

# CONCORD



A Chaffinch

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

**November 2022**

## From our Minister

Dear Friends,

### Psalm 46 – Stand by Me

The first three notes of the typical bass guitar triad, struck up loudly and we immediately recognised the soul classic song, Stand By Me.

Several of us had gone along to the music and poetry concert at The Corner House, Surbiton last week. The Christian music legend from the 70s and 80s, but still writing, Bryn Haworth along with the poet (well known to me as Christian poet Stewart Henderson) and his wife Carol were performing.

Bryn Haworth is a brilliant slide guitarist and effortlessly holds an audience with a variety of styles of music from soul and blues to Rock and Roll. As a teenager I remember seeing him on stage with his band and buying his albums. So, it was a delight to sit close-up in this intimate venue and watch and listen to him play.

Stand by Me, is a classic soul song by Ben E King, the king of the bass triads (listen to this song and you will recognise it immediately) written 60 years ago, covered over four hundred times, including by John Lennon, and used countless times at weddings most famously, and ironically, at the wedding of the then Prince Harry and Megan Markle at St George's Chapel in 2018. There is also a great tube video of a street performer, saying, "*a singer asks if I know Stand by Me*" and they perform an impromptu rendition on the pavement. "*It steals the show,*" he says.

I have played Stand by Me, and those bass triads dozens of times, but for some reason I had not realised what Bryn told us that night at the concert that this classic song contains words of Psalm 46.

So, I went to Psalm 46 for reflection. Well, to make the link with a great soul classic and scripture!

The last three years have brought enormous grief, anxiety, and uncertainty. Whatever we think about the pandemic, what we were told or how it was managed we cannot help but think about six million deaths worldwide. We continue to face political challenges not just in the UK. We watch the horrors of Ukraine and its destabilising effects on the economy. We feel helpless at acts of racial injustice, too numerous to count and the contentious global climate change. And then we face our own personal turmoil's and struggles.

Psalm 46 does not provide such a list of specific crises. It was referring to the city of Jerusalem with its own political strife as well as other natural and human made disasters. But we can turn to such a Psalm, "*though the mountains shake, and the waters roar. Though the mountains tremble we will not fear. God is our refuge and strength*". (para) Psalm 46 2 & 3. And such a song Or "*if the sky that we look upon, should tumble and fall and the mountains should crumble into the sea, I won't cry if you stand by me.*" Stand by Me, Ben E King.

In Psalm 46, far from eliciting fear, this chaos gave Israel an opportunity to celebrate Gods presence, strength, and help. Far from eliciting tears, Stand by Me celebrates "standing by" our loved ones in such crises.

Ben E Kings song was drawn from an earlier gospel hit, Stand by me Father by the Soul Stirrers. So, the “new” Ben E King Stand By Me can be said to be a call to God to stand by each of us. But this song in the “Outro” lines, are “*whenever you’re in trouble won’t you stand by me*”, indicating a mutuality of need for us as we stand by one another. Yet I am sure God’s heart is also gladdened when we stand alongside God.

As far as the Psalm 46 is concerned, like the song there are no answers provided to the chaos of the world or the hurts and challenges of life’s struggles. Verse 9 speaks of God making wars cease. And what about the massive natural disasters? It is quite natural to ask the questions, like those of the psalmists, where is God in the Tsunami?

We naturally wish to dispense with any notion of divine intervention causing such horrors, even though as Christians we affirm God’s transcendent governance of all things. Scripture often records God sovereignly acting in the natural order. We are also increasingly aware of the profound human impact of the human community. It is difficult to separate the sphere of human activity from the workings of nature.

The conversation in the Psalm and the song is not to despair, but to bring peace and healing wherever we are in the confidence that God is standing by each of us and that our trust in God will not disappoint. In confidence we trust in God’s time for a liberation from the apparent evils of these times.

Reflect then on “Stand by Me” or in the earlier words of Psalm 46 verse 10, “*Be still and know that I am God*”

We can stand by the psalmist. As in Psalm 46 calls us into a conversation with such theological conundrums. Stand by the psalmist’s call to stand by God, to desist from military action and wait on God. To desist from harming the planet and wait Go on God. To stand by one another and wait on God. “*Be still*”, to stop “*and know that I am God*” and wait on God.

When, in the future I play the opening triad of notes on my bass guitar of the song Stand by Me by Ben E King, I will hear again all God in Psalm 46; stand by my brothers and sisters, and wait on God. For I know God stands by me.

