



**Wallington
United Reformed
Church**

CONTACT

No. 327

March 2020

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

A number of years ago Louise, Thomas and I spent a few days on Jersey and whilst there we visited the underground hospital. The whole experience made a lasting impact but one thing that particularly struck me was the interviews with Jersey residents from the war years and the photographic record of those who were present on the island during the occupation. (One of those wonderful coincidences, with which life is full, meant that the Identity Card that I received when paying my entrance fee was that of a clergyman on the island during the war - he died in a German camp in the latter years of the war.)

Many of the photographs, along with the record of the stories behind them, are due to the work of one man who realised that in time people would die and the knowledge of what had happened during those years of occupation (both bad things and good) and who the people were, would be lost. So he set about making a collection, and these photographs, along with the detailed exhibition in the underground tunnels, are a lasting reminder and challenge to those who visit, many of whom have been born long after the war ended. A powerful story is made all the more precious through the input of eye-witnesses and those who were there.

In life things that make the deepest impression upon us tend to be those things we experience first-hand, but then come the things that we hear about from those who were there . the eye-witnesses and the participants, especially those whom we know personally.

Large parts of the Bible, not least the Gospels, come to us because people were aware that eye-witnesses to events were dying out and, for these world changing events to be understood properly, things would need to be written down. Passing stories on

only by word of mouth would lead, in time, to inaccuracy and distortion and without a written record so much would be lost. For this foresight we should be deeply grateful and the Bible is a precious inheritance that if we ignore it we impoverish ourselves.

But how about ourselves? The sharing of our own experiences is a tricky subject. Many people are innately reluctant to tell how God has touched their lives, with the difference that has made, and I suspect that many within our congregation find it difficult to tell their friends and family when they have found a worship service uplifting and inspiring.

But why? The football fan is all too quick to tell others (even those they hardly know) about the latest ~~gr~~eat match ~~or~~ ~~a~~wonderful goal ~~that~~ they have seen. ~~A~~witnessed ~~q~~might be the right word. Is our experience in worship so dull and dry that people are never inspired or touched by God? (If it is then I, and those who lead worship at St Andrew ~~s~~ need to know!) Or is it that people are just too reticent about their experience of God and their faith?

If it is the latter then remember two things: First, if an experience or occasion touched you or inspired you then it might well inspire others too. maybe they just need to hear about it. Second, if no one had shared and then recorded the stories of Jesus, we would not have them and, in just a few years ~~s~~time, the stories of Jersey ~~s~~ occupation would be lost without the sharing and recording of those stories. Sharing experiences and memories is vitally important if they are to make a difference to our world. Good news (and warnings) need to be shared so that our world can be improved and evil overcome.

If you have good news why not share it? If you haven't any good news why not listen for others sharing theirs and encourage those who have inspirational stories to tell them?

Craig Bowman.

Pastoral News

We continue to hold Thuy Schofield's family and particularly her 10 month old niece, Diamond Kim Curong, in our prayers. Diamond has been home for a time although she is due to go back to the Paediatric Hospital in Ho Chi Minh city as she will, most likely, need a skin graft.

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:

Betty Roberts as she needed two emergency operations, she is in hospital being monitored as she slowly recovers. She was able to welcome her first Great-Granddaughter, Olivia, very recently.

Diana Knapman who is now home recovering from a nasty viral infection, after spending some time in hospital having tests.

Stella Chevalier, as she continues to recover from a torn calf muscle.

Chris and Fiona Jackson as they support their wider family after hearing that Fiona's cousin died suddenly.

Elaine McDowall, as she supports her close friends, Anne, Jeanette and family, in Gloucestershire, on hearing the sad news that Anne's husband Ian passed away.

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

Jeanette Hopkins as she cares for her father and continues to recover 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**

Friday 6th March

2pm at Holy Cross Church, North Street, Carshalton

and

7.30pm at Wallington Baptist Church, Queens Road, Wallington

A Story to Make Us All Think

This is the true story of the lengths one person had to go to find her nearest WDP service.

The lady in question was new to the area. First of all, she asked the folk at her new church. No one had any idea.

So she walked round the town looking for posters on church notices boards. None could be found.

So she went onto the WDP website. There she found the venue but not the time of the service.

So she e-mailed the contact person. The contact person was not on e-mail so the enquiry came through to the National Office.

Our Administrator replied that, according to her database, the service started at 2pm but advised the questioner to check to make sure.

So our inquirer made a special trip to the church in question which was at the other side of town.

There were no posters either outside or inside the building.

Eventually, her husband found a copy of the church newsletter, which stated that the Mothers' Union was organising a service because no other church in the town was still marking the day.

So, thanks to the persistence of one lady and her husband, there were two extra people at one service somewhere in England, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Holy Habits 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.

