



FOCUS

February 2026



Galatians 6: 2

***Bear one another's burdens, and in this way
you will fulfil the law of Christ.***

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 Beryl Wootton shares her thoughts on
'A caring church'.



I found this quote on-line and wanted to share it with you:

"A caring church is characterised by its commitment to the well-being of its members, both spiritually and emotionally.

It is a place where individuals feel valued, supported and loved.

The church pastoral care extends beyond the Sunday sermons, creating an environment where people can find solace, guidance and healing during life's joys and challenges."

The reason I wanted to share this is because I have benefited from such pastoral care in the last two months, since I fractured my Pelvic bone in three places. Friends from London Street United Reformed Church, visited me in Hospital and at home. They brought me books to read, fruit to eat and made me laugh. They phoned me or sent emails and generally made me feel loved and missed.

Once I was able to walk far enough to get to Church, I was welcomed and felt at home. Thank you all.

I will end with a prayer:

God of all time,

as we step into a new year,

we pray you would bless each one of us with

hearts full of love for those around us,

compassion that spills into action,

determined to see a world transformed,

and a desire to pray without ceasing.

Give us endless hope and trust in You.

May You get the glory for all we put our hearts and hands to in 2026.

Thank You for Your goodness and the promise of journeying with us always.

Amen.

The Noticeboard

Information, tips, updates, and more...



Happy Birthday to the following members of our church family:

Ruth Bental

Harley Honeyball Todd

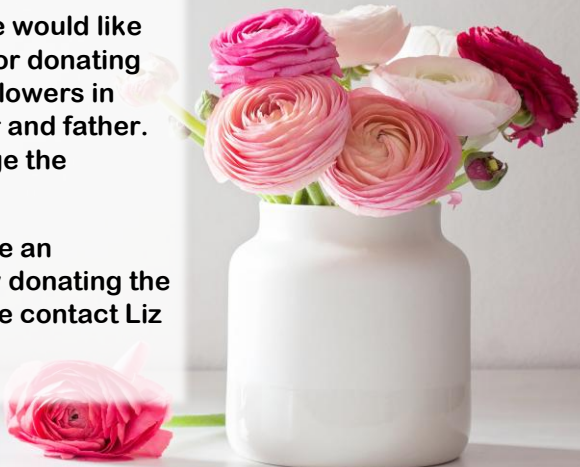
Rob Williams

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.

Church Flowers

The Flower Committee would like to thank Jean Young for donating the February Church flowers in memory of her mother and father. Liz Lindsay will arrange the flowers.

If you wish to celebrate an important occasion by donating the Church flowers, please contact Liz Lindsay.



Special Prayer Requests



Old Friends:

We have had a request from Rev Kay Blackwell to pray for a family who was closely involved with 'Little Angels', the Toddler Group which used to run at church. They were also involved with our online junior church, during lockdown. Mum is Joice and her husband Lee has been diagnosed with stage 4 Brain Tumour. They have 4 children and Joice is pregnant! Lee is having fits which are preventing Lee having treatment. We are asked to pray that the fits will stop to enable treatment. Please pray for the whole family.

Our Iranian Friends:

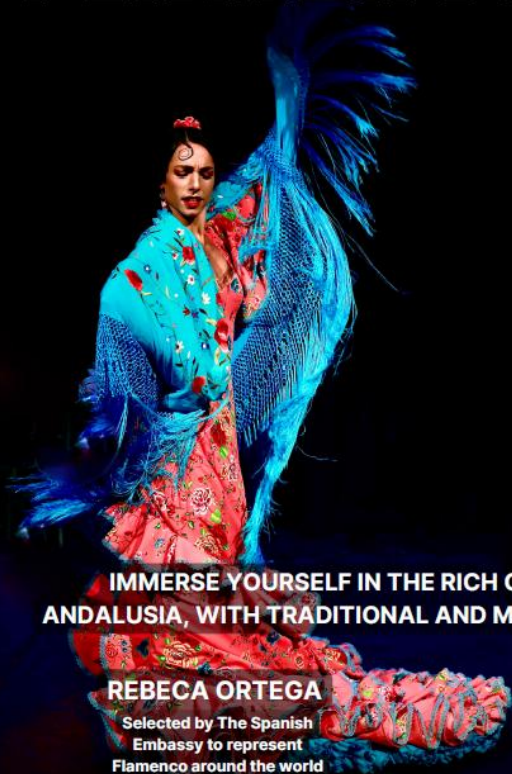
We need to hold our Iranian friends in our prayers. They are all anxious about their friends and families back home in Iran. This is especially so as they are unable to contact their loved ones. Vahid has asked for our support and has expressed how he feels loved and supported by his church family here at London St.

