

# Wallington United Reformed Church



## **CONTACT MAGAZINE**

No. 381

July/August 2024

*Extrinsic*

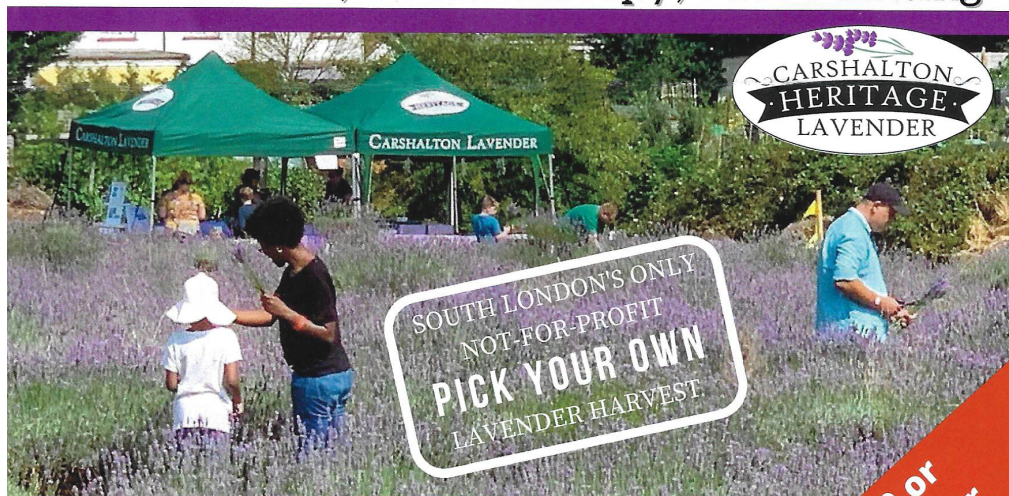
# CARSHALTON LAVENDER

**PICK YOUR OWN HARVEST WEEKEND 2024**

*Celebrating our 25th Annual Harvest!*  
**27th & 28th July 10am-5pm**

**Advance Booking Recommended**

Lavender Products, Plant Sale, Arts & Crafts,  
Food & Drinks, Aromatherapy, Face Painting



*A not-for-profit community heritage project*

Oaks Way, Carshalton Beeches, SM5 4NQ

Harvest entry via Oaks Way Centre gate

Buy tickets via website

[www.carshaltonlavender.org](http://www.carshaltonlavender.org)

07948 174907



**Adult entry £1.50 or  
£5 inc bunch lavender  
Up to 2 children FREE**

# Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

Louise, Thomas and I have recently returned from a holiday in Greece. It is a country we love and have visited many times, exploring several of the islands and much of the mainland. The history of the country fascinates me; not just its ancient history, nor the years of conflict with Venetians and Ottomans, but also the more modern history of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. This latter history is heartbreaking filled with neighbours turning on neighbours and all too frequent atrocities. It is a long way from the picture postcard images of idyllic beaches and holiday romances.

Whilst we were away this time I read a book by Nicholas Gage titled simply 'Eleni'. It is the story of his mother during the Second World War and the Greek civil war that followed and it makes very real the horrendous things experienced and perpetrated during those years. It is a well written and engaging book but I found it hard to read because I knew what was coming – all the worse because it was biography not a novel. The way that those with power and those that sought power treated those around them, including those they had spent their whole lives living beside, is heart-rending and shocking and made me and, I suspect, many other readers wonder 'why?'. Why did they do those things? Why didn't they protest? Why were they so cruel?

And yet, at the same time, I realise it's not that simple. I was reflecting on these things many decades later without the

ever-present threat of starvation, betrayal and death hovering over me, not to mention extreme ideologies borne out of a struggle to survive and nurtured by injustices experienced over many generations. Had I been present in the village of Lia I hope I would have acted differently but would I? Self-preservation is a strong motivator and self-sacrifice a rare commodity so I worry about what would have been my guiding principle should I have been caught up in the struggles of Eleni. However we follow one for whom self-interest was defeated by self-sacrifice and who lived for others rather than himself.

In some ways these questions seem an academic exercise. We are not faced with the challenges of Eleni and the villagers of Lia and it is tempting to dismiss the questions of self-interest and self-sacrifice. However we are about to go to the polls in a General Election which, without the threat of violence and retribution, does ask us to consider not what is best for us but what best helps build a community that enables God's love to be made real. We will find different answers to that question - which is fine - what is important is to know that we have asked the question of ourselves and asked God to help us answer it.

