



# FOCUS

August 2025



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 Jenny McCloy discusses change, good and bad, and something that never changes.



Over recent weeks, we have celebrated with two of our members who have reached the fantastic age of 90!

This started me thinking—what changes have happened over the lifetimes of Christine and Shirley?

Over the last 90 years significant societal, technological and economic shifts have reshaped the world.

Key changes include advancements in healthcare leading to increased life expectancy; major technological leaps, like the rise of the internet and mobile phones, and transformation in social structures, such as changing family dynamics and the decline of religious attachment. Additionally, economic shifts include increased global connectiveness and the rise of new industries, alongside ongoing challenges related to poverty, inequality, and loneliness.

Just take a moment to step back and think about what changes have taken place in your life experiences over recent years. What do your children/grandchildren take for granted/accept as the norm which were unheard of in your early life or your parents' lives. These may include labour saving devices around the home e.g. did your parents have a freezer? This is something we mostly now take for granted. Think of how your house was heated—did you have central heating, or did you rely on a single coal fire in the living room? What about lighting your home? I can remember having gas mantle lights which were eventually replaced when electricity was installed in the house when he was 7 years old! Now we can have our lighting, and many other things, linked to a timer so they will come on at a set time. Change can also come to your garden, from having a push along lawnmower to being able to watch from the comfort of your sofa while a robotic mower will cut your grass!

In technology, we have seen an explosion in computing and communication. The invention of the internet, mobile phones, and A.I. have revolutionised how people live, work, and interact.

Many of the changes over the last 90 years have seen a growing awareness of and concern about environmental issues, including climate change and pollution. This awareness has prompted calls for sustainable development.

Another huge change which we have seen has been in transport and how we travel from place to place—it is even possible to fly direct to Perth from London in about 17 hours!

But... is all this change necessarily good? Obviously, we saw at the beginning of these thoughts that there have been massive changes for the good. But is all change good or are there downsides to it? How does change affect us? Change, whether expected or unexpected can impact various aspects of our lives. It influences our emotions, our mental health and our personal development. While it can for some people bring stress and anxiety, change also represents opportunities for growth and learning. The way that life has changed can present many challenges, one aspect which comes to my mind is the explosion of the internet and what is available online. Whilst this can be wonderful—you can find out anything by going to a search engine (no need for an Encyclopaedia Britannica these days, sadly!). But this has a huge downside when we think of what is available for young people to access online—very often material which is unsuitable or even dangerous. How difficult it is for parents to monitor what their child can access through their mobile phone. Bullying too has increased as it can be constant. At one time once you left the school building the bullying stopped... not anymore!

But what does the Bible say about change?

Throughout the Bible we have the confirmation that God stays the same.

The Bible states that God is unchanging. One famous verse from Malachai, 3:6 declares: *'I, the Lord, do not change'*.

And Hebrews 13:8 emphasises Jesus Christ's unchanging nature: *'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever'*.

And James 1:17 *'Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change'*.

The unchanging nature of God offers profound comfort in a world of constant change. Knowing that God's promises and love remain consistent provides stability and security amidst life's uncertainties.

God's true nature, of being loving and merciful, doesn't change—ever!!

(With thanks to the internet for some facts contained!!)

Hymns about God's presence in change whose words offer comfort and encouragement and a reminder of God's steadfastness amidst life's uncertainties. They serve as a powerful reminder that God's character and promises are reliable and unchanging, providing a solid foundation for faith:

'Through all the Changing Scenes of Life', 'Great is Thy Faithfulness'.

A book to read?:

The Steadfast Love of the Lord by Sam Storms and Dane Ortlund—focuses on God's unwavering affection

## THE NOTICEBOARD

Information, updates, tips, and more.



### Diamond Wedding Celebrations!

We would like to invite our London Street Friends to join us in our Diamond Wedding Celebrations:



Sunday September 7th from 2:30pm

for a Garden Party in the London Street URC tradition.

A list will be up on the noticeboard as of the 27th July, could those wishing to attend please add their names to this list.

