

CONCORD



Loch Garten, Cairngorms National Park

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

September 2022

From our Minister

Dear Friends,

September 2022

October brings on the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the United Reformed Church. I say this now as there are things to look forward to and celebrate.

I was a mere 14 years old when the United Reformed Church was formed in 1972. I was at St Andrews in Balham, where my faith was first ignited and inspired. This would not be for a few years



The United Reformed Church was formed fifty years ago from a union between the Congregational and Presbyterian Churches but the tradition goes back much further. 500 years to be precise, to 1517 when Martin Luther launched the movement we call the Protestant Reformation, mostly in response to the abuses of the then Catholic Church. Of course, when Henry V111 in England got his hands on the Protestant Reformation, he made himself head of the Church in England for what, today, we would call **“personal reasons”**. And so, Anglicism became the established church in 1559. Yet many of the original people of the reformation wanted to remain independent of state control. So, whilst the Church of England, became the established church, those choosing to remain outside were the “nonconformists”. Congregationalism and Presbyterianism were born. Up to mid-1700s, non-conformists could not be elected to parliament, attend university, or become doctors or lawyers. They were the outcast. The stranger.

Over the centuries changes arrived. The bible was translated into languages everyone could read. Scripture could be explored and interpreted by everyone, the people, and ministers together. The local congregation (the Church Meeting) was the place where God’s will for that community was discerned. By being “reformed” we held onto the idea that the church could and should be continually transforming. It reflects our continual aim of reforming ourselves to be the church of today. The churches of Christ joined the United Reformed Church in 1981 and then the Scottish Congregationalists in 2000. See! Continually reforming. Now part of the establishment.

That’s enough history! Almost. The creation of the United Reformed Church in 1972 was considered by one member of parliament as “one of the most historic measures in the history of the Christian Church in this country”. (Alongside, Henry V111 making himself head of the church presumably). Tony Benn’s mother, at the time urged him to ensure the church meeting remained sacrosanct when parliament voted in the act that established this new church.

We know and live its struggles and joys. But, for now, in 2022 we reflect on United Reformed Church’s jubilee year. Fifty years old this year and it is a year of celebration. Many SYNODS are holding special celebrations and churches are celebrating in acts of worship and other special ways.

Our services will reflect this jubilee in October.

Barbara Pearson and I entered a hymn into the Jubilee hymn competition, “Changes”. A reflection the continual reforming nature of God’s church and world. Win or lose you will sing it with great gusto!

You are also, ALL invited to the special SYNOD celebration of Synod Together at Reigate Park United Reformed Church on 8th October. See me for details.

On 1st October there is an anniversary event at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. Tickets are still available.

Positive reflections and stories have been provided to form a Joint Jubilee Book between The Congregational Federation and the United Reformed Church.

The United Reformed Church Life review group are producing a book on “our” views on; “Tending the Vineyard”.

“Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15;5)

The theme for the United Reformed Church 50th anniversary celebrations is The Year of Jubilee from Leviticus (chapter 25; 8-12). This is a call for God’s own people to reform ourselves and faith communities effectively and radically. That is not just a new song. Or even a new hymn book. But to set the prisoner free. To return property. Cancel debts. Rest the land. Good, sensible, and worthy advice and instruction.

There are many ways to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Reformed Church. To remember the great stories and all the church has meant to us. To reflect on the joy and sadness, wonders and disaster’s not from fifty years but the five hundred years over which the church has presided. To repent as well as to give thanks and praise.

And finally explore the questions that come to mind by being a reformed and reforming church. To be growing and changing, what this means and what the church may be and look like for the future.

I leave you with some questions for us on “Tending the Vineyard”.

- The Jubilee year was a time of great joy. Reflect quietly on a time when you have felt most joyful in your church life.
- The Jubilee year was a time of celebration. What would you like to celebrate about the United Reformed Church?
- The Jubilee year was a time of liberation. Are there any church burdens that, if freed of, would liberate you to flourish?
- The Jubilee year was a time of economic transformation and big dreams. If money was no object, what would you invest in to make your local church more effective?

Answers NOT on a postcard please. Answers to be reflected upon, discussed between us and then acted on so that faith can be ignited and inspired once again...and again!

