

CONCORD



Zion Canyon, Utah, USA

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

February 2021



Tolworth United Reformed Church

Online Gift Day Coffee Morning

Saturday

6th February

10.30am



Use same links and numbers as for Sunday Mornings.

Call in on the telephone

Telephone: 03306060403 (await instruction) - Access code (enter) 1529640# (*DON'T FORGET #*)

Or Link in.... <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/rjones853>

WE ARE UNABLE TO HOLD A GIFT DAY

ALL PROCEEDS FOR CHURCH — JOIN ONLINE GIFT DAY EXPERIENCE

**BRING A CUPPA AND A CAKE — PREPARED TO DESCRIBE YOUR CAKE —
PARTICULARLY IF YOU MADE IT AND ENJOY CHAT AND GAMES**

From our Minister

Dear Friends,

January 2021

Dear friends, February 2021 In February we approach Lent. Lent is a period of 40 days in the Christian Calendar and a time for reflection and preparation for Easter. It is associated with an introspective moment for repentance and penitence. For Christians we seek to replicate Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days and this, recalling the wanderings of the Israelites for forty years in the wilderness.

Well, already this year you may have had your unexpected fill of more withdrawal and aimless wanderings for exercise. Time in the wilderness! Further lockdown!

But can it be said too often, that whilst the withdrawal from one another and into our home for long periods has been challenging at best and debilitating for many, we have enjoyed some shoots of new life. There are some gifts. Have I not mentioned before evidence of greater neighborliness, increased involvement in local voluntary projects, the new appreciation of health service workers and recognition of our interdependence on one another with local service provision and all these folk do on our behalf. Has there not been an understanding of our impact on the environment when we are finally required to travel less. And maybe some time to get to know ourselves again.

One of our gifts in our pastorate, has been our continued fellowship and meeting for live worship on the telephone and online. Our three churches have continued to meet together to share communion (if not the bread and wine), prayer scripture and song, (if not aloud) and worship the God who gives us life and to encourage one another, to laugh and comfort one another, and together seek Gods Spirit to enliven and impact our lives, through Christ.

Covid has kept us apart. But Christ keeps us as one. *"I am the vine, and you are the branches..." John 15:5.*

It is encouraging that we have been meeting together with up to 60 or 70 others including those from out of "state" and Mary and Sue and friends from Surbiton Care Home. It is lovey to think we can still meet and join together as one. We can all be encouraged.

So, perhaps this is a reminder that Lent is also a time to see the world afresh. As well as reflecting on ourselves, warts and all, may we also recognize the nature and purposes of God and the never-ending renewal of possibility within ourselves and the world. This, from being together, even alone in the wilderness.

We have found this in our live morning worship together. So, I am now inviting you to join online or on the telephone each week during Lent for a short bible study and reflection. The reflection will be based on the booklet and material "Holy Habits" by Andrew Roberts.

Walking the Way, Living the life of Jesus today is the current United Reformed Church focus on encouraging a celebration and exploration about what it means to empower people to be the presence of Jesus through our everyday lives, across the denomination and beyond.

Holy Habits, Following Jesus is a recommended resource taking participants on a journey looking at Holy Habits in the life and passion of Jesus. We are providing some family resources to include the younger folk and following the Holy Habits Lent material and a weekly reflection.

If you would like to join in these reflections each week there will be two opportunities for a 30-45 minute session, using the same links for the telephone and online as we do for worship. We will share a moment of worship, prayer and scripture reading, questions and conversation on each reading.

So please join us either;

On **Wednesdays from 17th February at 6.30pm** or on **Thursday 18th February** from at 3pm for a Lent experience as a pastorate. (see below)

Lent is a moment for repentance and penitence. But together with God, there are still many opportunities, especially in the wilderness to see the world afresh.

God bless,

Roger

Family Circle

Now that we are in yet another lockdown, please remember those who have been stuck indoors for such a long time – Eunice Crawl, Charmaine Waterman, Mary Harding, Sue Heath, Joyce Craven and several others who live alone. Pray also for Lesley Menneer, Joan Burnett, Brenda Gill and Mary Carvalho and her daughter Louise who are all unwell at present. May God be with them all and bring them healing and comfort.

Congratulations to Clinton Arthur on the arrival of his first grandson Jack James Arthur, the son of Martyn and Tracy.

Moira

Pastorate LENT reflections 2021

- Intro:** Wednesday 17th Feb. 6.30pm/Thursday 18th Feb.3pm
Ash Wednesday Reflection – bring some ash
- Week 1:** Wednesday 24th Feb. 6.30pm/Thursday 25th Feb. 3pm
Jesus guided by scripture – bring a candle and small jar
- Week 2:** Wednesday 3rd March 6.30pm/Thursday 4th March 3pm
Jesus serving with gladness – bring a pair of spectacles
- Week 3:** Wednesday 10th March 6.30pm/Thursday 11th March 3pm
Jesus sharing bread– bring a piece of bread/fruit
- Week 4:** Wednesday 17th March 6.30pm/Thursday 18th March 3pm
Jesus praying– bring a symbol of prayer (praying hands)or make paper cross
- Week 5:** Wednesday 24th March 6.30pm/Thursday 18th March 3pm
Jesus making disciples– bring a cup of tea and place mat
- Week 6:** Wednesday 31st March 6.30pm/Thursday 1st April 3pm
Jesus generous under pressure– bring a small tree/plant branch

To join these weekly reflections use the same link as Sunday morning Worship.

