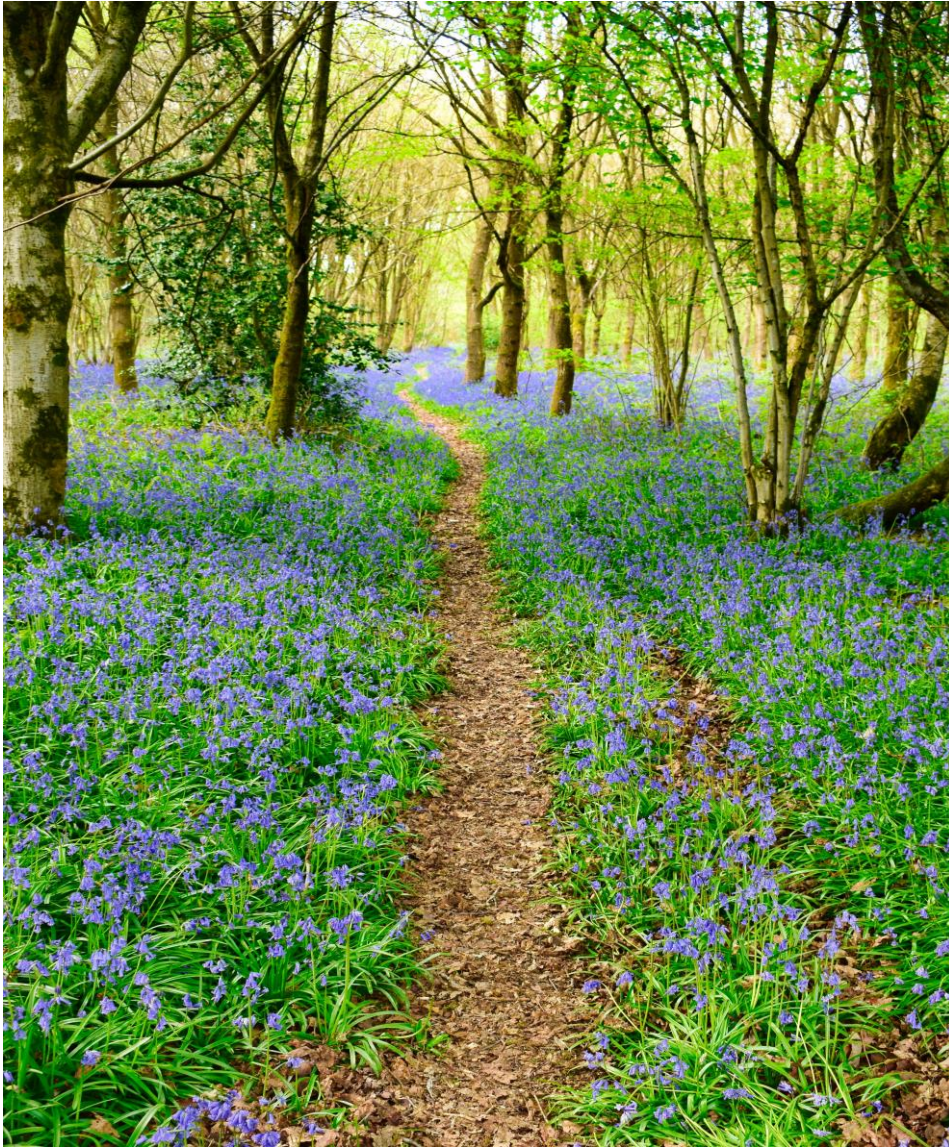


CONCORD



Leith Hill

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

May 2019

Diary – May 2019

Wednesday	1 st	10.00am	Playtime
Saturday	4 th	10.00am	Coffee Morning in aid of Church Funds
Sunday	5th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by Revd Barbara Pearson Evening Communion led by Mrs Cynthia Stock
Wednesday	8 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	9 th	7.30pm	Women’s Evening Fellowship – AGM
Sunday	12th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by our Minister
Monday	13 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Tuesday	14 th	2.30pm	The Circle at 66 Elgar Avenue
Wednesday	15 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	16 th	3.30pm	Friends in Faith Adventures – Messy Church
Sunday	19th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr Roger Fenn
Monday	20 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Tuesday	21 st	7.30pm	Church meeting
Wednesday	22 nd	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	26th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by our Minister
Tuesday	28 th	2.30pm	The Circle at 66 Elgar Avenue
June			
Sunday	2nd	10.30am 6.30pm	Church Anniversary Morning Communion led by our Minister Evening Worship led by Mr Roger Fenn

