



CONTACT

No. 326
February 2020

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

It may sound strange to say, especially as I have been a part of Wallington United Reformed Church for over a decade, but I am beginning to feel like I am settling in and getting to know some people better and some people for the first time. However I appreciate people's patience with me because many folk probably think I know them better than I do.

It was Miss Marple (in Agatha Christie's stories) who always used to be able to spot a murderer because they showed the same undesirable traits as someone she had once known in her village of St. Mary Mead.

I feel much the same! Not, I hasten to add, because I am surrounded by murderers - far from it. Instead I find myself surrounded by caring and committed people. However, as those of you who have moved home and/or jobs will realise, when you start somewhere else the new people around you can remind you of those you've left behind. As I grow to know the people here I'm reminded of those I've left in previous places, and I find myself thinking, "Oh, she's just like so-and-so", or "He's so much like old what's-his-name". At times it's most uncanny.

The positive side of this is that it helps me to feel at home when I'm surrounded by people and characters I can identify with - those whom I feel I already know.

However there is a big danger. Mildred from Wallington is not Daphne from Swindon and Joe from Cheam is not Bob

from Exmouth. I need to remind myself all the time that those I am getting to know are unique individuals. Although they may have some things in common with those I've known before, they are not the same and indeed may be very different apart from some superficial similarities. Each person that I'm getting to know is someone new to me, full of the gifts and wonder of God.

It's an awful lot to take in at once and I have to confess it may take longer than I would like. Sometimes I think I'm getting there, but then I will mis-name or mis-place someone and I realise how much further I have to go. These set-backs are humbling but they are also a good reminder of the unique nature of all God's people, and how we must treat them as such.

One thing that stands out so strongly for me when I read the gospels is how Jesus treated each of those who came to him as a unique and precious individual, and not as a series of symptoms or a list of qualifications:

The blind beggar, Bartimaeus, is singled out and healed - the healing of that one individual is more important to Jesus than speaking to a large crowd of followers.

Mary Magdalene is accepted for who she is and not what she is.

A crippled man hears his sins are forgiven and that makes him well.

It's a theme that runs through the whole of the New Testament and it is one which is a challenge to me and I hope to you too - to treat each person as a unique individual, valuable for who they are, and not as someone to be compared to others we know and have known.

Craig Bowman.

Pastoral News

Our thoughts are with Craig and Louise Bowman, as we hear that Craig's mother, Muriel, passed away on January 11th. We hold Craig, Louise, Thomas, Craig's father (Tom), members of their family and their friends in our prayers.

We are holding Thuy Schofield's family and particularly her 10 month old niece, Diamond Kim Curong, in our prayers. Diamond pulled boiling water over herself, and has 2nd degree burns. She has been moved to Ho Chi Minh city Paediatric Hospital (200kms away from their family home). Also prayers for the medical team, as they care for Diamond. Prayers also for Thuy, David and Di as they are so far away.

We are thinking of Bethany Hyde as she is visiting and working in New Zealand, creating new memories and making new friends on her trip.

Congratulations to Julia Seal as she attended the Youth Assembly 2020, held at Whitemoor Lakes, Staffordshire. She went as the Youth Representative for the Southern Synod.

We ask your prayers for those of the church family who are anxious or unwell and those who are housebound or have difficulty in coming to church at this time.

We ask your prayers for:

Ron Morris has now been discharged from the hospital as they are very pleased by the way his fracture has healed.

We have been very pleased to see Alan Cruchley back in church regularly, and looking so well.

Phil Hunt, and her family, as she is finding things difficult at the moment.

Rita Court as her treatment progresses and her family and friends support her.

Jeanette Hopkins as she recovers from a pulled muscle.

Your continuing prayers for:

Kathleen and Harold Claridge, Barbara and Ian Burnell, Vera Neal, John Batey (and his partner Carol), May Bishop and Eileen Marshall.

May God grant you his peace.

[If you have any news of the church family to bring us up to date or that you would like to be included in Contact please let Lynn or Alan know. Thank you.]



World Day of Prayer

March 6th 2020



Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk

ZIMBABWE

The name Zimbabwe (derived from the Shona words dzimba dza mabwe) means ~~house of stones~~ and one of Zimbabwe's impressive historical sites is the monument of the Great Zimbabwe, stone structures of granite, built with great masonry expertise about 900 years ago. It is thought to have been the capital of the Empire which lasted from 1220 to 1450. There is evidence of a sophisticated civilisation, trading in cattle, ivory and gold. The ruler Munhumutapa was the first to trade with the first Europeans to arrive (the Portuguese).

