



CONTACT

No. 375

December 2023-January 2024

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas each year and ends on Christmas Eve. For many this is merely a time for preparing for Christmas or, indeed, 'doing' Christmas with parties and gatherings, meaning Christmas Day and what follows can feel something of an anti-climax.

Whatever our age for most of us there is something about this time of year that brings joy when the wonder and beauty of this season sweep over us and our daily routine is mixed with moments of awe. Turning the calendar to the last page suggests there is something new around the corner and putting up the decorations and lights also point to something different.

In the church these four weeks are a time of reflecting, paying attention to God, prayer, and joyful expectation even if some of the Advent Bible readings are somewhat startling, but here too we are looking forward to something new. The first Sunday of Advent is actually the New Year's Day for the Church, and the beginning of a new Church calendar. Of course the first Christmas was when God truly did do a new thing. After centuries of sending messengers to bring his people home he now sent himself to be at home among us.

The readings of Advent are intended to tear us out of our ruts and our 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.

As so often in the past, Advent comes this year at a time of economic uncertainty, political discord, wars around the world, and grave concern for our future; not unlike the days when the

Christ Light first shined into our world. The visions of Isaiah and the other advent prophets are as real today as they ever were. The promises of God are as sincere today as they have ever been. Whilst we give and receive our presents in a few weeks' time there are those who still need to realise they are offered the greatest gift of all - the gift of God himself in the person of Jesus Christ. Through our words, actions and presence it is to be hoped that others too can receive that gift and make a new start in the coming days.

May your Advent be filled with moments of awe and signs of something new.

Craig

A place of community

Sunday November 19 has been designated as the *World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims*, when we are invited to remember the 1.3 million people killed every year on the world's roads.

<https://worlddayofremembrance.org/>

Bill Leadbetter from the Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture prepared a short reflection on road safety, based on the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

'Road Safety professionals have come to recognise that the only way in which we can safely navigate the hazards of road travel is to do so together. They seek, through advertising, regulation and legislation, to change community attitudes and the culture of the road.

The changes that they seek are not little – they are deep, as deep as the self-image of motorists, and the daily habits that they breed. The priests and the Levites, the proud and the self-absorbed, want to get past those in need as soon as they can. They hurry past, deliberately uninterested, neither looking, nor caring. Ultimately, their road may lead to death or serious injury.

Christian motorists are encouraged, both by this parable and the instincts of our road safety professionals, to be neighbourly, to regard the road as a place of community in which hazards are minimised because we are united in a common aim of getting safely to our destinations.

The road is a place of peril. While the nature of the danger has changed since the time of Jesus, the fact of danger has not. Neither has the need to face that danger not through assertive and egotistic individualism, but through the acts of radical neighbourliness to which Christians are daily called.'

Our Wider Community

In this season

Lord,
in a season when every heart
should be happy and light,
many of us are struggling
with the heaviness of life's burdens.

Many disasters and tragedies
ruin the gift of joy that you give to us
over Christmas.

Many go hungry, cold and lonely
over this period.
We ask that you give them strength
and courage to carry on
as Jesus did
even through harsh times.

Let us also remember
the true meaning of Christmas
and how your son was born to us,
died and rose again.
Help us to refocus our minds to be be
charitable, caring and giving
just like Jesus taught us.

Amen.

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we
praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star
and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for
the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are
bathed in its radiance.

*We ask your prayers for all who are anxious or unwell and those
who are housebound or have any difficulties at this time.*

**[If you have any news of the church family to bring us up to date
or that you would like to be included in Contact please let Alan
know. Thank you.]**

Sutton becomes first UK local authority to be awarded Silver Trailblazer Status by Race Equality Matters



In 2020 the Sutton Council embarked on a journey to change its approach to equality, diversity and inclusion. By listening to colleagues' experiences and through education activities, the Council has changed its policies and procedures whilst at the same time continuing to challenge the ways things are done, breaking down racial barriers to create a more inclusive and equal environment.