The telephone link: 03306 060403 with code 1529640# -
remember the #)

The computer link: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/jones853>

Greenbox - "join live meeting"

Enter name and email address and green box "join

Then wait and leave on -

You will/may need to press video camera icon for video

Secretary's Report for 2020

2020 was a year like no other! It started off normally although there were rumours of a virus in China but we never thought it would reach us here. We soon realised how different life would become. By March all places of worship had to close and everything was shut down. No-one used our halls, so Roger was approached by the Foodbank who asked if they could use the Raeburn Hall as a centre for distributing food parcels to those who were shielding. Food was delivered to the church and packed into boxes by volunteers, then more volunteers, among them Roger, our Minister, came to deliver the boxes to people in our area. This continued until June when Kids United were due to return to use the Raeburn Hall. The operation then moved into the Church sanctuary with a one way system operating for those entering and leaving. This continued until Churches could open again for private prayer. It took a lot of organising before we could return.

During the months when we could not worship in Church, Roger organised telephone services each Sunday morning for the people from Epsom, Ewell and Tolworth Churches to join in. The Foodbank moved out and we opened the Church for private prayer twice a week. Not many people came but it gave us the opportunity to talk to people who were passing by and let them know who we are.

Roger spent a great deal of time on risk assessment before we could open again for worship. We had to have hand sanitisers and spaced out seating and a new cleaning regime for the halls and church. He also had WiFi installed so that those who had the technology could watch the services on screen as well as telephone.

The Elders then agreed to open the Church for Sunday worship on Harvest Sunday 27th September. We did not have the usual food and flower display but had a food collection for the Foodbank. Thank you to all who contributed, We then had services for a few weeks with a limit of 30 people attending until November when we all went back into lockdown again.

Christmas was approaching and we tried to make plans. We were allowed back at the beginning of December and managed to have a tree lighting service and had the church decorated with lots of stars made by members of the congregation. After two services in December, the virus was spreading rapidly and we were advised to stay at home. The Elders decided to cease worship in Church once again but to continue with online and telephone services. And so ended 2020!

Throughout this trying year we tried to keep in touch with everyone, especially those housebound or shielding. It has been a difficult year but now we have the vaccine which several of our members have already had, so perhaps the end is in sight. During this strange time our Minister, Roger, has worked ceaselessly. He has kept us going with online services, he has delivered food parcels, opened the Church for prayer and always been there for anyone who needed him. He has moved chairs and set out the Church for the new style of worship, helped decorate the Church for Christmas, kept in touch with members and worked to get more people to hire the halls when they could be used. For a short time we had a ladies choir using the church each week for practices and a couple of other groups using the Elgar Hall. Sadly, all this ceased when we went into lockdown again in November. We have had very little income from halls lettings

during 2020, only Kids United have managed to keep going so our income has been greatly depleted.

We pray that things will improve in 2021 and we will eventually return to normal worship. Thank you to all those who have helped – the elders for their support, those who stewarded when we opened for prayer, those who helped decorate the Church for Christmas and everyone who joined in online worship. Perhaps things will never be the same again but one thing will never change and that's God's Love for us all.

With every blessing

Moira

A letter from our caretaker and her family

Dear All,

We would like to express our gratitude for your cards, letters, thoughts and prayers, initially for Patricia's recovery and later for our loss when she sadly passed away. The support we received from the church is truly appreciated.

A special thanks to Roger who worked hard on the funeral service, everyone said "how lovely it was". Also, to the members of the church who helped on the day and for those who attended the service in these restricted times.

A touching tribute was paid to Trish from the local Scout units; they sent representatives, as she was a Beaver Colony leader at Berrylands, by forming a guard of honour.

Thank you once again. God bless,

Alan, Julie, Laura, Rachel, Robert and Victoria Marsh

Reflections – From Barbara Smith

Having had time on my hands, like many others, I have thought about how life has changed.

I received a call from Roger, our Minister to ask me if I would accept a call to Eldership, two years ago. My first reaction was 'yes, thank you', my second was 'can I do this'.

As I approach the second Anniversary of my Induction to Eldership of Tolworth United Reformed Church I finally feel able to answer my own question - yes, I have done this but it is not down to me, alone. I have had support and friendship from church members, I have found a voice, an ability to share my faith.

I am looking forward to continuing my journey in faith, together with in our church family.

Barbara Smith

Roger Fenn's monthly quiz – with many thanks to Roger

February 2nd is regarded by the Church as the “Feast of Candlemas” remembering Jesus’ presentation at the Jerusalem Temple and Simeon’s words, “A **LIGHT** for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory of your people Israel”.

See if you can find the Bible references for these themes of, “Light”.

