

Wallington United Reformed  
Church



**CONTACT  
MAGAZINE**



No. 394

November 2025

*Church*

Did you know...

**[www.wurc.org.uk](http://www.wurc.org.uk)**

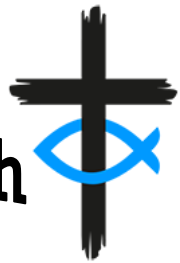
is our church internet address. Look us  
up sometime!

Minister:

Reverend Craig Bowman

Email: [minister@wurc.org.uk](mailto:minister@wurc.org.uk)

# Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends

Most of us are used to the idea of a 'Songs of Praise' service where people choose a favourite hymn and speak about its significance for them. In the past year we have had a couple of these services and I am grateful for those who selected hymns or songs and shared with us what they mean to them. At the last Church Meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup> I explained how we were going to try something similar but which is also very different. It's actually something I have never done in several decades of ministry but I am sure it will be a good occasion.

For our service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November I am asking people to choose a favourite Bible passage and share with the congregation their significance. I am saying 'Bible passage' because it can literally be from anywhere in the Bible. It may be one of Jesus's parables or an episode from his life; it may be a passage from one of the New Testament letters or an episode in Acts; it could be something from the Old Testament, perhaps from the life of Moses, Elijah or David, a Psalm or a passage from one of the prophets. You can choose. All I ask is that you are willing to share with the congregation why it is significant for you. This may be done by the one who has chosen a passage sharing in person with the congregation or it can be done by writing something that I or someone else can read out on the day.

This 'Stories of Faith' service is only a couple of weeks away so please let me know soon if you have a passage you want to share.

Of course, if we have too many suggestions for one service (which I hope we do) we will plan for another similar service early in the new year, so don't hold back. Everyone's contributions are welcome.

Additionally we are now heading into the time of year where we will soon be singing carols. If you have a favourite carol, or one you really don't like, let me know and it will help my decision making. If you can tell me why you like a particular carol or dislike another that will be help me in the choices I have to make.

*Craig Bowman*



# What do you know about Remembrance Sunday?



On the second Sunday of each November, The King leads the nation in the remembering those who have died in world wars and other conflicts. In a ceremony at the Cenotaph, the focal point of the nation's homage, Members of the Royal Family unite with others in thousands of similar ceremonies across the UK and worldwide in holding two minutes' of silence at 11am.

On Sunday 9 November (2025), the National Service of Remembrance will be held at the Cenotaph on Whitehall, London.

The King and other Members of the Royal Family join political leaders, current and ex-members of the Armed Forces and World War veterans at the foot of the Cenotaph memorial.



As the bells of Big Ben toll eleven, and a single gun on Horse Guards Parade is fired, two minutes of complete silence is held in remembrance of all lost in war. Once a further round of gunfire signifies the end of the silence, the bugle call 'The Last Post' is played. His Majesty and others, including High Commissioners from the Commonwealth, lay wreaths of poppies at the foot of the Cenotaph.



No tickets or passes are needed for the event and the public are welcome to watch the ceremony from the pavements along Whitehall and Parliament Street.

The Poppy Factory was first set up in 1922 to create civilian employment for wounded, sick and injured veterans of the First World War, initially through a small factory in Old Kent Road.

The Queen hosted a celebration of the Centenary of the founding of The Poppy Factory, in the aftermath of the First World War. In 1924, preparations began to move to its current home in Richmond upon Thames, where a thriving community of veterans and families was quickly established to make Remembrance poppies and wreaths for The Royal British Legion and The Royal Household, with many veterans living on site. In her role as Patron, Her Majesty has visited The Poppy Factory in Richmond a number of times, where she has seen first-hand how Remembrance poppies are made.



# Christmas



# Market



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

**Saturday 15th November**

**11.30am-2.30pm**

**Gift Items and Toiletries**

**Chocolate Tombola TOYS**

**Teddy Tombola**

**Home made sweets Cakes**

**Games Bric-a-Brac**

**Christmas Decorations**

**send your letter  
to Father Christmas**

**and stay for Refreshments**

## God turned each 'No' into 'Yes!'

When I look back on my faith journey, I remember painful moments when the church said 'No'.

