

CONCORD



Barn

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

March 2026

From our Minister

Dear Friends

March 2026

So begins our Lenten journey to the cross and glorious resurrection at Easter. But there is the Lenten journey first. Lent is a traditional religious period of fasting and abstinence. What are you giving up for Lent?

Our Reformist, non-conformist tradition is not much good at fasting and probably not much better at abstinence. You see, we have no set of rules for it. So, what do we do in Lent?

I should really listen and act on my on service/sermon from Sunday, first Sunday of Lent as it was. I may need to be careful not to speak in the plural. Not “our” and “we?” Maybe I should be saying, “I” am not good at fasting and “I” am not much better abstinence.

But it is true that in our tradition Lent, fasting and abstinence, has taken a back seat. For good reason. Our non-conformist forebears would likely have seen it as very anti-Christian. It sounds a bit like “showing-off,” “look how much I love God” much like the boastful Pharisee of Luke 18;11.

What was it Jesus said? *“...when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” Matt 6;16-18*

And what about prophets who spoke out against such religious shallow mindedness.

‘When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months for the past seventy years, was it really for me that you fasted? Zach5;7

“The truth is that at the same time as you fast, you pursue your own interests and oppress your workers. ⁴Your fasting makes you violent, and you quarrel and fight. Do you think this kind of fasting will make me listen to your prayers?” Isaiah 58; 3-4

Not only this. If anything is worth giving up now or not doing during Lent, it is perhaps something we should avoid for the rest of the year. Why only during a certain set period.?Well, all this certainly suits my go-slow when it comes go-fasting.

Yet of course many religious traditions consider fasting and abstinence a healthy spiritual activity. For good reason.

There is something to be said for this being a community activity. In our tradition we “have to make it up” because there are no rules. For other traditions, Orthodox Christian and other religious faiths, everyone would be doing the same. The mutual support and encouragement is of great value and a good discipline. From a more personal and spiritual dimension fasting has been recognised for centuries as an important way to draw near to God and deepen one’s relationship with God.

Medically fasting has benefits too. Managing sugar and salt intake has to be good! Giving our bodies an occasional rest is a good thing.

So perhaps we have thrown too much of the baby out with the reformation baptismal water. Without wanting you to feel guilty if you fail, or indeed to feel proud if you succeed, asking, "what are you giving up for Lent?" is not such a bad question after all.

And there are other ways during Lent to support and assist our spiritual journeys. Read that book you disagree with or that brings a focus on evils of racism or the holocaust to remind us of the worlds terrors. Spend a moment each day in purposeful quietness. Take time with the bible in a different way than is comfortable for you. Read the whole of Numbers! You could join in with your brothers and sisters from partner church (Tolworth/Ewell), online in the Acts of Hope lent Bible study which has a focus again on stories from the Middle East.

Perhaps the discipline of fasting or one of these other disciplines will encourage and strengthen you on your Lent journey to the cross and Easter this season. You can do it without being boastful or big-headed about it. We can also do these things all year. But as begins our Lenten journey, a journey of humility and a focus on God and others, Lent is a good time to start again.

Lent is a journey towards the cross, a journey of enlightenment: from wilderness to feast, from desert to oasis. It's an attempt to identify with the powerless and the suffering in the world.

Kate McIlHagga (Iona Community)

God bless

Roger

Tolworth Family Circle

Eloise is now nearing the end of her treatment. It *has* been lovely to see her in Church each *week and* we hope life will start to improve for her although she must rest and not overdo things. Dave Bennett has had a cataract operation recently and seems to be doing well. Heather is still suffering pain in her shoulder and is limited in what she can do.

We ask God's blessing on these friends and any others who are feeling poorly or are housebound.

