

CONCORD

Don't be frightened Ma'am .. the world will be holding your hand.



In memory of our late queen

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

October 2022

From our Minister

Dear Friends,

October 2022

REVOLTING CHRISTIANS MAKE THEIR MARK!

Would you say you are revolting? Would you want to be revolting? Would you stand along side others who were revolting?



Gillian and I attended Greenbelt Festival again during the August bank holiday weekend at Broughton House Kettering. After many years, we have finally concluded that we required a change from sleeping in a field under canvas, on uncomfortable ground with no proper toilets or showers. No this did not make us revolting. So, we hired a campervan with running water, a loo and shower. Bliss you might say, in camping terms. But, on the Sunday morning, whilst you were all attending Sunday morning worship, the running water shut down in the camper van. This meant no toilets or shower. I was required to clean and fix these “ablution facilities”. But no this did not make me a revolting Christian either! Although it was a little messy.

The United Reformed Church at this year’s Greenbelt, the wonderful Faith, Arts and Justice festival, made a significant contribution to the event. We had a humongous marquee.

Our church ran a café, “**yoURCafe**” making and serving food for the festival goers. The food was made from products destined for landfill. No, the food was not revolting. It was delicious and compared to usual festival street food was very inexpensive.

Gillian and others provided arts and crafts activities for families. It was fun, messy and created such items as stress balls, badges, environmental crowns, milk bottle art, banners, jigsaw hangings and fidget toys, paper wall hangings mindfulness flowers and decorated vases. This was messy, but still not revolting.

So, what was revolting about Greenbelt! It was the theme, Revolting Christians! Anyone who has been around churches should know that there are some revolting Christians around. Those who stand up for justice. Stand alongside the oppressed. Sit and eat with outcasts and share meals with rabble rousers.

Within the URCs, there are many who write directly to MPs. Give money overseas when it feels like you want to keep it here! Volunteers helping with young carers and isolated adults. Young people who have slept outdoors to highlight injustice of no homes or housing or walked barefoot to stand with the poor unable to afford shoes or school books.

The names and pictures of some revolting Christians from last century were displayed around the tent and formed part of a treasure hunt across the whole festival site. There was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, who had a dream, and was a key spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement in the USA in the 1950s and 60s. Corrie Ten Boom stood up against the Nazis by hiding Jewish people in her home. Madge Saunders, the first female minister in the United Church of Jamaica, spoke out against Enoch Powell’s racist ‘Rivers of Blood’ speech.

She said: “**Sometimes you have to break certain traditions and laws to bring about positive change in life.**”

The United Reformed Church also provided worship, conversation and music throughout the weekend all based on this theme. Sometimes, these revolting Christians are part of a wave or outcry. At other times, they are a lone voice. Sometimes they raise awareness. Often, they don't see major change in their lifetime. But what links them all is their resolve that things are not okay and must change.

This URC mark in the grass was an unintended consequence of laying down on the ground the large letters which were a health risk standing up! The URC hold unintended marks of revolting Christians. You and me!



The food's not revolting. And the low price helps when the cost of living is so high right now. The crafts were messy, but renewable and all part of our revolt against wasting our world's precious resources.

Among the 12,000 Greenbelters at the festival, we did make a significant contribution and made our mark. As ever the final Sunday communion with these 12,000 folk was mesmerising. More importantly we thought about and reflected on what it means to be revolting. This is how we made our mark. The consequences of revolting against those who oppress and in favour of the fragile and vulnerable and outcast. Even some unintended one's consequences! Let's be revolting together.

As Jesus revolted too.

Roger

Tolworth Family Circle

Barry Kelly died in early September after a long spell in hospital following a bad fall. He often attended services and events in our Church with Brenda and we will all miss his quiet presence. We remember Brenda and her family: Richard, Suzanne and their grandchildren, Carys and Paige in our prayers as they mourn his loss.

We were saddened to learn of two deaths since our last edition. We heard from Ian Rathjen that his wife Elizabeth had died in August. Elizabeth and Ian were faithful members of our Church since childhood. They were married here and were members of our Church family until they moved to Edinburgh. Elizabeth was involved in the Guide movement and was a member of the Trefoil Guild. She also helped Ian to edit our Church magazine for many years. We extend our sympathy to Ian and their family,

David Bennett has had his hip operation at last and is now recuperating at his daughter, Sarah's home in Ashford. Clinton Arthur has had a few health problems and has had day surgery recently which we hope will help him.

