

# CONCORD



Church of San Miguel, Lanzarote

**The Monthly Magazine of  
Tolworth United Reformed Church  
February 2020**

## **Sunday Worship**

Morning Family Service – 10.30am

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on 2nd Sunday of month

1st Sunday of month – Evening Communion – 6.30pm

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

**Secretary**                      Mrs M Fleming

**Treasurer**                      Mr G Stock

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

**Management**                Mr D Bennett, Mrs M Fleming, Mr S Heath,

**Committee**                    Mr B Keepence, Mr B Llewellyn, Mr G. Stock

## 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 – February 2020**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert Evening Communion led by Mrs Cynthia Stock
Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Playtime
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Morning Communion led by our Minister
Monday	10 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm	Pilots
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm 7.30pm	The Circle Elders' meeting
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Women's Evening Fellowship – Valentine Cake Decoration - Gillian Jones
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd Barbara Pearson
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge
Monday	24 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm	Pilots
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	The Circle
Wednesday	26 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	27 <sup>th</sup>	3.30pm 7.30pm	Messy Church Women's Evening Fellowship – Barbara Pearson
<b>March</b>			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by Paul & Jenny Hollingum Evening Communion led by our Minister

## From our Minister

Dear friends,

Happy Valentine's day to you all! Is this appropriate? Wishing Happy valentines day to you *all*?

In my early days of courting and young love I once sent a Valentines card to one who had captured my heart! Not only did I put my name in the card, (which was not cool at all) but I signed off Roger *Jones!* Quite unromantic and far too formal. Needless to say, I had a lot to learn. And still do!

So, may this February letter be a reminder to those who are married or in a relationship to send cards and flowers or other such gifts. For St Valentine's day is almost upon us. Reciprocating gifts and cards have become the traditional celebration of St Valentine's day as a way of showing appreciation for one another. Maybe it is an occasion to take a relationship deeper and pop the question. But whatever plans you have made or relationships you enjoy, St Valentine's Day as an opportunity to reflect on "love" for a moment. St Valentine's Day is a challenge to every one of us to think a little more profoundly and deeply about "all" our relationships with one another.

It is a little strange that we do not know a great deal about St Valentine. Being that this celebration has become so commercialised, like so many rituals, perhaps we have lost touch with its deeper meaning and the "why".

Some accounts say that St Valentine was a priest from Rome who lived in the third century and who was imprisoned for marrying Christian couples.

But, at the time of the priest Valentine, the emperor Claudius had banned marriages believing married men made bad soldiers. According to legend on the day of his execution, the 14<sup>th</sup> February the priest sent his own final letter to someone he loved, signing it from "Your Valentine".

So, from this obscure story came the romantic tradition. The cards and gifts exchanged on St Valentine's day are expressions of such love. Yet, this account says far more about "love" than romantic feeling and sentiment.

God knows in a lifetime such a love between two people is difficult to come by. This is surely the premise of so many Richard Curtis films. Three weddings and a funeral and Notting Hill being classic examples. So, a big "Amen" is surely due to this priest Valentine for not seeking to frustrate or prevent a couple's life of friendship, companionship and love so many others enjoy. Who would want to prevent such a thing? But even more, Valentine risked his own freedom and ultimately his life not just for the romantic love of another but for *his* love of others. For the love of all those around him. Therefore, what is love?

Love in the Christian scriptures is not founded on reciprocity. Certainly not the exchange of gifts and cards. Leviticus calls us to "love others as yourself". (Leviticus 19) It is not to love others because others have loved you. Love others as you desire to be loved. To treat others as you would like to be treated. And when Jesus speaks of such love, he tells a story of a certain man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. (Luke 10)

This un-conditional love is probably one of the toughest of human acts. It can be at the same time the most beautiful human gift to others and ourselves. Is it tough because we are so used to conditionality and reciprocity in relationships? Because *“this”* does not suit me personally, I am not doing *“that”* for you. But the unconditional love is what we are asked to do. To love unconditionally in all our relationships and beyond.

So Happy Valentines to you all! May 14<sup>th</sup> February be a reminder for us that each day, and in each human encounter, we have the capacity to exchange the biggest gift of all to ourselves and to others we meet. The gift of unconditional love.

Yes, *“Happy Valentine’s Day to you all.”*

*Roger*

## **Family Circle**

**Brenda Gill** has had a fall and broken an arm, She was in hospital for a week but is home now with nurses coming in daily. We pray that she will not be in too much pain and that healing will not take too long. Several members have had bad colds and coughs but are improving now, Please remember those who are housebound and stuck indoors in these dark, cold days – spring will soon be here!

*Maira*

## **Church calendar**

I am delighted to report that the last copy of the Tolworth URC church calendar 2020 was sold just before Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this initiative, either by submitting a photo or by purchasing a copy of the calendar. The exact proceeds for the Church refurbishment project will be reported at Church meeting but is in the region of £300.

I hope the calendar has pride of place on your wall this year. Should we produce a calendar for 2021?

