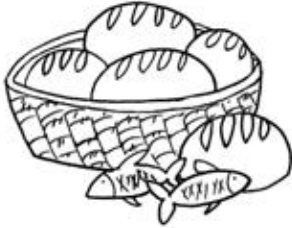


Wallington United Reformed Church



CONTACT MAGAZINE

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Extrinsic

Did you know...

www.wurc.org.uk

is our church internet address. Look
us up sometime!

Minister:

Reverend Craig Bowman

Email: minister@wurc.org.uk

Wallington United Reformed Church



Today, as I write this, I'm remembering a day exactly 35 years ago when on that Saturday afternoon I was ordained as a minister of the United Reformed Church. Things were a little different then and I was rather different too – single, a lot thinner, far less experienced and more naïve. I had some ideas about what the future might hold but knew I was heading into the unknown, not least what sort of churches I would end up ministering with and where, geographically, that would take me but I was excited about the journey ahead. Three and a half decades later I have met many wonderful people, had some marvellous experiences and learnt (and forgotten) so much. And it is not finished yet – there are, I trust, still several years to go.



Many of us will have made commitments in our lives that were open-ended, either to another person, as in marriage, or to an organisation or cause, perhaps through work or career. Through these we will have met people and experienced things that will have changed us and helped us grow. It will not have all been plain sailing and there will have been challenges and possible disappointments along the way.

The same is true of our Christian faith, to which some of us will have committed far more than 35 years ago, others more recently. Although we will have had some idea what we were pledging ourselves to, we



were making an open-ended commitment for the rest of our lives not knowing quite where it would take us and what would be expected of us. On that journey we will have had fellow Christians who have journeyed with us for a time, sharing the experiences and

the challenges, offering us encouragement or receiving support from us, as together we sought to be faithful to the commitment we made.

I'm reminded of a sketch by the Iona Community called 'The Call' in which a conversation between Jesus and Peter is imagined as the latter tries to get the former to tell him something about this journey on which he is embarking. Peter gets frustrated when he realises he is going somewhere he doesn't know, with people Jesus refuses to tell him about and wants to know what to bring with him. Jesus' response: 'Just bring yourself'. There have been times in the last 35 years when I have felt like that Peter, when I wished I had known more, learned more or been better prepared in my training for the journey. It's been at those times that I needed to be reminded to 'just bring yourself' because that's who God wanted and God called and, more importantly, that I am not alone because I am travelling with Jesus.

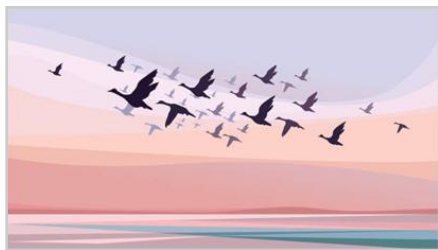


As we head into Autumn and then Winter the darker days and longer nights will have an effect on some people and the sense that times are difficult may grow. Additionally there will be those who look at the church now and are tempted to compare it negatively with previous experiences of church. When those times come upon us I hope we can remember that we are not called to walk alone; Christ is here with us and so are those companions that we have been gifted with – those who will encourage us and those whom we are called to encourage.

Craig Bowman

Travelling on...

Our best wishes and prayers go to all those going back to school, college or university. Many will have new things to get used to, new teachers, new schools, new lessons, new subjects and new classmates. We wish them all well as they travel through this academic year.



Something told the wild geese

Something told the wild geese
It was time to go;
Though the fields lay golden
Something whispered, — "snow".

Leaves were green and stirring,
Berries, luster-glossed,
But beneath warm feathers
Something cautioned, — "frost".

All the sagging orchards
Steamed with amber spice,
But each wild breast stiffened
At remembered ice.

Something told the wild geese
It was time to fly —
Summer sun was on their wings,
Winter in their cry.





WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT
RIGHT THERE WITH YOU

Elles House, Shotfield

will be supporting

Macmillan

with an afternoon of

coffee and cake on

Wednesday 2nd October.

Please come along for tea and coffee, cakes
and a Tombola

2.30-4.30pm

Everyone Welcome!



OUR WORK

We're a charity contributing to the transformation of the London borough of Sutton to a safe, healthy and flourishing community. We aim to connect the borough, churches, local community and decision makers to meet the needs of residents who may be struggling.

At the beginning of the school summer holidays, there was a great event at the 'Foodshop' where families were able to come and receive items to prepare for the summer, including sun cream, clothing and ice pops. Many thanks to all who were able to donate items towards this event and for the support of Encompass and River Church Sutton.

