

CONCORD



Denali (formerly Mount McKinley). Denali National Park, Alaska

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

May 2020



BERRYLANDS FOODBANK APPEAL

Good Gym Kingston are collecting much needed donations for Kingston Food-bank.

- 1. Find your nearest donation point below**
- 2. Drop items in the box outside your Street Champions home**
- 3. Street Champions will arrange daily collection with GoodGym**



18 Beaconsfield Rd

149 Beresford Ave (Jackie)

89 Chiltern Drive (Anne)

17 Ewell Rd (Balance CIC)

38 Elmbridge Ave (Claire)

16 & 156 Elgar Avenue (Lila/Kamini)

16 Greenfield Avenue (Thay)

89 King Charles Road (Mary)

17 Manor Crescent (Alan)

28 Pine Walk (Sarah)

25 & 229 Raeburn Avenue (Maria/John) 18 Regent Road (Paul)

21 Rose Walk (Dawn)

Please share this message with Berrylands friends and neighbours via email, Whatsapp or Facebook. If you would like to be a Street Champion in Berrylands contact

John Sweeney

email: John.Sweeney@kingston.gov.uk (07702 300167)

From our Minister

Dear friends,

May 2020

As a teenager I began to explore and experience different kinds of food and cooking. One December in Australia, as a child on a Boys Brigade trip indeed, I was agog to find fruit in my salad! But this is tame compared to what then became available in London. I once returned home to my mother having been introduced to Chinese cuisine. Now foodwise, my mother and father were strictly sausages on a Tuesday, fish on a Friday and a roast on Sunday kind of people. Yet to my surprise my mother told me she could cook Chinese food. So sure enough a few days later she dished up some sweet and sour pork, rice and fried mixed vegetables. This meal was presented on my plate alongside, brussels sprouts and mashed potato. I am not sure she believed it was not a real meal without some English trimmings. Today there is a plethora and variety of exotic cooking opportunities. Since food plays such an important part in community and religious life in our diverse churches, we are blessed with wonderful food variety. For many years in Tooting I often experienced the delights of Ghanaian recipes. And now we are often thrilled with Korean cuisine and Sri Lankan dishes.

At the end of this Month we will celebrate Pentecost. Those baptised on Pentecost came from different regions and speaking different dialects. Even sharing the same Jewish faith, they would not have shared the same native language, customs, understandings of God or I suggest, diet. So, in the lectionary reading for the first Sunday in May we read about the early church shortly after Pentecost. Acts 2; 41-47. *“Day by day the Lord added to their number”*. There would have been different prejudices to navigate, understandings of scripture and the law. So, there would have been distinct food preferences. At mealtimes, also important to their religious life, just when you were beginning to learn the names those seated with you at dinner, new faces would appear. *“Day by day the Lord added to their number”*

Think about the meals for our church community gatherings we all bake and boil, prepare and share, steam and stew. How busy are you? In those early church days, someone was doing a lot of cooking. It is hard work in the kitchen particularly if the guest list keeps fluctuating. There are many sacrifices made preparing a common meal. It was not just expensive. It was chaotic. It would have taken so much time.

This reading from Acts reminds us how this new community were delighting in the common things. *“They devoted themselves teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayers”* but also *“all who believed were together and had things in common”*. These **common** things referred to sharing, as in food and possessions as they did. But there is also a further association in this talk of **common** things. It also refers to things that are unholy or not set apart. Common things are ordinary things, un-consecrated things or even unclean things. (Incidentally the ancient Greek word (*koinos*) used in this passage would have had same multiple connotations).

So, after Pentecost the community re-established their “way” of faith and divine love through the death and resurrection of Jesus. It seems the wonders and signs of verse 43 are **also** in the common unholy stuff. The divine love is lived out in **common** ways. In the ordinary. All the things of

life being oriented towards the purposes of God. Prayers and teaching are important but so is eating, community and fellowship. All marks of faithfulness.

We have been experiencing a lot of the commonality over these past months. Unlike the disaster movies and films about the end of the world, (some about viral outbreaks like Contagion and Twelve Monkeys), troubled people become aggressive, self-serving and violent. Have we seen the opposite occur? Sure, it has meant a common sharing of resources and time to help and care for neighbours as we find in the New Testament church.

Also in facing a common trouble we have found even more commonality in the ordinary, a common cause for thanksgiving. From handclapping with neighbours for key workers, significant appreciation (at last) for hospital and care workers and even to a wave or a smile when crossing the road to avoid contamination. Prior to this we would have passed on the same side within inches and not acknowledged the others existence.

