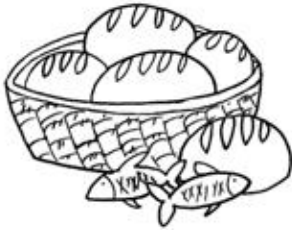


# Wallington United Reformed Church



## **CONTACT MAGAZINE**

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*Extrinsic*

Did you know...

**[www.wurc.org.uk](http://www.wurc.org.uk)**

is our church internet address. Look  
us up sometime!

Minister:

Reverend Craig Bowman

Email: [minister@wurc.org.uk](mailto:minister@wurc.org.uk)

# Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

I'm writing this towards the end of August and in a few days Louise, Thomas and I will be heading to France for a holiday. This will be our 4<sup>th</sup> visit to France in 5 Summers which is a little strange as we had previously never been to that country (apart from a few days in Paris well over 20 years ago). Although we still do really enjoy Greece we have found that France offers a very pleasant alternative which we enjoy because of different things.

I suppose this could be a metaphor for life, that if we always do the same things or go to the same places we will miss out on different experiences that may enhance our lives or bring us joy. Of course there can be hesitancy to make changes or step out in a different direction. What if we don't like where we find ourselves? What if we feel uncomfortable in a new place? What if we don't think we have the skills to cope with something different? What if we spend all our time thinking about the place where we usually go and wishing we were there? So many questions and concerns that can sap energy and prevent us getting the most from new places and experiences. There are people who thrive on new experiences, always seeking them out and planning for them, but that's not everyone and many of us far prefer the comfort and security of the familiar.

At the Church Meeting in July I spoke about a discussion that we'd had within the elders concerning the future of Wallington United Reformed Church because, since the Covid pandemic, we have become in danger of drifting, not really sure what our mission is. So in September we will begin to look at

what it is we, as a church, are being called and gifted to do. This may lead us to think about new ideas and experiences which could make us uncomfortable but, as I indicated earlier, it's in the new that life can be enhanced and joy found. In relation to this I am reminded of the Revd Peter McIntosh when he was Moderator of General Assembly. During his year of office as he visited local churches around the UK he was regularly speaking about the need 'to be church not just go to church'. Maybe that is something we can think about: what does it mean for us to be the church not just to think about going to church?

A final thought – the reason we ended up going to France for the first time in 2020 was because of the Covid pandemic; it was a safer and more manageable trip than visiting the Greek island we had been planning to explore. So it was difficult circumstances that led us somewhere new and brought new pleasures into our lives. I'm not sure that I subscribe to the 'every cloud has a silver lining' school of thought but I do believe that not every cloud is to be feared.

*Craig Bowman*



## SUMMER AND FALL

Today it still is summer,  
Tomorrow will be fall.  
see the purple asters,  
hear the autumn's call.

I feel the warm sun shining  
As a balmy south wind blows;  
I see more flowers blooming,  
And I see the grass still grows;

The goldenrod is waving,  
The bees are in the clover.  
I hear a distant honking—  
The geese are flying over.

The maple leaves are golden;  
The pumpkins, round and yellow.  
The apple cheeks are rosy,  
The pears are getting mellow.

The nuts are growing rounder,  
The cornstalks, brown and sear.  
By twenty lovely tokens  
I know that fall is near.

Today it still is summer,  
Tomorrow will be fall.  
Today I still am barefoot—  
Oh, 'how I love it all!





Earlier in August Sutton Community Works held an ecumenical prayer gathering in response to the riots, which Sheila attended.

[P.U.S.H.] Pray Until Something Happens

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August, I did something I had never done before. I attended an ecumenical prayer evening in response to the recent violence and rioting in some towns and a stirring of the pot around racism; refugees; asylum seekers and underlying discontent around cost of living.

I wasn't sure what to expect but I felt a need to gather with other Christians and hold the events of the previous week or so, up to God.

Six clergy each directed a 10 minute period of prayer in which they mostly read a passage from the bible and suggested a focus for our prayers. These were spoken aloud in groups of three or four. Groups changed with each new focus. I found this a bit of a challenge but hearing others pray gave me the courage to pray aloud what I wanted to pray.



We prayed for those in authority after hearing 1 Timothy 2:1-3 *I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—<sup>2</sup> for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.<sup>3</sup> This is good, and pleases God our Saviour.* We prayed for wisdom from our government, from local leaders and from the police.

We may feel that we did not have trouble in our area, but violence elsewhere seems to make some people feel justified in abusive behaviour. We heard from the minister of Sutton Baptist Church, who is a black woman, explain that when waiting at traffic lights in her car someone shouted abuse at her. "Go home!" two small words which cause a lot of hurt, for those for whom this has always been their home, those who have made this country their home, and for those who wish they could return to their homes, but war,

violence and poverty mean that they cannot. I am afraid that I did not make a note of the bible passage for this but hospitality is mentioned in several places in the bible including Colossians 3:11 *"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that, some have entertained angels without knowing it."*

A minister from Belmont led us to pray for those Jewish and Muslim people who are fearful of attack. Her church hall is used for Friday prayers by local Muslims and she said that the flood of worshippers were very much reduced the Friday after days of riots in other places. People were staying away, just in case. In our prayers we focussed on asking God to cast out their fear. We were reminded that Judaism and Islam and Christianity are all faiths stemming from Abraham in the passage from Galatians 3: 7-9.

