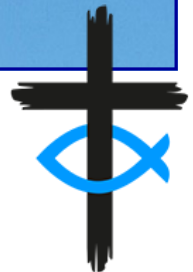


Wallington United Reformed Church



CONTACT

No. 389 May 2025



Extrinsic

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends

I recently conducted a wedding at St Andrew's and, as is usual, had to offer them words of wisdom which will hopefully be relevant throughout their life together, not just on that day. What I offered them was the reminder of the importance of the two words "Thank You".

It seems to me that today, in a world that is often dominated by selfishness and entitlement, the importance of giving thanks can be overlooked.

In the church, as well as in the world, it is vital that we not only give thanks to God but are also thankful for each other, so let me remind you of three things that happen when we say 'Thank You'.

First, when we say "Thank You" for all that is good in life we are acknowledging that all good things in life are a gift for us.

We have nothing by right; health, friendship, support and love are all gifts.

When we take them for granted we are in danger of losing or destroying them. They are given to us in love and for us to enjoy. In saying "Thank You" we remember to take nothing or no-one for granted.

Second, if we say "Thank You" we are acknowledging that we are able to communicate with the one who gives us so much.

After all it is important when we thank someone that they are able to hear our gratitude and are pleased by it in response.

Communication is at the centre of all successful relationships, whether at work, between friends or family, or in church.

In saying "Thank You" we establish that communication which is so

vital.

And third, when we say "Thank You" we are acknowledging that we are dependent on the one we thank; we trust in them, and not in our own strength.

They provide a gift or a skill, a word or an action, that we ourselves could not, did not, or were unwilling to provide. They have given something that was beyond our means for whatever reason.

Without them and what they give, we would not have all that we do or be so blessed.

In saying "Thank You" we remember the value of one another and our dependence on them.

When saying "Thank You" is central in our life, then no gift or action will be taken for granted. We will continue to communicate and share together and will realise the value of each other.

Thank you for reading this.

Craig Bowman

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

Starting a New Term:

Our thoughts are with all those who are starting a new term...going back to school...maybe for their last term...

We send all good wishes to those heading towards exams that come during the summer term. We wish you lots and lots of success as you dream and look forward to your future.

Treat each day as an adventure, believe in yourself and all the hard work you've put in.

A prayer for starting a new term:

"Lord, as this new term starts, we ask for your blessing on all pupils, of all ages. Guide their steps, fill their hearts with joy, and grant them all the strength to face any challenges that may come their way.

Help them all to learn, grow, and serve others with understanding, kindness and compassion.

Give them the wisdom to learn, the courage to ask questions, find joy in their studies, build strong friendships with their peers, show respect for their teachers, and help them to be kind, compassionate, and responsible citizens.

We pray for all school communities. May they work together in harmony, supporting each other and creating a welcoming and inclusive environments. Bless all who are working and learning in these environments with understanding, compassion, and a shared commitment to excellence. May this term be a time of peace, progress, and purpose for all. Amen."

VE Day (80 years)

On 8 May 2025, we mark the historic **80th anniversary of VE Day**, with the peoples, families and communities of our great nation coming together to unite and celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe that so many millions paid the ultimate sacrifice to achieve it.



The image is of a VE Day party in Bramblewood Close, Carshalton in 1945!

VE Day 80th anniversary is not only a tribute to those who fought for the freedom we all enjoy today, but also a powerful reminder of the resilience and unity that have defined our country ever since.

Victory in Europe Day, or VE Day, marks the official end of World War II in Europe. Celebrated on May 8, 1945, it commemorates the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany to the Allied forces. The news of Germany's surrender sparked widespread jubilation and

relief as years of devastating conflict came to a close. Cities across the globe erupted in celebration, with people pouring into the streets, waving flags, and holding impromptu parades.

Following VE Day 80th Anniversary, on 8 May, over the weekend (10th-11th May 2025), the Council is encouraging residents and communities to come together and plan street parties to celebrate the historic occasion.

On 5th May 2025 at 9am Town Criers will undertake the VE Day Proclamation as the VE Day 80 flags are raised, and at 12noon, Pipers will play a unique tune especially written for the occasion entitled 'Celebratum' from the top of the UK's four highest Peaks and at 6.30pm, Cathedrals and Churches will ring out in united celebration throughout the nation, and at 9.30pm over one thousand of beacons and hundreds of Lamp Lights of Peace will shine throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, with the flames from them both, representing the 'light of peace' that emerged from the

dreadful darkness of war, along with the nation coming together in city and town squares to village greens, and all other manner of locations at this special and unique one moment in time, and sing the great British Hymn 'I Vow To Thee My Country, standing side by side in gratitude, honouring the many sacrifices that secured our freedom.

Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Families Association

SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity, leads the nation's **VE Day 80 celebrations**, saluting 'Our Greatest Generation' with music, dance and first-hand stories of the wartime generation, at the Royal Albert hall on Thursday May 8th 2025.