In our faith community we try to maintain some order and tradition in our worship. We have common religious practices and we try to build a shared identity to build a community and carry each other's joys and burdens. But in faith there is also an openness to newness and change in the ordinary, **common** things. This is the church's challenge lest it become rigid, formal, and too settled in its own expected pattern.

At Pentecost, Luke is not describing a utopia. We do find a new church both seeking to create a community and being alive to Gods Spirit. *"all who believed were together and had things in common"*. Both building a shared community and being open to the newness of God found in the ordinary. And this experience is like a rushing wind blowing away the cobwebs or tongues of fire forging away our security.

"Three thousand new believers" (Acts 2;41) being added to their number sounds like and evangelists dream. But think of the chaos! We can struggle making space for difference. Pentecost gave the early church a community full of difference; a community that needed to build a common life as it changed day to day. All of life, the sacred and the ordinary is all held in God's hands. After this pandemic is over. How ready will we be to embrace the new world? What will we take away of the ordinary, of God, found in these difficult times. Something old, something new, something borrowed some altogether different and disordered. Even my poems are a bit chaotic. So be it.

God bless

Roger

Diary – May 2020

Regrettably, no diary again this month as everything is cancelled

Family Circle

Janice Kruger had a fall before the "Lock Down" and broke her wrist. She is still in plaster and managing to cope, with difficulty. We hope she will soon feel better. Dave Bennett has been in a lot of pain with his hernia and had to visit A&E but cannot have an operation at the moment because of the virus. we pray that he will be alright. So far, I am not aware that anyone in our congregation has developed the "virus" and I hope and pray that it stays that way.

Please try to keep in touch with one another by phone, if possible. Several of our members are not allowed out at all and are finding life a bit difficult and lonely. Pray for them and for all who are working to save lives and combat this pandemic.

Take care.

Moira

Thanks

I would like to thank all those who have phoned me during this difficult time. I am very grateful and it has been a great help.

Margaret Taylor

Financial needs of our Church during this uncertain period

For each and all of us, our personal giving to our local church is an expression of our discipleship and this income is vital to our Church locally and across our three nations, and to all the work that we do together in Christ's name.

What shall I do about my collection?

The most important thing to do is to put your usual amount in your freewill offering envelope, seal it and put it to one side. If you don't have an envelope just put your collection to one side, week by week.

When we can go to Church again, please bring it along. This will enable the Church to collect the maximum amount of Gift Aid refund.

Many thanks.

Geof Stock

Getting to know me

My name is Daryl Knight

The place where I was born

Above the hairdressing shop at Alexandra Shops, where my mum Doreen ran a hairdressing business

My favourite colour is

Blue from looking into swimming pools

My first job was

Saturday mornings and sometimes before school, making doughnuts and custard tarts in a bakery

The best advice my parents gave me

Learn by my many mistakes

My favourite food is

I like all good food. If I pick one, it would be beans on toast with some crispy bacon

The food which I dislike most

Lumps of thick fat

The best holiday I ever had

I'm glad to say that I have had many good holidays and liked them for different reasons but if I was to pick one, it would be cruising around the Hawaiian Islands

My favourite film or television programme

E.T. for being nice to watch, making you laugh, encourages you to reach out to others in need. It's out of this world!

My choice of music would be

60's to Kiss FM, to Smooth, to Classical. I like bits of most types of music

My favourite season of the year is

Spring and Autumn; Spring for the newness of the earth waking up and Autumn for the colour before going to sleep

The bravest thing I have ever done

I don't think of myself as brave but probably more not thinking things through properly. Picking one that's not close to the heart, as an aircraft engineer, I was on a test flight in a B747 Jumbo Jet. The pilot was required to turn off all four engines and put the aircraft into a dive in order to restart them, which happily the engines did. Although, we did experience loss of gravity with my feet leaving the floor!

If I could pass a law it would be

For people to be kinder, more caring and forgiving of each other

My greatest weakness is

Not trusting in the Lord as I should, knowing how good, loving and caring He is.

Daryl – Thank you. The flight must have been terrifying!

Roger Fenn

Roger has decided that it is time for him to retire from preaching. We understand that he must take care of his health as he is beginning to find it stressful to prepare and present services.