Reconvening our Holy Habits groups for Lent gives us five weeks to explore a theme based on the painting *The Calling of St Matthew* by Caravaggio.

	DAYTIME GROUP Coverdale Room <i>2pm Start</i>	EVENING GROUP 3 Hillside Gardens <i>8pm start</i>
Christ: A Picture of Contrasts	Mon 2 nd March	Thurs 5 th March
Matthew: You Can't Mean Me	Mon 9 th March	Thurs 12 th March
The Young Men: A Violent Reputation	Mon 16 th March	Thurs 19 th March
The Other Figures: Blinded By The Darkness	Mon 23 rd March	Thurs 26 th March
Peter: Making Up The Numbers	Mon 30 th March	Thurs 2 nd April

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.

Each week uses a different character 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.

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.

LENT: February 26th to 9th April 2020

Why is it called Lent?

Lent is an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. Lent is observed in spring, when the days begin to get longer.

Church History:

1) Roman Church: A fast - formerly of varying duration, but now of 40 days, observed as a preparation for the Easter festival. A fast prior to this solemnity was customary from the earliest times, but it is not till the fourth century that we find the Lenten period definitely specified. Sozomen (historian of the Christian Church) says the Westerns generally "kept Lent for six weeks, the Church of Constantinople and the neighbouring provinces for seven." The four days before the First Sunday in Lent, necessary to make up the full tale of forty days -(six weeks =thirty-six days, for Sunday is never a Fasting-day) -to correspond with the miraculous fasts of Moses (Exodus xxxiv. 28), of Elias (I Kings xix. 8) and of our Lord (Matthew iv. 2), were introduced in the ninth century. The severity of the Lenten fast is now much modified, and the extent (both as to time and quantity) to which lacticinia may be used is made known by the Lenten indulgences published by the Bishops and read in all the churches of the diocese at the parochial mass.

2) Greek Church: The Greek Lent lasts for seven weeks - thirty-five days for on all Saturdays (except Holy Saturday), on the Feast of the Annunciation, and on all Sundays the law of fasting is not in force. Strict abstinence from flesh-meat and lacticinia begins on the Monday of Quinquagesima week.

3) Anglican Church: In the Table of Days of Fasting and Abstinence, the Forty Days of Lent stand out first; but from the Reformation to about the middle of the nineteenth century the practice of fasting gradually fell into desuetude. With the Oxford movement came an endeavour to restore ancient practices and discipline; and the influence of the High Church clergy has been productive of a stricter observance of this penitential season throughout the Church, and of practice, with regard to fasting, more in accordance with the Homily "Of Good Works" than had prevailed for a long time previously.

By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's

sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Lent is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities.

Whereas Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus after his death on the cross, Lent recalls the events leading up to and including Jesus' crucifixion by Rome. This is believed to have taken place in Roman occupied Jerusalem.

The Christian churches that observe Lent in the 21st century (and not all do significantly) use it as a time for prayer and penance. Only a



small number of people today fast for the whole of Lent, although some maintain the practice on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. It is more common these days for believers to surrender a particular vice such as favourite foods or smoking. Whatever

the sacrifice it is a reflection of Jesus' deprivation in the wilderness and a test of self-discipline.

Why 40 days?

40 is a significant number in Jewish-Christian scripture:

- In Genesis, the flood which destroyed the earth was brought about by 40 days and nights of rain.
- The Hebrews spent 40 years in the wilderness before reaching the land promised to them by God.
- Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the ten commandments on Mount Sinai.
- Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry.

Most Christians regard Jesus' time in the wilderness as the key event for the duration of Lent.

East and West

Both the eastern and western churches observe Lent but they count the 40 days differently.

The western church excludes Sundays (which is celebrated as the day of Christ's resurrection) whereas the eastern church includes them.

The churches also start Lent on different days.

Western churches start Lent on the 7th Wednesday before Easter Day (called Ash Wednesday).

Eastern churches start Lent on the Monday of the 7th week before Easter and end it on the Friday 9 days before Easter. Eastern churches call this period the 'Great Lent'.

The last week of Lent is called **Holy Week**.



Lent-Lily

The Daffodil
(Narcissus
Pseudonarcissus)

The Second Wednesday Group

Come along if you enjoy knitting or crochet.

Come to find new ideas...

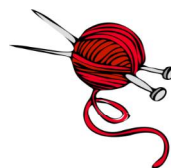
*Come to chat, and if you need any help,
please bring your knitting or crochet...*

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

Mar 11th

1.00pm to 3.30pm
In the coffee lounge

**Everyone
welcome**





Tea & Toys



On a Tuesday morning,
9.30-11.30am, term time...

Come and make, play and chat-for parents,
carers and their toddlers

A range of toys to play with, Craft to do, story time, and
sing-a-long. Outside activities when the weather permits.

