

CONCORD



Remembrance

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

November 2023

From our Minister

Dear Friends,

November 2023

Are you going to get lost in Disney over Christmas? Do you think you will encounter the story or song of a Disney production during the Christmas season. Either for ourselves, with children or grandchildren, or with our parents, most of us will I expect! Well, among all the anniversaries we have celebrated these past couple of years. Here is another one. In October, Disney celebrated their 100th Anniversary.

When Ashley our son was almost six years old, he got lost in Disney, literary! We visited Disney Paris, and, in the crowds, he wandered off. Terrifying for parents! A parent's worst nightmare. But what joy there was when we found him in the Children's lost and found room, watching Mickey Mouse...in French. I guess he was also lost in the Disney story.

This is what I meant by "lost" of course. Lost in the delight and the magic of a Disney film or song.

One hundred years ago two brothers (Walt and Roy) began animating in a small room in Chicago. Moving to Hollywood in 1923 to start the company they created Disney. In 1928 Walt Disney gave us the friendly, ever helpful, all smiling character of Mickey Mouse in Steamboat Willie. In 1937, against all advice Disney produced the first ever full-length animated film, Snow White and the seven Dwarfs. Then another barrier is broken, when real life actors act and dance alongside animated characters in Mary Poppins in 1964. This multibillion-dollar conglomerate has been making films and braking cinematic barriers ever since.

The films have been more than entertainment. They have displayed the great religious values and virtues. Honesty and integrity are rewarded. Grace and mercy elevated. The small and outcast are heroes. The beast finds love. Our outward appearance is less important than our inner selves. Love triumphs over hate. And children learn to face and manage the terrors of life in a safe environment. There are shadows and pain. The films and stories help us all to know that we can work through such times and all can be well.

Although Disney reflects many of the values, and moral instruction, of our faith you will not find one explicit mention of organised religion, faith or God in the films themselves. Perhaps this is good business sense. It means the productions are universal and can be exported to all countries and cultures. As indeed they have. Or as Disney themselves would have it, it is because they do not want to be seen to favour any one religion and or faith. All are equal as far as film making and storytelling is concerned.

That said, Walt Disney himself grew up as a sincere and committed Congregationalist. His father was a strict non-conformist deacon and preacher and, in some accounts, it is said that this turned Walt off religion. But Walt Disney's own words do not suggest this. The optimism and Calvinist model of the Protestant work ethic is clearly visible in his life. He espoused the fruits of faith, and the Congregationalist teaching he received and considered that faith is to be lived out in a holy and good life. *"Deeds rather than words"*. Then there is the often-quoted words of Walt Disney, *"Whatever success I have had...I attribute in great part to my Congregational upbringing and my lifelong habit of prayer."*

So, as we approach Christmas in Disney's 100th year, and enjoy a good Disney film you might like to reflect a little on the values and aspects of faith in the story. Or you may just get lost in the magic. Either way it will touch your lives and living.

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.



London Road Ewell United Reformed Church Christmas worship

Sunday 3rd December Advent Sunday Worship 10.30am

Sunday 10th December 2023 Morning worship 10.30am

Sunday 17th December 2023 Carol Celebration 10.30pm

Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve Worship

10.30am

Christmas Day worship 10.30am

Everyone is invited. Please join us.

Ewell Family News

We offer our sympathy and love to Indra Samuel and all her family and friends on the death of our fellow member Raj, who died on 1st October after a long illness.

We thank the Trefoil Guild for once more brightening the entrance to the church with their planting of the two tubs with flowers for now and bulbs for later.

We also thank everyone who helped with decorating the church for our Harvest Service, and also for the generous donations to the Epsom and Ewell food bank.

We were delighted to be invited to join our Korean community for a special lunch on 1st October to celebrate the Korean festival of Chuseok, Thanksgiving. We all enjoyed the food and the company.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Alan Wood, a well-liked and respected member of Ewell church, and formerly for many years of our Epsom church. We send our sympathy to Valerie and her family at this sad time.

There was a good attendance at our soup lunch on 3rd October, and everyone is invited to the next one, on 7th November, at 12.30 pm.

