

CONCORD



Wrangell St Elias National ark, Alaska

The Monthly Magazine of Tolworth United Reformed Church

July and August 2019

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**
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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

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Synod Area Rep	Mrs M Fleming	
Rainbows	Mrs Shirley Ling	
Brownies	Ms Michelle Nicholls	
Guides	Mrs J Pelham	

Diary – for July / August 2019

Monday	1 st	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	3 rd	10.00	Playtime
Sunday	7th	10.30am 12.00 noon 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by Revd Barbara Pearson Berrylands Festival Evening Communion led by our Minister
Monday	8 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	10 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	11 th	7.00pm	Women's Evening Fellowship – Supper Evening at Eunice Crowl's
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Morning Communion led by our Minister
Monday	15 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Tuesday	16 th	7.30pm	Church Meeting
Wednesday	17 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	18 th	3.30pm	Messy church - FOFA
Sunday	21st	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr Roger Fenn
Monday	22 nd	5.30pm	Pilots
Sunday	28th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by our Minister
August			
Sunday	4th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by Mrs Cynthia Stock + Speaker from Joel Community Trust Evening Communion led by Ms Heather Lodge
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Morning Communion led by our Minister
Wednesday	14 th	11.30am	Women's Evening Fellowship – outing to Woodstock Garden Centre
Sunday	18th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr Roger Fenn
Tuesday	20 th	7.30pm	Elders' Social Evening at the Manse
Sunday	25th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert
September			
Sunday	1st	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by Revd Barbara Pearson Evening Communion led by Mr Roger Fenn

From Our Minister

Dear friends,

What were you doing in July fifty years ago? More precisely, 20th July 1969? I was at my brother's engagement party. But I was glued to the TV. This is the anniversary in July 2019 of the first human moon landings? Fifty years ago I watched Neil Armstrong and Buss Aldrin walk on the moon. There was less computer technology on Apollo 11, the spaceship that took them to the moon and back, than we have in our mobile telephones today.

Is this why there are numerous new radio and TV programmes coming up in July concerning new technology, science and religion and space travel. Imagine all the changes that have occurred in the last fifty years. It is colossal. All this in just a single lifetime. Imagine the fifty years prior 1969 and the changes that occurred in society in that single lifetime. Now think about the fifty years, one hundred years, one thousand years prior to that. The changes were minimal and slower! The rate of change over the past two lifetimes is mind blowing!

Some years ago, on a youth camp we were discussing change in society. We developed a visual portrayal of this discussion with a timeline. Try it yourself! In best Blue Peter fashion, use a roll of wallpaper and draw a long, very long to signify all the years from the time of creation to today. 000 is the year dot (either three billion years ago or four thousand years ago depending on your biblical interpretation) to 2020.

000 _____ 2020

Then pinpoint with a dot on this timeline all the significant changes in the world down through the centuries! Place a dot, where you think human communication started, hunting, the invention of the wheel, living in buildings, farming, making tools, making weapons, industrialisation, the combustion engine, flight, use of radio waves, television and radio, space travel, the computer, the internet, artificial intelligence etc....

You will find of course that all the dots will be concentrated over the past two lifetimes. There will be probably be too many dots all at one end of the timeline. What about the amount of changes likely to occur over the next fifty years?

In 1970 the writer, Alvin Toffler wrote the book Future Shock. He suggested that in the same way people experience culture shock when moving to a new country, we experience today similar disorientation because of digital and technological overload! Putting it simply, by the time you have walked to John Lewis and purchased the new i pad 9.7 it is out of date!

I began thinking about all of this as I was preparing for Trinity Sunday a few weeks ago. The gospel reading for the day was John 16; 12-15. ***"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now!"*** Now I presume that Jesus was not referring to space travel, radio waves, or mass communication. I did wonder about the revelations we have faced down the centuries and how Church and our faith was not able to bear them over the centuries. Some of it was technological and some revelations of science.

A man born in 1564 described how in fact it was the sun that was the centre of the universe and not the earth. The Church set up the inquisition to try to eradicate such heresies. It was claimed this was heresy and the Pope half-heartedly agreed for Galileo to write his book as long as he kept it to a “mathematical proposal.” But in the end Galileo was convicted of heresy and sent off to Florence. The Church unable to bear it.

On our journey: What are the changes for us or the things have we discovered that has broadened our life of our faith? Our relationships with the world faiths perhaps? Developments in genetics? The sexuality debate and same sex marriage. Institutional racism? Artificial Intelligence? We may like to reflect on how we reacted to these changes and discoveries. Were we accepting of them readily, new revelations from God delighted by the new challenge they gave to us? Or did God drag us kicking and screaming towards the change and new ways being revealed to us because we could not bear them.

John’s gospel was of course written for the new faith community. These words were probably quite specific about the disciples not being able to bear the way of suffering and death Jesus was about experience and how this new community was also to carry that cross.

