

CONCORD



Luskintyre, Isle of Harris, Outer Hebrides

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

September 2023

From our Minister

Dear Friends,

September 2023

I think of Sinead O'Connor (real name Shuhda' Sadaqat) as being part of my era of music. In truth I was thirty when she had her musical hit with "Nothing Compares" (to you.) She was an Irish singer song writer and her music and her voice were terrific. I read her autobiography a few years ago. She was also a political activist. She was also religious. She became a Christian priest. Over recent years she converted to Islam. Her faith and walk with God have been monumental in her life's journey. She says the only holy thing she has ever done is sing. She pictures heaven as a *"night time paradise. Cool and calm. Gardens with rivers flowing beneath them."* *"I long for that," she says*".

This week thousands lined the streets of Bray, her hometown in Ireland to say farewell at her funeral.

Yet some may describe her life in "show business as being anything but religious". She was disruptive. She courted controversy. Among other things, she refused a grammy award, sending a letter to the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences saying she did not want to participate in "false materialistic values". Famously she ripped up a picture of the Pope live on television. She said, *'I don't do anything to cause trouble. It just so happens that what I do naturally causes trouble. I'm proud to be a troublemaker.'*

Almost two thousand years ago Aiden (now St Aiden) was a monk on the Island of Iona. You may remember Gillian and I spent a week there a few months ago. Aiden was called by the King Oswald of Northumbria to be bishop to the newly converted Northumbrians. Aiden founded Lindisfarne. A Christian community I would also like to visit one day! A previous monk to Northumbria returned saying that the people of Northumbria were too barbarous and stubborn to be reached! Aiden was different, but he courted controversy. Oswald donated a horse to Aiden which Aiden promptly gave over to a poor beggar, asking the king why it should not benefit one of God's children. A full feast was prepared for Aiden. The food at Aiden's instigation was sent out the community in the village and along with the many silver platters given away.

I can hear St Aiden saying, *'I don't do anything to cause trouble. It just so happens that what I do naturally causes trouble. I'm proud to be a troublemaker.'* Indeed, Aiden is the Gaelic word for fire!

The United Reformed Prayer book this month records in a prayer, St Aidens Day. (30th August)

Some 20th century students were asked *'Do you think Christianity is supposed to be a disruptive, insurgent phenomenon or a constructive, community-strengthening one?'* Is God, Troublesome or comforting? The tutor was a bit disappointed when two-thirds said, *'A community-strengthening one.'* It's clear what answer the late Irish singer Sinéad O'Connor and St Aiden would have given.

What would Jesus have said? The Jesus who upturned tables (John 2:15) . The Jesus who raised widows and their mites (Luke 21) and children (Mark 10) above religious leaders and figures of authority. The Jesus who says *"give to Caesar's what is Caesars..."* (Mark 12)

There is always a danger of worshipping religion rather than God. Do we hide the mystery and truth in our church traditions? Do we hide the disruptive of power of God's glorious

transformations in our routine/ Or do we look simply to God and sing, "Nothing compares to you"?

God bless

Roger

Tolworth United Reformed Church

One immediate response from our church strategy discussion has been for prayer/bible study group in the form of a house group or groups. If there is sufficient interest, we arrange a group to meet for tea and a chance to explore our faith a little more.

We could plan to do in comfortable surroundings of our homes.

SO!

Bible Study/House Groups

To begin in October

If you would like to join/offer your home as venue please speak with Roger.



Ewell Family News

Toby and Soona Nam from the Korean Church arranged a second Messy Church service for Thursday, 27th July at 3 pm. Once again it was a very happy occasion, with worship, singing, dancing, story-telling and craft. Our hope is that we will be able to draw in children from other church groups and the local community.

It was a lovely surprise to see Angelina and Leen Vonk at our Friendship Hour, and again at the morning service on 30th July. They join the online service from Holland, where they now live, but it was a pleasure to welcome them in person.

Her friends at church were sad to hear of the death of Lynne Wilkins. Her membership stretched over many years, and she also served as a lay preacher and worship leader. Failing health prevented her attending church in recent years, but she is remembered with affection by many of the congregation.

We offer our sympathy and support to Sandra Dunstan, on the death of her father, whom she has cared for for many years.

Several of our members continue to struggle with health issues, and we offer them our prayers and support in their difficult times.

