

# CONCORD



**Happy Easter**

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

**April 2022**

# From our Minister

April 2022

## Hold onto Holy Week

Dear friends,

in the light of recent events across Europe it is perhaps difficult to see the light of the Easter resurrection. With all the horrors of war and anguish of helplessness do we within church really have anything to say, apart from jumping all too quickly from the horrors of Holy Week to Easter day?

We are also very aware of one another's sufferings during this past few years. Obviously, the pandemic has created untold pain. In our own family circumstances, it has not always been as easy as we would like. Then there are the bereavement and losses of loved ones which only God understands. So, with these hurts and anguish of helplessness do we in the church really have anything to say, apart from jumping all too quickly from the horrors of Holy Week to Easter day?

As we approach, Easter again maybe the first thing to say is to hold onto Holy Week. We are not good in our non-conformist tradition at recognising the significance of Holy Week liturgy. There will be a service for Maundy Thursday at Tolworth which is good. This is a joint act of worship with the Methodist Church, so I encourage you to attend. Not just to support our church but to hold onto Holy week itself.

As I was preparing Easter Messy Church, I was taken on a quick trip through Holy Week. We discover how much horror and anguish there is there. After the wonderful entry by Jesus into Jerusalem with so much community support, things begin to go wrong rapidly. Jesus upsets the religious leaders, there is "legal" court shenanigans, if not outright deceit from the law makers. There is a lovely but surely quite stressful meal between Jesus and his disciples. There is the strain on friendships leading to betrayal and denials and Jesus being let down in the garden and desperately praying seeking his own courage from God. Then we come to the trial of Jesus himself, the torture and humiliation he suffered. His own agony and final human death only after nails piecing his hands and feet.

Although we look to Easter Sunday, the resurrection, and the joy of the disciples our faith tells us that there is a Holy Week not to be missed. It is good to hold onto Holy Week. It provides some comfort in the knowledge that in Christ himself, God suffers with us. It provides some rationale that life's pain cannot be avoided. It provides some account of life's mystery in that Jesus whilst aware of his pending suffering and death, could not in his humanness have been fully aware of the final outcome.

From all this, as we hold onto Holy Week, we learn to hold onto the pain. We hold onto our own pain because it reminds us we are real, we lost but we loved. We learn to stay with others pain, helping and hurting with our sisters and brothers in their terrible moments. We try to stand in solidarity with the war in Europe as well as other sufferings around the world. But Jesus was helpless too. And we stand with one another living and loving with all our hurts all so like the hurts, pains and anguish of Holy Week.

So, Hold onto Holy Week, and then by all means rejoice and celebrate the joy of God's resurrection Easter!

God bless Roger

## Family Circle

Joyce Craven has been back in hospital again but is now home once more with care. We remember her and Paul in our prayers. We also pray for Peter and Eunice Crowl. Peter has been in hospital recently and as his mother's carer, this has made things very difficult for them. Please pray that Peter will soon recover and things may improve for both of them.

Dave Bennett is in a great deal of pain in his legs. We pray for him too and any other friends who may be poorly at present.

We were sorry to hear that our minister, Roger, received news of the sudden death of his brother recently, We extend our sympathy to Roger, Gillian and their family..

We congratulate Roger Fenn who will celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Easter Day

## April Diary

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	<b>Palm Sunday and Food Collection for Food Bank</b> Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge
Tuesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Church Meeting
Thursday	14 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Joint Maundy Thursday Service with Surbiton Hill Methodist Church
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Morning Communion led by Mr Mark Dennis
Wednesday	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup>	3,30pm	Messy Church
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Morning Worship led by our Minister
Monday	25 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am 12.30pm	Playtime Lunch at the Hogsmill
Thursday	28 <sup>st</sup>	2.30pm	Thursday Group - Quiz

## May 2022

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	10.30am	Morning worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert
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## **Easter- The following special services will be held as we lead up to Easter.**

**Palm Sunday - 10<sup>th</sup> April** – The service on that day will be led by Heather Lodge and will include our usual Food Collection for the Food Bank. Please try to contribute some tins, tea, coffee. Cereals etc. Also needed are toiletries and cleaning materials.

