

# CONCORD



**A happy Christmas to everyone**

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

**December 2023**

## From our Minister

Dear Friends,

December 2023

“Oh, that You would tear open the heavens and come down, so that **the mountains would quake at Your presence** – as when fire kindles brush wood and causes water to boil” Isaiah 64.

A cry from the prophet Isaiah that God might show God’s face to the people! “Look at the state of the world,” he says, “Why don’t you come down?”

What indeed, is God doing?

There is an ancient story of a king with three children. He gave them a challenge. *“Here is one hundred pounds, go and fill the castle utterly and completely”*. They were to reach and touch every nook and cranny of the vast building! The first child bought bundles and bundles of hay! He began filling the rooms but there was not enough hay! The second purchased rolls and rolls of wool and began stuffing it into every corner but again, it did not reach into the hard to get to crevices and gaps in the rooms. The third and most wise, returned with his buy, a candle for each room! As he lit each candle around the castle the castle was filled with light! Every nook and cranny!

Over the centuries of nonconformity, in the Reformed tradition of our faith community we have spurned the use of candles in worship. Go into many Catholic and some Anglican cathedrals and you will find a place to light a candle for a loved one. Many will regularly process with candles to the Church Alter in services. Early Protestants tired to do away with such practices, considering them idolatries of a religion than had lost its focus on God, and ignored Christ. So, we have shunned candles, except at Christmas!

In Advent we light a candle each week in services. At midnight services, we fill a sanctuary with candles, and beautiful it looks too. Even for children we meet to make Christingles and light the candle. This we do to remember how at Christmas, *“the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it,” John 1; 5.*

Actually, we have not thrown the baby out with the bathwater (to mix a metaphor again) entirely in our nonconformist tradition. We still give a candle at baptism to shine as the Light of Christ. Many United Reformed Churches now have a Peace Candle which is lit at the beginning of every act of worship.

This year in our churches in Tolworth and London Road Ewell candles take on a particular emphasis in our Christmas celebrations. Decorated candles and lights adorn windows in Tolworth. Each week we sing the Advent Candle song written in Ewell. And yet we ask with all this new found attention to candles, “Oh, that You would tear open the heavens and come down, so that **the mountains would quake at Your presence** – as when fire kindles brush wood and causes water to boil” Look at the state of the world. Why don’t you come down? What indeed, is God doing?

Thirteen centuries ago a priest called Rhidian looked after a small church in Wales, the Gower peninsula. It was a long pilgrimage to the Shrine of St David. He wanted to light a candle from St David’s shrine and bring it all the way back to his little chapel to light the altar candle there. A direct light from this sacred flame. Rhidian made the journey across hills and through rivers and lit his small lamp and carefully began the return journey. The lamp stayed

alight all the way back to South Wales. Close to home he met a priest, a friend who invited him in for tea. "Why do you keep glancing at your lamp?" he asked Rhidian. So Rhidian explained his journey and the lamp lit from the sacred shine to light his own altar candle. This priest thought this was wonderful and asked that hatoo might light his altar candle from Rhidian's lamp. Rhidian had done all the work. Made the journey. But has a good man and a Godly priest he allowed this priest to light his alter candle and they made their farewells. Almost, home a great wind blew Rhidian from his feet. Rhidian tried in vain to protect his lamp, but the wind was too powerful and the flame was blown out. He was desolate. But then he remembered he had shared his flame with his friend. He retraced his steps and rekindled his lamp. He recalled how close he had come in refusing to share this light, "I would never have had my light unless I had given it away."

Look at the state of the world. Why don't you come down? What indeed, is God doing? God came at Christmas and the light of God shone in a baby. God returns again and again and we celebrate this light with service and sacrifice, sharing and worship, and candles.

The light reaches into every nook and cranny of the world, of our lives. There are places in the world where we know where it is to see the light of God. In these places will pray for the light of justice and peace and a light of wisdom for those in power to make changes. In our own lives and communities, we show the light of God in our giving and sharing and pray that this may be a light of witness for one another, in our community and the world. For this light does reach into the darkness and into all places, compelling, dynamic and serene.

