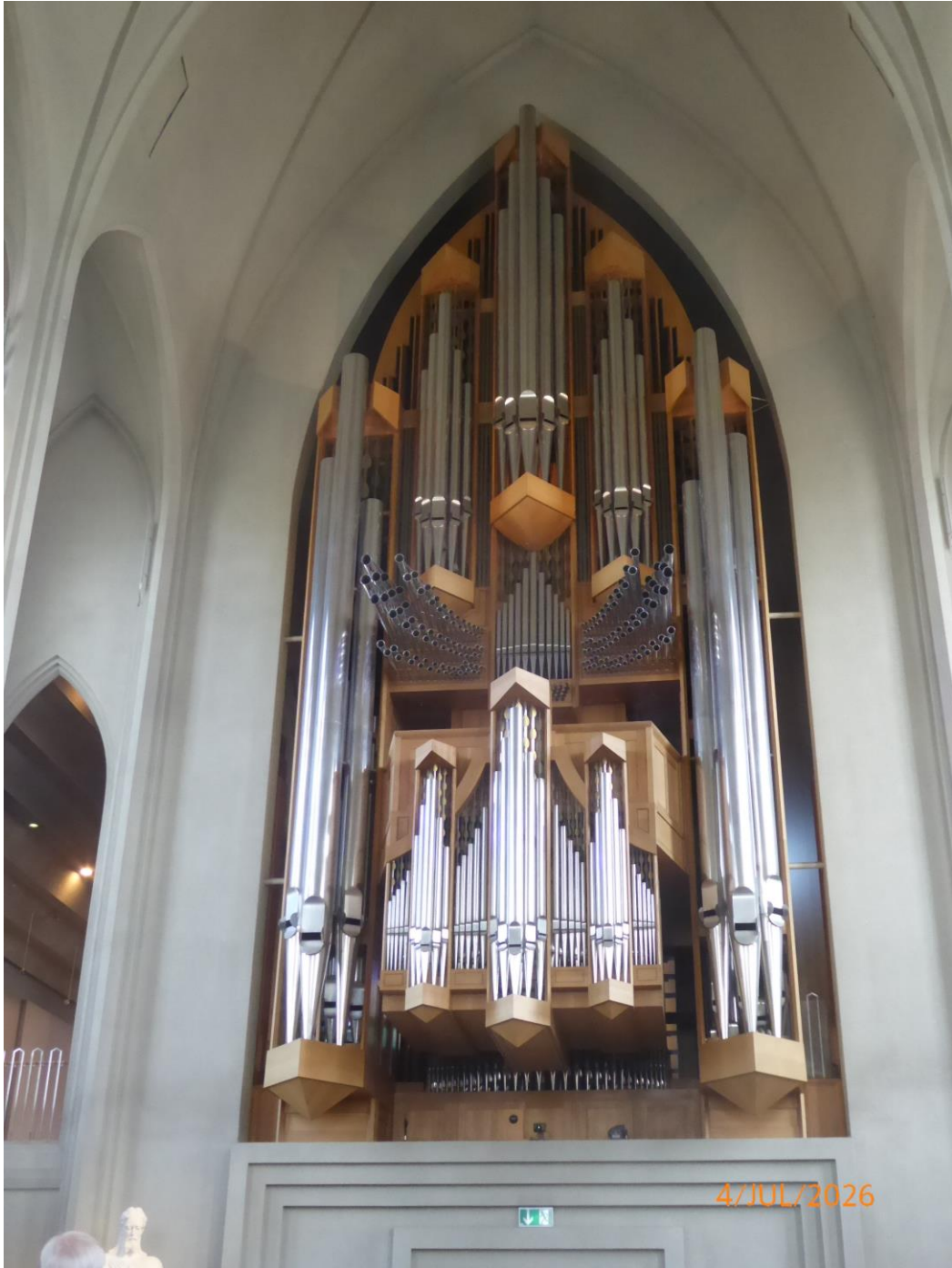


CONCORD



The organ, 5,275 pipes, Reykjavik Cathedral, Iceland

**The Monthly Magazine of
London Road, Ewell and
Tolworth United Reformed Churches
September 2026**

From our Minister

Dear Friends

September 2026

At the end of September and first week in October, Tolworth and London Road Ewell celebrate Harvest Festivals. We have also been encouraged to begin celebrating a “new” feast of Gods creation in September , The Feast of Creationtide. I will not say too much now because Heather and I are leading Creationtide services in Tolworth and Ewell churches respectively on 6th September.

The encouragement comes partly from our own General Assembly 2026. *“There is growing ecumenical support for the formal acknowledgement of the Feast of Creation on or around 1 September each year.”* Celebrating the Feast has theological merit in itself but it is also appropriate to do so as we face the climate emergency. Having no formal liturgical calendar, the United Reformed Church has been encouraged to observe the feast

Back in 1989, the Orthodox Churches invited all Christians to pray together on 1 September, or the following Sunday to mark the ‘Feast of Creation’ or ‘Creation Day’. The aim was to praise God as Creator and to wonder at the mystery of the Creation. Subsequently the Feast of Creation has expanded into a Season of Creation (1 September to 4 October). Following an ecumenical seminar held in Assisi in March 2024, supported by the World Council of Churches and the World Communion of Reformed Churches, several church communions worldwide have agreed to introduce the Feast of Creation into their liturgical calendars. So, so are we!

Noting too that the ecumenical seminar was held in Assisi, we may also remember 2026 as the Jubilee year of St Francis. 2026 marks the 800th anniversary of St Francis death. St Francis the patron saint of animals, ecology and the environment. How often we sing his prayer together, *“Make me a Channel of your peace.” “To be understood as to understand.” (Rejoice and Sing 629)*

The poem is a prayer for a different way of thinking which sees how each human life is bound up with every other human life... and with the planet we call home. To move from an approach of to earth from domination (rather than dominion) to a relational one. ‘Brother Sun, Sister Moon’ as Francis of Assisi put it in the C13th, ‘Sister Water... Brothers Wind and Air... Mother Earth’