'No, you cannot get baptised. You are too young to understand.'

'No, you cannot take communion. You are not a church member.'

'No, you cannot be a pastor. You are a girl.'

'No, people cannot be Christian and gay.'

Each 'no' confused me. In the eyes of the Church, God's love seemed to be very small and limited. Although they had their reasons, which I respected, God's grace seemed confined within certain boundaries and specific ways of reading Scripture. I struggled to reconcile the withheld grace of the Church with the grace abundant Jesus of the Gospels.



However, looking back, I also see how God turned each 'no' into a 'yes'. The first 'no' was the quickest to resolve.

After two years of attending a Southern Baptist church in Tennessee, I wanted to get baptised and live for Jesus. However, when nine-year-old me asked the Sunday school teacher, she said, 'No, you are too young.' I cried all the way home. My parents ended up arranging a meeting with the pastor. I remember walking into the pastor's office. The desk between us looked huge, and I felt small. He asked me why I wanted to be baptised. I told him that I wanted to be saved, and that I wanted to live for Jesus. I was baptised on 13 January 1985.

### *'God turned each no into a yes'*

The second 'No' took a couple of years to resolve. At the Baptist church I was able to have my communion. However, when my scout pack visited a local Presbyterian church, we were told we could not have communion unless we were a member of their church. I felt so sad that I could not share communion that Sunday.

God does have a way of reconciling hurts. A couple of years later, as a teenager, I was singing in the choir at that same Presbyterian church. By then, not only was I sharing communion with them, but I started to wonder if God was calling me to ministry.

The third and fourth 'no's' took about 20-30 years to resolve. The teaching from the Southern Baptist church was planted deep in my

heart. They taught me about Jesus and God's love. For that, I will always be thankful. However, they had a particular way of teaching Scripture, and they taught that their way was the only way. They preached that women had a specific place in God's plan, which did not include church leadership roles. The Presbyterian church had a different view and taught me about all the women in the Bible who were house group leaders, business leaders, and Gospel teachers. Still, it took many years for me to hear God's call to ministry, let alone answer it. On 30 September 2017, I was ordained as a URC minister.

God approached the fourth 'no' a bit like sending Peter to Cornelius's house. I was taught that, according to the Bible, God says 'no' to LGBT people. This belief was etched deeply into me by the culture I grew up in and the church teaching I had received over a 20-year period. However, as I trained for ministry, I met people who were LGBTQIA+ and Bible-believing, Holy Spirit-filled Christians. I could no longer hold onto this teaching from my childhood. Like Peter meeting a Holy Spirit-filled Gentile, I learned that God goes beyond my expectations and reaches out to whomever God wants. Given these experiences of the Church saying 'No' on behalf of God and how hurtful that had been, I've become a bit reluctant to say 'No' when it comes to God's grace. I am part of a denomination that encompasses different traditions. Individuals in our URC churches will hold different understandings of what the Bible says on things. As awkward as our differences can be sometimes, I am thankful I am in a denomination that has people with different views worshipping God alongside each other on a Sunday morning. I find hope in knowing that we are all slightly uncomfortable and trying to figure things out as we are guided by the Holy Spirit in our study of Scripture and united in our love for God and God's love for people.

I have learned to be cautious about attempting to withhold God's grace from someone. Throughout Scripture, we find stories where God moves beyond the boundaries people have created and actively shares his grace despite what people may think God should be doing. The story of Jonah (which Jesus references in his ministry) is in part about God reaching out to people who Jonah didn't like. God's grace extends to where and to whom God wants. Who am I to try to restrict God's grace?

Angela Rigby is Minister of Christ Church URC,  
Tonbridge, and St John's Hill URC, Sevenoaks

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





Praying Hands  
By Albrecht Dürer

The picture was created through the friendship between two art students, Albrecht Dürer and Franz Knigstein plus their love, faith, sacrifice and gratitude. Neither had the time to study and do part-time work to keep them both. So, they decided to draw lots to determine who should work and who should try to paint. Dürer won and did the painting while Knigstein laboured in manual work. The work took such a toll of Knigstein that because of twisted fingers he could no longer hold a brush to paint. Returning to their shared home one day Dürer found Knigstein praying with his knarled hands held together. Thus was the inspiration born for one of the great masterpieces of the early Renaissance. Lovely touching story to an enchanting painting.