God bless

**Roger**

## **Tolworth Family Circle**

Sadly I have to report another death in our congregation. Joyce Craven died at the age of 96 after a long illness. We remember her fondly and extend our sympathy to Paul and his sister Ann. It was good to see David Bennett back in Church after his hip operation. He is progressing gradually and having physio. Clinton Arthur is still awaiting treatment for various problems.

Please remember any others who are ill and those unable to attend worship.

**Moir**

## November Diary - Tolworth

|                 |                        |                   |   |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Wednesday       | 2 <sup>nd</sup>        | 10.00am<br>2.30pm | Playtime<br>Church Meting   |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>  | 10.30am           | Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge                                 |
| Monday          | 7 <sup>th</sup>        | 5.30pm            | Pilots  |
| Wednesday       | 9 <sup>th</sup>        | 10,00am           | Playtime  |
| Thursday        | 10 <sup>th</sup>       | 2.30pm            | Biscuit Club – Musical entertainment with Judith Flint                  |
| Saturday        | 12 <sup>th</sup>       | 10.00am           | <b>Gift Day</b> Coffee Morning in aid of, “Talking Through Art”         |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>13<sup>th</sup></b> | 10.30am           | <b>Remembrance Sunday</b> Morning Communion led by Revd Barbara Pearson |
| Monday          | 14 <sup>th</sup>       | 5.30pm            | Pilots  |
| Wednesday       | 16 <sup>th</sup>       | 10.00am           | Playtime  |
| Thursday        | 17 <sup>th</sup>       | 3.30pm            | Messy Church  |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>20<sup>th</sup></b> | 10.30am<br>6.30pm | Morning Worship led by our Minister<br>Evergreen Church                 |
| Monday          | 21 <sup>st</sup>       | 5.30pm            | Pilots  |
| Wednesday       | 23 <sup>rd</sup>       | 10.00am           | Playtime  |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>27<sup>th</sup></b> | 10.30am           | Morning Worship led by our Minister Family Service                      |
| Monday          | 28 <sup>th</sup>       | 5.30pm            | Pilots  |
| Wednesday       | 30 <sup>th</sup>       | 10.00am           | Playtime  |
| <b>December</b> |                        |                   |   |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>4<sup>th</sup></b>  | 10.30am<br>4.00pm | Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge<br>Tree Lighting Ceremony       |

**Brenda Kelly** has written to say thank you for all your support during this very sad time. The church and all my friends have been a great help. Thank you to Roger for leading the funeral service and Cynthia for helping arrange the flowers. Suzanne, Richard and I were quite overwhelmed by how many people turned up to give a wonderful send off to Barry.

Thank you everyone, we are all so lucky to belong to such a lovely friendly church.

**Brenda**

## Ewell Family News

We were delighted to join with Beryl Williams and her family at the end of September, to celebrate the baptism of her great-granddaughter, Olivia Jane Cresswell, who behaved impeccably. Raj Samuel is now comfortably settled in Beaumont Nursing Home in Epsom. We were very sorry to hear of the death of Nobuko Tsuyuki's father in Japan, but glad that she was able to be there with her family. We continue to hold members of our congregation who are going through difficult times in our prayers.

**Barbara**

## November Diary for Ewell

|                 |                  |            |  |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|--|
| <b>Sunday</b>   | 6th              | 10.30 am   | Morning Worship including the celebration of Holy conducted Revd Roger Jones               |
| Wednesday       | 9th              | 9.30-11.30 | Art Group  |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | 13th             | 10.30 am   | Morning Worship led by Revd Roger Jones (Remembrance Sunday)                               |
| Wednesday       | 16th             | 9.30-11.30 | Art Group  |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | 20th             | 10.30 am   | Morning Worship conducted by Ms Carol Clack  |
| Wednesday       | 23rd             | 9.30-11.30 | Art Group  |
| Thursday        | 24 <sup>th</sup> | 2 – 3 pm   | Friendship Hour, including Cabaret   |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | 27th             | 10.30 am   | Morning Worship conducted by Mrs Linda Lambert   |
| Wednesday       | 30th             | 9.30 am    | Art Group  |
| <b>December</b> |                  |            |  |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | 4th              | 10.30 am   | Morning Worship including the celebration of Holy Communion, conducted by Revd Roger Jones |

## Tolworth Gift Day and Coffee Morning

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November we shall be holding our annual Gift Day when our treasurer will be in the vestry to receive your gifts between 10am and 12 noon. At the same time we shall be holding a Coffee Morning in the Elgar Hall to raise funds for a new project to help disabled women in Rwanda who are doing craft work to sell as their main income to support their families. Roger will be explaining more about this project at the service on 30<sup>th</sup> October. Please try to come along. We hope to have a cake stall and book stall as well as Ian's famous bacon rolls. It will be good to meet socially again and enjoy the company.

