



# ***CONTACT***

No. 341

July-August 2021

# Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends,

Let me apologise in advance to those who don't like football but I think I need to talk about it.

As I write the Euros are taking place – the four yearly competition between the best football teams in Europe. This was supposed to take place last year but was delayed until this summer because of the pandemic. I have to confess to divided loyalties. I would always want Scotland to do well but as this the first competition they have qualified for since 1998 I haven't much experience of following them on big occasions, therefore I have also followed England in the big events too.

Both teams have raised my expectations in the past and then failed to deliver - beating one of the favourites but then losing or failing to beat an unfancied team! Why, oh why, do they do this to me?

Heightened expectations soon dashed; it's a familiar tale in human life. People we put our trust in let us down and organisations we rely on are not always able to help us. Human beings and the organisations they create are fallible and, even when we think we know them, sometimes they do not act in the way we expect or the way we hope. It is frustrating and can be hurtful, but unfortunately none of us is perfect and things do go wrong.

It's a truth that the Apostle Paul knew well.

Paul had great hopes for the organisation that was the young church, and for its individual members. In his letter to the Romans he takes 11 chapters to explain how God has been dealing with his people through history culminating with the gift of Christ that reunites us with him – 11 chapters of sometimes convoluted, sometimes inspirational theology. Then in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter he outlines

the implication of God's initiative with human beings. 'Therefore,' he says. 'Therefore, I urge you, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices...' and then goes on to give a wonderful description of what the church might be and what its people should be. (I haven't got space to quote it all here so please read the 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the letter to the Romans.)

Paul had a wonderful vision of how great the church could be and great hopes for its people. It is inspiring and uplifting, but our experience is that reality is not often quite as inspiring. Many of us have had hurtful encounters with churches and have found some of its people to display little of the behaviour that Paul encourages. We have, of course, also found people who display wonderfully exactly what Paul is trying to encourage in his letter.

However it is the disappointments that tend to stick with us more easily than people acting as we would expect. I recall many more games where Scotland or England failed to win a match that they should have won, than I remember games where they did what was expected from them. It is the disappointments and the failures that stick with us rather than our fulfilled expectations.

Paul knew how disappointing the church and its people could be. We need only read his letters to the Corinthian Christians to realise that the churches he knew were far from perfect. Yet he still had this great vision of what the church could be - and should be. In laying out his hopes for the church it is a description of what we might be, not what we are. Paul's words in Romans should serve as an inspiration to us, and not as a tool for criticising those who fall short of how we believe they should behave. After all, before we open our mouths to complain about someone's behaviour let us remember that they are, like us, only human, prone to failure but also, with God's help, capable of great things.

In the coming weeks let us remember Paul's words and find in them inspiration for our living as individuals and as a church. Let us also display the readiness to forgive others just as in Christ we are all forgiven.

*Craig Bowman*

## **Our Wider Community**

As we approach the summer break for many, the end of term is very close for schools and universities have already finished their semesters, we pray for all those still waiting for results of assessments and exams.

Some will be looking forward to the opening up of some venues and events, while others will be disappointed if their chosen recreational events have been, yet again, postponed.

We hope that, as vaccines are made available to everyone, and the steady and sure progress heads towards everyone being kept as safe as possible, all people, of all ages, gatherings of different kinds and purposes will help those feeling less confident about joining in the variety of experiences which will slowly become on offer again.

We think of those young people who are seeking employment, meeting up with friends and enjoying their summer break in a variety of ways.

We ask your prayers for all who are unwell, handicapped, disabled, anxious or concerned for loved ones, and those who are housebound or have any difficulties at this time.

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](mailto: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.*

*We remember....*

Wendy Leedham

Sadly, Wendy Leedham (formerly Owen) died on 1st June after suffering with cancer.

She, with her children, Paul and Victoria, attended church weekly as the children were growing up.

Wendy took a full and energetic role in many organisations such as Holmwood Players, Youth Club, Women's Fellowship, Mallinson Club (re-named The Friendship Club) and was always willing to help people by transporting them and by visiting.

