

CONCORD



Bushy Park

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

February 2023



**London Road Ewell
and Tolworth
pastorate 2023
Online and telephone
Lent study
group**

M.A.D. as in "let's make a difference"
Some readings, reflections and discussion
time on making a difference to ourselves
and to one another

Some time ago, when we were meeting online we held joint pastorate bible study online. Do you remember? We could not meet up in person so our churches joined together for some study and social time during lent.

WE THOUGHT WE WOULD DO IT AGAIN! FROM YOUR OWN HOME, GRAB A TEA AND...

here is the invitation to meet up again for one hour each week for five weeks during Lent. Join us and join in on

The telephone **03306060403 (await instruction)**
Access code (enter) 1529640#

Or <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/rjones853>

Mondays at 12pm starting 27th February 2023

Wednesday 7.30pm starting 1st March 2023

From our Minister

Dear Friends,

February 2023

Lent begins this month. Lent is a time of reflection. It is a time of fasting and prayer and we are asked to recall our baptism and consider a public penance for all God has done for us. This all sounds a little passive to me, and sometimes our Lenten exercise of abstinence, self-denial or giving up luxuries can be somewhat introspective. Is this how Lent should be?

You will find in this month's CONCORD an invitation to our pastorate Lent Study beginning in the week of 26th February.

Do you remember the days of lockdown? That now seems an age away. It is hard to believe that we were *instructed* to stay at home. Close the churches. Wear masks. A legal requirement indeed.

But even worse than all of this is the subsequent suffering and additional challenges that so many have been left with. So many lost loved ones to the illness and still many more suffer poor health due to long-covid and related malady. For even more folk, the degeneration of physical and mindfulness has also impacted on the ways they go about our daily lives. This has been so for us all.

We continue to pray and offer as much support as we can to one another and to those around us. We have been delighted to be able to return to regular worship Psalm 122;1 and to more active life styles again John 10;10. But we remember the continued hurt and suffering of so many.

One of the spin off's from the pandemic has been how were able to remain in contact despite enforced staying at home and closure of churches. We did this both on the telephone and online. We set up a system of meeting through the conference calling and streaming services. As you know we have tried very hard to continue this for Sunday Morning worship for those still unable to attend in person. For me during the week there are also now a multitude of meetings and training session online to attend. It has made it easier to have **more** meetings. Not always a godly thing. We must be careful and discern which meetings we hold in person and which ones online.

But to return Lent! You may also remember that during lockdown we held an online pastorate study of reflection and discussion online and on the telephone. Folk from all our churches who do not often meet up were meeting online and on the telephone. We held an hour long, Lent reflection each week for five weeks. Read the bible together. Chatted. Had a cup of tea. Prayed. Many folk I have spoken with have fond memories of those enforced Lent sessions. So, shall we do it again?

Still there are folk unable to leave home. There are so many more that during February, dark nights and cold days that will not be wanting to go out so much. So, we thought it may be a good and Godly discernment to set up a new Lent Study that you can all attend from home.

Let's go MAD!

You will see in the advert that we have set up five sessions for Mondays at 12 midday and Wednesdays at 6.30pm. They will be the same session but you are welcome to both! The

link for the telephone and streaming are the same as before. But I have included the details for reference.

I say, let's go MAD! It is MAD as in Making a Difference.

Lent is a time of reflection. It is a time of fasting and prayer and we are asked to recall our baptism and consider a public penance for all God has done for us. If such reflections sound a little passive, and sometimes our Lenten exercises of abstinence, self-denial or giving up luxuries can be somewhat introspective, think again my friends.

Lent leads up to Holy Week and God's own extreme action to rescue a world. God's intervention into the world was far from passive. Jesus coming at Christmas, living and loving in the world, telling stories, healing and generally turning the usual of life's journeys on their head. Reaching out to and caring for the least and the most marginalised is the most down to earth thing all of us can do. Jesus was down to earth. Then finally, or not finally as it happened, in that Holy week and his death made all the difference in the world. MAD! And for the world. A true resurrection.

Please reflect, pray, fast, abstain, pay a penance during this period of Lent. But also join the Lent studies this and experience Lent together. Because Lent is also about Making A Difference.

You don't have to MAD to work here! O! Wait a minute yes you do!

