

CONCORD



Keukenhof Gardens, Netherlands

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

March 2020

From our Minister

Dear friends,

You may have thought that having focused quite a bit on angels over Christmas why would I want to mention them again at the beginning of lent? Well I would have agreed with you if I had not caught another glimpse of the Knife Angel.

The British Ironwork Centre is a family run business based in Oswestry, and in cooperation with police they created a number of knife banks collecting over thousands of knives from the streets of violence and aggression. Amnesties were run and knives and weapons were handed in anonymously. These artist(s) then created this stunning piece of artwork as a monument against violence.



The sculpture, made from over 100,000 seized blades, was specifically created to highlight the negative effects of violent behaviour whilst solidifying our critical need for social change. Not only does the Angel act as a catalyst for turning the tide on violent and aggressive behaviour, but it is also acts as a beautiful memorial designed to celebrate those lives who have been lost through these violent and thoughtless actions.

We may have witnessed TV news pictures and newspaper photographs of the families and members of the community including many church leaders standing along side these parents and brothers and sisters in their pain after losing a loved one to these crimes. A large number of London's busiest knife amnesty bins are located alongside churches and faith organisations. Does this show how the church is willing alongside those who are suffering and hurting as they seek to find hope and healing.

This did get me to thinking on Lent. We have forty days to think and reflect and prepare for Easter. We may be all too eager to get to Easter date. We travel through the horrors of Passion week looking to the resurrection all too quickly sometimes before standing acknowledging our hurt or standing alongside the pain of others. Are we too eager to arrive at the story where the stone is rolled away before remembering the story of the women who stood at a distance, pushed away from the horror but remained at a death, not intended for women's eyes. It was a death of expediency and politics. Yet for those women, something, maybe devotion or love kept them clinging onto Jesus in his last hours. What does this say to us of the love and suffering of mothers who cling to their children who die on the streets through violent crime. What does this say to us about staying along side all in their suffering.

I think of nurses have a discipline of "staying". Nurses stay in the moment of people's suffering not only thinking about what needs to be done. To just stay. To look on what

others cannot bear. I remember in my social work training to the idea of remaining with the pain. Not being too quick to move on to easier and more gentle matters and avoid the hurt. It needs to be acknowledged, seen and touched if there is to be healing

Perhaps lent is an opportunity to remember this discipline. We cannot all be nurses. We should not all be in caring professions. But all can find ways to stand alongside those who hurt and suffer. An iron works business does not sound like an obvious place to stand alongside people in their pain. But this what British Ironwork Centre did. They also found a way to make a difference from the experience. I would also add that these artists are trying to bring this symbol against violence and aggression to London but seem to need a petition for the London authority to do so. (<https://www.change.org/p/support-the-knife-angel-campaign-help-us-to-get-the-knife-angel-to-traffic-square-and-take-place-on-the-fourth-plinth-for-all-to-see>)

For Christians, the journey of Lent and the cross speaks of a God who waits alongside us in our suffering and who stays with the hurt even when we aren't able to rush into the Easter joy. It speaks of a God who stays with us when we find ourselves left in the emptiness of Holy Saturday. And whist the cross speaks of suffering it also speak of love.

I sometimes feel more helpless as a minister than a social worker. We want to make things better – quickly. But I am grateful for having learnt that sometimes all you can do is stay and to wait –and to wait on God who makes all the difference. We can do this in the season of Lent as we approach the week of Christ's passion again.

God bless,

Picture used with permission

Roger

Family Circle

Joyce and Paul Craven are both poorly at present. Joyce has breathing problems and Paul has had several nose bleeds. We pray that they will soon feel better. Brenda Gill is still very incapacitated with her broken arm. It is still in a brace and she has nurses to help her wash and dress. Sue Heath was in hospital for a few days, came home but is now back in again. We hope she will soon be better. Brian Keepence is also unwell but it was good to see him back at Church on Sunday. We pray for all these friends and hope things will soon improve for them all.

Maira

Magazine Editor

Owen Riches is retiring as editor of Concord because of his health. Owen has been editing our magazine since early 2009 and we thank him for all the years he has done this important job for us. It is not always easy, especially when there is very little material coming in. Ian and I will take this on meantime but please, if anyone has any computer skills and feels able to take on this task – do consider it. It is only for 2 or 3 days each month. At present, however, please send any items for Concord – preferably by E-Mail to iandm@earlblue.com or put anything handwritten in our pigeon hole. Many thanks to Owen for all his work over the years – we do appreciate all he has done.

