

# Wallington United Reformed Church



## **CONTACT MAGAZINE**



No. 385 December 2024 - January 2025

*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....

The length of Advent varies; it can be as long as 34 days or as short as 22 days. This year with Advent Sunday falling on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December we are towards the shorter end of the scale.

So how are you going to use the days of Advent? Is it merely a time of preparation for Christmas itself, with present buying, card writing and meal planning taking centre-stage? Will carol services and Christmas performances fill your time over the next few weeks? Are there family traditions that have developed over the years and which must be fitted in to this time?

For many these next few weeks will seem the busiest time of the year and yet the Advent season invites us to step away from what can be a frenzied time to consider the coming of Jesus and what that meant and should mean. Advent calendars are both a help and a hindrance in this as they help us to mark the passing of time but ultimately focus on one day in the future, which can lead us to miss the opportunities of each day we are living.

I'm not suggesting you should abandon your Advent calendar this year, especially if you have decided to use the Sutton Community Works reverse Advent calendar supporting the food bank. However as you open each door/window/box (depending on the type of calendar) maybe you could take a moment to think about one small thing you could do that day to help make the coming of Christ more real in the world.

Of course another way is to use the Advent booklet we have produced with a reading from John's Gospel, a reflection and a prayer for each day of the season. This is the third year we have

produced a booklet and this time we again have contributions from both Wallington and St Andrew's URCs but also this year from the South London Tamil Church, who meet in our building each Sunday afternoon. I am grateful to all those who contributed their thoughts – thank you. Please take a copy of the booklet for your home but feel free to take one or more for other people whom you know that you think would appreciate pausing daily to reflect during this season.

At our last Church Meeting back in October I indicated that I needed some help for the service on December 15<sup>th</sup>. I want to theme the service around nativity sets and hope there are people within Wallington URC who would like to share their set with the congregation at that service. It would be lovely to have several sets in the church for people to see but I realise that many of them will be on display in homes at that time and some may be too fragile to transport to and from the church.

Therefore we will be displaying pictures during the service as we share the story of each set.

If you have a nativity set that is unusual in some way or has a particular story behind it that you would be willing to share please let me know. If you can send or give me a picture that would be great but this could be arranged later (like when you have got it out of the loft along with the other Christmas decorations).

When I know what's available I can plan the service and invite people either to talk about their set on the day or have someone else read what has been written in advance. Because we will be using photos it also means that we can include the sets and stories of those who are not able to be with us on that day.

May this Advent be a journey of discovery for all of us.

*Craig Bowman*

# Christmas Services

## *Wallington United Reformed Church*

### **Sunday 8th December**

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

### **Sunday 22nd December**

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

### **Wednesday 25th December**

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



## ***South London Tamil Church***

*invite everyone on*

### **Saturday 21st 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

## **The Moderator's Christmas Letter 2024**



As we enter the beautiful season of Advent, we are reminded of Mary's song in the Gospel of Luke, often called the Magnificat. Mary's song of praise reminds us of the joy and hope that comes from faith in God's promises.

In her moment of awe, Mary proclaims, "My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour." These words echo through the ages, inviting us to reflect on the miracle of the Incarnation. Mary's song is both deeply personal and universally hopeful. It reflects her humility and gratitude to God, who chose her to bear His Son, Jesus.

This Christmas, let us join Mary in glorifying the Lord for the gift of Jesus, who brings light into our darkness and hope into our despair. Mary's hymn also calls us to recognise the transformative power of God's love. She sings of the mighty being scattered, the proud being brought low, and the humble being filled with good things. In a world often marked by division and strife, we are reminded that God's kingdom upends worldly values and lifts up the marginalised.

As we celebrate Christ's birth, let us embody this spirit of humility and service in our Church and community. Additionally, the Magnificat encourages us to remember God's faithfulness throughout all generations. Just as God fulfilled His promise to Mary, we can trust that God is at work in our lives today.

In this season, let us share the good news of God's love and grace with those around us, being containers of hope and joy. As we gather for worship and fellowship in the coming Advent weeks, may our hearts be filled with gratitude and our spirits renewed. Let us celebrate the miracle of Christmas together, proclaiming with Mary the greatness of our God.