She lived and worked locally before spending a few years in Canada, and on her return she had been living in Snettisham, Norfolk, with her partner David.

She will be greatly missed by her family and the local community.

**I was told I should 'blow my own trumpet'...so here goes....**



The 'Mask Tree', which I instigated in Boundary Road, next to our telephone box, has been raising money since the middle of September last year (2020).

So far it has raised over **£1917** for various charities, The Women's Refuge, Sutton Night Watch, Sutton Home-Start, and Christian Aid.

I have enjoyed making the masks (probably well over 500 so far), and I will continue to do so, while they are needed. I have also put out baskets of jam and marmalade, and occasionally scones, all going very well, with the money being put into our post box.

A very **BIG** thank you to everyone who has been kind enough to support the venture and so helped us to reach such a wonderful total.

*Janet*

### **Create a quiet space:**

*Create a peaceful space to pause, and allow yourself to feel God's presence alongside you, as near to you as your own breath. In following the reflection below, as a church we will draw closer to God and to one another as we grow in faith and deepen our sense of belonging to God.*

#### **Philippians 3:13b-14 'Pressing on to the Goal'**

<sup>13</sup> ...this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Until I married Robert I had no idea how to tackle a Sudoku grid, but once he taught me, I got hooked and when I started one I had to keep at it until I got it right. Recently I was given a book of puzzles, some of which have been quite beyond my ability and I've learned not to go back and try again when I have obviously gone wrong. What a huge relief that has been! Now I can put a big X next to the ones I can't finish and move on.



I think that too often in life we fail to put things behind us and flounder in the muddle of the past. We allow ourselves to dwell on the wrong things – mistakes, errors or sins that we regret – instead of banishing them from our minds. We need to be able to let go of sins and, having repented, to move on. If we hear Jesus' final words to the woman caught in adultery, "*Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again*", (John 8:11), it helps us to remember what a forgiving God we believe in.

Our past mistakes and failures can be tools of the devil and we need to stop allowing ourselves to be manipulated. Paul says in the passage above, "*This one thing I do, forgetting what is behind.*" Paul knows that to be all that God wants him to be, he can't focus on yesterday – yesterday is over. We must let go of our guilt and grief, our hurt and grudges. We must let go of the past, so that we can get on with the present and look to the future. In this sense, forgetting actually means refusing to allow the past to affect us any longer.

Certainly we must learn from our mistakes but we mustn't dwell on them. There's a big difference. We can't keep beating ourselves up about what we've done, or failed to do. Many of us are harbouring things in our hearts that God has long since forgiven and forgotten. Yet we won't forgive ourselves.

Part of God's good news is that his story never ends in defeat. It ends in victory. So if we're not victorious at this moment we must keep moving forward and forget what lies behind. It's not as if we're different from anyone else, as Paul writes to the Romans, "*we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God*," (3:23), but God's forgiveness is always promised to us, all we have to do is ask – and having received that forgiveness we must put the past behind us.

*Reflection © 2021 Ann Caffyn.*

*<https://emmanueleastbourne.org.uk>*

*Check out the website for more devotions, and meet this Methodist-URC Local Ecumenical Partnership Church located in Old Town in Eastbourne*

# Coming Back to Church?

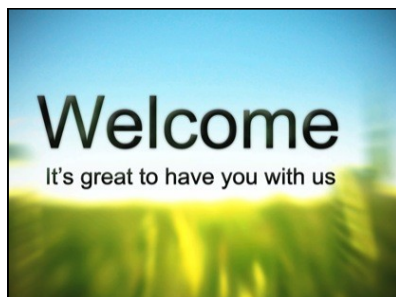
Gosh!! How long ago were we saying:

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

But now, as life slowly evolves into a 'new normality', we are back in Church with 'live' services.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

Not surprisingly the government has announced a delay in moving to stage 4, which would have meant a removal of most, if not all, restrictions. Whilst, in many ways, this is frustrating it doesn't curtail our plans to return to live worship in the church with Revd Craig Bowman and a visiting preacher or a member of the eldership leading worship on the alternate Sundays. Therefore from the 27<sup>th</sup> June worship in the church will be delivered live with only the hymns being recordings because we are not yet able to sing together.