God **has** come down at Christmas, as a fire kindles brushwood, as its heat boils water and as flame of a candle whispers to each one of us.

Happy Christmas

**Roger**

## **Tolworth Christmas worship** With Junior church

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Advent Sunday Worship 10.30am

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Tree Lighting Service 4pm

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Morning worship 10.30am

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Morning Worship 10.30am

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Carol Celebration 5.30pm

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December Messy Christmas Christingle 3.30pm

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas eve Worship

**Christmas Day worship 10.00am**

**Tolworth Family Circle**

Paul Craven is due to have his operation this week. It will be over by the time this goes to print but we wish him well and hope it will improve life for him. Eunice Crowl has had her second cataract operation which seems to have gone well. Mary Carvalho is back in her own home and improving gradually. Please remember these friends and any others who are poorly, in your prayers.

**Moira**

## **Tolworth - Diary for December 2023**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>		<b>Advent</b>
		10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert
		4.00pm	Tree lighting service
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Playtime
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Morning communion led by our Minister & assessment service for Sue Shaw.
Monday	11 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Playtime – Christmas party
Friday	15 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Biscuit club – Epsom pantomime
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am 5.30pm	Morning Worship led by Mr Mark Dennis Carol service
Monday	18 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm	Pilots
Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup>	3.30pm	Messy Christmas Christingle
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Morning worship led by our Minister
Monday	25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Christmas Day worship led by our Minister & Ms Heather Lodge
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Morning worship led by Revd David Skitt
<b>January 2024</b>			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd Antony Ball

**Christmas Post Box**

We shall be using the pigeon holes in the vestibule for Christmas cards for Church friends. Please do **not** include any cards for people who do not attend services as we are unable to deliver them.

## **Christmas Carol Service**

You will all have seen the leaflets about our Carol Service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 5.30pm. Although leaflets will be delivered around the neighbourhood, members of the congregation should also complete the forms and chose their favourite Carols.

**Moira**

### **United Reformed Church London Road Ewell Christmas worship**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Advent Sunday Worship 10.30am  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Morning worship 10.30am  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Carol Celebration 10.30pm  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve Worship 10.30am  
Christmas Day worship 10.30am

Everyone is invited.

**Please join us.**

### **December 2023 Diary for London Road, Ewell**

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion, conducted by Revd Roger Jones
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Church Meeting
	12.30 for 1	Bible Study
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Worship, conducted by Mrs Linda Lambert
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Lunch at The Haywain, names to Dennis And Anne Sexton
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Carol Service, conducted by Revd Roger Jones

Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	2 – 3.30	Friendship Hour, with carols and readings, all welcome
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Christmas Praise service, led by Revd Barbara Pearson, Revd Roger Jones and Members of the Korean church
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson

### **January 2024**

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion, conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson
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## **Note to recipients of "Concord" from Ewell.**

As we approach a new year, this reminder is to clarify and confirm previously agreed arrangements relating to the costs involved in producing and posting of "Concord".

If you regularly pick up a copy of "Concord" from the Church, it is appreciated if you could please arrange to give or send to our Treasurer, an envelope with your name and with a £5.00 payment for one calendar year starting from January.

If you receive your "Concord" by post, please send a payment of £10.00 for one calendar year starting from January, to our Treasurer, Mr George Pearson, 50 Church Road, Worcester Park, KT4 7RD. Don't forget to put your name with the payment. If you no longer wish to receive a postal copy, please let me know and I will remove your name from the list. Thank you.

If you wish to receive "Concord" by email, this can be sent to you free of charge.. Please let us have your email address if you wish to be added to this list. Although it is free by email, any donations towards the costs will be much appreciated.

With all good wishes

**David Mugridge. (Tel 020 8393 7005).  
Email [dmugs@freeuk.com](mailto:dmugs@freeuk.com)**

# Report to Tolworth United Reformed Church elders/Synod Review of 2022-2023 Children and Youth Worker

## Preamble

In September 2022 the church meeting agreed to appoint a children and youth worker and seek funding from the SYNOD Strategic Mission Fund. The funding was agreed and allowed the appointment of CK.

