

CONCORD



Richmond Park

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

March 2022

From our Minister

Dear Friends,

March 2022

The wind blows still!

“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

I could use the same scripture as prompted by my letter last month. What with Storms Eunice and Franklin, the winds have been blowing wherever they will and causing all sorts of upsets and disruptions.

I have just postponed a meeting due to the railway cancellations. Yesterday, after morning worship Gillian and I, with assistance from our neighbour were cutting the stumps and branches of a tree from the manse garden that had fallen onto that same neighbour's shed. Do not worry there was no damage, or costs. But we must get the tree surgeons in to cutback the tall trees before any further damage is caused. The quotes have been presented to church meeting.

Whilst some trees have been brought down by the high winds, it is extraordinary how so many remain standing. It could be their sheer weight and solidity. But watching these trees blow to and fro, it is perhaps the “give” in the branches and the flexibility of tree trunks that provides its strength. A feat of Gods engineering.

There are human feats of engineering of course that model this flexibility to withstand high winds and storms. Even in the devastation of these past few days. Watching an airplane land in high winds it is possible to witness the flexibility built into the wings. Tall buildings of concrete and steel are designed to sway in winds lest the rigidity from the gusts rupture and crack the structure. Bridges may have been closed in various parts of the country, but it is from their weakness that their strength lies.

As you may remember, on a recent holiday in Norfolk, Gillian and I visited Norwich. There one medieval bridge survives. Bishop Bridge spans the river Winshum, dates from 1340 and as far as I can ascertain, survives the storms again. We could wander over this bridge. It is an arch bridge. Leonardo da Vinci's definition of an arch is the clue to this bridge's enduring strength. *“An arch is nothing else than strength caused by two weaknesses; the arch is made of two segments of a circle, and as each being itself very weak desires to fall, and one withstands the fall of the other, the two weaknesses are converted into a single strength.”*

Now some trees have fallen and caused damage. The spire of St Thomas Church in Wells did topple and plunge to the ground. But perhaps in the feats of God's creation, and human engineering there is something to teach us about conflict and tension.

One of Paul's most paradoxical claims was that "**when I am weak then I am strong**". (*Corinthians 12; 10*) where there is stress, conflict, tension, it is the time to show some flexibility. It has been said, the rigid and inflexible rarely help to share the load.

Think also of the illustration from suspension bridges. A parable in themselves. As traffic moves over the structure the weight is transferred to the cables which pass through the towers to the ground.

People we admire most are not usually those with no give in them or appreciate needs of others. It is no surprise Paul told the Romans to bear the weakness of those without strength. The Romans built many arches! Could they not learn from their own building strategies the lessons for life?

The storms over these past few days have brought tragedy and disruption. We pray for strength for those who have been forced to move or lost homes and property. We pray for comfort for those who have lost loved ones. My postponed meeting and fear for our neighbours shed are of little consequence in comparison.

On Sunday, in morning service I reflected a little on building bridges in fractured relationships and irreconcilable differences. Watching these storms, the wind blowing where it will, the force of the metaphor of these human feats of engineering in our life's conflicts and fractured moments are worth thinking about. A way of turning our weaknesses into strengths.

God bless,

Roger

Family Circle

Joyce Craven is home from hospital but is now confined to bed and has carers attending her. We pray for her and Paul that things may soon improve for them.

Carol Shepherd, Brian Llewellyn and Joan Burnett have all had cataract operations in recent weeks and Gary Smith has been in hospital after collapsing. He is now home and taking things easy. We remember all these friends in our prayers and also those housebound or in care homes.

March Diary

Wednesday	2 nd	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd Antony Ball
Monday	7 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Tuesday	8 th	2.30pm	Elders' meeting
Wednesday	9 th	10.00am 12.30pm	Playtime Lunch at the Hogsmill
Sunday	13th	10.30am	Morning Communion led by our Minister and Tom Sweatman
Monday	14 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	16 th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	20th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge
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	Mothering Sunday Family Service led by our Minister
Monday	28 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	30 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	31 st	2.30pm	Thursday Group - Quiz

April 2022

Sunday	3rd	10.30am	Morning worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert
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Thursday Group

The next meeting of this group will be held on Thursday 31st March at 2.30 pm. It is hoped to have a quiz.

Everyone is welcome.

Joan Burnett has written to say,

“Thank you to Moira and Cynthia for the lovely spray of flowers. It was given to my neighbours who had three weeks in isolation after suffering from the Omicron virus.

They marvelled at the generosity of the Church and said it certainly brightened their mood”.

Thanks again

Joan Burnett.

Roger Fenn’s Puzzle for March –

Which Old Testament prophet first spoke these familiar words?

