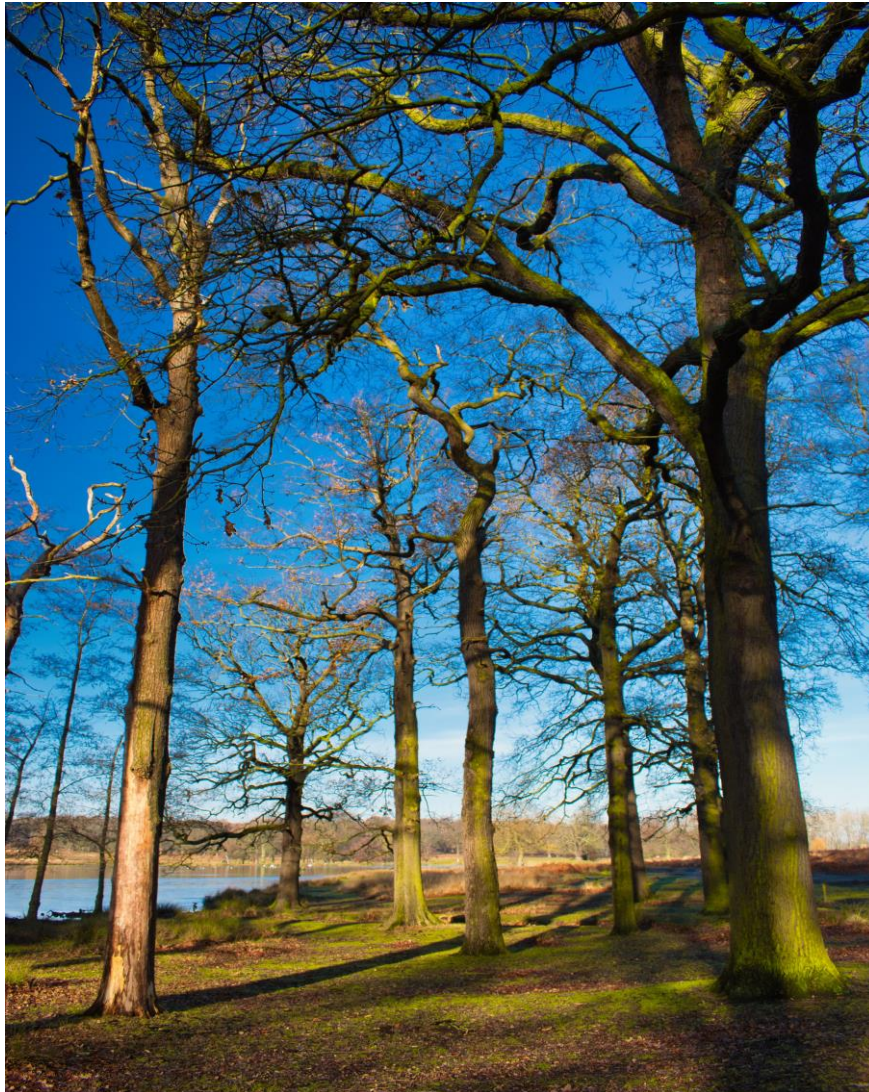


CONCORD



Richmond Park

A happy new year to everyone

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

January 2024

From our Minister

Dear Friends,

January 2024

You may remember that some of us visited the island of Iona last year. Iona is one of the Hebridean Isles where Columba landed from Ireland and “set up shop”, an abbey, to bring the message of the gospel to mainland Britain. Why would he choose a small apparently “out-of-the-way, remote island of Scotland and not arrive on the mainland proper? Well, apparently, it was because this small island of Iona was slap-bang in the main shipping route around Britain and from Europe. Today it is a place of quiet contemplation. Then I presume it was a hive of activity. What probably has not changed is that the sea is rough, thunderous and treacherous, or can be.

To get to the Island of Iona you need to travel to Oban. Oban is a town on the West coast of Scotland and is now the mainland ferry port for most of the isles. We spent a couple of pleasant afternoons in this lovely town waiting for the ferry crossings.

A special event is occurring in Oban this year. After its inauguration at the end of 2023, Oban Life station sees the launch and use of the new RNLi life boat, The Cambell-Watson, the name reflecting the benefactor of the vessel, hailing like St Columba as it happens, from Ireland.

However how the vessel arrived in Oban at the end of 2023 was of interest to one radio presenter and holds a new year message for each of us.

As the bright orange Shannon class 1350 was piped into the harbour five proud crew members stood on the deck. This crew had sailed the vessel all the way for Dorset, via Ireland to the west coast of Scotland in the middle of the winter storm season. Would it not have been easier to use the road?

The decision to sail had been a conscious choice. It was reported by the crew that they wanted to know how the boat handled in rough weather and to discover its capabilities. They faced some very arduous conditions and so got their wish. That crew choose to steer into the storm, making ready for the time when required they would be called upon to save someone’s life and have no choice.

Jesus and the Holy family faced storms of a different kind. Mary was faced with unmarried pregnancy. Joseph another man’s child. Both were displaced by political decision making. A birth in a barn and stranded without home or shelter. They then fled for their lives to Egypt as refugees.

