



London Street

United Reformed Church

BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE RG21 7NU

and

TADLEY (OLD MEETING) URC



Focus
May, 2022

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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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: Paul Gross
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Thought for the Month:

Some years ago now, I attempted to read Richard Forster's book on "Prayer". I managed the first few chapters but couldn't be bothered to try to understand what he was saying as he went deeper into different kinds of prayer and how to enter into them. I wasn't quite ready then but just recently I decided to have another go and found it much more understandable.

The much misunderstood Prayer of Rest seems particularly helpful in these uncertain times when what we want may not be quite in line with God's long term plan and we don't seem to know how to pray. Forster reminds us what the Bible promises - "The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God" (Rom 8:27-27). What a relief that is! The third member of the Trinity himself accompanies us in our prayers, adjusting and focusing them until what we are asking corresponds to God's will. It gets better! The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that Jesus, as our great High Priest, intercedes before God on our behalf. Continual prayer is being offered and we can rest in this work of the Son on our behalf. But the best is yet to come. Hard as it may be for us to imagine this means that God is in everlasting communion with himself through our stumbling, bumbling prayers. With such divine help, couldn't we feel able to yield to the Divine Centre and trust Him to lead us into a richer, fuller communion, the Prayer of Rest.

It isn't easy because we have such a strong desire to see problems resolved. Often we believe meeting together for face to face discussion will quickly settle matters but often respective positions harden. Finding himself in this situation a disheartened Richard Forster complained to God 'This is going to take months of meetings and negotiations and there is no guarantee that we will reach a successful conclusion even then'. God's reply was 'I did not ask you to resolve this problem in the first place. Relax. When the time is right changes will occur.'

Jeann Vanier, founder of L'Arche communities explains with a simple illustration – he would cup his hands lightly and say "Suppose I have a wounded bird in my hands. What would happen if I closed my hands completely?" "it would be crushed and die," "Well then, what would

happen if I opened my hands completely?” “Oh, then the bird will try to fly away, and it will fall and die.” Vannier smiles and says, “The right place is like my cupped hands, neither totally open nor totally closed, It is the space where growth can take place.”

God gives us enough space so that we can stretch and grow, but also enough protection so that we will not be injured – and we can be healed. This is the Prayer of Rest.

Blessed Saviour, I am not good at resting in the hollow of your hand. Nothing in my experience has taught me this resting. I have no models. That's not exactly right. Jesus, when you walked among the Jerusalem crowds and in the Judean hills, you pioneered this way of living. You were always alert and alive. You lived utterly responsive to the will of the Father. Even with so many and varied demands placed upon you, still you worked in unhurried peace and power.

Help me to walk in your steps. Teach me to see only what you see, to say only what you say, to do only what you do. Help me Lord, to work resting and to pray resting. I ask it for your good and strong name. Amen

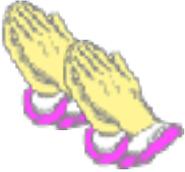
Joy Williams

Sunday Services:

May 1	Revd Helen Everard
May 8	Revd Chris Savage
May 15*	Christian Aid – Laura Mead
May 22**	Revd Adam Payne
May 29	Sydney Shore

***May 15th - Deadline for articles for June FOCUS**

**Service on May 22nd includes Holy Communion; adult baptism of Beverley Harris; membership of Beverley Harris on profession of faith and membership of Matthew and Rebecca Dumbleton on transfer from Fleet URC; and induction of two of our elders - Joyce Cook and Jenny McCloy.



Circle of Prayer

Please remember the following in your prayers:

London Street - Victoria Paice & family; Kay Cook; Sandy & Liz Lindsay; Doina Rasnita; Jo Tremarco; Stan & Sandra Marut; Dick & Anne Davey; Rosemary Martin & family; Beverley Cantwell; David & Julie Bath; Christine Clucas & family; Hyacinth Ridguard; Betty Shipway; Maggie Morgans & family; the Patterson family; Bev Harris and Dom Prentice; and Lou and David Waller.

Tadley Old Meeting prayer list: Alastair Melrose; Linda Hicks; Christine Weaver; Angela Ormond.



Niamh Harriman, 14 years on 13 May
Isabel Stanley, 11 years on 24 May

Church Flowers - May.

Jean Holton



Parking space

Angus was driving down the street worried because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. So, looking up toward heaven, he said "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up whisky." A moment later, miraculously, a parking place appeared. Angus looked up again and said, "Never mind. I found one."

