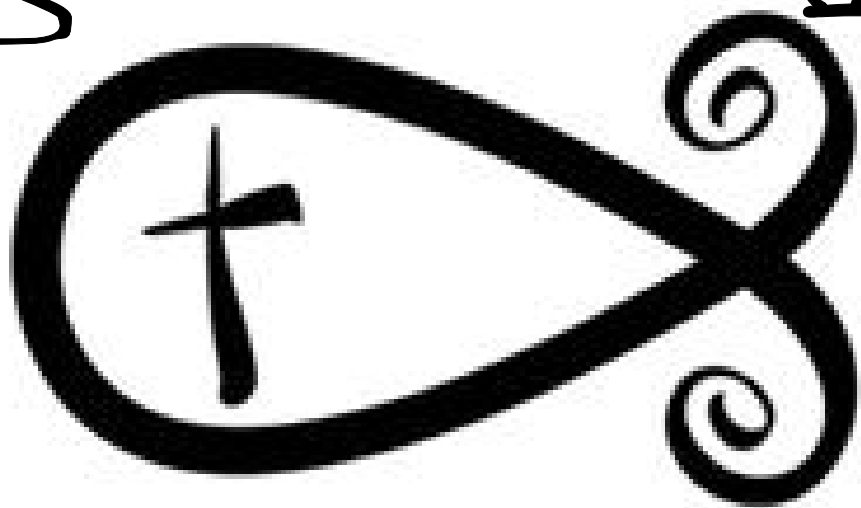


Wallington United Reformed
Church



CONTACT MAGAZINE



No. 391

July-August 2025

Extrinsic

Did you know...

www.wurc.org.uk

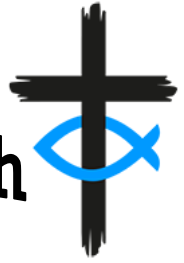
is our church internet address. Look us
up sometime!

Minister:

Reverend Craig Bowman

Email: minister@wurc.org.uk

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

It's raining!

That's not normally an uncommon thing to say in England but I'm writing this in the last few days of June when the latter half of Spring and the early part of Summer have been characterised by a lot of sunshine, some very high temperatures and a lack of rain. It's not what we expect the weather to be at this time of year (although it may be something to which we are going to have to get used) and there are many complaints, understandably not least from farmers, gardeners and those with certain health issues.

Things in life not being what we expected is a common concern; some of them more troubling than others. The new job doesn't turn out quite as we expected, the shrub we bought grows far larger and far more quickly than we expected, the person we thought was a friend does not have our best interests at heart, the tv series we were really looking forward to watching turns out to be dull or unbelievable. Some of these disappointments we can soon shake off but others can hurt us deeply and colour how we see other aspects of life. The well-meant advice from our family and friends may sometimes help but at other times we may feel they don't really understand what we are going through or have experienced.

There are people for whom disrupted routine and new experiences are utterly overwhelming and then there are those of us who have got used to things being just in a particular way. However as human beings we are generally remarkably good at coping with the unexpected. This is just as well as life does throw us a lot of curve balls and toss a good number of spanners into our carefully planned works.

As I was reflecting on this I began to consider a number of people in the Bible whose lives were seriously disrupted by something unexpected and who ended up in places they would never have imagined.

At the top of my list were the fishermen from Galilee who expected to live out their lives fishing the same waters their fathers and grandfathers had before them but found themselves travelling disciples of a rabbi from Nazareth and then apostles dispersed widely across the middle-east, north Africa and India.

Then there was Ruth who married a son of Naomi in Moab but when her father-in-law and husband die her life is transplanted to Israel and ultimately she will be the great-grandmother of King David. Then there is David himself – the shepherd boy who becomes Israel's greatest king.

Perhaps you can think of others in our Christian tradition who thought their lives were heading in a particular direction but ended up in a completely different and unexpected place?

How about you and the people you know? Has life taken an unexpected turn and you ended up somewhere you had never imagined? This could be something dramatic or something seemingly inconsequential. How did you deal with it and make sense of it? Maybe it didn't make sense until you looked back many years later and recognised where your life had turned.

One of the ways we cope with the unexpected and unwelcome interruptions in life is through talking with others. Sometimes this is just having someone with whom we can moan about the weather until the rain (or sun) returns. Sometimes it is having someone who brings perspective into our lives, reminding us that in the scheme of things the fact that the shrub is larger than we had expected is not going to stop the world and it actually means we need to buy fewer ground-cover plants!

Then there are those people who help us to see that, whilst we are moaning about what has happened or not happened, there is a bigger picture and there are new opportunities, other paths to follow and places where we can make a difference.

Give thanks for those who have been companions through the unexpected twists in your life and look for the places where you are called to be companions for others when life doesn't seem to be going quite where they thought it would.

