

CONCORD



**The Monthly Magazine of
London Road, Ewell and
Tolworth United Reformed Churches**

May 2022

This month's Concord is the first to be produced covering Tolworth and London Road, Ewell (formerly Ewell) United Reformed Churches

From our Minister

May 2022

Dear friends,

Easter is now over. We have rehearsed, reflected, reimagined, and relived the story of Jesus whom we seek to follow during his final days on earth. All his hurts and pains, disappointments, betrayals, and his horrors. Some we relive ourselves. Some we can see in the pains of others. Some we can just imagine. But the glorious story is that the physical things that confined and defined Jesus earthly life are not the things we cling to either. For there is resurrection. Hallelujah?



Now we face the hurts and deaths and resurrections without Jesus' physical body among us because in May we remember his ascension. In Acts chapter one, following the gospel accounts we hear how the disciples stood "intently" looking into the sky as Jesus was taken up before their very eyes. This is our challenge. We know Jesus had to be taken up. How else could the Spirit of God in Jesus be released for us all. How else could the world know of all he had done. How else could the Spirit of God continue Jesus' work on earth in us.

Our challenge is indeed to continue to share the good news, the faith, hope and love of Jesus with those around us and in the world. How tempting it is to remain standing looking-up after Jesus rather than continue Gods work on earth. ***"...why do you stand looking up toward heaven...? Acts 1;11.***

I was encouraged to watch a Netflix film recently. Yes Netflix. How modern am I? The film is called "Don't Look Up". The film had an Oscar winning director and an all-star cast. The film is a dark comedy but promoted as "based on truly possible true events."

In the film two scientists discover a "planet killing" comet hurtling towards earth. They attempt to alert the people, the government, the world! Despite their warnings the dangers go unheeded by a distracted world. The president is focused on winning her mid term elections, *"let's sit tight and assess"*, she decides. The media are concerned about ratings focus on the latest celebrity split! A billionaire is focused on the quick buck tries to mine the comet for precious metals. The public squabble about whether it even exists.

The meteor, a thinly veiled metaphor for the climate crisis, isn't taken seriously. People in the film are told "not to look up" at the pending disaster coming.

Although inverted, ***"...why do you stand looking up toward heaven...?"*** is a similar message for ascension.

Can we look to Jesus, the lovely bits of story, the nice words and the treasures in heaven and miss the warnings for us here on Earth? Gods own creation.

Climate change, suggested by the film is one such challenge remembering God's love for all creation. Let's not be looking up toward heaven and miss how God's earth is being treated.

In the Netflix film, Don't Look Up people seemed more concerned with the celebrity and ratings than what was going on around them. Not only the planet killing comet, but the day to day lives and hopes of one another. Let's not be looking up toward heaven and miss opportunities to reach out to a lonely neighbour or hurting friend as well as opportunity to reduce our carbon footprint.

Ascension, as Jesus is taken from the earth, is not a time to look heavenward. Not up or down, but around. We are called again to be present in the world and alert in the world and prayerfully consider our contribution to justice and love where we are.

Sometimes, comet or not the difference might be world changing.

God bless,

Roger

Tolworth Family Circle

Several friends are unwell at present. Pauline Beckles has fallen downstairs and broken her foot. Peter Crowl has been in hospital for surgery and Eunice had a fall while he was away. She is bruised and sore but nothing broken and Peter is home again although still feeling delicate. Clinton Arthur is due to have surgery at Kingston hospital this week after his operation was cancelled last week. Dave Bennett is awaiting surgery on his hip and June Davis spent a few days in St George's after a fall at home. She is now home with carers coming in. I have just heard that Lesley Menneer is back in hospital after falling and breaking her other hip. We pray for God's comfort and healing powers on all these friends and their families.

We were saddened to learn this week of the death of David Carvalho after a long illness. David and the family had a long association with our Church through Mary, his wife, and they worshipped with us whenever they could. We extend our sympathy to Mary, Louise and the family.