Bible Readings for May:

	Psalm	New Testament	
May 1 st	66	Reflection	
2 nd	105:1-11	Matthew	18
3 rd	34:1-10	"	19
4 th	67	"	20
5 th	143	"	21
6 th	34:11-22	"	22
7 th	68:1-10	Reflection	
8 th	144	"	
9 th	36:5-12	Matthew	23
10 th	68:28-35	"	24
11 th	145	"	25
12 th	38	"	26
13 th	69:1-6; 30-36	"	27
14 th	146	Reflection	
15 th	107	"	
16 th	70	Matthew	28
17 th	147	Romans	1
18 th	40:1-8	"	2
19 th	71:1-13	"	3
20 th	148	"	4
21 st	40:9-17	Reflection	
22 nd	71:14-24	"	
23 rd	149	Romans	5
24 th	41	"	6
25 th	72	"	7
26 th	150	"	8
27 th	1	"	9
28 th	108	Reflection	
29 th	2	"	
30 th	42	Romans	10
31 st	73:21-28	"	11

Craft Group

Do you wonder what the Monday Craft Group does?

Well, we talk a lot!

We have small projects to do.

We have just been making Teddies for the children's department of the Emergency department of the hospital.



Each one is made with love and individually wrapped.

We meet on Monday mornings in the Concourse 10am.

All welcome. Even if you just need company and a chat you are welcome

Carol Scott

Away Day for all the congregation - Saturday 25th June

Our Mission Statement is: To live God's love in Church and the Community. The question is: How do we go about this?

With Mission 2020 coming to an end, the Elders during 2020 held a number of Away Days to consider the vision for London Street for the next 5 years. The Elders focused on the needs of our 'community' and how best we could serve them, coupled with the need to reassess our 'normality' as a consequence of the Covid pandemic. With the help of Revd Mary Thomas, our Synod Development and Support Officer, group discussion and prayer, the Elders discerned two threads to our mission vision: food and hospitality.

At our Church Meeting in May 2021, Revd Kay Blackwell presented the Elders findings to church members for discussion. It was concluded that with the food table and hospitality provision already happening, we should appoint a missional café manager for the future. Once appointed, one aspect of the manager's role would be to consider the Renew Wellbeing part of the mission.

A reminder of what Renew Wellbeing is all about. Renew Wellbeing helps churches open spaces of welcome and inclusion in partnership with mental health teams to improve mental and emotional wellbeing. These spaces are designed primarily but not exclusively, for adults. Renew spaces are simple café style spaces run by local churches where hobbies and activities are shared or co-produced. Each café space is attached to a quiet room or prayer space where inner habits of wellbeing are shared. Each church partners with a mental health professional from the local council or other suitable organisation to ensure good inclusive practices for safe spaces where it's OK not to be OK can be sustained. Being in partnership, Renew Wellbeing provides information, inspiration, training and ongoing support to local churches as well as developing a simple national strategy for many small safe space.

After the May Church Meeting, a job description of the principal responsibilities and duties of a Mission and Hospitality Manager was designed. I have reproduced it for your information as it may come in useful as part of our Away Day which I'll come to shortly.

To manage the use of food and volunteers within the kitchen primarily for the provision of meals for the Community Food Table (CFH) outreach every weekday, excluding Wednesday.

To maintain stock control, utilizing free food from the Community Food Link and ordering as necessary.

To follow the Christian faith values and beliefs of the United Reformed Church, and to uphold the Christian ethos of the food hub and hospitality centre. This will involve:

- working in close relationship with CFH users; the elders and leadership team of London Street URC; and our ecumenical partners; and*
- building relationships with a variety of volunteers, partner organizations and the public.*

To manage the work of the kitchen by:

- maintaining the existing high food hygiene standards.*
- menu planning around free food donations where possible.*
- the production of good quality food at all times.*

To ensure that the policies covering Food Hygiene, Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Lone Working, Fire Protection and all future church policies are adhered to by yourself and the volunteer staff. This includes keeping up to date records of risk assessments when required.

To manage the volunteer team working in the kitchen. This includes the provision of pastoral support for volunteers with a variety of needs and undertaking regular appraisals with staff.

To work with the hospitality management team in appointing new volunteers by following correct procedures with regards to volunteer forms and interviews. Identifying the gifts and skills of volunteers and helping them to develop where possible.

To liaise with the Community Youth Café team that also works from a table outside Monday to Friday (excluding Wednesday) in the afternoons.

To take responsibility for the daily handling of cash and financial reconciliation; spread sheet recording of banking and expenses; working within budgets for the mission and hospitality and looking at grant opportunities to support this work.

