

# CONCORD



**A Happy Christmas to everyone**

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

**December 2022**

## Christmas letter from the Moderator of Southern Synod – Revd Bridgit Banks



*Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future, he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan*

*<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. <sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy as they rejoice before you: Isaiah 9: 1-2*

Dear friends

It has been yet another challenging year. Once again, it seems that we have had our roots shaken. The war in Ukraine feels so close to us. The rise in the cost of living and our fuel bills challenge us as never before. With fewer Stipendiary Ministers in the United Reformed Church, Church Life Review and our general decline, it may feel that we are living in a truly dark and tumultuous time. It is a real test of our faith to hang on and believe that God is still doing something amazing in the world when change, subversive politics and war surround us.

So, praise the Lord for Christmas where we welcome light in our darkness. We are reminded that God comes to be with us again. We don't need to be afraid of our future because we are all in God's hands. We have had to be creative in our thinking the last 2 years. As I go around the Synod, I still see signs of hope and growth. New people coming through the doors of our churches. Warm Hubs and other mission activities growing. I see people offering themselves for ministry of all types. It is very exciting. Yes, there are still places where challenges exist, but that is where God is calling us to be light.

Can I encourage you to reread the story of Jesus' birth. To sit with the passages and wonder, 'what does Jesus' arrival mean for me?' There are Advent bible studies going on all over the Synod which are a great way to engage further with this wonderful story. As in Isaiah 9:1-2 above, Christ is at the centre of Christmas which is something good to share with our congregations. Is Christ at the centre of our lives though? With Christ at our very core, we will have peace and can be reassured that we and the world are still in God's hands.

Please pray for your Ministers, Local Church Leaders and Lay preachers during this busy season. They offer such a great service for the Church. Have a wonderful Advent and Christmas. May we all catch the hope of Christ to share at this dark time. May God continue to do a 'new thing' in you and in me.

Every blessing

*Bridgit*

## From our Minister

**Dear Friends,**

Earlier this year the writer and illustrator Raymond Briggs died. He is remembered mostly for a snowman zig zagging across the sky with a child in toe. Do snowmen have toes? The short story of *The Snowman*, the Raymond Briggs story with the music *Walking in the Air*, sung by the child Aled Jones is a Christmas classic. The wordless story of a boy whose snowman comes to life. You will probably be able to see the film again this Christmas. There is also a show, a stage adaptation at Peacock Theatre, Sadlers Wells. The promotion states; “Featuring colourful sets and extravagant costumes, exuberant dancing and a heart-warming story”.



Heart-warming is right! The snowman coming to life may have a heart. But I am sorry to disappointment, he melts! Maybe because he has a warm heart. If not true to life, “*The Snowman*”, as in all of Raymond Briggs stories never tries to hide the harsh realities of life, even from children.

So the zigzagging of the snowman, in the sky **is** true to life in that it represents lives and histories of our own. To quote ex- President Obama about history and so our lives. “*History zig zags. Sometimes it goes forward. Sometimes moves back.*”

In another of his stories, “*Father Christmas*”, Raymond Briggs tells of a grumpy Santa Claus. After all, says Mr Briggs, “*He’s been doing this dreadful job for donkeys’ years: going out all night long, in all weathers. He’s sick to the back teeth of it: who wouldn’t be? So it follows, naturally, that he’s going to be grumpy.*”

The same spirit infused Briggs’s 1977 *Fungus the Bogeyman*, which imagined Fungus living in dank, smelly tunnels evoked in a palette of mud brown and acid green. Heading out at night to frighten people on the surface, Fungus ponders the futility of existence: “*There must be more to life than this.*”

As we enter Advent, we look forward to the time of Christ’s birth, again to reign in and to shepherd our lives. But not without a wait!

We don’t necessarily like waiting! I can order a gift on Amazon and it arrives the following day. How do they do that?

There are more serious aspects of waiting. We wait for news of a loved one who is unwell. For our own tests results. Did we get that job?. Will I ever get over this hurt.? If only this moment could be healed like a gift from Amazon. It is not. It is a zigzagging world and all snowmen melt.

*Like our lives, “History zig zags, sometimes it goes forward. Sometimes moves back.”* When asked how he reassures his daughters in this zig zaggy world, Obama replied, “*your job as a decent human being is to constantly treat others with kindness, respect and understanding.*”

You will all know how in the first few Sundays of Advent, we hear the cries of John the Baptist, “prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight paths for him”. Straight paths from the inevitable zigging and zagging of our lives. A wonderful Advent message.