Moir

Easter at Tolworth

Thank you to the ladies who decorated the Church so beautifully with flowers for Easter. Our Easter services were memorable, Maundy Thursday evening was a lovely service led by Roger and Heather and shared with friends from Surbiton Hill Methodist Church. The Good Friday service which Roger led at Surbiton Hill was a meaningful and peaceful reflection, Thank you, Roger,

.May Diary - Tolworth

Sunday	1st	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert
Wednesday	4 th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Morning Communion led by our Minister
Monday	9 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	11 th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	15th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge
Monday	16 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Tuesday	17 th	2.30pm	Elders' meeting
Wednesday	18 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	19 st	3,30pm	Messy Church
Sunday	22nd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by our Minister including the baptism of Jack Arthur
Monday	23 rd	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	24 th	10.00am 12.30pm	Playtime Lunch at the Hogsmill
Thursday	26 st	2.30pm	Thursday Group – Afternoon tea party
Sunday	29th	10.30pm	Morning Worship led by Revd Barbara Pearson

June 2022

Sunday	5th		Church Anniversary
		10.30am	Morning Communion led by our Minister followed by a Bring and Share lunch

EWELL FAMILY NEWS

This month we say "Farewell and God bless" to Angelina and Leen Vonk, who are returning to Holland. We will miss them very much, especially for their cheerful willingness to put their hands to all manner of tasks. Pat Redvers-Smith has taken up residence in Appleby House after a bad fall and a stay in hospital. We offer our sympathy to Rosemary Holmes who is learning to live without her dear companion, Bella.

May Diary for Ewell

Sunday	1 st	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Revd. B Pearson
Tuesday	3 rd	12.30 pm	Soup Lunch
Sunday	8 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Mrs. Linda Lambert
Sunday	15 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Revd. R. Jones
Sunday	22 nd	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Revd. B. Pearson
Monday	23 rd	10 am	Elders/Church Meeting
Thursday	26 th	2 – 3 pm	Friendship Hour
Sunday	29 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Revd. R. Jones

Tolworth Treasurer's Report

Financial position for the 12 months to 31st December 2021

Property Steward Income			Expenditure		
Church offerings	13,361	(11,300)	Ministry & Mission	17,154	(19,475)
Donations	2,796	(2,359)	& Pulpit supply		
Tax refund	2,276	(5,259)	Ministerial Expenses	2,474	(2,490)
Other	<u>1,103</u>	<u>(205)</u>	Other	<u>5,371</u>	<u>(5,909)</u>
	19,536	(19,128)		24,999	(27,869)
Halls & Flat	14,247	(18878)		11,187	(13,225)

2021 figures in brackets

Following 2020, 2021 had its own difficulties, with Covid-19 still around but hopefully coming to an end. Church services resumed, but in a more spaced out way. Freewill offerings increased by a little over £2,000, but halls lettings were down by £4,600. Freewill offerings have been in the £15,000's, but that was some 10 years ago when there were a few more in the congregation. The overall deficit in the Receipts and Expenditure account was £2,948, just £150 down on the previous year.

We spent the remaining £976 in respect of the Synod grant of £8,000 in our Fundraising account, and there is now £8,000 in our Fundraising account to cover the further amount that we are asked to spend on Church work and mission.

We did have a Gift Day in 2021, when £2,245 was raised. As discussion on which charities to support was delayed it was decided to make these donations in 2022. Once again our reserves in the Deposit Fund remained unchanged,

Finally, I must express my thanks to the Halls Letting Officer, the Property Steward and his assistants, the Examiner of the accounts and the typist, and my appreciation for all they do.

Geof Stock - Treasurer

THE ASCENSION

What strange lives we lived, us disciples,
With no two days ever the same,
Trudging the roads with our Master,
Hearing great praise and sour blame.

Standing on hilltops in glory,
Then hungry and searching for food,
Hearing his life-changing teaching,
Learning the meaning of "good".

Then, healing and preaching forgotten,
A trial and a cross on a hill,
And we are left frightened and hopeless,
An emptiness nothing can fill.

But then like a dream he's back with us,
He teaches and talks like before,
He promises spiritual comfort,
To guide and enrich ever more.

And now he has gone to the Father,
To the glory he left for our sake,
And we must wait now for his Spirit,
To show us the paths we must take.

Barbara Pearson

Thursday Club

**You are all invited to Afternoon Tea to celebrate the Queens
Platinum Jubilee**

The date, Thursday 26th May 2022

The time. 2.30 pm

The venue. The Elgar Hall

RSVP. Brenda Kelly

Joan Burnett has written to say,

"Please say "Thank you"to Moira and Cynthia for the flowers given to me on my recent birthday. Just to mention, too, the Church was beautifully decoratedwith an array of colourful flowers for the Easter service. Thanks to Cynthia and her helpers for making this possible.

Regards **Joan**

Roger Fenn has written to say

“Thank you to everyone who made my birthday so special during the Easter weekend”.

Roger

Roger Fenn’s Puzzle for May –

We don’t often read from the Book of Judges during our worship, but it tells us how God chose people to serve him and rescue his chosen people – the Israelites – from their enemies. Please identify the following “Judges”.

