



FOCUS

November 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 we have the opportunity to pray for Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith.



November 2nd is the 'International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church' (IDOP), and if you choose to be part of it then these are some of the people you will be praying for...

Continued violence across Sub-Saharan Africa

Multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have seen a rise in violence. Currently, eight of the top ten deadliest places for Christians are in Sub-Saharan Africa – and all of them (except Nigeria) have more faith-based killings than they did during 2024.

Chronic government instability has created an environment where Islamic militants can use the chaos as cover for their attacks on Christians. Many Christians have been forced from their homes. Of 34.5 million displaced people across Sub-Saharan Africa, around 16.2 million are Christians.

Middle East – where the church is being driven out, or driven underground

Christians in the Middle East are being driven into isolation and decline. After more than a decade of war, the church in Syria has diminished significantly. Emigration is actively changing the church from an ancient, large minority population to a much smaller, more endangered Christian community.

Following the Israeli-Hamas war that began in October 2023, Christian communities in Gaza and the West Bank have come to the brink of extinction. In Gaza, at least 33 Christians were killed, and most houses destroyed during the violence. Many Christian families have moved abroad or are trying to leave.

China

Unregistered churches, once tolerated by the government, are now considered illegal as authorities enforce regulations. State-approved churches are under stronger ideological pressure and new laws send

pastors into indoctrination sessions, where they are urged to preach accordingly. Smaller congregations are either forced to merge into a larger church that is easier to control, or to take their fellowships underground, into isolated home groups.

This report is adapted from an Open Doors report at:

<https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/persecution-trends/>

THE NOTICEBOARD

Information, updates, tips, and more.



Church Flowers

The Flower Committee would like to thank Owen Collins for donating the November flowers in memory of his wife Ann. Elspeth Anthony is arranging the flowers.

Happy Birthday to the following members of our church family:

Beryl Wootton

Ethan 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: Tinned Meat (e.g. Chilli, Stewing Steak, Ham), Tinned Fruit, Custard, Rice Pudding, Shampoo and Conditioner, Tinned Soup, Loo Roll, Hot/Cold Desserts (e.g. Jelly, Sponge Pudding, Angel Delight), Sweet Treats.

Items needed: Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Spaghetti, UHT Milk, Shopping Bags, Coffee, Savoury Spreads (e.g. Peanut Butter, Marmite), Noodles, UHT Fruit Juice, Squash, Powdered Milk, Savoury Snacks, Cup-A-Soup, Tampons, Nappies (Size 6 & Above Only), Household Cleaning Products & Washing Up Liquid.

Please **do not** give Baby Food, Hot/Cold Cereal, Nappies (Size 5 & Below), 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://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/249/2025/08/Autumn-25-Foodbytes.pdf>



NOTE: There is still a need for 'Bags for life', strong enough for tins of food and tetra packs of milk etc. If you can help, please put them in the 'Foodbank' box in the concourse (on the way into the church).

Eco Tip

God's Gift -- Our World

The Environment -- Our Responsibility



You can send up to 15kg of running shoes, football boots and hiking boots in any condition to the Jog On campaign (jogonagain.com) via Evri for £2.

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.

URC Diaries & Prayer Handbooks

If you would like to order either or both of these please would you sign the lists on the noticeboard, by November 9th.

Diaries are either red or blue and cost £9 Prayer Handbooks 'Touching God' cost £6-99.

Please add £1 to your order to cover postage.



'Reframe' Bible Study at Tadley URC (Poster on page 9)

Following our success with running the Bible Societies "Romans Course", Tadley URC are now running a new 10 week DVD based course promoted by Bible Society called "Reframe".

The course runs on Monday evenings at Tadley URC Immanuel Centre Hall (breaking for 1/2 term). We begin at 7:15pm with cake and refreshments before commencing at 7:30pm.

Ample car parking is available. Everyone is welcome. Come for as many or few sessions as you are able to make!

Love in Christ,

Mark, and all at Tadley URC

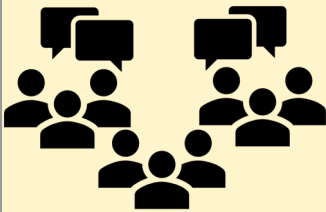
Church Fellowship Lunch

Another fellowship lunch - last one this year. Sunday November 30th following morning service, at Basingstoke Country Hotel. Table is booked for 12:30. Please add your name to the list on the concourse board.

Thank you,
Gill Miller



Church Meeting & Election of Elders at London Street URC



London Street's next Church Meeting is to be held on Sunday 23rd November at 1pm and this will include the election of Elders.

You are welcome to bring sandwiches to eat after the morning service and prior to church meeting.

FOCUS: Next Issue

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

A Quiet Thought...

Without faith a man can do nothing; with it all things are possible.

Sir William Osler

Christmas Day

Cafe Church

at London St. URC, **10am**

A service for all the family, led
by Gill Miller.

Will include worship, singing,
fun crafts, and refreshments.

