

CONCORD



Crib service at London Road, Ewell

A Happy New Year to everyone

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

January 2023



Messy church - Christingle

From our Minister

Dear Friends,

January 2023

I have found a wonderful psalm to reflect on for the New Year!

Psalm 65 is my chosen Psalm for January, and in particular verse 11...

“You crown the year with your bounty;

Your wagon tracks overflow with richness”

Have a read of the whole psalm and you will find it is a poem of thanksgiving to God for Gods generosity and the years provision. This year has been alive with the bounty of God; by “Gods acts of deliverance to the ends of the earth and to the furthest seas.” This generosity and provision just overflow and all of creation, including us, shout and sing together for joy.

A hymn of thankfulness and gratitude.

And yet we also know that during any year, although we may be laughing loud and hardy, the smile on our face can look terribly out of place These are not the wagon tracks of richness,

but the tracks of our tears. For most people know, especially those who are around the four score years and ten, that any year also brings it's terror, sadness and heartache.

In the world during the year just past we see the repercussions of a pandemic and ongoing illness, a war in Europe and people, so frightened as to risk their lives in cold waters. Nationally we mourn the loss of a wonderful Queen and leader and faith, and the insecurity of rising prices and families struggling over the cost of just living. It seems to us that hope of a nation takes another knock as less people describe themselves practising faith.

Then there are our own personal hurts, failures, and losses. Some disappointments after a year of hoping. Some missed opportunities or plans gone wayward. And the tragedies and sadness that have made this Christmas almost unbearable.

Where is the hymn of thankfulness and gratitude in these tracks of our tears?

I am not sure that psalm 65, like so many psalms of praise are wholly poems of thanksgiving for what we hold in our hands! True, we give thanks for God's provision of the earth and how it feeds and sustains us. True, we see its wealth and how there is sufficient for everyone. True we stand in awe of creations beauty. But not everyone is sustained or benefits from its wealth. Others stand in terror of what creation can dish out!

There is more to a hymn of thankfulness and gratitude. We are called into a love of fullness and abundance and that doesn't mean avoiding the terrors of the world. It does mean that graciousness and courage, and generosity and kindness, the things that make a full life, are possible even in the midst of the tracks of our tears. The things that no hurt or disappointment take away. Living a life of gratitude is not because of Gods provision but is, even in the time of most adversity and heartache a possibility. Even in this psalm , 65 as we crown the year the wagon's tracks are both of plenty **and** of tears. These are part of living a full life.

How do we remain a people of hope and live a full life of gratitude in the tracks of both plenty and tears?

The Christmas story holds a cute, vulnerable baby amongst the fury of a king and slaughter of innocents. A good life, lived in story telling and healing, friendship and familial love ends on a cross. (Although it doesn't of course and that's the point).

Instead of worry and fear, cynicism and insults we need what Christie Watson, a health professional and author, calls *The Language of Kindness* in her book *a Nurses Story*, reflections on the pandemic. Rachel Watson quotes a fellow doctor in a book *Breathtaking* about the love he witnessed for patients. "This is a beautiful thing and I hope we never lose it".

G.K. Chesterton wrote, "*The world will never starve for want of wonders. But only for want of wonder.*"

A hymn of thankfulness is not a shopping list of thanks for what we have. Such a prayer is the deepest expression of living life in its fullest, joys and hurts, of pains and sacrifices. Jesus shows us this.

Many people have experiences of war and bereavement, grief and struggle, and have learned to find heaven in the ordinary. We can be thankful and live a life of gratitude as the psalmist says. Maybe we need to practice. To live the Christmas story for the new year and every year is to discover day by day a life of gratitude. The wonder is that the hurts, losses and disappointments can never take away the love, graciousness and care that remains around us. The wonder is that we can still be loving caring and gracious even in the midst of doubt and hurt. The wonder is that we can witness and be witnesses to this.

Perhaps Psalm 65 can help in developing a habit of gratitude

May we continue to live and love life to the full; and give thanks.

God bless,

Roger

Tolworth Family Circle

Kathleen Woolard has had a bout of Covid. Not what one wants at Christmas time but she is feeling better now, Several people have had bad colds and coughs. May they all soon feel better. At the beginning of December we were pleased to welcome Lilly, Nathaniel and Catherine into our Church family when they were all baptised.

