

CONCORD



Sunset in Sussex

**The
Monthly
Magazine
of**

**London
Road,
Ewell and
Tolworth**

**United
Reformed
Churches**

October 2023

From our Minister

Dear Friends,

October 2023

I heard some exciting news today at church. The BBC approached Tolworth United Reformed Church to ask if they could book the halls as a venue for "Strictly". Yes, Strictly Come Dancing is back on our screens for another ten weeks of celebratory competitive dancing and they want to use URC halls. Well, I can only imagine that the BBC were too late this year for Blackpool. Of course, Tolworth had to decline. With bookings for dancing, and choirs, exercise and music, playgroups, preschool nursery, biscuit clubs and PILOTS etc etc...sadly we could not accommodate them. Exciting to be considered!

We should be clear that we have not declined the request because as Christians we are against dancing! Not at all. We can all dance! Dance is an outward expression of joy, praise and delight in God. There are many examples in scripture of Gods people dancing.

After the release of captivity from Egypt, Miriam led the women in a freedom dance following the Red Sea incident. Exodus 15; 20. David danced before the Lord and was admonished and criticised. 2 Samuel 6. This is particularly encouraging since he commented, "Yes, and I am willing to look even more foolish than this, even to be humiliated in my own eyes!" (Let's not think about Salome).

In the psalms! **Psalms 149:3** - Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp. **Psalms 30:11** - Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness.

Strictly is a competition although the contestants and professional dancers are very supportive of one another. Even those who are foolish and humiliated, are cared for! I remember Come Dancing from 1970s. This was a non-celebratory version of the BBC show. Actually, I do think I would be more inclined to watch Strictly if it involved non celebs...but day to day people like you and me. I would give it ago! But alas it is just for those through special and entertaining! The superstar.

Surely dancing is a community event. It encourages collaboration and relationship building. It is a physical display of our thankfulness. It is a demonstration of joy. And we can be made to feel foolish or humiliated. Not always a bad thing. It is an expression of love. (Let's not think about Salome).

My parents loved to "ball room" dance. A very early memory I have is of being held in my parent's arms, whilst they waltzed or foxtrotted around the ball room floor.

Of course, some of us feel we are past our years of dancing, Yet we can still find ways to dance in our hearts. Indeed, our walk with God is dance. Sometimes perfection. Sometimes a disaster. Sometimes we take a wrong step and tread on others toes. It takes practice and determination. Forgiveness. Sometimes allowing another to lead. It can hurt. It can make us laugh. Our walk with God is a dance.

We may not be able to accommodate the BBC at Tolworth. I will offer a church in Ewell! We are not superstar status. But dancing is not just for celebrities it is for us all. God does not hold up a paddle with a score mark to score how we have done. As long as we have danced, faithfully. That is what God cares about. There is...

Ecclesiastes 3:4 - a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

Keep dancing

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.**



Tolworth Family Circle

Cynthia Stock has had another short spell in hospital but she seems better at present. We hope things will stabilize for her soon.. Paul Craven is due to have surgery at the end of October and Roger Fenn is also due to have day surgery in October. Mary Carvalho had an emergency abdominal operation at St George's while still recovering from her recent eye operation. She is home now but staying with her daughter while she recovers. Please pray for these friends that they may all make good recoveries.

Moira

Harvest

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with our harvest celebrations. It was a very successful day with some lovely flower arrangements and a good selection of food for the Foodbank. The lunch afterwards was enjoyed by over 30 people all of whom had contributed to the amazing selection of dishes on offer. Thanks to those who put up and set tables, arranged the meal and cleared up afterwards – a great effort by everyone.

Biscuit Club

At a recent meeting of the Biscuit Club, it was agreed that we should continue, at least until Christmas and see how things go. There will be a Games afternoon on 9th October, a favourite records afternoon in November and a visit to the panto at Epsom Playhouse in December. This year the panto is "The Wizard of OZ". We hope to go on Friday 15th December in the afternoon. Anyone wishing to attend the panto, please tell Brenda Kelly. Tickets are £20, payable to Brenda when ordering.

Moira

Tolworth - Diary for October 2023

Sunday	1st	10.30am 12.00pm	Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert Church meeting
Monday	2 nd	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	4 th	10.00am	Playtime
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 – Games afternoon
Sunday	15th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by Mrs Katrina Clifford Evergreen Church
Monday	16 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	18 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	19 st	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sunday	22nd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by our Minister
Sunday	29th	10.30am	Family Service led by our Minister
Monday	30 th	5.30pm	Pilots

November 2023

Sunday	5th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert
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Ewell Family News

It was a pleasure to welcome Nobuko back from her stay in Japan, and to see Toby, Soona and family again after their holiday in South Korea.

Our Bible Study group has met again after a short break, and we continue to work our way through Jesus's parables, endeavouring to find their significance for our world today.

We say a big thank you to Judith Flint, who has played the organ for us each month. We shall miss her very much, now that she and her husband, Peter, are moving to Cranleigh, following Peter's retirement.