Thank you to all who participate in the life and witness of God's church. We are the visible face of Christ.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyous Christmas.

*Bridget*

Moderator for Southern Synod  
United Reformed Church

## Over the garden fence - Reform Magazine



As the Methodist Church arrives at new offices a stone's throw from United Reformed Church House, Reform asks what the new neighbours have in common and whether they'll ever just move in together. Chatting over the fence are the Revds Micky Youngson, Assistant Secretary of Conference for the Methodist Church in Britain, and Philip Brooks, Deputy General Secretary (Mission) of the URC.

A friend recently said to me, 'I really don't get the difference between the Methodists and the United Reformed Church.' How close do you think the two are?

Philip Brooks: I guess I'd say two things. I think it's quite good that somebody would say that, because we're not about trying to recruit people to the URC or the Methodists. We're hoping to get people to know and love Jesus in a closer way. So if you're not seeing the labels, that's an advantage.

And a personal response: in my family, on my father's side all of the generations going back were Methodists, and I went to a Methodist Sunday school. On my mum's side, they were all Congregationalists. So I've grown up in a family that didn't see the joins that much at all. And for my first, and actually only, pastorate, I spent ten years in a Methodist circuit as a URC minister. The only time you could see the join was when it came to communion. We took the trays round, whereas the Methodist tradition was for people to come forward to a communion rail.

At local level, I think, for somebody looking for church, if you were happy in a URC, you'd also be happy in a Methodist one, and vice versa.

Micky Youngson: Our histories are different, but it's quite hard to find the dividing lines between the two Churches. Theologically, I've always felt very comfortable with any experience of URC worship. As a superintendent minister I had oversight of two URC-Methodist local ecumenical partnerships (LEPs) and the interchangeability of ministry and of lay preachers was really smooth. Most people in the pew weren't very bothered about which they were. It was their church and that's what mattered...

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

**The United Reformed Church (URC) is re-launching its Gaza Appeal** to support urgent humanitarian work in the region, with an expanded scope to include Lebanon.

We are pleased to announce that this effort is being undertaken in partnership with the Methodist Church in Britain, under the name Gaza/Lebanon Justice Appeal and will be supported by All We Can, an international development and relief organisation.



By collaborating with our partners on the ground, we aim to provide critical aid and pursue a shared mission of relief and justice for the people of Gaza and Lebanon.

The Revd Philip Brooks, URC Deputy General Secretary (Mission), explains: "Given the desperate humanitarian crisis experienced by the people of Gaza and Lebanon, it is good for the URC and its global justice programme, 'Commitment for Life', to join with our Methodist ecumenical partners and All We Can in support of this vital appeal.

"In the face of overwhelming force and deep injustice, we hope to bring ecumenical solidarity and practical support to help alleviate the plight of so many people who are enduring conflict in this region."

Jude Levermore, Head of Mission for the Methodist Church, adds: "We are called to be co-workers for God's mission of reconciliation and justice, to act and serve among fragile humanity.

"We believe the crucified Christ is embracing the pain of war affecting people from all parties and backgrounds and we feel compelled therefore to act together with care and compassion. We wait for sanity to prevail but in the meantime, we stand with our partners in solidarity and give what we can."

The Methodist Liaison Office (MLO) based in Jerusalem works alongside several partners in Gaza, including the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees which is part of the Near East Council of Churches (NECC) and the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre which opened a clinic in Gaza early on during the conflict. The URC is a long-standing partner of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon which is working in the region following IDF airstrikes.

Funds raised will be collected by The Methodist Church World Mission Fund and will be shared direct with partners working in the area.

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



# **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.

### **Do you need a house, Lord?**

By Andy Braunston

Do you need a house, Lord -  
a house of stone, wood and glass;  
majestic and grand, or simple and plain?  
Do you need a house in order to be worshipped –  
exquisite buildings in order to be praised?  
Or are these things for our benefit rather than yours?

Help us, Lord, to be your house,  
a place where your love is sung forever,  
where your faithfulness is known,  
where justice is enthroned,  
and where your Kingdom truly comes.