God bless

Roger



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

London Road United Reformed Church, Ewell

United Reformed Church, London Rd, Epsom KT17 2BE

18th August 2022

Building Redevelopment

Dear members and friends at London Road Ewell, Ewell Korean church and Tolworth.

As you are aware there are exciting developments we are planning for our buildings in Ewell. It is important for us to keep our neighbours and friends who use our buildings informed of the plans. Therefore, we have invited them to a community meeting and sent this letter. You are of course very welcome to attend this community meeting. Indeed, it would be very helpful for you to meet our neighbours and church users of our buildings. So come along.

The church officers have been meeting with architects and following decisions trying to make some significant changes to the church building. We are seeking to;

Create a more welcoming approach and space in the sanctuary and worship areas

Modernise the main halls, café areas and offices

Develop the rear of the site to create additional workspace for increased community use

We are at the early stage of planning and the actual work will not be commencing until the end of the 2022 or 2023.

However, there will be a level of disruption although we try to keep this to a minimum. We trust that we will all benefit from improved facilities.

Consequently, I would like to invite you to a meeting with us to share the ideas, to view the plans and offer any insights you may have for your own group.

The meeting is on Tuesday 13th September at 7.00pm at the church hall/Sanctuary.

We do hope you are able to attend to hear about these exciting new developments.

Kind regards

Church Elders

Revd Roger Jones

Tolworth Family Circle

Barry Kelly is very ill in hospital. We pray that he may be free from pain and discomfort and we remember Brenda and their family at this time.

Lesley Menneer is making slow and steady progress and we hope that she will soon be back among us. Dave Bennett is awaiting his hip operation and he hopes to have a date very soon. We also remember those who are housebound – Eunice Crowl, Joyce Craven and Charmaine Waterman.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Mary Harding in July. Mary had been a member of our Church for 20 years She became an Elder and taught in Junior Church, She spent her last few years in Surbiton Care home after her mobility became difficult. We extend our sympathy to her family.

Moira

September Diary - Tolworth

Sunday	4th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge
Tuesday	6 th	12.30pm	Soup lunch at Ewell URC
Thursday	8 th	2.30pm 3.30pm	Biscuit Club Messy Church
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Morning Communion led by our Minister
Monday	12 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	14 th	2.30pm	Church Meeting
Sunday	18th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by Tom Sweatman Evergreen Church
Monday	19 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Sunday	25th	10.30am	Harvest Morning Worship led by Mr Mark Dennis followed by Ploughman's Lunch
Monday	19 th	5.30pm	Pilots

October 2022

Sunday	2nd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd David Skitt
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Resumé of Church Meeting held on 21st June 2022

Minutes of the last Church Meeting held on 12th April 2022 having been circulated, were agreed and signed.

Matters arising -

Organist – The forms have been sent for the visa for the Korean lady to come and she may be with us in September.

Drama Group for Children – So far we have had 3 responses. We hope to have 10 before it is possible to start.

Youth Leader – Andrea Gnappagasam will be unable to take on this post so we will need to look for someone else. The Synod have agreed to finance this.

Financial report – It was agreed to hold a retiring collection for Christian Aid on Sunday 17th July.

Charity Giving – The Chairman suggested that, as we no longer raised and sent money to Jammalamadugu, we may be interested in a project originally with Balham URC, supporting a group of disabled people making craft items in Uganda. Balham are no longer able to continue with this. This was discussed and the members asked for more details before agreeing to support this project.

Berrylands Festival- This will be held on Sunday 3rd July from 12 noon. The organisers will borrow staging from Ewell and may use some of our tables. Our Minister will organise a stall on behalf of our congregation with games advertising Messy Church.

Family News – We heard about friends who were unwell and/or housebound. The chairman then prayed for those mentioned.

Correspondence – Cynthia Stock had received correspondence from Churches Together in Surbiton about their AGM on 17th July where they will discuss the future of meetings and events. As we have no representative for this meeting, we need someone to attend on our behalf.. Cynthia will write about this in the Church magazine.

Concord – Ian Fleming, the editor, said that the magazine now included news from Ewell URC and so had become a joint magazine.