**Maundy Thursday - 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm** - This will be a joint service with Surbiton Hill Methodist Church and will include Communion.

**Easter Day - 17<sup>th</sup> April** – Mark Dennis will lead our worship which will include Communion. Please note that there will be no Communion on Palm Sunday.

**Thank You** to Cynthia Stock and Mary Wardle who arranged all the flowers for Mothering Sunday and prepared the daffodils posies for everyone. They always make a lovely display.

## **Moir**

### **Resume of Church Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

The minutes of the last Church meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were agreed and signed.

**Matters Arising** – Roger had brought a font and a keyboard from Epsom Church and it was agreed that we should keep them.

**Kids United** – Paula Thomson, the manager, has asked if she could place a metal sign with details of their group on the outside wall of the Raeburn Hall. This was agreed in principle. We may add our own signs later.

**Finance** – The treasurer said that during a difficult year, we had managed to make ends meet but due to rising costs we would need more income from members and friends. The management will discuss raising halls letting fees. We sent £142.20 to Christian Aid from Christmas collections.

Since the death of Brian Keepence, we need a third signature for the church mandate at Barclays bank. Sid Heath has agreed to do this. The following resolution was put:

To appoint Mr S.J.Heath as an additional signatory on the Church bank mandate.

This was proposed by the treasurer, Geof Stock and seconded by Roger Fenn. The members agreed.

**Manse** – Some work needs to be done at the manse - The fence at the rear needs renewing at a cost of £300. Trees need pruning after storm Eunice and work is needed on the lawn costing a total of £1000 - £1500. We hope to recover some of this money from Synod.

**Secretary's Report** -Moir Fleming gave her report on the events in the church during 2021.

**Youth & Children's Work** – Roger will meet with Hannah Duncan to further explore the formation of a weekly children's drama group. It may be possible to get money from an Arts Council Fund, She would run it charging an affordable fee.

**TURC Children and Youth Worker** – Roger reported that he had approached Andrea Gnapragasam to work part time (10 hours per week) as our Youth Community Worker to help

assist and further develop children and youth work in the church. We would hope to pay £100 per week.

**Resolution of Church members** - "The meeting agreed to progress employment of a sessional youth worker and seek funding from Synod Strategic Mission Fund.

Voting – For 11, Against 0. abstained 0 (I non voter).

**Any other Business - Korean Church** – This group are now using the Raeburn hall on the first Sunday afternoon of each month for worship,

**Maundy Thursday** – As the Minister of Surbiton Hill Methodist Church will be on sabbatical at that time, he has asked us to host the service on that evening - 14<sup>th</sup> April. The members agreed.

**The date of the next Church meeting was arranged for April 12<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm.**

### **Thursday Group**

The next meeting of this group will be held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30 pm. It is hoped to have a quiz. Please come along, everyone is welcome.

### **Pauline Beccles has written to say,**

"Thank you to Moira and Cynthia for the flowers you gave me on Sunday the 27th February. They looked lovely on my hall table.

Much appreciated.

**Regards Pauline.**

### **Secretary's Report 2021**

2021 was a very strange year, as was 2020. From the beginning of the year until late March we were once again in Lockdown. Elders' Meetings were held online or on telephone. During this time the Church was open for prayer twice weekly and although not many people came to pray, we did get to know several people who came for a seat in the church garden. It was an outreach to the local community and Roger still keeps contact with some of them.

We did not start worshipping in Church again until Pentecost Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May in accordance with URC guidelines. Although rules were relaxed in March, some of our members were still wary of mixing with others. Our online services continued throughout this time and Roger, Barbara Pearson and Mark Dennis shared leading them. These services still continue now and still have a good number of people watching or listening. We did manage to have an online Coffee Morning during this time. Our halls were unused for months except for Kids United who had sole use of the Raeburn Hall as nurseries were allowed to continue.

From May some hall hirers returned and the Elgar Hall was used for the local election after inspection and sanitising by the council.