The Council has overhauled its recruitment processes, offered training and career pathways to staff to progress in their careers, implemented a reverse mentoring policy, as well as creating an inclusive language guide that focuses on race and all protected characteristics. The inclusive language guide has proven so successful that it has been shared with schools and voluntary and community sector organisations to support residents in treating each other in a more inclusive way helping to make Sutton the best place it can be.

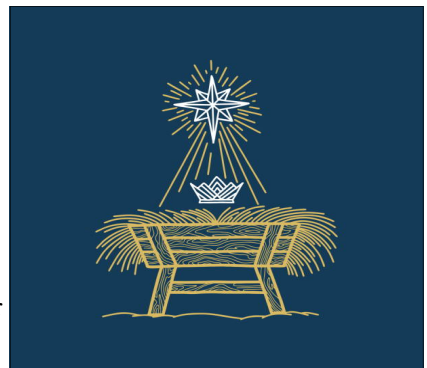
The London Borough of Sutton has received Silver Trailblazer Status by Race Equality Matters. The Council has become the first local authority in the country to be awarded silver status that recognises organisations who have made a meaningful impact on tackling race inequality.

Baby sweet, baby mine,
King of Kings, so sublime,
Born for us on Christmas Day,
Master of all that you'll survey.

Baby dear, baby fine,
Lord of Lords, so divine,
Your birth we celebrate, and share
Our lives with you, as we say your prayer.

Baby loved, baby shine,
God, Creator, we are thine,
Be our Father, dwell within
Our souls, and let our praise begin.

By Ernestine Northover



We offered the chance to:

Come Christmas Shopping!



and on Saturday 18th November
a wonderful number of people came
along to help us to raise money for
The Sepsis Trust.

An amazing total of £1510
has been raised, so far.

*We are very grateful for all the help we had
leading up to the Sale, and on the day.*

**We will be holding our Gift Service and
Nativity on Sunday 10th December.**

We will be collecting donations of:

Sponge Puddings

Instant mash

Long-life milk

Small chocolate bars

Deodorant

Tinned custard

Small jars of coffee

Long-life orange juice

Shampoo

Toothpaste

**For the Sutton Community Works
Food Bank and Food Shop**

ALONE THIS CHRISTMAS?

A present from

CHURCHES TOGETHER

in

WALLINGTON & BEDDINGTON



CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

to be held this year at

St Patrick's Church, Park Hill Road
Wallington, SM6 0RQ

Limited Numbers, Book your place now!

To book or to find out more, telephone

Judith 020 8681 5085

or Frances 020 8647 2688

email: judith@wallingtonmethodist.org.uk

Transport available

Christmas 'Fun' Questions!

What did the other reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his shiny red nose?

How many ghosts show up in *A Christmas Carol*?

What do people traditionally put on top of a Christmas tree?

Which real-life person is Santa Claus based on?

In the movie *It's A Wonderful Life*, what happened every time a bell rang?

What words follow "Silent Night" in the song?

Which Hollywood actor played six different roles in *The Polar Express*?

Which country did eggnog come from?

Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?

Visions of which food danced in children's heads as they slept in the poem "'Twas The Night Before Christmas?"

Sudoku Answers for November:

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

Commitment for Life

Prayer Partners

URC offer these prayers and images for your services of worship, church magazines etc to encourage and guide your prayer for global justice.

Jesus is our Neighbour, By Simon Peters, former Walking the Way Project Manager

Loving God, in every aspect of our lives, the places we live and work, laugh and play, learn and grow, you are there, guiding and nurturing us in your ways of love, peace and justice. If that goes for us, it goes for everyone else as well. Sometimes, it's easy to find you. A warm handshake from a stranger, a meal served by a

friend or a hug from a loved one are all signs that you are alive and active amongst us. At other times, though, we find it hard to recognise you in others. They may not look like we look, think like we think, live like we live or worship as we worship, and yet, whether we can sense you or not, you are there, working through them.



