



CONTACT

No. 338

April 2021

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

This month we complete the journey we have been on toward Jerusalem with Jesus and we shall celebrate Easter on Sunday 4th April. Easter is the celebration of resurrection and falls for us in Springtime. At this time there is an abundance of images around that we can draw on to explain and explore this promise of new life: trees budding and blossom bursting out, flowers blooming, life beginning in lambs and chicks. So many images we could and do draw on.

Some of you however may have celebrated Easter in the Southern hemisphere where Easter comes not at the beginning of Spring but as they enter Autumn. I wonder what images they use to illustrate Easter and resurrection 'down under'. Does anyone know? I have resisted the temptation to 'Google' it and wonder if someone within the church might already know.

I did, however, come across the following poem that speaks of the promise of new life that is to be found in an Autumn fruit, the acorn.

Acorns

by Susan Price

Ripe acorns drop like green-brown hail.
How strange that oaks produce such little fruits:
Nuts capped [or cupped] in woody scales,
waiting for spring to quicken hidden roots.
These nuts fallen on leathered oak leaf litter

do not appeal to me. I tried to eat
some as a child, found them mealy and bitter--
Yet squirrels value them as hoarded treats,
bury hundreds against winter's hunger.
Too many to remember. . . Overlooked,
they have a chance to change, take on a younger
form, eternal hopes enfleshing, hooked
into the tangled now, assuaging grief
with emerging root and tender leaf.

Whether we live in the Northern or Southern
hemispheres, and whatever imagery and symbols we use to
describe Easter, it's all rather meaningless unless we allow
the resurrection of Christ to transform us. We need to allow
his Spirit to feed, water and warm the bulbs, nuts and seeds
of potential, planted within each of us, that they might grow
and add to the abundance of new life in the world around us.

Craig Bowman



Our annual Y-Pray? 2021 weekend
away has been cancelled due to the
coronavirus pandemic. We are now
offering an exciting zoom session
with the same intimate and
nourishing feel as the Y-Pray?
weekend conference.

Join us on Saturday 1 May 2021 between 10am
and 1pm for a time of encouragement and
refreshment which will include talk, worship and
fellowship at a cost of £10.

See <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/y-pray-2021> for more details & booking form.

Moving on from March 23rd 2020: So what really happened in 2020?

It is one year since the UK was plunged into its first national lockdown with Britons ordered to stay at home and all non-essential shops forced to shut their doors to the public.

Was it all 12 long, dark months of rising death rates, longer and longer lockdowns and for many of us life as we know it grinding to a halt.

Yes, the year has been engulfed in sadness and full of tragedy, BUT along the way there have also been positives as we have got to grips with changing the way we live and work in response to the crisis.



When this started Teams were something you supported on a Saturday afternoon and the only Zoom you had was on your camera. Now 12 months later even the most technologically-challenged family member is online setting up breakout rooms and hosting quizzes and get-togethers.

As lockdown took its grip in a bid to push down the infection rate many of us went home and faced up to the fact we were suddenly going to be seeing a lot more of our neighbours.

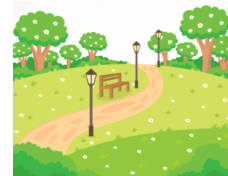
Some of us have become healthier than ever. the time to go for that run before work while full lockdown saw families get on their bikes to expand their horizons with trips out restricted to only an hour.



For decades now castaways on Radio 4's Desert Island Discs have been asked what luxury they would take to their lonely outcrop and last year the nation as a whole decided the answer was self-raising flour. In the face of a global disaster we did not so much turn to drink as bread. Banana bread became the most searched for recipe on the BBC website.



Londoners have always known their home is a green city but perhaps only now do we truly appreciate the 3,000 parks scattered across it. they have become our stand-in offices, gyms, second homes, scenes of family reunions when lockdowns have been lifted and just a welcome break from the four walls in a city where one in five households don't have a garden.



AND it took a global pandemic to achieve what a million home makeover shows had failed to do and make us realise just how little we really need. Charity shop shelves groaned under the weight of donations, those jeans you've never actually fitted in, that box of stuff saved for a rainy day.



**The United Reformed Church
is hoping to raise
£10,000 for its
'Give Thanks for Your Vaccine'
fundraising campaign,
developed with Christian Aid.**

In the UK, nearly 18million people have had their first dose of a corona-virus vaccine. But for the poorest and most vulnerable communities across the world, there is little hope of a vaccine rollout. These are people who already face lack of water, food, and basic healthcare.

Christian Aid is already on the ground, helping to keep people safe from corona-virus with practical support, but with donations the charity can do more.

To help the charity, the URC's fundraising campaign aims to help people show gratitude for their vaccines and help to protect our global neighbours while the vaccine is out of reach.