One-off new
start time!



Please come along and support
this new style of worship for
Christmas day!

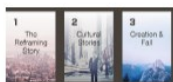
**Enter into the big story of
Scripture and explore how
the gospel reframes all of
life.**



**ReFrame is a 10-Session
video-based Bible study that
brings faith to life.**

**Starting 7:15pm for 7:30pm Monday
22nd Sept through to Monday 1st Dec**

**Tadley United Reformed Church Immanuel Centre, Malthouse
Lane/Main Road, Tadley More Info: tadleyurc@gmail.com**



REFRAME



REFRAME



THE PRAYER CIRCLE

Please remember the following people in your prayers...

Margaret Carrick Smith and family.

David Swain, and Alison who is supporting him

Barbara Banbury and David Corfield

Marguerite Hurford and her son Michael

Owen Collins on his travels to New Zealand

Sheila Munro

Shirley Craft

Carol Scott

Chris Jones' grandson, Archie

Louise & David Waller

Joan Mussellwhite

Dick & Anne Davey

Jason Dudley

Christine & Eric Clucas

Carys Haywood

Maggie & Richard Morgans

Bev Harris and Dom

Claire Macro

Stan & Sandra Marut

Hyacinth Ridguard

Peter & Ruth Bentall

Jenny McCloy

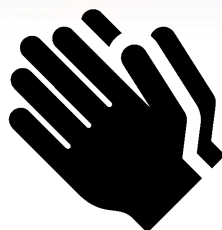
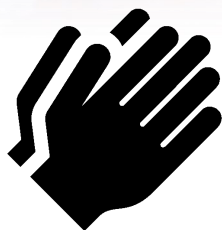
The Patterson family

Seb Allwright

Gill Vickery

Rebecca (Elaine and Brian's granddaughter)

Faith (Marie and Stephen's daughter)



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

This month's assigned readings.



	Psalm	New Testament		Psalm	New Testament
1st	119: 89-96	Titus 2	16th	124	Hebrews 11: 17-40
2nd	119: 97-104	Titus 3	17th	125	Hebrews 12
3rd	119: 105-112	Philemon	18th	126	Hebrews 13
4th	119: 113-120	Hebrews 1	19th	127	James 1
5th	119: 121-128	Hebrews 2	20th	128	James 2
6th	119: 129-136	Hebrews 3	21st	129	James 3
7th	119: 137-144	Hebrews 4	22nd	130	James 4
8th	119: 145-152	Hebrews 5	23rd	131	James 5
9th	119: 153-160	Hebrews 6	24th	132: 1-5	1 Peter 1
10th	119: 161-176	Hebrews 7	25th	132: 6-12	1 Peter 2
11th	23	Hebrews 8	26th	132: 13-18	1 Peter 3
12th	120	Hebrews 9	27th	133	1 Peter 4
13th	121	Hebrews 10: 1-18	28th	134	1 Peter 5
14th	122	Hebrews 10: 19-39	29th	135: 1-7	2 Peter 1
15th	123	Hebrews 11: 1-16	30th	135: 8-14	2 Peter 2

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	5:45-6:45pm	Squirrels	In Term Time.
		Beavers	All in the Den except Scouts and Beavers, who meet in the Wessex Hall.
	7-8:30pm	Cubs	
	7-9pm	Scouts	
Wednesdays	10:30am	Memory Tree	
	12:15pm	Lunchtime Prayers	
Thursdays	7:15-9:15pm	Explorers	In Term Time. In the Den.

November Worship Diary

2nd	Led by Andy & Diane Taylor; Musician: Mark Best; Duty Elder: Leng Ayland.
9th	Remembrance Sunday. Led by Revd. Helen Everard; Musician: Peter Dixon; Duty Elder: Ian McCloy.
16th	Led by Mark Ward; Musician: Revd. Denis Smith; Duty Elder: Margaret Carrick Smith.
23rd	Service includes Holy Communion. Led by Revd. Julian Macro; Musician: Alex Macro; Duty Elder: Margaret Carrick Smith.
30th	Led by Ruth White; Musician: Revd. Denis Smith; Duty Elder: Joyce Cook.

Next Church Meeting (Includes Election of Elders):

23rd November (Sunday) at 1pm (in the Hook Room)

