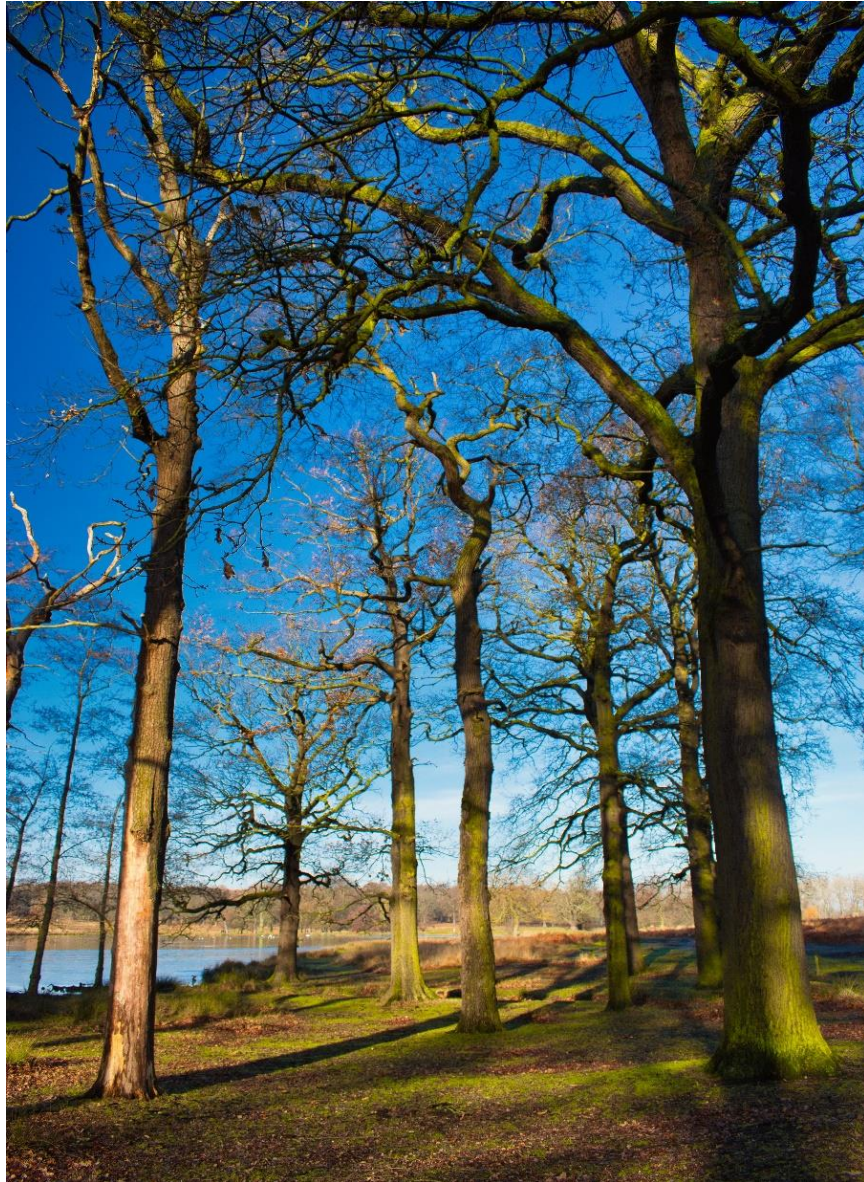


CONCORD



**Richmond
Park**

Happy New Year to everyone

**The Monthly Magazine of
Tolworth United Reformed Church**

January 2020

Other Officers, Leaders and Representatives

Caretaker	Mrs J. Marsh	8399 3926
Christian Aid Secretary	Mr G Stock	
Circle	Mr R Fenn	
Flower Secretary	Mrs C Stock	
Halls Letting Officer	Mr S. Heath	
Junior Church	Mrs B Kelly	
Magazine Editor	Mr O Riches	
Magazine Secretary	Mrs M Fleming	
Missionary Secretary	Mrs B Kelly	
Organist		
Playtime	Mrs M Fleming	
Property Steward	Mr D Bennett	
Pulpit supply	Mrs M Fleming	
'Reform' Secretary	Miss M Lunn	
Women's Evening Fellowship Secretary	Mrs M Fleming	
Synod Area Rep	Mrs M Fleming	
Rainbows	Mrs Shirley Ling	
Brownies	Ms Michelle Nicholls	
Guides	Mrs J Pelham	

