

CONCORD



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

May 2026

From our Minister

Dear Friends

May 2026

One of my abiding memories of our trip to India last month will be the streets and markets in the heart of the city of Delhi. The sidewalks were packed with people and the roads with cars and motor bikes. It felt like chaos and perhaps it was... The road users and rickshaw drivers competed for space, hooting and shouting, pulling in front of each other with inches to spare. This may give an indication of the fear we experienced of the bare-knuckle rickshaw ride we took. But no one was angry or rude or unpleasant. Apart from the apparent chaos, it could have been the polite interaction of 98% of vehicle drivers in Raeburn Avenue, who are mostly very polite and courteous, in my experience. In the UK this amount of hooting and shouting and pulling-in and cutting-up would undoubtedly have engendered road rage. In India they remained pleasant and we never saw a cross, road-rage word.

The sidewalks and markets were the same. All packed and busy and shouting and pushing in front one another to get where they are going, all in good humour it seemed.

Was this the result of what we were often told on the trip of a culture, in which religion and faith were a philosophy, but central, and a country that simply welcomed and invited all cultures and faiths to work and live alongside each other to worship and express faith in one's own comfortable and traditional ways? Could this account for the good-natured chaos?

These memories reminded me of Pentecost, the festival we in the Christian church celebrate this month.

As well as the violent winds and tongues of fire, the story in Acts (2) tells us that they all began to understand in their own language. This apparent chaotic, discordant mixture of languages reminded me of Delhi streets. Perhaps the more important connection is how that Pentecost moment in Acts, when the Holy Spirit descends on the people is resonant with the inclusivity and diversity expressed in Indian philosophy and religion.

Luke, the writer of Acts does not tell us that that they all became one. Luke doesn't say they all spoke in the same language. Luke does not describe some hocus pocus magic trick. What is described is a plethora of languages, cultures and, I would presume faith traditions all understanding one another. All meeting with God, as God revealed in Jesus and understanding the power of Gods, mercy and grace, forgiveness and faithfulness. It wasn't a magic trick, but it was, and still is miraculous.

We, in the ever-increasing diversity we experience, can discover God afresh in one another and in our differences. It is God's creation. God's diversity.

We may have seen the how language can be a barrier to participation in community. We may have witnessed a desire of people to preserve the distinctiveness of a native language only to be pressured into confirming and blending in. The same can be said of cultural and religious traditions.

The gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost celebrated the diversity of cultures in Jerusalem, overcoming but not suppressing differences of race, culture and language. See the

upsetting of conventions of religion and authority as the Good News reached those on the margins of society.

The theologian, Thomas Bohache says, *“The first disciples ministered in multiple languages to people of many nations of different colours, practicing various religions. Yet together they felt God’s presence and power, and the Spirit gave them ability without distinction to glorify God in their very diversity. Can we do any less in today’s world”.*

We are blessed that our wider communities in Tolworth and Epsom and Ewell are increasingly diverse. As we celebrate Pentecost again this month, can we reflect God’s diversity in our church communities in the same way as they did on that first Pentecost Day. You never know it may improve behaviour on the roads.

Overcoming the language barrier, and so cultural and racial barriers, is not about making everyone the same, but instead celebrating diversity of people in our communities. A diversity which in turn reflects something of the Glory of God.

I also reproduce the lyrics of a hymn we may sing it on 24th May! We can certainly try to live it...

God bless

Roger

A Living Pentecost

Streets are filled with many people, voices raised in every tongue,
Bring first-fruits of their harvest, gift to God from old and young.

In the midst of celebration, comes a new unsettling sound:

A cacophony of praising, Word alive, Spirit unbound!

Chorus:

*God is here, speaking our language, speaking as we do,
Christ alive, here in Spirit, and turns the tables, upsets conventions,
Brings a new church to birth, today a living Pentecost.*

Mighty wind blows through the city, sweeps a new age into birth,
Holy fire to burn the boundaries, and ignite God’s work on earth.

Aramaic, Persian, Coptic, Parthian, Arabic and Greek,
Heard and understood and spoken, God in multi-lingual speak!