1. “God said, ‘Let there be **LIGHT** – and there was **LIGHT**”.
2. “The Lord is my **LIGHT** and my salvation”.
3. “Your word is a **LIGHT** for my path”.
4. “The people walking in darkness have seen a great **LIGHT**”.
5. “When evening comes, there will be **LIGHT**”.
6. “Let your **LIGHT** shine forth before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven”.
7. “I am the **LIGHT** of the world. No follower of mine shall grope in the darkness”.
8. “You are all people of the **LIGHT** and people of the day”.
9. “But if we walk in the **LIGHT** as he is the **LIGHT**, we have fellowship with one another”.
10. “The city does not need the sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it **LIGHT**”.

A letter from Surbiton Care Home

Hello Everyone,

We are Surbiton Care Home and we would like to wish you all best wishes for a Happy and Safe New Year.

We receive Concord through our Mary Harding, who is a member of the congregation and after speaking together Mary and myself thought it would be lovely to share some of our news with you from our home to yours during Lockdown.

We would like to start by thanking the Reverend Roger for his continuous support during this difficult time and ensuring that Mary and others saw him as often as possible via his online service. Despite our poor internet connection which always seemed to play up on a Sunday .

We Started 2020 with our very own Cinderella play. Our Ellen was Cinderella, and her daughter did our scenery. Our Mary sang the soundtrack. It was very good .

Christmas time we did our tableau version of the Nativity written and directed by Mary. Mary quoted it was easier doing the rehearsals with 9 year olds than 90 year olds. With walking the donkey being replaced with walking with Zimmers!!

We wanted our Shelagh to play the part of Mary but she insisted she did not wish to give birth in front of everyone. (Bless her!). Luckily our new resident Susan Heath also a member of your congregation stepped in to help .

We then sang Carols and looked forward to planning our next play in May of Snow White, with maybe a version of Britain's Got Talent but Surbiton's Got Stars.

We then joined Roger for his Christmas Day Service which was truly wonderful .

We lost our dear Ida Upham on December 5th. She was 101 and her funeral service took place at the Lady Immaculate in Tolworth She used to live opposite the URC Church in Southcote Avenue. She is dearly missed.

We have been joined by Susan Heath in November whose husband Sidney went to speak at Roger's Service on Christmas Day but they couldn't find his number!

With Mary's help our biggest project is to write a book. We want to call it Life & Lockdown Memories or something . If you have a good title please let us know. We are open to suggestions

...

Mary has been invaluable in assisting me (Heidi) with lots of projects in the past few months.

Lastly we end with a note from Audrey Roberts another one of our residents:

"Please remember to call your family, friends and neighbours regularly at this time. We may not be able to see our families here at Surbiton but we are not alone we have each other ".

So we end by saying Goodbye and Stay safe all of you and look after each other.

Residents & Staff at Surbiton Care Home.

What a nice letter – ed (and a couple of photos of Mary Harding and Sue Heath at Christmas)





A WORLD FULL OF WONDER

Our God has created a world full of wonder,
Wild are its torrents and gentle its streams,
Seas that are teeming with fish without number,
Rainbows that lift up to heaven our dreams.

Our God has created a world full of wonder,
Meadows and forests that paint the world green,
Flowers and blossoms that bloom in profusion,
Their manifold beauty is everywhere seen.

Our God has created a world full of wonder,
The animal kingdom enriches our days.
From large roaming creatures to pets and small insects,
We value creation, and offer our praise.

Our God has created a world full of wonder,
Myriad birds and the murmuring bees,
Their music uplifts us and fills us with pleasure,
How can we fail to be gladdened by these?

Our God has created a world full of wonder,
Children and babies, each woman and man,
All shapes and sizes, all colours and races,
Made in God's image and held in God's hand.

Barbara Pearson and Gwyneth Smith

Subscriptions for Concord

Normally at this time of year we ask for the annual subscriptions for Concord. This past year, however, has been a bit different as we have sent out the magazine by email to those who have that facility. This, of course, is a saving of paper and printing for the Church. Others, without email, have had their magazine printed and delivered by hand and those who receive postal copies have continued to do so. If you have received your copies by the usual method throughout the year, your subs are now due. However, if you received it by email and would like to contribute, we will be very pleased to accept it. Please make any cheques payable to Tolworth United Reformed Church and send them to me.

Thank you. **Moira**

Churches Together in Surbiton have asked us to circulate this poster, Further details are available from Roger or Moira



Answers to Roger Fenn's quiz

1. Genesis 1 v 3.
2. Psalm 27 v 1.
3. Psalm 119.v 105
4. Isaiah 9 v 2.
5. Zechariah 14 v 7.
6. Matthew 5 v 16.
7. John 8 v 12.
8. 1 Thessalonians 5 v 5.
9. 1 John 1 v 7
10. Revelation 21 v 22

We hope to be able to publish a magazine for March. Please let me have all your material by 18th February. Ian

SUNDAY WORSHIP
Morning Worship at 10.30

(You can still join in with Roger at 10.30am on Sundays
'Phone: 03306 060403 with code 1529640# - remember the #)

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, 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

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 I Fleming	
Magazine Secretary	Mrs M Fleming	
Organist		
Pilots	Mrs G Jones	
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	
Guides	Mrs J Pelham	