Whilst we may need to be careful about Future Shock and new technology, or societal trends perhaps we can also be careful about Jesus words, ***“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now!”***. Perhaps either way we can give thanks for the Spirit of God, subversive and dangerous working in our lives.

We may also reflect on working together with God and supporting one another in our faith communities through the changes, challenges and new experiences. Indeed, Jesus was expecting the new community to help one another through the things God is calling us to bear for the Gospel – the good news for the world. (John 19; 26-27) Here is your mother, your brother. After all, we are one body together seeking to walk the way.

In 1962 John F Kennedy met a Janitor moping the floor at NASA in 1961. John F Kennedy asked the janitor what he did at NASA. “I’m helping out a man on the moon” he replied.

Apparently, there is also an account from the seventeenth century when Sir Christopher Wren went unrecognised among some of the work men working on the building of St Pauls Cathedral. One said, “I am cutting a piece of stone”. A second said, “I am earning five shillings and tuppence a day”. A thirds man answered, “I am helping build a beautiful Cathedral for God.” That man had vision. In a world of change our faith can grow and we can wonder. We can support one another when things seem hard to bear and work together building beautiful things for God

I leave with you the words of the final hymn we sang on Trinity Sunday;

“God is working (Gods) purpose out as year succeeds to year”.

God bless,

Roger

Family Circle

Brenda Kelly has not been very well in recent weeks. We hope she will soon feel better.

Lesley Menneer will be in hospital again for the next stages in her new treatment at different times over the summer. We pray that this will be helpful for her.

Heather Lodge has had a bad fall and broken her elbow. She is in a lot of pain and has various other cuts and bruises. We hope she will soon recover and feel back to normal soon. We are very grateful to Roger Fenn for stepping in to take the service in place of Heather on 30th June.

We were saddened to hear of the recent death of **Brian Bell** who was an Elder of our Church and Property Steward for many years before moving to Hereford. We extend our sympathy to Mary and their family

Please remember these friends in your prayers.

Maira



Berrylands Festival

This local event will be held on Sunday 7th July from 2pm at Stirling Walk. Our Church will have a stall there and various children's games. Help is needed to man the stall and anyone able to help on the day should contact Roger Jones. We hope to show that we are part of the local community by taking part in this festival and making our Church known to those around us.



Joel Community Trust

On Sunday 4th August, we will be visited by a team from the Joel Community Trust for the Homeless. They have kindly offered to provide and make the tea and coffee for us after the service and someone from their group will give us a short talk about their work during the service. Please try to stay for coffee on that day as they provide everything needed and deserve our support.

Résumé of the Church Meeting, 21st May 2019

Matters Arising

Missionary Funds

This money was earmarked for Jammalamaduga Girls College. As this no longer exists Ian Fleming proposed that we sent this money to Campbell Hospital. This was seconded by Kathleen Woolard and the members agreed. Ian would contact the hospital via E-mail before sending this. It was agreed that money collected in “Grandpa’s Pot” should go to Church funds..

Berrylands Fair, 7th July at Stirling Walk

The Chairman suggested that we should join in this. Organise a stall with games, maybe selling handmade cards. It was proposed that a banner with the Church name on it could be bought. Ian Fleming would look into this. Ian Fleming proposed and Cynthia Stock seconded that we should take part in this fair. The members agreed.

Fundraising

This was discussed. As we have as grant of £8000 from the Synod, we need to match this over two years. We plan the following:

2019 Annual Additional Income from:

Additional and Letting increase charges
Fundraising – coffee mornings
Gift Day and other budget savings

Planned Expenditures:

Halls floors, chairs and tables for halls
Audio Visual equipment
Storage shelving in cupboard in Elgar Hall
Refresh Choir Vestry
Double glaze high windows in Church
Clean curtains in chancel.

Financial Report

Church collection for Christian Aid week was £273
Coffee Morning made £306

Pilots

The inauguration of the Pilots Company and Officers will take place during the morning service on 23rd June.

The date of the next church Meeting – 16th July 2019 at 7.30 pm

A copy of the minutes of this Church Meeting will be available in the Church Vestibule on Sunday 13th July.

Readers' and Other Letters

I have just spent some time at Sissinghurst Castle Gardens. The approach to this venue allows you to appreciate the wonders of our world. Fields of green hedgerows and trees.

Once in the gardens, after a discussion about the admission price to Kew Gardens many years ago, my sight and senses were overwhelmed by the sheer variety of the plants, roses, peony and daisies, to name but a few, we walked into an enclosed garden.

