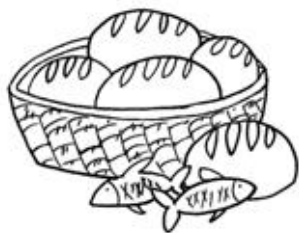
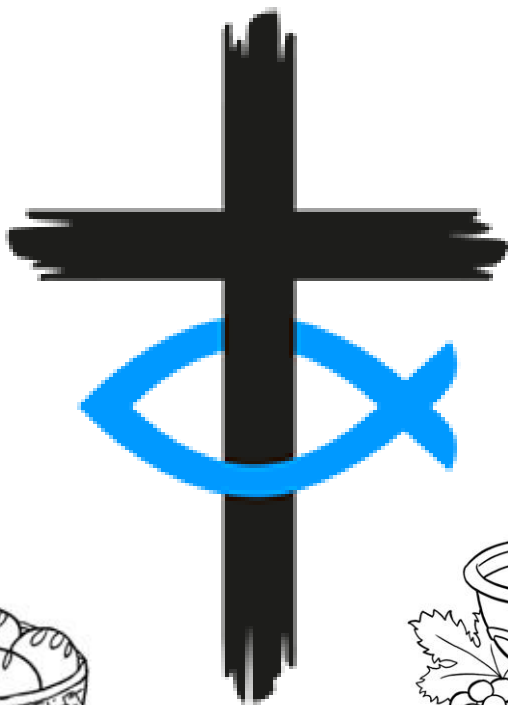


Wallington United Reformed Church



CONTACT

No. 349

May 2022

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

Last year a group of us met online during Lent using *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* to reflect on our faith and ourselves in the world. During that time we considered the different characteristics of the four children, the need to be self-aware and recognise how the gifts we are given are not intended for our selfish use but for the building of the kingdom, as well as considering the passion, death and resurrection of Christ.

This may seem quite an agenda arising out of a 'children's book'. However I would argue that *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is not just a children's book. In fact, as I have said before, a story is never only a story! When we read a book or watch a film there is always something more going on besides the author or director just trying to distract us from the real world for a while. Books and films present us with characters and situations which invite us to consider how we would act in that situation and think about what is good and what is not. In *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* it is tempting to think how we would act like Lucy, Peter and Susan and never be like Edmund but in real life there is always the temptation to act in some way like Edmund, which is why self-awareness is so important – to be aware what may tempt us and where our weaknesses are.

In *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* it is sobering to realise that Aslan, the Christ-like figure in the book, offers himself in exchange for Edmund, the human who is initially seen as least likeable and least trust-worthy. Although this is not my favourite book (*The Wind in the Willows* holds that honour) it is a book to which I have regularly returned because it reminds me that however weak or misguided we may be we are not abandoned by our God.

We have just celebrated Easter and for some that will have been marked by Palm Sunday and then Easter Sunday – two celebratory occasions. However it has also included Maundy Thursday and Good Friday when we have acknowledged betrayal, abandonment, desolation and death. One of the wonders of Easter is that the sacrifice of Jesus is not about gathering the good and the perfect but, as in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the sacrifice is made for those who we may think should not deserve it. For that I am eternally grateful because that means it is for me because, if we are looking for perfection, I would not be included.

Christ is Risen. Alleluia!

Craig Bowman

Our Wider Community

We think of all the students who have started their Summer term, which will lead to their exams. We wish them well as they continue their preparation and as they look forward to the next stage of their education, maybe applying for colleges or apprenticeships.

We have been checking the Covid infection rates in the Sutton area and are pleased to see they are now decreasing. From 967 per 100,000 in early March the rate is down to 181 per 100,000 by 21st April...fantastic.

We ask for your continuing prayers for all those who have been ill with the covid-19 virus in recent months. Many people continue to suffer the effects of the virus. We pray for their speedy recovery and recuperation.

As we move towards the summer months we think of all those who are planning holidays or trips out.

I know, O God,
that wherever I travel,
You will be with me.

There is nowhere I can go,
no situation I can face,
that is outside Your love and strength;
and so I submit to Your care and keeping on this journey,
knowing that at all times I am safe in Your hands.

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.

2022 Prayer Handbook

Edited by Karen Campbell and Ian Fosten

It is fifty years since the United Reformed Church came into being.
(This is something that will be our re-occurring
theme throughout the year.)

Recognising this significant milestone,
'Jubilee' is the theme for the 2022 Prayer Handbook.