Two Grateful Hands  
to thank the Lord  
whose blessings never cease.  
Two Faithful Hands  
to glorify the Father  
and the Son.  
Two Gentle Hands  
to ask that God  
grant all endearing peace.  
Two Ready Hands  
to toil until  
the Master's work is done

# Did you notice?

**Things that have been happening around the premises....**

Did you notice the carpets have been cleaned?

Did you see the windows have been cleaned?

Did you notice the painting that was done earlier in the year?

All of these things are to help to keep the premises in a good presentable state to welcome everyone, every week.



Please take a little time to think about wiping your feet if it is wet outside, or not slopping coffee and tea in the coffee lounge. Accidents do happen...we know that...but to pause... consider... before walking straight in when it is wet would really help.



And talking of wiping your feet, very soon please watch out for a new door mat in the vestibule!

The wooden floor of the church has a number of marks on it. Sadly the marks are permanent, although we have been trying to find out what could have caused the marks. So far, no clear answers. We have decided to take no further action, for now. It is possible that they will slowly blend in and become less noticeable.

We are not going to ask everyone to remove their shoes when they come into Church, or into the premises, but do, please, think about little things that could make a BIG difference.



## ***Create a quiet space:***

*Create a quiet, peaceful space to pause, and allow yourself to feel God's presence alongside you. Each morning the United Reformed Church has a reading, reflection and short prayer which helps us to focus on our journeys of Christian discipleship.*

## **Church Related Community Work 3**

### **Jeremiah 29: 4-7**

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

### **Reflection**

Dorothy's sentiment of, "there's no place like home" in the Wizard of Oz, was one shared by the exiled Israelites in Babylon. Having had their hopes of a speedy return to their homeland dashed, here Jeremiah urged the Jews to build a future where they are - not just to survive and wait. They should flourish and contribute to the flourishing of their Babylonian captors. They had to contribute to the common good of their new society.

The Common Good can be defined as a society's shared life where everyone can flourish. We act together in different ways that contribute towards that goal, enabled by social conditions allowing all to participate.

Whilst the concept of the Common Good comes from Catholic Social Teaching, it is a key part of the community development process set out in the covenant CRCWs sign when inducted to projects. We seek to work with churches and people to try and build flourishing communities where everyone feels like 'it's home'.

The Common Good is most effectively achieved working at a local level. Often it starts with taking an asset-based approach to community development, listening to people, and recognising the wealth of resources within individuals and communities. Approaches such as community organising can be used to support diverse groups to take action on common

concerns and interests. Where it would be beneficial for communities to build relationships with institutions and statutory services, churches can often be well placed to start building those partnerships.

We all can, at times, feel like we don't belong. We may not have lived in our current community all our lives but chosen to move there, or have been forced to move for work or a change of circumstances. We can be tempted to 'other' those around us - labelling them for their differences - and just seek our own survival. Better to seek ways to challenge dehumanizing forces and find ways to work together so that everyone can flourish.

### **Prayer**

Dear Lord, we pray for the flourishing of our communities - spiritually, socially, and economically. Help us to find ways to work together with others in our communities – neighbours, faith groups, community groups, charities, and statutory services to build for the common good. Amen

Today's writer

*Helen Snashall is a Church Related Community Worker at the United Respect Connect project at Moldgreen URC in Huddersfield*

## **The times they are a-changing:**

### **From Computer to iphone**

In the latter part of the 1960s when my children were young , I belonged to a baby-sitting group. One evening I went to sit for some neighbours

George, the husband told me that he was going to talk to his local Rotary Club that night about computers. In my naivety I asked him if he took a computer with him to demonstrate to the members. He laughed at me and told me that a computer filled a room and what is more, it is so expensive that the boroughs of Kingston, Merton and Sutton shared one !

