



Wallington United Reformed Church



CONTACT

No. 355

December 2022-January 2023

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

We are now in the season of Advent so let me take this opportunity to wish you a good Advent. I'm not being flippant just trying to draw your attention to this important season of the year which tends to get lost in the preparations for Christmas. Advent is more than the four weeks in which we get ready for the celebration of Christ's birth; it is the time of year when we concentrate on looking at ourselves in the light of Christ's coming. If we were to meet Christ tomorrow, or even today, would we be happy or worried?

Advent is the season of hope, the time of dreamers in the daylight, of prophets and revolutionaries of non-violent belief. The readings of Advent are intended to tear us out of our ruts and out of the usual pattern of our days. They are intended to startle us and awaken us to almost infinite possibilities as we prepare for the coming of Christ into our lives. The opening verses of the second chapter of the prophet Isaiah (vv1-5) set the tone of the coming weeks with a stirring vision of God's hopes for humankind and all creation.

But Advent is also the season of repentance and renewal as we prepare to meet the Christ who comes to us in the Christmas season. When confronted with the light of the world what is hidden in the dark places of our lives is revealed, there is no hiding place, and repentance is the only appropriate response.

At Christmas we use lights in many different ways. We talk of the switching on of the lights; we put coloured lights on our Christmas trees; and we hold candlelight and Christingle services. All these can be pretty, even dazzling and distracting, but let's not forget that one of the themes that runs through John's Gospel is Jesus Christ the Light of the World.

Light overcomes darkness, it can banish fear, and it can also show what has hidden in the dark places that we, or others, would rather not reveal.

With the New Year only a few short weeks away maybe one of the best resolutions we can make is to allow the light of Christ to shine into those dark places of our lives and take a good look at ourselves. Then we can perhaps be a little more honest and open about ourselves, both with God and others, and the light of Christ will be better able to shine through us.

May the deep and rich gifts of Christmas be yours this year.

Craig Bowman

Our Wider Community

As we reach the end of 2022, will you be looking back over the last 12 months and pondering on all the things you have (or have not) achieved.

What do you think you have achieved?

Have you been able to organise, or re-organise something, or to make it work better?

Have you been able to identify a problem, and solve it.

Have you come up with a new idea that has improved things.

Have you worked on your own special projects.

An achievement is an accomplishment—something achieved with effort or skill. Achieve and achievement often imply the completion of something important or difficult—a lofty goal or a great feat. This may not be the case.

An achievement can be in anything. In sports, in academics, in social life, in art, in Boy Scouts, in cooking or in any aspect of life.

Sometimes we don't see or acknowledge our own achievements even when others see them clearly. Everyone has achievements in their life. Look for yours and build on them.

Do you try to greet everyone with a smile?

Are you good at listening to others?

Do you try to always do your best?

These may seem simple achievements but they are your personal skills and qualities.

Focus on your successes.

Develop your qualities.

AND....always be confident in anything you know you can do well.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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.

The Moderator's Christmas Letter 2022



Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future, he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy as they rejoice before you: Isaiah 9: 1-2

Dear friends,

It has been yet another challenging year. Once again, it seems that we have had our roots shaken. The war in Ukraine feels so close to us. The rise in the cost of living and our fuel bills challenge us as never before. With fewer Stipendiary Ministers in the United Reformed Church, Church Life Review and our general decline, it may feel that we are living in a truly dark and tumultuous time. It is a real test of our faith to hang on and believe that God is still doing something amazing in the world when change, subversive politics and war surround us.

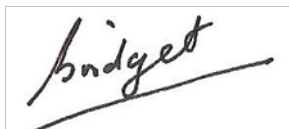
So, praise the Lord for Christmas where we welcome light in our darkness. We are reminded that God comes to be with us again. We don't need to be afraid of our future because we are all in God's hands. We have had to be creative in our thinking the last 2 years. As I go around the Synod, I still see signs of hope and growth. New people coming through the doors of our churches. Warm Hubs and other mission activities growing. I see people offering themselves for ministry of all types. It is very exciting. Yes, there are still places where challenges exist, but that is where God is calling us to be light.

