



# FOCUS

March 2026



Romans 7: 6

***But now we are discharged from the law,  
dead to that which held us captive, so that  
we are slaves not under the old written code  
but in the new life of the Spirit.***

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 Alison Jamieson discusses Lent.



Advent and Christmas are past, when we ‘travelled’ with Jesus from his conception through his birth, flight into Egypt, back to Nazareth and then on into his life’s ministry. And now Jesus has turned to face his final journey up to Jerusalem, knowing what awaits him there. In this Lenten time, can we ‘travel’ with him? Are we willing to understand better what his obedient decision to go up to Jerusalem must have meant to him? We of course know the final outcome and that Jesus’ final cry from the cross, of ‘It is finished’, is not one of defeat but of triumph – The gates of heaven flung open wide! What glory! At what cost!

The word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word for spring. So, Lent came to be known as ‘God’s Springtime’. Often people recognised a longing, a need, to use this time to review their lives and commitment to Christ. And they would set aside time for prayer, Bible reading and contemplation and fasting. It was also at the beginning of Lent that those wanting to make a confession of faith and to be baptised at Easter would put in their request and then spend the weeks in between receiving instruction in preparation for this. It was seen as an opportunity to be open to ‘God’s Springtime’ of renewal.

Lent 2026 is no different. We can know Jesus ‘travelling’ with us in this time, as individuals and in our lives together at London Street during this period of Lent. We too can know ‘God’s Springtime’ as we put aside some time, on our own, or together at the Lent Bible studies on a Monday afternoon at London Street (or at Tadley on Monday evenings) and also in worship, to pray and study to seek his renewal. There are resources on the URC website, also the Bible Society. Let us travel through Lent expectantly.

Prayer:

*Lord Jesus as we travel with you to Jerusalem in these coming weeks, may we as individuals and together know of you travelling with us too. Be in our reading and our praying, in our listening and our speaking, as we seek to hear your direction, your encouragement, your challenge and your forgiveness. May we all have the courage and the commitment to follow the route that you would have us take in the near future and in*

*the months to come and may the joy of Easter be renewing and life changing.*

## The Noticeboard

Information, tips, updates, and more...



### Church Flowers

The Flower Committee would like to thank Julie & David Bath for donating & arranging the flowers to celebrate their wedding anniversary.

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



### Thank You!

Ruth & I would like to thank our friends at London Street for all their love, prayers, and support during these last few months in helping us manage our various medical situations, hospital, and surgery visits.

In particular those drivers who took me to and from Southampton hospital at varying times of the day, and in some appalling weather and driving conditions.

It has all been very much appreciated, and another example of the strength of our Fellowship.

Peter Bentall



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



Items **urgently** needed: Deodorant, Fruit Juice, UHT Milk, Shampoo and Conditioner, Tinned Meat (e.g. Chilli, Stewing Steak, Ham), Tinned Spaghetti, Marmite.

Items needed: Cooking Sauce, Powdered Milk, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Veg, Tinned Tomatoes, Custard, Pet Food, Household Cleaning Products & Washing Up Liquid, Jam, Loo Roll, Tuna, Rice Pudding, Hot/Cold Desserts (e.g. Jelly, Sponge Pudding, Angel Delight), Coffee, Tampons.

Please **do not** give Shower Gel & Soap, 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://cms.trussell.org.uk/sites/default/files/2026-02/Spring%2026%20Foodbytes.pdf>

## Eco Tip

God's Gift -- Our World

The Environment -- Our Responsibility

Tea or coffee stains on your cups? Don't reach for bleach - this can be risky - just mix up a paste of salt and white vinegar and use that.



Don't forget, you can recycle the following items at London Street: Empty Printer Cartridges, Aluminium Containers and Foil, and Batteries.

MATT RAWLE

# A LENT BIBLE STUDY

Everyone  
Welcome



The  
Final Days

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

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

## Angels

Due to the success of the Angels, we have started knitting ones for this year.

They are quick and easy to knit; I have the pattern if anyone wants to join knitting them.

Or come along on a Monday morning to Craft Group!!!

God bless,

Carol Scott



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

Dorothy Burrows

Lizzy Payne

Sylvia Reynolds

Joyce Cook

Rachan Preeth

Derek Anthony

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.

## Thank You!

Ian McCloy would like to thank everyone for their good wishes on his successful cataract surgery, but especially Tony Patterson for his help with transport.



## With Great Relief...

Eric Clucas is recovering after a spell in hospital. Thankfully his admission was less serious than at first feared. Get well soon Eric!



# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

## Friday 6 March

*I will give you rest, come*

Come and join us at

St Andrew's Trinity Methodist  
Church

Western Way

Basingstoke

RG22 6ER

2.00 pm

Nigeria 2026



**INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION**

24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led

[wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number 233242

A photograph of a wine glass filled with red wine and a piece of bread, set against a textured, light-colored background. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# Maundy Thursday Service

2<sup>nd</sup> April  
7.00pm  
at Tadley  
URC

**A reflective service remembering  
Christ's last supper with His disciples.**

*"A new command I give you: Love one  
another. As I have loved you, so you  
must love one another."*

*For more details Mark Ward/Paul Gross [contact@tadleyurc.com](mailto:contact@tadleyurc.com)  
Tadley URC, Malthouse Lane, Tadley, RG26 3NY. Car Park off Main Road A340  
Basingstoke & Tadley URC Charity No is 1130801*

A wooden cross stands on a green hill at sunrise. The sky is filled with soft, golden light, and the sun is just above the horizon, creating a warm, hazy atmosphere. The cross is the central focus, with its shadow cast on the grass.

# Easter Day Sunrise Service

6am Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April,  
Tadley Skate Park

*He has risen!*

Join us at Tadley Skate Park for a short reflective service of songs and readings as the dawn breaks and the sun rises...

8am breakfast at Tadley URC follows. Please RSVP.  
Further details Mark Ward or Cathy Pynn  
[contact@tadleyurc.com](mailto:contact@tadleyurc.com) or [c.pynn@btinternet.com](mailto:c.pynn@btinternet.com)

Charity Number: 1187062



## 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

Lynn & John and all the family of Carys Haywood

Chris Jones and family, grieving the loss of 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

The Patterson family

Claire Macro

Jenny McCloy

Beryl Wootton

Joyce Cook

Sheila Munro

Karen Bell

Rob Williams

Gill Vickery

Seb Allwright

Stephen Grout's father

Nicolle Whitby

## Daily Bible Readings



This month's assigned readings.

	Psalm	New Testament		Psalm	New Testament
1st	30: 1-5	Mark 8: 1-21	17th	35: 1-10	Mark 16
2nd	30: 6-12	Mark 8: 22 – 9: 1	18th	35: 11-18	Luke 1: 1-25
3rd	23	Mark 9: 2-29	19th	35: 19-28	Luke 1: 26-38
4th	31: 1-5	Mark 9: 30-50	20th	36: 1-6	Luke 1: 39-56
5th	31: 6-14	Mark 10: 1-31	21st	36: 7-12	Luke 1: 57-80
6th	31: 14-18	Mark 10: 32-52	22nd	37: 1-6	Luke 2: 1-21
7th	31: 19-24	Mark 11: 1-33	23rd	37: 7-11	Luke 2: 22-40
8th	32: 1-7	Mark 12: 1-27	24th	37: 12-20	Luke 2: 41-52
9th	32: 8-11	Mark 12: 28-44	25th	37: 21-26	Luke 3: 1-20
10th	33: 1-5	Mark 13: 1-19	26th	37: 27-33	Luke 3: 21-37
11th	33: 6-9	Mark 13: 20-37	27th	37: 34-40	Luke 4: 1-13
12th	33: 10-15	Mark 14: 1-31	28th	23	Luke 4: 14-30
13th	33: 16-22	Mark 14: 32-52	29th	38: 1-8, 21-22	Luke 4: 31-44
14th	34: 1-7	Mark 14: 53-72	30th	38: 9-16, 21-22	Luke 5: 1-16
15th	34: 8-14	Mark 15: 1-32	31st	38: 17-22	Luke 5: 17-39
16th	34: 15-22	Mark 15: 33-47			

## The Song of the Spirit



By Nigel Beeton.

O when Your Spirit softly sings  
Within our hearts of stone  
Lord, speak to us of godly things  
And make our hearts Your home.

Sometimes our doubts like briars grow  
Sometimes our faith is weak,  
O Spirit, sing, that doubt may go,  
Lord, help us hear You speak.

Transform us through Your Spirit's voice  
And set our hearts alight,  
So truly may our hearts rejoice  
And shine with Godly light.

For those who hear the Spirit's song,  
Are filled then with His power!  
Their light shall shine the whole day long  
And praise fills ev'ry hour!