All donations will support Christian Aid's response to the corona-virus pandemic in affected communities around the world, including Commitment for Life's – the URC's global justice programme – partner regions.

"The URC is deeply concerned about the unfair rollout of Covid vaccines around the world. Once again, the poorest and most vulnerable people are being pushed to the back of the queue, with only two percent of the world's population vaccinated so far - the vast majority of them in the richest countries. We must and can do better."

Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May 2021



Your gift of thanksgiving could provide a family with hygiene kits and safe water, while the vaccine is out of reach.

The NHS was the first health system in the world to roll out a clinically -approved, safe and effective vaccine, from December 2020. Grateful thanks go to the tens of thousands who applied and trained for a paid or voluntary role as the programme was rolled out. Thanks to them, and the many existing NHS staff who trained to deliver vaccines or perform other important roles, there have been enough people to deliver vaccines as quickly as supplies allow.

**This Christian Aid Week,
will you show your appreciation?**



Holy Week

Last year's turn-a-bout has continued, and we will once again miss our usual Holy Week Services.

We are continuing to live in unusual times as we take small steps towards relaxing the current strict lockdown. The pandemic challenges communities, countries and individuals around the world as the situation evolves and changes.

A prayer from the Revd John Proctor, who served as the United Reformed Church's General Secretary:

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

Holy Week is when Christians celebrate the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It is also called Passion Week or Easter Week.

The first Sunday in the week is called Palm Sunday and the second one (the day Christ arose) is called Easter Sunday or Resurrection Sunday.

Test your Bible knowledge with these trivia questions related to Holy Week.

Questions:

1. What was the Jewish feast which was being celebrated the week Christ was crucified?
2. *When Jesus entered Jerusalem during what is known as His Triumphal Entry, what animal was He riding on?*
3. Why is the Sunday before the resurrection called Palm Sunday?
4. *Which disciple cut off the ear of the high priest's servant in an attempt to protect Jesus from being taken as a prisoner?*
5. What was the name of the high priest's servant who had his ear cut off by the disciple and subsequently reattached by Jesus?
6. *How many times did Peter deny Christ after the abandoned the Lord?*
7. How many pieces of silver did Judas trade the life of Jesus for?
8. *How did Judas identify Jesus to the soldiers?*
9. In repentance Judas returned the money to the priests that he was given as the price of betrayal of the Lord and then did what?
10. *The priests took the money that Judas had returned to them and did what with it?*
11. Who was surprisingly released before Pontius Pilate sentenced Jesus to death?
12. *What did Pilate's wife counsel him to do concerning Jesus?*
13. A man named Simon was compelled to carry the cross of Jesus. In Mark 15 we are told the names of Simon's two sons. What were their names?

14. *What was the inscription above the cross?*
15. Can you quote 4 of the 7 statements recorded in the Bible that Christ said from the cross?
16. *Following the statements of Jesus on the cross, there was a statement by a Roman soldier concerning Christ. What was it?*
17. What happened in the Temple as a sign that the death of Jesus had made way for the individual believer to approach God?
18. *When Jesus died there was darkness in the land. How long did it last?*
19. In John 19 two men helped prepare the body of Christ for burial. One is said to have been a secret disciple and another secretly came to Jesus early in His ministry to ask question. Who were these men?
20. *Who was the first person to see the risen Christ?*

Supporting a Local Charity

January - April

From January 2021 through to Easter we are raising money for

Sutton Home Start.

Home-Start Sutton can provide home and community based services for families, tailored to their individual needs and circumstances.

A BIG Thank You to everyone for their support, and if you are near the mask 'tree', there are now a few

egg-stra-special masks

as we move nearer to Easter, and also some jams and marmalade for an extra treat.

**HOME
START**
Sutton

£398
so far

Janet

Commitment
for **Life** Prayer Partners resource
offers prayers based on 'Life-
giving faith, defiant hope,
generous love'. The prayers can be used to help
people focus on generosity of mind and spirit.

Economic Justice

Richard Lewney

"God said, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'

So, it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God." (Luke 12:20-21)

Holy God,
we confess the times when we have tried to grasp security
by hoarding your gifts.
We confess the times when we have tried to grasp life in all
its fullness by medicating ourselves with another dose of
more stuff.
We confess the times when we have tried to grasp self-
respect by acquiring the trappings of success.
Free us, we pray.
Give us an open heart and a generous spirit to
respond to our neighbour in need, whether
nearby or far away.
Show us the part we can play in redeeming our economic
system, bringing it under the rule of your kingdom.



| Diary Dates | | | | |
|-------------|------|---------|--|--|
| April | | | | |
| Thursday | 1st | | | Audio Maundy Thursday Service |
| Friday | 2nd | | | Audio and Zoom Good Friday 'Happening' |
| Sunday | 4th | 10.30am | | Easter Day Audio Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion... |
| Sunday | 11th | 10.30am | | Audio Morning service |
| Sunday | 18th | 10.30am | | Audio Morning service |
| Sunday | 25th | 10.30am | | Audio Morning service |
| May | | | | |
| Sunday | 2nd | 10.30am | | Audio Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion... |

PLEASE NOTE... Articles for the May 2021 issue of Contact should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Thursday 22nd April** unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement. Contributions are very acceptable by e-mail [jmw321wmj @ yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmw321wmj@yahoo.co.uk).