Zimbabwe's two largest cities are Harare (the capital and seat of government) and Bulawayo. Its major industries include mining (precious metals, clay and diamonds) and agriculture (livestock, corn, coffee, cotton, sugar cane, tobacco and peanuts).

On Independence, Zimbabwe declared access to education a basic human right but, in spite of one of the highest literacy rates in Africa, education is not free and some children in rural areas cannot afford or access schools, colleges and universities.

Missionaries brought Christianity to Zimbabwe just before the establishment of colonial rule. They built schools, hospitals and churches, many of which are still in use today.

Churches worked closely with the colonial government to deliver health and education but, as time went on, became increasingly critical of injustice and lack of democracy, and supported the movement for independence and black majority rights. They had high expectations of independence in 1980 and despite the many problems have continued to encourage the country to find its way democratically and peacefully. The current Zimbabwean constitution allows for freedom to gather together for worship. Christianity is the main religion (80%), with the rest of the population following Islam, Judaism and traditional African religions.



The Knots Prayer

Dear God:
Please untie the knots
that are in my mind,
my heart and my life.
Remove the have *nots*,
the can *nots* and the do *nots*
that I have in my mind.
Erase the will *nots*,
may *nots*,
might *nots* that may find
a home in my heart.
Release me from the could *nots*,
would *nots* and
should *nots* that obstruct my life.
And most of all,
Dear God,
I ask that you remove from my mind,
my heart and my life all of the 'am *nots*'
that I have allowed to hold me back,
especially the thought
that I am not good enough.
AMEN





Our friends at the
South London Tamil Church
(SLTC) held their carol service just before
 Christmas at Wallington Methodist Church.
 It was an uplifting service full of
 music, readings and happiness.
 Their choir, took centre stage, and their
 musicians were wonderful.



The readings
 took us
 through the
 whole of the
 Christmas
 story, and
 were in Tamil
 and English.



The younger members of their church
 added to the music and the singing.

I was made to
 feel very
 welcome, shown
 to a seat and
 looked after all
 through the

service. Afterwards I stayed to talk to
 some of the members of SLTC.

After the service everyone was invited
 to meet socially in the church hall for
 coffee and something to eat.



Next Christmas SLTC will be
 holding their Carol Service at WURC
 as this thriving, vibrant Church will
 be coming to share our premises
 from June 2020, with an afternoon
 service on most Sundays, as well as
 other celebrations through the year.



Janet

Lent Course

This year Wallington URC will be using a course written by Craig, which he has used in previous places, as part of our discipline in Lent. Sessions will most likely be held in the afternoon and evening. Dates and places to be arranged...please watch notices, and March Contact for further details.

Alternatively folk from Wallington are invited to share in the sessions being held on Friday afternoons at St Andrew's Cheam where you will be warmly welcomed. These will take place at 1pm on 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th March & 3rd April.

Please let Craig know if you are interested in sharing in the group at St Andrew's.

The course is based on the painting known as *The Calling of St. Matthew* or *The Vocation of St. Matthew*, by the Italian artist Caravaggio.

The course, in five parts, uses different characters in the painting as the starting point for the exploration of the Christian faith and the role of the church.

Each of the five sections stands on its own, although the whole course has themes which run through every week.

Week 1: Christ - A Picture Of Contrasts.

Week 2: Matthew - You Can't Mean Me.

Week 3: The Young Men - A Violent Reputation.

Week 4: The Other Figures - Blinded By The Darkness.

Week 5: Peter – Making Up The Numbers?

Commitment for Life is a way in which local congregations are enabled to participate in actions for justice around the world. *Commitment for Life* belongs to every congregation. Many choose to support a region in the world through prayer, learning, advocacy, and action for justice.



Neighbourly Love

The YMCA's Rehabilitation Programme was started in the early days of the first intifada (conflict). During the first year of that conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, over 50,000 Palestinian young men aged between 14 and 18 years old were injured.

Nader Abu Amsha, Director of the YMCA Centre in Beit Sahour near Bethlehem in the West Bank, saw the needs of the local people and developed the programme into the success it is today. The programme attempts to integrate people, with both physical and mental disabilities, back into society where they can play a full part.