Barbara

September 2023 Diary for London Road URC Ewell

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------|--|
| Sunday 3 rd | 10.30 am | Morning Worship conducted by Revd Roger Jones, including the celebration of Holy Communion |
| Thursday 7 th | 11am | Funeral service for Mrs. Lynne Wilkins |

Sunday 10th 10.30 am Morning Worship conducted by Mrs. Katrina Clifford
Tuesday 12th 12.30 pm Church lunch at The Haywain, Epsom
Sunday 17th 10.30 am Morning Worship conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson
Sunday 24th 10.30 am Morning Worship conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson,
celebrating Harvest Sunday
Monday 25th 10 am Elders Meeting
Thursday 28th 2-3 pm "Cabaret" at Friendship Hour

October

Sunday 1st 10.30 am Morning Worship conducted by Revd Roger Jones,
Including the celebration of Holy Communion

Tolworth Family Circle

It is so good to see Cynthia back with us at our Sunday services after her operation. She has had another stay in Epsom Hospital since the op. but is home again and feeling better although still very tired. We hope she will continue to improve and we look forward to seeing her back to her old self once more. Paul Craven is not very well at present. He is having bladder problems and cannot attend services in the meantime. We hope things will improve for him soon. Mary Carvalho will have had serious eye surgery by the time this magazine is printed. We hope all went well and that her recovery is going smoothly. Charmaine Waterman is recovering at home after a hip operation. We hope this has helped her and that she is now in less pain.

Please remember these friends in your prayers and any others who are ill or housebound.

Harvest

We shall be celebrating Harvest on Sunday 24th September. As in previous years, we are asking you to bring items of food and toiletries which will be taken to the Food Bank. They are in need of tinned meat, sh and veg, tea, coffee, cereals, soup, toothpaste, soap, shampoo etc and cleaning materials. Please bring what you can to support people who are finding it difficult to provide for their families. The service will be followed by a bring & share ploughman's lunch in the Elgar Hall.

Thank You.

Moira

Tolworth - Diary for September 2023

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Sunday | 3rd | 10.30am | Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert |
| Wednesday | 6 th | 2.30pm | Elders' meeting |
| Sunday | 10th | 10.30am | Morning Worship led by Revd Barbara Pearson |
| Monday | 11 th | 5.30pm | Pilots |
| Wednesday | 13 th | 10.00am | Playtime |
| Thursday | 14 th | 2,30pm | Biscuit Club – Discussion on future |
| Sunday | 17th | 10.30am 6.30pm | Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge Evergreen Church |
| Monday | 18 th | 5.30pm | Pilots |
| Wednesday | 20 th | 10.00am | Playtime |
| Thursday | 21 st | 3.30pm | Messy Church |
| Sunday Minister | 24th | 10.30am | Harvest Festival Communion service led by our followed by bring and share lunch |
| Monday | 25 th | 5.30pm | Pilots |
| Wednesday | 27 th | 10.00am | Playtime |
| October 2023 | | | |
| Sunday | 1st | 10.30am 12.00pm | Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert Church meeting in Elgar Hall |

From Brenda Kelly

For many, many years Cynthia has arranged the rota for the flowers in church plus supplying and arranging the flowers each week. She has not had good health lately and has now handed the job to me. I must say I did not realise what a fantastic job she did quietly in the background.

In the past many people have given money towards the flowers, but now we do not have so many people involved in the church, therefore we are short of donations and flower arrangers. All are welcome to supply flowers for the sanctuary. You do not have to be a flower arranger, we are just happy to have some colour at the front of the church.

A few people have come forward, and I am very grateful for their interest.

Most of all a big thank you to Cynthia for all her hard work and dedication for many years and we hope she will be sitting in church admiring the flowers very soon.

Thanking you all in anticipation

Harvest

Sunday 24th September is harvest we will be celebrating with a lunch. It will be a bring and share event based on ploughmen's food. Please let me know if you would like to join us and what food you could bring for everyone to share

Brenda

From Roger Jones

Prayer of St Aiden

Leave me alone with God as much as may be.
As the tide draws the waters close in upon the shore,
Make me an island, set apart,
alone with you, God, holy to you.

Then with the turning of the tide
prepare me to carry your presence to the busy world beyond,
the world that rushes in on me
till the waters come again and fold me back to you

The United Reformed Church prayer handbook 2023

Cities of Sanctuary is the theme for the 2023 URC Prayer Handbook. In a troubled world, there are many people seeking sanctuary of one kind or another: a place of physical safety, for those fleeing conflict or abuse; a place of refuge for people who are wounded; a place of inner peace from the torments of mental illness or stress. The prayers gathered in this book speak of the many reasons for needing sanctuary, and of some of the ways in which sanctuary might be provided.

This Handbook is arranged into two sections. The first follows the Lectionary readings for each Sunday and other significant occasions in the year, while in the second section, the editors, the Revds Stephen Ansa-Addo and Susan McCoan, invited people to interpret the idea of cities of sanctuary in whatever way resonated with them. Included are prayers which can be used in public worship and those in personal devotions.

Whatever sanctuary you seek, be refreshed and nourished.

Roger



Dear all,

You will remember that Tolworth URC agreed to support the work of Talking Through Art in Rwanda last year. Since that time we have been making regular donations to this wonderfully small intimate charity. Having the personal contact, we can be assured how 100% of our giving is reaching those in most need.

The main activity is vocational training and basket weaving for parents and children with disabilities. The charity also provides therapy, English classes, family planning and other life skills classes to build confidence and independence.