Rough sleeping in the London Borough of Sutton is not as high as inner London boroughs. However, we do have some who sleep rough and others who are living in Temporary Accommodation both in and out of the borough. These would be considered at risk of rough sleeping.

Sutton Community Works have contributed to discussions about rough sleeping and have worked toward alleviating the problem in several ways over the years. We have been part of the rough sleeping forum since 2010 and through our work with Street Pastors and Foodbank have helped with emergency food, sleeping bags, and signposting to the relevant agencies.

There was a pilot winter shelter that lasted for 31 days in 2019.

And again in Jan 2020 for 63 nights and we had 16 guests and all who were eligible were helped into accommodation. We are still in touch with some of them post-shelter. This included 5 different church venues providing hot meals, a bed, emotional support, and signposts to external agencies such as DWP, Inspire and Sutton Uplift.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 the shelter could not run in 2021. However Sutton Community Works did run an Emergency Accommodation Project.

Sutton Foodbank has been operating in Sutton since 2009 serving people who find themselves in Food Crisis. Food parcels feed a person or a family for three days, offering nutritionally balanced and familiar foods.



Wallington United Reformed Church voted to support Sutton Community Works through our Harvest Festival donations...

How many Christians are there around??

Olympian Daniel Rowden (runner), and Adam Peaty and Daniel Jervis (swimmers), explained how their faith kept them grounded and spurred them on in their careers. Marcus Rashford, Bukayo Saka, and Raheem Sterling have all been vocal about the influence that their Christian faith has had on their approach to life and football.

Although, 40% of MPs made a non-religious affirmation instead of swearing on a Holy Book at the opening of Parliament, compared to 24% in 2019.

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.

To the ends of the earth

By James Ashdown

The Word of the Lord has sounded forth
in Achaia and Beroea,
in Corinth and Damascus.

The Word of the Lord has sounded forth
in Ethiopia and Phrygia,
in Galatia and Hispania,
in Illyricum and Jerusalem,
in Kadesh-Barnea and Loadicea.

The Word of the Lord has sounded forth
in New Worlds and Old Worlds,
in Macedonia and Patagonia.

The Word of the Lord has sounded forth
in Qatar and Russia,
in St Albans and Turkmenistan,
in Upton-upon-Severn and Valladolid
in Waltham on the Wolds and Xingxingxia.

The Word of the Lord has sounded forth
in Yellowstone National Park and Zavadovski Island.
Yes! The Word of the Lord is sounding forth.

Repeat offending

By Rachel Poolman

When we are irritated
for the seventh time
and it feels like 70 times seven...

Help us to remember your patience with us

When we are asked to be patient again and again...

Help us to remember your pity for us

When our pity is taken for granted again and again...

Help us to remember your challenge to us

When we challenge unfairness over and over...

Help us to remember your love surrounding us all

Reform will Continue:

Although I only occasionally read the copy of *Reform* left in the coffee lounge, I do thank Alan for drawing our attention to the fact that we had been sent a number of free copies, there for us to look through, take home to read, and consider taking out a subscription.

It is noted that the URC is undertaking massive reassessment of how it does things, including finance. The result for *Reform* is that it is working on becoming viable by the end of 2025 without the funding that the Church has given for some years.

A couple of items caught my attention:

Here & Now

By Charlotte Samson

She explained about coming to England from South Africa, saying 'God brought us 8,185.3 miles to be supported and looked out for', which was wonderful to read...and linked with her other comment: 'the best part about the URC is that it is made up of great people who make you feel welcome and accepted'.

Her article contained some very interesting thoughts: 'Strong bonds are formed and new friendships developed. It's nice to have a network of people who support and uplift you. It is amazing to think that all of these people have been brought together by God and not only do you get to worship him but you can make friends along the way.

The URC is made up of these bonds and friendships which form a wider community that shares the same faith.'

She also expressed her opinion on young people coming into church:

'If something were to change I would like to see more young people attending church. I know I am 100% biased in this but I do think the Church would benefit from having more young people around.

Speaking from the perspective of one of the very few under 50s in our congregation, I think that we should find a way to make it easier for young people to come to church. It's important to have young people because they are the future of the Church. Intergenerational relationships are important and the Church is a perfect place to foster these relationships. The URC needs to maintain its focus on people and make room for younger people to join in and become part of the family.'

*I am sure we would all whole-heartedly agree,
the difficult bit is HOW to do it!!*

And then a second article caught my attention:

How we thrive:

'A few years ago St Mark's, (St Peter's, St Mary's, or even Wallington URC) had 50-60 people in worship on a Sunday, and 100 in membership. It was one of the largest churches in the synod, but people are not as young as they used to be, and finding elders could be hard. There were a couple of families, and some Sundays, there would be four or five children in church, but other weeks none....' So...