We were able to celebrate our Anniversary in Church in June but we did not have a lunch afterwards.

During the summer we were doubtful if Playtime would start again due to a shortage of helpers ,however 2 child minders, who have attended Playtime for years, offered to help and after a meeting with them we agreed the group would continue as a church run organisation with church members and these 2 ladies helping to run it. We started again in September and have been running well since.

By September things began to return to normal and we have continued to worship in the Church sanctuary ever since. The halls began to be used again but with fewer groups using them. We have lost the Gina Dyke Dancers who used the Raeburn Hall for years. This has meant a drop in our income. We have gained a ladies choir who meet in the Church each week and also a girls choir use the Elgar Hall on Wednesday evenings but some groups have not returned..

Roger has had a screen and WiFi installed in the church sanctuary which is now used regularly.

During his time in lockdown, Roger wrote a new musical – “The Daughters of Dissent” which was based on a story from the book of Numbers. Members from Tolworth, Epsom, Ewell and Trinity Wimbledon URC’s took part by recording their songs or narrative to accompaniment recorded by Roger and returned this to him. He then edited and combined it all into a film which was shown in our Church in December. This was a very innovative venture and was a lot of work for Roger but it was a good way for people to get together and do something different during the long period of lockdown.

In June we started having coffee mornings in the church vestibule for people to meet again and have a chat. Although only a few people attended, those who did attend enjoyed the experience.

In the course of the year we acquired new chairs for the halls. The problem then arose of how to dispose of the old chairs. One of our Playtime helpers managed to get rid of them on Facebook and they were collected by a group who were sending them out to a Church in Uganda. Adrienne, also managed to get rid of the card rack in the vestibule which we no longer needed.

Epsom Church was closing down and uniting .with Ewell URC . This meant that they had to clear out their furnishings etc. Roger has since managed to get us tables, a trolley, microwave, a piano and a keyboard for which we are very grateful.

Pilots, and Messy Church have resumed once again and we have coffee again after our morning services, The lunch club has also resumed. The evening service has not started again so far. Roger is to meet with a few members to discuss an alternative. Things are slowly returning to normal although we still sit separately and wear masks during services. Communion elements are picked up as we enter and our offerings are made then too.

Instead of filling shoeboxes, we had a collection and sent a cheque to the charity so that they could buy goods to fill more boxes. The collection raised £130. Gift Day was held in November and raised £2094.

A group of people met in November to discuss forming a new group to replace the WEF and the Circle. It was agreed to form a social group which would meet monthly on the last Thursday of each month. The group will be open to both men and women,

We decorated the church for Christmas with large bells which hung in the windows. Members of the congregation decorated them with Christmas carols as their theme. We had a tree lighting service on 5<sup>th</sup> December and our thanks to Roger with help from Dave Bennett who festooned the tree with hundreds of new lights. Our Carol service was held on the morning of 19<sup>th</sup> December and was led by Mark Dennis. It was great to see so many attending that morning and the singing resounded around the church accompanied by Judith Flint on the organ. Roger led services at both Tolworth and Ewell on Christmas morning.

Sadly, in the past year we have lost four of our Church family who have died. Monica Lunn, our longest serving member, Brian Keepence, Beryl Meech and Brenda Gill. We thank God for their lives and service to our church. In December, Mary and Owen Riches moved to Sussex to be nearer their family.. They are greatly missed, Owen played the piano for services, he edited the church magazine for 9 years, was an elder and they both attended the Circle where Owen provided the music. We wish them every happiness in their new home and hope they will visit us occasionally.

We hope restrictions will ease in 2022 and that soon we will be able to return to normal worship. Meantime , we are more than grateful to our minister Roger for all he has done for our church during this difficult time. He has created risk assessments for Covid, got Wifi installed in the church and arranged for services to be screened on our website and many other things, Gillian too has served us well, sitting at the laptop for each service and creating all sorts of crafts and activities for Pilots and Messy Church. We are indeed fortunate to have them both.

