

# CONCORD



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**Happy Easter**

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

**March 2024**

**From our Minister**

**Dear Friends,**

**March 2024**

Why is there a war?... *“Because I and my neighbour and everyone else do not have enough love. Yet we could fight war and all its excrescences by releasing, each day, the love that is shackled inside us, and giving it a chance to live”.* —Etty Hillesum

Etty Hillesum, the writer of the above quote, was twenty-nine years old when she died in Auschwitz.

This magazine letter is being written as the armies of Israel stand, progressing the war with Hamas and on the verge of attacking Rafa, in Gaza. The million plus people, mostly innocent families having sought refuge there at the beginning of the war in the Middle East.

This letter is being written as the British parliament have experienced a melt-down over arguments about how to vote on three different propositions on how to bring some peace or ceasing of conflict and releases to Israeli hostages and Palestine prisoners.

I know it is complicated. We can see the self-interest alongside genuine attempts to cease atrocities. But how?

In the light of what is happening in Gaza, and Ukraine, as well as in other parts of the world, I just wanted to make a call for our on-line lent studies this year.

We are again using material from Embrace, a charity working in the Middle East that seeks to bring reconciliation between the Israeli and Palestinian people in the Middle East as well as partnering with many groups to improve the lives of individuals and families.

The bible study material is called Healing and Hope in the One Household of God. The sessions do not focus on war, or the conflict in the Middle East. In these sessions we are not having discussions about war and conflict. They are reflections on healing and Hope. But using the material created from people working does have some poignancy.

Our first session considered the crossing of the Red Sea by the Israelites escaping the horrors of slavery and achieving their own freedom, hope and healing. Whilst the crossing of the Red Sea is a great staple diet in Sunday school, this is a troubling story. Factual or not, the truth is that achieving such healing and hope is hard fought and hard won. Factual or not the truth is that God is on the side of healing and Hope. Factual or not God will be victorious. We are struck by the way that God gently nudges people to think about their preconceptions they hold about themselves and others. Even in this dramatic story.

As we witness these horrors around the world, and feel helpless, these bible studies during lent will help consider where we can bring healing. The sessions will give us opportunities to see hope. They will be opportunities to pray for peace. Hope and healing are hard fought and hard won. But God remains with us in our efforts, failures and successes.

Beating swords in to plough shares, the work of making peace, as described in the bible, is hard won work, a victory in itself. Its practical wisdom of the New Testament that says the blessing of God falls on those who make peace; not those who wish for peace, or hope for peace or talk about the importance of peace.

The lent studies written and prepared by people experiencing conflict can inspire us not just to talk or wish! In our small way maybe we seek to help each other be peacemakers.

**Lent studies are online/telephone (details provided) Wednesdays at 12.00pm and 7.30pm.**

God bless

Roger



**London Road Ewell  
and Tolworth  
pastorate 2023  
Online and  
Telephone  
Lent study**

**Healing and Hope in the One Household of God**

**Journey with us this Lent as we reflect on Jesus' message of healing and hope. What does it mean for our lives today and how can we invite healing and hope to rule in our hearts, our homes and our world?**

- **Scriptural reflections from female Christian leaders from the Middle East and the UK**
- **Bible readings, prayers and questions and discussion**

**Healing and Hope in the One Household of God**

*A Lent study from EMBRACE the Middle east*

**JOIN TOGETHER FROM YOUR OWN HOME, GRAB A TEA AND...**

here is the invitation to meet up again for one hour each week for five weeks during Lent. Join us and join in on

The telephone **03306060403 (await instruction)**  
**Access code (enter) 1529640#**

Or <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/rjones853>

**Wednesday 12pm starting 21st February 2024**

**Wednesday 7.30pm starting 21st February 2024**

**Tolworth  
Family**

## Circle

Kathleen Woolard has not been at all well and is still quite poorly despite a little improvement. Paul Craven is still waiting for news of when his eye surgery will take place. We think of Cynthia, Brenda, Charmaine, June Davis and Mary Carvalho who are all struggling with health problems and any others who may be unwell, let us remember them in our prayers.