- Peter & Ruth Bentall

**Advanced Notice: Wessex Chamber Choir “Come and Sing”  
The Armed Man - A Mass for Peace  
20th September 2025**

This is a community event where singers from around Basingstoke are invited to join with Wessex Chamber Choir for rehearsals of this piece of music. Following the final rehearsal in the afternoon this joint body of singers would then present this piece to an audience in the evening.



It promises to be a wonderful opportunity to join this renowned choir and be part of a community engagement.

Further details to follow

**Eco Tip**

**God's Gift -- Our World**

**The Environment -- Our Responsibility**



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.

**Happy Birthday to the following member of our church family:**

**Aidah Grant**

If you know someone who is 80+ that would like their birthday added to the list in Focus, please let Jenny McCloy or the Editor know.



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



Items **urgently** needed: UHT Fruit Juice, Sweet Treats, Hot/Cold Desserts (e.g. Jelly, Sponge Pudding, Angel Delight), Squash, Savoury Spreads (e.g. Peanut Butter, Marmite), Tinned Meat (e.g. Chilli, Stewing Steak, Ham), Deodorant, Shopping Bags.

Items needed: UHT Milk, Tinned Fruit, Crackers, Tinned Tomatoes, Savoury Snacks, Tampons, Loo Roll, Household Cleaning Products and Washing Up Liquid, Toothpaste, Hair Conditioner, Powdered Milk, Coffee, Sweet Spreads (Jam, Marmalade etc.), Shower Gel, Cup -A-Soup.

Please **do not** give Baby Food, Hot/Cold Cereal, Nappies, Non-Dairy Milk, Pasta, Pulses, Rice, Sanitary Pads, or Tinned Beans, 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:

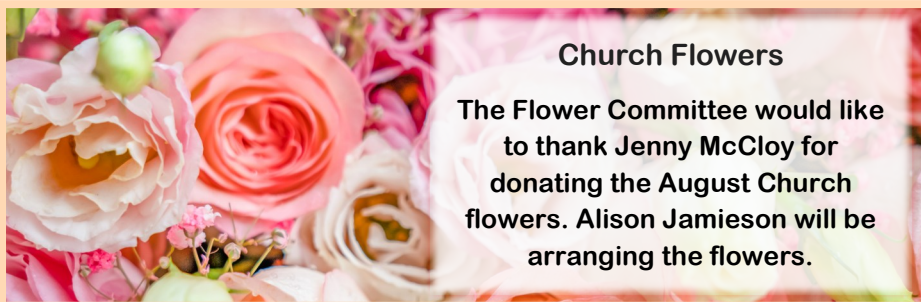
<https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/givehelp/food/>

Or download the BankTheFood app from the Apple App/Google Play store and select Basingstoke Foodbank.



The latest Foodbytes magazine can be found by following this link:

<https://mailchi.mp/a5eaf31df8cd/summer-2025>



## FOCUS: Next Issue

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of Focus magazine. If you would like to contribute to the September magazine, please contact the editor by **22nd of August**.



### Congratulations!

We send our love and best wishes to Josh, Hannah, Isla, Joel, and the whole Thomas family, on the announcement of their pregnancy.

## An Anniversary

The 31st of August is the 12th anniversary of the ordination of our former minister, Kay Blackwell. We wish her all the best in her latest endeavours.