### **The good news song**

By Rachel Poolman

We have been clothed with good news,  
embraced by eternal hope,  
and gifted seeds of righteousness...

#### **God is with us now and forever**

We cannot keep silent;  
in us and through us  
God will do new things...

#### **God is with us now and forever**

We will shout above the clamour,  
we will whisper to the vulnerable,  
we will sing with all creation...

#### **God is with us now and forever**



At our Gift Service on  
Sunday 8th December  
We will be supporting the  
Sutton Women's Centre.

We have been in touch with  
them and their reply explains that any  
toiletries are very welcome as they  
are not often donated, and also any-  
thing 'Christmassy' as treats for the  
festive season.

(maybe fudge, biscuits, truffles, Yule log, gingerbread or mini  
bite-size cookies)

## Walk and Talk

Friday mornings at Dobbies.

10 am for walking.

Meet outside the first entrance  
for walking.



11 am for tea/coffee in

the Coffee Shop for all who  
don't wish to walk.

**Everyone welcome.**



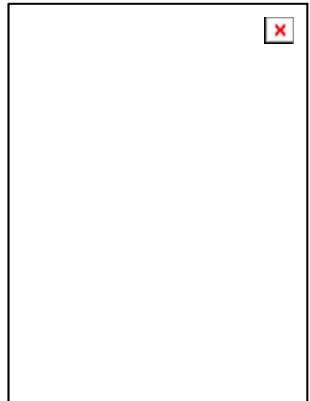
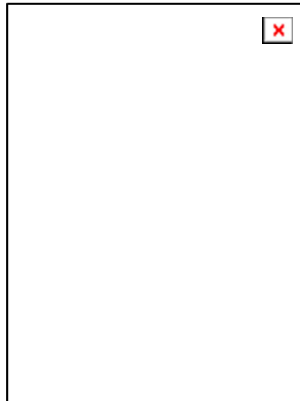
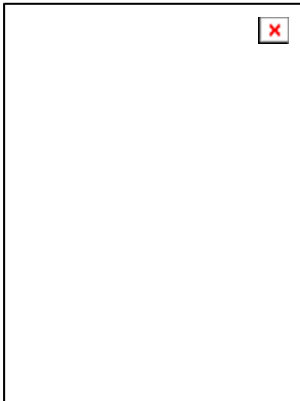


# Christmas Sale

**Saturday 16th  
November**

We are very pleased to report that we had another very successful Christmas Sale on Saturday 16th November, which raised over £1000 on the actual day, and has a total of ..... so far.

Money collected at the Gift Service (8th Dec) and the Carol Service (22nd Dec) will be added to the total to be donated to the Sutton Refugee Network and the Sutton branch of Cruse Bereavement Support.



On the day, 16th November, we raised over £1000.

By the time we printed the Contact Magazine the total raised had risen to

## £1150

*Thanks to everyone who was able to help or support this event.*

## Christmas Day Lunch

Diary Dates			
December			
Sunday	1st	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Morning service: Gift service to be led by Phil Hyde
Sunday	15th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	22nd		NO Morning service
		4.00pm	Carol Service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Wednesday	25th	10.00am	Christmas Day Service to be led by Phil Hyde
Sunday	29th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Alan Cruchley
January 2025			
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 to be led by Phil or Alan
Sunday	19th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Craig Bowman
Sunday	26th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Phil or Alan

**PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the February 2025 issue of Contact** should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Friday 24th January** unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement. Contributions are very

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

Sudoku Answers for  
November:

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

# Puzzle Corner

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

## Bible Word Search: Christmas

Carols, Church, Joseph, Lights, Mary, Peace, Presents, Santa, Shepherd, Stocking, Tree

## Bible Word Search: Christmas Day

Angels, Bows, Carols, Church, Elves, Family, Love, Presents, Reindeer, Ribbon, Spirit, Tree

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

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	7	1	4					
6			5	7		3		
5				8		9	7	
4	6		7		9			
	8	3				5	2	
			8		5		6	9
	4	2		6				5
		6		5	1			4
					7	6	8	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 (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!**