Exactly 80 years on, it is one of the final Second World War anniversaries for the country to mark alongside those who lived through it; The Greatest Generation.

8 May 1945 was a day of celebration with the streets brimming with people singing and dancing; bittersweet for many who had lost loved ones in the war or were waiting for their safe return.

Walk and Talk



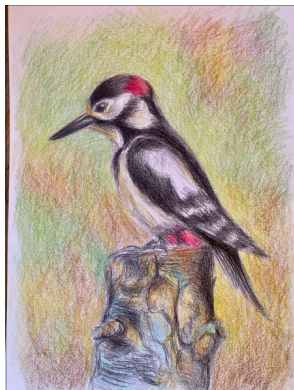
Friday mornings.
10 am for walking.
Meet outside the first
entrance for walking.

11 am for tea and cake at Dobbies, at the Coffee Shop, often outside, if you don't wish to walk.

**Everyone
welcome.**



**CARSHALTON AND
WALLINGTON
ART GROUP**
**Spring
Exhibition 2025**



**May 15th – 17th
Thursday, Friday,
and Saturday
10am to 5pm**

**Stay for tea, coffee
and cake, to support:**

Christian Aid



Come to browse or to buy!

Taken from 2021 Prayer Handbook 'hidden in plain sight'

Edited by Francis Brien and Michael Jagessar

The 2021 Prayer Handbook is made up of a mixture of prayer styles and approaches. We live in a world of distractions. Information overload disables our sense of perception. What is right before and around us can seem so far away, even non-existent. We hope that these prayers, inspired by God's Spirit will lead us to discern God's goodness at work, extending far beyond our sight and imagination.

How fortuitous: This prayer is dated 8th May...

A Gift of Freedom

By Ian Fosten

'At once all doors opened'

Let us take time to consider the threads of freedom
that are woven into our lives:

For freedom to think, learn, grow and understand,
loving God we thank you.

For opportunities to travel and explore,
extend the boundaries of experience and knowledge,
loving God we thank you.

For the possibility of seeing people as you see them -
not enemies or competitors
but as testimony to variety in creation,
loving God we thank you.

For freedom to make your will and way our own,
loving God we thank you
and pray for such strength and wisdom
that we shall use your gift of freedom well.

ART IN FOCUS



Mount Calvary, 1944
William H. Johnson

The scene is simple and graphic. The background, timeless and plain. The figures wear contemporary dress. In this crucifixion scene, there is no attempt at historical accuracy. We know about these people from the Gospel accounts of course, but here we feel for them.

One woman, it may be Mary, Jesus' mother, is gazing into his face. Another is kneeling at his feet, overwhelmed. More friends – all women – stand in dumb horror.

In Jesus' last moments, the artist has drawn his subjects into a circle of relationships, conveying a world of meaning and emotion.

The scene was painted in 1944 by African American artist William H. Johnson. Born in poverty in South Carolina, he moved to New York aged 17, taking a variety of jobs to save enough money to go to the prestigious National Academy of Design. After spending time in France and Denmark, where he married the artist Holcha Krake, he returned to Greenwich Village at the height of the Harlem Renaissance.

Here he achieved considerable success. However, following his wife's death in 1944, his physical and mental health declined dramatically. He was not able to paint, and died in the state hospital on Long Island, New York. Today, Johnson is considered one of the most important African American artists of his generation.

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

Diary Dates			
May			
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Alan or Phil
Sunday	18th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	25th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Rev Bill Bowman
June			
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Alan or Phil
Sunday	13th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Alan or Phil

PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the June 2025 issue of Contact should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Tuesday 27th May** unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement.

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

Sudoku Answers for April

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

Puzzle Corner

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

Bible Word Search: The King's Cupbearer

Chislev, Covenant, Fast, God, Judah, Judgment, King, Moses, Prayer, Ransom, Remnant

Bible Word Search: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Boulder, Bronze, Chest, Clay, Daniel, Dream, Feet, God, Head, Legs, Magician, Silver, Statue, Vision

N	B	O	U	L	D	E	R
Y	A	L	C	A	K	Z	H
R	C	I	N	I	E	N	E
E	H	I	C	U	O	O	A
V	E	N	T	I	S	R	D
L	S	A	S	E	G	B	G
I	T	I	D	R	E	A	M
S	V	G	O	D	L	F	M

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.

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

Monday	10.00-11.00am	Yoga
	1.00-2.30pm	Al-Anon
	2.00-4.00pm	Bananas Art
	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	U3A Art group (fortnightly)
	5.00-6.00pm	Rainbows(1st South Wallington)
	6.00-7.30pm	Brownies (10th Wallington)
Wednesday	8.00-10.00pm	Epsom Downs Badminton, Winter(Sept-May)
Wednesday	10.00-12.15pm	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!