Diary – January 2020

Sunday	5th	10.30am Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge 6.30pm Evening Communion led by our Minister
Monday	6 th	5.30pm Pilots
Wednesday	8 th	10.00am Playtime
Thursday	9 th	7.30pm Women's Evening Fellowship – Heather Lodge – All about Honey
Sunday	12th	10.30am Morning Communion led by our Minister
Monday	13 th	5.30pm Pilots
Wednesday	15 th	10.00am Playtime

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday	19th	10.30am Pulpit Exchange - Preacher Revd Helen Hancock from St Matthews Service led by Mrs Cynthia Stock
Monday	20 th	5.30pm Pilots
Wednesday	22 nd	10.00am Playtime
Thursday	23 rd	12.30pm Women's Evening Fellowship – Annual lunch
Friday	24 th	12.30pm Soup lunch at St Matthews
Sunday	26th	10.30am Morning Worship led by our Minister
Monday	27 th	5.30pm Pilots
Tuesday	28 th	7.30pm Church Meeting
Wednesday	29 th	10.00am Playtime

February

Sunday	2nd	10.30am Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert 6.30pm Evening Communion led by Mrs Cynthia Stock
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From our Minister

Kindles, printing machines, 20-20 vision and Anna!

Do you remember your gift to me when I first became minister of the Tolworth, Ewell and Epsom pastorate? It was a Kindle. This new reading revolutionary device introduced a way for me to “hold” a myriad of books and novels in a single electronic form. You will be pleased to know that it is still being used to capacity. Mostly for my recreational reading. It is handy. It is small enough for a pocket or bag and I can take it on trains and boats and planes and have a full selection of reading options.

Since I started wearing glasses a few years ago it is great for my eyes. It has a back light that makes reading easier and I can even do this when it is dark and not disturb anyone. And in the event of misplacing or forgetting my glasses and I can increase the size of the letters so I can do without my reading aids altogether. But surely the most revolutionary thing about this device is that I can download a whole book, novel or biography with a single touch on the screen. In seconds I have selected a book, purchased the book and can begin reading. To have left my home to buy the book in WH Smiths or Waterstones would have taken over an hour.

Of course, five hundred years ago to produce a book ready for readings would have taken months of pain and determination. They were written out by hand, usually carried out by monks and it was laborious work. Apparently not all the monks were as dedicated to the task as others. Richard of Bury once complained that the monks cared, “more about drinking beer than writing books”. Well who wouldn’t? It was the new reading revolutionary device of 1454 built by Johannes Gutenberg that changed all this. It was the printing press and this enabled a great number of books to be produced and subsequently available to everyone and not just the few educated elite.

Ok, they could not be downloaded in seconds as with my kindle. But given the age we can probably argue that it was far more impressive. The most revolutionary thing about the printing press was that ideas could be disseminated to the people more easily. The educated elite were less able to sanction, edit or suppress new views on reform or change. Hitherto a person with a radical idea would be simply arrested or worse.

We now know that it was this revolutionary reading device that ushered in the Reformation. No, not the kindle, the printing press. Knowledge was available to all because of the printing and people to make their own minds up.

Now some of the elite thought that this meant the end of universities and places of learning whereby those of more mature in years handed on and passed down their wisdom and education. After all, now a bright and well-read student would have no use for the oldies with all their experience and acumen. All they needed to do was to obtain the book and breath-in all the knowledge they required. Indeed one Augustinian Monk proclaimed, “why should old men be preferred to their juniors now that it is possible for the young by diligent study to acquire the same knowledge?”