Your fellow imperfect disciple,

*Craig Bowman*



# **Our Wider Community ...a Local update...**

## **Limes Avenue Recreation Ground, Carshalton - New Spring look!**

Improvements to the recreation ground started in December 2023.

Work carried out included:

- Planting more trees - to create shade and reduce heat
- Using specific plants to help absorb rainwater
- Creating habitats for biodiversity, such as wildflower meadow and native hedgerows



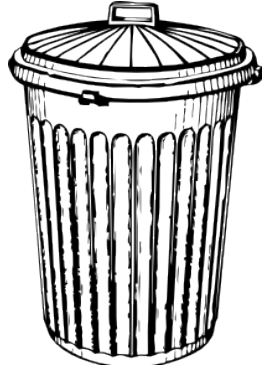
- New information boards identifying potential plants and mini-beasts
- A bug hotel and wooden play features for children to enjoy.



## And...as we lead up to the General Election...

A politician's partner asks if they have put the bins out ...

"That's a very good question and I'm glad you've asked it because it gives me a chance to tell you that I have personally put more bin men on the streets in the last ten years than anyone else"



"That's nice dear, but have you taken the bins out?"

"I think you'll find that it's not the bins that's the issue, but rather the question of bin collection that we should be talking about, I could give you the figures on how many extra millions of pounds I have spent in making bin collection more efficient for the great British public."

"Really dear, all I wanted was to know if you've taken the bins out, but, as you've mentioned it, why are the bins only emptied every three weeks now instead of two?"

"What you need to consider is that moving to three-weekly collections gives people the chance to have greater opportunities for recycling. In this way we continue to meet the needs of the ordinary man or woman, non-binary or other unspecified gender person, in the street. All of which I'm honoured to serve, regardless of gender, sexuality, race, ability, or religion and all of whom it is important to consider when making decisions about bins; furthermore I would like it noted that bins have a significant impact on one's mental health and well-being."



"Okay, that's nice for you, but have you put the bins out?"

"When talking about bins, it's also important to look at my record on other public services such as health and education where I have tirelessly worked to meet the needs of the great British public, which as I may have mentioned, I'm honoured to serve.

"Yes dear, I'm sure you're doing a great job, now about the bins?"

"Of course, when it comes to the bins, which I do intend to take out at some time in the near to medium future, it is worthwhile also looking at the environmental policies, which I'm glad to have played a humble part in, and which means that we now have far more bins to put out than under previous administrations. I do, of course, do a social media update on my many photo opportunities; I mean good work.



"So, you haven't put the bins out?"

"I think trying to reduce the question of the bins down to a simple yes or no answer is to oversimplify matters and that is not what the great British public wants, have I mentioned that it is my great honour to serve them? What I'm trying to do is give you a complete and thorough explanation regarding the movement of bins and all the factors involved, many of which are, sadly, outside of my control."

*"Oh forget it, I'll put them out myself!"*

## **Restore Nature Now March and Rally 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024**

This March from Park Lane to the Rally in Parliament Square, was attended by Faith Groups among them Members of Christian Climate Action, Operation Noah & Arocha participating with over 80,000 people representing a wide number of groups campaigning for the Environment and impact the changing Climate is having on Nature. Well known Groups such as the RSPB, National Trust, Woodland Trust were represented alongside a variety of Activist Groups.

A Service was organized at a Catholic church before going to assembly areas for the Start of the March. In Park Lane there were 4 blocks to assemble in, representing "AIR" "WATER" "WOODLANDS" "LAND" My interests were represented in The Faith Groups, & Health & Science who were included in the AIR Block. Inevitably this group had many creative bird placards



inclusive of a giant Seagull!

It was a fun, enthusiastic event with lots of singing, coordinated shouting to get the message communicated particularly as the political parties are not highlighting this in their campaigns. The excellent

Speakers at the Rally

were Chris Packham, Liz Bonnin, Steve Backshall, & others. I particularly enjoyed listening to Dr Amir Khan who highlighted the risks to our health; such as contamination of our rivers and pollution affecting the air.

A wonderful moment was when 3 Peregrine Falcons were seen flying over us and watching from various perches on the Houses of Parliament.

*Jeanette*



## **Taken from 2020 Prayer Handbook**

### **'Prayers from the heart'**

Edited by Karen Campbell and Ian Fosten

The 2020 Prayer Handbook is made up of a mixture of prayer styles and approaches; some finely crafted material and pieces which would be readily accessible and easily used by a wide range of readers.

### **For people who marry**

By John Proctor

We seek God's grace and blessing  
on people we know who marry this year,  
who take the big decision of 'I will'  
and step away from past belonging  
into new love, new joy, new hope.

