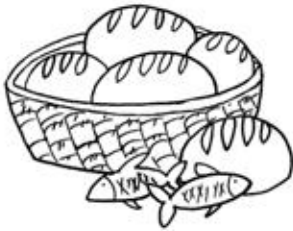


# Wallington United Reformed Church



## **CONTACT**

No. 343

October 2021

# Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends

One of the blessings of a holiday for me is the opportunity to read books. In a two-week period away with the family I can read far more than I would at home and this year was no different. Among the usual mix of thrillers, police procedurals and humorous stories this year I read a memoir. Actually the book I read has been described by its author as a 'sort of memoir, it's about a bus trip really'. Those who have read it will know exactly which book I am talking about but for those who haven't it is Sandi Toksvig's book, in which she reflects on her life whilst sharing with her readers what she has learnt about the people and places on the Number 12 bus route. This is the bus she uses to commute from her home in Dulwich to her work at the BBC in central London.

It's an amusing and entertaining book but one which is informative and a little challenging as it introduces us to characters (real people) who are relatively unknown or overlooked. Besides the humour I love the fact that one of the best-known figures on television chooses to link her story not with the famous and rich but with the overlooked, marginalised and sometimes downright eccentric.

If we were to tell the story of our lives, referencing the people we have met or learnt about in our lives, whom would we choose? Would it be those encounters, however fleeting,

with those whom the world values or would it be what we have learnt about ourselves and our world through those who make us uncomfortable, challenge the status quo and are often overlooked?

In the Gospels there are few encounters where Jesus' interaction with the powerful and well-regarded is positive. Rather it is the marginalised, the weak, the poor and those regarded as of little or no value who reveal God's kingdom. Indeed, central to the Gospel is that God himself gave up his power and position, emptied himself and became human like us, with all the weakness and powerlessness that comes with that.

As we have now started the journey towards Christmas (however much we may want to hang on to the Summer and resist the marketing of the world), where the divine becomes human and the ruler of the world becomes a helpless baby, let us be open to what God wants to teach us about his kingdom and our lives through the overlooked, marginalised and dis-comforters of our world.

*Craig Bowman*

## **Our Wider Community**

We think of all the young people who have recently started university and college. We wish them well in their chosen courses. We uphold all young people in our thoughts and prayers, hope they will be able to succeed as they are offered opportunities and new directions to go in.

We remember all those who are teaching in Schools, Colleges and Universities where they are helping their students to fulfil their potential.

*We ask your prayers for those who are anxious or unwell, whether they are part of a church family, or not, and we remember all those who are housebound or have difficulties at this time.*

*Also 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.***

# Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival, held on 19th September, was a very happy occasion. Tins and non-perishable goods were donated during the service to be taken to Rylands, Methodist Homes, in Beddington Gardens, and also to the support home opposite the church, which was known as St Bernadette's many years ago, and is now run by Consensus Support,



For the fruits of his creation,  
thanks be to God.

For his gifts to every nation,  
thanks be to God.

For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping,  
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,  
God's will be done.

In the help we give our neighbour,  
God's will be done.



In our worldwide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will be done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,  
thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit,  
thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.

SLTC also held their Harvest Festival on the same Sunday and added their donations to ours.

This meant we had an amazing amount of donations which were sorted and delivered to the recipients, who were very appreciative.



## South London Tamil Church (SLTC)



SLTC are now regularly  
using our premises for their  
Sunday services.

Their service starts at 3pm, and everyone is  
very welcome to join them.

## WURC Sunday Mornings

Our services are continuing to move steadily forward. We are still socially distanced, with families sitting together, but now with just one empty chair between individuals.

During our Communion Services the bread and wine will once again be taken round and served to members of the congregation.

We have continued to serve coffee after the Sunday Service with coffee and tea being served in the sanctuary. Everyone is very welcome to stay for coffee (or tea) and have time to catch-up with a few friends.



As we have not yet gone back to setting out cups and biscuits in the coffee lounge, we are providing paper cups, and all the biscuits are pre-wrapped, which has enabled us to really focus on being a Fairtrade Church, and more environmentally friendly.

The coffee, tea and sugar, as well as a good percentage of the biscuits, are Fairtrade,

We are using Ripple paper cups, generally the most popular hot drinks cup on the market and for good reason. They perform well and the ripple effect is really comfortable to hold, as they provide a good grip and protect your hands from the heat...and are recyclable!