Maira

Diary March 2020

Sunday	1st	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by Paul and Jenny Hollingum Women's Evening Fellowship Anniversary, Communion Service led by our Minister
Monday	2 nd	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	4 th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Morning Communion led by our Minister
Monday	9 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Tuesday	10 th	2.30pm 7.30pm	Circle Church meeting
Wednesday	11 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	12 th	7.30pm	Women's Evening Fellowship – Alaska & the Yukon – Moira & Ian Fleming
Sunday	15th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr Roger Fenn
Monday	16 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	18 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	19 th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sunday	22nd		Mothering Sunday
		10.30am	Morning Worship led by our Minister
Monday	23 rd	5.30pm	Pilots
Tuesday	24 th	2.30pm	Circle
Wednesday	25 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	26 th	8.30am 7.30pm	Men's Group – Inaugural breakfast Women's Evening Fellowship – Roger Jones – “Dramatic Interludes“
Sunday	29th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert
Monday	30 th	5.30pm	Pilots
April			
Saturday	4 th	7.00pm	Quiz night
Sunday	5th		Palm Sunday
		10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by our Minister Evening Communion led by Mrs C Stock

Thanks

Thank you very much for the flowers Moira gave me the other Sunday. They were a nice surprise as my Christmas bulbs had had better days

Lesley Menneer

I would like to thank Cynthia for the beautiful flowers she gave to Owen and myself. They were such striking colours that they brightened up our days.

Mary Riches



You are invited
to a
MEN'S BREAKFAST
at
TOLWORTH URC,
THURSDAY 26/03/20,
Elgar Hall, 8:30 to 9:30 am
for

Eggs, bacon, (breakfast stuff) and to get to know each other better with chat – donations welcome on day

To assist logistics, if possible, please let Daryl Knight (0208 390 2184) know if you are intending to coming

Quiz Night

Barbara and Gary Smith are organising a Quiz Evening on Saturday 4th April as part of our fundraising efforts. The evening will include a ploughman's supper and although the price or time have not yet been agreed, please keep the date free. It should be a good evening - more information later!

Happy 90th birthday, Monica

Monica Lunn will celebrate her 90th birthday on 26th March. Monica has been connected with this Church since she was 3 years old. She was baptised in Winchester but moved to Surbiton with her family who were among the original members of this Church when it first started. Monica's name was added to our Cradle Roll and she attended Sunday School with her brothers. She became a Sunday School teacher and continued with this for many years. She has been a faithful member of this Church throughout her life, is a familiar figure to us all and is regarded with much affection. Monica looked after her mother for many years and later moved to Parish Court in Surbiton where she has become well known for helping other residents. Until recently she was still delivering Church magazines. Her niece, Gillian, is coming over from the USA to be with her on her birthday. She will bring her to Church on 29th March when we shall be able give her our good wishes and congratulations. **Have a wonderful birthday, Monica!**

World Day of Prayer

Praying with Zimbabwe

Friday 6th March

Afternoon Service at 1.45pm at

New Malden URC (Cavendish Hall)

A service for everyone

Secretary's Report 2019

2019 was quite an eventful year. Having obtained a grant from Synod towards improvements to our premises, we began a fundraising effort to raise our share of the grant. We have had a few events to help meet this – a Coffee morning, a Concert and a very successful Calendar competition and more events are planned. We now have a new Audio Visual system in the Church, refurbished floors at the Raeburn end of the premises and some new chairs in the Small Hall & Choir Vestry. Our Funds were helped when Channel 4 used our halls for filming during October half term.

We no longer have a connection with the girls' College in Jammalamadugu as the college has closed and Sister Martha has retired. We sent the remaining

funds which we had raised for the college to the Campbell Hospital which was connected with the school. They were most appreciative of our donation.. For 2020 the Church has agreed that we will support Mission Aviation Fellowship which is a charity which provides much needed aid to remote areas of the world by flying there in small planes.

Our membership is now 38 as we welcomed June Davis into our fellowship this year, We are happy to have members of the Shekinah Church worshipping with us on Sunday mornings for the first part of the service. 3 of their children have recently started to attend junior church. We welcomed 3 new Elders - Heather Lodge, Barbara Smith and Kathleen Woolard.

In May we started the URC's version of Messy Church – Friends on Faith Adventures. This has proved very popular with between 20 and 40 adults and children attending each month. Numbers in Pilots go up and down and between 4 and 14 have come along each week. Junior Church now has 5 girls – we seem to have lost the 2 boys for now. Thank you to everyone who helps with all these groups especially Gillian Jones and Roger for organising Pilots and Messy Church,

Roger Fenn continues to lead the Circle twice a month and the Women's Evening Fellowship has about 10 members who come regularly. Playtime is thriving and we have a regular group of child minders who are very helpful when it's clearing up time. We have 2 new helpers – Lesley Menneer and Carol Shepherd who have been a great asset and Roger often comes to play his guitar and sing with the children. Roger is visiting Grand Avenue School every week and telling Bible stories to the children through the medium of drama.

At Easter we shared the Maundy Thursday Service with Surbiton Hill Methodist Church and Roger led the worship at Claremont Gardens before the walk of Witness on Good Friday.

We had our Christmas Tree Lighting Service once again and the Carol Service was shared with some friends from Ewell and Epsom. On Christmas morning Roger took the first part of the service at our Church and then left to lead the service at Ewell – thus being able to wish all his pastorate a Happy Christmas. The remainder of our service was led by Roger Fenn.