God bless

Roger

Wellfest 19th January 2023

Tolworth URC were invited to attend this Wellfest Event at Southborough School on 19th January. An event for everyone to explore and discuss with community groups projects and activities in the area supporting children and young people themselves. Southborough school says, "Our ground-breaking well being event, "Wellfest" was a great success yesterday. Our students and staff had the opportunity to engage with twenty five community, health, leisure and sport organisations, including a "having a go" at a range of activities. We were also pleased to welcome delegations of students from six primary schools and The Holy Cross School, making this event a truly community affair. There was a real buzz throughout the day and feedback from students, visitors and the Mayor was excellent. We are already planning for Wellfest 2024. (see also Barbara Smith's comments)

Roger

Tolworth Family Circle

Cynthia Stock is in hospital after a fall at home. She is having various tests and hopes to be home soon. Arlette Koukal is recovering after recent surgery she hopes to be back among us soon. June Davis has also been in hospital after a few falls and Mary Carvalho was very poorly before Christmas and has since developed Covid. She is still in quite poor health We send all these friends our good wishes and hope they will soon feel better.

New addresses

Dave Bennett has moved to new address

Arlette's landline has been changed to

Church Meeting

At the last Church meeting it was agreed by a majority that this meeting should, in future, be held on Sundays after the morning service from 12noon till 1pm. This is to accommodate those who are working and are therefore excluded because they cannot attend during the daytime. Coffee will still be served before the meeting and we hope as many people as possible will stay and attend as the Church Meeting is for everyone to learn and have a say in the activities of the Church. The next Church Meeting will now be on March 12th,

February Diary – Tolworth

Wednesday	1 st	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	5th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge
Monday	6 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	8 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	9 th	2.30pm	Biscuit Club - Film
Sunday	12th	10.30am	Morning Communion led by our Minister
Wednesday	15 th	2.30pm	Elders' meeting
Sunday	19th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by Revd Barbara Pearson Evergreen Church
Monday	20 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	22 nd	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	23 rd	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sunday	26th	10.30am	Morning Worship Mrs Linda Lambert
Monday	27 rd	5.30pm	Pilots

March 2023

Sunday	5th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr Nick Mayhew-Smith
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Ewell Family News

We were pleased to hear that Raj Samuel has recovered from a chest infection and is back in Beaumont Nursing Home. At the time of writing Joan Deering is in Epsom Hospital following a fall, but is expected to be back home soon. We send these friends our good wishes.

We also offer Ewell Korean Church our very best wishes as they celebrate the Lunar New Year. It was a great pleasure to welcome Nobuko Tsuyuki back after her two month stay in Japan, where she was able to spend time with her mother and brother, following the death of her father.

We would remind Ewell friends that if they wish to continue to receive copies of Concord they should pay £5 (for an email version) or £10 (for a posted copy) to George Pearson, either in person or by post to 50, Church Road, Worcester Park, KT4 7RD. Would anyone who no longer wishes to receive a posted copy please let David Mugridge know on 020 8393 7005.

Barbara

February Diary for Ewell

Sunday	5th	10.30 am	Morning worship with Holy Communion, conducted by Revd Jones
Monday	6 th	10 am	Church Meeting
Tuesday	7th	12.30 pm	Lunch Club at Ashtead Park Garden Centre (names to Dennis or Anne Sexton)
Sunday	12th	10.30 am	Morning worship conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson
Sunday	19th	10.30 am	Morning worship conducted by Revd Roger Jones
Thursday	23rd	2 – 3 pm	Friendship Hour, all welcome
Sunday	26th	10.30 am	Morning worship conducted by Ms. Katrina Clifford

March

Sunday	5 th	10.30 am	Morning worship with Holy Communion, conducted by Revd Jones
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Tolworth Secretary's Report for 2022

2022 was a busy year for our Church. We were all recovering from the Covid Lockdown and activities were starting up again. Pilots now meet regularly on Mondays and have about 10 attending, Messy Church meets once a month and has around 25 attending and the Biscuit Club also meets monthly.. Playtime re-started after closing for 5 months, The Child Minders agreed to come earlier each week and set up the equipment. This has worked quite well. Things are slightly different but everyone seems happy with this arrangement.

The Biscuit Club has had a few interesting meetings. Some of us had a walk in Richmond Park on a very hot August day and were happy to sit and enjoy a welcome ice cream afterwards. We held a Jubilee afternoon tea to celebrate the late Queen's 70th Anniversary which was well attended and much enjoyed. Then we ended the year with a visit to the Pantomime at Epsom Playhouse which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

Roger and a small group discussed forming a new type of evening service called Evergreen Church which is now held once a month. It is a new concept and is a mixture of discussion, worship, activity and Bible Study. We have an average of 12-14 people attending.

In September we welcomed our new organist Suh Young Lee. She has been a great asset to our worship and has quickly become one of our Church family. At the end of September we welcomed Carys Kelly when she became our Youth Worker. Carys now helps to organise Junior Church, helps with Pilots and Messy Church and keeps in touch with the children and families involved.

Roger now holds a family service on the last Sunday of each month. This usually involves some activities for all ages to participate in.