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

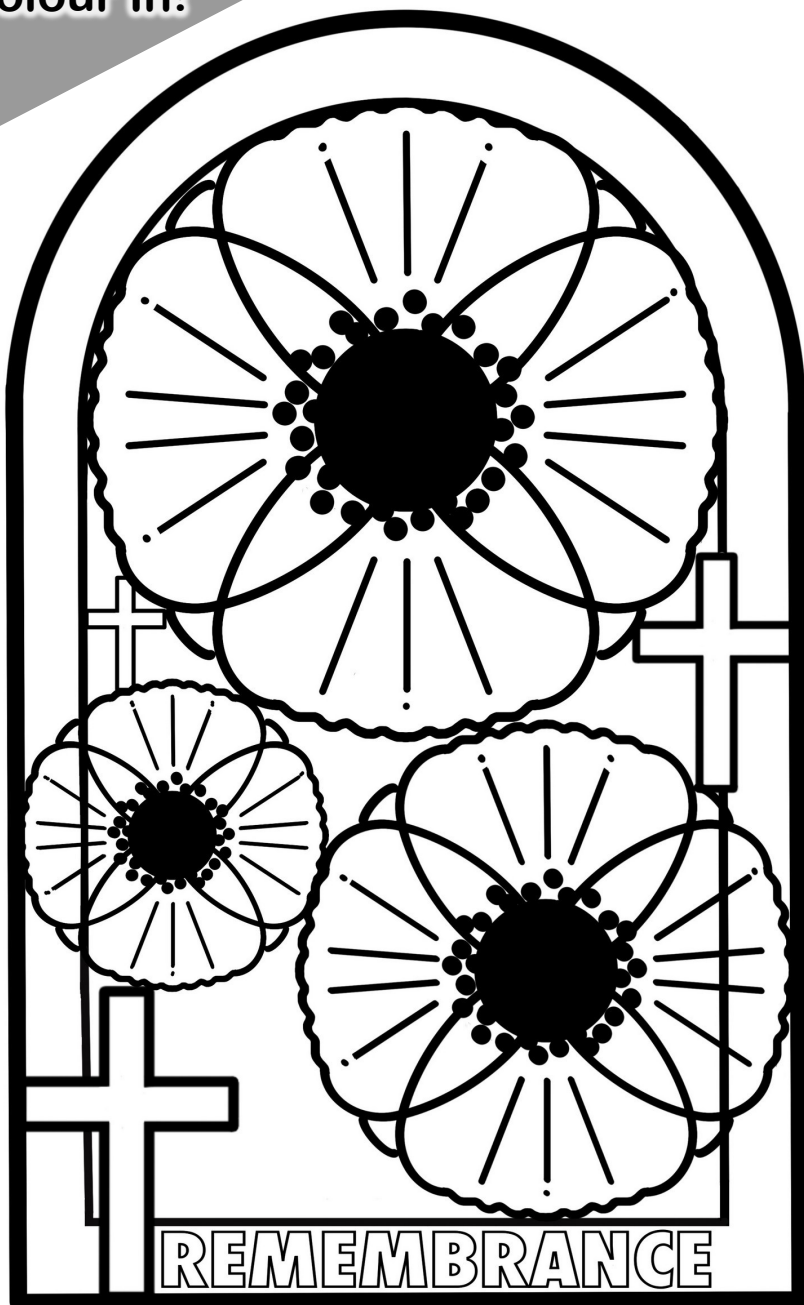
Regular Events

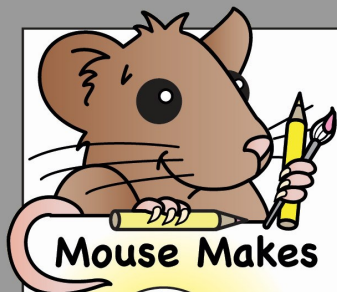
Sunday Worship 10:30am		
Monday Afternoons	Ladies' Cell Group	Contact Penny O'Bee.
Monday Evenings	Cell Group	Contact Mark Ward or Paul Gross.
Tuesday Evenings	Joint Prayer Time with St Paul's	Contact Penny O'Bee.
Wednesday Evenings	Prayer via Zoom	Contact Mark Ward.
Friday Afternoons	Men's Shed	2pm (now every week!) 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.

November Worship Diary

2nd	Children and Families Service. Led by Mark Ward.
9th	Led by Allan Meakin.
16th	No Service at Old Meeting. We join London Street URC (at their church) at 10:30am.
23rd	Led by Phillip Jones.
30th	Service will be followed by a church meeting over a shared lunch. Led by Ed Vassie.

Colour In!





LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Advent Sunday this year falls on 30th November.

ADVENT is a time to celebrate the ARRIVAL of Jesus, God's Son, our Saviour.

We look forward with HOPE, we give thanks for God's LOVE and the PEACE and JOY we have in Jesus.



Read:
LUKE 2:10-11
Who is 'God's news of great joy' for?



Read:
John 3:16
How did God show He loves us?



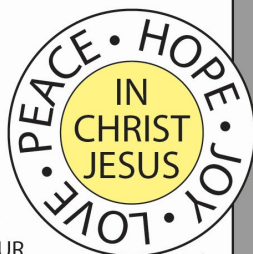
Read:
Isaiah 40:5
What shall be revealed?



Read:
Romans 5:1-2
Through who do we have peace with God?

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

ADVENT • ARRIVAL • HOPE • JOY • LOVE • PEACE • GOD • GLORY
MESSAGE • PROMISE • PROPHECY • FORETOLD • JESUS • SAVIOUR
CHRIST • GIFT • GOOD NEWS • RETURN • CANDLE • LIGHT





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]