

# 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



I am shortly heading to Athens for a week's holiday. Although Louise, Thomas and I visited the city a couple of years ago this time I am going on my own. I will be taking the opportunity to explore sights that I didn't see last time and perhaps return to some of those that I did visit last time but that is not the main reason for the stay in Athens.

For over 20 years I have been trying to learn to speak Greek and during that time I have had many lessons but I always find it a struggle to use the language when we are on holiday in Greece. The main reason for this is a lack of confidence which comes from a lack of practice as each year I try to remember what I have learnt (and forgotten) previously. So I have signed up for a 5 day Greek course in Athens where I will have lessons in the morning and then the opportunity to use what I am learning out and about in the city during the afternoon and evening. So although this is holiday it will be a challenging time because I have always struggled with languages.

As you may expect I am now going to make a connection with our Christian faith. Whether speaking about our faith or seeking to live it out requires practice. If the only time we enter into a conversation about our faith is when someone, perhaps unexpectedly, asks us a question we may not have the confidence to respond well. And, like my Greek conversations, it may be very basic and short. However if we cultivate a habit of speaking about our faith, not with everyone we meet but in places and times where we feel comfortable and supported, we are likely to be more able to enter into a deeper conversation when the opportunity arises. Likewise with our Christian living. When confronted with difficult and challenging situations we may find ourselves unsettled and



unable to see where or how our Christian faith can help or guide us. However if we have developed a regular habit of reflecting on our faith, perhaps by asking ourselves some simple questions each day, then we may be more attuned to the presence of God and how we are being called to live. Those questions could be considered at the end of the day and may include: 'For what am I grateful today?' 'What have I learnt about myself/the world/God today?' 'Where did I see God today?'

Like a language very few of us find it easy to be aware of God or able to speak about our faith. It takes practice and commitment and supportive partners along the way who help us, tolerate our stumblings and build our confidence.

That's what I'm hoping for in Athens next week, with regard to my Greek language skills, but I trust it's what we find within the church too with regard to our Christian faith.

καλές ευχές – good wishes

*Craig Bowman*



# BONFIRE, BONFIRE

Bonfire, Bonfire, burning bright,  
Flaming deep into the night,  
Eating up the twigs and wood,  
Scorching us from where we're stood.

Bonfire, Bonfire, blazing high,  
Spitting cinders at the sky,  
Hypnotising as you flicker,  
Begging us to feed you quicker.

Bonfire, Bonfire, deepest yellow,  
Sparking as the fireworks bellow,  
Toasting hands and warming toes,  
And slowing as the evening goes.

Bonfire, Bonfire, smoulders still,  
Doused and snuffed against your will,  
Turned to ash, all but an ember,  
A memory 'til next November.



## Bonfire Night-Fireworks!

On Bonfire Night, a thousand bright lights  
Explode in November's autumnal skies:  
Moon Shadow, Crackling Glitter, Comet Bomb;  
Deadly Dragon, Pearl Shots and Flaming Sun;  
Clustering butterflies, Opal Orchids,  
Shanghai Surprise and sparklers of chrome and gold.  
Wondrous colours of saffron, silver and green;  
Scarlet, violet and short blasts of deep blue dreams;  
The Tomb of Treasures, The Flower of Spring;  
The slither of Shining Serpents that sting  
The air - and dazzling white snow lingering.  
There are so many dancing, delightful things:  
Ruby Red Storms, Summer Fountains, Orange Feasts  
And the whirling magic of the Catherine Wheel:  
Scenes that briefly extinguish our woes;  
Until all that's left, is a haze of smoke.







WORLD'S BIGGEST  
**COFFEE**  
MORNING

**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT  
RIGHT THERE WITH YOU

# Elles House raised £456

for **Macmillan** in October,  
many thanks to all who were able  
to attend, and help to reach this  
wonderful total.

## 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.





*Looking forward:*  
**Come Christmas  
Shopping!**



Please come along to help us to  
raise money for our chosen charity:

on

**Saturday 16th November**

**11.00am to 3.00pm**

**TOYS** *Chocolate Tombola*

*Gift Items* **Games**

**Christmas Decorations**

**Teddy Tombola**

**Greetings Cards & Paper**

*Write your letter to Father Christmas*

...cakes will be available, also marmalade and  
jam, along with books and DVDs, and

**Refreshments**

*Any offers of help for this event  
will be gratefully received.*





# **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.

### **Gentleness and Grace**

By Fay Rowland

Comforter of the mourning,  
lifter of lowered heads,  
strengthenener of tired limbs,  
raise our eyes to see your glory,  
open our lips to sing your praise.  
Free our hearts to worship you  
in the company of your children,  
our sisters and brothers,  
who see you now:  
Our Lamb, our shepherd,  
who wipes every tear from our eyes,  
and leads us to the water of life.