The main drawback is that we are spending more. The cost of tea or coffee works out at approximately 16p including the cost of the cup, and pre-wrapped biscuits between 30p and 75p.

Although we had built up a small(ish) credit balance in the Tea & Coffee Accounts, as we move forward we will be very grateful for any contributions towards the cost of the tea, coffee and biscuits.

### **Sunday 21st November will be a special day.**

On 21st November we will be gathering for worship at 10.30am for a special 'Memorial Service' to remember all those we have lost in the past 1½-2 years. This will include the names of all those from our church family, our own families and any friends, who are no longer with us.

# Praise in the Park



I enjoyed popping over to this event.

The event had opened at 11am opening by Madam Mayor, Trish Fivey and "Celebrating everyone who's served our community" a thank you from Eliot Colburn M.P.

As I walked down towards Beddington park entrance nearest Wallington Boys School, it was delightful to hear a crowd singing! As I entered the park, stewards welcomed and explained the "Remembering those we've lost" happening, as I saw people were tying labels with name's of people they wished remembered as the photo illustrates. This was a poignant reflective time.

Most people were seated in deck chairs or in small groups on picnic rugs, children moving around and involved. A small stage with the speakers and band set up playing for the worship songs. The words and order of events accessible on my phone from a website visible on the stage.



I was glad I had arrived to hear all of a "Message of Hope" from Frog Orr- Ewing. He initially explained his name! He had been known as "Frog" from childhood and it stuck!

He spoke in reference to the "Prodigal Son", (another name which has "stuck" as it is likely the most well-loved parable!)



He illustrated a “running off/lost” experience of his own, as a curious child on a sandy beach. The Prodigal Son had made mistakes, lots of them, he spent his inheritance unwisely and had reached ‘rock bottom’. He was wanting to return home but also acutely in fear and dread of the reaction. But was greeted to an unexpected, amazing welcome from his Father, running to meet him! Frog expanded on this; that whatever we have done or problem we have or are running from – alcoholism, a drug habit, Jesus described the “arms open welcome”, as illustrative of God’s love for us.

He expanded on this as a challenge to the church; to improve its “welcome” to the community. Churches are welcoming with help for people; with faith and further encouraged to support with everyday issues – debt advice and other local examples to assist and be outward looking.

Christians need to be more open to engage and talk with people.



A variety of Local Community Support groups were also in the field for people to access during the day and an illustration of support and expertise for churches to link with.

I missed the last part of the worship with the band, but picnic time was obviously starting for peckish children as I was leaving. No doubt the afternoon of music and food was a thoroughly enjoyable illustration of the parable celebration, with our cultural refreshment, food vans and essential event parking field and toilets! I for one hope similar happens again, it was brilliantly organised.

*Jeanette*

**As we continue to raise money for a local charities by selling face coverings.**

**If you need a new face covering, please feel free to check our stock.**

We now have baskets with a range of designs and colours for anyone to look through, rather than a selection hanging on the 'Mask Tree'.

We are supporting

**'OFF THE RECORD'** for the next few weeks. They have a range of free, friendly and accessible support services for young people

aged 14-25 who live, work or study in the Borough of Sutton. Free counselling and mental health support is offered to children and young people in Croydon, Merton and Sutton.

The charity was set up in 1994 to help young people going through tough times. Support is offered to young people affected by loss and violence, there is text-based counselling and workshops for 11-25 year olds, and they offer new projects for boys and young men in Croydon and Merton. Support from 'Off the

Record' is primarily for young people; however, from time to time they can offer support to parents or carers in the form of groups or workshops. The work with young people is completely separate and confidential.

**£158**  
*so far*



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.

### ***Oct: Prayer for Creation***

*Charles Jolly*

Creator God, eternal loving parent  
– when I stop to think, I have to  
pinch myself to check that we really  
are here! I mean, how come this  
mind- boggling universe has  
precisely the properties that make  
life possible?



Then scientists, with all their brilliant tools, tell  
us that the chance of intelligent life evolving  
(us) is probably vanishingly small.  
Maybe you needed those countless galaxies  
with all their untold stars so that (just once?)  
you might find beings who had hearts and souls  
and minds and strength for you?  
A race that gave you a way to step into your  
creation to crown it with your glory?  
How can we bear the responsibility of being  
your children?

