

CONCORD



Happy Easter

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

April 2023

THE SWEDEN CONCERT



Berrylands
Belles

Saturday 29 April 2023
5pm

SCAN HERE
FOR TICKETS



Tolworth
United Reformed
Church

From our Minister

Dear Friends,

April 2023

This week I was fascinated with a radio 4 piece on International Nowruz Day, 21st March 2023. Nowruz, known as Iranian or Persian new year marks the first day of spring, Nowruz in the Farsi language translates “New Day” and is a celebration of re-birth. Well there is resonance with our Easter faith right there. There is a promotion of values of peace and solidarity between generations and families and reconciliation between neighbours and contributing to cultural diversity and friendship among different communities.

It will come as no surprise to anyone that this year's Nowruz celebration will feel a little different following recent uprisings, protests and conflicts in Iran and around the world. Many of these protests have been focused on women's rights and freedom. There has been an unprecedented show of support from diverse communities, men and women who seek and work for the day all people will be free.

Our own Easter celebration is one of new birth and is born out of injustice and political conflict leading to the death and humiliation of our Lord and Saviour, Christ who we see again at the resurrection. The Ways of Christ, of Justice and peace, humility and service, care and charity, healing and reconciliation are wrapped up in these Nowruz and other celebrations of people of different faiths and none.

As I contemplate Easter, our own great Christian festival I also think of the recent conversations in both churches of the pastorate concerning links and relationships with those in the community of a different faith and none.

I have spoken a good deal about partnership over recent months/years. As I reflect on ministry and mission I am increasingly convinced that the future for our faith and all faiths, lies in working together and partnerships in the community. By “partnership” I do not mean “us” in the church trying to convince others to join us! I mean a genuine reciprocal, mature relationship that assumes nothing but encounters others in what we in a Christian tradition call the Ways of Christ. Justice and peace. Humility and service. Care and charity. Healing and reconciliation. Salvation.

In London Road Ewell of our churches in the pastorate we have been considering working towards touching the community with creative arts and working with a local theatre company. A secular business. In Tolworth we, together with parents and carers from the community run a toddler's groups. Our work includes engaging with volunteers to run a charity for children with special needs in North Surrey. We attend a ladies only coffee morning with Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association and consider other faith group using a church sacred space. There are other examples. Think on them...Ways of Christ. Justice and peace. Humility and service. Care and charity. Healing and reconciliation. Salvation.

Maybe this has been underpinned this Lent through using a lent course from the Coptic Christian charity Embrace, an organisation working among the people in most need in Israel and the Palestinian occupied territories. Some of the stories have included working together in partnership of groups traditionally in conflict because of culture and religion and politics.

I have spoken a good deal about partnership over recent months/years. Easter is a time of new life and resurrection. Of God working in our lives achieving what we think are unlikely or

impossible, and doing something different with us. I wonder what God would do with such partnerships and relationships that together seek the Ways of Christ in the community. I wonder what God could do with us in our communities by sharing the Ways of Christ, common to so many of us. As I reflect on Easter I am increasingly convinced that the future for our faith and all faiths, lies in working together and partnerships in the community, and living the Ways of Christ. Then seeing what God does. See what happened at Easter! Here is Easter for me this year. Happy Easter to you all,

God bless

Roger

Easter Services

Lent Studies Mondays 12.30 and Wednesday 7.30pm

Palm Sunday Worship 10.30am

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

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

Maundy Thursday 7.30pm Service of Reflection at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church

shared with Tolworth URC and led by Rev Stan Brown

Good Friday 10am: Service of Reflection at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church

45 minutes of quiet and reflection for Good Friday - shared with Tolworth URC and led by Rev Stan Brown and Rev Roger Jones.

Easter Sunday Worship 10.30am

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

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



Tolworth Family Circle

Cynthia Stock has had further tests and is still awaiting results, Mary Carvalho's eye treatment has not been successful and she will now need surgery at a later date. Ann Musgrove is not very well either and hasn't been able to get out recently.