We were also asked to pray for the perpetrators of the violence in response to Romans 12: 14-21 which ends *"overcome evil with good"*. This strong passage makes it clear that we are exhorted to *"live peaceably with all."*

Finally we were asked to pray expecting an answer Mark 11:24 <sup>v24</sup> *Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."*

I recognised that the violence had ceased by the time we were gathering to pray on 11<sup>th</sup> August. However, I pray that it will not re-emerge and that all those who work for harmony in our communities will become the dominant voice and that in the words of Jeremiah 29:7 <sup>v7</sup> *Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."*

Sheila Cruchley

## 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.



## **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.

### **A time to emerge from hiding**

By Mark Robinson & Tessa Henry-Robinson

God of freedom and hope,  
when we live courageously -  
taking risks to put you first -  
you bless us many times over.

You have promised us new life,  
and constantly offer us fresh opportunities  
to live freely and multiply your blessings.  
You send us help  
to ensure that your promises prevail.

Yet, in our turbulent world,  
we recognise that there is a time to hide -  
and to emerge from hiding,  
yearning and working to bring about hope .  
We strive to see you more clearly,  
for you are the love that nurtures and nurses  
and moves us on.

Help us to hear your voice calling,  
naming those who are oppressed,  
and urging us to draw them out of the depths  
into new life, brimming with your promise.  
In Jesus' name we pray.

### **Presence, conversation and turning**

By Stephen Best

God you call us into your presence;  
to be present with you  
and present with one another.



God you call us into conversation;  
to converse with you  
and to converse with one another.  
God you call us into turning;  
to turn afresh towards you  
and to turn once again to one another.

Presence, conversation and turning.  
Making the unknown into the known.  
Making the unfamiliar into the familiar.

In this, we find revelation.  
From this, we know healing.  
Through this, we discover peace.

## **Taking up the Challenge:**

We are being challenged to look forward...to look for ways  
to re-energise our church, to support long-term members  
and to encourage visitors into our church.

What can this mean for Wallington URC?

What can we offer? What do we provide?

And...what things do we do really well?

Who are we?

Are we 'just' a place for outside groups to meet?

Do you have any ideas... who are we, what can we do,  
and how can we promote Wallington URC?

How radical can we be....trying to think outside the box!!





## MEET EDDIE

Eddie Boon - United Reformed Church  
Thames North Synod Discipleship Enabler

You can read what Eddie has to say on the URC website.

*Look for Disciples Every Day.*

Eddie Boon works to encourage 'Whole life Christian Discipleship'.

## Well played Sam!

I have been thinking recently about how the things we say and do can affect other people in more ways than we often realize or intend. In recent years the word 'triggering' has come into common usage to describe this in a usually negative way. The ongoing COVID 19 enquiry is an example of this at work where things that are said and described bring to life the previous experiences of people.

I have been a Christian preacher for over forty years, and it never ceases to amaze me how people have been moved or affected in ways beyond my intentions and this might just have been the Holy Spirit at work! In our lives generally we are often aware how diverse people's reactions can be to our words and actions and we therefore quite rightly seek to be careful, as far as it depends on us, not to hurt others. This might be the fruit of the spirit growing within us.



And yet recently I had a rather strange and unexpected experience that has made me think that sometimes it is possible accidentally or incidentally to trigger people positively. Let me tell you what happened.

I was watching one of my sons play in a football match recently (he's twenty years of age, by the way, and I have had to pay to watch him play for quite a few years now!) It was away from home, and it was an exciting game with the outcome too close to call. As his team came out for the second half, they were waiting for the home team to reappear and as I usually do, I tried to get his attention by calling out 'Well played Sam!' with some body language to encourage him.

About ten minutes into the second half a man in his 30's came up to me and said, 'do you mind if I ask you something, and it might sound very strange'. I'm thinking I've worked in the church for decades I have heard a lot of strange things' but I'm saying, 'No it's fine, go ahead' He asks me if it was me who shouted out 'well played Sam'. When I confirmed it, he proceeded to tell me that it had been his father's funeral the day before and when he heard me call out it was the exact same words as his dad often shouted out to him when he used to play. In his words it warmed his heart!

I was truly amazed, but I plucked up courage and said that I was a Christian and just maybe God wanted him to have and share, at this particular moment, this happy memory of his dad, who he obviously loved very much. He thanked me and as he turned away our team went up the other end and scored and I nearly missed it for which the man was apologetic.

I have been mulling over this strange and unexpected experience ever since. Firstly, I don't always say the right thing or act boldly in this way, but it just seemed right so perhaps I need to be open to more opportunities in future.

Secondly, memories are powerful things but maybe we shouldn't predominantly consider them negative and tread around as if on eggshells. Words and actions can evoke good memories in many ways for example when we share in communion, something powerful happens as we call to mind what Christ has done for us, what theologians call 'anamnesis'.