To create regular reports as agreed with the line manager. To attend meetings of the hospitality management team (when required), supervision and appraisal meetings.

To creatively develop the food and hospitality mission of this project leading towards the creation of a possible Renew Wellbeing Centre planned for 2022.

To look for ways to create revenue streams (i.e., making sandwiches/ tray bakes for local cafes) to support the costs of hospitality and if required and in liaison with the hospitality management team, to provide pre-booked catering for events or groups.

To take responsibility for the opening up of the building and maintaining security whilst they are working within the building

At our Church Meeting in February, 2022, I reported that there had been no applications following the advertisement of the post of Mission and Hospitality Manager. The Elders had held an extraordinary meeting in order to discuss all the issues concerning the café and food

table and the church's vision for its mission. There was an immediate need to relieve Penny Dilley of all of the tasks she was currently undertaking in the kitchen so as an interim measure it was decided not to re-advertise and to focus instead on the hospitality element rather than mission. In order to fill the gap left by Penny's departure consideration was being given to employing a Kitchen Supervisor to work for 8 hours per week spread over three days. Volunteers were also urgently needed to work in the kitchen and on the food table.

I went on to report that the Elders had further concluded that the church as a whole needed to re-think its mission. To that end an Away Day would be arranged to which everyone in the congregation would be invited and details of the day would be provided in due course.

At our Church Meeting in March 2022, I reported that we had appointed Carol Tooke as the Kitchen Supervisor on a fixed term contract for 8 hours per week. This would stand whilst the Church debated its vision and I would serve as Line Manager for her for the time being.

I have reproduced for your information the job description of the Kitchen Supervisor, again noting that the list of duties is an indication of the main tasks to be performed.

To manage the use of food and volunteers within the kitchen primarily for the provision of meals for the Community Food Table (CFH) outreach every weekday apart from Wednesday.

To maintain stock control, utilizing free food from the Community Food Link and ordering as necessary.

To manage the work of the kitchen by:

- maintaining the existing high food hygiene standards.*
- menu planning around free food donations where possible.*
- the production of good quality food at all times.*

To ensure that the policies covering Food Hygiene, Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Lone Working, Fire Protection and all future church policies are adhered to by yourself and the volunteer staff. This includes keeping up to date records of risk assessments when required.

To manage the volunteer team working in the kitchen. This includes the provision of pastoral support for volunteers with a variety of needs and undertaking regular appraisals with staff.

To take responsibility for the daily handling of cash and financial reconciliation; spread sheet recording of banking and expenses; working within budgets for the mission and hospitality and looking at grant opportunities to support this work.

Returning now to the meeting, I went on to report that plans were well in hand for a Church Away Day to be led by Revd Mary Thomas, and also Steve Summers, the URC's Development Worker for Church Related Community Workers (CRCW). Members were reminded that a few years ago the church had begun to consider the possibility of a CRCW being deployed to work alongside the church. Although Steve Summers had said that the allocation of a CRCW to London Street Church had been approved in principle, for a number of reasons the matter had not been pursued at that time. The Elders considered that given current circumstances it was worth revisiting. I have a further meeting with Mary and Steve on 3rd May to discuss the programme for the day which I will then finalise with Elders' Meeting on 4th May and present to Church Meeting on 25th May.

So what can I tell you about the Away Day so far? It will be held on Saturday 25th June at Tadley URC. Timings have yet to be agreed. A buffet lunch will be provided. To help with the admin arrangements, if you are attending can you please sign the list on the church notice board by Sunday 5th June. For those of you with cars, I'm hoping that you will be able to offer a lift for those without transport. There is a bus service from the town centre that stops outside Tadley URC; the number 2.

Blessings Owen

Eco Tip:

Going on holiday?

Don't forget to empty your fridge before going away. Eat up any leftovers and give to your neighbours any perishables you can't finish. Then turn off your fridge completely.

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) in the Hook Room
	7.30pm	Scouts in the Wessex Hall
<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 5.

TADLEY SERVICES:

May 1 st	10.30am - Sharing Service (inc. Communion) at Old Meeting
8 th	10.30am - Ed Vassie at Old Meeting
15 th	10.30am - Joining with St Paul's
22 nd	Community Litter Pick - details to be confirmed
29 th	10.30am - Sharing Service at Old Meeting

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	7.00 pm - Prayer meeting on Zoom (St Paul's and Tadley URC) (Penny O'Bee)
Wednesday	7.00 pm - 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.

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