Shaba's story, told by Nader, illustrates exactly how, through working with her, her family and community she has found independence and a purpose in life.

Shaba was shot in the neck by a soldier, whilst in a car with her husband, as they waited at a checkpoint. The Israeli Defence Force soldier took their papers to examine and then returned them to the car. The husband, thinking all was well, started to move away. However, the soldier had wanted to look in the car boot so when he saw them start to move away he aimed and shot at the car. Unfortunately Shaba sustained injuries to her neck which resulted in permanent paralysis. Her husband, a builder, worked with the YMCA to understand and implement the adaptations needed for their home. The YMCA paid for the materials he needed for the conversions but he did all the work.

Before her accident Shaba used to visit their neighbours every day but following the accident this was impossible and it made her very depressed. Steep steps leading up to their homes made it impossible for her to visit them and be part of the community chatter. Shaba was therefore thrilled when neighbours started to add ramps to their homes so she could visit them all. By giving a little help and much expertise, Shaba's life has been turned around and she and her husband are very grateful for the help and guidance of the YMCA.

Take the

SMARTIES

Challenge

Fill your Smarties tube with coins

Lent starts on 25th February

Collect your Smarties Tube from Sunday
February 23rd.

Are you giving up Chocolate
(or something else)
for Lent?

Take a Smarties tube, and fill it
with coins. Use the money you may have spent on
Chocolate, or biscuits (or something else).

Help us to raise money for

**Please bring the tube back on
Easter Sunday filled with coins.**



20p's, and 5p's are good...
oh dear 50p's won't easily fit.
BUT... can you fill yours with £1 coins?
Now that's a challenge!

The tube will hold approximately £35 in £1 coins,
and £12 in 20p coins.

Candlemas

Feb 2nd

Snowdrops (*galanthus nivalis*)
are known as

Candlemas Bells

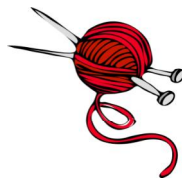
because they often bloom
early in the year, even before Candlemas. Some varieties bloom all
winter (in the northern hemisphere).



According to folklore, an angel helped these Candlemas bells to
bloom and painted them as a sign of hope to Eve, who wept in
repentance and in despair over the cold and death that entered the
world. Many Christians see the flower as a symbol of Jesus Christ
being this hope for the world.

Candlemas primarily focuses on Jesus' early life. Many
Christians believe that Jesus' mother Mary presented him to God at
the Temple in Jerusalem after observing the traditional 40-day
period of purification (of mothers) following his birth. According to
a New Testament gospel, a Jewish man named Simeon held the baby
in his arms and said that he would be a light for the Gentiles (Luke
2:32). It is for this reason that this event is called Candlemas.

The Second Wednesday Group



Feb 12th

Come along if you enjoy knitting or crochet.

Come to find new ideas...

*Come to chat, and if you need any help,
please bring your knitting or crochet...*

Or help to make things to give, or sell, for charity.

1.00pm to 3.30pm

In the coffee
lounge

*Everyone
welcome*

Our Lettings

We have a wide variety of people and groups who use our premises. Using the pages of Contact we hope you will enjoy finding out about some of our regular users and what they do.



**marriage
care**

better relationships
better lives

Marriage Care was established as a charity in 1946 to support families in the Catholic community whose relationships came under stress after the trauma and upheaval of World War II. Of course, life has changed significantly since then, and so has the charity, but the President

is still the Archbishop of Westminster, currently Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

Marriage Care is now a national charity, serving the whole community from over 50 centres across England and Wales, with a network of trained volunteers who are motivated by Marriage Care's vision and values.

Every Marriage Care specialist undertakes a rigorous training programme and we operate to professional standards in all that we do. As an organisational member of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy, we embrace high ethical standards.

The Marriage Care centre who use our premises are looking for friendly and helpful volunteer, or two, who can spare a couple of hours on a Tuesday evening to meet and greet couples who come for counselling and remain in the counselling venue during the session.

Could you be a receptionist/chaperone?

The Marriage Care centre using our premises are looking for a chaperone, 6.00-9.00pm on a Tuesday evening. Could you offer to chaperone some of the time? Or do you know anyone who could help?