So, I will probably never meet this man again, all I know is that he is called Sam. Wesley spoke of 'prevenient grace'; the way sometimes God can be working in someone's life in advance of a step of faith. I have prayed for him since and I know the Spirit can work in anyone's life, even in mine.

Perhaps amidst all the talk of being intentional and strategic, we all might do well to cultivate an ever-deeper culture of expecting the unexpected, and being present and responsive whenever we can and allowing God to be God in all things. Every day and every place!

Maybe you are wondering how the story ends, well we lost the match with a cruel goal seconds from the end but maybe something bigger than football was going on – well I hope so!



## ***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.*

### **Psalm 45**

My heart overflows with noble words.

To the king I must speak the song I have made,  
my tongue as nimble as the pen of a scribe.

You are the fairest of the people on earth  
and graciousness is poured upon your lips:  
because God has blessed you for evermore.

O mighty one, gird your sword upon your thigh;  
in splendour and state, ride on in triumph  
for the cause of truth and goodness and right.

Take aim with your bow in your dread right hand.  
Your arrows are sharp, peoples fall beneath you.  
The foes of the king fall down and lose heart.

Your throne, O God, shall endure for ever.  
A sceptre of justice is the sceptre of your kingdom.  
Your love is for justice; your hatred for evil.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness above other kings:  
your robes are fragrant with aloes and myrrh.

From the ivory palace you are greeted with music.  
The daughters of kings are among your loved ones.  
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:  
forget your own people and your father's house.  
So will the king desire your beauty:  
He is your lord, pay homage to him.

And the people of Tyre shall come with gifts,  
the richest of the people shall seek your favour.  
The daughter of the king is clothed with splendour,  
her robes embroidered with pearls set in gold.

She is led to the king with her maiden companions.  
They are escorted amid gladness and joy;  
they pass within the palace of the king.

Children shall be yours in place of your forebears:  
you will make them rulers over all the earth.

May this song make your name for ever remembered.  
May the peoples praise you from age to age.

## Reflection

This is the only royal wedding Psalm in the Psalter. We don't know which wedding it was originally written for, but it is rooted in a perception of ancient near eastern kingship. As a king holds a role which embodies national status, this Psalm is about more than good wishes for the happy couple, it is about a nation's aspiration for itself.



The Psalm celebrates the royal couple's beauty; This king is a glowing strong triumphant hero and his queen is beautiful, displaying wealth in her clothing. They will have children who will ensure a royal dynasty.

This Psalm expresses a society's aspirations which it wants to see reflected in the royal household. These aspirations (glamour, domination, wealth) appear to be little different to those of surrounding kings and empires. Yet what jumps out at me is that the king is praised for the graciousness on his lips; his seeking triumph for the causes of truth and goodness and right; his sceptre of justice. While most rulers might profess to hold these values, in the context of a king who is a servant of the God of Abraham and Sarah, what do these values mean?

There are many aspects of this Psalm in relation to the perception of kingship, triumphalism and the nature of gender stereotypes, which do not resonate with my understanding of the Gospel lived today, nevertheless, it does make me wonder: what do we perceive as honourable and beautiful qualities in leadership today which we would want to sing about? What do grace, truth, goodness, rightness and justice mean for us as followers of Jesus and do we celebrate them? And what are the values we would aspire to as a society, which we would want our leaders to incarnate?

## Prayer

God of Love and Justice,  
You have shown us what is good and what you require of us;  
To do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with you.  
As we look at ourselves, each other and this world,  
Help us to honour, celebrate and sing about  
that which is truly honourable and worth celebrating in your eyes.  
Today and all days. Amen

*By: The Revd Fiona Bennett, minister, Augustine United Church Edinburgh*

Diary Dates			
September			
Sunday	1st	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Phil Hyde
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Alan Cruchley
Sunday	15th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	22nd	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Steve Tomkin
Sunday	29th	10.30am	Morning service...to include Harvest Festival Thanksgiving to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
October			
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	13th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by TBA

**PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the October 2024 issue of Contact** should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Tuesday 24th September** unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement.  
Contributions are very

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

Sudoku Answers for  
July/August:

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

# Puzzle Corner

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

## Bible Word Search: Haggai 2

Abides, Darius, Glory, Haggai, Joshua, Judah, Lord, Nations, People, Promise, Treasure

## Bible Word Search: Romans 12:2

Changing, Copy, Customs, God, Know, Learn, Let, Person, Pleasing, Think, This, World, You

P	L	E	A	S	I	N	G
C	E	P	E	R	S	O	N
O	A	S	P	E	G	U	I
P	R	I	K	N	O	W	G
Y	N	H	R	Y	D	F	N
E	C	T	H	I	N	K	A
T	E	D	L	R	O	W	H
L	S	M	O	T	S	U	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			9		1		
	4	7				2	5	
1			2		5		4	8
4				2	3			5
		5	8		6	4		
7			4					2
9	6				7			3
	3	4		1	2	5		7
		1		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*

<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
	7.00-9.30pm	Pilates
<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	USA Art group (fortnightly)
	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>	10.00-11.30am	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!**