## Christmas quiz 2019

The Christmas quiz 2019 asked you to identify 50 of London Underground's 270 stations. I thought this might be suitably challenging but there is more familiarity with the Underground than I imagined! Even my attempts to mislead you by including errors in the clues did not fool you. Those who know me well will know that my words are better than my numbers - Mile End (Q30) is most definitely a four-letter word followed by a three-letter word.

Twelve entries were submitted of which eight achieved full marks. Congratulations (in alphabetic order) go to the following for correctly identifying all 50 stations:

- Stephen & Maureen Cotterell
- Claire Graves
- Sid Heath
- Brian Keepence
- Daryl Knight
- Brian Llewellyn
- Lesley Meneer
- Margaret Taylor

Very many thanks to everyone who bought a copy of the quiz. Around £30 was raised which will go towards the Church refurbishment project.

For those interested, the answers are published in this issue of *Concord*.

Answers 1 to 27

**Answers 28 to 50**

□□□□□□□□□□Children's Section □□□□□□□□□□

**FOODS OF THE BIBLE**



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

Find these foods of the Bible. Which one is missing?

Milk, honey, dates, egg, figs, raisins, mustard, salt, bread, corn, fish, olives, almonds

**ΟΩΙΟ ΤΗΕ ΤΙΜΕ ΤΟ ΣΤΟΠ**

### **Thanks**

Thank you very much for the church flowers one Sunday morning. During the last year I have received lovely flowers, plants and even food. The church has been most supportive and I feel I have so many friends who are all so caring. Life is still a bit tough but hopefully with spring on the way things will improve.

Thank you to you all

*Brenda*

### **Tolworth Congregational Church – founded in 1933**

The district of Tolworth was first regarded as an area for church extension about the year 1908 when a Deacon of the Kingston Church, Mr. W.H.Hall, brought forward a proposal to extend the work and influence of that Church in this rapidly growing neighbourhood. The area was canvassed the replies proved sympathetic to the idea of a church being established. The project was shelved for the time being owing to the 1914/18 war.

Soon after the end of the war the subject was revived and a suitable site sought. The first site proposed was in the Douglas Road area. The Berrylands Estate was being opened up, reaching from Berrylands Station to Tolworth Station and offered far greater scope for the venture under consideration. Representatives of the Kingston Church joined with those of the Surrey Union Executive Committee and after a careful survey of the district the present site at the junction of Elgar and Raeburn Avenues was chosen.

The site was purchased and through the generosity of Mr. E.A Thorogood and his family a temporary hall was erected and furnished. The area was canvassed by members of the Kingston and Surbiton Park Churches and a congregation was gathered and a Sunday School formed. For the first two years the children met in the morning and the adults in the evening. Mr. E .Freer was Sunday School Superintendent and the services were conducted by Mr.

W.J.M.Lund and later my Mr. R.J. Hall, both of whom were training for the ministry at Hackney and New College. They acted as student pastors.

In June 1933 the church was formally covenanted, 44 persons signing the roll as foundation members. The first Deacons' Meeting was at the house of Mr. Thorogood who was appointed Church Secretary. Deacons' Meetings were held in the homes of the Deacons and the vestries of the Kingston and Surbiton Park Churches.

As the work grew the need for a more suitable and permanent building was fully realised and plans to this end were prepared. An estimate of £3,825 was accepted and the work was put in hand. The total cost of land, buildings and furnishings amounted to £5,193. Towards this the Kingston Church and the Surrey Union each gave £1,000 and the Congregational Chapel Building Society £400.

Through the sacrificial giving of the Church Members and friends the loans taken up to meet the balance were liquidated by 1941. The stone laying ceremony was held on November 18<sup>th</sup> 1933. The church was opened and dedicated on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1934, the Rev. F.H.Wheeler, D.S.C., Moderator, conducting the service, the preacher being the Rev. Dr. J.D. Jones, M.A. of Richmond Hill Church, Bournemouth. Mrs. E.A. Thorogood was the opener.

Congregations increased and the work expanded. Mr. Gordon Wraight was appointed church Treasurer and Mr. D.W.Thomas succeeded Mr. Thorogood as Church Secretary. The Rev. E.Clifford Knowles from Stoke Newington was inducted as the first full-time Minister in October 1934. Mr. Freer was unable to continue as Sunday School Superintendent and in July 1934 Mr. W.G.Cushen was appointed leader. A Club for boys and girls and a Girls' Life Brigade Company were formed. Later Guides and Scouts were established as part of the young life of the Church. Mr. Knowles left for a Church in Canada in May 1938.

The Rev. Percival Human of Milton Regis was inducted to the pastorate in February 1939. The Church suffered during the 1939/45 war and its activities were severely curtailed. Evening services and meeting were suspended and afternoon gatherings were held. Numbers fell as men and women left for National Service and many families moved from the district.