Finally, thanks to everyone who has helped keep our church going during the past year. Those who attended services in Church or online, Judith Flint for playing the organ for us when she can, Sid who arranges our halls lettings, Paul who keeps our website up to date, Geof, our treasurer and everyone who keeps in touch with those who cannot attend services. Finally, the Elders for all their support.

Thank you all

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**Moir**

### **From Barbara Smith**

As we approach Mothering Sunday I've been thinking about the things I used to do, as a child. Church in the morning, clutching my little bag, white socks and clean ribbon in my hair. After the service walking home clutching a gift for my mum, one particular year I remember taking home a posy of violets, wrapped in a doily which I presented to my mum, who put it into water in pride of place.

Now I'm a step parent, I'm the one that gets a gift, maybe flowers or perhaps a plant - no matter what it is I appreciate the gesture. Just as my mum always did.

**Barbara**

## Roger Fenn's Puzzle for April –

### Easter Praise

**Please identify the first lines of the following Easter Hymns**

1. "Hark all the tribes ""Hosannah" cry".
2. "Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son".
3. "Inscribed upon the cross, we see. In shining letters, 'God is love'".
4. "On the third day, he rose again".
5. "When Christ rose up, set free from death".
6. "Lives again our glorious King"
7. "Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away".
8. "You're alive, you're alive, you have risen - Alleluia".
9. "Now is the triumph of our King".
10. "Spread the good news o'er all the earth".

**Answers on next page**

### From Brenda Kelly

Spring is on its way!

So the daffodils are in flower, and the tulips are growing really well. I have a small patch of blue forget-me-not. A tiny blue flower with yellow centres. The name comes from the Ancient Greek 'mouse ear' which the foliage is thought to resemble.

Each week I have given Lesley a lift to church and a few weeks ago I noticed a plant by her front door with small beautiful furry buds, the next week they were showing a small amount of colour AND this morning it was covered in beautiful white blossom. It is a magnolia, which has a short life with blossom, but I was amazed at how it had progressed week by week.

I have a cherry blossom tree which is now showing tiny pink buds and behind that the lilac is beginning to show shoots, which when the cherry blossom fades, the lilac will take its place.

A long way to go are the roses, but they are showing lovely green shoots, with the promise of (hopefully) some lovely perfumed blooms in June.

All this reminds us that whatever we do life goes on year after year, and it makes us realise that God created a beautiful world for us to live in and enjoy

**Brenda**

**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!

27<sup>th</sup> April

25<sup>th</sup> May

29<sup>th</sup> June

3<sup>rd</sup> August

7<sup>th</sup> September

12<sup>th</sup> October

16<sup>th</sup> 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)

### **April Quiz – Answers**

- |     |   |         |
|-----|---|---------|
| 1.  | “Ride on, ride on in majesty”.              | RS 209  |
| 2.  | “All glory, laud and honour”.               | RS 208  |
| 3.  | “We sing the praise of him who died”        | RS 229  |
| 4.  | “The strife is o’er, the battle done”.      | RS 250  |
| 5.  | “The glory of our King was seen”.           | RS 230  |
| 6.  | “Christ the Lord is risen today”.           | RS 232  |
| 7.  | “Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son”. | RS 247. |
| 8.  | “Led like a lamb to the slaughter”.         | RS 241  |
| 9.  | “Good Christians all, rejoice and sing”.    | RS 238  |
| 10. | “Alleluia, give thanks to the Risen Lord”.  | RS 234  |

**Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition - please keep them coming! We hope to publish a magazine for May. Please let me have all your material by 21<sup>st</sup> April.**

**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 #)

<b>Minister</b>	<b>Revd Roger Jones</b>	<b>0208 393 4270</b> rjones@urcsouthern.org.uk
<b>Secretary</b>	Mrs M Fleming	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr G Stock	
<b>Serving Elders</b>	Mr D Bennett, Mrs M Fleming, Mrs B Kelly, Mrs L Menneer, Mrs B Smith, Mr G Stock, Mrs K Woolard,	
<b>Management Committee</b>	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	