

CONCORD



Richmond Park

**The Monthly Magazine of
London Road, Ewell and Tolworth**

United Reformed Churches

February 2024

From our Minister

Dear Friends,

February 2024

Some advice from an old song! ***“pack up your troubles in your ole’ kit bag and smile, smile smile!”*** Is that it? Easy? Easier said than done.

A few Sundays ago will worshipped at the cathedral in St Asaph. North Wales. St Asaph is a small, village town with its own Cathedral making a city, I guess. Beautiful. We have been a number of times before. What we did not know was that the writers of that “old song” mentioned earlier came from St Asaph. Indeed, there is a plaque there to commemorate the brothers, George Powell, under the pseudonym St Asaf and Felix Powell. And of course, they sang in the choir of the Cathedral which is presumably where they honed their musical talents and skills.



The song is of a tribute to the British Tommy of World War 1 who would smile even in adversity. I’ve seen pictures of these brave men in the trenches smiling “lighting their fags.” But in the awfulness of the trenches and horrors of war, even as we witness them today, it hard to simply say “pack up your troubles.” During the First World War Felix served in the army and George was a conscientious objector. Taking the name of the St Asaph (Asaf) it seems quite clear that it was his faith that motivated his actions in respect of war and conflict. Either way, perhaps they were aware that “pack up your troubles” in the midst of conflict or adversity does seem a little glib. Conflicts and troubles whether national or personal are more complex than that!

A few words about St Asaph and the Cathedral itself. The Cathedral has a long and sometimes turbulent history. It was destroyed by fire, not once but twice. It sits close on the border between England and Wales. In the 1520s St Asaph stood on the border between lands held by the English and those of the Welsh. It fell victim to the struggle between the Welsh prince Llewellyn ap Gruffudd (the last prince of Wales) and English King 1. Caught up in the crossfire, the bishops palace was set alight by the English. Rebuilding work took place but it was again caught up in the rebellion of Oswan Glyndwr again the English. ***“Pack up your troubles and just smile”***

I wondered whether the words of Jesus are often interpreted like this. ***“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Do not be afraid.” John 16. “Pack up your troubles and just smile.” “Get on with it”.***

We don’t like being fragile and spend much of our lives trying to minimise the risks of fragility. If we cannot minimise them we try to shrug them off or dismiss them. “pack them up and smile.” Managing risk in trouble and adversity became a daily part of our lives during the pandemic. And a quick look at the news reveals questions about preventing problems or even tragedies. It is sensible to assess and avoid risks and there is something to be said for resilience and staying with the pain in adversity. But this is not the same as shrugging off the troubles of the world or our lives.

Read the book of Job. There seems to be a temptation of the storyteller and the friends to blame and apportion fault. Question the deepness of one’s faith or relationship with God. It is

much easier to blame someone or ourselves. If we find a reason we can manage and control (conquer) our fragility. Pack up your trouble.

It seems for Job The story doesn't give intellectual answers, and simply invites readers to consider their own feelings about fragility, and recognise that the world is neither completely random, nor completely controllable. Job finds a home for his fragility in the end – in the company and comfort of friends and family. Community and care were the only answer.

As we will discover next month on Good Friday, the gospel does not shirk away from trouble or horror. Neither does it dismiss or blame. "Do not let your hearts be troubled" is a much deeper idea in midst of our difficulties. It is an acknowledgement of our often-fragile lives, and that in adversity and risk, in Christ and Gods community of love we find we need not fear any more. Does that sound like, "Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag and smile". It is not always that easy. But we have gospel, the good news that Christ has brought to us and Christ, Gods very self who travels with us in joys and troubles.

God bless

Roger

February Family News for London Road, Ewell

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve services. The choir of Korean young people on Christmas Day and the chance to enjoy Christmas carols in both languages was a special delight.

At our December Friendship Hour (actually more like two!) we sang carols, read poems and Christmas stories, and had a good Christmas tea. We were also able to send £51 as a donation to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. Many thanks to Dennis and his friend Rob for their musical contributions.