It has been lovely to see both Lesley and Pauline back worshipping with us in recent weeks. We hope they will both continue to progress. Please remember Eunice, Joyce Craven and Charmaine who are all housebound and pray for all these friends.

Thank you to all the ladies who arranged the flowers for our Harvest service and to everyone who donated foodstuffs for the Foodbank. Thanks also to Brenda, Mary and Kathleen who served a fine ploughman's lunch to us after the service and to everyone who helped to clear up afterwards.

Moir

October Diary - Tolworth

Sunday	2nd	10.30am	50th Anniversary of the United Reformed Church Morning Worship led by Revd David Skitt (Retiring collection for Pakistan Floods Appeal)
Monday	3 rd	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	5 th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	9th	10.30am	Morning Communion led by our Minister including, "Songs of Praise"
Monday	10 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Tuesday	11 th	2.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday	12 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	13 th	2.30pm	Biscuit Club – Sid Heath will give an illustrated talk on walks he has taken
Sunday	16th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by Revd Lesley Charlton Evergreen Church
Monday	17 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	19 th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	23rd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr Tom Sweatman
Monday	24 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	26 th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	30 th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by our Minister

November 2022

Sunday	6th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge
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Organist

We are very pleased to welcome Suh-Young Lee our new organist who arrived from Korea on 12th September. She has already played for her first service and it was a pleasure to sing to her accompaniment. We look forward to having her play regularly and hope she will feel welcome among us.

Ewell Family News

Raj Samuel is now in a nursing home in Redhill but will move to the Beaumont nursing home in Epsom when a room becomes available. Joan Deering has had covid but is recovering well. Pat Redvers-Smith continues to enjoy her stay in Appleby House and welcomes visits from church friends. We were very happy to see Angelina and Leen Vonk when they visited recently from Holland. We were sorry to hear of the death of Jean Nash, who with her husband Roy was a faithful member of the Ewell congregation for many years.

October Diary for Ewell

Sunday	2nd	10.30 am	HARVEST SUNDAY Morning Worship including the celebration of Holy Communion, conducted by Revd. Roger Jones
Monday	3 rd	10 am	Church Meeting
Tuesday	4 th	12.30 pm	Church Lunch at the Harvester, Epsom
Wednesday	5 th	9.30-11.30	Art Group
Sunday	9 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert
Wednesday	12 th	9.30-11.30	Art Group
Sunday	16 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson
Wednesday	19 th	9.30-11.30	Art Group
Sunday	23 rd	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Revd Roger Jones
Wednesday	26 th	9.30 am	Art Group
Thursday	27 th	2-3 pm	Friendship Hour
Sunday	30 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Revd David Skitt

Brenda Kelly has written to say a big thank you to Mary and Kathleen for all their hard work helping me organise the Harvest Ploughman's Lunch. Also thank you to Lesley for writing all the cheese labels. Plus Sid who put all the tables out for us on the previous evening. At the end of the day we are really grateful to every one who helped to get the hall back to normal.

Brenda

Pauline Beccles has written to Moira to thank the Church for the beautiful flowers she received.. Also many thanks to Cynthia for bringing them – they look lovely on the hall table.

Best regards

Pauline

Favourite Hymns Service at Tolworth

On **Sunday 9th October**, our morning service will include a number of our favourite hymns. Mary Wardle devised a list of hymns for everyone to vote for 5 of them and the results are set out below.

The Results

Number	Hymn	Total
16	All My Hope On God Is Founded	5
20	All People That On Earth Do Dwell	6
23	All Things Bright And Beautiful	8*
50	Be Still, For The Presence Of The Lord	17*
51	Be Thou My Vision	5
59	Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine	6
89	Come Down, O Love Divine	3
111	Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind	14*
132	Father, Hear The Prayer We Offer	5
152	For The Beauty Of The Earth	5
200	Great Is Thy Faithfulness	10*
201	Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah	9*
327	Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise	7
331	In Heavenly Love Abiding	7
396	Just As I Am, Without One Plea	2
428	Lord For The Years	6
446	Lord, Thy Word Abideth	0
449	Love Divine, All Love Excelling	13*
456	Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace	13*
478	My Song Is Love Unknown	4
486	Now Thank We all Our God	4
501	O Jesus I Have Promised	8*
515	O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go	4
528	O Worship The King All Glorious Above	3
564	Praise To The Lord, The Almighty	5
624	Take My Life, And Let It Be	7
631	Tell Out My Soul	9*
649	The King Of Love My Shepherd Is	8*
705	Thy Hand, O God Has Guided	5
708	To God Be The Glory	7

*Denotes the 10 Most Favoured Hymns

I should like to thank everyone who took part in this survey for their help and encouragement.

