

CONCORD



A Canterbury garden – See article by Barbara Smith

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

June 2026

From our Minister

Dear Friends

June 2026

I agree. June is not usually the month we begin thinking about new starts or change! That is usually reserved for September which usually comes after a period of rest. For children it is the start of a new school term. For some families it may be a milestone as for a child's first day at school, leaving home for university or a new career change. January is another time we think of new beginnings. Also after a period a holiday period there is potential in all those new years' resolutions.

It is no coincidence that we make changes to what we do after period of relaxation. Such times offer an opportunity of reflection and a chance to ask those questions we don't get to ask during the year when many calls on our lives distract us. Stepping back from the hustle and bustle is an essential prerequisite for good change. And of course, for good change, it needs to last. I was chatting recently about the many stories of folk taking out gym memberships in January, paying for the year only to lapse in March! Does that still happen?

Rather than January or September, perhaps June is better month to consider change. Over the past few weeks our faith communities have celebrated two wonderful occasions of faith that marked significant change.

Jesus took the disciples up to the top of a hill and as the disciples were looking, he ascended into heaven.

Suddenly from heaven there came a rush of wind and tongues of fire, and all the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit.

These are two moments which initially left the followers of Jesus looking up or seemingly drunk. There are moments when God called them to not remain but to Go. Be different. Share. Seek. Follow. (A similar question was asked by angels of the women at the empty tomb of Jesus, ***"Why do you seek the living among the dead"*** Luke 24:5).

Having just celebrated Ascension and Pentecost perhaps June is a good time to think about new beginnings and change.

Some years ago, our churches did meet to create a strategy for the ongoing mission in our communities. A strategy or plan is not the be all and end all of mission admittedly. Because all mission is Spirit led, we may be surprised by changes that happen to us! Some of the plans in our strategy we did not achieve as God took us in a different direction. Some change is forced upon us. And what strategy did Jesus have for the disciples. But it is good to plan.

So in our June Church meetings we will again consider our strategies a fresh. It may look similar. We may be inspired to something entirely new! Maybe we will focus on small changes. But having celebrated the Ascension and Pentecost so recently, please keep in mind these stories as we meet again to create a new strategy for our churches. For we are also called again to Go. Be different. Share. Seek. Follow. These things we **can** do well.

In John's gospel the well-known story of the feeding of the five thousand, (John 6) many people were there. The disciples hesitated. A child brought a small but a whole and nourishing lunch. This was everything they had. And many were fed.

We can just make sure the loaves and the fish are the best we can make them and leave the feeding to God.

God bless

Roger

Tolworth Family Circle

Chris Shepherd is having various tests which he and Carol find very tiring, travelling to London and Sutton for different things in this hot weather. It was lovely to see Edward Hutchins back among us last Sunday after his spell in hospital. We remember those who are housebound or unable to get out much in this extreme heat.. We think of Roger Fenn, Margaret Taylor, Brenda Kelly and Brian Llewellyn who have breathing difficulties and Edward who is still quite frail.

Anniversary Lunch

We shall be celebrating our Church's 93rd Anniversary on Sunday 14th June when Roger will lead our Communion service. The service will be followed with a Bring and Share Lunch. Please let Mary Wardle or Gillian Jones know if you are coming and what food you can bring. Thank you.

Moir

June Family News from London Road, Ewell

Several of our members have been experiencing health difficulties of late, and we offer them our prayers and the assurance of our support.

Barbara

From Barbara Smith

Gary and I. Have just spent a few days in Canterbury, a place I know well, having had family there and also living there in my childhood. Whilst I lived there I attended a Church of England School for a few terms which sparked my love of Canterbury Cathedral, which has stayed with me all my life.

One morning I decided to visit and. Arching a glimpse of some fliers I decided to investigate what I saw. This leads me to the Easter Garden, created by the gardeners and now a peaceful space to just stand and reflect.

Perhaps we all need this in our lives - an oasis of calm, a place to reflect and count our blessings.