From Our Minister

Dear friends,

In my letter to you all last month I mentioned a new initiative the United Reformed Church are asking its churches to consider. I have now been made aware of a second project which we are being asked to pilot. In view of the recent challenges and changes in each of the pastorate churches in Tolworth and Ewell and Epsom I thought I might use this May letter to provide you with some information about these initiatives as well explore how they maybe relevant for our developing mission and ministry.

Walking the way: Living the life of Jesus today

Walking the Way is the United Reformed Church focus on lifelong Christian discipleship and mission. It moves beyond our church programmes and planning in the world. Into our day to day living. Among our neighbours, friends and family and our colleagues and acquaintances. A place where each step we take is accompanied by Jesus, helping us to bring about change in our own lives and ultimately in the church and in society.

By engaging with the “Walking the Way programme,” we can together explore what being a Christian disciple means and hopefully deepen our faith. Walking the Way explores what it means to follow actively, learn from and be transformed by Jesus.

I guess we have all been doing this together to a greater or lesser extent. But I am sure we can agree that there is always more to discover about God, one another and even ourselves in our walks with God. Who knows, says the blurb, “you may grow beyond your wildest dreams, living as a disciple in all parts of your life”.

This is for anyone, whoever you, whatever your existing relationship with Jesus Christ and whatever your personal circumstances. It is for you whether you have been following Jesus for five days or five decades.

Of course, there is nothing new about being a disciple of Jesus. What is new about “Walking the Way” is its practical, dynamic, flexible and accessible approach as well as the support and resources available to us.

As you recall we used Healthy Church process to help us review and plan our future mission and ministry together, just over one year ago. We talked about being a healthy church was not a focus on numbers in the congregation.

As nice as it is to see a full church our call is rather to strive to be a healthy faith community in terms of our ministry and discipleship. This is how we live out our call to, with God’s grace, make disciples. “Walking the Way” has a similar approach and may be complementary to our journeys here together.

The United Reformed Church and Southern SYNOD are developing the programme for our churches with support from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. Two of our number have expressed an interest on attending the Vision Day in Oxted on 28th May. I will be attending too. We can explore together whether our pastorate or churches may like to be a part of the SYNOD Learning Hubs being introduced in September 2019. Let me know if you are interested in attending on this Vision day. (*Relevant poster towards back of magazine – Ed.*)

Friends on Faith Adventures or MESSY CHURCH

There has been some discussion in recent years concerning worship services for the community. In the church we have become very Sunday Centric! All our resources and efforts go into delivering an act of worship on Sunday morning. The question has been asked whether Sunday is the best or at least only day “church” should be provided. Due to family commitments and opportunities for families to spend whole days together often falling on a Sunday, should we in the church consider providing acts of worship for families at alternative times.

“Friends on Faith Adventures” is a proposed new venture to be delivered by PILOTS (The United Reformed Children’s organisation). The aim of this programme is to take some core principles and practices from current PILOTS and mix them with some new resources and activities. Along the lines of Messy Church, the idea is to offer a mid-week act of worship, including a bible story and song, alongside activities and some food for families.

This worship service would be open to all, for adults and children, adults would of course remain with their children, although worship ideas, themes and activities would all be provided in one box! The aim is for children and families to explore faith and scripture together in different ways from the usual Sunday service. And of course, there is a link to “Walking the Way.”

Because a new PILOTS company started in Tolworth quite recently, we have been approached to consider whether we would like to pilot the “Friends on Faith Adventure” initiative.

Furthermore, although we may not have the resources (yet) to deliver a weekly service, I did think we could also link with local churches who are providing Messy Church on a monthly basis and perhaps provide some consistency between these acts of worship. So for example we could provide a similar format on the same day and time in alternate weeks. Consequently there would be some recognisable and consistent identity for the community for these acts of worship.