Arriving at the church...there is a buzz...

Being greeted at the door 'you' are introduced to a small group of people enjoying a bacon sandwich/roll and some good coffee.

'We realised it made sense to do refreshments before worship, says one of them, an elder. 'If someone new comes, we can say hello properly before we go into worship. It was a controversial decision, but we were persuaded, for a trial period, to bring worship forward to 9:30, with breakfast from 8:30. It's amazing how popular it was with people who hadn't come very often. I'm not sure when the trial period is supposed to be up - probably ages ago.'

*Many thanks to Reform for these
articles and for allowing us to use them*

And more thought provoking articles from 'Reform'

Thank You

Violence all around...

Let's vote for 'Non-Violence'

Have you been watching the news over the past few weeks and months?

One thing I have noticed is that there is very little 'good news'.

Wars take centre stage, people all around the world being killed. Knife crime and shootings in, what is called civilised society!

So maybe something to think about!

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. In this case one sculpture, and its location, says it all.

The bronze sculpture depicts a 45-calibre revolver with its barrel tied in a knot. The gun is cocked, but the knot makes it clear that it cannot shoot. Swedish artist Carl Fredrik Reuterswärd made it in 1980 after his friend John Lennon was murdered.



Many versions of the work have since been made, but this one was placed at the Strawberry Fields memorial in New York City's Central park, across the street from where John lived.

Is it offering a simplistic solution to a complex problem? Its presence seems to be ironic, situated where Guns are deeply ingrained in American society, where a third of U.S. adults say they personally own a gun, and in a country where the Constitution guarantees the right to bear arms.

But standing there, outside the United Nations Headquarters, it continues to make a powerful, silent appeal.

*Many thanks to Reform for this
articles and for allowing us to use it*

Our Wider Community ...a Local update...

Beans and Bloom Coffee Shop

Welcome to our coffee shop located in the historic Whitehall Museum.

This partnership between the Council and Nickel Support will provide adults with learning disabilities the opportunity to work in a supportive environment.

Our coffee shop provides a place for the adults with learning disabilities, whom we support, to gain workplace skills.

Over their time in our coffee shop they will be given opportunities to develop customer service skills, barista skills, food hygiene knowledge and much, much more.

Come and enjoy a freshly brewed coffee and a delicious cake in our beautiful walled garden or relax indoors in our modern coffee shop.

**We look forward
to serving you!**

Elena Nicola and Nick Walsh had become disillusioned by the learning disability sector as a whole. They felt that people with learning disabilities deserved more and so Nickel Support was born.

For over 10 years now their vision to change the way learning disability services were run have offered the chance for people with learning disabilities to shine.

Staff are able to track and adapt appropriate goals in real time, with the ability to offer detailed reports of every trainee as and when needed.

Nickel Support are passionate about making a real positive impact in the lives of the people they work with, and therefore want to make sure all trainees have the chance to progress at their own pace.



Diary Dates			
October			
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Phil Hyde
Sunday	13th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Mark Dennis
Sunday	20th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Phil Hyde
Sunday	27th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Michael or Leonora Jagessar
November			
Sunday	3rd	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Alan Cruchley
Sunday	10th	10.30am	Morning service, for Remembrance day...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman

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

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

Sudoku Answers for
September:

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

Puzzle Corner

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

Bible Word Search: Spiritual Gifts

Faith, Gifts, God, Healing, Hope, Love, One, Ordained, Prophecy, Spirit, Tongues, Wisdom

Bible Word Search: God's Special Love

Agape, Believe, Faith, Gifts, Hopes, Kind, Patient, Rejoices, Special, Trusts, Truth

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

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.

9	6	3		1				
7			5		6	8		
2				3		6	9	
	2		3		4		1	
3		9				4		8
	1		7		9		3	
	3	6		7				4
		8	2		3			9
				6		3	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
	1.00-2.30pm	Al-Anon
	2.00-4.00pm	Bananas Art
	7.00-8.00pm	Yoga
	7.00-9.30pm	Pilates (two classes)
Tuesday	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)
Wednesday	10.00-11.30am	Baby Massage
	7.30-10.00pm	Chess Club
Thursday	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
Friday	9.30am-12.30pm	NAS Coffee morning (monthly)
	9.30am-3.00pm	Reading Fairy Sutton
	6.45-8.30pm	Guides(8th Wallington)
Saturday	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!