Although the worshippers had to seek the shelters at times, the services were faithfully maintained. As soon as the war was over the Church rapidly regained its strength. A notable achievement in spite of the setbacks was the addition of 90 new members during the war period. The church suffered from bomb damage, the large windows at the side of the main building were blown out. These were later restored by the War Damage Commission.

In June 1947 the Church Constitution was amended in order to provide for a Junior Membership from fourteen to eighteen years. By 1954 70 young people had joined the Church as Junior Members, 40 of them passing to the senior roll. In 1948 the church installed an organ at a cost of £1,000. The money was raised by gifts, sales and loans, the latter being repaid by 1952. From the time of the Covenant Service in 1933 until the celebration of the church's twenty-first anniversary 420 persons joined the Church in addition to the original 44 foundation members. Allowing for removals for various causes the church roll stood at 260 in 1954. Mr. Human left for Grays, Essex in February 1953 after a notable fourteen years ministry.

The rev. Herbert P.Skeys, from Bristol, was inducted to the pastorate in October 1953. In order to facilitate the settlement the Church purchased the property known as 53, Elgar

Avenue as a manse. The work grew, more and more young people joined the Church and both the morning and evening congregations continued to increase, and by 1955 it was realised that additional buildings would be needed if the work and witness were not to suffer.

A sub-committee from the Diaconate made enquiries, visiting other church buildings and plans for a new hall, which had been prepared some years earlier, were modified by the architects to reduce the cost. Tenders were invited and a target of £14,000 was set. The scheme was put to a special Church Meeting held after the anniversary services on Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup> 1956. Promises of gifts and loans by members and friends, together with the £2,000 in the building fund, amounted to £9,600 and at a large Church Meeting held on May 22<sup>nd</sup> it was agreed to go ahead.

Generous gifts of £500 from the Kingston Church and £250 from the Congregational Union of England and Wales Church Extension Fund, together with an interest free loan of £750 from the latter fund enabled the Church to meet its obligations. The new premises were opened on June 15<sup>th</sup> 1957. Through the generous giving on the part of members the Church was able to repay all loans within five years.

The work of the Church continued steadily and a Youth Club, a Youth Fellowship and a Young Wives' Fellowship were commenced during this period. Many people joined the Church so that by June 1965 the Church Roll had reached 330 persons with 60 Junior Members. About 80% of the Junior Members have transferred to the senior church roll. A Finance Committee was now formed as a sub-committee of the Diaconate to advise and budget for the Church's requirements. The work of this Committee has proved to be of great value. The Annual Assembly of the Surrey Union was held at the Church in April 1959.

The Every Person Campaign was carried through and many suggestions for the enrichment of the Church's life and work were received from the members. These were carefully considered by a Special Committee and included forming "Family Church," providing a car for the minister, erecting a new hall and caretaker's flat. These were carried through in due course. Family Church was instituted on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 1965. The old temporary hall was rebuilt with accommodation for a caretaker at a cost of about £14,800, completion being due about September 1965. House Groups were started in 1963 for fellowship, education in church matters and community service.

In 1962 Miss M.M. Maclaren, a church member since 1934, died and bequeathed the freehold property, 43, Raeburn Avenue, to the church for use as a manse, together with a generous gift to the building fund. In 1963 Mr. W.G. Cushen who had been a deacon since 1934 and Sunday School Superintendent from 1934 to 1961 died and a memorial fund in his memory has provided a new pulpit Bible and a sum to be invested, the interest to be used to send Sunday School Teachers to the National Sunday School Union Training Conferences.

The Church Constitution has been amended to provide for the retirement by rotation of two deacons each year, these deacons not being eligible for re-election for twelve months, thus enabling younger and new persons to enter the Diaconate.. Three Church Members who have passed the Congregational Union of England and Wales Lay Preachers' Examinations give regular service to the Churches.

The Church looks forward with thanksgiving and faith. 1862 - 1965

**A further note from the Editor:**

Due to memory loss, later in the day, I had forgotten it was Tuesday and so failed to attend the Church Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January and thus missed any news of a new editor. In order not to let the Church down I should be grateful if some person or persons could take over the job rather urgently, page 10 of the December Concord refers. My thanks in anticipation.

*Owen*

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

**The following has kindly been submitted by Barbara Smith -**

At the beginning of January we offered free bicycle security marking in Kingston Market Place. Unexpectedly, due to so many people turning up on the day, we sadly weren't able to mark all the bikes. So, to make it up to those of you who missed out and because we received such positive feedback, we're offering another session on Thursday 23rd January from 11am - 2pm where we'll be security marking your bicycles and registering them on BikeRegister for free. This can help reduce the chances of your bicycle being stolen and, if unfortunately it is, then the unique security number assigned to your bicycle will help police identify it as stolen and return it to you.

Best regards

*Alison*

*(Forwarded to Barbara by Alison McWhinnie of the local Met. Police)*

**March Concord**

All contributions to be with me\* by February please

Post: 95 Cheshire Gardens, CHESSINGTON, KT9 2PT

E Mail: [owemar@madasafish.com](mailto: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***