Barbara Smith

June 2026 Diary for Tolworth

Monday	1 st	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	3 rd	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	7th	10.30.am	Morning worship led by Paul and Jenny Hollingum
Monday	8 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Sunday	14th		Church anniversary
		10.30am	Morning Communion led by our Minister
		12.00pm	Bring and share lunch
Monday	15 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	17 th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	21st	10.30am	Morning worship led by Revd Barbara Pearson
		6.30pm	Evergreen service
Monday	22 nd	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	24 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	25 th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sunday	28th	10.30am	Morning worship led by our Minister
		12.00pm	Church meeting
Monday	29 th	5.30pm	Pilots

July 2026

Sunday	5th	10.30.am	Morning worship led Revd Carol Clack
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June diary for London Road, Ewell URC

Monday 1 st	12.30 for 1	Bible Study group, led by Revd Barbara Pearson
Sunday 7 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion, conducted by Revd Roger Jones
Tuesday 9 th	12.30 pm	Church lunch at Superfish, names to Dennis Sexton, all friends welcome
Sunday 14 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Dr Nick Mayhew-Smith
Thursday 18 th	10 am	Church Meeting to discuss future plans
Sunday 21 st	10.30 am	Morning Worship, conducted by Mr Mark Dennis
Thursday 25 th	2 – 3 pm	Friendship Hour. All friends welcome
Sunday 28 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson

From Brenda Kelly

Dear All

It is with sadness that I write, but unfortunately I am not able to come to church any more. As you know my health is not good. After breaking my femur last year I was encouraged to walk and excise which is fine but in the last few weeks my breathing has deteriorated making life very difficult. It is quite a frightening situation to be in. I have praise for the NHS as they have been very good to me. My only complaint is they move very very slowly as I am waiting for oxygen which should help considerably - watch this space.

I was pleased to be able to drive again, but have decided to give up and sell my beloved car. I have been driving sixty years and have to say that Tolworth Roundabout has won along with lots of mad drivers on the road.

I loved and enjoyed all my many years at Tolworth and am very frustrated that I can no longer take part in the services, flower arranging and catering for various events along with everything else. I will certainly miss everyone but would be pleased to have visitors (as long as they make the tea/coffee).

I would like to thank Roger for his leadership and Moira for all her hard work. And thank everyone for their friendship and dedication. I will miss Elders and Church meetings, but will continue to take an interest in everything that is happening.

With love and many, many thanks.

Brenda Kelly

From Neil Armstrong

Ambassadors London Churches Football Tournament

Saturday 16th May 2026
Barn Elms Sports Centre

Roger and I started the Football sessions to give the opportunity to young people aged 8 - 12 who were not playing in any teams.

Normally on a Saturday morning we play on the field in Berrylands Park with small collapsible goals and discs marking out a pitch. We warm up / develop skills and play games.

This year we entered the London Churches U10's Football Tournament with a team of eight young players (four boys and four girls).

At Barn Elms there are pitches with painted lines and proper goals. The pitch and the goals being four times bigger than what our team are used to playing on and did they mind – not at all they were looking forward to playing.

The U10's division had five teams so we had four games of fifteen minutes to play and we would just do the best we could do and the main thing was to enjoy themselves and have fun.

On a Saturday morning, we do not have goalkeepers so three of our young people wanted to have a go and in all the games there were some fantastic saves and some very brave blocks. Our defenders made great challenges and tackles stopping many attacks. Our midfield was covering the pitch from defence to attack. Our forwards scored some fantastic goals.

In the league we finished fourth with one win so the quarter final was between the fourth and fifth team which we won and went through to the semi-finals. The next game was going to be very challenging as we were playing the first team in the league and they were a very good side.

The plan was to do the best we can and just enjoy the game. At that stage we were just so proud of the team in what they had achieved and with the coach having at least one proud tear in his eye he had to pause before he could get the words out to encourage the team. We scored a magnificent goal in the semi final against the best team and we held on with continued great blocks / tackles and saves to go into the final.

Unfortunately, we were beaten in the final but what a fantastic day was had by all of our young people with them getting runner-up medals and for one of our team getting the player of the U10's Tournament.

So very proud of our young people in what they have achieved.

The Coach

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...

Out shopping John 6; 1-14

Hi Mum, I'm home.

Where have I been? You know where. You gave me the shopping list. But I'm afraid we can't start the dinner.

Yes, mum you did write very clearly five loaves and two fish.

No, they hadn't run out of bread. And no, the fish wasn't off! And the shops were not closed. But I haven't got the shopping.

Well, this is what happened. As I was coming up over the hill, this very nice man and his twelve friends asked if they could have the shopping. Rude! I know mum, but he asked so nicely. I couldn't refuse really, could I?