## A Big Well Done!

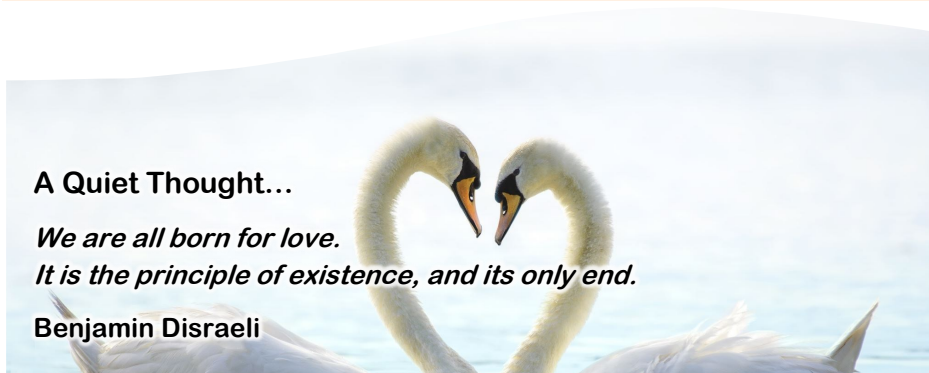
Congratulations to Ethan Grant who began his four year apprenticeship with a local company in July. He will also attend BCOT one day a week to work towards his level 3 qualification.

### A Quiet Thought...

*We are all born for love.*

*It is the principle of existence, and its only end.*

Benjamin Disraeli



WESSEX SYNOD'S



BIG

DAY

IN



6TH SEPTEMBER 2025 10AM - 4PM  
HIGH CROSS CHURCH - CAMBERLEY

# EXPLORE INSPIRE EXPERIENCE INVIGORATE ENERGISE *Resourcing churches*



**KEYNOTE:**  
**YVONNE MORRIS**  
**DISCIPLESHIP ENABLER**  
(CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES)  
DIOCESE OF OXFORD



**GOSPEL CHOIR**  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
WORSHIP AND WORKSHOPS

**REFRESHMENTS AND A COOKED  
LUNCH IS INCLUDED.**



**Discover our range of topics and speakers.  
Something for everyone, every church, and for you.**

**Workshops:** 'MyTime' Young Carers Awareness | Truth be Told Story Telling | Godly Play Introduction | Grant Funding Support | Time for God | LYCIG | School Pastors | Intergenerational Preaching | Dementia Friendly Church | Revisioning User Journey's | Evangelism through Mission | LGBTQ+ ministry |  
**Stands:** 'MyTime' Young Carers Award | Truth be Told Story Telling | Schools Pastors | Time for God | Children's Ministry Essentials | URC Bookshop | Stepwise | Scripture Union | Wessex Synod support

**BOOKINGS VIA - [URCWESSEX.ORG.UK](http://URCWESSEX.ORG.UK)**

## THE PRAYER CIRCLE

Please remember the following people in your prayers...

David Swain, and Alison who is supporting him

Barbara Banbury and David Corfield

Marguerite Hurford and her son Michael

Nicola Walwyn and family

Chris Jones' grandson, Archie

Alma Blackwell

Carol Scott

Louise & David Waller

Joan Musselwhite

Dick & Anne Davey

Jason Dudley

Christine & Eric Clucas

Carys Haywood

Alison and David

Bev Harris and Dom

Claire Macro

Stan & Sandra Marut

Hyacinth Ridguard

Ruth Bental

Jenny McCloy

The Patterson family

Maggie & Richard Morgans

Katie and Tom

Seb and Dorcas

John and his daughter

Brian, Elaine and family

Nicolle and Gavin



## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

This month's assigned readings.



	Psalm	New Testament		Psalm	New Testament
1st	89: 30-37	Acts 27: 1-26	17th	23	Romans 13
2nd	89: 38-46	Acts 27: 27-44	18th	96: 1-6	Romans 14
3rd	89: 47-52	Acts 28	19th	96: 7-13	Romans 15
4th	23	Romans 1	20th	97: 1-6	Romans 16
5th	90: 1-10	Romans 2	21st	97: 7-12	1 Corinthians 1
6th	90: 11-17	Romans 3	22nd	98	1 Corinthians 2
7th	91: 1-8	Romans 4	23rd	99	1 Corinthians 3
8th	91: 9-16	Romans 5	24th	100	1 Corinthians 4
9th	92: 1-8	Romans 6	25th	101	1 Corinthians 5
10th	92: 9-15	Romans 7	26th	102: 1-12	1 Corinthians 6
11th	93	Romans 8: 1-17	27th	102: 13-17	1 Corinthians 7: 1-24
12th	94: 1-11	Romans 8: 18-39	28th	102: 18-22	1 Corinthians 7: 25-40
13th	94: 12-15	Romans 9	29th	102: 23-28	1 Corinthians 8
14th	94: 16-23	Romans 10	30th	103: 1-5	1 Corinthians 9
15th	95: 1-5	Romans 11	31st	103: 6-12	1 Corinthians 10
16th	95: 6-11	Romans 12			

