

CONCORD



A very happy New Year to everyone

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

January 2022

From our Minister

Dear Friends,

January 2022

“Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

And so, it is we begin 2022 without one of the greatest religious leaders of modern times. We remember the life and mourn the loss of Archbishop Desmond Tutu whose funeral is on the first day of the New Year. Small in stature with an infectious, strange laugh and the South African man-shuffle when he danced, he was of course a giant! A giant campaigner and activist against the hideous apartheid regime of South Africa. A giant participant and chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission among South Africa's new leadership; a commission housed in the Constitutional Court, built from the bricks of the Johannesburg prison (which had held women and men political prisoners, in segregated cells, (non-white prisoners in dormitories) as well anti-apartheid activists including Nelson Mandela and at one stage Gandhi.

About Desmond Tutu, the president of South Africa President Ramaphosa said. *“From the pavements of resistance in South Africa to the pulpits of the world's great cathedrals and places of worship, and the prestigious setting of the Nobel peace prize ceremony, the Arch distinguished himself as a non-sectarian, inclusive champion of universal human rights.”*

Desmond Tutu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 and his ministry as an Anglican cleric and influence was world-wide. I like to think of an association with the bishop in my own theological studies in Oxford. When asked my degree mark I say I achieved a “desmond!” that is a 2:2! But more importantly it was here I read his book *The Rainbow People of God*. Tutu's writings and speeches culled from historic moments of the South African people's struggle he speaks of a celebration of all Gods diversity; “ALL” being God's people, regardless of skin colour of course, but also background and culture, wealth, sexuality, religion, or gender. A recent newspaper article following his death stated that he did not live to see his rainbow people fulfilled. Not strictly true. God's people are already a rainbow people of difference. Tutu's call was for us live as a rainbow people of God, a celebration of Gods difference, all redeemed by Christ. In this sense it is an ongoing living movement.

And so it is, an angel visits a room in a small insignificant town, Nazareth where God is proclaimed to be with us; in a brave very young girl; in a hesitant impending step-father; in the welcome of poor shepherds and strange far away visitors; in a lesser known little village Bethlehem; in a grubby smelly animal shed; in two aged folk in a synagogue; in the escape of a refugee family; in their return to live as a working carpenter family in the insignificant town where it is soon to be said, “can anything good come from Nazareth? (John1;46).

Whist in South Africa Gillian and I visited the Number Four prison in Johannesburg and the constitutional on the same site. We also walked down Vilakazi Street in Soweto, the South African township (now a tourist attraction). These districts were the underdeveloped segregated areas reserved for non-white communities. Even in the years since the ending of apartheid in 1994 such areas are far from described as economically thriving. But during the struggles theses townships lacked basic amenities. The quality of life and social conditions were abysmal. “Can anything good come from Soweto”?

Both Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu lived in Vilakazi Street. And so, Vilakazi Street in Soweto Township is the only street in the world that has been home to two Noble Peace Prize winners.

“Can anything good come from Soweto”? “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” (John 1:46).

In our small places; streets and homes; churches and prayers; efforts and failures; dancing and shuffling; God is present as God was present in the child Christ. May we live as the Rainbow People of God and discover God with us again in and throughout 2022.

God bless

Roger

The Constitutional Court of South Africa's logo



THE COURT'S LOGO REFLECTS THE CENTRAL THEME OF ITS DESIGN, THAT IS, JUSTICE UNDER A TREE. THIS IS A NOD TO THE TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PRACTICES OF VILLAGE ELDERS SITTING UNDER A TREE, DEBATING AND DECIDING ON THE ISSUES BROUGHT TO THEM BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS. THE SHELTERING BRANCHES OF A TREE ALSO REPRESENT THE PROTECTION OF RIGHTS.

Family Circle

Please pray for all those who were confined to their houses over Christmas. Lesley Menneer, Eunice Cowl, Roger Fenn, Joyce and Paul Craven and Charmaine Waterman.

Also remember the residents of Surbiton Care Home who were all in isolation because of a Covid outbreak. Our friends, Mary Harding and Sue Heath were not allowed visitors. Roger Fenn was poorly over Christmas but is feeling better now. It was lovely to see Lesley at our Carol Service as her daughter managed to bring her in her wheel chair. We hope she will manage to come again soon. It was also good to see Gwyneth and Daryl at some of our Christmas services. We hope Gwyneth will soon feel much better.