We seek God's grace and blessing  
on people who are discovering married life,  
seeing and serving each other in fresh ways,  
comforting, caring, committed.

We seek God's grace and blessing  
for couples in the rough patches of their lives,  
asking for wisdom, calm and patience  
to remember their first love,  
and to renew it again, mature, steady and strong.

We see God's grace and blessing  
on people for whom marriage ends,  
in difficult decision or painful parting,  
or through illness or accident or age.

And for us all, we seek God's grace and blessing,  
sufficient for all our years and all our ways,  
together or alone.

# **A challenge and a gift**

By Fay Rowland

God, I admit I'm a bit uncomfortable.  
It's one thing having the reassuring,  
    'I'm always with you',  
but knowing my thoughts  
    and my words before I speak them?  
If I'm honest,  
    that makes me s bit uncomfortable.  
My thoughts are not always what they should be.  
My words are not always up to my standards,  
    let alone yours.  
Sometimes I feel like hiding,  
    drawing darkness around me  
    to conceal my imperfections.  
But still you seek me,  
    you draw me from my hiding place  
    and gently remove my disguise.  
You see me.  
You see me and you know me.  
And that's scary -  
but it's good!

## Bible Society Prayers

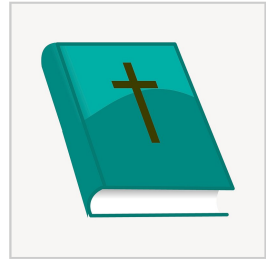
Thank God for the pure and true generosity of Bible Society supporters which means a constant stream of migrant workers are hearing the gospel around the Gulf.

Pray that labour laws will be changed in Gulf states so that migrant workers will be better protected at work and at home.

Migrant workers can access Bibles in more than 60 languages in the Gulf states.

Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus...

(Philippians Ch 4 6-7 [GNB])



## Walk and Talk

Friday mornings.

10 am for walking.

Meet outside the first entrance for walking.



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



**Everyone  
welcome.**



St Michael's 2024 Cream Tea  
to raise money for Christian Aid

When? 2.30pm - 5.00pm on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Where? St Michael and All Angels, Milton Road,  
Wallington, Surrey SM6 9RP

christian  
aid



A scone, cake and drink, together with live music from Carshalton  
Glee madrigal group, all available for £5.00pp.  
Children under 12 go half price (£2.50).



Devon or Cornwall style?

Have it your way!

Transport: The 154 and 157 bus stops are two minutes' walk away  
from the church. Free car park on site.

All are welcome. Bring family, friends and neighbours!

You can browse the bookstall and buy tickets for a raffle,  
so bring extra cash (although there is a card machine too).

Book your tickets and arrival time in advance on the following website



<https://bit.ly/4bYmY2W>



or by calling/texting Emma on **07596 325 765** by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

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

*Create a quiet, peaceful space to pause, and allow yourself to feel God's presence alongside you. Each morning the United Reformed Church has a reading, reflection and short prayer which helps us to focus on our journeys of Christian discipleship.*

## **Galatians 5: 1, 13-15**

Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you....It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom. If you bite and ravage each other, watch out—in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then? (The Message)

## **Reflection**

The United Reformed Church (URC) and the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (PCM) has a long and solid relationship. Our 2016 renewed partnership commitment has among its affirmations, a "commitment to give and receive from each other, learn from one another, and to pray for one another as we seek to serve and walk the way of abundant life of God in Christ". In my encounter with the PCM, I witnessed numerous enriching encounters,



overflowing hospitality, and deep resilience among the leadership and members of PCM.

As we continue to accompany our PCM partners in the midst of ongoing oppressive socio—economic and political realities under a repressive regime, a local proverb comes to mind: "Though the centipede has one of its legs broken, this does not affect its movement". The long-suffering PCM family and minoritized groups people in Myanmar remain resilient, yearning for and engaging in a long haul

struggle for freedom. Whatever the cost, we must remain in solidarity with them.

Galatians 5:1ff invites us to consider such a cost given that 'freedom is for freeing'. For, the Christian calling is towards a 'freeing' vocation, habit, and orientation. Discipleship lived in freedom must be a personal and collective responsibility towards this ongoing work. Hence, the imperative to grasp freedom as a vocation. Freedom in Christ is a way of living and not licence to do what we like individually or nationally, unmindful of the effects of our actions on ourselves and others. It is liberation to be our authentic selves. This means to be for others, always working for release from all forms of



enslavement, ensuring vigilance against empire’s guile and cunning reach.  
Freedom is for freeing! This vocation/journey needs a spirituality for the long  
haul to nourish us for transformative work toward a different world.