There were little information points, written on slate, by the gardeners. The highlight for me was walking from the white garden to the "wild garden." It reminded me of growing up in West Ewell, it's the freedom to roam amongst the trees, walk in tall grass and be a child, again. There were several apple trees and fruit beginning to grow, note to self, go back in the autumn! No matter your age there is something for everyone

Barbara Smith

Thanks

My thanks for the beautiful flowers which Cynthia gave to me after the Sunday morning Worship. They really do look lovely in my lounge and have been much admired.

Margaret Taylor

Thank you for the flowers I received from the Church the other Sunday. They were nice and bright.

I would also thank Church Members who phoned Kathleen to see how I was in hospital. Everything went very well.

Lesley Menneer

From the filler file:

Some years ago a *bishop of St. David's*, on holiday in a Welsh village, was asked to conduct the Sunday worship as the vicar was ill. Commented the Vicar's warden:

"A worser preacher would have done, but we couldn't find one."

(W.E.P. - Christian Crackers (3))

CHANGES

Thank God for the changes in nature,
The seasons, the circling years.
Flowers droop and we're sad, the seeds sprout and we're glad,
Let's welcome them, banish our fears.

Thank God for the changes in children,
The growth of their bodies and minds,
One moment they're small, turn around and they're tall,
Let's welcome the changes and signs.

Thank God for the changes in churches,
New knowledge, new insights God gives.
God's love flowing free, for you and for me -
Let's welcome the truth – the church lives.

Thank God for the changes in people,
The change in ourselves that we see.
We can welcome new ways, when we pray and we praise -
Let's welcome new you and new me.

Thank God who is faithful, unchanging,
We trust where we never can see.
God has shown us the way, though we stumble we stay
Upheld by the love given free.

Barbara Pearson

From Care Prayer Diary

God of grace, please help us to be channels of Your peace, Your love and Your wisdom.
Pour out Your Spirit where people need to lay down their anger and be reconciled to let go of
grievances and forgive, and to relinquish their rights and be generous.

Amen

Forgive other and you will be forgiven.
Give and you will receive,
Your gift will return to you in full –
Pressed down, shaken together to make room for more,
Running over and poured into your lap.
The amount you give will determine
The amount you get back.

Luke 6 – 37-39 (NLT)

Kindly contributed by Robbie

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

Gillian has included a story from the Bible called "Calling Samuel" and on the following page has included a picture you may wish to colour and some other things you may wish to think about – (*thank you Gillian - Ed.*)

The Lord appears to Samuel

In those days, when the boy Samuel was serving the Lord under the direction of Eli, there were very few messages from the Lord, and visions from him were quite rare.

One night Eli, who was now almost blind, was sleeping in his own room: Samuel was sleeping in the sanctuary, where the sacred Covenant Box was. Before dawn, while the lamp was still burning, the Lord called Samuel. He answered, "Yes Sir!" and ran to Eli and said, "You called me, and here I am." But Eli answered, "I didn't call you; go back to bed." So Samuel went back to bed.

The Lord called Samuel again. The boy did not know that it was the Lord, because the Lord had never spoken to him before. So he got up, went to Eli, and said, "You called me, and here I am." But Eli answered, "My son, I didn't call you; go back to bed."

The Lord called Samuel a third time; he got up, went to Eli, and said, "You called me, and here I am." Then Eli realised that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, so he said to him, "Go back to bed; and if he calls you again, say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." So Samuel went back to bed.

The Lord came and stood there, and called as he had before, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak; your servant is listening."

The Lord said to him, "Some day I am going to do something to the people of Israel that is so terrible that everyone who hears about it will be stunned. On that day I will carry out all my threats against Eli's family, from beginning to end.

I have already told him that I am going to punish his family forever because his sons have spoken evil things against me. Eli knew they were doing this, but he did not stop them. So I solemnly declare to the family of Eli that no sacrifice or offering will ever be able to remove the consequences of this terrible sin."

Samuel stayed in bed until morning then he got up and opened the doors of the house of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli about the vision. Eli called him, "Samuel, my boy!" "Yes, sir," answered Samuel. "What did the Lord tell you?" Eli asked. "Don't keep anything from me. God will punish you severely if you don't tell me everything he said."

So Samuel told him everything; he did not keep anything back. Eli said, "He is the Lord; he will do whatever seems best to him."

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and made come true everything that Samuel said. So all the people of Israel, from one end of the country to the other, knew that Samuel was indeed a prophet of the Lord. The Lord continued to reveal himself at Shiloh, where he had appeared to Samuel and had spoken to him. And when Samuel spoke, all Israel listened.

□ (*Scripture Quotation taken from the Good News Translation (Today's English Version, Second Edition)*)

Illustrations on next page by www.lambsongs.co.nz via freeBibleImages.org

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

Grandpa, who still reads this magazine, was very sorry to learn that Heather had been knocked about a bit and would particularly like to send her his best wishes for a speedy recovery – we miss her cryptic quizzes!

September Concord

All contributions to be with me by Thursday 22nd August 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

