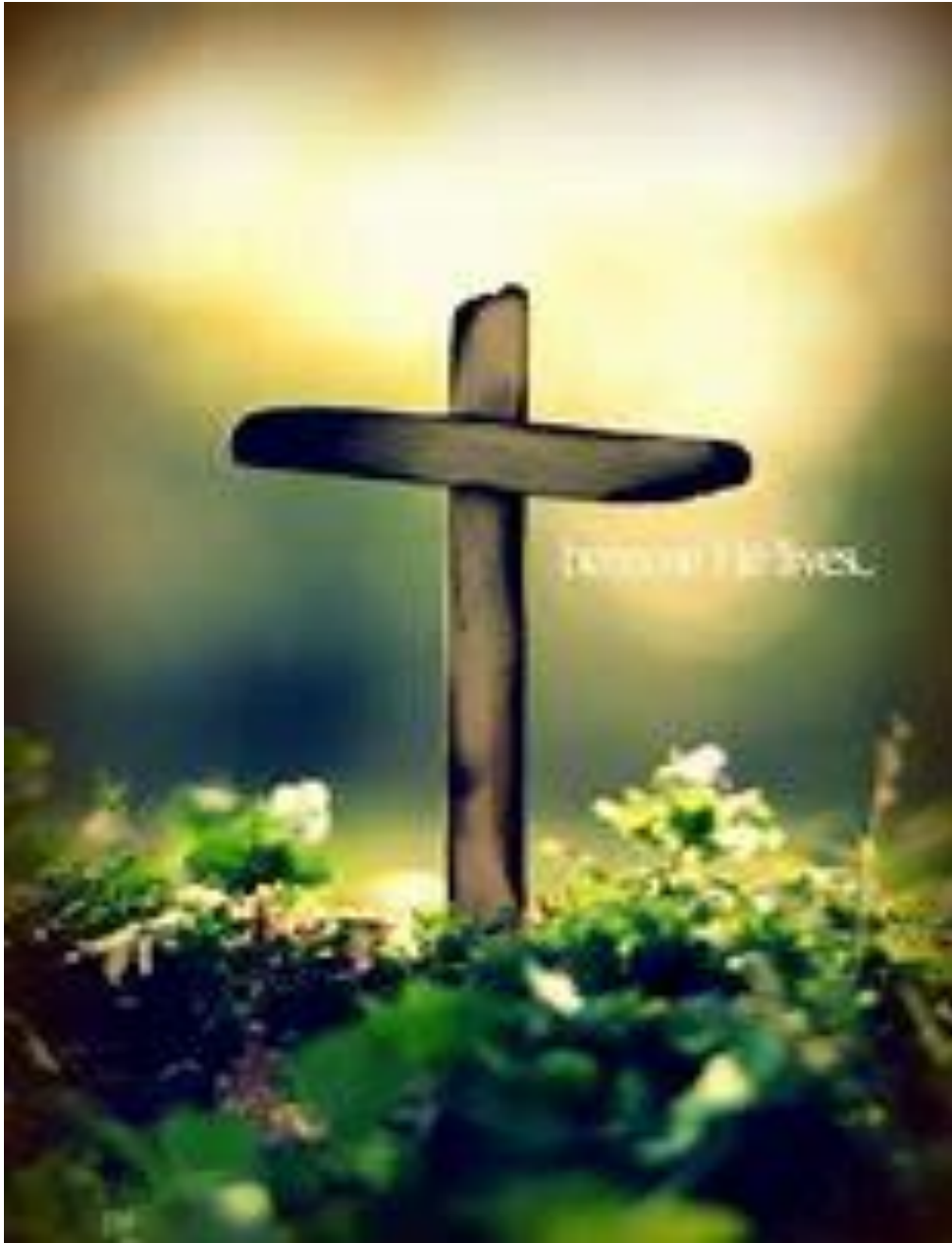


CONCORD



Happy Easter

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

April 2026

From our Minister

Dear Friends

April 2026

Dear friends,

April 2026

I thought this month I should write something a little more personal to me. Or about me. One reason is because I have reached another milestone in life's journey. Retirement age! The second reason is that it does have an impact on our community church life together.

Now, I know what you are going to say. According to Genesis chapter 9. Noah lived until he was 950 years old. In Genesis chapter 25 we are told Abraham lived until he was 175 years. There are numerous faith leaders in the bible that lived to well over 68 years old. Triple these years in fact! So why am I being such a wimp!

Well, I must question the literal ages described in the Genesis account of these wonderful people.