I am delighted to announce that Petr, our link and founder of the charity will be attending our worship and providing information and a presentation on Sunday 22nd October 2023. So keep this date free.

It is a rare opportunity for us to meet directly with those for whom we have been giving and offer our personal support and encouragement. It is also an opportunity for Petr to thank you for your support. I know he wishes to do this and is eternally grateful.

So carry on giving ! Check the website <https://talkingthroughart.org/about/> and be there at the service when Talking Through Art, Rwanda comes to Tolworth

Verses for Harvest-time

When the farmer sows the seeds, what is in his mind?
Does he pray for sun and rain?
Does he pray for golden grain?
What is in his mind?

When the sailor casts his nets, what is in his mind?
Does he pray for gentle seas?
Does he pray for days of ease?
What is in his mind?

When the shepherd tends his flocks, what is in his mind?
Does he pray for healthy lambs?
Does he pray for gentle dams?
What is in his mind?

When we bring our harvest gifts, what is in our minds?
Do we offer prayers and praise?
Do we offer loving ways?
What is in our minds?

We should all have thankful hearts,
All should offer praise;
All should bring a grateful song,
Praise God loud and long.

Barbara Pearson

Tales from our campground 11. Life choices

(to the tune of Morning has broken)

Rain is still falling
Like the first rainfall,
Wind is still howling
Like the first storm;
Camping is not fun
When we're without sun,
Shall we go home?

Daybreak brings more rain,
Lasting till nightfall,
Rivers are forming
Like Noah's flood;
Everything's soaking,
Mud's all-consuming,
Can't we go home?

Robin's still singing,
Mouse is still hunting,
Rabbit's still feeding,
Rain's not stopped play;
Tents are not leaking,
Campfire's still burning,
We'll see it through.



Heather Lodge

From Barbara Smith

Harvest time again, stubble in the fields, bales of hay wrapped in black plastic, the combine harvester moving across a field. These are the images I have seen recently, a proper country scene.

But not just the harvest for humans but also for the birds, a field of sweetcorn, still growing to full size, being protected by a row of sunflowers, a harvest for the birds which is still to come.

Whilst I will be home to celebrate Harvest Festival it is the images I have seen that remind me of the work involved to lead to the fruits of harvest. Long hours, wind rain and sun farmers carry on.

Barbara

Roger Fenn's September Quiz

Sandwiched between JUDGES and 1st Samuel in the Old Testament is the short book of RUTH which tells of the devotion of one Gentile woman towards a displaced Jewish family.

Some scholars think it was written much later to counteract NEHEMIAH's strict policy of excluding Babylonian wives from Jerusalem when they returned with their Jewish husbands from exile.

1. Why did Elimelech decide to leave Bethlehem with his family?
2. To which country did they emigrate?
3. Why was this a strange choice?
4. The two sons married Moabite women. Please name them.
5. What tragedy befell the family?
6. Why did NAOMI decide to return to Bethlehem?
7. On arrival at the Jordan Naomi tried to persuade her daughters- in- law to return home and remarry. Orpah did so, but what was Ruth's response?
8. On arrival in Bethlehem, RUTH worked in the fields gleaning the barley harvest. To whom did the fields belong?
9. What extra help and encouragement did the owner give to RUTH?
10. What security did he give to Naomi?
11. Eventually RUTH married BOAZ and they had a baby son. Name him.
12. What relationship had this small boy to King David?

Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition - please keep them coming – especially from London Road! We hope to publish a magazine for October. Please let me have all your material by 21st September. Please send them to iandm@earlblue.com

An invitation

Members of Tolworth meet for lunch at The Hogsmill, Worcester Park. Here are the dates for lunches at the Hogsmill for the next year. Everyone is welcome to join us, so please make a note of the dates

13th. September
18th. October
22nd. November
10th. January
14th. February
20th. March
24th. April
22nd May
26th June
31st. July

All that is required that you let me have your name by the previous Sunday and enjoy eating with your friends The time is 12.30

Thanks

Brenda (01372 743968)

September Quiz – Answers

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------------|
| 1. | There was a famine | Ch 1 v 1 |
| 2. | Moab | Ch 1 v 1 |
| 3. | There was enmity between the two nations | |
| 4. | Orpah, Ruth | Ch1 v 4 |
| 5. | Elimelech and his two sons all died | Ch1 v3-4 |
| 6. | The famine in Bethlehem was over | Ch1 v 6 |
| 7. | “Don’t urge me to leave you. Where you go, I will go, where you stay I will stay, your people shall be my people and your God, my God”. etc. | Ch1 v 16 . |
| 8. | To BOAZ | Ch 2 v 1/8 |
| 9. | She could glean among the sheaves and drink from the water jars | Ch 2 v 9/15 |
| 10. | He bought Elimelech’s property | Ch 4 v 8 |
| 11. | OBED | Ch4 v 10 |
| 12. | Great-Grandfather | Ch 4 v 22 |

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 | |
| Youth Worker | Miss Carys Kelly | |
| 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 |

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