

CONCORD



Sparrow hawk at London Wetlands Centre

The Monthly Magazine of Tolworth United Reformed Church

February 2022

From our Minister

Dear Friends,

February 2022

The Prompting of the Spirit!

“The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes” John 3:8

If we are prompted by the Spirit, then it's hard for me to fail to mention The Church in my letter this month. I appreciate that my working life is taken up thinking on the church matters and church life. Equally as friends and members much of your thinking concerns the life of our faith community. But from a “Prompting of the Spirit” comes a particular focus on Church news this month.

During these first few weeks of 2022 lectionary epistle readings for our regular Sunday worship have been from 1 Corinthians, the early church divisions and Paul's illuminating and brilliant image of the Church as the Body of Christ. To this I will return but I should mention what have also been the signs of the Spirit's Prompting in church news.

Perhaps the biggest news in the pastorate is that Ewell and Epsom have decided to unite into one church community. There has been a long affiliation between your two congregations. The Epsom congregation have now been worshipping together with Ewell family for some time and have been exploring how their ministry in Epsom and Ewell could be served by working on the one site in Ewell. In some ways it is a difficult decision to close the Epsom site after 333 years of life and ministry there. But there is a confidence that in God, Christ's Body will continue, and proclaiming God's grace remains very much alive. The service of thanksgiving for those 333 years is planned for 29th January 2022.

Secondly, a number of folk in Ewell have been considering “membership”. This is of course an exploration of belonging to the Church, not just locally but the worldwide Body of Christ. Also, a wonderful witness of this worldwide Body of Christ in Ewell has been the partnership with the Korean congregation. This blessing has also prompted thinking about the nature of Church.

Then, there is the pandemic. As at Ewell, many acts of fellowship at Tolworth declined and the evening service has not resumed. However, this has created an opportunity to reflect on “new expressions” for worship in the community. The Sunday evening may be considered for this opportunity. So, at Tolworth, what it means to be a part of church and its worship is perhaps broadening. There is the Messy Church experience, whereby all ages meet for worship midweek and the emphasis being on being active together. Also, new adult mid-week fellowship could be a way of exploring church differently. Rather than just a tea and biscuit social occasion, although such refreshments will play a significant part, I am sure, I hope, there is a sense in which Church is reemerging, the same, but new and “belonging” is beginning to take on a different understanding.

Being “encouraged” to provide church and worship online is a further prompt to consider Church. What does this mean for prayers, communion, and our tradition of inclusion! In some ways, there is less participation physically and yet it now means many previously unable to attend the communal worship can be part of our worship time together.

I also refer to my previous reflections on “partnership”, not just with one another, or even Christian faith communities but other groups in the community with whom we share aspirations. A new consideration for being Church.

So, these have been promptings for me to reflect on Church. What does it mean to be the Body of Christ? To be Christ’s body on earth. There is of course the well proclaimed idea that Church is a diverse community, not a group of like minded robots, but where all are included and loved, and no one should be excluded. Also, all parts are needed in the church body. A body cannot be just an eye or a hand! “How can an ear smell”, asks Paul? And, he continues “An eye cannot say to the hand I have no need of you!” All are essential. **“Through the church Gods wisdom in its rich variety might now be made known”**. Ephesians 3;10
The diversity of the church proclaims God.

But there is yet a deeper meaning to being Christ’s body. What happened to Christ’s body? Christ offered his hands to heal, his heart to show compassion, his feet to be washed by others. His whole body given. Tortured, humiliated, experienced suffering and pain and eventually Christ’s body knew even death itself. This was necessary for Christ’s body, for there to be a resurrection. This was necessary for salvation for all people. This was necessary for life in all its fullness. What does it mean to be Christ on earth?

I do not think for a moment that Church should lay itself open for torment and humiliation or to seek an end to church groups or closures. For life in all its fullness the Church of Christ continues to spread joy and love and if others respond, this is all to God’s glory.

But to be the Body of Christ, here on earth makes you think, doesn’t it? Not to be anxious about church death, numbers, or activities. Try things out even if they fail. And if they do fail and if endings happen give them to God. A resurrection life, a new life, a new body is also all part of being Christ’s body on earth too. God was with Christ’s body all the way. God will be with the Body of Christ on earth. Surely!