Please remember these friends in your prayers and any others who are ill or confined to their home.

Tolworth URC's 90th Anniversary

As mentioned last month, we are planning an exhibition of memorabilia of our Church on Saturday 10th June, and on Sunday 11th our Anniversary service will include communion and will be led by Roger, our Minister. The service will be followed by a Bring and Share Lunch. If you will be attending the lunch, please let Brenda Kelly know and give an idea of what you will bring. Thank you to those who have searched their attics and cupboards and produced some old photos of Church events. If anyone else has anything that might be of interest, please bring it along any Sunday. Even if you write down your memories of Church times gone by, we will be very pleased to include them.

Thank You

Moira

Flowers in the Church

You will be that flowers are placed in the Church for Sunday worship each week.

Over the years people have either paid for or arranged these in either celebration or remembrance of family or friends.

At the moment only a few people do this so I am asking if anyone would like to contribute in this way.

Please speak to myself or Brenda Kelly if you would like to help in this way.

Cynthia Stock

April Diary – Tolworth

Sunday	2nd		Palm Sunday
		10.30am	Morning Worship led by our Minister
Monday	3 rd	12.30pm	Lent Study course
Wednesday	5 th	7.30pm	Lent Study course
Thursday	6 th	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday service at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church
Friday	7 th	10.00am	Good Friday Service of reflection at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church
Sunday	9th		Easter Sunday
		10.30am	Morning Communion led Mr Mark Dennis
Wednesday	12 th	2.30pm	Elders' meeting
Thursday	13 th	2.30pm	Biscuit Club – Life Stories
Sunday	16th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by our Minister Evergreen Church
Monday	17 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	19 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	20 th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sunday	23rd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert
Monday	24 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	26 th	10.00am	Playtime
Saturday	29 th	5.00pm	Concert with the Surbiton Belles Choir
Sunday	30th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge
May 2023			
Sunday	7th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert

Ewell Family News for April

Thanks to Pamela Galliers and her team for beautiful posies and floral displays for Mothering Sunday.

Thanks also to the Korean Church for kind gifts to church families on Mothering Sunday.

Several members at Ewell have experienced covid in the past month, showing that we should still be aware that it is around. Thankfully all are fully recovered now.

A further friendly reminder to Ewell folk 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

April 2023 Diary for London Road URC Ewell

Sunday 2nd 10.30 am Palm Sunday morning worship with Holy Communion, conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson

The Korean Church will be holding Holy Week prayers at 8 pm each evening of Holy Week

Monday 3rd 10 am Church Meeting

Tuesday 4th 12.30 pm Lunch Club at The Haywain, Epsom (names to Dennis or Anne Sexton)

Thursday 6th Joint Maundy Thursday Service at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church.

Sunday 9th 10.30 am Easter Day morning worship with Holy Communion conducted by Revd Roger Jones

Sunday 16th 10.30 am Morning worship conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson

Sunday 23rd 10.30 am Morning worship conducted by Revd Roger Jones, followed by lunch provided by Ewell Korean Church

Thursday 20th 2 – 3 pm Friendship Hour, all welcome to come and enjoy the Cabaret

Sunday 30th 10.30 am Morning worship conducted by Mr. Nick Mayhew-Smith

MAY

Sunday 7th 10.30 am Morning worship with Holy Communion, conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson

Whose God?

It was good to be able to attend Church Meeting last month and I have been pondering the discussion ever since. Who should use the Sanctuary and for what purpose? Use of the halls seems a more straightforward issue, doesn't it? Community groups need a space to meet and the Church benefits from both the connection and the income, providing the terms & conditions are duly observed.

Use of the Sanctuary seems rather more challenging for reasons that I find embarrassingly hard to articulate. Although a decision was made at Church Meeting not to open our worship space to another faith group at this time, I hope there will be further opportunities to continue exploring the issue.