Beryl Williams was laid low for three weeks with a chest infection (also known as A Hundred Day cough!) but is now recovered. We wish all friends who have been unwell or undergoing tests a speedy recovery.

It is great news that our long-awaited refurbishment is due to begin on February 19th, with the repair and insulation of the sanctuary roof. Dry and warm at last.

February 2024 Diary for London Road, Ewell

Sunday 4 th	10.30 am	Morning service including Holy Communion, Conducted by Revd. Roger Jones
Monday 5 th	12.30 for 1	Bible Study led by Revd Barbara Pearson
Tuesday 6 th	12.30 pm	Soup Lunch at the church, all welcome, names to Dennis and Anne Sexton

Sunday 11 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship, conducted by Revd David Skitt
Monday 12 th	10 am	Church Meeting
Wed 14 th	7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday Service, conducted by Revd Roger Jones
Sat 17 th	10 am	Joint Elders Meeting at Tolworth (time to be confirmed)
Sunday 18 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship, conducted by Revd Roger Jones
Mon 19 th	12.30 for 1	Bible Study led by Revd Roger Jones
Sunday 25 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship, conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson
Thurs 29 th	2 – 3 pm	Friendship Hour, everyone welcome

March

Sunday 3 rd	10.30 am	Morning service including Holy Communion, Conducted by Revd. Roger Jones
Monday 4 th	10 am	Elders Meeting
	12.30 for 1	Bible Study led by Revd Barbara Pearson
Tuesday 5 th	12.30 pm	Soup Lunch at the church, all welcome, names to Dennis and Anne Sexton

Tolworth Family Circle

We were saddened to learn of the death of Gwen Argyle, mother of Sandra Gangadeen. Gwen was in a care home for the last 2 months of her life and gradually became more frail. She passed away very peacefully at the age of 92. We extend our sympathy to Sandra and Jerry and all the family.

June Davis is not able to attend services at the moment as her mobility has decreased considerably. We hope she will be able to return before long. Brenda Kelly spent a few days in hospital at the beginning of January with breathing problems. She is still feeling a lot of discomfort but is due to see her consultant soon. Hopefully he will be able to help her.

Paul Craven is awaiting eye surgery for a retina problem and Charmaine Waterman is also awaiting surgery. We pray that they will all receive successful treatment.

Moir

Tolworth - Diary for February 2024

Sunday	4th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd Barbara Pearson
Monday	5 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	7 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	8 th	2.30pm	Biscuit Club Book Review
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Morning communion led by Mrs Linda Lambert
Monday	12 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	14 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	15 th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Saturday	17 th	10.00	Elders' training
Sunday	18th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr Mark Dennis
Monday	19 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	21 st	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	25th	10.30am	Morning worship led by Ms Heather Lodge.
Monday	26 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	28 th	10.00am	Playtime

March 2024

Sunday	3rd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert
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From Brenda Kelly

We now have two silk arrangements to be displayed in the church. A big thank you to Lesley for arranging two beautiful displays to be used in the sanctuary. Although the silk flowers are lovely it would be good to have fresh flowers occasionally. Unfortunately very few people supply or arrange flowers. You do not have to be a super flower arranger. A bunch in a vase is just as beautiful and very acceptable.

If you feel unable to do an arrangement there are a couple of people happy to do the flowers for you. The Sunday morning coffee contributions go towards flowers, which I am very happy to receive.

A winter garden

My garden is looking very sad, damp and dreary. As I have not been too good lately I have decided to have a gardener rather than a cleaner! I did manage to get to a garden centre last week as I was having withdrawal symptoms from not spending any money for the last few weeks. I treated myself to a lovely pot of primroses, which gives me great pleasure. I notice that I do have a few pots with bulbs appearing which certainly gives me hope for a sunny spring after a rather cold and damp January. So remember there is new life ready to burst forward.