## Aim of Project

A two year employment of session based 10 hours per week youth and children's worker agreed;

To assist and further develop children and youth work at TURC

To create a culture of belonging and commitment

To establish continuity for young people through a TURC children and youth work Programme

Organise and plan special events

Specific duties and responsibilities

Assist/Leadership of PILOTS

Leadership Junior Church

FOFA - Messy Church

Attend Meetings

as required – i.e. church meetings youth planning/reflection meetings

Establish links with youth workers in local churches

Explore links/develop for young people/familiarise. via social network links in the community with TURC

Planning and recording

Special events - holiday club etc...

## Youth worker CK appointment

CK is/was a young person closely associated with the church and had been regularly attending throughout childhood. CK is engaged in A Levels and was seeking employment. In line with a SYNOD C&YW project idea. She was considered an appropriate candidate for this part-time position. CK completed the necessary applications and was formally interviewed by church secretary, minister and SYNOD C&YW Development officer. She was subsequently appointed on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

## Work and development

The primary direct work with children and young people for CK has been for leadership Junior Church, Assist/Leadership of PILOTS and FOFA - Messy Church.



Taking a lead with Junior church, CK developed a rota for junior church leaders and has together with the regular leaders provided weekly sessions for the children of the church on Sunday mornings. Numbers have been variable, between four to five families, 6-8



children but all have become more consistent in these classes over this last year. Indeed, this has led to three baptisms of these children and CK assisted the minister in providing communion preparation classes for three of the children. CK has based the junior church work on ROOTS material. Each JC session includes prayer and bible study and creative activity for learning, as well as fun and enjoyment.

PILOTS was started up at Tolworth URC, a few years earlier and CK worked together with the PILOT leader in attending weekly sessions, preparing games and activities and contributing to developing relationships with children and young people. It is fair to say that CK has become a popular leader among the children. There has been a consistent attendance of ten to twelve young people with twenty on the membership.



Prior to lockdown, the church initiated a monthly mid-week Messy Church. This was initially alongside a local Methodist Church project although this link has weakened. However Messy church progressed and as an act of worship has consistently attracted 30-40

people, mostly new families to the church. As well as prayers, stories and singing, four or five creative activities are provided and CK takes responsibility for a number of these and encourages children and young people attending.



A further role for CK in relation to this direct work, has been to use social media to maintain contacts and relationships with carers and families for the children and young people. CK has created the WHATSAPP link and regularly updates the families on session and activities. This role is to be developed and CK can expand this social media role for the church. She is also progressing CFC Award.

Suffice to say that all this direct and social media work has impacted greatly on the work with children and young people in the church. This is apparent both in terms of numbers and more importantly in consistency and deepening of relationships with children and families over the past year.

### **Training and Meetings.**

CK receives 6 weekly supervision from the minister for planning and reflection. She has attended Safeguarding training and we have discussed further children and youth training as well as contact with wider URC Y&CW community with CYDO. CK provided one initial item for the church magazine and has attend two church meetings making a report after six months. There are regular PILOT meetings and C&Y leaders forum for all Children's workers in the church. It is also apparent that she is alert to safety and good practice from various contributions during group sessions and in meetings.

### **CK personal**

CK has been appointed for a ten hour a week post alongside her full-time education. Of course, time is short. As well as direct work, developing further Y&CW or being part of other children's work, for example the weekly toddler's group is limited. Nevertheless, as much as the massive benefit to the church from her work and contribution, as her first employed post she has also been on a significant learning curve. She has grown and developed and is clearly more confident in her work. This opportunity has allowed a young person to be a significant part of church life and take on a huge responsibility.



## Summary and Development

CK has significantly assisted in further developing children and youth work at TURC and helped create a culture of belonging and commitment. Her regular attendance has established continuity for young people through TURC children and youth work.