## 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			
<b>Mondays</b>	<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Craft Group</b>	
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>5:45-6:45pm</b>	<b>Beavers</b>	<b>In Term Time.</b>
	<b>7-8:30pm</b>	<b>Cubs</b>	<b>All in the Den except Scouts who meet in the Wessex Hall.</b>
	<b>7-9pm</b>	<b>Scouts</b>	
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Memory Tree</b>	
	<b>12:15pm</b>	<b>Lunchtime Prayers</b>	
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>7:15-9:15pm</b>	<b>Explorers</b>	<b>In Term Time.</b> <b>In the Den.</b>

### August Worship Diary

<b>3rd</b>	<b>Led by The Worship Group; Musician: Revd. Denis Smith; Duty Elder: Leng Ayland.</b>
<b>10th</b>	<b>Led by Vivien Gerhold; Musician: Mark Best; Duty Elder: Ian Scott.</b>
<b>17th</b>	<b>Led by Paul Murphy; Musician: Mark Best; Duty Elder: Peter Bentall.</b>
<b>24th</b>	<b>Service includes Holy Communion.</b> <b>Led by Revd. Julian Macro; Musician: Peter Dixon; Duty Elder: Elspeth Anthony.</b>
<b>31st</b>	<b>Led by Mark Ward; Musician: Mark Best; Duty Elder: Joy Williams.</b>

