

**Wallington
United Reformed
Church**



CONTACT

No. 329

May 2020

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

When I accepted the call to become minister of St Andrew's and Wallington United Reformed Churches I knew the transition back into a full-time local church role would have its challenges and there would be adaptations to make. The first month was a pleasant introduction as we moved through Advent and into Christmas, with good opportunities for getting to know people. However we weren't far into the New Year when the spectre of the coronavirus cast a shadow over things and very quickly all the familiar things were thrown into confusion as we headed into lockdown. Now we are making all sorts of changes to meet the current circumstances – this wasn't quite the 'adaptations' I thought I would need to make!

Even if our buildings are closed and many of us can't leave our homes the church remains open. The Elders and others have been working hard to keep in contact with everyone, especially those who have limited or no online access. We are so grateful for them and really appreciate what they are doing.

In recent weeks we have been providing an online/telephone audio worship service as well as linking to other resources on the website. We are continually working to improve this and appreciate any feedback. We need to record our thanks to Peter Campbell Smith, from St Andrew's, whose experience and knowledge have helped to make this available to our folk. This is a work in progress and feedback and suggestions are very welcome. We may not be able to do everything for which folk ask but we will try.

Chris Jackson has been working to keep the website up to date, including providing a page of worship and devotional material. He has also created a Wallington United Reformed Church Facebook group so contact him if you wish to be a part of that.

Sheila and Alan Cruchley have been sending regular emails to the church and to families within the church and we are thankful for all that they and so many others are doing to keep us connected and informed.

Please continue to use the daily prayer cycle if you find that helpful. Last month's magazine included an insert with readings up until the end of May and next month's magazine will include readings for the next period.

There is one particular thing I would ask of you and that is to think about what you are missing during this time and what you are not missing. When we have moved through this period and have entered a new normal (for it will not be exactly what it was before) then we will need to reflect upon what have we missed and what have we not missed? The answers to those questions will be important as we adapt to become the church we need to be in the days in which we now live.

Thank you to everyone who is helping us navigate through these unknown waters and please remember that we continue to be the church – the body of Christ – even when our church buildings are not open.

Keep safe and keep praying.

Craig Bowman

Happy Days!

Congratulations to Julia Seal on the occasion of her 18th birthday.

And Happy Memories for Brian Lay as his parents, Jack and Nell, were married in 1930, in our church, soon after it was built on Stanley Park Road. Their 90th wedding anniversary would have been on April 26th.



Pastoral News

It is with sadness that we pass on news that Peter McNamara's father, Brian, passed away on 1st April. Prayers for Jennie (Peter's mother) Pete, Clare, William and Tom and all their family and friends as they mourn his passing.

Michael, who has been coming to church most Sundays, lost his father to the virus, early in the lock-down.

Also Nicky, a close friend of Jeanette's, who has helped at Tea & Toys and with many of our events over the years, lost her mother at the end of March.

Our thoughts and prayers go to all who have lost anyone during this very difficult time.

We ask your prayers for those of the church family who are anxious or unwell and those who are housebound or have any difficulties at this time.

We ask your prayers for:

Peter and Clare McNamara who have been unwell, and are now recovering, and also William and Tom as they have had to be in isolation.

Jackie Steer, also recovering very well at home.

Di Knapman, who is now slowly recovering after major surgery and has been very poorly with an infection (not coronavirus).

Harold and Kathleen Claridge, as Harold, who had a week in hospital, is now home again.

Claire Gough, who has been unwell, but is now able to go back to work.

Lynn Skelton and all the family as Lynn's Mum, Marian, fell and has a broken leg. Prayers for Dennis, Lynn, Amanda, Andrew, family and friends as they try to find a way to support Marian and Dennis.

Our thoughts are with **Lissy Tuffey** and her family as the decisions about Adam's Education have been deferred again.

Also prayers for families waiting, hoping, worrying, upset or delighted by the news received of primary school places.

And all those whose lives have been turned upside down with loss of livelihood, change of circumstance, and feelings of uncertainty as a result of the Coronavirus.

Your continuing prayers for: Vera Neal, John Batey (and his partner Carol), May Bishop, and Eileen Marshall.

May God grant you his peace.

[If you have any news of the church family to bring us up to date or that you would like to be included in Contact please let Lynn or Alan know. Thank you.]