If anyone would like to participate in this initiative, please let me know.

So there it is. Some opportunities and support from our denomination to help us and equip us in our ministry. I thought I would use the letter this month to disseminate some practical information and share some potentially useful resources we could use in our ministry.

Yet, however our churches move on together and whatever resources we utilise I pray we may continue to learn together and grow as confident disciples of Jesus Christ.

" 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' and 'love your neighbour as yourself.' " Matthew 22; 37-39.

God bless,

Roger

Family Circle

Brenda Kelly has almost completed her treatment but has not been feeling too well lately. We pray that she will soon feel better and will regain her strength once the treatment is finished.

Jerry Gangadeen has a chest infection and is still suffering from a painful hip.

Monica Lunn had a fall in her flat recently and is in a lot of pain. She may have damaged her ribs. She is feeling a little better now but it may take some time to recover fully.

Brian Keepence's friend, **Margaret**, has been in hospital recently. She is home now and taking things easy. We send her our best wishes and hope she will soon feel better.

Some of you will remember **Dick Fry**, husband of Pat Fry who used to be our magazine editor. Sadly, Dick passed away recently and we send our sympathy to Pat and her family. Dick, although not a member of our Church, did a lot of printing and compiling of our Carol Service sheets etc. in years gone by.

We ask God's blessing and powers of healing and comfort on all these friends.

Magazine Editor

After many years of editing Concord, Owen Riches feels he would like to retire. He is willing to stay on until we find someone to take his place. We are very grateful to Owen for all he has done in keeping Concord going and we shall miss the little quips he often includes. If anyone feels able to take on this job, preferably someone with computer knowledge, please speak to Owen or myself. The work involves compiling the material sent in each month and is not a time consuming task but it is a vital way of communicating with members and friends of our Church. Please think carefully if you might be able to help with this.

Moirra

Friends of Faith Adventures

You will have read in our Minister's letter that we have been asked to try out this new URC venture. It is similar to Messy Church and we hope to hold the first meeting on **Thursday 16th May** at 3.30pm until 5.30pm and meeting monthly thereafter. Please let Roger or Gillian know if you would like to come along and take part or help in any way. Even if you can only come now and again, your help would be appreciated. It is something new for our Church with the potential for new growth in our church community so let's take advantage of the opportunity.

With Thanks

Moirra

Thanks

I have just been told that I am in remission, with just two more sessions of chemo to go. Which is good, the treatment has been grim taking between four to six hours every three weeks, plus endless visits to doctors, nurses and more injections at St Helier Hospital

I cannot lie the last six months have been really tough and I could not have coped without all the support I have had. My family have been wonderful, plus many friends.

I would like to say a big thank you to all of them and especially you, the church, who through friendship and prayer have been fantastic and so welcoming each Sunday which I have managed to attend each week and then home to collapse in a heap!

Plus a huge thank you to all the flowers, gifts, notes and letters that I have received.

The NHS is a wonderful organisation and I cannot fault it, as I have had wonderful treatment. Also I had a Macmillan nurse who has always been on the end of the phone when I needed support

The next big hurdle is the return of my hair which hopefully will not be too big a shock to everyone, especially me.

So a massive thankyou to everyone.

Brenda Kelly

Many thanks for the beautiful bunch of flowers received from Cynthia on Sunday evening – it was most kind.

Mary Riches

Thank you so much for the beautiful Easter flowers brought by Moira and Ian. They are downstairs for us all to enjoy. It was lovely to see Moira and Ian. Thank you to them for giving up their time. They were able to catch up with old friends too.

My Love and God Bless to you all.

Mary Harding

We would like to thank the church for the lovely bunch of flowers which Moira gave me after the Easter service. They definitely brought a spot of cheer into our living room.

Ann and David Musgrove

Please could you thank the church family for the beautiful flowers Cynthia gave to me after the evening service. It was very good meeting each other after my long absence away.