Your purpose in creation hangs in the balance;  
our race stands at a fork in the road.

The narrow way leads to peace of heart, to  
harmony with each other, to harmony with  
earth, your other than human  
creation.



The broad way leads to spiralling  
chaos, bringing untold suffering on  
humanity and wantonly destroying,  
in a few short years, what took  
billions to produce and can never be  
replaced.

Amen.

Diary Dates			
October			
Sunday	3rd	10.30am	<b>Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>
Sunday	10th	10.30am	<b>Morning service to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley</b>
Sunday	17th	10.30am	<b>Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman.</b>
Sunday	24th	10.30am	<b>Morning service to be led by Phil Hyde</b>
Sunday	31st	10.30am	<b>Morning service to be led by Steve Tomkins</b>
November			
Sunday	7th	10.30am	<b>Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>
Sunday	14th	10.30am	<b>Remembrance Day Service to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley</b>
Sunday	21st	10.30am	<b>Memorial Service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>

**PLEASE NOTE...** Articles for the November 2021 issue of Contact should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Friday 22nd October** 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 September:

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

# Puzzle Corner

## 'Clean' and 'Unclean'

**1) One day the Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and observed some of his disciples doing something they considered "unclean." Why did they accuse Jesus' disciples of being "unclean"?**

- ☐ They used curse words.
- ☐ They ate pork.
- ☐ They did not wash plates and cups.
- ☐ They ate with unwashed hands.

**2) What did Jesus say in reply?**

- ☐ "It is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'"
- ☐ "It is what goes into a man that makes him 'unclean.'"
- ☐ "You hypocrites! It is your traditions that make men unclean."
- ☐ "Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?"

**3) Which is a lesson from this story?**

- ☐ Cleanliness is next to Godliness.
- ☐ Legalistic religion is of no value.
- ☐ A pure heart and a pure body go hand-in-hand.
- ☐ You cannot serve both God and money.

**4) Which is a second lesson from this story?**

- ☐ God will provide the things we need.
- ☐ We should always observe the Sabbath.
- ☐ The first will be last, and the last will be first.
- ☐ Attitudes and actions are the true measure of spirituality and morality.

# Bible Word Search: Water in the Desert

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*.

Arid, Blessing,  
Cactus, Clear,  
Comfort, Desert,  
Drink, Dry, Faithful,  
Flourish, Flow,  
Fountain, Gladness,  
Growth, Healing,  
Hope, Hot, Hydrate,  
Journey, Joy, Life,  
Living, Mirage,  
Moisture, Oasis, Palm  
tree, Parched,  
Prayer, Quench, Rain,  
Recover, Refresh,  
Respite, Revival,  
Sandals, Scorched,  
Singing, Spirit,  
Spring, Stream, Sun,  
Survive, Thirsty,  
Wall, Water

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

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

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

<b>Sunday</b>	10.30am	Family Service
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## Activities you can find on our Premises

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

<b>Monday</b>	10.00-11.00am	Yoga
	2.00-4.00pm	Bananas Art
	4.15-7.30pm	Reigate Academy of Dance
	7.45-10.00pm	Explorer Scouts
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.15am-1.20pm	Hartbeeps (mother and baby activities)
	1.40-3.40pm	U3A Art group
	5.00-6.00pm	Rainbows
	6.00-7.30pm	Brownies (10th Wallington)
	8.00-10.00pm	Epsom Downs Badminton, Winter(Sept-May)
<b>Wednesday</b>	7.30-10.00pm	Chess Club
<b>Thursday</b>	11.00-12.00noon	Senior Movers Exercise
	2.00-4.00pm	Ladies' Badminton, Winter(Sept-May)
	2.00-4.00pm	Fallen Angels Drama
	4.20-7.20pm	Reigate Academy of Dance
	7.25-10.00pm	Carshalton & Wallington Art Group
<b>Friday</b>	9.30am-12.30pm	NAS Coffee morning
	6.45-8.30pm	Guides(8th Wallington)
<b>Saturday</b>	8.15-9.45am	Fitness
	9.00-10.00	Yoga
	10.00-12.30pm	Zumba