## Biscuit Club

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November Judith Flint will be entertaining us with her musical talents and everyone is welcome to come along. We start at 2,30pm in the Elgar hall and refreshments will be provided.

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December the Biscuit Club will be going to the Panto "Dick Whittington" at Epsom Playhouse at 2,30pm. Brenda Kelly has 15 tickets priced £18 each so anyone wishing to attend please see Brenda as soon as possible.

## Resumé of Church meeting held on September 14<sup>th</sup> 2022

**Minutes of the last Church Meeting** held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022 having been circulated were agreed and signed.

**Matter Arising – Organist** – We are looking forward to Suh Young Lee being with us. She will come on Sunday morning 18<sup>th</sup> September when Judith Flint will be playing so that she can begin to understand how our services proceed. Suh Young will play the organ for the first time on 25<sup>th</sup> September which is our Harvest-.

**Youth Worker** - Brenda Kelly had mentioned to our Minister that Carys Kelly would be interested in this post. Following her application for this Moira Fleming and the Minister will meet with her to discuss the post.

**Charity Giving – Talking Through Art** – Our Minister showed a video of this work in Kigali, Rwanda which helps people with disabilities to make craft items to sell. St Andrews Balham URC have been supporting this project but were unable to continue. The Chairman had been in contact with Petr Kocnar, the organiser Previously, Balham had sent £300 per quarter to this charity. The members recommended that we send £400 from September and commit to 1 year's giving.

It was decided to hold Gift Day on 12<sup>th</sup> November and hold a Coffee Morning to raise funds for this project. The Members will be shown the video at the morning service on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

**Churches Together in Surbiton** - Barbara Smith had attended the AGM of CTS on our behalf having taken over from Cynthia Stock. Thanks were expressed to Cynthia.

**Financial Report** – We have received a letter of thanks for our donation to Christian Aid. The Treasurer suggested that we hold a retiring collection for the Pakistan Floods Appeal. It was agreed that this would be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

Our Ministry & Mission Contribution for 2023 will be the same as this year £17004.

**Vestry Toilet** – This has been redecorated at a cost of £400.

The treasurer has obtained fixed prices for Gas and electricity until 2024/5. During the pandemic we have used Free Conference Calls to stream our services. We now have to pay £50 shared between Tolworth & Ewell Churches.

**Pastoral Supervision** – All Ministers are now required to receive professional Pastoral Supervision . The cost of this for Our Minister will again be shared with Ewell URC.

**Student – Yonas Beyene** – This student of the Congregational Federation required a placement for 10 hours a week for 1 year. The minister agreed to help with this training.

**Family News** – We remembered Barry Kelly and Elizabeth Rathjen who had died recently. We heard news of other friends who were ill or housebound. The Chairman prayed for these people.

### **Correspondence – Shoe Box Appeal**

The members agreed to a retiring collection for this on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

**URC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Revd David Skitt will be leading our worship on October 2<sup>nd</sup> to celebrate this anniversary. He has asked for thoughts about the URC - Gillian Jones, Cynthia Stock and Moira Fleming will each contribute.

**Churches Resources Exhibition.** - This will be held at Sandown Race Course from 11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> October.

**Favourite Hymns Service on 9<sup>th</sup> October** - Mary Wardle has had a good response to her questionnaire and she gave us the results. The Minister and Mary will arrange an order of service.

**Playtime** – This will restart at the beginning of October following a meeting with some of the child minders. Ian & Moira Fleming and Barbara Smith will continue to help.

This concluded the business of the meeting which closed with the saying of the Grace.

**The Date of the next meeting was arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 at 2.30pm.**

## **Tales from our campground: smoke and fire**

As the days get shorter and cooler the need for a fire at camp increases. In fact, by October, camp and fire are as inseparable as bread and jam. At this time of year fire is far more than a source of heat and a means of cooking. Its crackles speak as part of the woods' voice. Flames pierce the darkness. Vivid colours paint mesmerising pictures. Camp TV at its best. The one thing you don't need is smoke.

There are reasons why you may need a smoky fire. Sending distress signals. Chasing away biting insects. Smoking something for dinner. Although come to think of it, none of the wardens ever came to investigate our smoke signals...