## Next Church Meeting:

**17th September (Wednesday) at 7:30pm (in the Hook Room)**

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

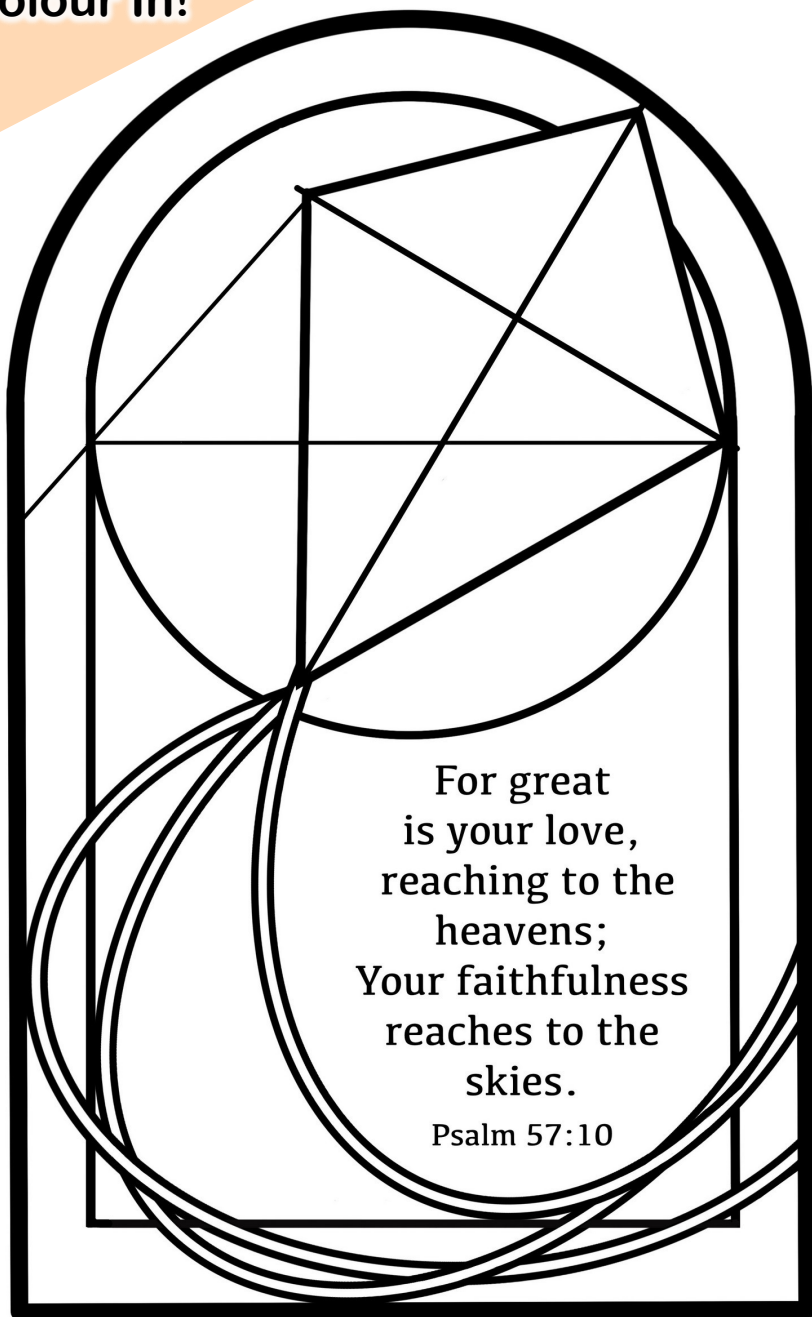
### Regular Events

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 Afternoons	Men's Shed	2pm, once a fortnight. Contact Paul Gross.
Saturday Mornings	Ladies' Breakfast & Talk	10am, 2nd Saturday of each month. Everyone welcome.
	Men's Breakfast & Talk	10am, 4th Saturday of each month. Everyone welcome.

### August Worship Diary

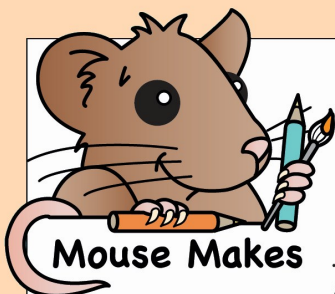
3rd	No service at Old Meeting.
10th	Led by Karen Jones and John Featherstone.
17th	Service includes Holy Communion. Led by Mark Ward.
24th	Led by Christine Watson.
31st	Joining London Street URC. No service at Old Meeting.

Colour In!



For great  
is your love,  
reaching to the  
heavens;  
Your faithfulness  
reaches to the  
skies.

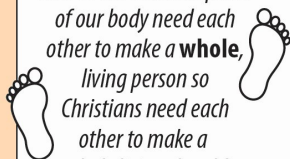
Psalm 57:10



## Mouse Makes



Just as the different parts  
of our body need each  
other to make a **whole**,  
living person so  
Christians need each  
other to make a  
whole living church!



"Just as a **body**, though **one**, has **many** parts,  
but all its many **parts** form one body,  
so it is with **Christ**. For we were all baptised  
by one **Spirit** so as to form one body...  
Even so, the body is not made  
up of one part but of many..."

...Now you are the body of Christ,  
and **each** one of you is part of it."

from 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

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

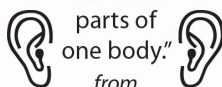
Look in the Bible verses for the words written in **bold**  
then look for these words too!

GOD • TOGETHER • EQUAL • ALL • EVERY  
HEAD • EYES • EARS • MOUTH • TONGUE  
TEETH • NOSE • ARMS • HANDS • FINGERS  
LEGS • KNEES • FEET • TOES • GIFTS



"Though we are  
many, we are one  
body in **union**  
with Christ,  
and we are  
**joined** to each  
other as  
**different**  
parts of  
one body."

from  
Romans 12:1-7





# London Street

## United Reformed Church

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  
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Church Charity [reg. no. 1130801]