How he has helped us to see creation differently.

Pope Leo XIV declared that 2026 will be a special Year of St Francis in which we are all called to become saints in our world, following St Francis' example. We are called to model a holiness of life and witness to peace

Pope Leo has said:

"This Year of St Francis spurs all of us, each according to our possibilities to imitate the poor man of Assisi, to form ourselves as far as possible on the model of Christ... may the hope that has seen us as pilgrims now be transformed into zeal and fervour of active charity."

Consequently, we also urge one another to see creation differently again. Celebrate with our ecumenical siblings in Christ as a Christian witness. And welcome the goodness of creation in the season of Creationtide and remember that caring for “creation” is not just for Harvest Festival.

God bless

Roger

Tolworth Family Circle

Please pray for Eloise, Charles and their family as Eloise begins further treatment. Mary Wardle is still not getting out. She is cheerful as ever and hopes to be back among us soon. Margaret Taylor is unable to go out unaccompanied and is finding it difficult to get used to. Brenda Kelly is struggling with her breathing and now has carers coming in to help her. Several others have been unable to come to church recently as the extremely hot weather has affected them. All these friends are in our thoughts and prayers.

Moira

Harvest

We shall celebrate Harvest on Sunday 27th September. As usual we shall have a food collection for the Food Bank. Please try to bring any of the following: Tinned meat, soup, vegetables, fish, rice, tea, coffee, cereals, toiletries and cleaning materials are always welcome.

We hope to have a harvest Lunch after the service on Harvest Sunday, details of this will be available when arrangements are complete.

Moira

September Family News from London Road, Ewell

Pat Redvers-Smith was very happy to have a visit from friends from the church recently. Pat now lives in a retirement home, but is regularly visited by the Minister and other friends from the church.