Yes of course I could.

But you weren't there. Everyone was so hungry. Starving they were.

I don't know why they didn't bring their own packed lunch. Maybe it was a surprise picnic! Yes mum, I know **you** are surprised.

Roger

From Peter Sparrow

Oh my goodness what a busy month we have just had. I have lots of new brothers, sisters and cousins and they are very tiny, but are being looked after and fed by their older relations. The blue tits were very busy feeding their newborn in the bird house, but now they have all gone I do hope they are ok because they were so tiny.

They are still two greedy magpies in the garden and a few pigeons. Pigeons get such a bad reputation but we must remember how good they were during the war carrying messages for us with tiny containers attached to their legs. We are all so good in a small way feeding off plants and dropping seeds as we fly around and hopefully some of those seeds will grow in fields and gardens all around. Plus giving pleasure to everyone.

The garden now has a few cats roaming around, which is quite frightening, but we must remember they are all gods creatures even if they lay in wait for us. But we are too clever for them!!

Love

Peter Sparrow

From Heather Lodge

Tales from our campground: consumer camping

Having been laid off camping for the past six months, we have spent way too much time looking at new tents and equipment. Some of the items currently on our wish list are:

- A new airbed that is the same weight as our current ones but twice as thick.
- An upgrade of our tents, particularly as the zips on our well-used tents are now rather dodgy.
- A lightweight gas-powered lantern that gives out both heat and light.
- That little flat pack stove/fire pit that we've been watching for ages and is finally available in the UK.
- A set of extendable poles that would mean we don't need trees to pitch our tarp.
- More robust folding stools to replace our rather fragile current ones.
- That folding titanium frying pan that's more lightweight than ours.
- And then there's our clothing and footwear which is adequate but sometimes not quite up to all the weather that we have at camp.

However, there are ethical and environmental questions around acquiring more kit. The fun of testing out new stuff is very compelling but are we just victims of marketing and consumerism? How do I reconcile this with the efforts to achieve eco-Church status at Tolworth and reduce our footprint? We try to maintain the kit we have, sell or repurpose kit we no longer use, and focus on what needs replacing. And for now, the unaffordable cost of new kit that's merely nice to have lets us off the hook.

Heather

Roger Fenn's June Quiz

John's Gospel

In writing the early chapters of his Gospel, John emphasises the inadequacy of **Water** and the sufficiency of the Holy Spirit.

1. In chapter one, how does John the Baptist define his role?
2. At the wedding In Cana of Galilee how much water did the purification jars hold?
3. What did the master of the banquet remark when he tasted the new wine?
4. In chapter 3, why did **Nicodemus** visit Jesus by night?
5. What challenge did Jesus give to him?
6. In chapter 4 on his visit to Sychar, what did Jesus offer the woman at the well?
7. How long did Jesus spend in Sychar teaching the people?
8. In chapter 5, what challenge did Jesus give to the man at the Pool of Bethesda?

PROMISES, PROMISES

Our lives are full of promises,
Some made and some received.
A promise gives assurances,
Anxieties relieved.

As children, did we promise
Our Mum that we'd be good?
And in exchange, a gift, a treat –
We'd do the best we could.

An earnest little Brownie,
A dedicated Guide,
We promised that we'd do our best,
With God's help, side by side.

For love we made new promises,
Be faithful, love and aid,
To share each other's hardships,
Nor let love's colours fade.

I've found these promises endure
Beyond life's fleeting hour.
We keep them close within our hearts,
And still can feel their power.

Barbara Pearson

Roger's June Quiz – Answers

1. "I baptise with water, but He who follows me will baptise with the Holy Spirit".
Ch 1 v 26 & 33
2. 20 to 30 gallons. Ch 2 v 6
3. "You have saved the best wine until last".
4. To remain incognito / because of daytime Temple duties.
5. "You must be born again" Ch 3 v 3
6. "A spring of living water" Ch4 v 14
7. Two days. Ch4 v 40
8. "Do you want to get well"? Ch5 v 6

Sunday Worship at London Road URC, Ewell

Morning Worship at 10.30

Minister	Revd Roger Jones	020 8393 4270
Secretary	Mrs Pamela Galliers	020 394 0229
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

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	
Rainbows	Ms Kirsten Cook	
Brownies	Ms Michelle Nicholls	
Guides	Mrs J Pelham	