Commitment for **Life**

Commitment for Life is a way in which local congregations are enabled to participate in actions for justice around the world.



Prayer for Commitment for Life, and Christian Aid

We pray for our partners in
Commitment for Life, for Bangladesh,
for Zimbabwe, for Central America,
for Israel and the Occupied
Palestinian Territories.

We remember the challenges which face them
acutely, but of which we are all a part – climate
disruption, sustainability, security and wellbeing.

We pray for the many
whose lives have been and are
being transformed through our
acting, praying and giving.

We pray for the work of
Christian Aid and Global Justice
Now, as they work alongside and
speak for the world's poorest
people.

Amen



A story to prepare for Pentecost

Everyone enjoyed Bill's company. He was so kind and so full of life. His eyes never seemed to stop smiling. He was that rare sort of man who always had the right word to say. It was almost as if he knew what was on your heart and mind. Yes, the great thing about Bill was that people could trust him and people did.

It was not surprising then that the news of his promotion, which would mean him moving along a long way away, came as a great blow to all his friends. Of course they were pleased that his hard work had been recognised and rewarded. There was no doubt he had earned his new post; but even so, the thought of his going away from them was hard to take. Where would they be able to turn now for that encouraging smile and sympathetic listening ear? How would they cope without his good advice and thoughtful comments? He knew them all so well and they knew him. Friendship like his is hard to find. It was going to be a great loss.

Yes, everyone who knew Bill was not looking forward to his leaving and they all agreed that things could never be the same again. Of course he might write and there was always the phone and email but somehow that would be no substitute for the company of a man like Bill. You needed to be with him, to see him personally and to share things with him face to face. Pen and paper, telephone voice or Internet message were by comparison far too distant and cold.

If only he could stay. If only they could have him around all the time. If only somehow Bill could be with any of them, anywhere and anytime they needed him. That's what they wanted but of course it was a silly thought.

Follow-up to the story:

I wonder whether you've ever been privileged enough to meet someone in your life like Bill? I wonder whether you have ever known someone who has made such an impact on you, because of his or her understanding and kindness - the sort of friend you just wouldn't want to lose? If you have, then you know how the disciples felt about Jesus. He'd been so special and so important to them that when it was time for him to go, they were really very lost and they longed that he might stay with them for ever.

What was a silly thought for Bill's friends, was however a real possibility for the disciples. Jesus had told them he would come back to them, to each one of them, and be with them wherever they went, forever. Just as Jesus had come down from God, so the Holy Spirit - God in a different, invisible form - was going to come down to each one of them and all this actually happened for them at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is a person - God coming in another form; Jesus coming back to be with them - and us - for ever.

Pentecost

What is Pentecost?

The church has a birthday, and it's called "Pentecost."

2020 date: : May 31 (Western); June 7 (Eastern)

Also called: Whitsunday, White Sunday, Whitsun

The Christian holy day of **Pentecost**, which is celebrated fifty days after Easter Sunday, commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1–31).



If you go back and read the Old Testament, you will discover that Pentecost was one of the Jewish feast days. Only they didn't call it Pentecost. That's the Greek name. The Jews called it the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks. It is mentioned five places in the first five books—in Exodus 23, Exodus 24, Leviticus 16, Numbers 28, and Deuteronomy 16. It was the celebration of the beginning of the early weeks of harvest. In Palestine there were two harvests each year. The early harvest came during the months of May and June; the final harvest came in the Fall. Pentecost was the celebration of the beginning of the early wheat harvest, which meant that Pentecost always fell sometime during the middle of the month of May or sometimes in early June.

There were several festivals, celebrations, or observances that took place before Pentecost. There was Passover, there was Unleavened Bread, and there was the Feast of Firstfruits. The Feast of Firstfruits was the celebration of the beginning of the barley harvest. Here's the way you figured out the date of Pentecost. According to the Old Testament, you would go to the day of the celebration of Firstfruits, and beginning with that day, you would count off 50

days. The fiftieth day would be the Day of Pentecost. So Firstfruits is the beginning of the barley harvest and Pentecost the celebration of the beginning of the wheat harvest. Since it was always 50 days after Firstfruits, and since 50 days equals seven weeks, it always came a "week of weeks" later. Therefore, they either called it the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks.