We didn't actually set out to make a smoky fire. We prefer chemical insect repellent and our cooking (camp or otherwise) hasn't reached the sophistication of smoking something for dinner. Our campsite provides the new "ready to burn" wood that has been dried to regulatory specification in order to eliminate smoke. Excellent.

However, nothing in the regulations requires wood suppliers to keep the dried wood dry once it comes out of the kiln. And so it was that a delivery of 'dried' wood arrived at the campsite extremely wet from apparently unexpected heavy downpours. Hmmm. This is England. It rains.

The fire smoked. And smoked some more. We used all the bushcraft tricks we know but every fire we lit that week would have done the Arbroath Smokies proud. Still, we kept ourselves (mostly) warm, (fairly) dry and (definitely) fed. We even learned much in the process, although possibly it wasn't quite the intended meaning of coming unscathed through Isaiah's "fiery trials" – as the hymn puts it.



**Heather Lodge**

## Roger Fenn's Puzzle for November –

**We don't often read from the Minor Prophets during Worship, but they contain familiar phrases which encourage us. Who wrote the following words**

1. "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams".
2. "Rejoice O daughter of Zion – see your King comes to you – gentle and riding on a donkey".
3. "As you have done, it will be done to you".
4. "I was neither a prophet nor a prophet's son – but the Lord said, 'Go. Prophecy to my people Israel'".
5. "The Lord your God is with you. He is mighty to save".
6. "He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God".
7. "Pick me up throw me into the sea and it will become calm".
8. "Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings good news, who proclaims peace".
9. "when Israel was a child, I loved him. How can I give you up Ephraim? My heart is changed within me, all my compassion is aroused".
10. "The glory of this present house will be greater than the former. And in this place I will grant peace".
11. "The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea".
12. "But who can endure the day of his coming, who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire"

**Answers 2 pages on**



## Remember Me

I am the soldier who fought for his country,  
Went off to war calling jaunty farewells.  
I stood by my comrades, shoulder to shoulder,  
And died with them too, under enemy shells.  
Remember me?

I am the woman who went out to nurse them,  
Cared for the soldiers who fought and were hurt,  
Easing their agony, sharing their suffering,  
Then I too lay still in the blood and the dirt.  
Remember me?

I am the conchie who would not touch weapons,  
Carried a stretcher, the wounded to save,  
But guns aren't respectful of ideals or wishes,  
I too lie now in the quiet of the grave.  
Remember me?

I am the God who shares human anguish,  
My heart like your heart longs only for peace.  
I gave you the wisdom to turn from this warfare,  
You have the power to make fighting cease.  
Remember me.

**Barbara Pearson**

## An invitation

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

The date

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)

## November Quiz – Answers

1. Joel 2 v 28
2. Zechariah 9 v 9
3. Obadiah v 15
4. Amos 7 v 14
5. Zephaniah 3 v 17
6. Micah 6 v 8
7. Jonah 1 v 12
8. Nahum 1 v 15
9. Hosea 11 v 1 + 8
10. Haggai 2 v 9
11. Habakkuk 2 v 14
12. Malachi 3 v 2

**Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition - please keep them coming – especially from London Road! We hope to publish a magazine for December. Please let me have all your material by 24<sup>th</sup> November.**

# SUNDAY WORSHIP at TOLWORTH

**Morning Worship at 10.30**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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 #)

|                             |  |   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Minister</b>             | <b>Revd Roger Jones</b>  | <b>0208 393 4270</b><br>rjones@urcsouthern.org.uk |
| <b>Secretary</b>            | Mrs M Fleming  | 8337 8581   |
| <b>Treasurer</b>            | Mr G Stock   | 8330 5492   |
| <b>Serving Elders</b>       | Mr D Bennett, Mrs M Fleming, Mrs B Kelly,<br>Mrs L Menneer, Mrs B Smith, Mr G Stock,<br>Mrs K Woolard, |   |
| <b>Management Committee</b> | Mr D Bennett, Mrs M Fleming, Mr S Heath,<br>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              | Suh-Young Lee        | 07591969783  |
| 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

|                       |   |               |
|-----------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>Minister</b>       | Revd Roger Jones  | 020 8393 4270 |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | Mrs Pamela Galliers   | 020 394 0229  |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | Mr. George Pearson  | 020 8337 8476 |
| <b>Serving Elders</b> | Mrs. P Galliers, Miss R Holmes,<br>Mr. G. Pearson, Mrs. P. Redvers-Smith,<br>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<br>& Mr. M. Westbrook |
| SYNOD<br>Representative | Miss R Holmes  |

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