**Moira**

### Tolworth - Diary for March 2024

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Linda Lambert
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am 12 noon 2.00pm 7.30pm	Playtime Lent Course Elders' meeting Lent Course
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Mothering Sunday</b>
		10.30am	Morning communion led by our Minister
Monday	11 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am 12noon 7.30pm	Playtime Lent Course Lent Course
Thursday	14 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Biscuit Club – film “Whistle Down the Wind”
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Paul & Jenny Hollingum
Monday	18 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am 12noon 7,30pm	Playtime Lent Course Lent Course
Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup>	3.30pm	Messy Church
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Morning worship led by Ms Heather Lodge.
Wednesday	27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Playtime

		12noon	Lent Course
Wednesday	27 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Lent Course
Thursday	28 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service led by our Minister at Tolworth Joint Service with Surbiton Hill Methodist Church
Friday	29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Good Friday Service at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church
Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Easter Adventures – see poster.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>		<b>Easter Day</b>
		10.30am	Morning Communion service led by our Minister

### April 2024

**Sunday** 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge



**Easter Adventure!**

Join in our bible adventure,  
creative crafts, play awesome  
games and loads more!

For 5 - 11 year olds

Join us at Tolworth United Reformed Church  
Elgar Ave, KT5 9JR

**We will be meeting on**  
**Saturday 30 March**  
**10am - 12:30pm**

Any questions please contact: Roger Jones  
rjones@urcsouthern.org.uk or 020 8393 4270

## March Family News for London Road, Ewell

We have been shocked and saddened by the sudden death of our dear friend, Diana Mugridge, who has been such a faithful and hard-working member of our church family for so many years. We offer heartfelt sympathy to David, their sons, Peter and Robin, and the extended family. Diana will be greatly missed.

Our Ash Wednesday service was very helpful, leading us into the season of Lent.

We continue our studies and reflections on the parables of Jesus in our fortnightly Bible Study meetings, and benefit from our shared thoughts and experiences. All friends are welcome.

We have builders on site for the next several months, and we all need to bear in mind that parking will be an issue. Our reward for any inconvenience will be a warm and water-tight sanctuary.

## March 2024 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	Elders Meeting
	12.30 for 1 pm	Bible Study
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Lent Soup Lunch at the church, all welcome, names to Anne and Dennis Sexton
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	12 & 7.30	On-line Lent Group
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Worship, led by Mrs. Linda Lambert
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	12 & 7.30	On-line Lent Group
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Morning Worship conducted by Revd Roger Jones
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 for 1	Bible Study
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	12 & 7.30	On-line Lent Group
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Palm Sunday Worship conducted by Dr. Nick Mayhew-Smith
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	12 & 7.30	On-line Lent Group

Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	2-3 pm	Friendship Hour, all friends welcome
	7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service at <b>Tolworth United Reformed Church</b>
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Good Friday Service at <b>Surbiton Hill Methodist Church</b>
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30 am	Easter Sunday Service, conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion Conducted by Revd Roger Jones



## London Road United Reformed Church, London Rd, Ewell KT17 2BE

Friends and members of London Road URC.

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

Dear Friends,

Further to the discussions and planning for the ministry and mission for the church and numerous meetings, to plan a strategy, and property meetings to consider buildings, I am pleased to say that some actual construction work on the buildings will begin at the church on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

This first phase will be to re-roof the flat roofs over the offices, circulating areas and passageway, the Mary Wallace prayer room, and the meeting rooms and to re-tile the sanctuary pitched roof and add insulation across this whole area.

As well as securing and protecting the property from the elements this will make for a warmer venue and considerably easier and cheaper to heat. Most importantly this will be a significant improvement of our carbon footprint and so help to look after Gods world. Hurrah!

The work is expected to take thirteen weeks with minimal disruption. However, it may be that for three of these weeks we will need to worship in the halls.

The scaffolding has now been erected and this does mean that parking is restricted. You may need to find spaces on the road whilst the work on the roof is being completed. Please also note that the building is a bit more vulnerable to theft or break-ins. Scaffolding can be inviting to thieves who think the building is empty. So be careful with your property and what you leave on the premises.

However, the beginning of work on the building is good news. Please await further information and plans for the internal improvements over the coming months.

We can continue in our prayers for the development and for ourselves. We pray for patience and grace during all this activity.

God bless

**Revd Roger Jones**

## **Tolworth Secretary's Report for 2023**

2023 was the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year for Tolworth United Reformed Church.