Bible Stories for Children

Pentecost

by Sharla Guenther

What is Pentecost? This is a very special time in the Bible when the disciples and other Christians received the Holy Spirit. Before I explain why and how this happened there's a few things you need to know first.

God didn't just pick any day for this to happen. Like everything God does, he has a specific time, purpose and reason for it and Pentecost was no exception.

Pentecost occurred 50 days after Easter Sunday or 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus had already gone back to Heaven so the disciples and new believers of Jesus were waiting to receive the Holy Spirit because that's what Jesus told them would happen. Plus, since Jesus wasn't with them any more the Holy Spirit would help bring them closer to God.



Just before Jesus was taken up to heaven he told them that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on them and they'd be his witnesses in the whole world (**Acts 1:8**). Even more, he told them much earlier that the counsellor (or Holy Spirit) would be sent by the Father, that He would teach them all things and remind them of everything he said to them (**John 14:26**).

So, the Holy Spirit is super helpful to us! He becomes a part of us when we become a Christian and understand that Jesus died and rose for us. When we're ready to try to live a life pleasing to God the Holy Spirit becomes part of us so we have a part of God with us all the time.

The day of Pentecost was a bit different though. People had already become Christians but the Holy Spirit wasn't a part of them yet. This would be the first time everyone who was a Christian would receive the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost was a day to celebrate the end of the grain harvest. It was like Thanksgiving is for us in Canada when the farmers have collected their crops and all the hard work is done.

The people would offer two loaves of bread they had made from their crops and two lambs were waved before the Lord as a thank offering. This was their special way of thanking God for the weather and for helping them get a crop for that year.

The disciples and other Christians had come together to thank God and suddenly a sound like the blowing of a strong wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. I have a feeling the windows weren't open either!

Next they saw tongues of fire that separated and came to rest of each of them. I'm not sure if they could see the tongues of fire or if it's how the people could explain what they felt happening. When the tongues of fire came they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in different languages.

They may have used the words tongues of fire to explain the way they were speaking and the fire was a way to describe the Holy Spirit. Either way, they all got pretty excited and things got a bit noisy.



It says that there were people of many different nationalities staying in Jerusalem from all over and many of them speaking different languages. These people ran over to see what all the noise was about and were surprised to hear their own

languages spoken throughout this group. The Bible even lists up to 16 different places people were from and could hear their language spoken!

Things must have sounded crazy! Imagine all these people speaking many different languages at the same time and shouting out praises to God excited that something amazing from God had just happened to them.

It was no surprise that the crowd that had gathered to check out what was happening thought that there wasn't something special happening, after all they weren't there when the Holy Spirit came to them. So some of the crowd started making fun of them and started to think that they had too much wine and it was making them act funny.

When Peter started to hear these rumours he raised his voice and talked to the crowd. He explained that they weren't drinking wine because it was only nine in the morning (people usually drink orange juice or coffee that early in the morning). Plus, the people celebrating Pentecost didn't eat or drink till at least ten in the morning.

He explained that Joel, a messenger of God's word said that this very thing would happen a long time ago. God usually would tell a prophet when something important was going to happen way before it actually happened. Just like the Bible told us a Saviour (Jesus) was going to come and save us long before Jesus was even born.

Peter continued and explained how God brought Jesus to them and that they had crucified him. The crowd understood and felt responsible for doing this and they wanted to know what they could do now.

Peter explained that they should repent (say they're sorry and stop doing bad things) and be baptized so that others would know that they believed in God and were trying to change. Now, because of Jesus death and his resurrection people could be forgiven and receive the Holy Spirit from now on.

That means we receive the Holy Spirit when we accept Christ or become Christians. The word Christian actually means Christ in us. The special thing about having the Holy Spirit is that God never leaves us so we can talk to him or ask for help anytime.

The Holy Spirit actually helps us in many ways, he comforts, teaches, helps us grow in our relationship with God and gives us strength to get rid of the bad habits in our lives. He also gives us power and helps us know when we've done something wrong. Of course, we need to want to grow, learn and change to be more like God for the Holy Spirit to really work with us.

So Pentecost was super special for the disciples and special for us even now because that was the start of us receiving the Holy Spirit and being able to ask for forgiveness.