Mary Wardle

From Barbara Smith

As we approach the 'season of mellow fruitfulness' as it was once described, I'd like to think back over the last few seasons.

We've seen massive drought, low rainfall and hose pipe bans. Harvest being brought in earlier than usual. Whilst in Norfolk Gary and I witnessed fields which are usually covered in sweetcorn, over both our heads, with stunted growth - no mega maze this year, I think.

We've seen sadness but also pride in our history and our resilience. Let's all go forward in hope and trust in grace of our Lord.

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 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)

Roger has suggested that this article by the Secretary of Woking URC, Keith Bradley, would be of interest. It is reproduced with permission.

Dear Friends Several of you will know that I like going to the theatre and particularly enjoy musicals. A few months ago there was a 'warning' in the programme which stated something like "This is not a sing-a-long show so please do not sing the songs when they are performed". A few months on and now Churches are faced with a similar notice but for quite different reasons. Can you imagine words like that being necessary on the order of service paper? If there was a socially distanced solo singer or recordings of voices, choirs or even a whole congregation singing while we were sitting in the Sanctuary we should soon find it very difficult not to join in, even with a mask on!

Why do we sing in our worship? Have you thought about it? Singing has been an important part of worship in world faiths since earliest days. The 150 Psalms, with their themes of praise, petition and lamentation, were sung by Jesus throughout his life and remain central to both

Christian and Jewish worship. Just one example, in Matthew 26 we read that 'when they had sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives'. We sing psalms sometimes without knowing it. Near the back of "Rejoice and Sing" you will find the more obvious ones which are the metrical psalms (which come from our Scottish heritage) and chants (popular in some Anglican Churches particularly) or some of the hymns which come from the Psalms (like the 23rd). Those of you who have the URC Daily Devotions email (and if you don't, join up now!) will know that each Sunday there is a Psalm and often at the end there is a link to a metrical version of it. Hymn writers through the ages have been inspired by the Psalms and three modern and popular examples are Stuart Townend's "The Lord's my Shepherd" (Psalm 23), Timothy Dudley-Smith's "I lift my eyes to the quiet hills" (Psalm 121) and Bernadette Farrell's "O God, you search me and you know me" (Psalm 150).

When Bernadette Farrell, a Roman Catholic, was interviewed on "Songs of Praise", Pam Rhodes said that Bernadette's hymns were 'gritty' and challenging. Bernadette (who writes both words and music for her hymns) acknowledged that and added that hymns, as well as challenging us, should express the Gospel in song and be a way of sharing our Christian faith. Her hymn, well-known in Woking, "Christ be our light" bears this out in the refrain alone:

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.*

It isn't necessary to look only to modern hymn and song writers to find challenges (or examples of being 'gritty'). The best-known Congregational hymn writer, Isaac Watts (1674-1748) in

*"When I survey the wondrous cross" ends this with:
Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small,
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

Skipping centuries to 1963 when Sydney Carter wrote "Lord of the dance" there would have been some (or possibly many!) who thought that this was going a bit too far (too gritty?) but, over 50 years later, it is popular and expresses so much:

*I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me,
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.*

One which is gritty, challenging and is an encouragement to be inclusive is "Come all you vagabonds" (written in 2011) by Stuart Townend, Mark Edwards and Phil Baggaley, and it definitely would have been thought to have gone 'too far' not many years ago (and may be now!):

*Come all you questioners looking for answers,
and searching for reasons and sense in it all.
Come all you fallen and come all you broken.....*

The list of 'challenging' (and all the other examples of hymn types which Bernadette Farrell gave) hymn and song writers through the ages is endless and I could fill the whole newsletter with good (and even not so good!) examples. John Bell, Graham Maule and others inspired by their involvement with the Iona Community must surely come high on any list, together with the URC 'trio' of hymnwriters Alan Gaunt, Fred Kaan and Brian Wren. But I just hope the 'winner' of the nation's favourite hymns poll by "Songs of Praise" last year did not represent any trend or category. Can you believe it was Jerusalem? It didn't even make it for inclusion in

“Rejoice and Sing” when it was compiled over 30 years ago, and it is rather ‘exclusively’ English, isn’t it?

However, it is inclusivity and welcome with which I end my examples and there is none better than the wonderful hymn by Marty Haugen (of the United Church of Christ in the USA, from whom the Church’s strapline was ‘borrowed’ – Whoever you are....) “Let us build a house where love can dwell”. If it is the most sung hymn in Woking URC, let’s not hear any apologies (and never mind if it is not in the nation’s top ten – yet!). We strive to live and believe every ‘gritty’ line and it challenges us, expresses the Gospel in song and shows us a way to share our Christian faith. Do read it again below (and sing it in your homes; this one and all the hymns and songs mentioned can be heard sung on YouTube).