We worship in God's house but whose God are we holding there? 'Our' God, as in that of the URC? The 'Christian' God? Is there such a thing? Why isn't it automatically God with no single faith attached? Without doubt, churches are special places where we come, both in private and as a family, to pray and to praise God but should we keep our four walls to ourselves? What exactly are we preserving? I find it a very difficult question to answer.

I choose to worship within the URC because I like its structure and simplicity. It's also the Church in which I grew up. That doesn't mean I'm not happy to share worship with many other branches of the Church. I'm less content with, for example, evangelical denominations that preach Christianity as the exclusive path to a relationship with God or who exclude women from leadership roles. Being in a mixed faith relationship, I find the former divisive if not antisemitic, and the latter, as a woman, sexist and discriminatory. If I apply my preferences though, to whom would I be happy to loan out our worship space? Only those who preach the message that fits my view of the Christian faith? Hmm. That doesn't feel right. Of course, I can – and do - choose not to attend a service led by any Church, or faith group, that makes me feel excluded but where do I draw the line to protect 'my' worship space?

I suspect there are few Jewish communities who would be comfortable using URC worship space but you never know. Were they to approach us with accommodation difficulties I'd be the first to support their use of the Sanctuary. Would I do the same for a Muslim community? Why am I even stopping to think? Do I think all of Islam preaches intolerance and is an incitement to violence? No, of course not. That's not only ridiculous it would be contrary to Christian teaching to love your neighbour. So why the doubt? Maybe it is because of my own experience with my late brother-in-law who, because of a deep cultural clash, cut me off from my family irrevocably. Or perhaps I am guilty of distrust because it doesn't fit with my construct of God. Mostly I suspect it's simply because I don't know the language. I lived in the heart of Wales for three years. People spoke Welsh first. It was too easy to be suspicious of what was, but more likely wasn't, being said. My bad, I should have learned Welsh.

Given that our Evergreen service seeks to find God through ways other than formal worship in Church, it is both challenging and uncomfortable to be struggling with such conflicted opinions over the use of our worship space. Maybe there are no right or wrong answers here. I do know that we should be challenged because that is how we grow as Christians. Have you had further thoughts?

Heather Lodge

From Brenda Kelly

I have been writing in Concord now for over a year and finding it difficult to find inspiration of what to write about. Most of my messages have been about gardening.

The garden is really dependent on the weather and at the beginning of this year I lost a few plants when we had the snow, but now the spring flowers are appearing, which gives me hope for the coming year. Seasons seem to change - March and April seem to have joined forces, with wind, rain and sunshine. My other delight are garden birds, they are more interesting than the television. I have a large number of sparrows, two robins and few blue tits. Pigeons are a bit of a pain as they sit on my tulips, so now I have covered the plants with holly which hopefully deter them, although in they do pick up all the seeds that fall on the patio. So my message to you is do not give up as there is always hope.....!

Lunch Club

We have been lunching now for quite a few years. We number between four and ten people. It is a lovely way to meet and catch up without having to do the washing up. Please do join us, we welcome anyone and would be pleased to see you. The next date is Wednesday 26th April at 12.30.

Sent from my iPad

Brenda

The First Easter

We didn't believe it would turn out like this,
Arrested by night and betrayed by a kiss,
And then crucifixion, the horror and shame,
For one who was innocent, no way to blame.
Since all of that happened it's now the third day;
In fear and in sorrow we're hiding away.
Look! Peter and John have rushed into the room -
They risked going out to revisit the tomb.
The body had gone and angels had said
'The Lord is not here. He has risen from the dead.'
Dare we believe it? We're just simple men.
How our hearts would rejoice if we saw him again...
And now – alleluia! - he's here in this place.
We're gazing in awe at that well-beloved face.

Gwyneth Smith

Tales from our campground 8: expectations

So, we have booked our first camp of 2023. No doubt we'll now be poring anxiously over weather forecasts, wondering if we're going to freeze or drown.