I was prompted by the Spirit, to reflect on Church through scripture readings for worship and then through news of the pastorate this month. The fruits of that same Spirit remain, **“the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness”**. Galatians 5:22.

May this be foremost for us, as Church.

Roger

Family Circle

Joyce Craven is in hospital but it is hoped she will be home soon. We pray for her and for Paul that they may receive the help they need. We pray also for Lesley, Eunice, Mary Harding and all others who are poorly.

We send our Best Wishes to our friends from Epsom and Ewell Churches as they join together to become one Church Family.

February Diary

Wednesday	2nd th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge
Monday	7 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Tuesday	8 th	2.30pm	Church meeting
Wednesday	9 th	10.00am 12.30pm	Playtime Lunch at the Hogsmill
Sunday	13th	10.30am	Morning Communion led by our Minister
Sunday	20rd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert
Monday	21 st	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	23 rd	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	24 th	2.30pm 3.30pm	Thursday Group - Film Messy Church
Sunday	27th	10.30am	Family Service led by our Minister
Monday	28 th	5.30pm	Pilots

March 2022

Sunday	6th	10.30am	Morning worship led by Revd. Antony Ball
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Margaret Taylor has written to say,

“Thank you for the Church flowers which Cynthia gave me on Sunday. They look lovely in my lounge and brighten up the dullest winter day.

All good wishes. Margaret Taylor”.

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!

9th February
16th March
27th April
25th May
29th June
3rd August
7th September
12th October
16th November

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)

Thursday Group

The next meeting of this group will be held on Thursday 24th February at 2.30 pm

It was great to see a good turn out at our first meeting. We agreed to call ourselves the Thursday Group.. At our next meeting we hope to show a film. We do not know which film yet but I will announce it in church beforehand. so please come along, everyone is very welcome.

Moira

Roger Fenn's Puzzle for February –

In our Bibles we often read how God called people to serve him. What was the initial reaction of the following people?

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Moses | 6. Ezekiel |
| 2. Gideon | 7. Amos |
| 3. Samuel | 8. Jonah |
| 4. Isaiah of Jerusalem | 9. Simon Peter |
| 5. Jeremiah | 10. Saul of Tarsus |

Answers 3 pages on

From Brenda Kelly

2022 New Year

Autumn has never been my favourite season. I appreciate the lovely colours of all the trees before they give up and float to the ground. Following autumn comes winter that can be dull and dreary. Sunny days can raise my spirits even if it is cold. Following winter is spring, but it takes its time. Hope is there it's now February and bulbs are beginning to poke through the ground and some shrubs are showing signs of buds with the hope of blossom to follow.

Spring is definitely my favourite time of year. The yellow of daffodils and sparkling snow drops but then along comes the lime green of euphorbia with the blue of forget-me-nots. There are small crocus with a few colours and then tulips with very, very many colours, shapes and sizes.

This all gives me HOPE for the year to come and HOPEFULLY a better year, not just this year but for the future in general.

MPs can argue, people can be critical of everything, but they cannot stop nature whatever happens. Flowers still flourish and hopefully we will all have a smile for everyone just like the happy faces of pansies!

Happy New Year to you all

Brenda

KINDNESS

When Jesus walked the dusty roads,
He spoke of little things,
Of lamps and seeds and tiny coins,
The sparrow when it sings.

When we explore our local streets
We see what Jesus saw,
The small and hardly-noticed things -
We've seen them all before.

We see the children tired and cold,
We see the man in rags,
We see the woman, old and bent,
Who carries heavy bags.

Like Jesus we can make a change,
Just lend a listening ear,
A smile and friendly word can make
A difference that will cheer.

Don't think it's rocket science,
Just be kind to those you meet,
When you offer words of comfort
You bring Jesus to your street.

Barbara Pearson

Resumé+ of Church Meeting held on 16th November 2021

Present – Revd. Roger Jones in chair, 8 members and 1 other.

Apologies were received from 3 members.

Matters Arising

Items from Epsom Church – We have received tables, a trolley and a microwave. There was some discussion about getting rid of the old tables etc. It was decided to do this in the New year when we would also have a sort out of kitchen cupboards. As a skip would cost £261, other alternatives were suggested.

Large print Bible – The members decided that this was not needed.