We had 4 baptisms in 2022, Jack Arthur, son of Martyn and Tracy Arthur was baptised in May and in December we had 3 baptisms at the same service. Lilly Luciw, Nathaniel Ebohon and Catherine Phillip-Ebohon. We were pleased to welcome them all into our Church Family.

We have welcomed some trainee preachers from the Cornerstone Church in Kingston to lead our worship on a few occasions and we have also started supporting a Charity in Rwanda which helps disabled people to make and sell craftwork to help support them and their families. We held Gift Day in November and had a coffee morning on the same day to raise funds for this charity. We also held a splendid Ploughman's Lunch on Harvest Sunday and another Bring and Share Lunch to celebrate the church anniversary in June.

We were pleased to welcome Arlette Koukal into membership of our Church family and our numbers at services have increased a little in recent weeks with the family from Hong Kong and Jay Bonney attending regularly. We have also welcomed quite a few visitors. Our membership now stands at 30. Sadly we have lost 5 members of our church family who have died in the past year. Brian Keepence, Mary Harding, David Carvalho, Barry Kelly and Joyce Craven. We thank God for their lives among us and we shall remember them all with fondness.

2023 will be the 90th anniversary of the founding of TURC. Times have changed over 90 years but it is still our place of worship, We pray that it will continue for many more years and thrive as a welcoming Church community in the area around us.

Our Minister Roger and his wife Gillian have been unstinting in their work to make our church a thriving place. Roger not only preaches on Sundays here and at Ewell; he and Gillian organise Pilots and Messy Church which are both bringing young people in to learn about Jesus and also finding it fun. Gillian has organised the decoration of the church for Christmas which was greatly admired as are the cakes she often brings for Coffee time after services. Roger does everything from putting the lights on the outside tree to managing to sort out the streaming of services online and editing them for the website. - and he still manages to play football!

Thanks to the Elders and all who help with various tasks which keep things going. Things like flowers each Sunday, vestibule duties and stewarding, making tea and coffee, washing up and much more.

Thanks to Sid Heath, our Halls Lettings Officer, the members of the management committee, especially Daryl Knight who has rectified many problems for us recently and Ian Fleming who edits Concord for us and Ewell. Paul Craven who keeps the website up to date and Geof Stock, our treasurer, for looking after our finances for nearly 40 years; Brian Llewellyn for keeping our sound system going at services and our caretaker Julie Marsh for looking after the premises.

Lastly a very big thank you to Roger, our minister, for all he does for us.

Thank you all

Moira

NEW! Tolworth Youth Worker – Carys

As you all may know Carys, has been employed at Tolworth URC as youth and Children's worker since October 2022. You have been seeing her with the children and young people on Sunday morning week by week over this past few months. She is also in full time education and as well as enjoying a busy social life we don't know where she finds the time! But she seems to be enjoying her work and more importantly is doing really well! Carys is at all the PILOTS meetings, with ever increasing numbers of children and Messy Church services. For her, additional duties include keeping in touch with the children and families using social media and planning. The children themselves are apparently considering painting her green, which is of course her favourite colour, and trying to guess her age, which has been between one and two million years. But I will leave it to you all to speak to her to see how she is getting on and continue to support her in the valuable work for the church. At some point we can get her to feed back to church meeting and provide a report for the CONCORD. Too busy just now!



Leen and Angelina Vonk have written to pass on their greetings to all people of the Tolworth, Ewell and Korean church.

We also wish you a happy and healthy 2023 and we thank you for mailing us the monthly Concord.

We miss you all but we now enjoy looking after our Dutch grandson Lenn, after we did this ten years after our English grandsons Joshua and Ollie.

From Netherlands, Leen and Angelina

From Joan Burnett

Please can you say a big 'Thank You' to Cynthia for the lovely arrangement of flowers she brought me on Sunday 8th of January. I have been held-up in doors for two weeks with the flu virus and feeling very unwell. It was a wet, dull day and it was good to know that others were thinking of me. Not fully recovered as yet but, after a course of Antibiotics is feeling a little better and hopefully on mend.

Hope to be back with the Church family soon

Joan Burnett

From Brenda Kelly

At last it has stopped raining, but now we have frost. It is certainly cold but the sun is out and everything looks lovely. I went on a visit to Wisley, it was absolutely beautiful. The trees looked really lovely. I don't think we appreciate them so much in-summer, but covered frost you can see the beauty of the shape, form and texture. In a few weeks time blossom and buds will start to appear. Another advantage of bare trees it makes it possible to see the birds flying in and out of the branches, looking for food. So the circle of life in the garden is starting again with the anticipation of spring and summer.