Subscriptions for Concord

Annual subscriptions for Concord are now due. A minimum amount of £5 is suggested. Those who receive their magazine by post should also consider the cost of postage. Any cheques should be made payable to Tolworth United Reformed Church and sent to Moira Fleming at 3 Grenville Close. Surbiton KT5 9PS. **Thank You.**

January Diary

Sunday	2nd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd Antony Ball
Wednesday	5 th	12.30pm	Lunch Club at the Hogsmill
Sunday	9th	10.30am	Morning Communion led by our Minister
Monday	10 th	3.00pm 5.30pm	Elders' Meeting Pilots
Wednesday	12 th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	16th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Paul and Jenny Hollingum
Monday	17 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	19 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	20 th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sunday	23rd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by our Minister
Monday	24 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	26 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	27 th	2.30pm	Fellowship Club
Sunday	30th	10.30am	Family Service led by our Minister
Monday	31 st	5.30pm	Pilots

February

Tuesday	1 st	2.30pm	Church meeting
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge

Ladies and gentlemen who lunch.

An invitation to all ladies and gentlemen who lunch, please join us at The Hogsmill Carvery. The time is 12.30 and the dates are listed below, which takes us up to Easter 2022!

5th January
9th February
16th March.

Please let me know if you are able to join us by the previous Sunday so that I can book the table.

Brenda (01372 743968)

Christmas

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Christmas services so memorable.

Firstly to our Minister, Roger, for all the hard work he put into organising everything. and for the showing of his musical "Daughters of Dissent" - what a lot of work was involved in putting it all together! Gillian too must be thanked for all her decorative talents. Our church looked beautiful and the model of the Holy Family by the pulpit has been much admired. Our highlight was the Carol Service. It was wonderful to see so many people attending and the singing sounded great. Judith on the organ was an added bonus. We must thank Mark Dennis for leading our service that day and Judith for playing for us. The Christmas day and Boxing Day services were attended by only a few but were good occasions nevertheless. Heather Lodge told us the history of several Carols which was really interesting to hear and we enjoyed singing them all.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way towards our celebrations whether decorating, catering, reading, putting lights on the outside tree. leading worship or just attending. All are important and are appreciated.

Thank you

Moira

Owen and Mary Riches

Owen and Mary have now moved and their telephone number is 01892 660 269.

Fellowship Club

The first meeting of this group will be held on Thursday 27th January at 2.30 pm.

At this meeting we will vote on a name for the group, check programme ideas and probably have some board games. There will, of course, be tea and cakes. This meeting is open to everyone, male or female and we hope to be able to welcome as many people as possible. The meetings will be held monthly and we hope to include discussions, films, crafts, quizzes and outings etc. We look forward to seeing you there.

Moira

From Brenda Kelly

As I have taken over "catering" for church events, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cynthia for organising all the events for many years and hopefully she can now just enjoy the company without the work. It also hopefully makes life a little easier for Moira.

My thanks also to Mary, Kathleen, Lesley and Gillian who are very willing helpers. Plus thank you also to all the church people who always are the end help clearing up with washing up, putting the tables and chairs back and sweeping the floor.

Wishing everyone a peaceful and happy 2022.

Brenda

BELLS

A bell! It signals visitors,
There's someone at the door.
"Come in, old friend, and welcome,
We'd love to see you more."

A bell! Oh, it's the telephone
And news to warm our hearts.
We'll talk to friends from far away
With news of foreign parts.

A bell! Remember school days,
That ghastly lesson ends!
It's out into the playground
And fun with all our friends.

A bell! The church bell's ringing,
It brings such joy to mind.
Recalls the precious baby,
The gift to humankind.

So listen to your heart now,
It's filled with hope and bliss,
It beats time with the Christmas bells,
On special days like this.

Barbara Pearson

(Barbara wrote this poem to go with our theme of Bells this Christmas. Roger put it on the screen on Christmas morning with a musical background. Thank you both).

Roger Fenn's Puzzle for January – with many thanks to Roger

Most Jewish people regard David as being a model king - "After God's own heart", - in spite of his many shortcomings. How much do we remember of his life?

1. What was his previous occupation?..
2. Who anointed him as king in place of Saul?
3. Where did this take place?
4. What event in David's life made Saul jealous of him?
5. Which of Saul's sons befriended and protected David?
6. Who was supposed to be guarding Saul on the night when David entered his tent and removed his sword and drinking flask?
7. Name David's first wife.
8. Name David and Abigail's first son.

Answers 2 pages on

A Christmas letter from our former member, Julie Ross-Harper (and Ross!)

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St Brides Bay View
Enfield Rd
Broad Haven
Pembrokeshire
SA62 3JG

Hi all people in the URCh.

Well this year has been a very strange year hasn't it ?