With love *Robbie*

Thank you for the colourful flower arrangement that Paul brought home from Church on Easter Sunday – they reminded me of the wonderful team of flower arrangers we have – what would we do without them?

Joyce Crauen

Treasurer's Report

Financial Position for 12 months to 31st December 2018

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Church Offerings	£11427 (£11724)	Ministry & Mission & Pulpit Supply	£21583 (£23835)
Donations	£1229 (£1294)		
Tax Refund	- (£2308)	Other	£7024 (£6047)
Other	£501		
	£13157 (£15326)		£28607 (£29882)
Halls	£31126 (£28479)	Halls	£12851 (£12607)

(2017 figures in brackets)

In 2018 we appeared to be a bit better off. Income from halls lettings was up by £2600 and Ministry expenses were down by £2200. Freewill offerings were slightly down by £300. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, it was not possible to submit the Gift Aid refund claim of about £3000 for 2017 and accordingly this has yet to be received. Overall, the surplus on the General Account was £2261, up by £947

The Gift Day total, £3150, was £440 lower but this, also, awaits the Gift Aid Refund. I am, as always, most grateful to you for your generosity in this giving.

At the November 2018 Church Meeting it was decided not to send the usual charitable donations of £600 from Gift Day and £400 from Communion Fund until after a discussion about this in January 2019. Therefore this £1000 still shows in the Church's accounts. The amount of our reserve in the COIF Charities Deposit Fund remains the same at a little over £10,400 as it has not been necessary to draw on this.

Finally, may I express my thanks to the Halls Lettings Officer, the Property Steward and his assistants, the Examiner of the Accounts and the Typist, and my appreciation for all they do.

Thank you all for your continued generosity and support for the Church.

Geof Stock

There is the story of a minister who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. Good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

Résumé of the Church Meeting 19th March 2019

Missionary Funds

The Members discussed whether we should send the £1000 to the Campbell Hospital. (*Campbell Hospital is a hospital in India – Ed*) Some members had reservations, it was felt we needed more information about the hospital. A vote was taken: 8 against sending the money and 3

wishing to send it now. If, after more inquiries and we were happy that the money would be well used, we would send this amount to the hospital.

LMM Review

Following the meeting of the group, the Secretary had sent the report to Revd. Martin Farris, but had had no response from him.

Membership

We had welcomed June Davis into membership at the morning service on 10th February.

Financial Report

Following the lunch in aid of Water Aid £246 is to be donated.

The Treasurer introduced the accounts for 2018. He thanked members and friends for their generosity. The chairman thanked Geof Stock for his work during the year. Accounts and report attached.

Healthy Church

The Founding Statement which also serves as our Mission Statement was discussed. We also considered whether we should be thinking about a way of including the community other than Sunday worship, such as the Berrylands Festival on July 7th. We could become involved, go on the committee or help on a stall.

LICC Church learning hubs

This is a scheme of the URC in partnership with LICC to equipping God's people for whole life discipleship involving a 12 week course run by the Southern Synod. An initial meeting will take place at Oxted URC on 28th May.

Fund Raising Plan

The members put forward practical ideas to use the grant of £8000 from the Synod. These were for new chairs and tables for the Halls and Ian Fleming agreed to look into this. A projector and screen which the chairman had made inquiries about. Refurbish the Choir Vestry, the chairman will contact Lucy Robinson about this renew the curtain surrounding the Cross at the front of the Church. Gillian Jones agreed to obtain estimates. In addition the Guides and Brownies storage room and the floor tiles in the Church office were mentioned, these needed work on them. Heather Lodge had tabled some ideas for fund raising over the next 2 years, and these were discussed. These will be in the next Church magazine.

(April 2019 – Ed.)

AoB

The members agreed that our Church buildings could again be used to pack Christmas Hampers on 19th, 20th & 21st December.

Gillian Jones introduced a URC idea, "*Friends of Faith Adventurers*," a type of Messy Church. We have been asked to try a pilot scheme of 6 sessions. It was agreed to hold this once a month on a Thursday at 3.30 pm.

The next Church Meeting was arranged for May 21st at 7.30 pm

A copy of the Minutes of this church Meeting will be available in the Church Vestibule on Sunday 19th May.