Well perhaps he had not been reading his Christmas stories. If he had, and even though the nativity accounts were written 1500years before him, he would have realised that there will never be a substitute for age and experience. From readings and celebrations of Advent,

Christmas and Epiphany we discover again that whilst we cry “Christmas is a time for Children” (which is true even when grown-ups are sipping the mulled wine and rum and brandy filled Christmas cake) almost all the of characters in the Christmas stories are of mature years. Elizabeth and Zachariah were surprised at their pregnancy because of their age. Joseph’s betrothal to Mary would have been for an older man. The shepherds on the hillside at night would have surely been worldly-wise and experienced for such a responsibility. The wise men would have similarly been the more qualified and accomplished for their task indicating older age for their time.

Now in January as we continue with the birth narratives, Jesus, for example, is presented at the temple (Luke: 2) to none other than Simeon, almost certainly of a good age and Anna, whose age, helpfully if rudely, is identified as eighty-four.

It is likely that Anna experienced a number of disappointments in her life. Her husband died young and she had no children. Anna a name meaning grace or compassion Luke tells us was the daughter of Phanuel.* Now we know she was in a male dominated environment so we are told of her lineage. But the meaning of Phanuel is Face of God. Hearing and seeing does not mean understanding. Reading and knowledge and reason; kindles and books and colleges does not always enlighten. Luke had a better reason for commenting on her lineage. With Simeon they looked into the face of Jesus and knew.

Like Simeon, Anna had been wisely and patiently waiting in the temple for many years. They had the experience and wisdom not to seek quick fixes and immediate gratifications. They had the maturity and grace to wait on God. Yet they had the spontaneity and spirit to look God in the face and recognise God in their presence. They had the alertness to respond, the trustfulness to act and a confidence to appreciate both glory that shone and sense the risks that were to come. Their remaining energy was focused on God.

May be age will not automatically give us all these things. Our abilities in age change. But, at whatever your age look to Anna today and see her response, grounded in her patience, wisdom, spontaneity and spirit, she looked into the face of God and...

At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption (Luke 2:38)

Anna did not look back with regret but forward in hope.

At my age I sense my 20-20 sight as well as other physical abilities may be suffering. And therefore, I am grateful for my Kindle which helps. For our 2020 vision throughout the coming year, and whatever we think is holding us back, may we look into the face of God with the patience, wisdom, spontaneity and the spirit of Anna.

Very best wishes for 2020,

Roger

"...those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

* **Phanuel** (Greek: Φανουήλ Phanouēl) or **Penuel** (Hebrew: פְּנֹֻּ'ֶל Pənu'êl) was the father of Anna the prophetess. He is mentioned once only in the New Testament, in Luke 2:36. He was a member of the Tribe of Asher and his name means "Face of God". *(for those without Internet or were otherwise unsure – Editor)*

Family Circle

Brenda Gill is making very slow progress. We pray that she will regain her strength soon. It was so good to see her make a brave effort to come to the Carol Service and on Christmas morning. **Monica Lunn** was unable to attend some services in December because her walker/trolley was broken. She now has a new one and it was good to see her back with us in time for Christmas. Please remember all those friends who are not too well and feel confined to the house in the cold weather.

Jean Hensman

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Jean Hensman in December. Jean was a very good friend to us at Tolworth when she served as our Local Church Leader for a few years and became well loved by us all. She was a very talented lady who, in her quiet but determined way, worked hard for our church while still deeply involved at Ewell. She retired from being our leader on her 80th birthday but often came to lead worship for us after that. We extend our sympathy to her family and to the congregation at Ewell who will miss her greatly.