Fast forward to the present day, and an iphone, small enough to put in your back pocket can do all the functions, and more, than that gigantic computer.

I often wonder what became of that massive monstrosity.

*Kathleen Claridge*

## **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.

### **When God has the last word!**

By Richard Becher

God of wisdom and truth,  
light and love,  
and all that is good,  
we thank you for your first words  
which brought light into the world.

Forgive us our words  
which have hidden all that is good.  
With our wisdom we build temples of stone  
but you desire a home  
where your Spirit can live and inspire.

Forgive us, Lord,  
and knock down the walls dividing the nations,  
so you can have the last word  
which will bring back light and goodness.

We thank you for your first words  
which brought light into the world,  
and may we hear your last words  
bringing the promise of new life.

### **We wait**

By Karen Campbell

Faithful God,  
we thirst for the fulfilment of your purpose.

When will the tears of the broken-hearted be dried?  
When will the hungry be fed?  
When will the captives shake off their bonds  
and justice flow for the oppressed?  
When will those with evil intent never more gain any ground?

How long till the time of singing and dancing  
and endless joy?

When will it be your time?  
When will it be our time –  
the people who place our hope in you?

Eternal God, we wait  
for the fulfilment of your word  
and the coming of your time.  
We wait.

## 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.**



| Diary Dates |      |         |   |
|-------------|------|---------|---|
| November    |      |         |   |
| Sunday      | 2nd  | 10.30am | Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Alan Cruchley     |
| Sunday      | 9th  | 10.45am | Morning service for Remembrance Sunday to be led by Alan Cruchley                       |
| Sunday      | 16th | 10.30am | Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman  |
| Sunday      | 23rd | 10.30am | Morning service to be led by Alan Cruchley  |
| Sunday      | 30th | 10.30am | Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman  |
| December    |      |         |   |
| Sunday      | 7th  | 10.30am | Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman |
| Sunday      | 14th | 10.30am | Gift service...to be led by Phil Hyde   |
| Sunday      | 21st | 4.00pm  | NO Morning service. Afternoon carol service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman              |

**PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the December 2025 issue of Contact** should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Monday 24th 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

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

## The Underground Game (October Answers)

Find the name of a London Underground Station for each of these clues.

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Is Falling Down        | London Bridge    |
| 2. England Expects        | Trafalgar Square |
| 3. Clerical Envy          | Parsons Green    |
| 4. Off with his head!     | Tower Hill       |
| 5. Please cross here, Sir | Knightsbridge    |
| 6. Women's Lib ends here! | Holloway Road    |
| 7. Alpine Hut             | Swiss cottage    |
| 8. Limit of 1760 yards    | Mile End         |
| 9.irate Monarch           | Kings Cross      |
| 10. Oriental Pig          | East Ham         |
| 11. Napoleon's Finale     | Waterloo         |
| 12. Royal Judgement       | Barons Court     |
| 13. Sea Defence           | Shoreditch       |
| 14. African Chefs         | Blackfriars      |
| 15. Nobleman Captured     | Earls Court      |



# Puzzle Corner

## The Underground Game...Part 3

Find the name of a London Underground Station for each of these clues. (Answers next month)

1. Bigger than Big 

---
2. Trumpeting New York  
Thoroughfare 

---
3. A bear 

---
4. Red Rose Entrance 

---
5. Ballet & Vegetables here 

---
6. Where the money is 

---
7. Where Blackboard Materials  
are grown 

---
8. There's one on Merseyside 

---
9. Royal Route 

---
10. Elementary my dear Watson 

---
11. A Television School 

---
12. You won't find Acrobats at  
this University 

---
13. Sounds like the Bard was  
born here 

---
14. Mad dogs stop here 

---
15. Big Gun Road 

---

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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.

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

# 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                             |
|                  | 7.00-9.30pm     | 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     | U3A Art group (fortnightly)             |
|                  | 5.00-6.00pm     | Rainbows(1st South Wallington)          |
|                  | 6.00-7.30pm     | Brownies (10th Wallington)              |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 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/Rangers(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!**