Roger became an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher in 1954 and has preached in many churches within the Southern Synod. He has told us of all the Churches he visited in Surrey, Sussex and in the South London area and of his many and varying experiences when leading worship. In recent years, since he gave up his car, he has preached only locally, mainly at Tolworth and Ewell.

We have all enjoyed his services and shall miss his little anecdotes of his childhood in Yorkshire. Roger often said that he always had a spare sermon in his pocket in case of emergencies and he has been the one we turn to when we hear of a preacher who cannot come.

We are very grateful for all he has done for our Church, not just as a preacher but running the Circle and Bible Study groups over the many years he has been a member. After 66 years as a Lay Preacher, he surely deserves to sit back and enjoy services instead of leading them. He will still be worshipping regularly with us once we are back in Church and we thank him for all we have learned from him. He has been a caring friend to us all and a loyal member of our congregation.

Thank you Roger for your many years of leading worship among us.

Moir

Life during Lock Down

This strange time we are living through at present has its ups and downs. it's not much fun for those who must stay indoors completely , not seeing friends and family or going out visiting places etc. However, by the time this is over and we return to "normal life", we shall all have the tidiest cupboards and drawers, weed free gardens, newly decorated rooms and piles of things to take to charity shops or the tip. It's amazing the things we can do when we've nothing else to do! Not everyone is able to do all these things but those of us who are can take advantage and have a good Spring Clean! Once the lock down is over, we shall all meet in queues for the barber, hairdresser, dentist, chiropodist. and various other establishments. I hope we can still recognise each other with our long hair, imagine Roger with a pony tail?

Children have a different outlook, one of my my grandsons sent me a note saying "Have a great time and enjoy isolation". I don't know about having a great time but it makes me smile every time I see his note stuck to the fridge door.

It's good to be occupied, Roger, our minister, has been delivering food parcels to those in need in the borough. The food is delivered to the Raeburn Hall and packed and distributed by volunteers, so in a small way, our church is doing something to help people during this time.

We can all do our bit by keeping in contact with each other and doing what we can for neighbours and those who are housebound. Let people know we care and are thinking about them. Keep praying for one another and for all those who are working on the front line. The message of Easter is "Hope", so let's remember that and look forward with hope in our hearts that we shall all meet again to worship together before too long.

Take care - **Moir**

Surprised while burgling a house in Antwerp, Belgium, a thief fled out the back door, clambered over a nine-foot wall, dropped down the other side, and found himself in the city prison,

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A vicar's son was asked to entertain the visiting bishop while his parents prepared the lunch, The boy asked him, "Can you tell me how you become a bishop?"

The bishop replied, "Well, first you have to go to church every Sunday, then be top pupil in Sunday School and later be best student at theological college. Then you get ordained and when you are the best vicar in the diocese you become a bishop."

"Oh, I see," said the boy, "because I heard my dad say to my mum this morning he wondered how on earth you became a bishop."

OUR TREASURE

It isn't just in heaven
That our treasure's to be found.
We find it in our friendships
And the love of those around.

It's hard when we can't visit friends –
Just voices on the `phone.
The faces of our dear ones
Are in our minds alone.

We miss the droll expressions,
We miss the twinkling eyes,
We miss the smiles meant just for us
That make our spirits rise.

But all these things will come again,
Though now our hearts are sore.
Because of what we've been through
They'll be treasured all the more.

With thanks to Barbara Pearson

With people being kept at home it might be useful to know how to clean saucepans from Mrs E W Kirk's 1926 book on:

"Household hints and other useful information"

"Scrape any soot off the outside with an old knife, then put the pan into hot soda water, soap the flannel, sprinkle fine sand over and wash pan well, inside and out, removing all grease etc. Rinse in clean cold water, and dry thoroughly, as the saucepan will rust if put away damp.

Be sure to clean the lid outside and inside.

To keep kitchen sink free from soot, always put the pans on a piece of thick paper or folded newspaper. Then, when cleaned, no dirt is made, and the paper can be put in the fire".

So now you know!

We hope to be able to publish a magazine for June. Please let me have any material by 21st May. I look forward to being overwhelmed!

Ian

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Regretably, all services are cancelled for the present

Minister	Revd Roger Jones	0208 393 4270 rjones@urcsouthern.org.uk
Secretary	Mrs M Fleming	8337 8581
Treasurer	Mr G Stock	8330 5492
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	

Other Officers, Leaders and Representatives

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Christian Aid Secretary	Mr G Stock	
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