Brenda

Tales from our campground 6: insulation

I never realised that camping required knowledge of physics. I passed my O Level, to the enormous surprise of my teacher, and then erased the trauma. But we've had to relearn basics to help us manage everything from boiling a billycan of water on the fire to being cold at night.

You would think that a sleeping bag with a limit of +2 degrees would keep you warm in night-time temperatures of +12 degrees in the middle of June, wouldn't you? You would be wrong. In the course of investigating why I kept waking up shivering at 3am, we discovered:

1. Physiology dictates that women generally sleep at least five degrees colder than men. Who knew? This means I need to add on five degrees to whatever limits the sleeping bag states. My lovely down winter sleeping bag has a limit of -7 degrees. For me, that means it will still keep me warm at about -2 but not much below that. And it does indeed do that beautifully. I would need something else were we to be out at -7 temperatures.

2. Sleeping bags work best with additional insulation from a sleeping mat - or two-underneath. And here you enter the murky world of 'R values' and 'tog ratings' because not all mats are made equal. This could be the subject of an entire thesis but apparently it comes down to the conduction - convection - radiation cycle. Sort this and instead of your body heat draining into the cold ground underneath you it will be reflected back and keep you warm. Our solution? In summer we each have an airbed and lightweight foil mat. In spring/autumn, we replace the foil mat with a heavy-duty thermal mat under the airbeds.

And add hot water bottles.

And a hat.

As we retire to the tent from the campfire, I often think of the Psalmist saying that the sun will not harm by day nor the moon by night. I'm sure he must be remembering some cold desert nights' camping on a regular pilgrimage to Jerusalem



Heather Lodge

Roger Fenn's February Quiz - More from Ezra and Nehemiah

1. How long did it take to rebuild the walls?
2. There were 8 gates. Name two of them?
3. Which part of the temple was built first?
4. Whom did Ezra banish from the city?
5. Who decided who was eligible to remain?
6. Ezra summoned the whole community to reading of the law of Moses. What punishment was given to those who failed to attend?
7. Which was the first festival celebrated by the returning exiles?
8. How do we know "Sunday trading" was forbidden?

Answers on next page

An invitation

Members of Tolworth meet for lunch at The Hogsmill, Worcester Park. However, Due to unforeseen circumstances it has been necessary to change some of the dates for for Ladies and Gentlemen who lunch. We would like to invite friends from Ewell
The dates:

22nd February
22nd March
26th April
7th. June
12th. July

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

Thanks

Brenda

From Margaret Taylor

Margaret Taylor has written to thank Cynthia for the beautiful flowers from the Church on January 8th. They brightened up my lounge on what was rather a dismal day.

Many thanks too to all the people who have shown kindness to me. I really appreciate them all. Best wishes.

Margaret

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust,
The end of a story, the end of a life.
The soul has moved on to a world we can't know,
A cord has been cut by death's merciful knife.

Ash Wednesday reminds us of just such a time,
Remember Good Friday, a cross on a hill,
When Jesus was taken and hung on a tree,
With trust in his Father, and loving God still.

We take the palm crosses, two meanings to share,
The triumphal entry, the death on the cross.
We burn them – a symbol of death and deep mourning,
We ponder the ashes, the meaning of loss.

We mark on each other the sign of Christ's cross,
A darkness descends for the six weeks of Lent,
But some far horizon is lit up by hope –
"He is risen!" – a promise, a foretaste is sent.

Barbara Pearson

From Barbara Smith

I recently attended an event at Southborough High School, with Roger, our Minister

Not sure what to expect, I'll admit I was worried but a warm welcome from what I assume were 'senior boys' my words not theirs, I found our space and watched as pupils milled around.

We met pupils from High School and Junior School during the day, each with different views and aspirations .

What I realised after the day was the decisions we make now reflect our personal values based on our experience - what we need to do is look forward, make choices based on how society is changing, hard choices yes but they won't affect us just those who follow us

Barbara

February Quiz – Answers

- | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|--------------------|----|--|-------------|
| 1. | 52 days | Nehemiah 6 v 15 | 5. | Priests and family heads
Ezra 10 v 16 - 17 | |
| 2, | Read | Nehemiah Chapter 3 | 6. | They forfeited their property
Ezra 10 v 7 | |
| 3. | The alter of sacrifice | Ezra 3 v 3 | 7. | Passover | Ezra 6 v 19 |
| 4. | Foreign wives | Ezra 9 v 2 | 8. | The gates were closed on the
Jewish Sabbath
Nehemiah 13 v 19 | |

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	
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

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
Synod Rep.	Miss Rosemary Holmes

Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition - please keep them coming – especially from London Road! We hope to publish a magazine for March. Please let me have all your material by 23rd February.