A poem for Pentecost

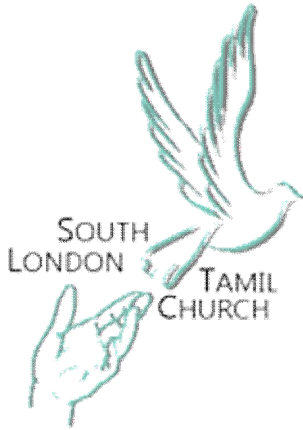
Introduction:

The Holy Spirit is described in various ways in the Bible: like water that fills and refreshes; like fire that burns and purifies; like wind that brings life and power. These pictures of the work of the Spirit are important but there is a danger that we then think of the Spirit as a thing. The Holy Spirit is a person ready to be welcomed into the life of anyone who is sorry for the wrong they have done and who asks for God's forgiveness through Jesus. When this person comes in, he makes all the difference. The Spirit makes Jesus real to us. He makes the Christian life possible and he makes our lives new. Perhaps this short poem can help sum up the difference that the third person of the Trinity makes to a Christian's life.

When the spirit comes

Before the Spirit came, you were just words on a page,
Black on white and yellowed with age.
Simply a story of long ago,
Of a man who had so much love to show;
Who healed the sick and cured the lame;
Took our guilt and bore our shame.
It sounded so good, but it just couldn't last.
It was not for today but locked in the past.
Until the Spirit came.

Now the Spirit has come, you are here at my side,
Larger than life and ready to guide;
Making real to me all that you said
And doing through me the things that I read.
I am the glove that your hand has filled;
I am the cup into which you have spilled
All the love and the power which you promised would come,
Right now in the present and for everyone.
Since the Spirit came.



South London Tamil Church (SLTC)

It is with great pleasure that we wish to let everyone know that starting from June 1st 2020, we will be welcoming another Christian Group into our premises. They will be holding their own services, as well as some independent meetings.

The South London Tamil Church (SLTC) will hold their main service on a Sunday afternoon. When we are, once again, able to open our premises, their services and any other meetings will be included on the weekly timetable which is always available to see in the coffee lounge.

We are looking forward to sharing our premises with them and we are sure we will be able to support each other in many different ways.

South London Tamil Church (SLTC)

Introduction to URC

The Tamil congregation called "South London Tamil Church" (SLTC) began in 1990 by a group of Tamil members who were worshipping in a Church of England Church called St. Nicholas Church in Tooting. The Tamil members pointed out to Revd. (Dr) John Hall that there was a good number of local Tamil Christians who needed to gather together for worship conducted in the Tamil Language.

After prayer and discussion, it was agreed with the Rector John Hall that this would be possible if they met on Sunday afternoons in the church. There would be a Tamil Committee headed up by Mr. Asbury who would take responsibility for the Congregation and its activities. These would include worship, Sunday School for the children and other social events that would meet the needs of its members. Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals took place according to the practices of the Church of England.

As many of us are aware, The SLTC was started as an outreach



programme of
St. Nicholas
Church, Tooting
to welcome the
Tamil youth
who left their
homeland to
save their lives

due to the ethnic violence in Sri Lanka. They were living on their own in the UK and SLTC helped them to find their feet and adjusting to an alien culture and lifestyle. A cricket team was organised which helped the youth to gather together and encouraged them to participate in tournaments with other groups and churches. They also participated in other church activities such as Harvest festivals, Summer sale to raise funds to charities. This helped them to show their hidden talents at these events and at the Christmas carol service.

The Christmas carol service is the most spectacular event in the church calendar, which takes place on third Saturdays of December. This attract many people from all over London and about 250 people attend this service.

Our Easter Sunday bilingual service takes place at 5.30 am in the morning, which is followed by a traditional breakfast. This service too well attended.

The members look forward to the day trip to the seaside in the summer. It is open to non-members and members bring their friends and families. We make fresh food at the site and everyone enjoys the day out.



St. Nicholas church activities increased and having a Tamil service in Sunday afternoon was not possible and SLTC was asked to find another church for worship. Wallington Methodist Church (WMC) welcomed us and we moved to WMC in May 2012. Soon the members were able to adapt to the Methodist way of worship.