Christmas

Thank you to all the people involved in decorating the Rainbow of Angels which hung in our church windows during Advent and Christmas. They were all designed by Gillian Jones and decorated by various Church organisations.. Our Tree Lighting Ceremony was a memorable occasion – thanks to all who read, those who provided refreshments and Roger, our minister, who proved very versatile and talented by playing the organ, piano and guitar at the service. Thanks also to David Bennett and Brian Llewellyn for their work to get the lights working on the outside tree.

The Carol Service was well attended and we thank Malcolm Saunders from Ewell URC for playing the organ for us. Thanks too to those who read and Cynthia for attending to the refreshments.

Christmas morning was another lovely service led, first of all, by Roger, our minister, before he went off to lead the service at Ewell, and then by Roger Fenn who took the second half. We were pleased to share the service with members of the Shekinah Church and the Korean Church who use our halls. A special thank you to Roger Jones for all his hard work over Advent and Christmas despite not feeling very well at the time. We do appreciate all you do for us Roger.

Calendars

All 50 calendars have now been sold. Thanks to Heather Lodge for organising this event and also to those who took photos and bought calendars.

Moir

Résumé of the Church Meeting 19th November 2019

Calendar

The resulting calendar was very good. This project had been very successful, the price being £5 each.

Concert

Everyone had enjoyed the concert. Thanks were expressed to those taking part: Judith Flint, Charmaine Waterman and Roger Jones and to the people who had organised the refreshment. £273.20 had been raised.

Finance

Gift Day donations were £3215. This plus the tax refund of £405 and balance from last year of £685 meant that the total for this year is £4305.

Members agreed that we give just over 10% to local charities:

£100 each to: Oxygen – Street Pastors and Joel Community.

£150 to Kingston Church Action on Homelessness

To date we have spent £6091.10 of the Synod Grant of £8000 and this has been refunded, leaving £1908.90 still available.

Eco-Friendly Church

Following the Minister's letter in the October Magazine and the Operation Noah leaflet, the Chairman suggested should we ask: "How Green is our Church?" and should we become an Eco Church and/or congregation? Clinton Arthur had spoken to the Minister about this and so the members agreed that the Minister should ask Clinton to give a presentation to the January 2020 Church Meeting on this subject.

Church Magazine – Concord

Owen Riches wishes to give up being the Editor. The format of the magazine was discussed. Heather Lodge had printed two possible versions, using colour. The cost of this was to be assessed. Heather would be willing to be the editor if she retires from full time employment. She would know details in January 2020. Therefore Owen agreed to edit the December and January magazines

Chairs for Halls

Ian Fleming had purchased 4 chairs which members agreed would be suitable for the Small Hall and Choir Vestry use. It was agreed to buy 20 chairs for the Small Hall and 12 for the Choir Vestry – 32 in total. The possible purchase of plastic chairs for the Raeburn Hall would be left until January 2020.

Minister's Time

Darryl Knight had asked the Minister about forming a Men's Group. This was discussed and a number of names of people were suggested to be asked if they would be interested.

AoB

Door in Raeburn Hall

It was agreed that the two doors in Raeburn Hall which were painted blue by TV channel 4 should be repainted grey. Geof Stock agreed to organise this in due course.

Roger Fenn would like to rename the room known as the Choir Vestry as we no longer had a choir. Some names were suggested and further thoughts would be needed. (*Hows about "Think Tank?" - Editor*)

Churches Together in Surbiton events:

Unity Week 2020 – a possible pulpit swap.

J John event – Sunday 28th June 2020 at Rose Theatre: 7 – 8.30 pm

(*"J John" is an evangelist – Editor*)

The refresh Book Shop will close on 25th January 2020. (*I had heard it was to become a Dentist Surgery – feel free to gawp through the window – Editor*)

The date of the next Church Meeting 28th January 2020 at 7.30 pm

A copy of the minutes of this Church Meeting will be available in Church vestibule on Sunday 26th January 2020.