There is a significant difference if we compare to when we previously returned to 'in person' worship. Whilst before we said worship was available and discouraged those who would be vulnerable from attending, we are now saying worship is available and we would love to see anyone who can join us. We will continue to keep

everyone as safe as we possibly can.

Sanitisers are available for everyone, there is plenty of space, and air circulates as the doors are kept open.

We have removed a number of chairs, and others have been moved around, to allow more space to enable everyone to be seated, and the risk of contact reduced.

We are working towards everything being as close as possible to what we remember.

20<sup>th</sup> June will be the last Sunday on which the pre-recorded service will be available from 10.30am on the Sunday morning. We are looking at what may be needed after this. If you feel you will be affected by this change please let Craig or Alan Cruchley know so we can consider, and make plans for what we may be able to offer.

We have completed a risk assessment during the last 15 months, which has been updated regularly.

For your peace of mind we do ensure the appropriate distance (1m+ or 2 metres) can be maintained between persons entering the building.

We do not use high touch items; such as hymn books, visitors book, pens, notices or service sheets.

We do keep a record of all who attend to support test and trace.

We display NHS track and trace and QR posters as the premises are open for outside users and community use.

Although social interaction is limited within the building, many people have already recognised the benefit of being in the same place as their fellow worshippers on Sundays.

Please join us if you can.



# **We missed you!**





# South London Tamil Church (SLTC)

**As we become more confident and live services are, once again, being delivered, SLTC are also re-starting their Sunday services.**

**To begin with their services will be on the first and third Sundays of the month starting at 3pm.**



As things develop through 2021, the SLTC 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 once again and we are sure we will be able to support each other in many different ways.

## Holy Habits returns!

### *Sharing Resources.*

From June 23rd our Holy Habits discussion group has been running again.

It takes place, via Zoom. The next meetings are on Thursday 1st July, Wednesday 14th July, and Thursday 22nd July.

Sessions start at 8.00pm and finish by approx 9.30pm. Phil Hyde is leading the group. Everyone is welcome to join in. And if you can't make all the weeks, that's absolutely fine - each discussion will stand alone.



In Acts, Luke presents a picture of the early Christian communities of disciples supporting one another and those in need in the wider community by the generous sharing of their resources. The shared fund may have also supported the apostles and, later on, the deacons and others. Much of the 21st-century Western culture encourages us to live separate, individual lives protecting our individuality, our privacy and our belongings.

In Acts 2:44, we hear that the disciples were together and had 'all things in common'. What did having 'all things in common' mean to those early Christians? It was about both giving and receiving, and needed to be mutual. It could mean sharing belongings, skills, ideas, time and roles. Sharing may not be obvious, and may take courage as it involves changing the way we think and the way we operate.

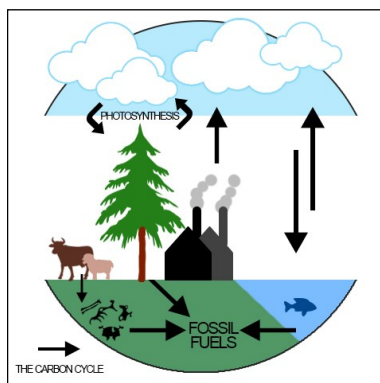
Sharing is not easy. How can we encourage sharing what we have and who we are towards being a natural part of our lives -both individually and as a church?