This Jubilee is not so much a time for looking back, but can give us
an opportunity to look honestly, carefully and prayerfully at where we are
encountering God in everyday events today.

Alert to your call

In the 2022 Prayer Handbook, by John Bradbury

O God of challenge and transformation,
you call us to follow in Christ's way.

By your Spirit, make us alert to the call
that comes through rushing wind
or still small voice.

When we have lost the path
and need to be stopped in our tracks,
shock us back into the way of Christ.

When we need feeding like lost sheep,
may we know the good shepherd who comes to us.

You are the God of all creation,
the one worthy to receive power and wealth,
wisdom and might.

Yet you call even us to service -
humble, frail and broken as we are.

May we hear your call to us
to be proclaimers of good news for all,
in word and deed.

We pray that all may hear of Christ
who offers newness of life,
new beginnings and transformation
of our old ways,
that ultimately all may come to worship you
in your Kingdom.

CARSHALTON AND WALLINGTON ART GROUP **Spring**

Exhibition

Thursday, Friday and Saturday

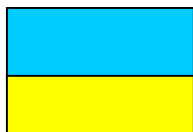
May 26th – 29th in the
coffee lounge

10am to 5pm,

closing at 2pm on Sunday

COME TO BROWSE

OR TO BUY!



and stay for tea/coffee and cake.

Help us to raise money for Christian Aid

As they support Ukraine

Thursday, Friday & Saturday

May 26th – 29th

10.45am until 3.30pm.

Saturday 26th May 10.30am until 1.30pm

in the coffee lounge



ALL WELCOME

Taken from 2020 Prayer Handbook

Prayers from the heart

Edited by Karen Campbell and Ian Fosten

The 2020 Prayer Handbook asked for a mixture of prayer styles and approaches. Contributors were encouraged to offer prayers that expressed the whole range and depth of thankfulness, joy, hope, frustration, fear and yearning.

In short, 'Prayers from the heart'

Love which waits

In the 2020 Prayer Handbook, by Stephen Best

Lord,
we believe we know,
but sometimes
what we believe we know
seems very small.

Lord,
we trust in faith
but sometimes
we find our faithful trusting
wavers.

Eventually sufficient time passes for us to
make better sense of our journey.
When that happens,
it somehow no longer matters
that our knowing had seemed so small,
that our trusting had wavered.

And we rejoice at
how patiently
how wondrously,
how quietly and persistently,
your love simply
waited for us to catch up with you.
As it always will.

Faith - Hope - Love - since 1972



This year celebrates the fifty years anniversary since the United Reformed Church came into being...

Send us a postcard

Please help us bring as many URC experiences as possible to our 50th Anniversary Service at Methodist Central Hall, London, on Saturday 1 October, 2022.

We know not all of us will not be able to come to the service in person. But that need not prevent all of our experiences being represented and honoured; a great cloud of URC witnesses!



We invite everyone across the URC to send in a postcard which we'll use in photos on the screen as the service unfolds. The postcards themselves will also be displayed in the worship space itself.

We invite you to get a blank postcard and, on one side, write whatever you feel comfortable to share of your name, age and location (including which URC you are connected to). On the other side of your postcard, as imaginatively and brightly as possible, share your thanksgiving to God for an aspect of the URC that you want to celebrate. You could draw pictures, write something, quote a suitable Bible passage, etc.

Please send completed cards to:

Sam Richards
United Reformed Church
Church House
86 Tavistock Place
London
WC1H 9RT

We'll need to receive the postcards by **Monday 1 August 2022** in order to include them in the 50th Anniversary Service display.

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.

John 21: 4-8 'The Stranger on the Shore'

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.



When we read this lovely story, it's tempting to ask ourselves: who had the better eyesight – Peter or John? An even better question would be: when do you think the disciples recognise that it's Jesus? A closer examination of the passage reveals that it's not when they hear his voice, nor when they see who's calling to them from the shore – but when they cast their nets. In other words, when they did as they were told!

Sometimes I think that we worry too much about our lack of understanding, because at times resurrection is so difficult to comprehend. But Peter's example shows that recognition and understanding come with *following*. We have to trust, and put a foot forward in faith. We have to get out of the boat, and jump into the sea, like Peter. When we take a chance, embrace risk, and follow our Lord, then he will seem less like a stranger on the shore and more like an ever-present companion.