For the development children and youth work with CK the church can now;

Begin to consider some special holiday club events

Further develop MESSY Church into an established part of church life by engaging with and increasing parents and carers roles in this

For the development of the church;

Assist in developing social media among families

Develop contacts with other churches

For CK

Further safeguarding training

Further children and youth work training

Broaden contact with wider URC C&YW family

**Church Secretary**  
**Moira Fleming.**

**C&YW Elder**  
**Brenda Kelly.**

**Pilot Captain**  
**Gillian Jones**

**Minister**  
**Roger Jones**

**November 2023**

## From Barbara Smith

For those that know me, you'll be aware that I am Good at two things - chatting to everyone, even if we haven't met before and my love of children.

This weekend, December 2nd I get the chance to indulge both my passions..

I've been volunteering for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity for about 16 years, doing mostly outside events but I also get the chance to be inside sellings cards in the run up to Christmas.

I have no idea what to expect, apart from excited children, maybe a few tears and lots of laughs. Mostly I guess at me in my reindeer ears!

All I do know is it is a good day, for a good cause. Photos next magazine .

**Barbara**

## From Chris and Carol Shepherd

Thank you for the lovely flowers we received from our Church. we were thinking how lovely they were arranged. Now we are enjoying them in our home.

Many thanks

**Chris & Carol**

## Roger Fenn's December Quiz - Advent hymns

1. "Cheer our spirits by our Advent here".
2. "His name shall stand for ever£.
3. "Hark to the Advent voice".
4. "To us a child of hope is born".
5. "Let every nation now behold their Saviour and their God".
- 6.. "For thou art our salvation, Lord".
7. "He rules the world with truth and grace".
8. "Thy reign Eternal Shall not cease".
9. "Born a child and yet a King".
10. "And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say".

### From Brenda Kelly

I as write this I am reminded that thirteen years ago this week we moved into this house in Epsom

The day we moved there was thick snow so the garden was a carpet of white. As usual the snow did not last very long so we were left with just lawn and a shed. Very quickly we transformed the garden to something far more interesting. A a flower arranger it was essential that I needed shrubs and flowers. We were very fortunate that as we received house moving presents,we received plants and garden vouchers, which didn't take long to spend. The garden is now very full and looks good in the spring and summer. At the moment it is rather bleak and soggy after so much rain. We are never satisfied, it's either too hot, too cold or too wet. Everyone is talking about climate change etc., but I think we have very little control.....

**Thank you to people who supplied and arranged flowers during November.**

Barbara Smith  
Dave Bennet  
Cynthia Stock  
Wedding Flowers

If you would like to supply or arrange flowers in the New Year, please let me know

Many thanks

**Brenda.....**

## Tales from the campground 14: Season's end

So there it is, our last camp of the season over. We feel we've been tested with Isaiah's deep waters and fiery trials. The photo was taken on one of the three sunny days out of the 30 we spent at camp this year. There has been rain. And more rain. And then some more. Pleasant



woodland tracks became swampy mudbaths and firepits turned into duck ponds. In fact, rain is altogether an inadequate word to describe the torrential deluges we went through this summer. On the plus side, we learned how to move our tents to another pitch in the middle of a named storm without anything getting wet.

We escaped a fire ban (can't imagine why!) but took our new mini gas stove anyway. We didn't intend to practice flamethrowing, honest. It was just that the hose and the gas canister parted company unexpectedly. Just as the campsite manager turned up for tea....

We'd spent the seven days of our September camp restitching a canvas stool, glueing my shoes, mending holes in the tarp that covers our firepit, fixing the tent door zip in 40mph wind (and rain), and doing some rapid electrical work to keep the tent light going. Some breakages proved fatal. When our 12-gallon water bag leapt from its tree in October, we stared at its shattered pieces, mourning a lost friend - forgetting how brittle it must have become by being out in all weathers year on year.

As for the wildlife, we never saw last year's fox of milk bottle infamy. Mrs Rabbit eating grass at 2am sounds like major earthworks are underway. Mr Robin sat at the tent door demanding breakfast at dawn every morning of every camp (finally posing for the photo in October).