We offer congratulations to Maureen Englefield and Beryl Williams, who have both been blessed with new great-grandchildren recently.

Barbara

October 2023 Diary for London Road, Ewell

Sunday 1st	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion, led by Revd Roger Jones
Tuesday 3rd	12.30 pm	Church Soup Lunch – Tolworth friends welcome
Sunday 8th	10.30 am	Morning Worship, led by Mr. Mark Dennis
Sunday 15th	10.30 am	Morning Worship, led by Revd. Roger Jones
Sunday 22nd.	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Dr. Nick Mayhew-Smith
Monday 23rd	10 am	Church Meeting
Thursday 26th	2 – 3 pm	Friendship Hour
Sunday 29th	10.30 am	Morning Worship, led by Mrs. Linda Lambert
November		
Sunday 1st	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion, Led by Revd. Roger Jones

Resumé of Tolworth Church Meeting held on 16th July 2023

Present: Rev Roger Jones and 18 members and friends.

Minutes of the last Church meeting held on 14 May 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record.

Matters arising:

Alvin and Annabel Lam were welcomed to their first Church meeting as new members.

90th Anniversary

Church meeting agreed the anniversary celebrations had been successful and worthwhile, with steady, rather than large, numbers of visitors over the weekend.

Recent photos of the congregation taken for the exhibition will be used to make a new collage.

Suggestions for a home for the tree banner include: hanging this in a window in the Sanctuary in place of an existing banner – noting this would be replaced temporarily with Christmas banners - or at the back of the Elgar Hall. Further suggestions welcome.

Church strategy

- The five year plan needs updating and September's Church meeting will be devoted to this.
- Areas for review that have not yet been delivered: Bible study, community hymns of praise, concerts, eco church, coffee mornings, Sanctuary changes (lighting), policy on same sex marriages, policy on children and communion, and child-friendly church award.
- Carys is working on a new children and youth friendly church scheme that is less prescriptive and can be delivered over five years. This covers a number of principles including vision for children and equipping and supporting them. The young people's leaders will meet in September to start planning and will consider how to involve the other youth groups currently using Church premises.

Financial report

- Geof was thanked for all his work that has gone into preparing the annual accounts for Synod.
- Church meeting agreed the accounts to December 2022, noting that these need independent auditing.
- Church meeting noted that the Elders are considering how best to provide Geof with further help should this be needed.

Defibrillator

- The Church has received two offers for grants from London Heart and Red Cross to support the installation of a defibrillator. The importance of having one on site for those using Church premises was noted as well as being a service to the community.
- The cost would be £880+vat. This was agreed by Church meeting, noting that it would be a very appropriate use of Brenda Gill's bequest to the Church.
- Carol is exploring options for First Aid training in addition.

Solar panelling

- Dave, Daryl and Roger had met to look at the potential for installing solar panels at Tolworth.
- Church meeting noted that £5,500 is currently being spent on energy.
- As the Council is keen to tackle carbon footprints of community buildings in the borough, it is likely that grants are potentially available to fund this.
- An energy audit of Church premises would be required as a starting point. This would cost around £800. The sum was agreed, noting that Synod may be able to fund this.
- Roger will follow this up with a contact at St Mark's Church in the first instance.

Achieving for Homeless Children

- Provision of lunch for homeless families in Tolworth is being sought through the school summer holidays as free school meals stop with the end of term. A meeting is being held at Tolworth URC on 20 July 2023 to explore suggestions and to check any issues around food hygiene and food standards certificates.
- Church meeting agreed it might be appropriate to offer to provide lunch once a week similar to Messy Church, provided sufficient help was available. Roger will investigate help from the Council to cover all costs.
- It was noted that Church premises were usually closed through August for maintenance but that this could be suspended for this year given the importance of helping families.

Family news

- Prayers were said for those of the congregation who are presently sick or injured.
- Joyce Craven's ashes will be scattered in the Church garden on 9 October. It was agreed that lavender will be planted in her memory.
- The Church acknowledged grateful thanks for two bequests from former members, Elizabeth Rathjen and Brenda Gill.

Any Other Business

- **Elders' training day**
 - Roger will be arranging a training day in October for serving and non-serving Elders at both Tolworth and Ewell URC to explore marks of leadership and to undertake safeguarding training.

- **Church flowers**

- Cynthia was thanked for managing the church flowers for so many years.
- Brenda has taken over responsibility for the flowers and will be looking to restart the rota with a request for more contributions and offers of help. Silk flowers are being used to fill in any gaps.

- **Biscuit Club**

- The Biscuit Club has very few attendees and no-one to organise it. As there is interest in meeting, an alternative arrangement might be to meet for tea, for example at a garden centre.
- Future plans will be discussed at the September meeting and a notice put in Concord.

- **Reading rota:**

- A volunteer is needed to take over the rota of readers at the morning service.

- **Church garden rubbish:**

- At the moment this is using the Church bin but the meeting noted the difficulty of any other arrangements because it counted as commercial premises. This can continue for the time being as long as the bin isn't filled and no problems are reported.