1. “Every valley shall be raised up – every mountain and hill made low”.
2. I will pour out my spirit on all people, your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions”.
3. “He has shown you O man what is good and what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy and walk humbly with your God”.
4. “Ah Sovereign Lord, I do not know how to speak. I am only a child”.
5. “The Lord your God is with you. He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you”.
6. “Suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple, but who can endure the day of his coming?”
7. “In my vision I looked and there before me was one like a Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven”.
8. I was neither a prophet nor a prophet’s son, but the Lord said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel’”.
9. When Israel was a child, I loved him – and out of Egypt I called my son”.
10. So I prophesied and breath entered the bones. They came to life and stood up on their feet – a vast army”.
11. For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea”.
12. “Rejoice greatly O daughter of Zion. See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation”.

Answers 2 pages on

From Brenda Kelly

The date is Tuesday 22.2.22 an important date as it is following three days of storms. Barry and I are sitting at Horton Golf Club having omelette and chips and a glass of wine trying to pretend that we are sitting in Tunisia or Italy watching the sun set, but looking out of the window to the Golf Course I noticed that the trees looked absolutely beautiful. They had weathered the storm and were all upright, but some were evergreen, some naked and a few were covered in tiny blossom. We really do appreciate what we have in England. I would still like to be in Italy!

Hook Road between us and The Golf Club had four trees down and a lamppost.

We were very lucky a few fences were on the move, but it made me think that although I worried about the fences, how fortunate that we were, as so many people had extensive damage and some loss of life. So now it is calmer the garden is beginning to bloom, there are daffodils in flower and the tulips are really coming on ready to flower next month.

I have been watching The Green Planet and I am not sure that I actually believe in climate change. The program is amazing especially as the camera people spend, hours, days and months waiting for a flower to develop. I cannot believe that me turning the lights out are going to save a cactus in the desert. The thing I feel is the biggest problem is the amount of rubbish that is strewn all over the place. If everyone took their rubbish home and disposed of it sensibly instead of leaving it to end up in rivers, seas and parks which is so dangerous to wild life, the planet would be a much more beautiful place for us to enjoy and certainly safer for wild life in general.

That's my little rant for February!

Brenda

From Barbara Smith

I have many things to be thankful for this year, so far. I had successful cataract surgery in December and was finally able to appreciate the colours which decorated our church at Christmas. I have discovered many new sights, in the church garden and around our church.

I can now enjoy myself at Playtime and Pilots - I'm not worrying about what I can't see. Most of all, I love being able to see people and be able to greet them properly.

Barbara

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 the end of 2022!

9th March
25th May
3rd August
12th October

27th April
29th June
7th September
16th November

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

Brenda (01372 743968)

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust,
The end of a story, the end of a life.
The soul has moved on to a world we can't know,
A cord has been cut by death's merciful knife.

Ash Wednesday reminds us of just such a time,
Remember Good Friday, a cross on a hill,
When Jesus was taken and hung on a tree,
With trust in his Father, and loving God still.

We take the palm crosses, two meanings to share,
The triumphal entry, the death on the cross.
We burn them – a symbol of death and deep mourning,
We ponder the ashes, the meaning of loss.

We mark on each other the sign of Christ's cross,
A darkness descends for the six weeks of Lent,
But some far horizon is lit up by hope –
"He is risen!" – a promise, a foretaste is sent.

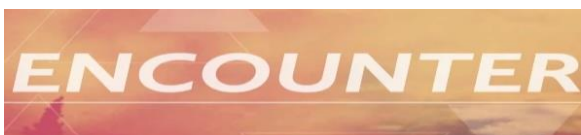
Barbara Pearson

February Quiz – Answers

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|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Isaiah 20 v 4 | 7. Daniel 7 v 13 |
| 2. Joel 2 v 28 | 8. Amos 7 v 14. |
| 3. Micah 6 v 8 | 9. Hosea 11 v 1 |
| 4. Jeremiah 1 v 6 | 10. Ezekiel 37 v 1 |
| 5. Zephaniah 3 v 17 | 11. Habakkuk 2 v 14 |
| 6. Malachi 3 v 1-2 | 12. Zachariah 9 v 9 |

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 March.

We have very recently been asked to bring this to your attention



5pm at
St
George's
Church
Hamlet
Avenue
KT6 7PT



All ages welcome including children

Live worship band

Guest speaker:

Canon Dr Andrew White
Ambassador of Jerusalem MERIT
Formerly Vicar of Baghdad



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
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	
Rainbows	Ms Kirsten Cook	
Brownies	Ms Michelle Nicholls	
Guides	Mrs J Pelham	