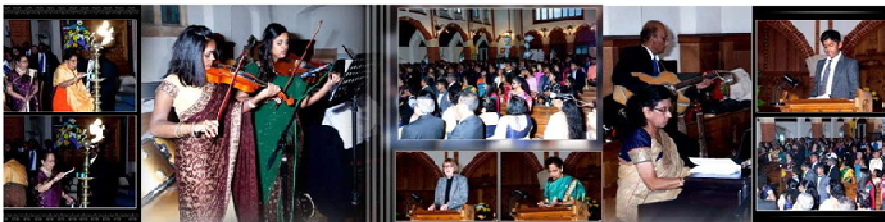
WMC is closing and United Reform Church (URC) is welcoming us to continue our worship in Tamil on Sunday afternoons. We intend to move in June and the current situation may delay this.

Times were discouraging but remembering who He is and what He has called us to do; "the unity of SLTC" moved forward in faith and hope, as God gave us churches and called to lead towards His amazing vision.

Many pastors have shepherded us over the 30 years. Their spiritual guidance helped the members to grow in faith and SLTC thank everyone of them earnestly and sincerely for their tireless support to us. May God bless all of them as they continue to spread the gospel to others.

Rev. (Mrs). Deborah Premaraj is our minister now. Rev. D. Premraj who is the Priest in Charge of St. Edward King and Confessor Church in New Addington supports us by providing pastoral guidance. They are guiding us spiritually and we hope we will grow and be enriched by their meaningful messages. Though the churches are closed, we were able to have our Palm Sunday service, Holy week meditations, Maundy Thursday service, Good Friday service and Easter Sunday service via ZOOM, which were well attended.

We hope and pray that this crisis will end soon and we continue our faith journey in the URC church.



Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May



Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us.

WURC and Christian Aid Week.

As this virus spreads across the world, love rises up in response. You've already shown incredible kindness to your neighbours. Now is the time to reach out to your neighbours both near and far.

Your love protects. From storms, from drought, and now from coronavirus. Your love protects our global neighbours battling the spread of this illness. Your love protects. With soap, clean water and medical supplies.

By supporting us this Christian Aid Week, you can reach out and protect more of your neighbours today.

Of course, in the current circumstances it will not be possible to make door-to-door collections for Christian Aid this year. But the people who co-ordinate the collections from Wallington & Beddington churches wanted to still offer people the chance to donate.

They have therefore set up a dedicated JustGiving page, which will allow everyone to see what has been donated locally. The JustGiving website is a well-established and secure way of donating to charities online.

The address is:

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/christian-aid-wallington-and-beddington?invite=true>

In a time of COVID-19, the work of Christian Aid is as important as ever. Please do consider donating if you are able.

Diary Dates
Nothing until the end of May....then...
Watch this space....

PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the June 2020 issue of Contact
 should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Friday 22nd May**
 unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement.
 Contributions are very acceptable by e-mail
contact@wurc.org.uk

Prayer Pyramid



We have been using a prayer pyramid as part of our pastoral care when there is an urgent need to uphold an individual, family, group or situation at home or worldwide in prayer. These may be named but may also be anonymous to maintain confidentiality. Many have said how much they have valued the support offered in this way.

We are rebranding the pyramid as **Prayer Cascade** as any request is now largely shared by email and would welcome new names to the group. All we ask is that you are willing to receive the information and uphold it in prayer. Please could you speak to Alan Cruchley or Craig Bowman if you would like to know more or are willing to join the Cascade!



Puzzle Corner

A sudoku puzzle consists of a 9 by 9 grid. This grid is subdivided into nine 3 x 3 boxes.

8		2	7				3	
9						7		
	7	3	5					8
2	3		4		5	8	9	1
					7			3
	4	5						
	8							7
	2				4	9		
							5	

Some of the cells in the grid are prefilled with a number between 1 and 9, while many other cells are blank. Your job is to determine the correct number to be entered in each of the empty cells.

The numbers 1 to 9 must appear just once in each row.

The numbers 1 to 9 must appear just once in each column.

The numbers 1 to 9 must appear once in each 3x3 box.

Sudoku really is an excellent brain game, as it trains logical reasoning and visual perception, among other brain skills.

Can you work out these Anagrams?

Each one is a book of the Bible.