**Amen**

### **How good to be here**

By Karen Campbell

Great and wonderful God,  
how good to enter your gates  
and to gather in your name.

How good to know  
that you are the eternal God,  
and we are your beloved people.



How good to sing in praise of you,  
to pray,  
and stand in awe of your greatness.

You, Creator of the universe.

You, Author of time.

You, who sustains all life.

## **Churches Together Beddington & Wallington**

The Advent Carol Service planned for Sunday 1st December will be a CTBW one as usual and will be held St Mary's, Beddington.

If anyone from the local churches would be happy to read one of the lessons please contact Reverend Fenby, details below.

The readings will be the same as last year:

Exodus 3:1-15

Isaiah 40:1-11

Malachi 3: 1-6

Isaiah 61: 1-11

Luke 1: 26-38

1 Thessalonians 5:1-22

Using the **NRSV translation** please

Any volunteers are to reply directly to:

Reverend Fenby

([rector@stmarysbeddington.org.uk](mailto:rector@stmarysbeddington.org.uk)), please,  
with their preferred choice of reading.





## Angel IV, 2003

Emily Young

Paternoster Square, London



If you happen to be in London, walking past St Paul's Cathedral and into Paternoster Square – look up. You will see five magnificent angel heads mounted on pillars, gazing out over the city.

When the square was redesigned, the sculptor Emily Young was commissioned to make these guardian figures. Young has been described as inheriting the mantle of Dame Barbara Hepworth as Britain's greatest living stone sculptor. Her works are instantly recognisable. She employs spectacular lumps of stone – quartzite, onyx, marble, alabaster – carving a figure but leaving the remainder of the rock displayed in its raw state, as if the image has grown or evolved organically. As a result, these angels are magisterial, yet they are also flawed, broken, or disfigured.

They are reminiscent of the tall, melancholy angels perched on the buildings of Berlin in Wim Wenders' film *Wings of Desire* but also of the triumphant archangel in Jacob Epstein's sculpture *St Michael's Victory over the Devil* outside Coventry Cathedral. Angels have often been depicted as rather fey, ethereal figures, but as the feast of Michaelmas, or St Michael and All Angels, is observed in November in the Eastern Christian tradition, it is somehow reassuring to think of this awesome angel watching over the capital, and indeed over all of us.

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



# Watership Down

## Directed by Martin Rosen

*Jeremy Clarke is a film critic.*

Now fully restored in a new 4K restoration, this 1978 tale of rabbits on the run proved that an animated film need be neither made by Disney nor sugar-coated for children.

A prologue details the relationship between the creator-god Frith – represented as the sun – and rabbit-kind. As with most creation myths outside the Judeo-Christian, there's quite a bit of sex and violence. The rabbits breed furiously; hitherto non-carnivorous animals are given teeth to keep the rabbit numbers down. The rabbits are given powerful hind legs to outrun their predators.



Having established rabbits as intelligent creatures possessing a mythology and a world view, the main story concerns a specific rabbit community. The young rabbit Fiver (voiced by Richard Briers) has a premonition of imminent disaster at their warren. The older Hazel (voiced by John Hurt) knows Fiver to have been right about such things before, and attempts to warn the warren leader, who won't listen.

So Hazel, Fiver, the chief's assistant Bigwig and others set out to find somewhere safer. They have a run-in with the warren's chief of police, and leave him for dead. Traversing woodlands and open countryside towards their destination, they encounter numerous perils, some of them fatal. Snares set to catch them. Hawks, owls, cats and dogs. Also, other rabbit communities, including a militaristic, totalitarian state.

Eventually, they will arrive at the safe haven of Watership Down and befriend an injured seagull. Hazel will meet the Black Rabbit of Death, as all rabbits must, and go on the journey from which there is no return.

All this takes a very different tack from the sentimentalised, anthropomorphised animal tales for which Disney was known. These rabbits talk like humans and are essentially characters in a dark and often violent drama – nature red in tooth and claw, if you will. Although many bad things happen to them, a morality underpins the whole as they attempt to find a better world without lording it over any of their fellow creatures.