Christmas

How lovely our Church looked at Christmas with all the trees displayed in the windows. Thank you to everyone who decorated the trees representing various countries throughout the world. Thanks also to Brenda Kelly for making the Advent ring. At Messy Church Roger held a Christingle service which was very well attended. Please see the picture on second page of this magazine. The Carol Service, led and arranged by Heather Lodge was beautiful although not so many attended due to the bitterly cold weather. The Candlelight Evergreen service was very effective and peaceful and Christmas morning was started by Roger and continued by Heather when Roger left for the service at Ewell. Over 30 people attended among them 6 children who all took part in the service. Many thanks to Roger and Heather for all their work over Christmas.

Moira

Concord

Annual subscriptions for Concord are now due. A minimum of £5 is suggested for those who receive it on-line or have it delivered. For those sent by post a minimum of £10 is suggested to cover postage costs. For Tolworth payment can be made to Moira or Geof, For Ewell payment should be made to George Pearson.

Thank you

Moira

January Diary – Tolworth

Sunday	1st	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Morning Communion led by our Minister
Monday	9 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	11 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	12 th	2.30pm	Biscuit Club - Quiz
Sunday	15th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by Mr Tom Sweatman Evergreen Church
Monday	16 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	18 th	10.00am 2.30pm	Playtime Church meeting
Sunday	22nd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Antony Ball
Monday	23 rd	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	25 th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	29th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by our Minister - Family Service
Monday	30 th	5.30pm	Pilots

February 2023

Sunday	5th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge
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Ewell Family News

We remember those of our members who are unwell at this time, and particularly Raj Samuel who has been in hospital with a chest infection. We pray that he will soon be well enough to return to Beaumont Nursing Home.

We were sad to say farewell to our Korean pastor, Jinkyoo, at our Christmas service, and ask God's blessing for him and his wife Esther, as they begin their ministry in a new church in Korea. We welcome the new pastor, Tovi, and pray God's blessings on him and his ministry at Ewell.

As always we thank Roger for his dedicated and creative ministry to us, particularly for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve which was a joyful and inclusive event for everyone present.

We also offer thanks to all those who work in so many ways to support our church, so that we can continue to serve our community and care for each other.

Barbara

January Diary for Ewell

Sunday 1 st	10.30 am	Morning worship with Holy Communion, conducted by Revd Jones
Tuesday 3 rd	12.30 pm	Lunch Club at Ashtead Garden Centre
Sunday 8 th	10.30 am	Morning worship conducted by Ms. Katrina Clifford
Wed 11 th	9.30 am	Art Group
Sunday 15 th	10.30 am	Morning worship conducted by Mrs. Linda Lambert
Monday 16 th	10.30 am	Elders Meeting
Wed 18 th	9.30 am	Art Group
Sunday 22 nd	10.30 am	Morning worship conducted by Revd Roger Jones
Wed 25 th	9.30 am	Art Group
Thursday 26 th	2 – 3 pm	Friendship Hour, all welcome
Sunday 29 th	10.30 am	Morning worship conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson

FEBRUARY

Sunday 5 th	10.30 am	Morning worship with Holy Communion, conducted by Revd Jones
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From Brenda Kelly

It is the day after Boxing Day and the sun was out this morning but now it is raining. Christmas is over, but we now look forward to a New Year. What will 2023 be like. You can never tell what is ahead, but rest assured spring is round the corner as it is every year and very soon bulbs will start emerging through the very wet soil. They never seem to give up. They can be covered in snow, or nearly drowning with rain, but soon (hopefully) the sun will appear and the crocus followed by the daffodils will show their beautiful heads bringing colour to our world once again. So a happy and colourful new year to you all.

Brenda

Biscuit Club

The Biscuit Club went to Epsom Playhouse to see Dick Whittington. It was an excellent show and all twelve of us had an enjoyable afternoon. Especially the one person who fell asleep only to be woken up with the cast using water pistols!

The next meeting is on 12th January when we will be having a quiz/ Everyone is welcome.

Brenda Kelly

Who was it – I wonder!!!?