The Bentall family:

Peter Bentall is undergoing treatment, (thank you to Owen, Tony and Ian Scott who are providing transport along with Peter's son, Paul). Pray too for Ruth who will be anxious about Peter, and is being supported by their grandson, Daniel.



FLAMENCO FROM SPAIN



REBECA ORTEGA

Selected by The Spanish
Embassy to represent
Flamenco around the world



RAMON RUIZ

UK Leading flamenco composer-
guitarist featured in London West
End "Zorro The Musical"



PRIZE WINNER



FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY
BASINGSTOKE



**TICKETS ON
EVENTBRITE**

From 7.30pm to 9pm
Doors open at 7pm



**LONDON STREET URC, 20 LONDON
STREET, BASINGSTOKE, RG21 7NU**

MATT RAWLE

A LENT BIBLE STUDY

**Everyone
Welcome**



The
Final Days

**Six Monday Evenings 7:15pm from 23rd
February through to 30th March
At Tadley URC Immanuel Centre**

**Contact Mark for more info:
tadleyurc@gmail.com 07849546894**

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, and Batteries.



Candlemas

Jenny McCloy explains this tradition.



This is a significant Christian festival, which dates back seventeen centuries, and which is held on February 2nd. It is to commemorate the purification of the virgin Mary (this was done according to Jewish law after childbirth). It also commemorates the presentation of Christ at the Temple, 40 days after his birth, signifying his dedication and his parents' dedication to the Jewish faith, and foreshadowing his role as 'The Light of the World'. It concludes the Christmas season and ends with the blessing of candles symbolising Christ's light dispelling winter's darkness. Some people leave their decorations up until Candlemas Day. The name Candlemas comes from the tradition of blessing all candles for the year on this day. People take their candles to church to be blessed. Many people also place lit candles in their windows at home on Candlemas Night, symbolising Christ's light.

In Luke's Gospel Ch 2 vv21-38 we read how Simeon and Anna were waiting and Simeon, who had been told by the Holy Spirit that he wouldn't die before he had met the Messiah, recognises the baby Jesus as God's promised one: vv28-30 'Simeon was moved to go to the Temple Courts where he met the child Jesus. Simeon took him in his arms and praised God saying, "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised you now dismiss your servant in peace for my eyes have seen your salvation"'.

Here we see the link between Candlemas and Simeon who recognises Jesus as the light of the world.

Hobby Shots



Have you started a new hobby recently?

Nicola has been trying something new this winter and has shared this lovely photo with us.

Do you have a new or unusual hobby that you'd like to share with the congregation? If so, please send a photo to the editor.



The Prayer Circle



Please remember the following people in your prayers...

Our Iranian friends, anxious about friends and family in Iran

Margaret Carrick Smith and family.

Barbara Banbury and David Corfield

Marguerite Hurford and her son Michael

Beverley Cantwell's daughter, Abbie

Chris Jones' grandson, Archie

Louise & David Waller

Maggie & Richard Morgans

Christine & Eric Clucas

Bev Harris and Dom

Hyacinth Ridguard

Stan & Sandra Marut

Peter & Ruth Bentall

Doina Rasnita

Carol Scott

Ian McCloy

Joan Mussellwhite

Dick & Anne Davey

Jason Dudley

Carys Haywood

Claire Macro

Jenny McCloy

Beryl Wootton

Joyce Cook

Sheila Munro

Karen Bell

The Patterson family

Seb Allwright

John's daughter, Laura

Elaine and Brian's family

Gill Vickery

Mark and family

Daily Bible Readings

This month's assigned readings.