God is here

Wake up call to every nation, chaos melts, new paths made plain,
Harvest now for new creation, these the first-fruits of Christ’s reign.
We, God’s Church, arise for action, move in faith to break new ground,
Spirit, take us to the margins where your living work is found.

God is here

Tolworth Family Circle

Margaret Taylor and Edward Hutchins have both been in hospital recently. They are both recovering at home now, Margaret after a fall and Edward has had a pacemaker inserted. We hope they will both recover well and that Edward will find his pacemaker beneficial and Margaret now has carers coming in to help her.

Roger Fenn has had another fall at home but is recovering gradually and is doing well. Gillian is still suffering pain from her sciatic nerve but managed to cope with the trip to India which she and Roger enjoyed.

Moira

Tolworth Church Anniversary

Our Church will celebrate it's 93rd anniversary with a communion service on Sunday 14th June, followed by a Bring & Share lunch. Please let Gillian know if you will be attending the lunch and what food you can bring. Thank You,

Moira

April Family News from London Road, Ewell

On 7th April, Revd Roger Jones conducted the funeral of Mrs. Beryl Williams, a much-loved member at Ewell, along with her husband, Ken, who died several years ago. She was a familiar face at social events, and a regular member of the congregation. When her health declined in 2025 she moved into a local nursing home, but friends from the church were able to keep in touch with her. She will be sadly missed and warmly remembered.

Several members from Ewell attended the six week Lent Course that Roger organised, and greatly appreciated the material, and sharing the weekly Zoom meetings with friends from Tolworth.

Barbara

From Barbara Smith

Normally, I would be writing saying 'I've seen the lambs in the sheds' or perhaps it would have been calves. Unfortunately I haven't been to Norfolk yet so have to rely on what news I pick up from the area.

Despite not being 'around' I am still here, weathering a few storms - some not of my own making. But, I will be back with you all soon - I miss not seeing those I know and those I hope to know better.

Barbara Smith

May 2026 Diary for Tolworth

Sunday	3rd	10.30.am	Youth service
Wednesday	5 th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	10th	10.30am 12.00pm	Morning Communion led by our Minister Elders' meeting
Monday	11 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	13 th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	17th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning worship led by Ms Heather Lodge Evergreen service
Monday	18 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	20 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	21 st	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sunday	24th	10.30am	Morning worship led by Revd Carol Clack
Sunday	31st	10.30am	Morning worship led by our Minister

June 2026

Sunday	7th	10.30.am	Morning worship led Mr Paul Hollingum
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May diary for London Road, Ewell URC

Sunday 3 rd May	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion, conducted by Revd Roger Jones
Sunday 10 th May	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Ms. Sue Shaw
Monday, 11 th May	12.30 for 1 pm	Bible Study group, led by Revd Barbara Pearson, new members welcome
Tuesday 12 th May	12.30 pm	Church Lunch at Superfish, all welcome. Names to Dennis Sexton please
Sunday 17 th May	10.30 am	Morning Worship, conducted by Revd Roger Jones
Sunday 24 th May	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Revd David Skitt

Thursday 28th May 2 pm – 3 pm

Friendship Hour, everyone welcome

Sunday 31st May 10.30 am

Morning Worship, led by Revd Barbara Pearson

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...

A good shepherd John 10; 1-10 and 11-18

My dad is a shepherd. He said it is quite tough being a shepherd. But he says its good work. He likes being out the open. It's varied and useful employment. And you never know what you might find, or loose.

He works long hours and we don't see him too much to be honest. But a few years ago he made me some little toy sheep figures out of twigs and string. Really clever. He's a good shepherd and a good dad!

Dad tells me, "*One day you will probably be a shepherd too*". Always saying that. So I play with my figures and wonder what my future holds as a shepherd.

Sometimes he will take me out into the fields. I meet his sheep and some of the other shepherds out working. Sometimes. All the sheep get muddled up on the hillside. They all go for a drink around a rain pool. I can't tell which ones are dad's sheep and which ones belong to the other shepherds. Then dad will call out. It's like magic. They all know his voice and the leave the water and follow him.