Tales from our campground 5: stock-taking

Strictly speaking this is more a tale of thinking about our campground rather than being from it. As I write, the living-room is covered not in Christmas decorations or wrapping paper but in camp stuff. Which is most definitely not, as the photo suggests, neatly packed in our rucksacks.

It's stock-taking time. We'll spend the next few weeks checking the kit - considering whether or not we used it, if it is still fit for purpose or now needs replacing, and if there is anything on our wish-list that we might be able to afford. The big bits of kit such as the tents, rucksacks and sleeping bags are fine, although I could do with a different summer sleeping bag – I was even cold at night in the middle of the heatwave last July!

One of our favourite airbeds still has a slow leak despite a repair. It's getting slower since it's been glued but we've not really traced the problem. It probably needs professional care now.

Our oldest and much-used power-bank isn't holding its charge too well. Should we still rely on it to recharge a phone?

Two of the tent lights have developed intermittent faults so, once again, we are on the hunt for a budget-friendly, lightweight, high-powered, portable light that doesn't use all our power supply. Our holy grail.

The knives and axe could do with sharpening but that's easily fixed.

Sometimes the weather intervenes and the only thing we can manage to cook is boiling water so we've restocked our supply of emergency freeze-dried meals. And, courtesy of a birthday present, we have a little gas stove to try out this year.

New year is a great time for a reset. Revisiting achievements. Looking back on challenges. Looking forward to the possibilities, knowing that God equips us with all that we really need for our journey.

Heather Lodge



Roger Fenn's Puzzle for January

The books of Ezra and Nehemiah in the Hebrew Bible (our old Testament) tell the story of the Jewish people's return from exile in Babylon and their rebuilding of the city and temple of Jerusalem.

1. Which Persian king first gave permission for the Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild it?
2. Where did Ezra assemble the first of the exiles on leaving Babylon?
3. What title would best describe Ezra?
4. Which Persian king sent Nehemiah to Jerusalem?
5. What was his role at the time?
6. What was his new task in Jerusalem?
7. Who opposed the rebuilding of the city?
8. What proportion of men rebuilt the walls while others defended it?

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:

11th. January
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 (01372 743968)

Mary & Owen Riches have written to say that for a number of reasons since moving to Crowborough, we have lost touch with our friends at Tolworth URC. Please pass on our best wishes to everyone and thank them for their cards and Christmas greetings

With love – Owen and Mary

From Barbara Smith

Whilst watching the Christmas Carol concerts I was struck by how things have changed but still remain the same.

When Gary and I celebrated our first Christmas at Tolworth, as a newly married couple we attended the service of Nine Lessons and Carols, this began with a soloist - Sarah Bennett - singing the first verse of 'once in Royal David's City.', followed by a procession down the aisle with Sarah at the head of the choir.

Many of those who sang in the choir are no longer with us for lots of reasons but the memories persist.

Now we have had the chance to make new memories and to look forward to moving together into another year in the life of our church, facing new challenges whilst finding workable solutions.

Barbara

From Julie Ross-Harper

Julie has written to send everyone Christmas greetings. She says- Ross and I are very well and busy going into school to hear children read. Throughout Broad Haven he is known as. "The reading dog" and children shout out to him. We work in a charity shop supporting people with cancer – Ross is so lovely with everyone.

I am still learning Welsh and in the Welsh learners' choir. I help the Minister with the Haven every Monday afternoon. The church is laid out with a coffee, tea and cake corner – all free - with tables for painting, puzzles, jigsaws etc and a prayer corner.

Lots of love from Julie and Ross

January Quiz – Answers

- | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Cyrus | Ezra 1 v 1-3 | 5. King's cupbearer | Nehemiah 2 v 1 |
| 2. Ahava Canal | Ezra 8 v 15 | 6. To rebuild the city | Nehemiah 2 v 17 |
| 3. "Scribe", "A teacher well versed in the law of Moses" | Ezra 7 v 6 | 7. Enemies of Judah and Benjamin | Ezra 4 v 1 |
| 4. Artaxerxes | Nehemiah 2 v 1 | 8. Half-and-half | Nehemiah 4 v 16 |

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	
Treasurer	Mr G Stock	
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 January. Please let me have all your material by 19th January.