# 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.

## July Prayer for Divestment from Fossil Fuels

Diana Paulding

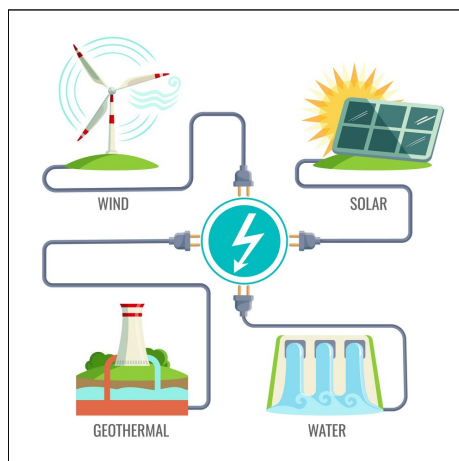


The fuels that we dug from your earth drove revolution and let us build industries and create new things.

Let us give thanks for the benefits they brought, but accept that it is time to let them go. And having given thanks, let us build a future where you guide us through wind, tide and sun to energy that does not exhaust your earth.

We pray for a renewed and renewable world, where politicians are willing to embrace new ways and we are prepared to let go of practices that do not serve your Kingdom.

Amen



## **August Prayer**



## **Prayer for Zimbabwe**

Wilbert Sayimani

Lord God, in pursuit for justice, freedom and civil liberties, we pray for the leadership of Zimbabwe.

Give them wisdom, vision and a desire for justice. We bring before you men and women serving prison sentences for crimes they did not commit. Men, women, and children struggling to put food on their tables as all their means of survival have been thwarted.

Lord, we pray for the eroding economy of this land. Weed out all corrupt elements to prepare for the kind of governance that you desire.

We pray for those risking their lives crossing borders in search for greener pastures elsewhere, which for some remains a "pie in the sky" even when they get there.

We bring before you those dying in hospitals or at home with no access to drugs or better facilities.

We do not forget those sacrificing their own lives for the sake of others: doctors, nurses, teachers and all other civil servants fighting for the good of all.

You are a good God and you hear the prayers of your people. Hear us Lord, and come and heal Zimbabwe.

Amen





# Cupcake Day ...continued...

Sadly, the planned Cake Stall to support The Alzheimer's Society was postponed because of the way the weather changed so dramatically.



As soon as 'summer' returns there will be a Cake Stall, with Jam and Marmalade, books and DVDs, in front of the church. There will also be a table of cakes and cupcakes next to the 'Mask Tree' in Boundary Road a few times in the coming month.

Details will be displayed inside and outside at the church, and in Boundary Road, showing dates and times.



***Create a quiet space:***

*Create a peaceful space to pause, and allow yourself to feel God's presence alongside you, as near to you as your own breath. In following the reflection below, as a church we will draw closer to God and to one another as we grow in faith and deepen our sense of belonging to God.*

**Isaiah 40 (selected verses)**

<sup>12</sup> Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand  
and marked off the heavens with a span,  
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure,  
and weighed the mountains in scales  
and the hills in a balance?

<sup>18</sup> To whom then will you liken God,  
or what likeness compare with him?

<sup>21</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

<sup>22</sup> It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

<sup>25</sup> To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?  
He who brings out their host  
and numbers them, calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power, not one is missing.

<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.

When it comes to wonderful prose and poetic descriptions, no book comes anywhere near the prophet Isaiah. His tremendous visions of God and what lay in store with the glory for God's people is plain to understand. He prophesied for over 40 years, initially falling

on deaf ears. A visionary who never forgot when he was called by God in Chapter 6, to preach God's righteousness and his longing to forgive.

Each time I read verses Chapter 40, some of which are quoted here, I am reminded of when I was at the top of a mountain in Switzerland on a clear day, and I could see miles of beautiful scenery or, more recently, of a sunrise over Langney Point.



We all know of areas of the countryside built upon, upsetting the natural ecosystem. Greed, pride and self-importance often get in the way. Today, science and evolution seem to take precedence over God's creation. But when we think of the creation stories in the book of Genesis we are not told when or how God brought life into being. Isaiah, however, leaves us in no doubt of the majesty of creation, that we are custodians of it with its natural life and death cycles for us and the natural world. We are reminded by the media of the squalor and misery in which so many live, far distant from the ideals of the Garden of Eden.