Date of next meeting: 1 October 2023 at 11:45am to discuss the Church strategy.
The meeting closed by sharing the Grace together.

Moir

From Brenda Kelly

So another year has gone, mixed year for me rather emotionally, but friends keep me going it always helps to see a friendly face and smile.

The garden is mixed, the weather this summer has been quite a challenge. The early part with snow for one day followed by heavy rain meant I lost quite a few plants, which was disappointing as I had planted them when we moved in and planted with flower arranging in mind. Still it was an excuse to visit the garden centre and buy some replacements which meant visiting with friends and usually a cup of tea and cake!

I am not looking forward to winter but after winter follows my favourite season Spring. So happy winter to one and all, and roll on spring.

Brenda



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

From Barbara Smith

Gary and I have just celebrated an anniversary, Nothing special just another year in our journey into marriage.

At the same time it celebrates another year since we first attended Tolworth URC, not really knowing how we might be received but we needn't have worried. We were welcomed into the service, people made themselves known to us, we were treated as welcome guests.

We then made the decision that this was where we wished to be married, subject to approval from the them Elders.

Fortunately they agreed and the rest is history, our acceptance into membership followed and the rest, as they say, is history.

Barbara

Tales from the campground 12: the returning

Rosh Hashanah, or New Year in the Jewish calendar, fell on 15 September this year. It is the start of the ten days of repentance that ends with the holiest day of the Jewish year, Yom Kippur or Day of Atonement. Rosh Hashanah is marked by the casting of sins on the water. Jewish kings were crowned next to rivers and it is considered appropriate to crown God as King in similar ways. The day of atonement is a culmination of repentance in order to return to “the land of the soul” – letting go of whatever has happened during the past twelve months to return to God’s side with remorse for having wandered.

We always avoid being at camp for Yom Kippur but this year we were there for Rosh Hashanah. To mark this, Simon felt we should go to the sea. Fortunately, the weather behaved and it was one of those glorious September days where there is no better place to be than on the seashore. We took with us a scallop shell that we found on Hastings beach a few years ago and has been adorning my bathroom wall ever since. It is the most perfect shell you can find but gradually it has faded and has been looking increasingly out of place. We could, of course, have varnished the shell to protect it but instead we felt that the time had come to return it to the sea. And so we scrambled over rocks fallen from the cliffs, slipped over seaweedy stones and splashed through rock pools left from the ebbing tide to find a beautiful pool in which to rehome our shell.



The shell seemed to know it had returned. The minute we placed it in the water, it regained its vibrant colours, settling into the sand as if it was completing its journey with a contented sigh. We returned from camp with our own sense of completion and duty done.

My prayer for our harvest season is that we too can cast off all that has burdened us this year and return with renewed confidence in God’s strength and care.

Heather Lodge

Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition - please keep them coming – especially from London Road! We hope to publish a magazine for November. Please let me have all your material by 19th October. Please send them to iandm@earlblue.com

Roger Fenn's October Quiz

Following on from "Ruth", the only other book in our Old Testament which spotlights a woman is "Esther" which the Jews still regard as an important record of their survival in exile.

1. Name the king who ruled at this time.
2. From which palace did he rule?
3. Name his queen.
4. Why did he depose her?
5. Who replaced as the new queen?
- 6.. How long did her beauty treatment take before she was acceptable to the king?
7. Who had adopted Esther before she became queen?
8. Who persuaded the king to banish Jews from his kingdom?
9. Mordecai urged Esther to change the King's edict. When was it possible for her to speak to the king?
10. How tall was the gallows on which Haman intended to hang Mordecai?
11. Who was hanged on the gallows instead?
12. Today, the Jews still regard Esther and Mordecai for protecting their race. Name the festival that still honours their name?

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

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)

October Quiz – Answers

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------|
| 1. | Xerxes (pronounced, “Zerksees”) | Ch1 v 1 |
| 2. | Susa | Ch 1 v 2 |
| 3. | Vashti | Ch 1 v 9 |
| 4. | She refused to attend his presence | Ch 1 v 12 |
| 5. | Esther | Ch 2 v 17 |
| 6. | Twelve months | Ch 2 v 12 |
| 7. | Mordecai | Ch 2 v 5 |
| 8. | Haman | Ch 3 v 6 |
| 9. | When he held up his golden sceptre to her | Ch 5 v 2 |
| 10. | Seventy-five feet | Ch 7 v 9 |
| 11. | Haman himself | Ch 7 v 10 |
| 12. | Purim | Ch 9 v 31 |

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
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Secretary	Mrs M Fleming
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Treasurer	Mr G Stock
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Serving Elders	Mr D Bennett, Mrs M Fleming, Mrs B Kelly, Mrs L Menneer, Mrs B Smith, Mr G Stock, Mrs K Woolard,
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Management Committee	Mr D Bennett, Mrs M Fleming, Mr S Heath, Mr D Knight, Mr B Llewellyn, Mr G Stock
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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	020 394 0229
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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