Can I encourage you to reread the story of Jesus' birth. To sit with the passages and wonder, 'what does Jesus' arrival mean for me?' There are Advent bible studies going on all over the Synod which are a great way to engage further with this wonderful story. As in Isaiah 9:1-2 above, Christ is at the centre of Christmas which is something good to share with our

congregations. Is Christ at the centre of our lives though? With Christ at our very core, we will have peace and can be reassured that we and the world are still in God's hands.

Please pray for your Ministers, Local Church Leaders and Lay preachers during this busy season. They offer such a great service for the Church. Have a wonderful Advent and Christmas. May we all catch the hope of Christ to share at this dark time. May God continue to do a 'new thing' in you and in me.

Every blessing

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bidget". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the word.

2022 Prayer Handbook

Edited by Karen Campbell and Ian Fosten

It is fifty years since the United Reformed Church came into being.

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.

As we reach the end of our 50th Anniversary Year, we include two thoughts from the Handbook. As we look back over the year, we remember the loss of our great Queen Elizabeth II, the times of turmoil throughout many the parts of the World, as well as our own personal reflections.

Saviour, Messiah, Lord

In the 2022 Prayer Handbook, by Maggie Hindley

This last Sunday of the year,
this Christmas Day,
this joyful Sabbath,

sing a new song,
rejoice,
glorify and praise God,

because the Saviour has come
to God's children who are poor and exploited;
the Messiah has come
to God's children who walk in the darkness of oppression;
the Lord has come to
our generation in its idolatry.

Rejoice, and ponder these things.
Then follow this new-born baby,
your Saviour, your Messiah, your Lord
into the New Year and beyond,
into the unknown,
into his wonderful kingdom of compassion and truth.
Amen

A most unlikely saint

In the 2022 Prayer Handbook, by Karen Campbell

I wonder if I am called to be a saint?

That's a funny thought.
I think I am SO far from being saintly -
my halo hangs more than a little crooked!

Do I know how to refuse evil and choose good ...?
Debatable!
"Wrong" often has a deceptively attractive disguise!

Do I always consciously choose for good?
Mostly ...but sometimes I sort of push the boundaries
and hope I get away with it.

Am I always conscious of your voice speaking to me ...
and when I do hear you speaking, do I always listen,
let alone obey ...?
Hmmm ...

Oh Lord, by your grace alone I stand.

Let your face continue to shine
that even this unlikely "saint" may be saved.

Christmas Services

Wallington

United Reformed Church

Sunday 11th December

10.30am Morning service...
with Gift Service and Nativity...
to be led by Phil Hyde

Sunday 18th December

4.00pm Carols by Candlelight..
to be led by Revd Craig Bowman

Sunday 25th December

10.00am Christmas Morning service...
to be led by Phil Hyde



South London Tamil Church

invite everyone on

Saturday 17th December

to their 6.00pm Carols Service

St Andrew's

United Reformed Church, Cheam

Sunday 18th December

10.30am Christmas Tree Service

Sunday 18th December

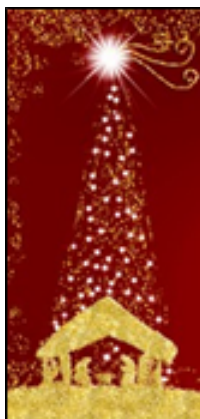
6.30pm Carol Praise
to be led by Revd Craig Bowman

Saturday 24th December

4.00pm Christingle service...

Sunday 25th December

10.30am Christmas Morning service...
to be led by Revd Craig Bowman



Throughout November and December we are supporting Sutton Community Works which currently works with 19 churches across the Borough. Churches support many of the projects by advertising opportunities for volunteering, praying and offering financial support on a regular monthly basis. This enables the charity to have a base of support and to offer sustainable projects.

**Our November Cake Sale
raised £103.70...and then on
Saturday 19th November the
Christmas Stalls raised £750.85**

**taking our total to £854.55 so far, for this
very worth-while charity.**

A very BIG thank you to the Guides for instigating the Christmas Sale, and to everyone who came along to help or were able to offer support in any way.