Advent is unique. Other Jewish and Christian observances look to the past, looking back on events in history and celebrating their message. Advent looks to the future, which is why waiting is a part of the healing. The story is not over. It never is. In the midst of a zigzagging world there is kindness, respect and understanding. Wait and look for it. A dire situation can be an opportunity because there is no greater place for light than in the most abject darkness. Wait and look for it. And then even darkness itself, is a mystery and has a depth to help us to reflect or wonder. Some of us discovered this at a recent evening Evergreen Service. Wait and look for mystery and depth too.

There are wars and rumours of wars. Personally, socially and politically. We have all recently experienced very strange times and can see the zig zags like a flying snowman, who we know eventually melts. Of course, he does. Christmas tells us God came to earth, Easter that God gave up Gods own life. It is Advent which declares such stories and sadness is not the end. One day, coming soon the world we be made anew. Our king and shepherd will return. Everlasting joy will be in our heads and sorrow will flee. It is not far off now...

Happy Zig Zagging and happy waiting.

Favourite snowman joke...A snowman does not have toes but his arms are very sticky.

God bless

**Roger**

## **Tolworth Family Circle**

David Bennett has had a fall indoors and injured his head. After some treatment at A&E he is recovering well. Mary Carvalho has been very ill in hospital but is out now and staying with her daughter, Louise for the moment. Mary Wardle has been poorly recently but is improving. We hope they will all feel better soon.

**Christmas** the pigeon holes in the vestibule will be in use for Christmas cards from 4th December. This will continue until 18<sup>th</sup> December. Please **only** include cards for those who attend church regularly as we are unable to deliver.

Please note that the Christmas morning service will start at **10am** as Roger will be leading worship at both Tolworth and Ewell.

**Moira**

**Paul Craven** has written to say a big thank you for all your support during this sad time of my mother Joyce Craven's passing and for all your help. Thanks to Roger for leading the funeral and thanksgiving services. Thanks also to Brenda Kelly and her catering team for providing refreshments after the thanksgiving service, this was much appreciated by all who attended. This gave my mother an excellent send off.

Just to let you know Phone number 0208 399 8881 has been withdrawn. I am using my phone number 0208 241 1929 and mobile number 07951 306049 and e-mail [paulcraven2@virginmedia.com](mailto:paulcraven2@virginmedia.com).

**Paul**

## December Diary - Tolworth

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am 4.00pm	Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge Tree Lighting Service followed by refreshments.
Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Playtime
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Morning Communion led by our Minister to include two baptisms
Wednesday	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am 2.30pm	Playtime – Christmas Party Elders' meeting
Thursday	15 <sup>th</sup>	3.30pm	Messy Church
Friday	16 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Biscuit Club – Pantomime at Epsom Playhouse
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am 6.30pm	Carol Service led by Ms Heather Lodge Evergreen Church
Monday	19 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm	Pilots
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	<b>Christmas Day</b> Family Service

### January 2023

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge
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## Ewell Family News

On 6th November our Korean friends inducted eight new leaders. It was a very important ceremony for them, and a cause for celebration for all of us. Leaders of the Korean Church from other areas attended, and it was an inspiring service. It was made all the more enjoyable by a musical dance presentation by the children. Afterwards we shared a traditional Korean lunch and were able to share fellowship with our Korean friends.

As always, we remember those from our two congregations who are going through difficult times. We think of those who are experiencing health or mobility concerns and are glad that they can join the on-line worship from our two churches. These transmissions are much appreciated, and we thank the members from Tolworth and Ewell who make them possible.

We wish all our friends in both our churches the happiest of Christmases, and all blessings for 2023.

**Barbara**

## December Diary for Ewell

<b>Sunday</b>	4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Worship including the celebration of Holy conducted Revd Roger Jones
Monday	5 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Church Meeting
Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 am	Christmas Lunch at the Haywain
Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30-11.30	Art Group
<b>Sunday</b>	11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Revd Barbara Pearson
Wednesday	14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30-11.30	Art Group
Thursday	15 <sup>th</sup>	2 – 3 pm	Friendship Hour Christmas Tea
<b>Sunday</b>	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Carol Service led by Revd Roger Jones
Wednesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30-11.30	Art Group
<b>Sunday</b>	25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Christmas Morning Worship conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson and Revd Roger Jones
Wednesday	28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Art Group
<b>January</b>			
<b>Sunday</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Worship including the celebration of Holy Communion, conducted by Revd Roger Jones

## Tolworth Gift Day and Coffee Morning

Thanks to all those who contributed to Gift Day. The amount raised was E2,395. Thanks also to those who helped with the Coffee Morning and to all who attended. We raised £137.10 for the Rwandan charity, "Talking through art" ..

## Biscuit Club

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 3 tickets left priced £18 each so anyone wishing to attend please see Brenda as soon as possible.