I was locked down with 4 other lovely people Chris and Bill also Bernard and Joan. We all live in the same block of apartments, so every day we did things together :- We walked Ross across the beaches every day . we went in swimming , we cooked and ate together and watched TV series in the evenings.

Our best venture is that we were interested in the allotments - the land bought by a wonderful man called Patrick and after looking for it many times we found it one morning in January and Patrick was there and low and behold there were two plots available and we chose the slightly smaller of the two- called plot M

We then had a meeting together and we decided to have sectioned off slightly raised beds which a young gardener called Tom made for us (cheating a bit) We had many a discussion as to what to put in them don't laugh our first purchase was 2 benches in which to keep our tools naively we thought we would have plenty of time to sit on them and admire the wonderful views of the Havens as it was the top plot on high ground..... oh no we were much too busy for that (in fact any relation that dared show their faces here were taken up there and given a job). We were so lucky that Sian, Babs daughter, delivered to us about ten sacks of matured horse manure which really helped our crops . Our biggest joy was when we dug up our first potatoes - potato after potato came up from one plant amid cheers that could be heard in the village , which were delicious cooked later that day with lashings of Welsh butter (James Martin would be proud of us)

We were helped by advice from all the more experienced allotment keepers and Terry Walton's book which helped us week by week as to what we should be doing !!! - not always accomplished but we did try !!!

Our many successes besides early potatoes were Maris Piper potatoes; beetroot; peas; onions; carrots; lettuce - our failures were Cabbages - attacked by whitefly and beans attacked by the wind.

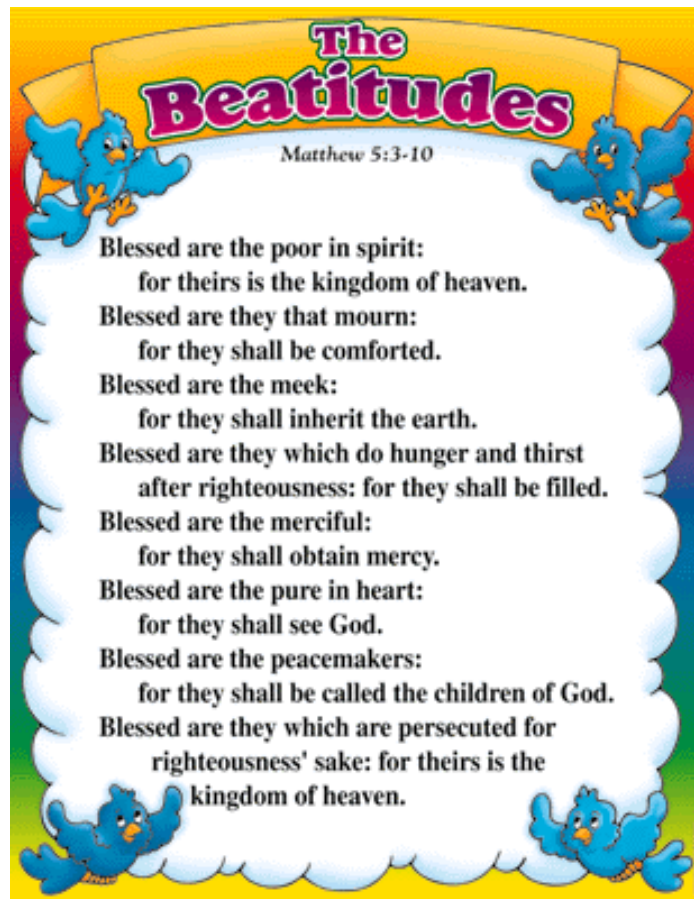
As you can guess this has kept us very busy during lock down but I am sure we are all fitter from the exercise and the good food and are already planning next year's gardening programme . I must say it has been enormous fun too - and with Ross overseeing all that we were doing .

Happy Christmas (Nadolig Llawen) and a Happy Healthy new year .

Julie
love from
Xx

2

Ross
lick
lick

With thanks to Gwyneth Knight

“David“ Quiz – Answers

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Shepherd boy | 1 Samuel 16 v 11 |
| 2. | Samuel | 1 Samuel 16 v 13 |
| 3. | Bethlehem | 1 Samuel 16 v 4 |
| 4. | He killed Goliath | 1 Samuel 17 |
| 5. | Jonathan | 1 Samuel 18 v 3 |
| 6. | Abner | 1 Samuel 26 v 5 |
| 7. | Abinoam | 1 Samuel 25 v 3 |
| 8. | Kilead | 2 Samuel 3 v 2 |

Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition - please keep them coming! We hope to publish a magazine for February. Please let me have all your material by 20th January.

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
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