Evergreen Church – The chairman reported on the meeting at which Roger Fenn, Heather Lodge and Cynthia Stock had met with him to discuss the possibility of a different kind of worship. This will begin on Sunday July 17th at 6.30pm and will be open to members and friends of both churches. It will take place on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Pilots – Gillian Jones wished to place the Pilots Lifebelt Ring in the children's corner in the Church. This was agreed. The chairman planned to meet with the Guides, Brownies and Pilots leaders.

Favourite Hymn Service – Mary Wardle asked if a service of hymns could be organised. This was discussed and a future date would be made in due course.

Date of Next meeting – This was arranged for September 14th at 2.30pm. This concluded the business of the meeting which closed with the saying of the Grace.

Ewell Family News

Several of our housebound members, and members who have moved away, continue to enjoy the online services from both Ewell and Tolworth. Our friend, Raj Samuel, is still waiting for a place in a nursing home, and continues to be cared for most lovingly at home by his wife and family, and carers from the community. Gwyneth Smith has had Covid but is now recovering. Church friends are hoping to visit her while they are on holiday nearby. Several other members are experiencing health difficulties, and we hold them in our prayers, and pray for a speedy resolution of their problems.

September Diary for Ewell

Sunday	4th	10.30 am	Morning Worship including the celebration of Holy Communion, conducted by Revd. Roger Jones
Tuesday	6th	12.30 pm	Soup Lunch
Wednesday	7th	9.30-11.30	Art
Sunday	11 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Mike Westbrook and George Pearson
Wednesday	14th	9.30-11.30	Art Group
Sunday	18th	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson
Wednesday	21st	9.30-11.30	Art
Thursday	22 nd	2-3 pm	Friendship Hour
Sunday	25th	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson, to Includes the baptism of Olivia Cresswell

Favourite Hymns Service at Tolworth

On **Sunday 9th October**, our morning service will include a number of our favourite hymns. Mary Wardle has devised a list of hymns for everyone to vote for 5 of them and those with most votes will be included in the service. If you have not yet received a ballot paper, please contact Mary Wardle. All forms should be **returned to Mary by Sunday 11th September**.

Harvest at Tolworth

You are invited to a

Ploughman's lunch

on

Sunday 25th September 2022

in the Elgar Hall

Tickets £8. from Brenda Kelly

Brenda Kelly has written to say thank you to everyone in the church for their love and friendship while Barry has been in hospital. Not sure what the future holds, but it is just one day at a time. Plus thank you for the church flowers, they certainly cheered me up.

Brenda

From Barbara Smith

It's only August and already most of the harvest is gathered in. Now I think realisation is hitting about the effects of our extreme weather. Fields of stubble where crops stood the last time I was in Norfolk. Grass like straw everywhere I look. Although the weeds are still a vibrant green, when we had a little rain the grass perked up - little being the right word, flash of thunder, lightening and a two minute shower, the sum total of rain here for three weeks. Now I think I can empathise with those for whom drought is a constant worry,

Barbara

Ladies and gentlemen who lunch. An invitation

Members of Tolworth meet for lunch at The Hogsmill, Worcester Park. We would like to invite friends from Ewell

The dates

Wednesday 7th. September
Wednesday 12th October
Wednesday 16th November

The time is 12.30

If you would like to join us please let me know the Sunday before, so I can book the table

Brenda (01372 743968)

Tales from our campground: bath time



The heat that accompanied our arrival at our campground well and truly broke a few days later with three hours of rolling thunder and such torrents of rain that were surely last seen by Noah. Instant rivers and ponds formed. We took shelter under the tarpaulin we'd pitched to protect our firepit and from there we watched the force of rain bouncing six inches off the bone-dry, dust-hardened forest floor.

We were sitting maybe four feet apart so we could keep an eye on the tarp as the guy lines strained under the weight of the deluge. How noisy is rain in that intensity! We had to shout to hear each other. But while we were watching for floods and fearing imminent collapse of tents, the forest and its inhabitants reacted quite differently.

The resident Robin scuttled out of the brambles, lifting his head to the sky as if to say thank you for long overdue water. Mr. Tree Rat, usually only out and about after dark, emerged from the undergrowth to wash his paws and whiskers. And in the brief lulls between downpours, the trees drank audibly to replenish their reserves. By evening there were plump blackberries ripe for picking.