The next outside Cake Sale is planned for



**Friday 9th December
1.00pm to 3.30pm
*If it is fine!***

**Cakes and marmalade will be available outside,
with books, greetings cards, some small
stocking fillers and Jig-saw Puzzles inside...**

Sunday 11th December

**is our gift service, when we will support
the Sutton Community Works Christmas Hampers...
watch for more details...**



Commitment for Life

These prayers can be used to help people focus on generosity of mind and spirit.

Prayer for Global Economic Justice

God of abundant love, grace, life. We turn to you in anger and lament. The state of the world lacks so much; economic injustice steals life – human, environmental, even space. We know the richer get (much) richer, while the poor fall even more into poverty. BUT it is not that there are poor nations – there are impoverished nations; or that there poor people – they are impoverished people...because the global economic system is based on injustice and lies and stealing.



We turn to YOU – when you said “it is good” you meant it! Natural resources, sea resources, human creativity, and talents... there was so much there, and in living together this was multiplied and life was filled with laughter, dance, hope, empathy. Then sisters and brothers were enslaved, nature was exploited, air was poisoned, and wealth was worshiped as deity and accumulation became the norm: those who have *are*; those who don’t have are *not*.

Creator, you continue to remind us that your way is best, and until it becomes our way there will be injustice.

In hope we seek you: may your love inspire us to love and grow together in respect. Amen.

Robert Jordan

Diary Dates			
December			
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Morning service...with Gift Service and Nativity...to be led by Phil Hyde
Sunday	18th	4.00pm	Carols by Candlelight..to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	18th	6.30pm	Carol Praise at St Andrew's, Cheam
Sunday	25th	10.00am	Christmas Day service...to be led by Phil Hyde
January			
Sunday	1st	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Morning service...
Sunday	15th	10.30am	Morning service...
Sunday	22nd	10.30am	Morning service...
Sunday	29th	10.30am	Morning service...

PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the February 2023 issue of Contact should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Monday 21st January** unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement.

Contributions are very acceptable by
e-mail: jmw321wmj @ yahoo.co.uk.

Puzzle Corner

Fun Christmas Questions:

- 1) What did the other reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his shiny red nose?
- 2) How many ghosts show up in *A Christmas Carol*?
- 3) Where was baby Jesus born?
- 4) What are the two other most popular names for Santa Claus?
- 5) What do people traditionally put on top of a Christmas tree?
- 6) In the movie *It's A Wonderful Life*, what happened every time a bell rang?
- 7) What words follow "Silent Night" in the song?
- 8) Which real-life person is Santa Claus based on?
- 9) In the song "Winter Wonderland," what do we call the snowman?
- 10) According to the song, what did my true love give to me on the eighth day of Christmas?

Sudoku Answers
for November:

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

Bible Word
Search: Angels

Angel of the
Lord, Certain
women, Christ's
return,
Cornelius,
Created, Direct,
Elect, Extend
blessings,
Gideon, Herald
His birth,
Human form,
Innumerable,
Invisible, Mary
Magdalene,
Moses, Paul,
Protect,
Respectful,
Resurrection, Satan's binding, Seven churches, Shepherds,
Virgin Mary, Wise, Zechariah

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

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.

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

EVERY WEEK AT WALLINGTON U.R.C.

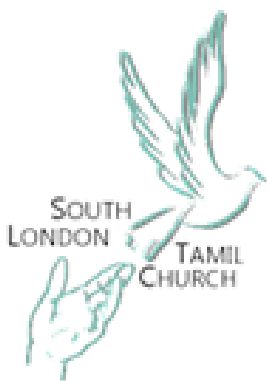
Times of Worship

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
	7.00-8.00pm	Yoga
	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	10.30-11.30am	Baby Massage
	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
	10.00-12.15pm	Zumba



South London Tamil Church (SLTC)

SLTC invite you to join
them for their
Sunday service which
starts at 3pm.

Everyone welcome!