We shared some lovely Christmas services among the light and tinsel. But we also reflected how God in Jesus entered this messy world. Christmas has not been a time to take a break from messy lives of our own, our faith community or the world news stories. Christmas has been a time when we steer into the storm. Listen to the stories and to stand up and stand together and prepare for the day when we are called to help.

The heart of the Christmas message is God with us! Jesus never promised life would be easy sailing. Sometimes we are called like the crew of the lifeboat to sail into the storm. Jesus

came to his disciples in the heavy seas telling them, like Angel Gabriel to Mary and Joseph, not to be afraid.

Soon Jesus is to face more storms and an apparent thunderous moment to end all things. But even this God overcame. May we face the new year, sailing into the storms God calls us to navigate without fear.

God bless

Roger

Tolworth Family Circle

David Bennett is in a great deal of pain in his feet. He is finding walking difficult. We hope he will soon get some treatment to help. Mary Carvalho spent another night in hospital with breathing problems but was well enough to come with all her family to our Carol Service. Kathleen Woolard has had a nasty bout of conjunctivitis. We hope it will clear up before she moves to her new home.

Moira

Tolworth Concord Subscriptions

Now that we have reached the start of another year, it is time, once again to remind you that subscriptions for Concord are now due. Those who receive a paper copy in Church should contribute a minimum of £5 and those who have it delivered by post should pay about £10 to cover the cost of rising postal charges. Any other contributions from those who get it by email will be very welcome. Please pay them to myself or our treasurer, Geof Stock.

Christmas

Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate our Church for Christmas. Daryl and Gwyneth did a grand job putting lights all round the windows which created a beautiful effect. The candles decorating the windows were made by various members of the congregation and were much admired. Gillian spent so much time arranging and preparing things for us and our Catering team organised refreshments for the special services. Thanks to you all. The Carol Service was the highlight of the season when about 100 people attended. It was great to have the church so full again. We were very grateful to Judith Flint for playing for us and the Bell Ringers added a special atmosphere to the service. Thanks to Roger for all his work and Heather for leading the second half of our service on Christmas morning.

Moira

Tolworth - Diary for January 2024

Wednesday	3 rd	2.30pm	Elders' meeting
Sunday	7th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd Antony Ball
Monday	8 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Thursday	11 th	2.30pm	Biscuit Club Book Rew
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Morning communion led by our Minister.
Monday	15 ^h	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	17 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	18 th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sunday	21st	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr Mark Dennis
Monday	22 nd	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	24 th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	28th	10.00am	Morning worship led by our Minister followed by Church Meeting.
Monday	29 ^h	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	31 st	10.00am	Playtime

February 2024

Sunday 4th 10.30am Morning Worship led by Revd Barbara Pearson

January Family News for Ewell

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the church look so beautiful for Advent. The tree, the Advent ring, the Nativity scene and the other decorations gave us a lovely setting for our worship.

We send our love and sympathy to Valerie Wood and all her family. Alan's cremation at Randalls Park and Thanksgiving Service at London Road took place on 22nd December. Several friends have been unwell over the Christmas period, and we wish them a speedy recovery and good health in 2024.

January 2024 Diary for London Road, Ewell

Sunday 7th	10.30 am	Morning worship with Holy Communion, conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson
Monday 8th	12.30 am	Bible Study
Sunday 14th	10.30 am	Mrs. Linda Lambert
Monday 15th	10 am	Elders Meeting
Sunday 21st	10.30 am	Revd Roger Jones
Thursday 25th	2 – 3	Friendship Hour, all welcome
Sunday 28th	10.30 am	Ms. Katrina Clifford
February		
Sunday 4th	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion, conducted by Revd Roger Jones

From Brenda Kelly

A big thank you to Roger and everyone who made the Carol Service such a success and a lovely evening. It was lovely to see so many people there and the carols chosen by the people were excellent. I know a lot of work goes on behind the scenes to make the church look so festive - it was all beautiful. Thank you to everyone.

January. A season of hope!

As I write this the sun is just appearing over the houses and trees. Last week I had my apple tree pruned, it now looks like a lovely lollipop. In a few months time it will sprout some blossom, beautiful pale pink little flowers which eventually will turn green with leaves, then hopefully lovely apples. If you look very carefully at the ground there are very, very small signs of bulbs appearing. I have said before that I do not like autumn and winter, but the upside of that is the hope of spring just around the corner. As the seasons change, so does the life in the church. Seasons come and go, but friendship and love remain the same.

Brenda

From Barbara Smith - Same sex marriage

I've just looked at my news feed and found the following

The Church of England have agreed to allow a blessing of same sex marriages - ironically both women were heavily involved in their parish church.

The Pope has just issued a message to say that the Catholic Church will permit blessings of same sex marriages, so long as it is not part of normal services

I really feel that this needs to be relayed to our next church meeting.

If the established church, created by Henry VIII and the Roman Catholic Church can accept same sex relationships does this not provide a lead in this issue - irrespective of personal views, either for or against - we are deciding on someone's future, their life choices.

