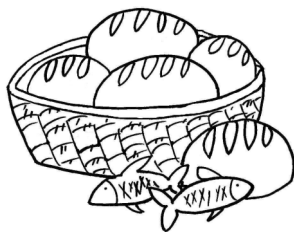


Wallington United Reformed Church



CONTACT

No. 330

June 2020

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends

A while back I came across a piece from Vaclav Havel, the playwright who became president of the post communist Czech Republic. Havel said that many had told him that America had much to teach his people, and indeed those with a history of freedom and the building of institutions to maintain and improve on that freedom, did have much to teach those newly freed from the bonds of communism.

But at the same time, he said, he and his people had much to teach America and the rest of the world. Sitting alone in a prison cell for months and years, people have a lot of time to think. They had insights and understandings of life that could be a treasure to many others – that were treasures to them and which they would not want to lose.

It would be wrong to compare the restrictions we have been living with for these past months with the imprisonment and suppression of Havel and others under the communist regimes of the last century and other ideologies in this century. However having to spend time limited to a particular place and with restricted interaction with others will have provided some of us with more time to think and reflect. I hope that some have managed to find this a gift which provides treasure in their lives and, by sharing it, enriches the lives of others too.

Back to Havel and the warning that we shouldn't neglect those who may not readily be regarded as having something to offer. Our world tends to want to learn (perhaps tends to think we can only learn) from "winners." Yet, if we think that, we have a lot

to learn, especially from Jesus of Nazareth, the stone whom the builders rejected, and whom perhaps more Christians still reject without realising it. This world wants power, not lowliness; it wants the victory of the belligerent, not love; it looks for force, not forgiveness.

But that isn't the way of Christ. Jesus is the "stone that the builders rejected." Just the repetition of that phrase ought to bring us up short, settle us down, humble us, and make us willing - when we gather before the cross on Sunday mornings, and when we turn back to a world where so many live in the shadow of that same cross - willing to learn from those the world thinks losers.

The Apostle Paul put it in other words: 'For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.' In a world that seeks strength and domination, we are reminded that God works in a different way.

May God bless us all, 'winners' and 'losers',

Craig Bowman

Prayer Cascade

We have rebranded the prayer pyramid as a **Prayer Cascade** for when there is an urgent need to uphold an individual, family, group or situation at home or worldwide in prayer. We welcome any new names to the cascade group. Requests for prayer are sent out mainly by e-mail. 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! Many have said how much they have valued the support offered in this way.



Pastoral News

Our thoughts and prayers go to all who are coming to terms with losing a loved one during this very difficult time.

We continue to think of all those who are caring for others, either in a temporary or permanent role.

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 families as they support the students who were due to sit A level, AS level or GCSE exams this summer and will now receive a calculated grade. The calculated grade process will take into account a range of evidence, for example, non-exam assessment and mock results.

For those still waiting to hear about school placements, and for all those who have been trying to help children while they have been at home.

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:

All friends, relations, colleagues and all those in our wider world that are feeling under the weather, lost, forgotten or just out of sorts.

May God grant you his peace.

If you have any news of the church family to bring us up to date please contact Alan. 020 8274 2136

Or Email: pastoral@wurc.org.uk

Names will only be shared in the version of Contact which goes to our usual fellowship and not put into the version posted on our website.

It is with deep sadness that the URC announces the death of the Revd Bernard Thorogood, who, on 30 April, died peacefully in a Sydney hospital aged 92. Bernard served as General Secretary of the URC at a time of immense change in Church life worldwide.

Bernard was General Secretary of the URC from 1980 to 1992, and, prior to that, served as General Secretary of Council World Mission (CWM)



from 1970 to 1980 (bringing CWM into being in its current form), and through most of the 1950s and 1960s was a missionary in the Pacific islands – mainly in the Cook Islands.

Bernard served as General Secretary of the URC at a time of immense change in Church life worldwide.

He was responsible for the 1981 union with the Re-formed Association of the Churches of Christ for drawing them into the general life of the enlarged Church and much of his work was to do with ecumenical affairs. He gave encouragement and support to the rapidly increasing number of Local Ecumenical Projects (LEPs), a partnership of churches of different denominations e.g. Trinity Church, Lower Earley, Reading, which is a URC, Methodist and Church of England church. He also served with the British Council of Churches (now Churches Together in Britain and Ireland) and the World Council of Churches.

The Revd John Proctor, General Secretary of the URC, said:

"Bernard Thorogood made an enormous contribution as a Christian leader, in the URC, in ecumenical life in the UK, and in the wide networks of the world church.

"He helped create the round table ethos that has shaped the life of the Council for World Mission since 1977. His directions for the URC Mission Council, drafted at the start of the 1990s, still guide the way we do business there. His gifts were legion.

"He wrote with wisdom and depth – theology, poetry, fiction. He was an able visual artist. Yet through it all he had a heart for people, meeting individuals with care and interest, supporting many, sharing deeply in church life at every level.

"We thank God for all that he gave among us, and for his example of gracious character, committed service, trusted leadership and warm friendship."

Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May Fundraising

Meet our Local Celebrity

Ron Morris, aged 92, and having had a fractured femur only last year, decided to raise money for Christian Aid by doing a sponsored walk.

Where to, you might well ask?! He lives at St Mary's Court and the circuit around St Mary's Court is approximately 200 metres. His aim is to complete that circuit 200 times during CA Week - a total of 40km (roughly the Marathon distance).

He would welcome your sponsorship to help him on his way!

**[www.justgiving.com/
fundraising/ron-morris](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ron-morris)**

Ron says:

People from all over the world would like to join me in a big thank you for your generous support for my feeble effort in raising some funds for Christian Aid. The target of £ 200 was quickly overtaken & with other church support the total raised looks like being in excess of & £1500.

Thanks again. Ron Morris.

By supporting Ron and 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 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>

The short version is:

<https://tinyurl.com/ybwwqgsc>

Or you may use this QR code if you wish.

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



At the time of printing over £1800 (inc Gift Aid) has been raised by the Wallington & Beddington Churches.

And... off we go...

Into the 21st Century...

It is now possible to access our magazine

CONTACT

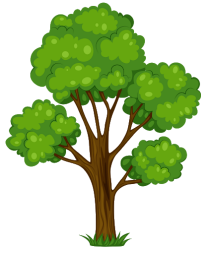
On our website... www.wurc.org.uk



If you would prefer to have the 'Contact' magazine sent to you by e-mail, please let us know at :

contact@wurc.org.uk

One

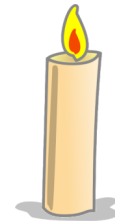


One word can spark a moment,
One flower can wake the
dream;
One tree can start a forest,
One bird can herald Spring.



One smile can bring a friendship,
One handclasp can lift a soul;
One star can guide a ship at sea,
One cheer can obtain a goal.

One vote can change a Nation,
One sunbeam can lift a room;
One candle wipes out darkness,
One laugh will conquer gloom.
One look can change two lives;
One kiss can make love bloom.



One step must start each journey,
One word must start each prayer;
One hope can raise our spirits,
One touch can show you care.

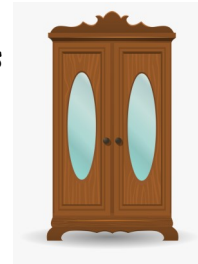


One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what's true;
One life can make a difference,
One life is me and you....

by Shawnee Kellie

Food and water, shelter and clothing are basic necessities of life. So we should not be surprised that Bible stories use these basics as metaphors when describing the essentials of our spiritual lives. God wants to clothe us, his children, with robes of righteousness.

How's your wardrobe looking? Does it cover decades of 'Fashion'? Does it still offer the faint hope that some of it will come back into fashion once again?



But...there is another 'wardrobe' that we, as Christians, have access to, and this one will never go out of fashion.

From Primark to Prada

Of all Jacob's sons Joseph and Benjamin were the only ones borne by his beloved wife, Rachel. It is not easy, within a family of this size (or any size), for parents to remain consistent and impartial but to fall into favouritism can be very dangerous. It can be full of resentment, plotting and deceit. It was almost like a modern day soap opera.



Joseph was given his 'special' robe...a coat of many colours. Joseph was singled out and set apart. This was seen to give him a status way beyond his years. No wonder his brothers were livid!

His coat was special, not every day wear. His brothers had drab working garments that they would wear for tending the sheep. BUT this was ornate and colourful, with sleeves, and longer than the average coat. It was certainly 'designer wear', a coat for a prince. It was as if he had been helped to move up from Primark to Prada.

Did you ever go to a 'Colours Session'? It seemed to be all the rage a few years ago. A group of friends arranged one, some were sceptical. Could wearing specific colours have a significant

effect not only on how you looked but also about how you felt? The consultant, however, knew her job. One scarf draped around the shoulders seemed just drab, but when replaced by one in a specific colour, the skin seemed to 'glow', highlights appeared. Nothing to do with looks or beauty, but something that changed the complexion and gave a boost to the innermost feelings.



The whole of creation abounds with colour. God's creative palette is displayed each day, whatever the season, and he clothes creation in wonderful colours full of vibrancy.



So, join in the transformation, clear-out your wardrobe. We would never think to put new clothes over the top of old ones. Throw out the old stuff! We are being offered a stunning new 'wardrobe'. Patience, humility, gentleness, forgiveness: each is fitted to our actions day by day and they are all covered by an 'overcoat' of love, which keeps everything together, in place...a perfect fit.

Commitment for Life

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

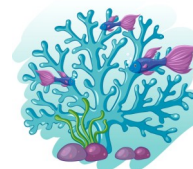
Prayer for the environment



Wherever we look, O God,
we see Your face;
in sacred mountain and ancient
forest, in vast ocean and tiny
creature.



We also find you weeping, broken, dying
in burning forest and concrete-ruined meadow in
oil-slicked penguin and melted glacier,
in thirsty children and over-heated
coral reefs.



Wherever we look, O God, we see Your face.