Moira

March 2026 Diary for Tolworth

Sunday	1st	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Ms Heather Lodge
Monday	2 nd	5.30pm	Pilots
Tuesday	3 rd	6.30pm	On line Lent course
Wednesday	4 th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Communion service led by our Minister
Monday	9 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Tuesday	10 th	6.30pm	On line Lent course
Wednesday	11 th	10.00am 12.30pm	Playtime Lunch at Hogsmill – all welcome
Sunday	15th		Mothers' Day
		10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by Mr Mark Dennis Evergreen service
Monday	16 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Tuesday	17 th	6.30pm	On line Lent course
Wednesday	18 th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	22nd	10.30am 12.00pm	Morning worship led by our Minister Elders' meeting
Monday	23 rd	5.30pm	Pilots
Tuesday	24 th	6.30pm	On line Lent course
Wednesday	25 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	26 ^h	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sunday	29 th	10.30am	Palm Sunday Worship led by Paul and Jenny Hollingum
Tuesday	31 st	6.30pm	On line Lent course

April 2026

Thursday	2 nd	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Communion service at our Church
Friday	3 rd	10.30am	Good Friday service at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church
Sunday	5th		Easter Day
		10.30.am	Morning Communion service led by our Minister

March diary for London Road, Ewell URC

Sunday 1 st	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Mr Mark Dennis, to include Holy Communion
Monday 2 nd	10.30 am	Elders Meeting
	12.30 for 1	Bible Study led by Revd Roger Jones
Sunday 8 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship, conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson
Tuesday 10 th	12.30 pm	Church Lunch at Superfish, names to Dennis Sexton. All friends welcome.
Sunday 15 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship for Mothering Sunday, conducted by Rev Roger Jones
Monday 16 th	12.30 for 1	Bible Study, led by Revd Barbara Pearson
Sunday 22 nd	10.30 am	Morning Worship, conducted by Dr. Nick Mayhew-Smith
Thursday 26 th	2-3 pm	Friendship Hour, all friends welcome
Sunday 29 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship for Palm Sunday, led by Revd Roger Jones

APRIL

Sunday 5 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship for Easter Sunday, led by Revd Barbara Pearson, to include Holy Communion
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From Revd Roger

The Psalm 8:2 Dialogues

Out of the mouths of babes and infants... we know there were plenty of children around Jesus when he walked the earth. Jesus sat with them, picked them up, blessed them, healed. Did he play? joke with them? learn from them...? of course he did. Like everyone else encountering children.

I Wonder what a child's dialogue about these encounters with Jesus may have been. How would a child have made sense of the stories, the healing, the teaching? Did they misunderstand. Misinterpret the signs. Think of themselves. Enjoy the moments. Learn something new. Of course they did. Like everyone else encountering Jesus.

Over the next few months in CONCORD, you will find possible dialogues by children who possibly encountered Jesus and put their own child-like spin on the special moments. Enjoy.

Don't be surprised if you hear some of these again on a Sunday morning...

By the water's edge Matthew 3; 1-17

We would play by the river. Always lots of fun. Best game is to make squares on the beach with twigs or draw them on the sand and then jump and hop between the squares. You can get really tired and sooo hot. So we could even take a dip in river. Mum doesn't like me doing that. She says it dangerous. But we are careful.

When we are too tired to play we just sit by the water and watch what's going on. Like when that strange new preacher man was standing in the river up to his waste and all the adults were wading up to him. Then they talked and were dipped right under. Strange but looked like a special moment for the grownups!

Then sometimes some of the old religious leaders would wander along the shore. It could get a bit tetchy. One day they came right to where we were playing. They were grumbling. For some of them that was nothing new.

They walked right across our game. Didn't even notice we were playing and they scuffed up the squares. Cheek! Mind you that preacher guy gave them a mouthful. I don't think it was about messing up our game. But it was satisfying, nonetheless.

Then there was this other day not too long ago. We were resting again. Just watching them in the river with all this dousing and dipping. This other man, a new guy we had never seen before, was in the line and when he got to the preacher, he stopped. They stared at each other for a moment. This wasn't like any of the others. But they talked for a time and then he dipped down like the others.

"What was that about?" we wondered.

Then this new guy wandered over to water's edge near where we were. He pulled himself out and walked straight towards our boxes in the sand. I thought he was going to ignore them and us like the others had and walk straight through.

But this man didn't. He skipped and hopped between the boxes. He had a real light step!
That water must have done something for him...

We laughed and he asked us our names...like we were real people

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Then he walked off towards the desert. "Wonder what he's off to do now?"

We wondered again.

Roger

From Brenda Kelly

Good heavens it's March, where does the time go! We have had a very wet January and February. Fortunately it does not upset me and my friends. We are used to the changing seasons. We adapt quite well, but we do like to have some sunshine as do most birds and humans. The feeder is filled up every day, which we are very grateful for. The water is nice and clean so we can have a drink and a paddle every so often.