Tolworth URC Calendar Competition 2020

As you know, over the next couple of years we need to raise around £8000 to match our grant from Synod. April's issue of *Concord* carried a suggested fundraising plan and the sharp-eyed among you will have noticed that this includes a 2020 calendar competition.

At their last meeting, the Elders agreed that this competition would be a great start to the fundraising programme and I can therefore declare - with an appropriate fanfare - this competition is now open!

We are looking for photos that are:

- Local – taken within five miles of the URC at Tolworth, Ewell or Epsom.
- Taken in 2019 by yourself.
- Unedited

Most important of all, the photo must show water as a key part of the picture. It can be water in any form, from a glass of water on the kitchen table to boats on the River Thames.

Photos can be in colour or black and white but should be of high enough quality that they can be reproduced in A4 size (the size of *Concord*) and in landscape format.

Technical difficulties (ie lack of quality printing facilities) mean that photos can only be accepted in print format. Please do not send in your entries by email.

The competition is open to the congregations of Tolworth, Ewell and Epsom United Reformed Churches as well as those who use church premises (eg Toddler groups, dancing classes, guides & brownies etc).

Each photo needs to be submitted with entry form. There is no entry fee as such but please consider a donation of £1 per entry. You may enter up to three photos. The twelve most popular photos as voted for by Tolworth URC will be made up into a water-themed calendar for 2020. We aim to have these on sale in the autumn.

Please bring your entries to Tolworth URC on **Saturday 3 August 2019**. Entry forms will be available shortly with further details. If you have any queries please contact heatherlodge@tiscali.co.uk.

Readers' and Other Letters

Greetings Cards by J.R.J.

JRJ is me: Joyce Rebecca Johnson and all the cards on the stand in the vestibule have been made by me. There are cards for Birthdays (male and female) and children, cards for Thinking of You, which double up for Sympathy and Get Well and for something a bit different – Just for You.

On request I can make Anniversary Cards, Baby Cards and also add numbers to cards.

So when you next are thinking of someone's birthday take a look at the stand. The cards are all reasonably priced. You see 80% goes to Church Funds, originally it was for Jammalammadugu, 20% for me to get more equipment, that way everyone benefits. There is a box in the hymnbook cupboard to put the money in.

Thank you *Joyce Johnson*

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

How's this for something new? Heather has kindly sent in this Word Search Puzzle. It shouldn't take you too long – even Grandpa had solved it in ½ an hour.

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

Amos, Daniel, Ezekiel, Ezra, Genesis, Job, Luke, Malachi,
Peter, Philemon, Proverbs, Titus

Find these books of the Bible then rearrange the letters not used to find the missing book

ΟΩΙΘ ΤΗΕ ΤΙΜΕ ΤΟ ΣΤΟΠ

May 28th
10.00 – 15.30

VISIONDAY

Oxted URC

From September we will be forming a “*Church Learning Hub*” of up to 10 churches from Southern Synod, in partnership with LICC, equipping God’s people for whole life discipleship.

It would be good if churches encouraged their Minister, Elders and Members to attend this inspiring day, to discover what an exciting opportunity this initiative would be for your church to be involved with.

To find out more, or to book your place,
contact Andy Twilley: 07552 751600

training@urcsouthern.org.uk

ALL ARE WELCOME!



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

licc.

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

It was Heather who set us thinking this month! It even stirred Grandpa into mental activity.
“It is Matthew of course!”

Grandpa also remembers some of the things his parents taught him:

My father taught me Humour:

*“When that lawn mower cuts off your toes,
Don't come running to me.”*

My mother taught me How to become an adult:

*“If you don't eat your vegetables,
You'll never grow up.”*

June Concord

All contributions to be with me by Thursday 23rd May please

Post: 95 Cheshire Gardens, CHESSINGTON, KT9 2PT

E Mail: owemar@madasafish.com

Many thanks – Owen

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

p.s. Thanks

Thank you for the Easter flowers, we found at the top of the stairs on our return from the coast, a much needed break for Rachel from writing a dissertation and Robert's a level revision.

Alan & Julie Marsh