	Psalm	New Testament		Psalm	New Testament
1st	18: 16-19	Matt 22: 41 – Matt 23: 12	15th	22: 22-26	Matt 28
2nd	18: 20-24	Matt 23: 13-39	16th	22: 27-31	Mark 1: 1-20
3rd	18: 25-29	Matt 24: 1-14	17th	23	Mark 1: 21-45
4th	18: 30-36	Matt 24: 15-35	18th	24	Mark 2: 1-22
5th	18: 37-42	Matt 24: 36-51	19th	25: 1-7	Mark 2: 23 – Mark 3: 6
6th	18: 43-50	Matt 25: 1-30	20th	25: 8-11	Mark 3: 7-35
7th	19: 1-6	Matt 25: 31-46	21st	25: 12-15	Mark 4: 1-20
8th	19: 7-14	Matt 26: 1-30	22nd	25: 16-22	Mark 4: 21-41
9th	23	Matt 26: 31-46	23rd	26	Mark 5: 1-20
10th	21: 1-7	Matt 26: 47-68	24th	27: 1-6	Mark 5: 21-43
11th	21: 7-13	Matt 26: 69 – Matt 27: 10	25th	27: 7-14	Mark 6: 1-29
12th	22: 1-5	Matt 27: 11-26	26th	28	Mark 6: 30-56
13th	22: 6-11	Matt 27: 27-44	27th	29: 1-6	Mark 7: 1-23
14th	22: 12-21	Matt 27: 45-66	28th	29: 7-11	Mark 7: 24-37

Flame of a Candle

A poem for Candlemas by Nigel Beeton.



See the candle flame a-burning
See its flick'ring, dancing light;
See how it, the darkness spurning
Burns throughout the darkest night.

Light of life – God's life eternal
Won through Christ's atoning death
Sparing us from Hell, infernal
Granting us His living breath!

Light your candle, kneel and praise Him
Kneel and praise the Lord of Hosts;
Let your prayers and praises raise Him
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Light of faith, of God reminding
As His Spirit, long ago
Lit the first apostles, finding
Faith within the Spirit's glow.

Light of hope, in God victorious
For we know that He will win
When we'll see His flames of glorious
Vict'ry o'er the pow'r of sin!



Event Diaries



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

At London Street URC (unless otherwise stated):

Regular Events

Sunday Worship 10:30am			
Mondays	10:15am	Craft Group	
Tuesdays	5:45-6:45pm	Squirrels	In Term Time. All in the Den except Scouts and Beavers, who meet in the Wessex Hall.
		Beavers	
	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.

February Worship Diary

1st	Led by The Worship Group; Musician: Mark Best.
8th	Led by The Worship Group; Musician: Revd. Denis Smith.
15th	Led by Revd. Howard Sharp; Musician: Mark Best.
22nd	Service includes Holy Communion Led by Joy Williams; Musician: Peter Dixon.

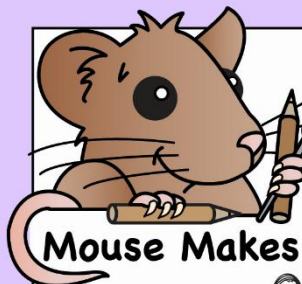
Duty Elder for the month: Ian McCloy.

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

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. 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.

February Worship Diary

1st	Led by Philip Jones.
8th	Service includes Holy Communion. Led by Greg Whittick.
15th	Led by Karen Jones and John Featherstone.
22nd	Led by Christine Watson.



Read the story in
Luke 4:1-13

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into? What did Jesus say? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him? What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9

FIRST TEMPTATION

THE
DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:

Read the Bible
Learn God's word.



SECOND TEMPTATION

THE
DEVIL SAID:

"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:

Put God **first**
Worship **only** Him.



What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9

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



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

JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED
WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL
TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD
KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH
JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT

THIRD TEMPTATION

THE
DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Read Deuteronomy 6:16

WE LEARN:

God cares, **trust**
Him do not test Him.





Next Issue...

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

London Street

United Reformed Church

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Registered Charity London Street (Basingstoke) United Reformed
Church Charity [reg. no. 1130801]