Our membership is not what it was in 1933 but it is growing and at present we have 33 members and about 20 friends who attend regularly or when they can. We also have about 5 children who come on a Sunday for Junior Church. We now have a Youth Leader in Carys Kelly who runs Junior Church and helps organise Pilots and Messy Church. These two organisations are thriving and Carys has developed a really good relationship with the young people.

We had five baptisms and one wedding in 2023 and we were very pleased to welcome Annabel and Alvin Lam and their family into membership of our Church family.

At Easter time we had our usual joint communion service with Surbiton Hill Methodist Church on Maundy Thursday and Roger led the service there on Good Friday morning. Roger led an on line Lent Study Course, helped by Barbara Pearson which was attended by members and friends from Ewell and Tolworth. Easter Sunday we were back at Tolworth for our Easter Day Communion service.

Preparations then began for our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Our Anniversary Weekend began with an exhibition of memorabilia including many photos taken throughout the years and historical items such as Cradle Rolls, Membership Roll books etc. We all had our handprints taken by Gillian which were then painted and cut out and Austin painted a tree which we had blown up in size and put on a big banner to which all our hand prints were attached to the branches as leaves. The children of Playtime, Kids United, Pilots and Messy Church were also involved. The Banner was hung on the pulpit for a few weeks and was greatly admired. It now has a permanent place in the Church. Thank you to everyone whose hard work contributed to our celebrations. Sadly not as many people as we hoped came along to the exhibition but it was good to see some old friends there. We concluded the weekend with an Anniversary Communion service followed by lunch.

At the end of October, our lovely Korean organist, Young, moved to Kingston URC where they had more work for her and paid more. However, we came to an arrangement with Kingston that she will play for us once a month and perhaps more later next year.

We had a successful Harvest service when the Church was beautifully decorated and the food contributed was given to the Food Bank..

Soon it was Advent and Christmas. Daryl Knight had suggested decorating round the Church windows with lights. This proved very successful. Our theme for the season was "The Light of the World" so several members decorated hand made cardboard candles made by Gillian. These were put in all the windows and a huge map of the world with the caption "Jesus Christ the Light of the World" was suspended from the pulpit. We started our Advent worship with the Tree Lighting Service (in spite of the rain!) then we all held candles and lit one from the other until all were alight. Our Carol Service was the highlight of the season. We leafleted the surrounding area inviting people to come and about 100 people attended. We were pleased to have the Bell Ringers playing carols at the service and were delighted to have Judith Flint play the organ for us. It was a memorable evening. On Christmas morning Roger led the first half of our service before going to Ewell to continue with the service. Heather then continued with our service. Thank you to both of them..



It has been a busy year, but a successful one. It is encouraging to see new people coming to our services and better still, returning. Thank you to everyone who helps in all sorts of ways. Our eldership has been somewhat beset by illness in the past year but we still carry on doing what we can. It is good to see some of our new friends helping at coffee times and reading at services. Our catering team work hard for various events and as Cynthia has felt unable to continue with the flower rota, we are grateful to Brenda and her helpers for taking over this task.

Our Halls lettings have gradually perked up since the Covid Lockdown and we now also let out the sanctuary for some events. All these lettings help provide a big part of our income and we are grateful to Sid Heath for organising them.

Thank you to all who help keep our church going, our Elders, Management team, Youth Worker to mention but a few. Our greatest thanks goes to our Minister, Roger, for his encouragement, enthusiasm and hard work and also to his wife, Gillian, for all she does with Pilots, Messy Church and controlling the laptop at services.

Thank you all.

## **Moira**

### **Tolworth Morning Service 25<sup>th</sup> February**

#### **Origami 101**



Congratulations, and many thanks, to all at Tolworth for your impressive origami that was included in February's Family Service. Sid kindly sent me this photo to prove that the paper-folding exercise worked - despite my demonstration.

I'm not sure who is credited with devising this but I found it on the URC website in their worship notes for 25 February. I thought it was a very effective way of illustrating how we can be so easily side-tracked into thinking we can make a perfect home, a perfect career, and a perfect lifestyle without remembering that life really comes from following Jesus, cross and all.

Unfortunately the URC has taken down its notes for February but if you'd like to practice making the cross at home, let me know and I'll share my copy of the instructions.