Barbara

November 2023 Diary for London Road, Ewell

Sunday 5 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion, conducted by Revd Roger Jones
Monday 6 th	10 am 12.30 for 1	Elders Meeting Bible Study
Tuesday 7 th	12.30 pm	Soup Lunch – Tolworth friends welcome
Sunday 12 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Revd Roger Jones
Sunday 19 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson
Monday 20 th	12.30 for 1	Bible Study
Thurs 23 rd	2 – 3 pm	Friendship Hour – Tolworth friends welcome
Sunday 26 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Ms Katrina Clifford

December

Sunday 3 rd	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion, conducted by Revd Roger Jones
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Do you have a favourite Christmas Carol?

PLEASE TAKE PART IN A CHRISTMAS CAROL
CELEBRATION AT
TOLWORTH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
(ON THE CORNER OF ELGAR AVENUE AND RAEBURN AVENUE)



Choose your favourite three carols and
complete the form.

Then come along on

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 5.30PM

Have a good sing to the top ten!

With Christmas lights, mulled wine, and mince pies!

Please select you favourite three Christmas carols

- 1).....
- 2).....
- 3).....

Please cut along dotted edge and return slip by
Sunday 10th December 2023 to
Tolworth United Reformed Church,
Elgar Ave entrance

**postbox is on Elgar Avenue side of building at far end door. Or pop it into church on
a Sunday morning 10.30am**

Tolworth - Christmas worship With Junior church

Sunday 3rd December Advent Sunday Worship 10.30am

Sunday 3rd December Tree Lighting Service 4pm

Sunday 10th December 2023 Morning worship 10.30am

Sunday 17th December 2023 Morning Worship 10.30am

Sunday 17th December 2023 Carol Celebration 5.30pm

Thursday 21st December Messy Christmas Christingle 3.30pm

Sunday 24th December Christmas eve Worship

Christmas Day worship 10.00am

Tolworth Family Circle

Paul Craven has had his operation cancelled. He now has another date towards the end of November. Let us hope that this will give him some relief from his discomfort. Roger Fenn has had surgery on his head and is recovering at home. He is in some discomfort and awaits the result of a biopsy. Let us pray he will soon recover. Mary Carvalho was recovering well after her 2 operations but then developed a bad chest infection. She is still staying with her daughter and family but hopes to go home soon.

We were pleased to welcome Olivia Zdunek into our church family when she was baptised on 29th October.

Christmas - It was agreed at Church meeting that we should revive the evening Carol Service which we always had before lockdown. This will now be held at 5,30 pm on Sunday 17th December. (See Roger's posters later in this magazine}

Moira

Tolworth - Diary for November 2023

Wednesday	1 st	10.00am	Playtime
Saturday	4 th	10.00 am	Gift Day and coffee morning
Sunday	5th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert
Monday	6 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	8 th	10.00am 2,30 pm	Playtime Elders Meeting

Thursday	9 th	2,30pm	Biscuit Club – Musical afternoon
			Remembrance Sunday
Sunday	12th	10.30am	Communion service led by Paul & Jenny Hollingum
Monday	13 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	15 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	16 th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sunday	19th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by our Minister
		12.00pm	Church Meeting
		6.30pm	Evergreen Church
Monday	20 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	22 nd	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	26th	10.30am	Family Service led by our Minister
Monday	27 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	29 th	10.00am	Playtime

December 2023

			Advent Sunday
Sunday	3rd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert
		4.00pm	Tree lighting service

Resumé of Tolworth Church Meeting held on 1st October 2023

Present: Revd Roger Jones (Chair), Moira Fleming (Secretary), plus 19 members and friends.

Matters arising from last meeting on 16th July

- **Organist:**
 - Young is very likely to move to Kingston URC as they can support accommodation. Roger will negotiate with Kingston to see if Young can be shared with Tolworth, possibly on alternate Sundays, until a successor is found.

Financial report:

Ministry and Mission contribution: This will rise to £18708 from 1 January 2024, with £1559 payable each month. Church meeting approved this payment.

1. Gift day:

- Funds remaining from Gift Day 2022 amount to £7245. Church meeting agreed this should be used to pay for maintenance and the commitment to Rwanda of £1200. Further funds remaining could be used to make the six charitable donations of £100 each.
 - Gift Day 2023: **4 November**. Coffee & cake and a raffle will be provided during the morning.
2. Youth worker: Church meeting approved the request to apply to Synod for the second instalment of £5000 to cover year 2 of the youth worker.
 3. An auditor is still needed to approve church accounts. Barbara will ask Gary if this is something he could undertake.