But when he gets home, he's really tired. Mum makes the dinner. He falls asleep or goes of straight to bed. Sometimes I don't see him at all. Dad always telling us when one of the sheep wandered off. Completely lost. He was out all night looking for it. Daft thing! Caught

up in some bushes. He found it thank goodness. But apparently its important make sure he doesn't lose even one. It made quite a story I can tell you!
Then the other night he came home in a daze. He was beaming! "what's up with you?" Mum asked him.

"At work today he said," some guy, travelling preacher or something came up to me on the road. Took a real interest in my work. You know what it's usually like! Shunned usually. Kids shouting smelly! Most people think we are untrustworthy even dishonourable! But not this guy. He even listed to my story about the lost sheep".

Mum said, "O you didn't!"

"He was really interested," said dad. "He said to he might use that story one day himself one day." Pleased as punch he was! I went back to playing with my toy sheep.

"I'd like to meet this guy", I thought.

Then dad said, "I shouted after him, 'YOU would probably make a good shepherd your self!'"

Roger

From Peter Sparrow

Four weeks since my last message and the sun has come out and it's lovely and warm. Last week a large magpie decided to get in the bird bath to have a wash. He spent a good fifteen minutes in there and finally had to give up when all the water disappeared! The pigeons have finished nesting but there does not seem to be any evidence of babies. Perhaps they are still in the ivy or have moved on to another garden. There are a few rather large ones strutting around and picking up the food that my family and friends drop.

A few tiny, tiny blue tits have appeared. I do worry though as they walk around on the patio and there are a few cats prowling around. We try to keep off the ground which annoys the cats, but they are very sneaky and hide amongst the plants waiting their chance to pounce on anyone who happens to venture to the ground.

We are very grateful for all the food put out for us, but now spring is here there are plenty of berries and seeds around which gives us all a bit of variety. Lots of flowers are appearing and the garden is looking very colourful

My friends and family hope you are enjoying the lovely spring weather and hope it lasts a bit longer and hope that all of you enjoy spring and summer when it arrives.

Love

Peter Sparrow

From Heather Lodge

Acting on worship

Following the pandemic, the Church of Scotland decided that consideration was needed to make sure that changes in worship practices were both helpful and supportive in meeting the needs of church communities. It introduced a reflective process for the worship leader to think about how the weekly service served the congregation by considering a whole range of questions; these include, for example, how inclusive the service was, how well it helped people to meet God, the balance between passive and active participation in the service, how well it connected with local, national or global contexts, what elements of the service worked well or what needed to be different, and what you learned that will help you with the next service.

In preparing a service last year I came across a challenge for Church communities. The suggestion was to extend the Church of Scotland's reflective practice and 'audit' the impact and effectiveness of our weekly worship on us both individually and as a community.

Where do you begin?

The Elders decided to do a test audit. We agreed to choose three of the services that we had attended from Christmas to mid-January this year and ask ourselves two questions:

1. What impact did this service or series of services have on me?
2. What action, if anything, might I, or the Church, take as a result of the service or series of service?

The aim was not to pass judgement on the Minister or worship leader but to tease out our response to the service. We were also interested to find out how we take the message from Worship with us when we leave the Sanctuary or if we leave this at the Church door.

When we met in February to discuss our findings, we agreed this had been a very difficult task. We found that:

- We had to identify take-home lessons from any act of worship immediately afterwards or the opportunity was lost.
- Each of us responds differently to any particular act of worship, which makes it hard to draw out collective lessons and actions.
- It can be uncomfortable discussing the impact of a service.
- There are no right or wrong answers.
- It is tempting to focus on the practical elements (eg readers, worship leader habits, arrangement of chairs etc) rather than the spiritual lessons.
- Some of us are, very impressively, already doing this as a family over Sunday lunch.

Despite our hesitancy and difficulty with the exercise, we found a couple of starting points for development that we can incorporate into the next version of the Church action plan:

- Do we need to examine the music in our services?
- Could we bring a packed lunch and meet as a Church family after a service every so often to think about how worship impacts our actions during the week?