God's words of Isaiah, verse 29 '*He strengthens those who are weak and tired*', and Hosea who reminds all of us '*How can I give you up Israel, how can I abandon you? My heart will not let me do it. My love for you is too strong.*' (11:8), What reassurance to remember, as we go through life!

#### **Prayer:**

We thank for Lord for the wonder of your creation, that you did so for our contentment, prosperity and enjoyment. Help us to share it with others so that your glory may shine. We pray for those who are less fortunate than us, that they may know you as their friend and saviour. In Jesus name we ask it, Amen.

*Reflection and Prayer © 2021 Matthew Earl.*

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Diary Dates			
July			
Sunday	4th	10.30am	<b>Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>
Sunday	11th	10.30am	<b>Morning service to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley</b>
Sunday	18th	10.30am	<b>Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>
Sunday	25th	10.30am	<b>Morning service to be led by Phil Hyde</b>
August			
Sunday	1st	10.30am	<b>Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley</b>
Sunday	8th	10.30am	<b>Morning service to be led by Phil Hyde</b>
Sunday	15th	10.30am	<b>Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>
Sunday	22nd	10.30am	<b>Morning service to be led by Phil Hyde</b>
Sunday	29th	10.30am	<b>Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>

**PLEASE NOTE...** Articles for the September 2021 issue of Contact should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Saturday 21st August** unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement. Contributions are very acceptable by e-mail: jmw321wmj @ yahoo.co.uk.

We have continued with the Puzzle Corner in Contact. Please let us have any appropriate feedback.

Do you enjoy the puzzles?

Sudoku Answers for June:

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



# Puzzle Corner

## Bible Quiz: King David

**1) David, the most famous of all the kings of Israel, lived around 1000 B.C. What occupation was he engaged in as a boy?**

- ☐ Candle-maker
- ☐ Shepherd
- ☐ Carpenter
- ☐ Errand boy

**2) Which prophet secretly anointed David as king?**

- ☐ Elijah
- ☐ Moses
- ☐ Elisha
- ☐ Samuel

**3) Shortly after the anointing, David was hired to work for King Saul. What was his job?**

- ☐ Administrator
- ☐ Shepherd
- ☐ Harpist
- ☐ Soldier

**4) Which giant Philistine warrior did David kill with only a sling and a rock?**

- ☐ Beelzebub
- ☐ Goliath
- ☐ Brutus
- ☐ Samson

**5) Who made several attempts on David's life because of jealousy?**

- ☐ His older brother
- ☐ King Saul's son, Jonathan
- ☐ King Saul
- ☐ Samuel

## Bible Word Search: Daniel Chapter 1

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and then move the leftover letters in the correct order to form the *mystery answer*.

Ashpenaz, Azariah,  
Babylon, Captives,  
Chaldeans, Decree,  
Destroy, Difficult,  
Dwelling, Enchanters,  
Explain, Families,  
Feet, Food, Friends,  
Gold, Head, Heaven,  
Houses, Interpret,  
Iron, Jerusalem,  
Judah, Knowledge,  
Legs, Magicians,  
Qualified, Reveal,  
Secret, Shadrach,  
Situation, Sorcerers,  
Terrible, Thighs,  
Troubled, Vegetables,  
Wisdom

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

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

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

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

### Activities you can find on our Premises

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

<b>Monday</b>	10.00-11.00am	Yoga
<b>Tuesday</b>	12.45-3.00pm 5.00-6.00pm 6.00-7.30pm	AA Meeting (in Holmwood Hall) Rainbows Brownies (10th Wallington)
<b>Wednesday</b>	1.15-3.30pm	Lace Making
<b>Thursday</b>	11.00-12.00noon 7.15-9.45pm	Senior Movers Exercise Carshalton & Wallington Art Group
<b>Friday</b>	6.45-8.30pm	Guides(8th Wallington)
<b>Saturday</b>	10.00-12.00noon	Zumba

**Some activities are coming back  
as we slowly re-open our premises**