The forest soaked up its bath with almost no trace left and we crept out from our shelter to marvel again at God's creation.

Heather Lodge

Roger Fenn's Puzzle for September –

The Book of Proverbs contains many witty sayings some of which have been taken into our own language

Please complete the following:-

1. "Go to the ant you sluggard -----
2. "The fear of the Lord is -----
3. "Pride comes before a fall -----
4. "Wisdom is more precious -----
5. "A gossip betrays confidence, but -----
6. "He who spares the rod -----
7. "A gentle answer -----
8. "A happy heart -----
9. "Better a dry crust with peace -----
10. "Better to live on the corner of the roof -----

Answers two pages on

From Brenda Kelly

.It's Sunday afternoon and it is still very warm, but somewhat of a relief from the extreme hot weather we have experienced earlier in the month. My garden has suffered. One very hot day ' most of my plants just gave up. It is very sad when you spend time and money to make the garden look good and then along comes a heat wave. We have no control of the weather, except it is a talking point (we love talking about the weather). Last week I watched Gardeners World and I was delighted to see that Monty Dons ferns had nearly died, if his were in a bad way it meant there was hope for mine. He assured the viewers that they would survive. So once again God works in a mysterious way giving us hope for the future. So when the little fronds on the ferns reappear I will know God is on my side.

Brenda

JESUS SAID, "GO ON YOUR WAY"

(Luke 10, 1-11, 16-20)

It really was a challenge,
And my heart began to pound –
We'd been sent out by Jesus
To take the good news round.

Thank goodness I'm not on my own,
We're sent out two by two,
Not just to teach with Jesus' words,
But cast out demons too.

He talked about a harvest,
But not of fruit or wheat,
We're sent to take good tidings
To all the folk we meet.

He says, "I'm sending you like lambs
Where wolves are all around".
That doesn't help my nerves at all –
I just don't like the sound!

We mustn't dawdle on the road,
But spread the word abroad,
Of God and how his Kingdom comes
Through Jesus, our dear Lord.

And really it was wonderful,
The difference we could make
By sharing Jesus' wisest words,
And teaching for his sake.

We travelled back rejoicing,
Full of what we'd seen and done,
By sharing lessons that we'd learned
From Jesus, God's own Son.

Barbara Pearson

September Quiz – Answers

- | | | |
|-----|--|------------------|
| 1. | ----- consider his ways and be wise | Proverbs 6 v 6 |
| 2. | ----- the beginning of knowledge | Proverbs 1 v 7 |
| 3. | ----- with humility comes wisdom | Proverbs 11 v 2 |
| 4. | ----- than rubies | Proverbs 8 v 11 |
| 5. | ----- a trustworthy person keeps a secret | Proverbs 11 v 13 |
| 6. | ----- spoils the child | Proverbs 13 v 21 |
| 7. | ----- turns away wrath | Proverbs 15 v 1 |
| 8. | ----- makes the face cheerful | Proverbs 15 v 13 |
| 9. | ----- than a house full of feasting and strife | Proverbs 17 v 1 |
| 10. | ----- than to share a house with a quarrelsome partner | Proverbs 21 v 19 |

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 October. Please let me have all your material by 22nd September.

SUNDAY WORSHIP at TOLWORTH

Morning Worship at 10.30

3rd Sunday of month - Evergreen Worship at 6.30pm

(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	8330 5492
Halls Letting Officer	Mr S. Heath	8399 4407
Junior Church	Mrs B Kelly	01372 743968
Magazine Editor	Mr I Fleming	8337 8581
Magazine Secretary	Mrs M Fleming	8337 8581
Organist		
Pilots	Mrs G Jones	8393 4270
Playtime	Mrs M Fleming	8337 8581
Rainbows	Ms Kirsten Cook	07900 894864
Brownies	Ms Michelle Nicholls	07531 007547
Guides	Mrs J Pelham	8241 9942

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT EWELL

Morning Worship at 10.30

Minister	Revd Roger Jones	020 8393 4270
Secretary	Mrs Pamela Galliers	020 394 0229
Treasurer	Mr. George Pearson	020 8337 8476
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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