## Our organist



Hello everyone. I am SUH YOUNG LEE, the new organist for Tolworth URC. I am so glad to meet all members of Tolworth church and I appreciate everyone's welcoming.

I'm from Cheonan city which is in the middle of the South Korea. My hometown's name means 'peaceful city under the sky'. Cheonan is famous for 'Independence Hall' that commemorates independence of Korea from Japan. And walnut cookies are a speciality because there are a lot of walnut trees.

I have 5 members of family including me. I have a father, mother, younger brother and a dog who is 10 years old. My father has been working at Samsung for over 30 years. My mother works at a Supermarket now. My younger brother who is 22 years old, is a public service worker in a district court. I love my family and I had a good time with family before I came to England.

When I was 4 years old, I started playing the piano because of my mother. My mother enjoyed listening to music and playing the piano. She taught me herself. Like her, I really liked playing the piano and singing.

Not only I can play the piano, but also the violin. When I was a middle school student, I was a member of Cheonan City Youth Orchestra. We had a concert every year and we participated in Youth Orchestra festival in Italy. That was a great experience in my life. In university, I majored department of church music. In this major, there are five categories about church music which are piano, organ, vocal, compose, conduct. Among them, I studied piano and in order to graduate, the piano major must learn playing organ at least a year. That's why I studied the organ for 3 years. After graduating, I taught young children the piano for a year. In the meantime, I have had a chance to go to England. After a long consideration, I decided to come to England.

Only before 2 years ago, I could not imagine that I would go to abroad to demonstrate my talent. However, last year, I had a good chance that I can go to England, and now, I am experiencing various things every day in this country. At first, everything was different and new to me but now my day is being stable than before. The reason that I could adapt to live here quickly, is thanks to the grace of the Lord and help from all of you in Tolworth URC. Therefore, I will try to do my best for service and the Lord. Thank you so much.

My name is **Yonas Beyene**. I am originally from Ethiopia. I am married and have a 15-year-old daughter. I did my degree in 'theology and Mission' from York St. Jones University in 2019. I am currently working as a part time Pastor at Anchor Congregational Church in Wandsworth.

I am also taking a course with the Congregational Federation to be an accredited minister. I chose a URC as my placement church to have some practical experience by observing and taking part in baptisms, funerals and other activities. I also look forward to learning the unique ways of being a multicultural church where different people from different backgrounds come together to worship God.



## **Resumé of the Church Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022.**

**Organist** – We were very happy with Suh Young's playing and are pleased to have her among us.

**Youth Worker** – Carys Kelly has now been formally employed. We would now claim the cost from Synod. There had been 14 children at the Pilots meeting on Monday.

**Playtime** - Moira Fleming reported that Playtime had been restarted in October. Now organised by a number of child minders and was working well. This showed the church working with the community. Thanks were expressed to the people from the Church who had helped with Playtime in the past.

**Financial Report** - The Treasurer reported that the following donations had been collected and sent £184 for Christian Aid Pakistan Floods Appeal and £104 for the Shoebox Appeal. The £400 sent to the "Talking Through Art" in Rwanda has been acknowledged.

**Christmas Events** – The following dates were agreed. Advent Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November. Brenda Kelly offered to make the Advent Ring. Decorating Church 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Tree Lighting Service 4<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm, Carol Service 18<sup>th</sup> December arranged by Heather Lodge. Christmas Day Service at 10am or 10.30am depending on Ewell URC. The Biscuit Club will visit the Panto at Epsom Playhouse on 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm. Christmas Cards for those attending Church services can be left in the pigeon holes in the vestibule.

**Strategy** – The Chairman updated the plans for the Church. Many of these have been already implemented. We had a number of new people and children attending worship. The members asked that the Minister organise a morning service or meeting in the New Year to discuss this – our plans and vision for the future.

**Family News** – The members stood in memory of Joyce Craven who had died recently. We heard news of other friends. The Chairman then prayed for these people.

**Correspondence** – Following the funeral of Joyce Craven there will be a collection for RNIB and the Church. Paul would like something bought for the Church in memory of his mother. Ideas will be discussed in due course. The Choir who use the premises for practising wish to organise a concert on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in aid of Charity The members agreed we should charge them for this hire.

**Cornerstone Church** – Tom Sweatman has asked if they could use the Raeburn Hall once a month on a Sunday afternoon 3.30 – 6.30pm. The was agreed. We would charge them the usual rate.

**Any Other Business** – Ian Fleming asked if it was possible to store Church Archives in the Church premises. It was suggested that the use of the cupboard in the Choir Vestry would be explored.

It will be the **Church's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** next year, 2023. The Secretary asked if we should arrange a special event. This will be discussed later.