Where do we go from here? The Elders could do another test and report back but it's really an exercise for everyone who participates in any of the worship opportunities at Tolworth. Spiritual growth is for each of us as well as for the life of our Church. We will be discussing this at Church Meeting and welcome your thoughts.

Over to you!

Heather & Roger

From Artemis to Emmaus and back

Anyone **not** watch at least some of the coverage of the Artemis 2 mission round the moon and back? It started as a welcome distraction from a particularly vicious respiratory infection that kept me in bed for a week but it rapidly became far more than that. I found it gripping viewing, despite the heart-in-mouth moments of launch and re-entry. I watched the four crew members interact with each other in extremely close confines, thousands of miles above earth and trusting in their collective skills and radio contact with Mission Control to handle their spacecraft. I listened to them speak about the way they became tuned into each other's needs, keeping each other together through the times of tension as well as joy. They became not just a team but a deeply bonded and highly effective crew that defined the name of Integrity that they chose for their mission.

All four mission members spoke of the vastness of what they saw in space and how they felt both small and fragile and at the same time solid as a crew. There were numerous times when I thought we can learn so many lessons from them.

Some of that close knit bond and crew behaviour feels particularly relevant to the lectionary readings for 19 April. These include the passage from Luke 24 describing the events that happened to Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus on the day that Jesus rose from his tomb. They too experienced the feeling of being overwhelmed by events almost too great for them to comprehend. They too looked to each other for support and shared understanding. Somewhat slowly, they too recognised they were a witness to God's active presence. Do we as a Church display those deep bonds to each other that make us effective as a faith community?

At the Evergreen service on 19 April, we used the road to Emmaus to reflect on how we recognise God with us in the rough times of our lives, the confused times of world events, the times when we find peace and comfort, and the times in the routine of daily activities when God's presence might burn within us. At the back of my mind, I hear Victor Glover, Artemis 2 pilot, speaking of feeling God in their mission and the grounding that gave him in what was otherwise far beyond comprehension.



If you haven't yet been to an Evergreen service, it's a reflective service held at 6:30pm on the third Sunday each month. Usually our a Capella music is more from Iona and Taize than *Rejoice and Sing*. Our reflections are shared between us, sometimes based on an activity, rather than listening to an address. Evergreen is open to everyone. Why not come and try it?

Heather

Roger Fenn's May Quiz – Ezekiel II

This month we return to the Prophet Ezekiel

In Chapter 47, he describes how the River of the Spirit flows from Jerusalem purifying the barren places of the land

1. Where was the source of the river?
2. In which direction did it flow?
3. How deep was it after 2,000 cubits?
4. What lined the banks of the river and what did they produce?
5. Where did the river end?
- 6.. What effect did it have on the sea?
7. What creatures were now able to live there?
8. Name the two fishing villages on the West bank.
9. Which area remained salty?
10. What needs did it provide for?

What Happened at Pentecost?

You ask me what it felt like,
The day the Spirit came?
Well, I can only answer you
In terms of wind and flame.

How else can I explain it,
In words that help you see?
It's nothing that I've felt before,
It changed the world for me.

Just sitting in that upper room,
Our thoughts began to roam,
Our life with Jesus over,
We talked of going home.

And then it's present with us,
I can't describe its form,
Like wind that shook and moved us,
Like flame so bright and warm.

Its energy flowed through us,
We're confident and strong,
Our hearts are filled with gladness,
Our mouths are filled with song.

It's just as Jesus promised,
The Holy Spirit's true,
The Helper, Friend and Comforter,
Has come today, for YOU!

Barbara Pearson

Roger's May Quiz – Answers

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|--------|-----|--|------|
| 1 | The temple altar | v 1 | 6. | Purified it | v 8 |
| 2. | Eastwards | v 3 | 7. | Fish | v 9 |
| 3. | Knee-deep | v 4 | 8. | Enbedi En Eglain | v 10 |
| 4.. | Trees for shade, fruit & healing balm | v 7/12 | 9. | The salt marshes | v 11 |
| 5. | The Araba / Dead Sea | v 8 | 10. | Cleansing, healing & preserving properties | |

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 |

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	