Craig Bowman

**August is the month of Gladiolus and Poppy, flowers of
faithfulness, love, resilience, sincerity,
integrity, persistence, imagination and remembrance.**

*'When August days are hot an' dry,
When burning copper is the sky,
I 'd rather fish than feast or fly
In airy realms serene and high.
I 'd take a suit not made for looks,
Some easily digested books,
Some flies, some lines, some bait, some hooks,
Then would I seek the bays and brooks.
I would eschew mine every task,
In Nature's smiles my soul should bask,
And I methinks no more could ask,
Except—perhaps—one little flask.
In case of accident, you know,
Or should the wind come on to blow,
Or I be chilled or capsized, so,
A flask would be the only go.
Then could I spend a happy time,—*

*A bit of sport, a bit of rhyme
(A bit of lemon, or of lime,
To make my bottle's contents prime).
When August days are hot an' dry,
I won't sit by an' sigh or die,
I'll get my bottle (on the sly)*





On 14 June, the URC's National Synod of Scotland celebrates 25 years since the formation of the United Reformed Church as we now experience it – when the URC in the UK and the Congregational Union of Scotland united. Lindsey Sanderson reflects on how the union transformed the way in which the URC sees itself

Our silver jubilee celebration of the union between the United Reformed Church in the UK and the Congregational Union of Scotland (CUS) will take for its theme 'Living the Hope Within'.

The day will be as much about looking forward as about remembering our past. Indeed, a series of workshops will equip people to 'give an account of the hope that is within them', including through creativity, social justice, communications, and learning about the URC's Church Life Review. Nevertheless, it is also true that understanding our journey over the past 25 years may offer vision and hope for what comes next, and this will be an important part of the celebration too.

On 1 April, 2000, the Unifying Assembly was held in the Barony Centre in Glasgow, establishing a National Synod of Scotland. Together with the creation of the National Synod of Wales, the event would underscore the URC's sense of itself as a Church across three nations.

The URC already had a presence in Scotland. Its Mid-Scotland District had come into being with the 1981 union with the Churches of Christ. By 2000 there were six congregations, one of which, Augustine United, was already a CUS-URC local ecumenical partnership.

The CUS had attempted to unite with the URC in 1988, but had

failed to achieve the necessary majority to effect union. A difficult decade marked by conflicting visions followed, and so the union in 2000 was not just welcomed as an ecumenical milestone but also as an opportunity to turn a corner and travel in a new direction.

Ecumenical partners were delighted. The Very Revd Sheilagh Kesting, formerly the Ecumenical Officer for the Church of Scotland, viewed the union as an important mirror to the Church of Scotland and other Churches in reminding them that organic unity was possible, and making them look at themselves again and their ecumenical commitments.

However, the union of 2000 made its impact across the whole URC in other ways. Most immediately, the new National Synod of Scotland now comprised 65 congregations, not in itself a large number but over ten times the size of the Mid-Scotland District.

The creation of the Synod also encouraged the United Reformed Church across the whole of the UK to re-vision itself as a Church in three nations. In parallel with the union in Scotland, a National Synod of Wales was also created. While both new national synods were to 'share all the characteristics and duties of English provincial synods', they would each 'comprehend a whole nation within their borders' as well.

Having two national synods, together with the political devolution settlement, particularly at Holyrood, meant that the whole URC had to take seriously that it was a three-nation denomination that reflected within its structures and conversations different histories, political realities and ecumenical landscapes.

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

PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the September 2025 issue of Contact
should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Tuesday 26th August**
unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement.
Contributions are very
acceptable by e-mail: jmw321wmj @ yahoo.co.uk.



OUR
BIGGEST
FAIR EVER

Summer



ExtraVaganza



Sunday 6th July, 12-4pm



Mehndi

Games & Activities for all ages
Fantastic family fun
Competitions
Delicious food & drinks
Barbecue
...and...MUCH MUCH MORE...



Mouthwatering Food on sale



Yoga

Wallington Sports and
Social Club,
34 Mollison Drive,
Wallington,
SM6 9BY

Pony Rides



Didi Cars & Animal Hoppers

LIMITED TICKETS
BUY NOW !!!
2024 SOLD OUT FAST



Bouncy Castles and Slides

Inflatable Obstacle Course



OSHWAL
ASSOCIATION OF THE UK

SUMMER FUN

TICKETS: U5s FREE, U16s £2, MEMBERS £3, NON MEMBERS £4.
FROM OSHWAL WEBSITE

Oshwal Association of the UK | Charity Reg. No. 267037 | T&C's apply: www.oshwal.org.uk/event-terms

CARSHALTON LAVENDER

PICK YOUR OWN HARVEST WEEKEND 2025

Celebrating our 26th Annual Harvest!
26th & 27th July 10am-5pm

Advance Booking Recommended

Lavender Products, Plant Sale, Arts & Crafts,
Food & Drinks, Aromatherapy, Face Painting



A not-for-profit community heritage project

Oaks Way, Carshalton Beeches, SM5 4NQ

Harvest entry via Oaks Way Centre gate

Buy tickets via website

www.carshaltonlavender.org

07948 174907



**Adult entry £1.50 or
£5 inc bunch lavender**
Up to 2 children FREE
Bring Your Own Scissors

Taken from 2021 Prayer Handbook

‘hidden in plain sight’

Edited by Francis Brien and Michael Jagessar

The 2016 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.

