Soap, Hot/Cold Cereal, Nappies (Size 4 & Below), Non-Dairy Milk, Pasta, Pet Food, Pulses, Rice, Sanitary Pads, Tinned Beans, Tinned Soup, 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.



Tadley URC, Immanuel Centre
Main Rd, RG26 3NY

FAMILY FUN DAY

SATURDAY
15TH JUNE

FREE
ENTRY

12 -
3.30PM

- ❖ ARTS & CRAFTS
- ❖ GROW A PLANT & FLOAT A BOAT
- ❖ BBQ & ICE CREAMS & REFRESHMENTS
- ❖ LUCKY DIP
- ❖ TABLE TENNIS
- ❖ OUTDOOR & INDOOR GAMES & ACTIVITIES

AND MORE ...

All profits and donations going to

CASH ONLY EVENT



THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS - GLUTTONY

Stan Marut questions whether this deadly sin is only about the amount of food we eat.



To our minds the term Gluttony might imply excessive eating and drinking; taking and eating more than we might normally do. Eating and drinking are a prerequisite to sustain ourselves and nowhere does it say that starvation is good for you as such. Indeed, God has provided and those of us who live in this green and pleasant land will be thankful that this is so. Crops are so abundant that the farmers are discouraged from producing too much as this will affect the price at market. So we now have the expression “set aside”, where arable land is left fallow. This is to digress slightly. Gluttony and its definition go beyond an understanding of just merely overloading our digestive systems with food and drink we don’t need. It also has something to say about our character.

The word gluttony derives from the Latin *gluttire* which means to swallow or gulp down, it being the overindulgence and overconsumption of anything to the point of waste. This is, however, seen as either a vice or virtue according to one’s particular culture. In Christianity for instance gluttony is seen as a sin because of the excesses implied and this overindulgence might mean that food is withheld from those in need. The Medieval philosopher Thomas Aquinas took all this a stage further and described gluttony as being “a desire thereof not being regulated by reason.” Overindulgence on the other hand might also be seen in some cultures as being a reflection of the “good life”, something to be proud of. Apparently, the Roman elite ate so much that they had to force themselves to vomit so that they could continue eating and drinking.

Some writers on this subject expand upon the subject of gluttony and apply the definition to, for example, an incessant appetite for power. This may sound strange but thinking about it, it seems to make sense. We understand the food aspect and overindulgence of this sin. Gluttony might also mean demanding too much from other people, our friends, our families. This may also manifest itself in the State where government treat the populace as their personal chattels. We talk

about the “lust for power” rather than the “the gluttony for power”. Maybe both terms have a similar consequence.

So, what does the Bible instruct us to do? Consider the following:

“...Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, for gluttons become poor and drowsiness clothes them in rags” (Proverbs: 23-21).

Also:

“He who keeps the law is a discerning son, but a companion of gluttons disgraces his father”. (Proverbs: 28:7).

Of course, taken in isolation these sayings are, dare I say, prosaic. One would need to understand these verses within the context of the whole chapter within Proverbs.

Another example taken from Proverbs 23:2 is, “...put a knife to your throat if you have a big appetite”, which taken out of context might be a horrifying prospect for those who would take their Bible literally. But if you were to take the whole chapter seriously you would discover that what in fact the author is prescribing for you is to be careful with whom you sit down. The table spread with goodies may be a deception and if you gorge yourself in a gluttonous manner, it is a prelude to obligating yourself to your host to perhaps participate in some devious scheme. By making a spectacle of yourself at the table you lose control over your actions and intentions.

The New Testament also provides guidelines and it is in this “self-control” of our urges, including the tendencies described above, that we become “fit and proper” persons as such. This self-control is mentioned in 2 Peter: 6 and we are warned in 2 Timothy 3:1-4 that in the last days people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, arrogant, boasters, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, brutes, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. Get the picture? Looks like we are well into the last days by this measure.

What we are trying to come to terms with here is that controlling our urges including food is to control our overall being. Perhaps we should pose the question “would Jesus have been a glutton?” Yes, he did go

to a few feasts in his time but the New Testament gives no bad reports. Emulating Jesus should be the desired role for each of us, both in the way we control these urges and in the way we conduct ourselves with each other; difficult sometimes, when people get on your nerves.

Finally, Galatians sums it all up. Chapter 5:16-17 might be the motto for leading a good Christian life and guiding us away from the cravings which hamper our spiritual well-being. “Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the Flesh”.

THE PRAYER CIRCLE

Please remember the following people in your prayers...

Seb & Dorcas Allwright (in Uganda)

Zoe Cole as she finishes her cancer treatment

Heather Melrose (re her house move)

Jim and family

David Bennett

David & Gill Vickery

Joan Musselwhite

Jenny McCloy

Carol Tooke

David Swain

Owen Collins

Claire Macro

John & Elaine Coakes

Lou & David Waller

Carys Haywood

Hyacinth Ridguard

Doina Rasnita

Mark & Chris Best

David Corfield



**Chris & Leng Ayland and Chris' brother and family
following the death of his wife.**

Barbara Banbury

Karen Bell

Maggie Morgans and Richard

Beverly Harris

The Patterson family

Ted, Tia & Craig Martin

Stan & Sandra Marut

Beverly Cantwell

Eric & Christine Clucas

**All our Iranian friends as they start to find
accommodation and plan for their future, but also
Morteza facing an 'Appeal' and for all those who
support him through the process.**

Ray & Sam Honeyball Todd

Alison Grant

Anne & Dick Davey

**Maxine Perkins on her baptism, and as she comes
into membership**

Ravi & Vijaya Biyyani as they come into membership

**Daniel, Kenita, Rachan, and Amos, going to Wessex
Children's camp over half term**

**Annemarie & Rosie Smith-Brown and their son
Bailey**



Students facing exams and the long wait



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

This month's assigned readings.