A Fun Day, organised by our Administrator, Sophie, ably supported by her family and friends from the church, was a great success and a credit to Sophie's organisational skills.

Several of our members are having medical appointments and undergoing treatments, and we offer them our prayers for successful outcomes.

Barbara

September 2026 Diary for Tolworth

Sunday	6th	10.30.am	Morning worship led by Ms Heather Lodge
Monday	7 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	9 th	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	13th	10.30am	Morning Communion led by our Minister followed by Church meeting
Monday	14 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	16 th	10.00am	Playtime
Thursday	17 th	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sunday	20th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning worship led by Revd Barbara Pearson Evergreen service
Monday	21 st	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	23 rd	10.00am	Playtime
Sunday	27th		Harvest
		10.30am	Morning worship led by Ms Sue Shaw
Monday	28 th	5.30pm	Pilots
Wednesday	30 th	10.00am	Playtime

October 2026

Sunday	4th	10.30.am	Morning worship led Ms Heather Lodge
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September diary for London Road, Ewell URC

Sunday 6 th	10.30 am	Morning worship conducted by Revd Roger Jones, to include Holy Communion, and followed by the Church Meeting
Monday 7 th	12.30 for 1	Bible Study, led by Revd Roger Jones
Tuesday 8 th	12.30	Church lunch at Superfish, names to Dennis Sexton, all friends welcome
Sunday 13 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship, conducted by Revd Barbara Pearson
Sunday 20 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship, conducted by Revd Bill Thomas
Monday 21 st	12.30 for 1	Bible Study, led by Revd Barbara Pearson
Thursday 24 th	2 – 3 pm	Friendship Hour, all welcome, bring a friend
Sunday 27 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship conducted by Revd Carol Clack

Evergreen outdoor service August 2026

Winds of drought

By mid-August, 70% of England and all of Wales were declared to be in drought. Southern England has seen just 1% of its normal rainfall this month with half the reservoirs and 78% of rivers now below normal levels. So when we held our Evergreen service outdoors in August, we used it as an opportunity to immerse ourselves in the visible and audible toll that drought has had on our environment this summer.

Reminding ourselves that the Israelites were very familiar with drought and that the rainy season is only from November – March, we reflected on the fact that weather forecasts in Israel begin “B’Ezrat Hashem—With G-d’s help—there will be rain this weekend.”

We used the points of the compass to capture all that we could see and hear from the Church garden that reflected the lack of rain. Everyone’s observations have been compiled to create this psalm. It ends with the prayer that our Creator God will restore parched land.

Winds of drought: an Evergreen psalm

Creator God,
All the earth is yours;
From the four corners of the winds
We praise your name.

From the East
Under blue sky with white fluffy clouds,
A plane flies west.
A mackerel sky suggests another fine day.
Trees are still green,
Blowing gently in the wind,
And a few birds chirp.
But dry grass is like straw,
Leaves are crisp,
There's no colour but brown;
Houses are quiet,
And gardens deserted on a warm summer evening.

And from the North
Wind finally cools the air,
The birds fly south,
Branches sag as they sway,
Leaves are changing colour,
Grass is dried and scorched,
Plants in the borders have died,
With the only green being the weeds,
And no people are about.

And from the West
Earth is as dry as dust,
With patchy grass,
Leaves turning brown,
Dry pine cones,
The trees fall still.
No insects fly,
No birds sing as they look for water;
Peeping through clouds, the sun
Shines green on the verges,
A plane flies south,
A dark cloud comes.

And from the South

Birds fly against darker clouds,
The grass is dead,
Plants are dying,
Leaves are shrivelled, the tips turning brown,
And the ground has cracked;
But hedges are bright green,
Fir trees look healthy,
Red berries have already formed,
And a single flower blooms.

Creator God,
All the earth is yours.
In the dust and dryness
We praise your name,
Knowing rain will come
And the parched land will green again.