1. Who defeated the Midianites with only 300 specially chosen soldiers?
2. Name the left-handed terrorist who defeated Moab.
3. Who summoned BARAK to defeat Jabin’s huge army promising to lure them into the Kishon Valley?
4. Which Judge was Caleb’s younger brother?
5. Who set fire to the Philistine crops?
6. Who gave his daughter as a sacrifice to God to give thanks for victory over the Ammonites?
7. Who gave his own life as a supreme sacrifice to free Israel from Philistine rule?
8. The last and greatest of the “JUDGES” is not mentioned in this book but has two books recounting his life’s history. Who was he?

Answers 2 page on

From Brenda Kelly

My Mothers’ Day card from my daughter said Mums are like flowers each one is beautiful and unique. I thought that was a lovely saying and once again made me think that God created a world that is beautiful. Not only flowers, but trees, landscapes, fields, rivers and seas which are all beautiful and all very different but lovely in their own way. Life is not always easy and there are so many sad things in the world, but we do have the ability to find beauty if we look at the world around us. I am very lucky to have a garden which as you know I love, especially at the moment when everything is beginning to come to life. Even all greens are beautiful, but will be even better in the months to come when all the flowers bring lots of colour. So just remember just appreciate all that is around you, because God made it ALL for everyone to enjoy.

Brenda



You are warmly invited to

A Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration

**of the United Reformed Church's
50th Anniversary**

**Saturday 1 October, 2022
3pm-5pm**

**Methodist Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate,
London SW1H 9NH, where the Uniting Assembly and
first General Assembly took place**

You are also invited to an Open Church House event
on the same day: 10am-1pm at United Reformed Church
House, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT

Book your free tickets: www.bit.ly/urc50
50th Anniversary website: www.urc.org.uk/50

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!

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/. **Everybody welcome.**

Brenda (01372 743968)

From Barbara Smith

Gary and I have come back to Norfolk, to 'open up' our summer home. The village is surrounded by farm land, which we last saw looking barren and forlorn after the harvest. What a change has happened, new green shoots sprouting up, oil seed rape flowers blowing in the gentle breeze, looking like a sea of yellow. Best of all, I got to see calves and baby lambs with their mums. Not a sight I have experienced before as I'm a, 'townie' but one which lifted up my spirits, as it reminded me of the scene in a stable, in Bethlehem.

Barbara

SONG OF QUIET TRUST (PSALM 131)

Should I raise my thoughts to heaven,
Lift my voice with fervent cry?
My soul's prayer is simple, quiet -
No wild calling, just a sigh.

Mighty words would overwhelm me,
Make me see myself as small.
Never let such thoughts oppress me -
Humble hearts can hear God's call.

For God's call is like a mother's,
Soothes me, makes my heart secure.
Crashing storms can rage about me -
In God's arms my future's sure.

Barbara Pearson

May Quiz – Answers

- | | | | | | |
|----|---------|---------------|----|----------|--------------|
| 1. | Gideon | Ch 7 v 7 | 2. | Ehud | Ch3 v 15 + |
| 3. | Deborah | Ch 4 v 6 | 4. | Othniel | Ch 3 v 9 |
| 5. | Samson | Ch 15 v 4-5 | 6. | Jephthah | Ch11 v 31 |
| 7. | Samson | Ch 16 v 28-30 | 8. | Samuel | 1 / 2 Samuel |

Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition - please keep them coming! We would welcome any contributions from Ewell members also. We hope to publish a magazine for June. Please let me have all your material by 19th May.

SUNDAY WORSHIP at TOLWORTH

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	
Treasurer	Mr G Stock	
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	

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT EWELL

Morning Worship at 10.30

Minister	Revd Roger Jones	020 8393 4270
Secretary	Mrs Pamela Galliers	
Treasurer	Mr. George Pearson	
Serving Elders	Mrs. P Galliers, Miss R Holmes, Mr. G. Pearson, Mrs. P. Redvers-Smith, Mrs. B. Williams, Mr. M. Westbrook	

Officers, Leaders and Representatives

Housekeeping	Mrs. B. Williams
Flower rota	Mrs. P. Redvers-Smith
Lettings	Mrs. M. Westbrook
Organist	Vacant
Safeguarding	Mr. D. Mugridge
Commitment for Life	Revd B Pearson
Pulpit Supply	Revd B Pearson
Friendship Hour	Revd B Pearson & Mr. D. Sexton
Lunch Club	Mr. and Mrs. D. Sexton
Bible Study	Revd B Pearson
Finance & Property	Mr G. Pearson, Mr. D. Mugridge & Mr. M. Westbrook

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