Prayer:

Loving, gracious God,
if we are slow to recognise your presence, forgive us.
Help us to be reminded
that there is no situation in life – however desperate –
where you are not present and your love is not at work.

**GIVE US THE WISDOM TO SEE OUR RISEN LORD JESUS CHRIST IN
SURPRISING PLACES,
AND THE STRENGTH TO SHARE IN HIS CONTINUING MINISTRY
TO ALL WHO CALL UPON US IN THEIR NEED.**

We ask this for your love's sake. **AMEN.**

*Reflection © 2020 Barrie Tabraham.
<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*

Good Friday Happening 2022

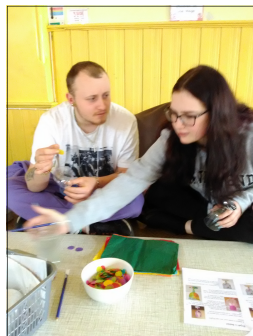
This year we were able to meet in person on Good Friday for a short service and a number of activities.

There were a number of our regular congregation there, and also a few of our friends from St Andrew's, Cheadam. Sadly, we had no children attending this year, although it did seem that the 'big-kids' thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Activities included flower arranging, setting up the Easter Garden, various craft activities, and singing.

The craft activities covered a range of activities from making an Easter card to knitting daffodils. Bookmarks and hanging Easter decorations were all available.

There were a number of different Easter illustrations to colour, and many small card toppers, and embellishments which could be compiled into Easter themed articles.



We raised over **£280**
for **Nickel Support**.

A chance for people with learning disabilities to shine.

A very **BIG thank you** to everyone
for their support.

The next sale
will be to support



Christian Aid will be working with partner organisations through the ACT Alliance, a global faith-based coalition. They are working to help those in real need in Ukraine. We know the news coverage is overwhelming. Hundreds of thousands



of people still have no food, no water, no medical care, and no heat or electricity. This situation is changing rapidly and will affect people for a long time.

Please come along for Books, DVDs,
Greetings Cards, Wrapping Paper,
Marmalade & Home-Made Cakes

on

Friday 13th May

the second Friday of the month (term time).

1.00pm-3.30pm

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.

Prayer for Christian Aid

Dionne Gravesande

(Christian Aid)



In the midst of silence words
are not spoken,

No translations required.

In the depth of silence, I am called to listen.

Listen to your heartbeat, and the blowing of your wind.

Listen to the movement and diversity of the Spirit. Be still,
says the Lord and know that I am God. Listen to the cry of
the voiceless.

Listen to the poor and excluded.

Listen to the hungry and oppressed.

Listen to the widows and her children.

Be swift to hear and slow to speak.

You are called to love and serve all humanity.

You are called to stand with the lost and broken.

You are called to establish God's values throughout the
earth.

Spirit of God, breathe on us again,

That we might hear, see and build a shared life.

Mould us and open us up to new dreams and new hopes,

A new life in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Diary Dates			
May			
Sunday	1st	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Morning service
Sunday	15th	10.30am	Morning service, to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	22nd	10.30am	Morning service
Sunday	29th	10.30am	Morning service
June			
Sunday	5th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...
Sunday	12th	10.30am	Morning service

PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the June 2022 issue of Contact should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Sunday 22nd May** unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement. Contributions are very acceptable by e-mail: jmw321wmj @ yahoo.co.uk.

Sudoku Answers for April:

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

Puzzle Corner

Jesus and the Twelve:

Accompanied,
Appeared,
Argued,
Bartholomew,
Believed,
Bethsaida,
Betrayed,
Brothers,
Confessed,
Disciples,
Doubted,
Fishermen,
Followers,
Galilee,
Gethsemane,
Healing,
Instructions,
Jerusalem, John,
Judas, Listened,
Loved, Parables, Philip, Questioned, Rebuked, Tax collector,
Teaching, Testified, Wondered

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

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.

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

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*

Monday	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
Tuesday	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)
Wednesday	7.30-10.00pm	Chess Club
Thursday	11.00-12.00noon	Senior Movers Exercise
	2.00-4.00pm	Ladies' Badminton, Winter(Sept-May)
	2.00-4.00pm	Fallen Angels Drama
	7.25-10.00pm	Carshalton & Wallington Art Group
Friday	9.30am-12.30pm	NAS Coffee morning
	6.45-8.30pm	Guides(8th Wallington)
Saturday	8.15-9.45am	Fitness
	9.00-10.00	Yoga
	10.00-12.30pm	Zumba



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.