Pretty Common Toads came out two by two after dark to revel in the wet conditions. And the owl shouted at us for hours. Or it might have been at the deer who were stomping through its trees making a racket.

It wasn't entirely the laid-back, no-hassle, camping experience that the site advertises but we (mostly) enjoyed ourselves. Possibly, we pushed ourselves further than we wanted to go but we are definitely better campers than we were a year ago.



### Heather Lodge

**From Gwyneth Smith**

### Natus Est

The waiting is over. The baby is born.  
So come and rejoice on this first Christmas morn.  
Joseph is standing, both proud and relieved  
that all has worked out as they hoped and believed.  
Mary is gazing with motherly joy,  
This is God's special son, but He's her little boy!

**Gwyneth**

## **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

10th. January  
14th. February  
20th. March  
24th. April  
22nd May  
26th June  
31st. July

All that is required is 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)

## **Face of the Child**

When God showed his favour to Abram and Sarah,  
There was no fanfare, no riches or gold;  
Just baby Isaac, no greater blessing,  
God's gift of an infant to love and to hold.

When God showed his favour to long-barren Hannah,  
Answered her prayers and her motherly goal,  
He sent little Samuel, child in the Temple,  
Spoke in his ear, and revived Israel's soul.

When God showed his love for a world that had shunned him,  
He came to a stable with cattle and hay.  
He sent baby Jesus, child in the manger,  
To show us God's image, and teach us God's way.

When we look for love in a world full of conflict,  
We can be side-tracked, misled and beguiled.  
Let's look for God in his dearest creation:  
Let's look for God in the face of the child.

**Barbara Pearson**

**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 21<sup>th</sup> December. Please send them to [iandm@earlblue.com](mailto:iandm@earlblue.com)**

## Together at Christmas



Are you alone at  
Christmas this year?

Come and join us for a  
traditional festive dinner!



### 'Churches Together in Ewell'

is pleased to offer a Christmas dinner plus festive activities  
to all who would otherwise be on their own.

**Christmas Day 12:30 - 4:15pm**

at a local church.

This offer is open to all Ewell residents.

Transport can be arranged.

**No charge**

To join us call: 07999 805 475 or  
e-mail: [christmas.dinner@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:christmas.dinner@dsl.pipex.com)



All Saints, West Ewell  
Epsom Vineyard Church  
Ruxley Church  
St Mary's, Cuddington  
Stoneleigh Baptist

Oasis at Auriol  
Ewell URC  
St Clement's RC  
St Mary's, Ewell  
Stoneleigh Methodist

Christ Church, Ewell  
Generation Church  
St John's, Stoneleigh  
St Paul's, Howell Hill  
The King's Church, Epsom

## December Quiz – Answers

1. "O come, O come Immanuel". RS 126
2. "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" RS 127
3. "Hills of the North rejoice". CP 337
4. "The race that long in darkness pined". RS 129
5. "How beauteous are the feet". RS 133
6. "On Jordan's bank the Baptists cry". RS134
7. "Joy to the world, the Lord is come". RS 135
8. "And art Thou come with us to dwell". RS 136
9. "Come thou long-expected Jesus". RS 138

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP at TOLWORTH**

**Morning Worship at 10.30**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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 #)

<b>Minister</b>	<b>Revd Roger Jones</b>	<b>0208 393 4270</b> rjones@urcsouthern.org.uk
<b>Secretary</b>	Mrs M Fleming	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr G Stock	
<b>Serving Elders</b>	Mr D Bennett, Mrs M Fleming, Mrs B Kelly, Mrs L Menneer, Mrs B Smith, Mr G Stock, Mrs K Woolard,	
<b>Management Committee</b>	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 Brenda 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**

<b>Minister</b>	Revd Roger Jones	020 8393 4270
<b>Secretary</b>	Mrs Pamela Galliers	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr. George Pearson	
<b>Serving Elders</b>	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 C Shim and Mr R Hamilton
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