

CONCORD



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

April 2024

From our Minister

Dear Friends,

April 2024

Easter Sunday occurring this year on the last day of March, means that during April we will be treated to a variety of Resurrection stories of Jesus during our Sunday worship together.

The lectionary during this month will hold several encounters for Jesus' friends with him after the resurrection. The month will then close with what these resurrection appearances mean for us today. Jesus as our Good Shepherd. Our own abiding in the resurrected Christ. The challenge of following Jesus' way of love.

These resurrection stories are a delight for us, an inspiration and encouragement to help us on our way and walk with God. Not least of which because Jesus appeared to the ordinary folk who were his friends. Like us.

I have enjoyed on many occasions producing and performing the musical Daybreak by Paul Field. I love the seventies music! But more, because it tells of three of the disciples of Jesus with their warts and all. Mary failing to recognise Jesus in the garden. Thomas' experience being like "walking on to the wind". Peter seeking the strength of a mountain.

The resurrection accounts occur in different places. On road, besides lakes, on seas and in locked rooms. They occur with men and women, individual, couples and groups. Jesus is recognised, and not recognised. Walked with and eaten with. Reached out for and knelt before. The stories go on.

So, what do they mean for us? What can they mean for us?

Some of the accounts allude to these appearances being proof of belief for the disciples.

In Holy Week the stories of Jesus entry into Jerusalem or the Last Supper occur in more than one gospel although details differ slightly. In truth, none of the gospel's accounts of these resurrection appearances occur again in any of the other gospels. Stand-alone stories.

Furthermore, there is no resurrection story, in the early versions of Mark's gospel, the very first gospel to be written. The appearance to Mary in Mark, occurs at verse 9 of the final chapter. Earlier manuscripts of this gospel end at chapter 16 verse 8. Have a look...

What do you make of all that, if anything?

Perhaps when we read and hear these stories again during this post Easter period we might try to put aside any thoughts of historical data of a gospel or physical proof in scripture, as if that is the only thing that matters. Indeed, I have heard it said that these thoughts of evidence are a modern phenomenon and could be a barrier to see the meanings for us in the resurrection stories.

So, when we read and hear these stories again think of; why it was the couple on the Emmaus road only recognised Jesus when he broke bread; how Thomas never actually touched Jesus' injuries and yet believed; why Mary thought he was the gardener, or the other women who were told not remain among the dead; what happened to the disciples when they

made an unexpected catch and to Peter when he was reinstated into relationship with Jesus, and not just once.

How do these resurrection stories serve our walk of faith? For believing is not just an intellectual, evidence-based activity, it is trusting in the Jesus way. How we again abide in Christ, follow him as our shepherd and share his love.

God bless

Roger

April Family News for London Road, Ewell

Almost the entire Ewell membership, plus four members of Ewell Korean Church, attended Diana Mugridge's funeral at Randall's Park on 13th March. Diana had left her own detailed wishes for the service, and it was very meaningful and appropriate.

Our roof works are moving on apace, and at the time of writing we are worshipping in the church halls, but hope to have returned to the sanctuary for Easter Sunday.

Our Korean friends once again gave gifts to the ladies of the URC congregation on Mothering Sunday, which were greatly appreciated.

April 2024 Diary for London Road, Ewell

Sunday 7 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion, conducted by Revd Roger Jones
Monday 8 th	10 am	Church Meeting followed by Annual General Meeting
	12.30 for 1	Bible Study
Tuesday 9 th	12.30	Church lunch
Thursday 11 th	3 pm	Korean Church "messy church" with Easter theme
Sunday 14 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Mrs. Linda Lambert
Sunday 21 st	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Revd Roger Jones
Monday 22 nd	12.30 for 1	Bible Study
Thursday 25 th	2-3 pm	Friendship Hour, all friends welcome
Sunday 28 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship led by Revd Barbara Pearson

May

Sunday 5 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion, conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson
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Tolworth Family Circle

We were all very sad to learn the news that Laura Gangadeen had lost the baby she was expecting. Let us hold Laura and all the family in our thoughts and prayers.

Kathleen Woolard is slowly improving but it will take a long time for her to be feeling fighting fit again. Eunice Crowl is suffering a lot of pain in her legs and June Davis is getting very frail. We remember them and other friends who are awaiting appointments or having treatment – may they not feel forgotten.