I would like to thank everyone who helps with any of the groups or organisations mentioned, In many cases it is the same people. It would be good to have some others involved to help share the load. Thank you to the Elders for their support and a special thanks to Roger for his enthusiastic ministry and all that he does for our Church.

Moir

Resume of the Church Meeting held on 28th January 2020

Fundraising – The total raised in 2019 was £6334. This included the sale of Calendars, Gift Day, Coffee Morning, Concert, Christmas Quiz, Money Jars and Channel 4 TV. Heather Lodge reported that out of 12 people who took part in the Quiz, 8 had all the correct answers. Thanks were expressed to all those who had taken part. Synod had so far refunded £6091. This included the cost of sealing the Raeburn and Small Hall floors, and the projector for the Church. We still have to claim for new chairs. It was hoped that the surplus chairs would go to Oxygen for upcycling. Future fundraising would include a Quiz Night organised by Barbara and Gary Smith. If they were unable to organise this, Heather Lodge said she had questions prepared on a “Water” theme. After some discussion, 26^h April was suggested for having a lunch in aid of Mission Aviation Fellowship and 9th May for a Coffee Morning for Church Funds.

Finance – The collection for Children’s Charities on Sunday 1st December was £86. The Carol Service amounted to £152.60 and Christmas morning was £233.97. The total donated to Christian Aid was £ 386.57. The donations for the Bible Society from the Circle £70. Bible Sunday £38.60, and Maundy Thursday £39 totalling £147.60 have been sent.

Eco Church - Clinton Arthur gave a presentation on the Eco Friendly Church. There is a Roche UK Award Scheme for Churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the Gospel is good news for God’s earth. A video from “Operation Noah” was shown. There is a survey to complete to find out where we stand. The members agreed to become involved. Clinton agreed to find out if we are doing enough to receive this award. Clinton was thanked for his presentation.

Christmas – The events over this period went well. The Angel theme was carried through through each service, Thanks were expressed to all who helped and to our Minister for leading the worship. Heather Lodge asked that the decorations in the Church should remain until after Epiphany. This was agreed. It was also agreed that the Community Church would again use our premises for packing “Lunch on Jesus” next Christmas. The date possibly December 21st to 23rd.

Messy Church - This was going well in our Church once a month on the 3rd Thursday. Paul Pickhaver of the Community Church had spoken to Roger about his congregation doing a similar thing but would need to use our premises, No decision was made, we await further details.

Presidency at Communion – The Secretary had been asked by Synod Area for details of Elders who are authorised to preside at Communion in our Church. These were Cynthia Stock and Heather Lodge. As Cynthia had been doing this for over 3 years, the members were asked to agree that she should

continue doing this and that Roger Fenn, who is an assembly accredited Lay preacher, should also continue.

Minister's Time

Men's Group - Brian Keepence will host a meeting of the men in the congregation to discuss starting such a group.

Prayers of Intercessions at Services – The Minister would like members of the Congregation to offer prayers of Intercession during services. He will mention this in Concord and put up a list for people to indicate that they were willing to do this.

Church Plan – Roger suggested that we revisit the Church Plan which we had discussed earlier in his Ministry among us, A meeting to discuss this will be arranged.

Date of Next Meeting – This was arranged for 10th March 2020. A copy of these minutes will be available in the Church vestibule on Sunday 8th March.

Subscriptions for Concord

Subscriptions for Concord are now due. A Minimum of £5 is asked for the year. Please pay your distributor or give to myself if you have not already done so. Thank You.

Moira

Help!

My predecessor, Owen was always able to provide articles to fill the pages of Concord. Having taken on the editorship of this publication I have to say that I have absolutely no creativity and will therefore have to rely on others to provide material. Please help if you can. Thanks.

April Concord

Please let me have any material, articles etc for the April edition of Concord by **Thursday 26th March** – preferably by E-Mail to iandm@earlblue.com

Thank you

Ian



Sunday Services

Morning Family Service 10.30am

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on the second Sunday of month

1st Sunday of month – Evening Communion at 6.30pm

Minister **Revd Roger Jones** **0208 393 4270**
rjones@urcsouthern.org.uk

Office Holders

Secretary Mrs M Fleming

Treasurer Mr G Stock

Serving Elders Mr D Bennett, Mrs M Fleming, Mrs B Kelly,
Ms H Lodge Mrs L Menneer, Mrs B Smith,
Mr G Stock, Mrs K Woolard,

**Management
Committee** Mr D Bennett, Mrs M Fleming, Mr S Heath,
Mr B Keepence, Mr B Llewellyn, Mr G Stock

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 (temporary)	Mr I Fleming	
Organist		
Playtime	Mrs M Fleming	
Property Steward	Mr D Bennett	
Pulpit supply	Mrs M Fleming	
Women's Evening Fellowship	Mrs M Fleming	
Secretary		
Synod Area Rep	Mrs M Fleming	
Rainbows	Mrs Shirley Ling	
Brownies	Ms Michelle Nicholls	
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