Christmas:

- The church will be decorated on 2 December with candles as the theme. Each window will have a different colour and be decorated with three candles. .
- The tree lighting service will be at 4:00pm on 3 December and followed by light refreshments.
- There will be an afternoon Christingle Service for Messy Church on 21 December.
- There is scope to reinstate an evening carol service. This year it will be incorporated into the Evergreen service that will be taking place on 17 December and will be a community carol service with local households invited to nominate their favourite carols, out of which the top ten carols will be chosen. An earlier start of 5:30 was agreed. Mincepies and coffee will be served afterwards..

Church strategy:

- The strategy has the following six themes (items underneath have not yet been delivered, items in italics are additional suggestions)
 1. **Being outward-facing.**
 - Coffee mornings.
 - Community hymns of praise: assess following the community carol service.
 - *Twining with other churches: this could be part of supporting Rwanda.*
 2. **Seeking to find out what God wants.**
 - Bible study: Following on from the notice in *Concord*, Roger will put up a rota during October inviting people to indicate if they are interested in attending, hosting, or leading a bible study on a monthly basis. This could start with an Advent-themed course of study. .
 - *Prayer meetings: anyone is welcome to offer to host a prayer meeting.*
 3. **Facing the cost of change.**
 - Eco church: Kingston Borough Council has agreed to undertake a free energy audit of church premises with the aim of reducing energy bills. This is being set up with Dave and Julie and will result in a report giving recommendations. Heather, Barbara and Gillian will look at how to take this forward and achieve Tolworth's Eco-church rating.
 - Sanctuary changes (lighting).

4. **Operating as a community.**

5. **Being inclusive.**

- Tolworth's policy on same sex marriages.
- Child-friendly church: Carys is working on a new children and youth friendly church scheme.

6. **Doing a few things well.**

- Roger will update the strategic plan and email it to those in the church who are online. A hard-copy will be sent to those without access to email.

Any other business:

- **Visionary Companion:** The URC has begun a new system when a Church has a vacancy for a minister. Prior to an interim moderator, churches are asked to appoint a visionary companion to plan the vision and future life of the church. Training is available. See Roger for details.

Date of next meeting: 19 November 2023 at 12noon in Elgar Hall.

The meeting closed by sharing the Grace together.

Moira

From Brenda Kelly

I think I said last month that I did not like winter, but it did mean that my favourite season - spring was on its way. On Gardeners World last week, there was a man singing the praises of winter as he thought it meant rebirth. In the end I had to agree with him as he was talking about plants at the end of their life who had beautiful seed heads. Not only did they look beautiful when covered in frost or snow, but the seeds were brilliant for birds to feed on, plus they dispersed and seeded themselves ready to make a lovely display next year. Unfortunately that's not always the case as annual plants do in fact die and do not return, so they need some help from man who carefully collect seeds and plant them in seed trays in the hope that they can be planted out and hopefully give a wonderful display next year. Or in my case buy a packet of seed and carefully plant and nurture them only to plant them out and a snail eats them! It is having hope that keeps me going...

Brenda.....

From Barbara Smith

Recently in church, our Minister read out an invite to a Ladies Coffee Morning, hosted by some local Muslim women, the same group who now use our halls.

I attended the last one where we discussed World Mental Health Day, whilst enjoying coffee/tea and refreshments. The aim of the group is simply to bring together a group of women, no matter their faith or lack of it and to get to know each other. I have found that the atmosphere allows you to voice opinions or discuss subjects that never get discussed in 'mixed company'.

There is no charge for coming to the meeting, which starts with a reading from the Koran sometimes followed by a translation for everyone. No different to how many of our own church groups start meetings. I would urge anyone who is free to come and join us.

Barbara

Tales from the Campground 13: luxuries

The Radio 4 programme *Desert Island Discs* end by inviting guests to choose one luxury to take with them to their desert island. Answers vary from a pillow to golf clubs and everything in between. It made me think about the luxury we take to camp. Simon and I disagree on this. For Simon it is the practicality of a seat. This we achieve by packing foldable camp stools. They are lightweight, packable, (mostly) waterproof, durable but have proved mendable, and perfect for sitting by the fire.