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



# **Churches Together South London Forum**

**16<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024, St Johns Church, Waterloo**

This was an excellent opportunity to gain an insight into how local churches have identified and then assisted needs within their community. How they have been assisted by charities and organizations with expertise and funding.

Four topics were offered; Communications, Youth, Chaplaincy and Social Justice.

Rev Steve Chalk Baptist minister and Founder of Oasis Charitable Trust opened the day. He was very positive and encouraging in the influence churches can have. He reflected on a “health service” being within the local Churches. Where people are listened to and prayed for. Knowledge of local services to assist in practical needs.

In the Social Justice “stream” I attended; We played Justice Bingo as an ice breaker! Social Justice and Faith was highlighted by the CEO of “Caritas” Catholics Social Action Network. He takes inspiration from Pope Francis, Martin Luther King in stating Churches should not be shy in speaking out on behalf of the needy. Our Methodist speaker, reflected on Cake Sale fundraising reputation, but that Churches need be of the poor and needy. Not necessarily being able to provide, but essentially to speak up for the local needs to the local council/ governing bodies. When was the last time we engaged as a Church or local Churches Together/ invited local councilors/ MP’s to meet us.

We may be lucky in Sutton in regard to Sutton Community Works, Street Pastors, Food Bank etc.

**STOP PRESS:** The URC with Baptist and Methodist Churches is a member of JPIT! Only formed in August so no wonder we may not have heard of the Joint Public Issues Team!

It’s Aim is to ensure one link Church in every Constituency. This Church to be within a network of local churches and faith - based organizations. To be a link for MP’s, particularly to build a relationship, assisting them to speak up on issues of community concerns and wider issues of peace and justice important to the Churches.



Closing the Forum: Richard Redditch Director of Justice & Inclusion Churches Together, encouraged Churches to be more vocal on behalf of the vulnerable in Communities. To practice hospitality, be safe spaces etc.

Bishop Mike Royal, General Secretary of Churches Together: spoke of what he had heard from:

Chaplaincy stream; We need to be Inter Faith literate

Communications: Communicate Christ.

Social Justice: to work alongside people with compassion.

Inevitably there was much more I can tell you and despite being in a minority of attendees who were not employed by churches or other organizations it was a very enjoyable, inspiring, challenging day!

Jeanette Hopkins



**Christmas is  
coming  
around ...sooner  
than you think!!**

*We are at the end of October!  
As we look towards Christmas  
we are happy to offer you the  
opportunity to send your  
Christmas Greetings to your  
Church friends through the  
pages of Contact.  
& Save on Postage!*

Your design, including a  
signature, if you wish, can  
be sent by e-mail, or  
handed to Janet or Robin.


**Black and white or colour  
can be reproduced.**

Design your own greeting, or give  
us the wording and we will  
produce something for you.

For a quarter portion of a page in  
the December Contact,  
approximately this size,  
(95 x 60mm) production costs are  
£3.00, and for half a page, if you  
would like a larger format, £6.00.

Any donations over this amount  
will be passed to Elaine.

However we will need the  
details together with your  
Donation by the 22nd  
**November, please.**





Diary Dates			
November			
Sunday	3rd	10.30am	<b>Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Alan Cruchley</b>
Sunday	10th	10.30am	<b>Morning service, for Remembrance day...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>
Sunday	17th	10.30am	<b>Morning service...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>
Sunday	24th	10.30am	<b>Morning service...to be led by TBA</b>
December			
Sunday	1st	10.30am	<b>Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>
Sunday	8th	10.30am	<b>Morning service, our Gift Service and Nativity</b>

**PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the December/January 2025 issue of Contact** should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Tuesday 27th November** unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement.  
Contributions are very acceptable by e-mail: jmw321wmj @ yahoo.co.uk.

Sudoku Answers for  
October:

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



# Puzzle Corner

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

## Bible Word Search: Armour of God

Arrows, Belt, Darkness, Gospel, Helmet, Mail, Plans, Prayer, Shield, Spirit, Strong, Sword, Truth

## Bible Word Search: Jesus Demonstrated God's Power

Blind man, God, Ground, Jesus, Light, People, Power, Promised, Prophets, Sight, Spread, Wash

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

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.

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



# 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 (two classes)
<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!**