In this strange peak holiday month I wish you health and happiness in whatever you are able to do until we are able to meet and sing together again ‘from floor to rafter’ in the house of the Church.

Keith Bradley

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God’s children dare to seek to dream God’s reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God’s grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that free us:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they’ve known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God’s face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place

Marty Haugen

Tales from our campground: The fox and the milk



The conversation at breakfast went thus:

Me: "Where's the milk?"
S: "In the bush by the third tree."
Me: "It's not there."
S: "You're not looking in the right bush."
Me: "Well the lid is under the table."
S: "Why?"
Me: "I don't know. Where's the bottle?"

We spent hours searching the undergrowth around our pitch - and (unoccupied) neighbouring pitches - for our 4-pint bottle of milk. Quite why the supermarket thought we needed four times the amount of milk we'd actually ordered is another story but, given the weight of the bottle, we couldn't believe an animal had taken it. Eventually close inspection of the leaves of said bushes showed traces of white that hadn't been washed off by the rain. But milk doesn't tend to explode. It wasn't until we found a tooth mark in the lid that we realised we hadn't been alone on our pitch overnight. Not for the first time we wished we had a trail camera that would record nocturnal activity.

As dusk settled on our third night, a young fox marched into camp, white splatters over his face and legs. Here was the thief. We'd used barely half a pint and even with the obvious spillage I have no idea how he carried that bottle through dense woodland. He was clearly bent on further theft though and a major panic ensued over securing the rest of our food. Fortunately, he proved camera-shy and the culprit removed himself from my attempted photo.

Climbing into my sleeping bag that night, I thought again of the verse in Matthew (24:43) about knowing the hour during the night when the thief will come so you can be prepared.

Heather Lodge

Roger Fenn's Puzzle for October –

Great Statements of Faith

Sometimes, when life is challenging, God speaks to us through His Spirit, we are encouraged by his presence and respond faithfully. Who spoke these words when they were challenged by God?

1. "God will provide the sacrifice, my son".
2. "God led me to my master's household".
3. "You meant it for evil but God meant it for good".
4. "Where you go, I will go: your people will be my people and your God, my God".
5. "Here I am, send me".
6. "Our God will protect us, **But if Not** we will not bow down to you, O King".
7. "I was neither a prophet, nor a prophet's son, but the Lord called me to prophesy to my people. Israel".
8. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God".
9. "My Lord and my God".
10. "In all those things, we are more than conquerors through him who has loved us".

Answers on next page

Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition - please keep them coming – especially from London Road! We hope to publish a magazine for November. Please let me have all your material by 20th October.

WINTER JOYS

At first we tend to grumble,
And mourn there's no more sun,
But then we turn the heating on,
And look for indoor fun.

We miss the warmth of summer days,
We miss the scent of roses,
But no more need to cut the grass,
Or drag around the hoses.

We miss the joy of naked arms,
And sandals bare our toes,
But then we snuggle into scarves,
And pull our cardies close.

It's nice to think of tennis,
And swimming in the sea,
But nicer still to light the fire,
And make a pot of tea.

So let's enjoy the winter,
With snow and Christmas lights,
And let the spring come when it will,
And bring its own delights.

Barbara Pearson

October Quiz – Answers

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|-----|--|-----------------|
| 1. | Abram atop Mount Moriah with Isaac | Genesis 22 v 8 |
| 2. | Abraham's servant seeking a wife for Isaac at Nahor | Genesis 24 v 27 |
| 3. | Joseph to his brothers on the death of their father, Isaac | Genesis 50 v 20 |
| 4. | Ruth to Naomi at the Jordan Crossing | Ruth 1 v 16 |
| 5. | Isaiah's vision in the Jerusalem temple | Isaiah 6 v 8 |
| 6. | The three young princes facing the fiery furnace | Daniel 3 v 18 |
| 7. | Amos to the corrupt priest of Samaria | Amos 7 v 14 |
| 8. | Simon Peter at Caesarea Philippi | Luke 9 v 20 etc |
| 9. | Thomas in the Upper Room | John 20 v 28 |
| 10. | Paul. To the Christians in Rome before his visit | Romans 8 v 37 |

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

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SUNDAY WORSHIP AT EWELL

Morning Worship at 10.30

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