There are other reasons to explain the recorded ages in the biblical scripture. Was their calendar different? Did they use a different way of calculating time? Was it symbolic of how important these patriarchs are? Of course, there may have been something in the waters of the flood that explains these long life spans. Maybe there were different atmospheric and environmental factors. Maybe Abraham did not eat as many chips as me. In God's wisdom perhaps God gave these people long life spans.

What I do know is that whilst the ages detailed in scripture are different from ours, their experience is similar. Living nine hundred years would still not tell them what their years would bring!

I look back with grateful thanks for the 68 years to retirement age and I contrast this with the young people about to embark on their life's journey. I was asked recently if it was easy to decide what I wanted to do when I was twenty-one.

When I thought about the question I wondered, "do we ever communicate the whole story?" The indecisions, the uncertainties, the failures and disappointments alongside the joys and successes. So often we only present a part of who we are.

My answer to the question about how easy it was to make choices at twenty-one could give a misleading impression if I focused on the positives and the successes. In fact, it can be complex and hard going. My answer is that it wasn't easy. I am not sure I knew what I thought I wanted to be at twenty-one, it is not what I am now!

Not knowing how things will turn out is all part of the normal human story and mystery of life. It is all wrapped up in the people I have met and human activity and others decisions, our potential and shared creativity and, for us as Christians, God's grace.

So, at retirement age, I find myself not quite retiring. I have been invited to continue as minister for Tolworth and London Road Ewell. But I will now be working half-time.

I have met with the leaders of the churches to explore what this might mean for my working week and of course for the pastorates. I will be continuing to lead worship Sunday by Sunday, Evergreen services and Messy church services. It may be that I am not at as many meetings. It will mean that I will not be able to visit folk as much and perhaps this work may need to be shared even more among members and elders. Some of the external acts of worship I lead in care homes and such like could also be led by others or curtailed. There are several meetings for Southern SYNOD and the SYNOD area that will also need to be shared among the congregations if we are to be properly represented.

I may not be “doing” as much employed work although like many of you I will also be continuing to volunteer my free time for the life of the churches and God’s mission in our areas. I will of course continue in a pastorate leadership capacity so am always happy to be contacted in the usual way.

We shall see what this new style of half-time ministry will look like for us all and how it will impact on our work in Tolworth and Epsom and Ewell.

Unlike Noah and Abraham my ministry will not last 950 years...even with my newly found energy from part time working!

It will mean that however long I continue in the joy of service among you, like Noah and Abraham, we have no idea how it will turn out. That is in God’s hands.

Given all these changes and with God’s blessing the potential for new life, I also wish you all a happy and blessed Easter,

God bless

Roger

Tolworth Family Circle

Eloise has finished her treatment and is now meant to be on a period of rest and relaxation. Not easy with 2 young children! She is to be commended for her efforts in coming to church each Sunday and hope she finds some time to relax and recover. Ian Fleming is recovering after a fall and, at present, cannot get his hands wet – a clever way of avoiding washing up! 3 of our members, Brian, Paul and Moira are due to have laser eye treatment – we hope this helps to improve their vision.

Please remember all these friends in your prayers and any others who are poorly.

Annual Subscriptions for Concord

Belatedly, these are now due for Tolworth. Suggested amounts are £5 if you receive it electronically, or a minimum of £10 for a posted copy Please give your subscriptions to me.

Moira

April Family News from London Road, Ewell

Our energies have once again been directed at reorganizing the church's storage space. Like most of us, the church hangs onto things long after they have any useful purpose, but it's important to recycle what we can, and donate useful items to charity shops. We are making good progress but more remains to be done. Grateful thanks to all who have shared in the process.

Several of our members are experiencing health problems at the moment, and we pray for effective treatments and a speedy recovery where that is possible.

Barbara

April 2026 Diary for Tolworth

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	Easter Communion service led by our Minister
Sunday	12th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr Mark Dennis
Monday	13 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	15 th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	19th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning worship led by Dr Nick Mayhew Smith Evergreen service
Monday	20 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	22 nd	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	23 rd	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sunday	26th	10.30am 12.00pm	Morning worship led by Ms Heather Lodge Church meeting
Monday	27 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	29 th	10.00am 12.30pm	Playtime Lunch at Hogsmill – all welcome

May 2026

Sunday	3rd	10.30.am	Youth service
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April diary for London Road, Ewell URC

Sunday 5 th	10.30 am	Easter Sunday service, conducted by Revd. Barbara Pearson, to include the celebration of Holy Communion
Tuesday 7 th	12.30 pm	Church lunch at Superfish, Stoneleigh. All friends welcome. Names to Dennis Sexton (01737 813744)
Sunday 12 th	10.30 am	Morning worship, conducted by Ms. Sue Shaw, a member and Elder of Kingston URC
Monday 13 th	12.30 for 1	Bible Study, led by Revd Barbara Pearson. Everyone welcome
Thursday 16 th	2 - 3 pm	Friendship Hour, everyone welcome. Please note this is earlier in the month than usual.
Sunday 19 th	10.30 am	Morning worship conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson
Sunday 26 th	10.30 am	Morning worship conducted by Revd Roger Jones
Monday 27 th	12.30 for 1	Bible Study, led by Revd Barbara Pearson. Everyone welcome

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...