Blessed be God

By Susan Durber

Blessed be God,
who is not alone in doing wondrous things,
but who inspires and empowers people like us
to love with compassion and desire justice.

Blessed be God,
who hears the voices of those in need,
the poor and those who have no helper,
and sends you and me to answer them.

Blessed be God,
who has pity for the weak
and who holds them as precious,
while nagging us to rise and do something.

Blessed be God,
whose glory fills the whole earth,
and whose power is shown in the ones
who meet our weakness and our need,
for they do wondrous things.

Blessed be God,
and blessed be God’s people,
who touch the earth with love.
May glory fill the world
as righteousness and justice
are delivered from our hands.

Bent Double

By Ruth Maxey

Jesus, you see me bent double in pain.
Jesus, you call me to your side.
Jesus, you touch me with hands that heal.

You straighten me up and I praise you.

For those bent double with the weight of debt.
Crippled by anxiety and wordless fears,
whose bodies are broken by disease.
Whose lives have been shattered by war

we pray: Jesus, come close.

See them.
Call them.
Touch them with hands that heal.

Walk and Talk



Friday mornings.
10 am for walking.
11am for a cuppa

We're often at Dobbies or Oaks
Park and sometimes elsewhere. Please
Ring Sheila on 07905 301309 for the day's plan if you
would like to join us for
Walking and/or Talking.



**Everyone
welcome.**



ART IN FOCUS

The Last Judgment, 1536-1541 Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni (Michelangelo) The Sistine Chapel, Vatican City

Those watching the news in May this year, or the award-winning film *Conclave*, will have caught a glimpse of the stunning ceiling and walls of the Sistine Chapel. Painted by Michelangelo, they now oversee the events that result in the appointment of a new pope. On the wall behind the altar, facing all the cardinals as they deliberate and vote, is this momentous scene, drawn from the book of Revelation and Dante Alighieri's *Divina Commedia*. Low in the centre, a flight of angels sound the trumpets that summon the dead from their graves. On the left, those destined for eternal life are raised upwards into paradise or heaven. Those judged to be damned are ushered towards the right-hand side of the scene where they are consigned to hell by the classical boatman, Charon. Central to the whole scene is the risen Christ. His hand is raised, showing the marks of his crucifixion. He is surrounded by saints and martyrs, and his mother Mary sits to his right.

This is no easy painting to adorn the walls of such a holy place. Art historian Kenneth Clark wrote, 'That colossal nightmare, the Last Judgment, is made up of such struggles. It is the most overpowering accumulation in all art of bodies in violent movement.' For centuries the cardinals have gathered before it to carry out their serious task. It may well cause them to consider their decisions in the light of eternity.

Art in Focus is curated by Meryl Doney

Michelangelo, whose completion of the chapel's ceiling in 1512 had sealed his reputation as the greatest master of the human figure, especially the male nude. Pope Paul III was well aware of this when he charged Michelangelo with repainting the chapel's altar wall with the Last Judgment. With its focus on the resurrection of the body, this was the perfect subject for Michelangelo. The mighty composition, painted by Michelangelo between 1536 and 1541, is centred around the dominant figure of Christ, captured in the moment preceding that when the verdict of the Last Judgement is uttered. The Saints and the Elect,



arranged around Christ and the Virgin, also anxiously await the verdict. Some of them can be easily recognized: St Peter with the two keys, St Laurence with the gridiron, St Bartholomew with his own skin which is usually recognized as being a self-portrait of Michelangelo, St Catherine of Alexandria with the cogwheel and St Sebastian kneeling holding the arrows. In the centre of the lower section are the angels of the Apocalypse who are wakening the dead to the sound of long trumpets. On the left the risen recover their bodies as they ascend towards heaven, on the right angels and devils fight over making the damned fall down to hell. Finally, at the bottom Charon with his oars, together with his devils, makes the damned get out of his boat to lead them before the infernal judge Minos, whose body is wrapped in the coils of the serpent. A reference to the Inferno of Dante Alighieri's *Divina Commedia*.

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

Diary Dates			
July			
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 Rev Leonora Jagessar -Visser't Hooft'
Sunday	20th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
		12.00	To be followed by Church Meeting and AGM
Sunday	27th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Alan or Phil
August			
Sunday	3rd	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	10th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Alan or Phil
Sunday	17th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	24th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Alan or Phil
Sunday	31st	10.30am	Morning service...to be confirmed
September			
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Rev Dr Charisa Hunter-Crump (Training and Development office for the Southern Synod)

Sudoku Answers for
June

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

Puzzle Corner

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

Bible Word Search: What is the church?

Believer, Body, Bride, Chosen, Elect, Follower, Holy, Priest, Redeemed, Saints, Saved

Bible Word Search: Psalm 113

Blessed, Earth, Glory, Heaven, Jesus, Lord, Mother, People, Praise, Psalm, Rising, Sun

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

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.

	2			9	8	3		
8	6	4			2			
	9			5		2		1
			5		7		1	3
3		8				5		4
9	1		3		6			
2		6		7			9	
			9			6	3	8
		9	8	6			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	10.00-11.30am	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!