God's word is like a light to guide us.



Help us to recognise that, in the same way you live in us, so you live in all our neighbours: those whom we know and those we do not, those whom we relate to and those we do not, those whom we like, and those we do not. May we always look for you, and find you, in everyone, friend, stranger or otherwise.

In Your Precious Name, Amen

Walk and Talk

Friday mornings 10 am.

Meet outside the first entrance,
opposite the drive through
for walking.



11 am for tea and cake in
the Waterfall Cafe at Dobbies
if you don't wish to walk.

Everyone welcome.



Christmas Services

Wallington United Reformed Church

Sunday 10th December

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

Sunday 17th December

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

Sunday 24th December

10.30am Morning service...
to be led by Phil Hyde

Monday 25th December

10.00am Christmas Morning service...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman.



South London Tamil Church

invite everyone on

Saturday 16th December

to their 6.00pm Carols Service



***St Andrew's
United
Reformed
Church, Cheam***

Sunday 17th December

10.30am Christmas Tree Service
6.30pm Carol Praise
to be led by Revd Craig Bowman

Sunday 24th December

10.30am Christmas Morning service...
4.00pm Christingle service...
to be led by Revd Craig Bowman

Diary Dates			
December			
Sunday	5th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	12th	10.30am	Morning service Gift Service and Nativity to be led by Phil Hyde
Sunday	17th	4.00pm	Carol Service... to be led by Revd Craig Bowman N.B. There is NO Morning Service on 17th December
Sunday	24th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Phil Hyde
Monday	25th	10.00am	Christmas Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	31st	10.30am	Morning service TBA
January 2024			
Sunday	7th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Morning service...
Sunday	21st	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
		12.00	Church Meeting
Sunday	28th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Mark Dennis

PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the February 2024 issue of Contact should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Wednesday 24th January** unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement. Contributions are very acceptable by e-mail: jmw321wmj @ yahoo.co.uk.

Puzzle Corner

Bible Word

Search:

Christmas

Traditions

Angels, Bells,
Blessings, Bows,
Candles,
Decorations,
Friends,
Fruitcake,
Gingerbread,
Greetings,
Holiday, Ivy, Joy,
Lights, Magi,
Malls, Mistletoe,
Nativity,
Nutcracker,
Ornaments,
Peace,
Poinsettias,

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

Presents, Reindeer, Rejoicing, Rudolph, Santa, Shepherds, Shopping, Sleigh, Stockings, Tannenbaum, Tree, Wrap, Wreaths, Yule

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

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 1.00-2.30pm 2.00-4.00pm 7.00-8.00pm 7.45-10.00pm	Yoga Al-Anon Bananas Art Yoga Explorer Scouts
Tuesday	9.15am-1.20pm 10.00-11.00am 12.30-2.30pm 1.40-3.40pm 5.00-6.00pm 6.00-7.30pm 8.00-10.00pm	Hartbeeps (mother and baby activities) Pilates AA Meeting U3A Art group Rainbows Brownies (10th Wallington) Epsom Downs Badminton, Winter(Sept-May)
Wednesday	10.30-11.30am 7.30-10.00pm	Baby Massage Chess Club
Thursday	10.00-11.00am 11.00-12.00noon 1.15-3.15pm 2.00-4.00pm 2.00-4.00pm 6.00-7.00pm 7.25-10.00pm	Pilates Senior Movers Exercise Lace Making Ladies' Badminton, Winter(Sept-May) Fallen Angels Drama Pilates Carshalton & Wallington Art Group
Friday	9.30am-12.30pm 9.30am-3.00pm 6.45-8.30pm	NAS Coffee morning (monthly) Reading Fairy Sutton Guides(8th Wallington)
Saturday	8.30-9.30am 10.00-12.15pm	Fitness Zumba



South London Tamil Church (SLTC)

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