Curry Night

Carol Shepherd is organising a fundraising Curry Night on Saturday 20th April starting at 6pm. She will have a choice of meat or vegetarian curry and salad. Tickets will be on sale priced £10 from Carol or Moira.. Please let Carol know as soon as possible if you are coming as she needs numbers early for catering purposes.

Moira

Tolworth - Diary for April 2024

Sunday	7 th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge
Thursday	11 th	2.30pm	Biscuit Club – Tea & chat
Sunday	14 th	10.30am	Morning communion led by our Minister followed by Church meeting
Monday	15 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	17 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	18 th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Saturday	20 th	6.00pm	Curry evening
Sunday	21 st	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by Mr Nick Mayhew-Smith Evergreen Church
Monday	22 nd	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	24 th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	28 th	10.30am	Morning worship led by Ms Sue Shaw

Monday 29th 5.30pm Pilots

May 2024

Sunday 5th 10.30am Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge

From Roger

Have you seen my donkey! Matthew 21; 1-11 Mark 11; 1-11

Hi, yes you, and you and you! Have yer seen my donkey! Have yer? Have yer?

Yes my donkey. It looks much like any other donkey really. It 's nearly all brown fur. All white under its belly! Very handsome! Big brown eyes.
Have yer seen my donkey! Have yer? Have yer?

He's got some jet black tinges on his mane going down to his back. Like little insects but they're not! Little flecks of black. O yes and one of his hind legs is all white. Like a bandage. Like he hurt himself, but he hasn't

Have yer seen my donkey! Have yer? Have yer?

Its as strong as.. as strong as... well a donkey. Really powerful. He's good natured though. Wouldn't harm a fly. Can be a bit noisy when he's hungry...all that braying! I get all grumpy when I'm hungry

So...have yer seen my donkey! Have yer? Have yer?

Ah what – have I what – have I lost him....O No! He's not lost

He's the donkey that carried Jesus. You know, into Jerusalem that day. Crowds of people shouting and laying down their coats. Waving all the branches. A great day.

And my donkey was at the centre of it. Right there! You should see him, you really should!

From Brenda Kelly

Church flowers.

Following my request for flower arrangers a few people have come forward. Thank you very much to those people. I would be pleased to have more volunteers.

I would like to thank Cynthia, Mary, Annabelle and Adalyn for arranging up 50 bunches of daffodils for Mothering Sunday, kindly donated by Brian Llewelyn. The same volunteers are going to help decorating the church for Easter. It is good to have young help! A donation has been gratefully received from June Davis and her daughter Susan for Easter flowers.

Thank you to everyone and for coffee morning donations which goes towards buying flowers.

Brenda

From Brenda

Where does the time go? I am sure Christmas was only a short while ago, but now it is fast approaching Easter. I am certainly pleased that winter is behind me and now looking forward to spring. As I write this it is a lovely sunny day, then all of a sudden the sky darkened and we had an incredible hail storm. Now that has passed the sun has appeared again. There is blossom appearing on the apple tree and the cherry tree is covered in lovely pink flowers. It all reminds us that what ever we feel or think we cannot stop nature, but the best we can do is embrace it. I think spring is the time when I really believe in God, because only He can make the garden such a beautiful place year after year

Brenda

From Gwyneth Smith

Come back, Peter!

It was my brother, Andrew, who came to find me:
'Simon, there's someone I want you to see.'
He led me to Jesus; I knew from the start
That this was a leader to capture my heart.
Becoming disciples, we valued the days
We saw him heal in miraculous ways.
Once a young boy was astonished and proud
He offered his lunch and it fed a huge crowd.

'Who do they think I am? What do folk say?'
We told him the rumours we'd heard on the way
'And what do you say if the people inquire?'
I said, 'You're God's son and the promised Messiah!'
He smiled. 'I rechristen you, Peter, the Rock;
I'll be glad of your strength when I'm feeding my flock.'
But when the chance came to be loyal and strong,
I was a coward and got it all wrong.
The others had left and I was afraid;
My dear Lord and Master I basely betrayed.
It wasn't just once my best friend I denied.
'I don't know the man!' It was three times I lied.
The cock crew. I realised what I had said.
I was filled with remorse and I wished I were dead.

After walking on water and talking on shore,
I know I'm forgiven and love him the more.
I won't fail again if it comes to the test.
From now on he needs me to be at my best.
For though I denied and left him in the lurch,
He's still chosen me to establish his church.