### A Quiet Thought

*I avoid looking forward or backward,  
and try to keep looking upward.*

Charlotte Brontë

## 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.

### March Worship Diary

1st	Led by The Worship Group; Musician: Revd. Denis Smith.
8th	Led by Alan Goldring; Musician: Mark Best.
15th	Led by 8th Basingstoke Scouts; Musician: Mark Best.
22nd	Service includes Holy Communion Led by Revd. Mike Burrell; Musician: Peter Dixon.

29th	Led by Ruth White; Musician: Mark Best.
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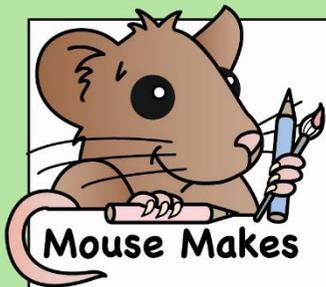
Duty Elder for the month: Matthew Dumbleton.

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.

### March Worship Diary

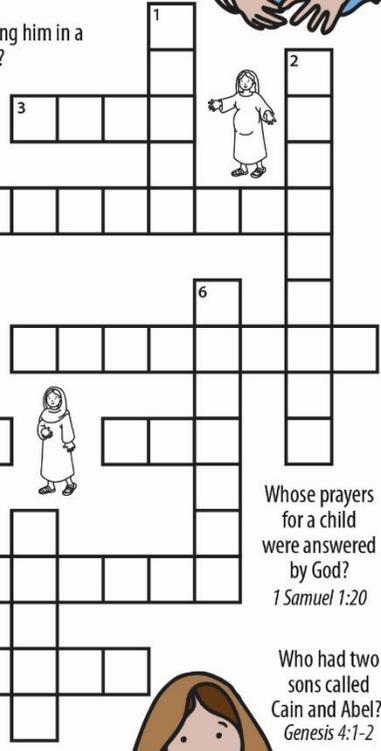
1st	Children's Service. Led by Mark Ward.
8th	Service includes Holy Communion. Led by Mel and Jane Euerby.
15th	Led by Eve Baker.
22nd	Led by Ed Vassie.
29th	Led by Philip Jones.



The Bible has many stories of mothers who had great faith in God. With their love, care, encouragement and prayers their children grew up to be great people of God.



Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?  
Exodus 2:1-3 and 6:20



Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?  
Genesis 17:19



Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?  
1 Samuel 1:20

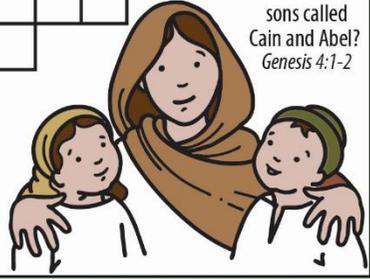
Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?  
Genesis 4:1-2

**Across**

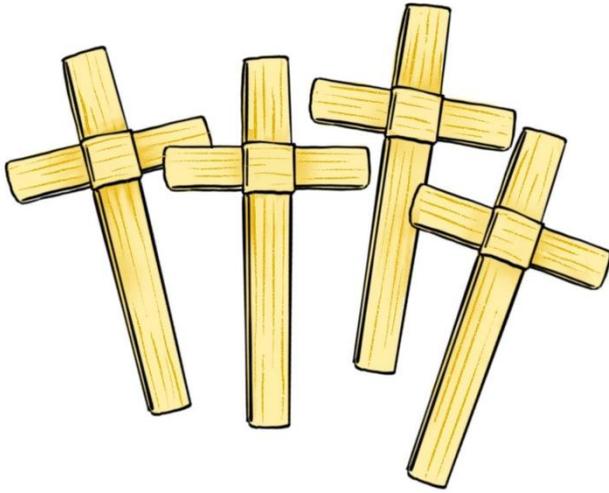
- 3. **Obed's** mother  
*Matthew 1:5*
- 4. **John's** mother  
*Luke 1:57-60*
- 7. **Reuben's** mother  
*Genesis 29:32*
- 8. **Joseph's** mother  
*Genesis 30:22-24*
- 9. **Jesus' mother**  
*Acts 1:14*

**Down**

- 1. **Boaz's** mother  
*Matthew 1:5*
- 2. **Solomon's** mother  
*1 Kings 1:11*
- 4. **Timothy's** mother  
*2 Timothy 1:5*
- 5. **Ishmael's** mother  
*Genesis 16:15*
- 6. **Jacob and Esau's** mother  
*Genesis 25:21-26*



Answer the questions then put them into the crossword



*Next Issue...*

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

# 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]