The prayer using the cross is really for Palm Sunday crosses. You can find similar words at: <https://www.churchsupporthub.org/ideas/palm-cross-prayer.php>

**Heather**

## Tales from the campground 17: Mending holes

There is, I believe, an army quote which goes: “proper preparation prevents poor performance,” or words to that effect. We are preparing our kit for the new camping season and started by repairing my inflatable pillow in the hope that it will last another year. It developed a major allergy to air on our last camp but if we were hoping that six months’ rest would have cured it, then we were hoping in vain. It still leaks.



Finding the leak is a wet process. It involves inflating the pillow then submerging it in the bath and watching for the bubbles that escape. It also requires four hands. Two to hold the item firmly under the water and two to find then mark the place producing the bubbles. Finding the bubbles this time was easy. But have you ever tried to mark a piece of fabric under water? We tried a whiteboard marker, a permanent marker, a gel pen, a felt tip pen, and, for some reason, even chalk. We tried blu-tac. We tried sellotape. We raided the medicine cabinet for a plaster but it appears that sticking plaster is not the stuff of my childhood memories. The merest hint of water was enough to make it float away.

Half an hour later, two disgruntled, half-drowned campers were glaring at one very soggy pillow sitting in water happily sending up bubbles. We’re hoping this is not an ill-omen for the season. Another search of the medicine cabinet revealed a small reel of plastic-y micropore tape that I bought in error as it produces a rash every time I use it. In desperation I tried a piece on the pillow grinning at us from the bath. No wonder my skin doesn’t like it. The tape stuck and stayed stuck. In fact, we had to prise it off once the pillow had dried so that we could make the proper repair using the tape that’s supposed to fix everything from bouncy castles to kayaks.

Sadly the wretched thing still seems to be leaking air. Just not as quickly. Back to the bath it will have to go.

Mending an invisible hole has become a relationship-testing, patience-trying job. I’m trying to decide who’s performing poorly here – us or the pillow. How it acquired pinprick holes in the first place is, of course, another story....

Heather Lodge

**Heather Lodge**

**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 21<sup>st</sup> March. Send it to [iandm@earlblue.com](mailto:iandm@earlblue.com)**

# Roger Fenn's March Quiz

## Easter.

### We return to Mark's Gospel for our Easter quiz

1. To which village did Jesus direct his disciples to collect the colt.. for his ride into Jerusalem?
2. If anyone questioned their taking the colt, what reply were they to give?
3. Why did Jesus choose a colt rather than a horse?.
4. According to Mark, when did Jesus cleanse the temple?.
5. What words of condemnation did he use?
- 6.. How were the disciples to locate the venue for Jesus' Passover meal?.
7. Where did it take place?
8. Whom does Pilate release from prison to pacify the crowd?
9. At Jesus' crucifixion, what was the centurion-in-charge's comment about Jesus?
10. Mark's Gospel ends abruptly at Chapter 16 verse 8 – though two additions have been made. What, do you think, is the reason?

## 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 -

20<sup>th</sup> March  
24<sup>th</sup> April  
22<sup>nd</sup> May  
26<sup>th</sup> June  
31<sup>st</sup> 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)**

## Easter Joy

At Eastertime we think of life,  
Christ risen from the dead!  
So death holds no more fear for us,  
There's heavenly life instead.

No more we bear the weight of sin,  
For Christ has set us free.  
Forgave betraying Simon,  
Forgives – yes! – you and me.

We stand as people of the light,  
Our burdens laid aside.  
Lord Jesus waits to greet each one,  
His arms are open wide.

**Barbara Pearson**

## March Quiz – Answers

1. Beth phage. Ch 11 v 1
2. "The Master needs it". Ch 11 v 3
- 3, a) To fulfil an old prophecy. b) a symbol of peace .
4. The next day. Ch 11 v 12
5. "My Father's House shall be called a place of prayer,  
but yu have made it a den of robbers".
6. Follow the man with a pitcher of water. Ch 14 v 13
7. "A large furnished upstairs room". Ch 14 v 15
8. Barabbas. Ch 15 v 6
9. "This fellow really was God's Son". Ch 15 v 39
10. The original ending was lost.

# 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>

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month - Evergreen Worship at 6.30pm

<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