Gwyneth

Tales from the campground 18: Doubts

Usually by this time of year we have our camping trips all booked but this year we seem to be putting it off. We are suddenly afflicted with doubts and uncertainties and rather more questions about our abilities than we had last year.

We have the uncertainty of booking time off work. A new job brings different annual leave arrangements and working too many hours leaves little camp preparation time.



We have the uncertainty of travel. Leaving aside the ever-present train strikes, we are conscious of a rising wave of anti-Semitic sentiment in London. It generates a feeling of vulnerability we'd rather not court. Of course, there will be an end to the war at some point but the biases of media reporting are not improving matters.

We have the uncertainty of fitness. It's taken months to really recover from our last encounter with Covid back in November. Our rucksacks feel heavy and it will have been six months since we last carried them. We can't wait to get out into the woods again — especially as our favourite wardens are back from their travels. But, at the moment, it feels a daunting prospect to pick up our packs to make the three-hour train journey to camp.

We have the uncertainty of coping. My eyesight has definitely deteriorated in the last six months. Can I still manage the outdoor life without creating a disaster?

However, neither of us is ready to give up quite yet so, like Mary and Martha, we just need to think about our priorities. Like Thomas meeting the risen Jesus, we need to find our faith, embrace our doubts and fears, and face up to the challenge.

Now where's my diary...

Heather Lodge

From Carol Shepherd

Thanks to everyone for the second year to raise some money for the Air Ambulance. I sent them £75 recently, last year it was £80. The winner, this year, donated back most of the chocolates to share in church for our Easter celebration.

Please remember the curry evening on 20th April.

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 25th April. Send it to iandm@earlblue.com

Roger Fenn's April Quiz

Philippi

1. Where did the Philippian Christians meet for prayer?
2. Name one of the group.
3. What was her trade?.
4. Who baptised them, confirming their faith?.
5. Why were Paul and Silas wrongly beaten and imprisoned in Philippi?
6. How did they keep their spirits up in prison?.
7. What, unexpectedly released their shackles?
8. What kind act did the jailer perform on Paul and Silas?
9. Paul refused to leave the jail without an apology. Why?
10. Paul's ministry in Philippi was thus cut short, but the church held firm. How does he address them at the end of his letter?

An invitation

Members of Tolworth meet for lunch at The Hogsmill, Worcester Park. Here are the dates for forthcoming lunches at the Hogsmill. Everyone is welcome to join us, so please make a note of the dates -

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)

Walking With Jesus Christ

If you had walked with Jesus Christ,
What sights would you have seen?
Along the dusty desert paths
What would his actions mean?

He'd lift a child up in his arms;
They'd stand around his knee.
For him they were a symbol
Of how our faith should be.

He'd heal a leper with a touch,
And ease a woman's pain.
The blind would see, the lame would stand,
The dumb would speak again.

He stood beside a tomb and wept,
As we would for a friend,
He fed the crowd, he taught the poor,
He loved them to the end.

Let's follow in our hearts and minds
The paths that Jesus trod,
By deeds of gentleness and love
We too can serve our God.

Barbara Pearson

April Quiz – Answers

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|-----|--|-------------------|
| 1. | By the riverside. | Acts 16 v13 |
| 2. | Lydia. | Acts 16 v 14 |
| 3. | Dealer in purple cloth. | Acts 16 v 14 |
| 4. | Paul. . | Acts 16 v 15 |
| 5. | Paul cast out an evil spirit from a slave-girl.and
deprived the owners of their income. | Acts 16 v 18 & 19 |
| 6. | Prayed and sang hymns. . | Acts 16 v 25 |
| 7. | An earthquake. | Acts 16 v 26 |
| 8. | Bathed their wounds. | Acts 16 v 13 |
| 9. | As a Roman citizen he had been beaten and
imprisoned without a fair trial. | Acts 16 v 37 |
| 10. | You whom I love and long for, my my joy and crown. | Phillipians 4 v 1 |

Sunday Worship at Tolworth

Morning Worship at 10.30

(You can still join in with Roger at 10.30am on Sundays
'Phone: 03306 060403 with code 1529640# - remember the #)

Computer link <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/rjones853>

3rd Sunday of month - Evergreen Worship at 6.30pm

Minister	Revd Roger Jones	0208 393 4270 rjones@urcsouthern.org.uk
Secretary	Mrs M Fleming	020 8337 8581
Treasurer	Mr G Stock	020 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