Up in the ivy growing over next door's garage are lots and lots of pigeons, they don't bother us, but they do pick up the bird seeds that we drop, which keeps the ground nice and clear. The starlings are a bit of a problem, they are not very friendly. A couple of bluetits are viewing the new house. I hope they move in soon as we like them, especially if they have some babies later on. A couple of magpies appear every so often, but they also only seem to take food from the ground. They are very greedy and will take great pieces of bread up to their relations!

It is lovely to see some daffodils appearing and quite a few trees have some blossom showing. I know we are only sparrows but we do like to see spring approaching. It certainly gives us hope for the future and hopefully plenty of sunshine already for Easter and new birth.

Lots of love

Peter (the sparrow)

From Barbara Smith

Whilst we consider ourselves part of the 'Church Family' have you ever wondered about your own family and the roots that they have set down, not just in the local area but perhaps beyond your own horizons?

Many years ago, I decided to try to trace family roots, not my own but those of someone I knew. This led me to a small village church in Sussex, a churchyard and an interest in researching 'Family History'. It sparked a hobby which continues today.

When you delve into history you find secrets, things that perhaps might upset you but you learn about 'real life' - illiteracy, not able to sign your name, unusual occupations. I've found 'Livery Company' Masters, Carpenters and all trades in between.

I guess the main thing I learnt was simple 'share your memories' don't hide them, they are all part of history and what makes us 'us'.

Take a minute, share your memories, verbal or oral, keep photos with notes on who is who - this is 'OUR HISTORY' - let's share it.

Barbara Smith

London Road Ewell and Tolworth United Reformed Churches

LENT STUDY 2026 ACTS OF HOPE

THIS LENT, JOURNEY WITH US THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS AND REFLECT ON THE ATTITUDES AND ACTS OF THE DISCIPLES THAT CAN ENCOURAGE US TO BE BRINGERS OF HOPE THROUGH HOLY SPIRIT-LED ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS IN OUR OWN AGE.

Wednesday 25th February 6.30pm
Ash Wednesday Service
London Road, Ewell, KT17 2BE

Tuesday 3rd March 6.30pm
Acts of Hope Online

Tuesday 10th March 6.30pm
Acts of Hope Online

Tuesday 17th March 6.30pm
Acts of Hope Online

Tuesday 24th March 6.30pm
Acts of Hope Online

Tuesday 31st March 6.30pm
Online

Thursday 2nd April 7.30pm
Maunder Thursday Service
Tolworth United Reformed Church, KT5 9JR

ON LINE LENT STUDY Telephone number: 03306060403 (await instruction)
Access code (enter) 1529640# (*DON'T FORGET #*)

The computer link is:

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

Contact Rev Roger Jones 07525410083 rjones@urcsouthern.org.uk

Worship series at Tolworth United Reformed Church

Dear friends,

For our Sunday worship on in the morning services this year we will be doing something a little different. In discussion with Mr Mark Dennis, a regular worship leader at Tolworth as well as around the SYNOD, we wondered if it would be helpful to have a theme for a series of our acts of worship together.

For two Sundays each month between January and April, until just after Easter ,Mark and I will alternate (almost) leading worship on the theme of Being Church with reflection and reference to the Gospel of Mark.

Mark's gospel was (almost) certainly the first gospel written. As well as being closest to the life of Jesus, the narratives, teachings and stories would have been verbally handed on in the earliest of church life and communities.

You may remember a few years ago we embarked on planning and strategy using the work from the Robert Warrens books on spirituality and Mission in the local Church, Being Human, Being Church. We have continually reviewed this strategy but it is probably good time to re-visit and re-do the plan and strategy again.

Perhaps this worship series would be a good place to start this. It is certainly the right way around. Worship and prayer comes first, then we can together seek what God is calling us to again...

We hope you will find the series helpful in our walk with God day by day as well as helping us as a faith community discern afresh God in our midst.