Financial Report – The collection for the Shoebox Appeal raised £130. We have received a letter of thanks. The total for gift Day was £2,094. This brought the total in the account to £6,407. There was some discussion about how to distribute this as we had not given to any charity since 2019. It was agreed to donate £100 to each of our 6 usual charities. In addition there is a balance of £520 from the Coffee Money account and it was agreed to send £100 to each of the three usual charities. Our minister will look into a local Autism Society where we could send future donations.

Planning for the Future - A number of people met to discuss forming a social group. They decided to start this on Thursday 27th January at 2,30pm. A further meeting would discuss Sunday Evening Worship. Roger was to meet with a drama teacher to discuss forming a children's drama group.

The Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed.

Family News – We stood in memory of Brenda Gill who had died recently..

Eco Friendly Church – Clinton Arthur will report on this in due time.

Any Other Business

Synod Area Pastoral Committee – Our minister is now convener of this committee.

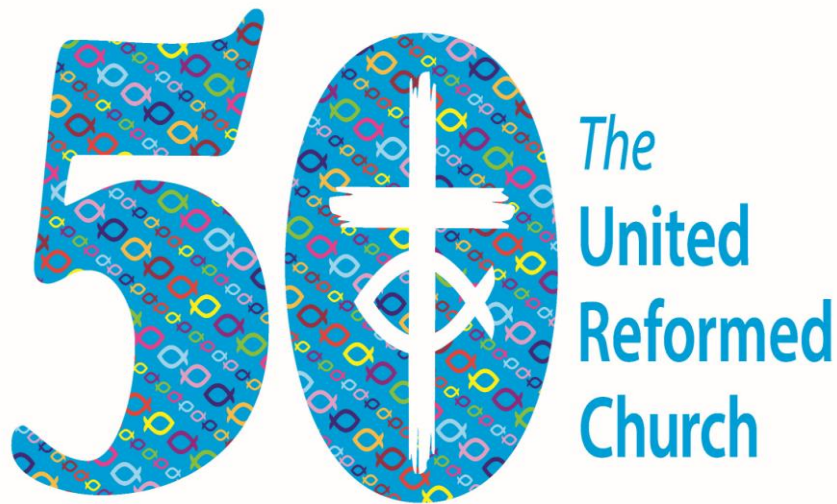
Standing when offering is brought forward – Geof Stock suggested that this practice should be resumed. This was agreed.

The date of the next church meeting was arranged for Tuesday 8th February 2022 at 2.30 pm.

Thanks

A huge thank you to Dave Bennett who managed to break up the old tables and various other items, mend the blue legged tables in the Elgar Hall, and take everything we wanted rid of to the tip for disposal. Thanks also to Roger who helped to load all this into Dave's car.

Well Done!,



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

A variety of events have been planned to celebrate the URC's 50th jubilee. Events include the Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration to be held at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, on 1 October, where the Uniting Assembly of the URC took place in 1972. This promises to be an inspiring, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to join with over 2000 others to celebrate. Tickets are free and being booked fast! Book your free ticket here: bit.ly/urc50.

February Quiz – Answers

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------|
| 1. | !I am slow of speech and tongue". | Exodus 4 v 10 |
| 2. | "How can I save Israel, I am the youngest in my family" | Judges 6 v 5 |
| 3. | "Speak Lord, your servant is listening". | 1 Samuel 3 v 10 |
| 4. | "Here I am – send me". | Isaiah 6 v 8 |
| 5. | "I do not know how to speak. I am only a child". | Jeremiah 1 v 6 |
| 6. | "I fell face down", | Ezekiel 1 v 28 |
| 7. | "I was neither a prophet, nor a prophet's son, but the Lord called me". | Amos 7 v 15 |
| 8. | "He sailed in the opposite direction". | Jonah 1 v 3 |
| 9. | "Do away from me Lord, I am a sinful man". | Luke 5 v 8 |
| 10. | "Who are you, Lord?" | Acts 9 v 5 |

Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition - please keep them coming! We hope to publish a magazine for March. Please let me have all your material by 24th February.

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 D Knight, Mr B Llewellyn, Mr G Stock	

Other Officers, Leaders and Representatives

Caretaker	Mrs J. Marsh	8399 3926
Christian Aid Secretary		
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	