Am I bored of returning to the same place so often? Not at all. As gardeners know, there is a unique joy in being outdoors in a familiar place. It's both home and a meeting point with God. You notice things on a micro level – the tiny shoots that weren't there when you last looked, the flower buds that are emerging, the dew that makes the spider's web sparkle. You also notice the macro level things – the trees turning green again, the morning birdsong that seems a few decibels louder in April, and the grass that's reclaimed its ground.

The photo is of last year's lambs. Our pitch is fairly near the "nursery" and we love watching the newborns gambol around the field. They seem to spend much of the night bleating though - either tiny lambs don't need much sleep or they are acutely afraid of the dark! We're hoping that the fox has found new hunting grounds, not just for the sake of our milk supply but because a hungry fox and a field of little lambs is not a good mix.



We are excited to find out if the wee branch that takes our water bag is still there, if the robins are still around, and whether the brambles have finally taken over the space for the washing line. Hopefully no trees have fallen during the winter and the wild boar has left us some flat ground for our tent.

Heather Lodge

Roger Fenn's April Quiz - Easter memories

1. In which village did Jesus often stay when ministering in Jerusalem?
2. What message were the disciples to give to the owner of the colt as they set it free?
- 3.. How did the disciples know where to prepare the Passover feast?
4. Who was the High Priest at the time of Jesus' trial?
5. Name the place where Pontius Pilate gave his judgement.
6. What colour robe does **John** tell us the soldiers placed on Jesus to mock him?
7. Name the other two things they used in the mockery.
8. Who carried the crossbeam of Jesus' cross?
9. Name the place where Jesus was crucified.
10. In whose garden tomb was Jesus' body buried?
11. Who helped him transport our Lord's body?
12. Name the disciple who travelled to Emmaus with his companion?

Please Book This Date!

Alan Wood

And Why? Yes - We're having a Quiz Night!

For 12 years Epsom U.R.C. ran a Quiz Night in aid of Christian Aid, most times with Malcolm as our Quiz Master. And indeed, these were well supported by quizzers from Ewell and Tolworth

We were gearing up for 2020 when, unfortunately, due to Covid, we were forced to cancel. Now, in other premises, i.e. the Youth Centre at London Road Church, **on 20th May** we are able to continue with our **Quiz Nights! Hurrah!!**

We have the Hall booked, we have a Quiz Master - we intend to supply meals of fish (or chicken, or sausage, or veggie burger!) and chips – and what we need you to do is – **BOOK THE DATE**. Tickets and further details will be available soon. Look out for the Posters.

Easter Joy

At Eastertime we think of life,
Christ risen from the dead!
So death holds no more fear for us,
There's heavenly life instead.

No more we bear the weight of sin,
For Christ has set us free.
Forgave betraying Simon,
Forgives – yes! – you and me.

We stand as people of the light,
Our burdens laid aside.
Lord Jesus waits to greet each one,
His arms are open wide.

Barbara Pearson

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 Ladies and Gentlemen who lunch. We would like to invite friends from Ewell
The dates:

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)

April Quiz – Answers

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Bethany | John 12 v 1 |
| 2. | “The Master needs it” | Luke 19 v 34 |
| 3. | Follow the man with the pitcher | John 22 v 10 |
| 4. | Caiaphas | John 18 v 24 |
| 5. | Gabbatha / Stone pavement | John 19 v 17 |
| 6. | Purple | John 19 v 2 |
| 7. | Crown of thorns & Reed / Sceptre | Matthew 27 v 29 |
| 8. | Simon of Cyrene | Luke 23 v 26 |
| 9. | Golgotha / Skull Place | John 19 v 17 |
| 10. | Joseph of Arimathea | Luke 23 v 53 |
| 11. | Nicodemus | John 19 v 39 |
| 12. | Cleopas | Luke 24 v 18 |

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

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

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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 LONDON ROAD URC, 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	

Officers, Leaders and Representatives

Housekeeping	Mrs. B. Williams
Flower rota	Mrs. P. Galliers
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