In the same way that 'straight' couples are interviewed before marriage why can this not be applied to a same sex couple who ask for the sacrament of marriage at our church.

Who knows, we might even manage to win over those who don't agree - this is not for our generation but a decision for the future of our church and it's coming generations.

Barbara

Barbara Smith's Nativity scenes



I just wanted to share a couple of photos of my stint volunteering at a live Nativity scene, at a local garden centre.

The animals were from a small holding just past Guildford and were all extremely friendly. The small holding's own nets were dressed in shepherd costumes, they even provided nativity stickers for the children to take home with them. These were received with varying degrees of delight but I was assured by parents they would be included in the decorations in the house. I'm not sure about the chickens and the duck but it was a fun day.



Barbara

Tales from the campground 15: sustainable camping

I spent last week doing some background work for Tolworth to apply for a “green grant” from Kingston Council, in the hope this will help us begin our journey to becoming an Eco-church. This looks at all sorts of ways in which we can reduce our impact on the environment. Part of living more sustainably involves using the cycle: Refuse - Reduce – Reuse – Repurpose – Recycle. We try to apply it to our camping trips.

Refuse: We try to be sustainable and ethical about our kit purchases. For example, we rejected cheap down sleeping bags with feathers of unknown provenance and saved up for bags that came with an assurance of responsibly-sourced feathers from a UK company that recycles its products once you’ve worn them out.

Reduce: It took us about three years to realise we were going through an embarrassing number of batteries on camp. Swapping key items, such as torches and lamps, for rechargeable batteries has cut our battery use by about two thirds.

Reuse: As you might have gathered from last month’s tale, a fair amount of our kit currently needs repairing. By some miracle, we managed to restitch the seat of a camp stool using very strong thread and some wonderful stuff called “Tuff Tape.” This waterproof, untearable, tape sticks virtually everything. As you can see, it won’t win prizes for elegance but, if our sewing is any good, the stool should keep going for another season. If I can find the leak, I’ll apply tape to my air mat.



Repurpose: Our favourite repurposed piece of kit was retrieved from a defunct computer. It had a small grill covering the fan about 4” / 10cm in diameter which works perfectly on our little stoves as a grill. We actually bought a second fan cover but let’s gloss over the extra purchase.

Recycle: Our water carrier shattered when it jumped from its branch in October but fortunately it is a plastic that can be recycled. We also sell or donate kit that we no longer use, such as a headtorch that was too heavy for me and a spare set of mess tins acquired in error.

Sustainable camping definitely requires effort but it’s far more satisfying than taking a throw-away approach.

Heather Lodge

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

Roger Fenn's January Quiz - More from Mark's Gospel

1. Jesus was taking his disciples up North to Tyre and Sidon away from the crowds for a period of teaching, but he is interrupted by a woman whose daughter needs healing/ How does Mark identify her?
2. While in the North, Jesus took his disciples to Caesarea Philippi where he asked them who he was. What was Peter's response?
3. Jesus then took three of his disciples up the mountain where he was "transfigured" before them. Name the three who he chose.
4. How did Jesus appear to them on the mountain top?.
5. Name the two Old Testament people also present with Jesus.
- 6.. What did they represent?.
7. When Jesus and the three disciples descended from the Mountain they were greeted by a large crowd. Why?
8. As the other disciples failed to heal the boy he came to Jesus. What did he ask of him?
9. Before healing the boy, Jesus tested the father's faith. How did he reply?
10. Jesus healed the boy and gave him back to his father. Later the disciples asked Jesus why they could not heal him. How did Jesus reply?

LOOK-- AGAIN

They're part of our Christmas since childhood,
We think we know who they are:
The wise men, the Magi, the travellers,
Who followed a mystery star.

But look at the story again and you'll find
They didn't follow its beam,
They thought they knew better – abandoned its light,
Sought Herod instead it would seem.

It was Herod who sent them to Bethlehem,
Where the star had gone on ahead,
Without Herod would they have found the child,
Asleep on the hay in a shed?

We too can think we know better,
Abandon God's path for us all,
Yet we each have a star we can follow,
Find Christ as a babe in the stall.

Barbara Pearson

January Quiz – Answers

1. She was Syrophonecian. Ch 7 v 26
2. “You are the Messiah” Ch 8 v 29
- 3, Peter, James, John. Ch 9 v 2
4. he shone with brilliant brightness Ch 9 v 3
5. Moses and Elijah. Ch 9 v 4
6. The law and the prophets (implied).
7. A man had brought his son to the other disciples to be healed. Ch 9 v 17
8. “If you can, please help us!”. Ch 9 v 22
9. “Lord, I believe. Help me in my unbelief”. Ch 9 v 24
10. “This sort can only be cast out by prayer”. Ch 9 v 29

Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition - please keep them coming – especially from London Road! We hope to publish a magazine for February. Please let me have all your material by 18th January. Please send them to iandm@earlblue.com

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	8337 8581
Treasurer	Mr G Stock	8330 5492
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 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

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 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