Prayer

God-of-a-promised-hope-who-waits-and-heals:  
may our hearts, so often floating in a sea of choppy waves,  
find calm in you;  
may our fevered, wounded and bruised bodies  
find freedom and wholeness in your love;  
may the unexpected miracles we experience this day  
make us more humble to receive your grace;  
and may the urge to bring hope, care and compassion  
in distressing situations find sustenance in your promise  
of full and flourishing life for all. Amen

*Written by The Revd Dr Michael Jagessar, a retired URC Minister*

Sudoku Answers for  
June:

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

**Saturday 13th July**  
**In the church**



**Kids & Teens**



**Pre-loved  
Sale**



**11.00am-3.00pm**

All money raised is for the NAS...  
find out more about how autistic people  
and families are supported.

**Come along to browse...**

clothes, accessories,  
books, games,  
toys... and more...



stay for a cuppa, and  
enjoy a cake.

**CASH ONLY**



<b>Diary Dates</b>			
<b>July</b>			
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>Morning service...to be led by Alan or Phil</b>
Sunday	21st	10.30am	<b>Morning service...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>
		12.00	<b>To be followed by Church Meeting and AGM</b>
Sunday	28th	10.30am	<b>Morning service...to be led by Alan or Phil</b>
<b>August</b>			
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 Alan or Phil</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 Alan or Phil</b>
<b>September</b>			
Sunday	1st	10.30am	<b>Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>

**PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the September 2024 issue of Contact** should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Tuesday 27th August** unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement. Contributions are very

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

# Puzzle Corner

H	U	R	A	I	A	L	I	A	B	I	E	L	S	A
A	S	H	A	M	M	A	H	B	E	N	A	G	E	E
B	R	R	H	A	K	A	A	M	N	A	N	A	H	L
I	I	Z	M	E	B	U	N	N	A	I	I	S	J	I
S	H	A	B	O	Z	L	A	G	I	R	A	H	O	P
H	M	B	A	D	I	N	A	H	A	A	B	E	S	H
A	M	A	H	S	A	Z	E	A	H	L	I	L	H	E
I	M	D	I	H	A	L	O	H	J	T	R	J	A	L
Z	A	K	I	L	E	K	J	I	E	H	A	O	P	E
E	H	E	O	B	E	D	E	J	H	R	I	A	H	T
R	A	M	H	T	I	R	I	A	O	I	H	B	A	W
U	R	I	A	H	T	H	E	H	I	T	T	I	T	E
I	I	R	M	I	H	S	L	E	A	E	I	D	E	J
A	I	A	K	E	B	B	I	S	D	O	R	Z	E	H
H	O	M	A	A	N	L	E	I	A	B	I	R	E	J

## Bible Word Search:

### David's 300

Abishai Zeruiah,  
Adina, Ahijah,  
Ashel Joab,  
Benaiah Jehoiada,  
Eihanan, Eliam,  
Elika, Eliphelet,  
Hanan Maakah,  
Heleb, Hezro,  
Hurai, Ialiabiel, Igal  
Zobah, Ira Lthrite,  
Ira Tekoa, Ithia Ri-  
bai, Ithma,  
Jedieael Shimri,  
Jeiel, Jeribai El-  
naam, Joshaphat,  
Mahari, Mebunnai,

Obed, Shama, Shammah Ben Agee, Sibbekai, Uriah the Hittite, Zabab, Zalom

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.

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



*Colour a fun  
Summer picture!!*



# 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
	1.00-2.30pm	Al-Anon
	2.00-4.00pm	Bananas Art
	7.00-8.00pm	Yoga
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.15am-1.20pm	Hartbeeps (mother and baby activities)
	10.00-11.00am	Pilates
	12.30-2.30pm	AA Meeting
	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>	10.30-11.30am	Baby Massage
	7.30-10.00pm	Chess Club
<b>Thursday</b>	10.00-11.00am	Pilates
	11.00-12.00noon	Senior Movers Exercise
	1.15-3.15pm	Lace Making
	2.00-4.00pm	Ladies' Badminton, Winter(Sept-April)
	2.00-4.00pm	Fallen Angels Drama
	6.00-7.00pm	Pilates
	7.25-10.00pm	Carshalton & Wallington Art Group
<b>Friday</b>	9.30am-12.30pm	NAS Coffee morning (monthly)
	9.30am-3.00pm	Reading Fairy Sutton
	6.45-8.30pm	Guides(8th Wallington)
<b>Saturday</b>	8.30-9.30am	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!**