1. used ox
2. hi, mac
3. O, I had B.A.
4. coins a loss
5. to my hit

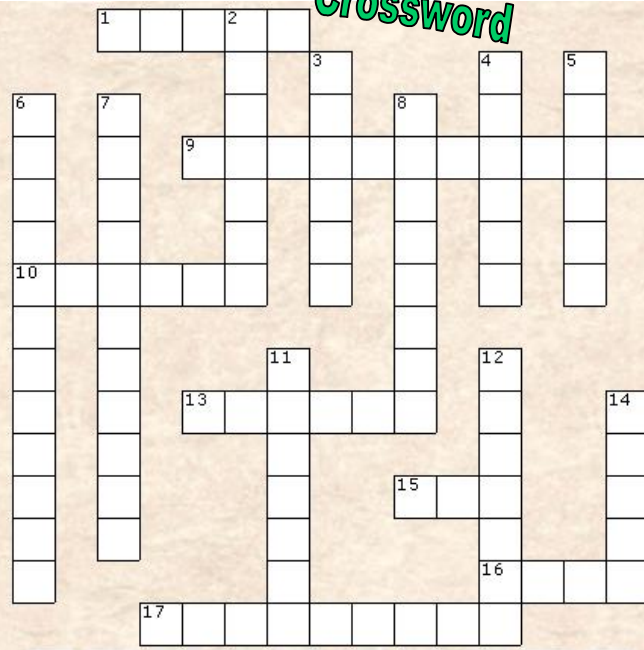
Old Testament Books Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 1st and 2nd ____
 9 Fifth book
 10 Tells the story of Moses
 13 This book contains songs of David
 15 Tells of a man who lost everything but got back more
 16 Tells of a devoted woman who married Boaz and was an ancestor of King David
 17 Third book

DOWN

- 2 First book of the Bible
 3 Tells of a queen who saved her people
 4 Tells of a man thrown into a lions' den
 5 1st and 2nd ____
 6 "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven"
 7 This book is a love story
 8 This book is a collection of wisdom sayings
 11 Last book of the Old Testament
 12 Mathematical book?
 14 Tells of a prophet swallowed by a fish



Bible Word-search: Kings of the Bible

M	B	S	D	I	V	A	D
H	A	I	S	O	J	O	O
A	S	O	L	I	E	M	H
L	H	U	B	O	H	R	C
E	A	A	I	O	O	I	E
S	L	O	M	R	R	O	N
B	A	D	A	N	A	E	N
I	R	M	I	Z	M	D	J

Abija,
 Basha,
 Darius,
 David,
 Elah,
 Jehoram,
 Jeroboam,
 Josiah,

Nadab, Necho, Omri, Saul, Zimri

EVERY WEEK AT WALLINGTON U.R.C.

Times of Worship

Sunday	10.30am	Family Service + Junior Church with crèche facilities Coffee is available after the Service
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Mind, Body & Soul

Quiet Time and individual healing
Second Wednesday of each month 1.30pm-2.30pm

Uniformed & Other Organisations

Monday - Friday	9.15am-1.15pm	Holmwood Pre - school
Monday	10.00-11.00am 2.00-4.00pm 8.00-10.00pm	Yoga Bananas Art Conundrum Art Group
Tuesday	9.30-11.30am 9.15-1.00pm 1.30-3.30pm 5.00-6.00pm 6.00-7.30pm 8.00-10.00pm 7.30-10.00pm	Tea & Toys Pilates Classes U3A Art group Rainbows Brownies (10th Wallington) Eppan Downs Badminton, Winter(Sept-May) Epsom Downs Badminton Society (every 1st Tues.)
Wednesday	9.00-10.00am 10.15-1.30pm 11.00am-1.00pm 2.00-4.00pm 1.00-3.30pm 6.45-7.55pm 7.00-10.00pm 7.45-10.15pm 6.30-7.30pm 8.00-10.00pm	Tap-Dance Class Pilates Classes Clusters Hartbeeps (mother and baby activities) Second Wed Group (Knitting & Craft) Pilates Horticultural Society (every 3rd Wed.) W.I (every 4th Wed) Junior Chess Club Chess Club
Thursday	9.30-10.40 11.00-12.00noon 2.00-4.00pm 2.00-4.00pm 4.30-5.15pm 7.15-9.45pm	Baby Massage Senior Movers Exercise Ladies' Badminton, Winter(Sept-May) Fallen Angels Drama Pro-Karate Carshalton & Wallington Art Group
Friday	9.30-10.45am 11.00-12.00 6.45-8.30pm	Yoga Baby Massage Guides(8th Wallington)
Saturday	9.00-10.00am 10.00-11.00am 11.30-12.30pm	Pilates Zumba Pro-Karate

All activities are suspended
until further notice