Diary Dates			
February			
Sunday	2nd	10.30am	Family Worship led by Rev'd Craig Bowman, our minister, and will include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
Tuesday	4th	9.45am	Tea and Toys in Holmwood Hall
Sunday	9th	10.30am	Family Worship led by Steve Thomas
Tuesday	11th	9.45am	Tea and Toys in Holmwood Hall
Wednesday	12th	1.00pm	Second Wednesday Group
Sunday	16th	10.30am	Family Worship led by Rev'd Craig Bowman, our minister.
Tuesday	18th	9.45am	NO Tea and Toys in Holmwood Hall
Sunday	23rd	10.30am	Family Worship led by Linda Richards
Tuesday	25th		Shrove Tuesday
Tuesday	25th	9.45am	Tea and Toys in Holmwood Hall
Wednesday	26th		Ash Wednesday
March			
Sunday	1st	10.30am	Family Worship led by Rev'd Craig Bowman, our minister, and will include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
Tuesday	3rd	9.45am	Tea and Toys in Holmwood Hall

PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the March 2020 issue of Contact
should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Sunday 16th February**
unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement.
Contributions are very acceptable by e-mail
contact@wurc.org.uk

Wallington URC Fundraising in 2019

How many 'good causes' have we supported during 2019?
I apologise if this is not a complete list, but it does give you an idea of how much we have raised and passed on during the year.



£333.34
for

Individuals and groups were helped by everyone to raise money for MIND, £3200, and The Little Princess Trust and Medical Detection Dogs, £647.

£782 was
collected for



Communion Collections

Jan-19	Cry in the Dark	£61.42
Feb-19	Macmillan Cancer Support	£55.40
Mar-19	Moderator's Benevolent Fund	£32.20
Apr-19	Commitment for Life	£114.00
Jun-19	Sense	£61.40
Jul-19	Richard House	£90.05
Aug-19	Motor Neurone Disease	£70.90
Sep-19	Christian Aid Harvest Appeal	£45.62
Oct-19	Refugee and Migrant Network	£40.00
Nov-19	Help for Heroes	£33.45
Dec-19	Sutton Women's Aid	£49.00

Christmas Fayre Charities

Sutton Eagles Special Needs Football Club, Dreaming Tree Project and Croydon Night-watch each received
£652

Christmas Collections

raised
£315
For Sutton Community Transport

Thank you so much for your very kind donations that you delivered for the women and children at our refuge. You made a big difference to their Christmas this year.

*Wishing you all the best for 2020.
From all at
SWA*

***A Christmas
Thank You***

EVERY WEEK AT WALLINGTON U.R.C.

Times of Worship

Sunday	10.30am	Family Service + Junior Church with crèche facilities Coffee is available after the Service
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Mind, Body & Soul

Quiet Time and individual healing
Second Wednesday of each month 1.30pm-2.30pm

Uniformed & Other Organisations

Monday - Friday	9.15am-1.15pm	Holmwood Pre - school
Monday	10.00-11.00am 2.00-4.00pm 8.00-10.00pm	Yoga Bananas Art Conundrum Art Group
Tuesday	9.30-11.30am 9.15-1.00pm 1.30-3.30pm 5.00-6.00pm 6.00-7.30pm 7.00-8.00pm 8.00-10.00pm 7.30-10.00pm	Tea & Toys Pilates Class U3A Art group Rainbows Brownies (10th Wallington) Exercise Group Epsom Downs Badminton, Winter(Sept-May) Croydon Orchid Society (every 1st Tues.)
Wednesday	9.00-10.00am 10.15-1.30pm 11.00am-2.30pm 2.00-5.15pm 1.00-3.30pm 6.45-7.55pm 7.00-10.00pm 7.45-10.15pm 6.30-7.30pm 7.30-10.00pm	Tap-Dance Class Pilates Class Clusters Hartbeeps (mother and baby activities) Second Wed Group (Knitting & Craft) Pilates Horticultural Society (every 3rd Wed.) W.I (every 4th Wed) Junior Chess Club Chess Club
Thursday	11.00-12.00noon 2.00-4.00pm 2.00-4.00pm 4.30-5.15pm 7.15-9.45pm	Senior Movers Exercise Ladies' Badminton, Winter(Sept-May) Fallen Angels Drama Pro-Karate Carshalton & Wallington Art Group
Friday	9.30-10.45am 11.00-12.00 6.45-8.30pm	Yoga Baby Massage Guides(8th Wallington)
Saturday	9.00-10.00am 10.00-11.00am 11.30-12.30pm	Pilates Zumba Pro-Karate