Thanks

A big thanks to all for their cards and good wishes. God bless you all and a Happy and Peaceful 2020.

Mary Harding

The back page is set aside (when space permits) for holiday stories, humorous contributions, recollections, reflections, poetry, – in fact anything to get you thinking!

GETTING TO KNOW ME

My name is:	Heather Lodge
The place where I was born:	Wanstead, E. London
My favourite colour is:	Purple-heathery kind of colour
My first job was:	Age 15, washing up on a Friday evening at the local convent girls' school - it became Sotherbys two years later when the remaining nuns retired.
The best advice my parents gave me:	<i>"Words are like diamonds so polish them until they shine like jewels."</i> (My father was a journalist and an endless source of quotes. He was also fond of correcting my essays).
My favourite food is:	A good lemon tart.
The food which I dislike most:	Brussel sprouts and garlic - (and coffee is only served in cakes.)
The best holiday I have ever had:	Probably aged 10 exploring the abbeys and castles of Yorkshire.
My favourite film or television programme:	Sherlock Holmes (with Jeremy Brett) or Poirot (with David Suchet)
My choice of music would be:	Classical (Baroque & Romantics especially)
My favourite season of the year is:	Autumn
The bravest thing I have ever done:	I spent a very wet and windy week walking in the mountains near Fort William with some friends. On one particular walk, we had to cross a wide, fast-flowing river via a steel rope about 12ft above the water. I can't swim.....
If I could pass a law it would be:	People have to give each other room to pass on pavements.
My greatest weakness is:	Um, chocolate I'm afraid

The following was kindly submitted by Barby Girl – it comprises Crime Advice from PC Daniel Graham of the Met. Police to whom we are grateful.

PARKING METERS #ScamAlert

We've had reports of fraudulent thefts in our borough. Victims are being targeted at car parking machines, approached by a suspect who purports to not be able to speak cogent English. This person intimates that they only have cash for a card only parking machine. They ask the prospective victim, in exchange for cash, to insert their card and enter the pin. It's at this point the card is retained in the machine, later to be retrieved by the suspects and used fraudulently elsewhere.

CATALYTIC CONVERTOR THEFTS #CrimePrevention tips

During the last few years, there has been an increase in catalytic converter thefts from cars and vans,* due to the soaring prices of precious metals that are contained within the Catalytic converter units. Whilst our teams are actively working on individual cases, we thought we would bring to your attention security measures you can employ to help prevent you from becoming a victim of this crime. There are security devices available both online and in stores that make the theft of a catalytic convertor much harder. Toyota produce one of the models targeted, the Prius, and have posted this blog about their "CatLoc" device. <https://blog.toyota.co.uk/catalytic-converter-theft-how-to-protect-your-car> (*Look out for your bike Roger!)

If you would like to secure your vehicle, please speak to your car's manufacturer about how this can be achieved or visit the different stores for more advice.

DISABLED BADGES STOLEN #Theft Awareness

We've also had reports that 3 Disabled badges have been targeted, again in cars parked in Wandsworth's car parks. Badges have been stolen from cars left insecure so we'd like to advise drivers to remember to check and double check that your vehicles are properly locked.

Please share this information with anyone you feel could be affected by these crimes.

Kind Regards

PC Graham 4226SW

February Concord

All contributions to be with me* by Thursday 23rd January please
 Post: 95 Cheshire Gardens, CHESSINGTON, KT9 2PT
 E Mail: owemar@madasafish.com

- I shall be happy to forward all contributions on to the new editor.

Many thanks – Owen

If anyone would like a copy of the **Large Print Edition** of the magazine
please let Moira or the new editor know

and don't forget – I always welcome items to be included in

“Reader's Letters,”

“ Prayers” & “Thought for the Day”

– They are there for you to contribute something, if you wish,

this is, after all, YOUR magazine!

*Also please remember that the “Children's Section” is open
to anyone for items about the youngsters' organisations
or of particular interest to young folk*