I'm afraid my luxury at camp is more ephemeral. For some reason, it feels the height of perfection to have toast for breakfast. What takes two minutes in my kitchen at home with a toaster is ridiculously challenging at camp with a wood stove. In the wind. In steady rain. With cold hands. It takes much time and even more patience to achieve a result that you might recognise roughly as toast rather than something that Elijah would deem a burnt offering. It may be entirely unrelated that the robin loiters on our pitch when it sees me getting the bread out.



Courtesy of a thoughtful gift of a camp toaster, we trialled a new system for our last camp of the season this month. I'm not quite sure why it should have taken over half an hour but there may have been a degree of failure that I'm blaming entirely on the wood. However, it served up two excellent slices of toast and made my Birthday breakfast the best. The only thing singed in the process this time was my fingers. I forgot that the metal plate would be hot! For once, I shared neither slice with the robin but fortunately he seemed very happy with cheese instead.

Thank you very much Moira and Ian. Luxury achieved!

Heather Lodge

News From The Ukraine

Our granddaughter, Isabel, works in Kiev in the Ukraine for a Norwegian aid agency, which tries to care for vulnerable people who are displaced from their home towns because of the Russian attacks. It was interesting to talk to her, and hear about her work. She said that at the moment most of the Russian bombing of Kiev is ineffective because of Ukraine's efficient anti-aircraft defences, but falling shrapnel is still a grave danger. When there are raids people are advised to go into underground shelters, or position themselves between two walls – I think she meant in corners. She says Kiev is still a beautiful city, and she showed us pictures of parks and elegant buildings, and the enchanting view from her balcony. She was full of praise for the spirit of the Ukrainian people she meets, who manage somehow to remain positive during these terrible times. She told us how surprised she was to meet up with agency workers she had first known in other postings – in Jordan, South Sudan and Sierra Leone. The world is so lucky that people like Isabel feel drawn to go to dangerous places to do their best to help the innocent victims of wars and unjust governments. It would be lovely if friends in our two churches would remember Isabel in their prayers – she is always in ours.

Barbara and George Pearson

Roger Fenn's November Quiz - Mark's Gospel

Mark's Gospel is the earliest and shortest upon which Matthew and Luke based their own accounts. It hurries us from place to place until we are almost breathless.

1. Where does Mark begin his story?
2. After his baptism, Jesus retired to the desert. How long was he there?
3. Name the first four disciples whom Jesus called.
4. Name the first miracle Mark records for us.
5. The next person actually **asked** Jesus for healing..Who was he?
- 6.. Mark tells of Jesus' call to Levi, the tax-collector. In Chapter 19 of his Gospel, Luke tells us of another tax-collector who followed Jesus. a) Who was he. b) In which city did he work?
7. What were the actual Aramaic words Jesus used to revive Jairus' daughter?
8. What did they mean?
9. How many basketfuls of pieces did the disciples gather after feeding the five thousand?
10. What was the crowds response to Jesus' healing of the deaf-mute man?

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

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)

Looking Forward

October comes with gusty wind,
In drifts the leaves all lie.
The trees stretch naked arms above,
And empty nests we spy.

November days grow shorter still,
The sun's face barely seen.
There's morning frost upon the grass,
The wintry winds are keen.

But lift your eyes and in the east
You'll see an Advent glow,
And like the Magi you'll approach
With stumbling steps and slow.

Yes, you'll approach the stable too,
You'll hear the angels' call,
And see the infant in the stall,
Love's greatest gift of all.

Barbara Pearson

November Quiz – Mark's Gospel Answers

1. With the arrival of John the Baptist at the River Jordan Ch1 v 4
2. Forty days and nights Ch 1 v 13
3. Andrew, Simon, James and John Ch 1 v 16 - 19
4. The man with the unclean spirit in the Caparnaum synagogue Ch 1 v 23 - 26
5. A leper Ch 1 v 40
6. a) Zacchaeus. b) Jericho Luke Ch 19 v 1
7. "Talitha koum" Ch 5 v 41 .
8. "Time to get up, little girl" Ch 5 v 41
9. Twelve Ch 6 v 43
10. "He has done everything well" Ch 7 v 37

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 B. Kelly	
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
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 December. Please let me have all your material by 19th November. Please send them to iandm@earlblue.com