Heather Lodge

From **Petr Kočnar**

Talking Through Art – A Message of Gratitude from Rwanda

Dear Revd Roger Jones and friends at Tolworth and London Road,
Ewell United Reformed Churches,

Warm greetings from Kigali, Rwanda.



Some years ago, I had the pleasure of visiting your church and sharing our work through Talking Through Art. Since then, your congregation has faithfully supported our work through regular financial donations, and I would like to express my heartfelt thanks. Your support means more than you may realise, especially during a difficult year.

Talking Through Art was founded in 2015 to empower women with disabilities and mothers of children with disabilities through employment, training and community support. Today, we directly support around 100 women in Kigali, Muhanga and Rwamagana, and indirectly around 500 family members. We also help 36 children attend school by contributing towards their school fees.

This year has been particularly challenging. We rely partly on tourism, as our walking tours in Kigali provide an important source of income for the charity. Unfortunately, visitor numbers have fallen significantly, and with that we have lost much-needed income. Sales of our woven baskets continue, for which we are very grateful, although they are lower than in previous years. The money from basket sales goes directly to the women artisans and towards the materials they need for their work.



In these difficult times, regular supporters make an enormous difference. A number of friends send small monthly donations, and your church is one of these faithful supporters. Knowing that people in the United Kingdom continue to stand with us gives encouragement and hope to the women and families we serve.



One highlight of this year has been the opportunity for two of our artisans, Jeane and Emilienne ("Emi"), to travel from Rwanda to the Czech Republic. I was able to arrange their visas and flights, and they spent two wonderful weeks with me there. The main purpose of the visit was to participate in the AfrOstrava Festival, where they demonstrated their basket-weaving skills, spoke about Rwanda, and shared an important message: disability is not inability. People with disabilities can work, create beautiful things, and live happy and dignified lives.

The visit was a great success. Jeane and Emi met many people, inspired audiences, and proudly represented Talking Through Art and Rwanda. I am sending a few photographs so you can see some moments from their journey and time in Prague and Ostrava.



People sometimes ask how Talking Through Art continues to operate after more than eleven years. The truth is that I continue to support the organisation through income from renting out my flat in England. I do not receive a salary from Talking Through Art; it has always been a labour of love. Talking Through Art is like my child, and I care deeply for every woman and family connected to it.

Thank you once again for your kindness, generosity and friendship. Your support helps women with disabilities to earn an income, send their children to school, and live with greater confidence and dignity.

If you would like to follow our work, you can find us on Instagram using the QR code provided. I hope that one day I will have the opportunity to visit your church again and thank you personally for your faithful support.

With warm regards and sincere gratitude,

Petr Kočnar
Founder, Talking Through Art
Kigali, Rwanda



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...

Seeing things differently John 9; 1-12. Mark 8; 22-26

I used to go and sit next to him. By the road. We would have a good ol' chat. I liked him. Most people walked straight past him. Others would drop a coin into his plate. But mostly they would walk past him.

Mums said to stay clear. But I could not work out why. He's alright really. He would tell me stories. (*laughing*) He would say what he **could** see! Which wasn't very much, but people, like trees walking about he said. That's really funny. The dogs were like moving bushes. Horses like...well you get it. He'd make up all kinds of stuff.

Sometimes I think he would forget I was just a kid. He'd get all down and grumpy. "Why am I like this?" he'd say. "Why me...what did I do to upset God". "Or was it my parents – whatever have they done!" I didn't really get it. I just knew he was sad sometimes. But I heard other people say the same thing about him as they walked by. Even dad blamed his parents.

But mostly we just chatted, and it was nice.

Then the healer came by! That was special that was. My friend called out to him – "have mercy on me" and stuff like that. I was a bit embarrassed to be honest.

I couldn't see what he was doing or saying. But I saw this healer pick up the earth and dirty his eyes with it.