A prayer from Rev John Proctor General Secretary URC

*Lord Jesus,
In the midst of a storm
You said, 'Peace, be still'.
Bid our anxious fears subside,
Sustain your church in faith, hope and love,
Bring our nation through this tumult,
Grant wisdom to those with heavy responsibilities,
And healing and hope to those who are infected.
Amen*

Diary Dates
Nothing until the end of June... then...
Watch this space...
<p>PLEASE NOTE... Articles for the July/August 2020 issue of Contact should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by Friday 19th June unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement. Contributions are very acceptable by e-mail contact@wurc.org.uk</p>

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS DURING LOCKDOWN

I hope you have all had a chance to read the article on our finances that Alan and Craig sent out during April. In that article I referred to the loss of income that all charities are experiencing, not just ourselves and other churches. Since then I've been asked if there is a way we can facilitate our normal communion giving. As a church we probably can't do much right now, but perhaps some of us might give as individuals instead.

Our communion collection in April would have been for Commitment for Life, which is organised by the URC. The team at URC Church House have said they are not expecting to receive any donations from churches at this time, but perhaps we can think of supporting CFL later in the year.

Under normal circumstances we would also be supporting the following:

May - The Bible Society -

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/donate/>

June - SENSE -

<https://www.sense.org.uk/support-us/donate/>

July - Richard House -

<https://richardhouse.org.uk/donate/>

August - Motor Neurone Disease Association -

<https://www.mndassociation.org/get-involved/donations/>

These are the links to the donation pages for each charity. If you are able, please do consider giving to one or more of these as an individual. I also have the addresses to send cheques – please contact me if you'd like these.

Elaine

Puzzle Corner

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

9	1			3	7	2		
4			2					
3		7	5					
			1			8	5	
					5	9		
1					8			
	5	9			1		7	
7		3	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 **3 x 3 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. me, Saul
2. metal nations
3. O, Sam
4. no Oslo fogs on 'M'
5. cats

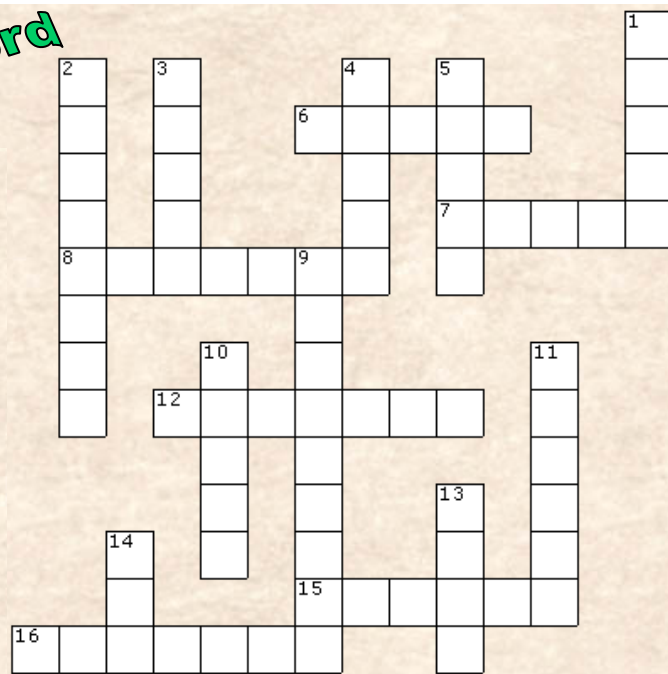
Abraham Crossword

ACROSS

- 6 First wife's original name
7 Abraham's original name
8 A daughter-in-law
12 First son
15 Land promised to Abraham's descendants
16 Second wife

DOWN

- 1 Wicked city destroyed by God
2 Wicked city destroyed by God
3 A grandson
4 First Wife
5 Wife's handmaiden
9 King of the Philistines
10 Second son
11 I will make of you a great ____
13 A grandson
14 A nephew



Bible Word-search: The Lord's Prayer

Amen, Bread, Daily, Debtors,

Y	D	H	T	R	A	E	H
R	D	E	P	O	W	E	R
O	E	A	B	A	L	V	N
L	B	V	I	T	L	I	E
G	T	E	E	L	O	G	M
O	S	N	W	R	Y	R	A
D	A	E	R	B	O	O	S
E	R	E	H	T	A	F	D

Debts,
Earth,
Father,
Forever,
Forgive,
Glory,
Heaven,
Power

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*
Are planning ahead and are hoping to return from June 1st...

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) Epsom Downs Badminton, Winter(Sept-May) Croydon Orchid Society (every 1st Tues)
Wednesday	9.00-10.00am 10.15-1.30pm 11.00am-2.30pm 2.00-5.15pm 1.00-3.30pm 6.45-7.55pm 7.00-10.00pm 7.45-10.15pm 6.30-7.30pm 7.30-10.00pm	Tap-Dance Class Pilates Classes Clusters Hartbees (mother and baby activities) Senior Wed Group (Knitting & Craft) Pilates Horticultural Society (every 3rd Wed.) W.I (every 1st Wed) Junior Chess Club Chess Club
Thursday	9.25-10.40 11.00-12.00noon 1.00-4.00pm 2.00-4.00pm 4.30-5.45pm 7.00-8.45pm	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 other activities are suspended until further notice