Have you seen my donkey! Matthew 21; 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?

It's got some jet black tinges on his main going down to its 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?

He's 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?

Eh? 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!

Roger

From Brenda Kelly

Gosh what a busy time. The blue tits have moved into their new house. All day they are going in and out. We were worried as it is a brand new abode after the last one was condemned, but they seem very happy. There is a huge ivy bush growing over next doors garage and for the past few weeks pigeons have been flying in and out. Not sure what is going on, it all is quiet now except a couple of pigeons are sitting on the roof of the garage as if they are keeping watch.

On the Sunday Link it mentions the dawn chorus, which obviously I am involved in. It talks about blackbirds singing and crows cawing. The trees are quite bare at the moment but each day buds are breaking through.

It all so exciting, so whether you live in the town or countryside God listens as we listen to all the singing of my friends and colleagues. My family and friends wish food luck to the blue tits in their new home and trust that everyone enjoys the beginning of Spring.

Lots of love

Peter sparrow

Brenda

From Heather Lodge

Tales from our campground April 2026: Guylines

What is your anchor? Your faith? The Bible? The Church? A combination of all three? What happens if your anchor isn't there or isn't firmly embedded in your life? I'm sure many of you share my experience that life can become very wobbly indeed when that anchor is somehow rocked.

Anchors, in the form of guylines, are the focus of my camp tale this month because, much like our faith, if our tents and tarp are not anchored properly, we put our ourselves at risk. Guylines stabilise our tents in the wind and rain. They prevent the tent from sagging. They allow air flow between the flysheet and the inner, thus preventing the kind of condensation that makes your sleeping bag wet. A properly guyed out tent will also maximise the space inside.

But guylines seem to take on a life of their own. However carefully you coil them when putting the tent away, you can guarantee that they will have formed themselves into the world's largest granny knot by the time you come to the next camp. Which you will find yourself unpicking in 40mph winds and/or horizontal rain.

Guylines are also as lethal as our axe. Only one of our tents has guylines that are luminous after dark and highly visible by day. The others blend in either with the tent or the surrounds or both to make them invisible. Both of us have, at one stage or another, crashed into a guyline. The tents remained standing, even if we didn't.

The real test of managing guylines comes with pitching the tarp over the firepit so we can sit round a fire (more or less) regardless of the weather. It took us years to work out that each of the tarp's nine anchor points need a line that is at least 20ft long. It is infuriating to have secured most of the points only to find that the line on one corner falls about 10ft short of a tree

and we have to halt proceedings to hunt for a reel of cordage and cut a new line or mess about swapping lines around to find one that is long enough.



Heather

Can You Help

We need to reproof our large tent (4m x 3m) before we take it camping again but we don't have anywhere to pitch it. Do you have anywhere we could borrow for two or three hours on a dry day? It would mean putting in half a dozen titanium tent pegs....

Many thanks

Heather

Roger Fenn's April Quiz – Jesus' Easter sayings

To whom did Jesus address these words?

1. "You must be born again"
2. "Unless I wash your feet, you have no part with me".
3. "Do you betray me with a kiss?"
4. "You have no power over me except what God has given you".
5. "Today you will be with me in paradise".
- 6.. "Do not handle me for I have not yet ascended to my Father".
7. "O slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have foretold".
8. "Blessed are those who have **not** seen, but have believed".

Lunch date at the Hogsmill

29 April

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

Nature's Songbook

The bass notes of the thunder,
The sharp cry of a rook:
The world resounds with music,
And shares in God's songbook.

The measured boom of oceans,
The rippling of the tide,
The murmur when a summer breeze
Takes petals for a ride.

And we can sing in changing times,
Let things go right or wrong;
Feel life's beat in our rhythmic hearts,
And raise our voice in song.

Barbara Pearson

Roger's April Quiz – Answers

1	Nicodemus.	John 3 v 8
2.	Simon Peter.	John 3 v 8
3.	Judas Iscariot.	Luke 22 v 39
4..	.The dying thief.	Luke 23 v 43
5.	Pontius Pilate.	John 19 v 11
6.	Mary Magdaleine.	John 20 v 17
7.	Cleopas.	Luke 24 v 25
8.	Thomas	John 20 v 29

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