Brenda

Tales from the campground 16: trees

I am writing this on 25 January. This year, in the Jewish calendar it is day 15, or Tu, of the month of Shevat. Tu b'Shevat is observed as the Jewish holiday to celebrate the "New Year of the Trees." It is the day on which trees are formally another year older – important because in Judaism, the fruit from a tree cannot be eaten for the first three years and fruit in the fourth year is only for God. Only in a tree's fifth year can you eat its fruit. Tu b'Shevat is celebrated by planting trees and with meals that include five fruits (pomegranates, grapes, olives, dates, and figs) that are native to Israel. And if you're wondering why celebrate this in mid-winter, then remember that most of Israel's rainy season is over by this point. Saturated ground results in the sap starting to rise that causes the fruits to bud.

It made us think about the trees in our woods where we camp and how much we depend on them. Of course, they are home to many birds and insects, many of which I'm sorry to say we completely fail to notice, apart from the robin who makes his presence felt. The trees act as our markers of the camping season, starting with the bright green leaf buds in April and ending in the colours of October. We take it for granted that, every camp, they provide us with privacy and protection from wind, rain and even, on the odd occasion, sun. We just need to make sure there are no "widow-makers" of dead branches above our tent. The trees are our hooks for the water carrier and recycling bag. They patiently carry our washing line. They are our trusty supports to hold up our tarp over the fire pit. They give us wood for our fire and logs for seats.



Each time we arrive at the site, we check that the trees haven't changed and we can pitch camp exactly as we always do. We are blessed indeed.

Heather Lodge

Roger Fenn's February Quiz

The book of Daniel in our Old Testament spans the reign of several kings while the Jews were exiled from their homeland.

1. Who was Daniel?
2. How did he fall foul of the authorities?
3. What was his punishment?.
4. Why did he survive the ordeal?.
5. Three other young princes refused to obey the king's edict. Name them
- 6.. What was their punishment?.
7. What great answer did they give to the king?
8. The king came to see the result and was mystified to see **four** people present. How does the chronicler describe the fourth person?
9. All the young princes were vindicated for their faith. What was their reward?
10. What message did God give King Belshazzar after he had used the sacred vessels taken from the Jerusalem temple in his drunken orgy? What did it mean?

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 -

14 th February	20 th March	24 th April
22 nd May	26 th June	31 st 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

Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition - please keep them coming – especially from London Road! We hope to publish a magazine for March. Please let me have all your material by 22nd February. Send it to iandm@earlblue.com

Ash Wednesday

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust,
The end of a story, the end of a life.
The soul has moved on to a world we can't know,
A cord has been cut by death's merciful knife.

Ash Wednesday reminds us of just such a time,
Remember Good Friday, a cross on a hill,
When Jesus was taken and hung on a tree,
With trust in his Father, and loving God still.
den

We take the palm crosses, two meanings to share,
The triumphal entry, the death on the cross.
We burn them – a symbol of death and deep mourning,
We ponder the ashes, the meaning of loss.

We mark on each other the sign of Christ's cross,
A darkness descends for the six weeks of Lent,
But some far horizon is lit up by hope –
“He is risen!” – a promise, a foretaste is sent.

Barbara Pearson

February Quiz – Answers

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| 1. | An exiled Jewish Prince I Babylon | Ch 1 v 3/6 |
| 2. | Refused to Worship the King's God | Ch 6 v 10 |
| 3. | To be thrown into the Lion's den | Ch 6 v 7 |
| 4. | God sent his angel to protect him | Ch 6 v 7 |
| 5. | Shadrach, Meshach, Obed-nego | Ch 3 v 14 |
| 6. | To be thrown into the fiery furnace | Ch 3 v 15 |
| 7. | “Our God will protect us, but if not we will not bow down to you, o king” . | Ch 3 v 17 |
| 8. | “Like a Son-of-man”. | Ch 3 v 25 |
| 9. | Rulers of provinces | Ch 3 v 30 |
| 10. | “Mene, Tekel, Peres”. Read | Ch 5 v 26 |

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
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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 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