Over the past few months we have had the Puzzle Corner in Contact. Sudoku Answers for March:

Other answers next month.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| 4 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 3 |
| 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 7 |
| 6 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 8 |
| 8 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 2 |
| 2 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 6 |
| 9 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 1 |
| 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 5 |

Puzzle Corner

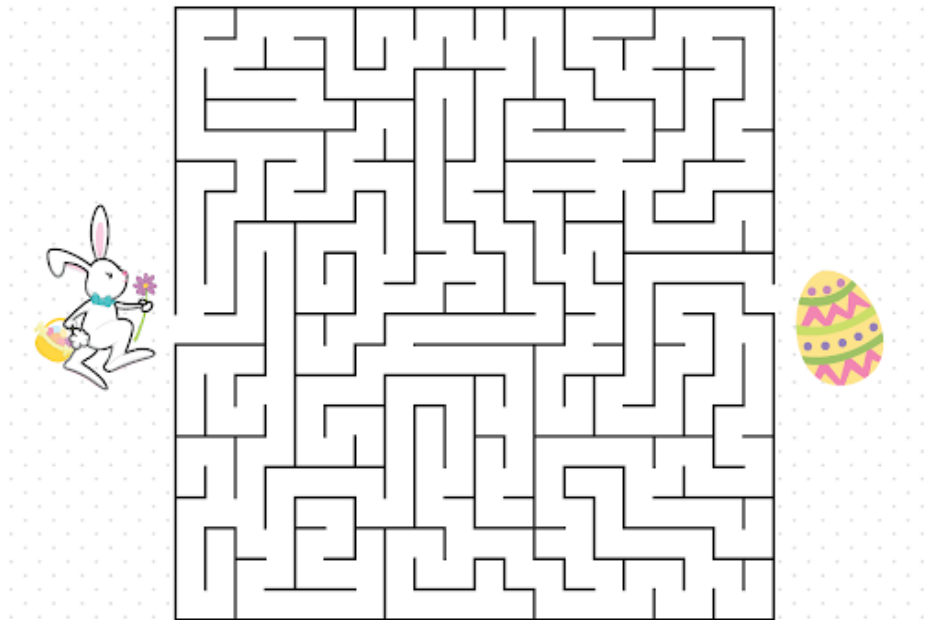
EASTER word search

J E A S T E R Q R B M A
E K L O W N A B F U N P
L C D E F G A X Z N X R
L H E I S R I S E N J I
Y P G O R Q T N M Y K L
B N G G O O S E A L L A
E C H O C O L A T E M B
A D U D E F G L N P N C
N Q N R G S P R I N G D
S R T S R T B L N P O E
E I E I A C A N D Y O F
G A M E S Z S H R I N G
K K I C S K K B A L L H
R E S U R R E C T I O N
S U N D A Y T M A R C H

Can you find these words?

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| EASTER | EGG HUNT | JELLYBEANS | RESURRECTION |
| BUNNY | BASKET | SPRING | SUNDAY |
| FUN | CANDY | GRASS | MARCH |
| HE IS RISEN | CHOCOLATE | GAMES | |

CAN YOU HELP THE BUNNY FIND THE EGG?



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

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 1 | | | 5 |
| | | 4 | | 5 | | | 2 | 8 |
| | 5 | | | | 3 | 1 | | |
| | 6 | | 1 | 9 | | 7 | | 3 |
| 3 | | | 6 | | | | 8 | |
| 2 | | 7 | | | 5 | | 1 | |
| | | 1 | 5 | | | | 6 | |
| 7 | 9 | | | | 8 | | | |
| | | 2 | | 1 | | 8 | 5 | 9 |

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, column, and 3 x 3 box.

EVERY WEEK AT WALLINGTON U.R.C.

Times of Worship

Sunday 10.30am Family Service ...Audio Service on line.

Activities you can find on our Premises

Monday - Friday *9.15am-1.15pm Holmwood Pre – school*

Monday

Tuesday 12.45-3.00pm AA Meeting (in coffee Lounge)

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday 6.45-9.15pm AA Meeting (in Holmwood Hall)

Saturday

**All other activities are
suspended until further notice**