Sunday series at Tolworth

January to April 2026

Being Church – Lessons from Mark's Gospel

January 11	Session 1 Preparing the Way Mark 1: 1-13 Isaiah 42: 1-9
January 18	Session 2 Responding to challenges Mark 2: 1-17; 23-28 Isaiah 49: 1-7
February 01	Session 3 Responding to Jesus Mark 3: 7-35 Micah 6: 1-8
February 15	Session 4 The emerging church Mark 4: 1-20 Exodus 24: 12-18

[February 22 – Lent 1]

March 08 Session 5 Preparation and proclamation
Mark 6: 1-13 Exodus 17: 1-7

March 15 Session 6 Being human: the way of the Cross
Mark 8: 27-37 1 Samuel 16: 1-13

March 22 Session 7 The Gravity of the situation
Mark 10: 17-31 Ezekiel 37:1-14

[April 5 – Easter Day]

April 12 Session 8 Forward in faith: the greatest commandment
Mark 12: 28-34 Psalm 16: 1-11

I have copies of the sermons used by Roger and Mark. If you would like a copy(ies) please let me know

Roger Fenn's March Quiz – Ezekiel I

Ezekiel prophesied to the exiled Jews in Babylon after their temple and city of Jerusalem had been destroyed

1. In chapter one, Ezekiel tells us the name of the river by which his people had settled. Please name it.
2. Who was the exiled Jewish King at the time?
3. Please name Ezekiel's father.
4. Describe the windstorm in Ezekiel's first vision.
5. In chapter two, how does God address Ezekiel?
- 6.. What message does God give him?
7. What did the Lord give to Ezekiel when he spoke to him?
8. How does Ezekiel respond to God in his prophesy?

Lunch dates at the Hogsmill

11 March

29 April

All welcome. If you are coming please let Gillian know by the previous Sunday

Pontius Pilate

No doubt I should have freed him,
I could see he'd done no crime.
He'd only stirred the priests up –
They'd get over it in time.

But I let the crowds persuade me,
I took the easy way.
I bowed before their passion
To make this Jesus pay.

I never saw a better man,
So clearly good and brave.
I should have listened to him,
But I sent him to his grave.

I felt he understood me,
Could see through the pomp and pride;
That he knew me for a coward,
And because of me he died.

So I called for cleansing water,
And denied it was through me
That a man so good and blameless
Would be nailed to Calvary's tree.

Barbara Pearson

Roger's March Quiz – Ezekiel I - Answers

- | | | |
|-----|--|----------|
| 1 | River Kebar. | Ch 1 v 1 |
| 2. | .King Jehoiachin. | Ch1 v 2 |
| 3. | Buzi. | Ch 1 v 3 |
| 4.. | Immense cloud – flashing lightning. | Ch 1 v 4 |
| 5. | “Son of man”. | Ch2 v 1 |
| 6. | “I am sending you to the Israelites who are a rebellious race. | Ch 2 v 3 |
| 7. | A scroll written on both sides. | Ch 2 v 7 |

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	
Treasurer	Mr G Stock	
Serving Elders	Mr D Bennett, Mr A. Chan, Mrs M Fleming, Mrs G.Jones, Ms H.Lodge , Mr G.Stock, Mrs K Woolard, Mrs Barbara Smith	
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 Mary Wardle	
Halls Letting Officer	Mr S. Heath	
Junior Church	Mrs G.Jones	
Magazine Editor	Mr I Fleming	
Magazine Secretary	Mrs M Fleming	
Organist	--	
Pilots	Mrs G Jones	
Playtime	Mrs M Fleming	
Youth Worker	Miss Carys Kelly	07504 547019

Rainbows
Brownies
Guides

Ms Kirsten Cook 07900 894864
Ms Michelle Nicholls 07531 007547
Mrs J Pelham 07906 697008

Sunday Worship at London Road URC, Ewell

Morning Worship at 10.30

Minister Revd Roger Jones 020 8393 4270
Secretary Mrs Pamela Galliers
Treasurer
Serving Elders Mrs. P Galliers, Miss R Holmes.

Officers, Leaders and Representatives

Church Administrator	Mrs. Sophie Trayers
Housekeeping	
Flower rota	Mrs. P. Galliers
Lettings	Mr R Hamilton
Organist	Vacant
Safeguarding	Mr. D. Mugridge
Deputy safeguarding	Nobuko Tsuyuki
Commitment for Life	Revd B Pearson
Pulpit Supply	Revd B Pearson
Friendship Hour	Revd B Pearson & Mr. D. Sexton
Lunch Club	Mr. D. Sexton
Bible Study	Revd B Pearson
Finance & Property	Mr. D. Mugridge & Mr. M. Westbrook
Synod Rep.	Miss Rosemary Holmes