When he turned around, he looked different. "Its not me!" he said "it not my blindness – it's my faith." And then I saw a great big smile!

The healer went over to the horses at the trough for the water. He began wiping his hands. I went over to him and held out my hanky to wipe his hands.

He looked at me. Then as he gave me back my hanky, he whispered "Your kindness to him...means a lot."

I was taken a back and ran back to my friend who was seeing things differently now.

I think I saw things differently that day.

Roger

From Peter Sparrow

At least it has got cooler. It was far too hot. We did eat the food put out for us but we needed to look for berries as they gave us liquid in the hot weather. The bird bath is heavenly, just sit in there to keep cool and have a refreshing drink. It's very popular and gets quite crowded at times, but we are all friends.

A new visitor to the garden (he might stay) is Adam. He is a rather fat pigeon and is for ever picking up the food that my family and friends drop. All the pigeons home in on any crusts of bread that are put out. They try to get there before the magpies get a look in. They are really no problem and I suppose it is important to accept that and be friendly with everyone.

A bit of a worry is the blue tits seemed to have disappeared. I do hope they are ok. Occasionally a couple of robins appear, but I do think they have all got fed up with the extremely hot weather. BUT it rained this morning, what a relief, I do hope the cooler weather stays and a few good downpours of rain come overnight. Either do a rain dance or pray for rain.

Hope to catch up next month

Love

Peter Sparrow

From Heather Lodge

Tales from our campground: Return from exile

We finally made it back to our campsite in mid-July, nine months after breaking my collarbone. We camped for 12 wonderful nights. Having wondered if this would be far too much, the time just disappeared and we could have stayed longer. Interestingly, the kit we pack for a week could support us for a month or more, with only a change in the season dictating different clothing and tents.

But there were several degrees of anxiety about returning after such a long lay-off.

Ezekiel described the prospect of the Israelites' return from exile as being like a valley of dry bones restored to life with tendons being knitted together and new life breathed into them. I took the prophet's words quite literally.

Had my bones and muscles repaired themselves enough for me to carry my pack and manage the work of camp? Imagine our sense of achievement then when we arrived back home, having managed not only our camp but the journey there and back under our own steam! Neither of us escaped entirely

unscathed but strained muscles are mending and post-camp advice from the physio is beginning to work.



This camp also felt like a return from exile in another way. Isaiah spoke of preparing a way in the wilderness with every mountain made low and rough ground made level. Whilst we hear this as foretelling the coming of Christ, we also took the prophet very literally again. During our absence, areas of the woods which had been dense thickets are being cleared and levelled with new paths through the trees and some new little pitches being created. We can't wait to go back and test these out.

Heather

Roger Fenn's September Quiz

Old Testament Characters

Name the person(s) we usually associate with the following people

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 1. Adam | 2. Cain | 3. Abraham |
| 4. isaac | 5. Jacob | 6. Deborah (Judges) |
| 7. Ruth | 8. Hannah | 9. David |
| 10. Solomon | | |

The Gifts of Creation

Hold in your hands the gifts of creation,
Gifts that come from God,
Fruit and the flowers, fishes and berries,
All gifts from God.

Hold in your hands the gifts of creation,
Gifts that come from God,
Coal and the timber, oil and water,
All gifts from God.

Hold in your hands the gifts of creation,
Gifts that come from God,
Treasure your skills, your talents, your heart's love,
All gifts from God.

Offer the world the gifts of creation,
Gifts that come from God,
Offer the food, the power, the beauty,
All gifts from God.

Barbara Pearson

Roger's September Quiz – Answers

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| 1. Eve | 2. Abel | 3. Saraj / Sarah |
| 4. Rebecca | 5. Esau | 6. Barak |
| 7. Naomi / Boaz | 8. Samuel / Elkana | 9. Goliath, Jonathan,
Bathsheba, Abigail |
| 10. Sheba | | |

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	020 8337 8581
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	

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