**The date of the next meeting** was arranged for 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 2.30pm. This concluded the business of the meeting which closed with the saying of the Grace.



## **Paul Craven** has written this biography of his mother, **Joyce Craven**

Joyce Elise Craven [nee Nauwelaers], was born in Bradford, North Yorkshire on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1926.

During the Second World War Joyce worked in a TB sanatorium near Grassington, North Yorkshire as a hospital administrator. She received a driving licence but never took a driving test due to the war. Joyce was used to hard winters, and recalled going down to the river Wharfe to fetch water and walking through snow as high as the drystone walls this was in 1946/7.

After the war Joyce looked after her niece Yvonne while her mother was in hospital. Joyce met her husband Bill on a coach tour holiday in Wales. They married in 1950 and moved to Leeds.

Bill worked for *Unilever* and when the company transferred to London, the family moved to Chislehurst in Kent and Bill commuted to London. During this time Bill gradually lost his sight and Joyce looked after him, helping with the preparation of his many talks, driving him to meetings and on holidays.

When Joyce's mother died, Joyce and Bill gave the Grassington Congregational church a font made by the Mouseman. Her mother worshipped there every Sunday. In 1972 *Lever Brothers* moved to Kingston and Bill continued to work for them, Joyce driving him to and from the office every day.

Bill was asked to take many meetings and Church services, and called Joyce his 'guide dog' because she took him everywhere and described the layout of the various venues for him.

In 1992 Joyce and Bill met the Queen at a reception in the Guildhall in Kingston, for organisations helping the disabled.

Bill passed away in January 2007 and Joyce spent much of her time gardening. Paul moved in with her and as her own health deteriorated, he was able to care for her up until she passed away.

### **Tales from our campground 4: the sky at night**

There is a hymn in my old school hymn book that begins: "Can you count the stars that brightly twinkle in the midnight sky?" Perhaps you know it? It's a line that often comes to mind as I leave the campfire to climb into the warmth of my sleeping bag for the night.

The canopy of the woods is quite dense but if you stand in the middle of our pitch, turn off all headlamps and let your eyes adjust, you can catch a glimpse of the night sky. Just don't step backwards as you gaze upwards - the tent's guy-ropes come alive after dark and will whip round your ankles at the least provocation!

If you're prepared to trek through the trees after dark and go down to the meadow where the deer sleep, at the bottom of the campsite, the panorama above your head is simply breathtaking. On a clear night, the sky is so full of stars that there seems to be hardly any space between them.



The intensity of light is so extraordinary that actually you can - just about - find your way back to the pitch without the aid of a torch. Which makes me marvel again at the Christmas star and how brightly it shone for the shepherds and wise men.

**Heather Lodge**

**Roger Fenn's Puzzle for December –  
Christmas Quiz**

**Please find 21 people and places connected with our Lord's birth**

E	I	N	K	A	R	E	M	Y	R	A	M
B	D	F	H	T	E	B	A	Z	I	L	E
S	L	E	G	N	A	R	A	P	S	A	G
C	E	G	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M
Z	A	G	A	B	R	I	E	L	E	E	E
Y	M	E	L	C	H	O	I	R	P	L	L
R	A	X	T	T	P	Y	G	E	H	B	A
A	G	W	H	V	H	U	A	H	E	A	S
S	I	Q	A	R	E	S	T	E	R	T	U
E	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	D	S	R
A	N	N	A	N	O	E	M	I	S	U	E
C	N	O	R	P	D	H	P	E	S	O	J

**Answers on next page**

## An invitation

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

The dates

January	11 <sup>th</sup>
February	15 <sup>th</sup>
March	22 <sup>nd</sup>
April	26 <sup>th</sup>
June	7 <sup>th</sup>
July	12 <sup>th</sup>

The time is 12.30

I left out May as it coincides with the spring bank holiday.

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

Thanks

**Brenda** (01372 743968)

**Brenda still has 3 tickets for the pantomime on 16<sup>th</sup> December.**

## December Quiz – Answers

Angels	Einkarem	Joseph	Shepherds
Anna	Elizabeth	Judea	Simeon
Balthazar	Gabriel	Magi	Stable
Bethlehem	Gaspar	Mary	
Caesar	Herod	Melchior	
Egypt	Jerusalem	Nazareth	

**Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition - please keep them coming – especially from London Road! We hope to publish a magazine for January. Please let me have all your material by 22<sup>nd</sup> December.**

# **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> 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	Suh-Young Lee	
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

<b>Minister</b>	Revd Roger Jones	020 8393 4270
<b>Secretary</b>	Mrs Pamela Galliers	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr. George Pearson	
<b>Serving Elders</b>	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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