	Psalm	New Testament		Psalm	New Testament
1st	68: 15-19	John 10: 22-42	16th	73: 13-20, 27-28	John 18: 25-40
2nd	68: 20-27	John 11: 1-16	17th	73: 21-28	John 19: 1-27
3rd	68: 28-35	John 11: 17-44	18th	23	John 19: 28-42
4th	69: 1-5	John 11: 45 - 12: 11	19th	74: 1-12	John 20: 1-18
5th	69: 6-12	John 12: 12-36	20th	74: 13-17	John 20: 19-31
6th	69: 13-18	John 12: 37-50	21st	74: 18-23	John 21
7th	69: 19-36	John 13: 1-17	22nd	75: 1-5	Acts 1
8th	70	John 13: 18-38	23rd	75: 6-10	Acts 2: 1-28
9th	71: 1-8	John 14: 1-14	24th	76: 1-6	Acts 2: 29-47
10th	71: 9-18	John 14: 15-31	25th	76: 7-12	Acts 3
11th	71: 19-24	John 15: 1-25	26th	77: 1-11	Acts 4: 1-31
12th	72: 1-7	John 15: 26 - 16: 15	27th	77: 12-15	Acts 4: 32 - 5: 16
13th	72: 8-14	John 16: 16-33	28th	77: 16-20	Acts 5: 17-42
14th	72: 15-20	John 17	29th	78: 1-8	Acts 6
15th	73: 1-12, 27-28	John 18: 1-24	30th	78: 9-16	Acts 7: 1-29

EVENT DIARIES



What's on this month at London St. & Old Meeting URCs.

At London Street URC (unless otherwise specified):

Regular Events

Sunday Worship 10:30am			
Mondays	10:15am	Craft Group	
Tuesdays	2:30pm	Take Time Meditation (Exploring Luke's Gospel)	On Zoom. Contact Church Secretary for password.
	5:45-6:45pm	Beavers	In Term Time.
	7-8:30pm	Cubs	All in the Den except Scouts who meet in the Wessex Hall.
	7-9pm	Scouts	
Wednesdays	10:15am	Memory Tree Social Club	
	12:15pm	Lunchtime Prayers	

June Worship Diary

2nd	Service includes adult baptism, membership, and Holy Communion. Led by Revd. Josh Thomas; Musician: Mark Best.
9th	Led by Gabby North (from Leprosy Mission); Musician: Dennis Smith.
16th	Led by Mark Ward; Musician: Peter Dixon.
23rd	Parade Service Led by 8th Basingstoke Scouts; Musician: Mark Best.

30th	Led by Revd. Adam Payne; Musician: Dennis Smith.
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Duty Elder for the month is: Kengjise Moavu.

Next Church Meeting:

8th July (Monday), 7:30pm (in the Hook Room)

Other Events

Sat 15th, 12 midday - 3:30pm	Family Fun Day at Tadley URC Free entry with donations going towards St. Michaels Hospice.
Sat 29th, 10am - 4pm	Away Day for Elders and members of Finance Committee at Godalming United Church.

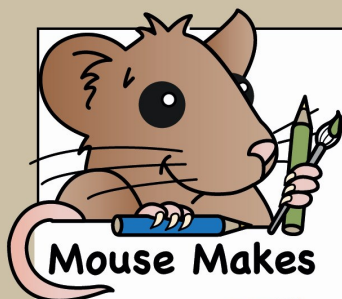
At Tadley (Old Meeting) URC (unless otherwise specified):

Regular Events

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 Afternoon	Men's Shed	2pm, once a fortnight. Contact Paul Gross.

June Worship Diary

2nd	No Service at Old Meeting. (Tadley Treacle Fair.)
9th	Led by Karen Jones and John Featherstone.
16th	Joining with London Street. (Details on previous page.)
23rd	Led by Mark Ward.
30th	No Service at Old Meeting.



Mouse Makes

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

TFF XIBU LJOE PG
MPWF UIF GBUIFS
IBT HJWFO UP VT
UIBU XF TIPVME
CF DBMMFE
DIJMESFO PG HPE
POF KPJO UISFF: POF

Solomon's father defeated a giant and became a King. Who was he?

1 Samuel 48-50

Whose daughter was healed by Jesus?

Mark 5:21

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

WHO IS MY FATHER?

Who was created by God and became the first father?

Genesis 2:20

Who had a son when he was very old?

Genesis 21:5

Shem Ham and Japheth's father built a huge boat, who was he?

Genesis 6:10-14

Who gave his son Joseph a robe of many colours?

Genesis 37:2-3



This Roman puzzle square reads the same from the top, bottom and sides and translates:

"Arepo the sower guides the wheel with skill."

ROTAS
OPERA
TENET
AREPO
SATOR

If you rearrange the letters it can spell **PATER NOSTER** which means **"Our Father"**.

A
P
A
T
E
R
N
O
S
T
E
R
O

Look up the Bible verses to find the fathers then look for them and the words below in the word search.

FATHER • GOD
SON • DAUGHTER
JOSEPH • ISAAC
MOSES • JOB
SOLOMON
ZECHARIAH
ZEBEDEE

London Street United Reformed Church

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London Street United Reformed Church is a working name of
Registered Charity London Street (Basingstoke) United Reformed
Church Charity [reg. no. 1130801]