*Tea & Toys are looking for more people to help out on
a Tuesday morning. Just 2 hours, once a
week, once a fortnight or once a month...
Please speak to Caroline Littlechild if you
can help...*



Take the

SMARTIES

Challenge

Fill your Smarties

tube with coins

Lent started on 25th February

Fill a Smarties tube with coins to
help us to raise money for

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



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.

Prayers of the prophets

All I ask of you is this: act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

God, we hear the prophets' call to justice, peace and action. We invite you to pierce our complacency, fire our hearts and strengthen our wills. This world is hurting, broken and wounded. Use our feet to stride towards justice. Use our hands to bring about healing. Use our mouths to preach Good News. Use our gifts to usher in peace, equity, reconciliation and love. Dear God, acting justly is not easy. Yet this is what you ask of us. In your mercy, O God, hear our prayer.

Amen

Diary Dates			
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
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Family Worship led by Rev Bruce Stuart
Tuesday	10th	9.45am	Tea and Toys in Holmwood Hall
Wednesday	11th	1.00pm	Second Wednesday Group
Sunday	15th	10.30am	Family Worship led by Rev'd Craig Bowman, our minister.
		12.00	Church Meeting
Tuesday	17th	9.45am	NO Tea and Toys in Holmwood Hall
Sunday	22nd	10.30am	Family Worship led by Paul Hollingum
Tuesday	24th	9.45am	Tea and Toys in Holmwood Hall
Sunday	29th	10.30am	Family Worship led by Rev'd Craig Bowman, our minister.
April			
Sunday	5th	10.30am	Family Worship led by Rev'd Craig Bowman, our minister, and will include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
Tuesday	7th	9.45am	Tea and Toys in Holmwood Hall
Friday	10th	10.00am	Good Friday Happening. Activities for adults and children.
Sunday	12th	10.30am	Family Worship for Easter Sunday led by Rev'd Craig Bowman, our minister.

PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the April 2020 issue of Contact
should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Sunday 15th March**
unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement.
Contributions are very acceptable by e-mail
contact@wurc.org.uk

Puzzle Corner

A sudoku puzzle consists of a 9 by 9 grid. This grid is subdivided into nine 3 x 3 boxes.

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

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.

The numbers 1 to 9 must appear just once in each column.

The numbers 1 to 9 must appear once in each 3x3 box.

Sudoku really is an excellent brain game, as it trains logical reasoning and visual perception, among other brain skills.

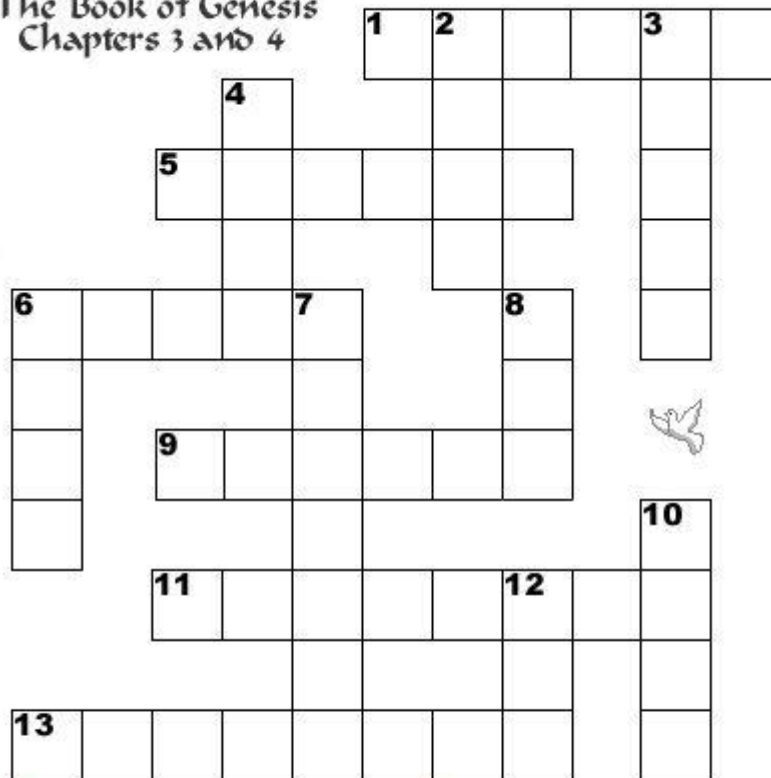
S	J	S	I	M	O	N	P
U	O	U	E	K	U	L	L
E	H	S	D	M	R	U	E
D	N	E	U	A	A	A	T
D	E	J	J	P	S	J	M
A	P	H	I	L	I	P	R
H	M	A	T	H	I	A	S
T	M	A	T	T	H	E	W

Bible Word-search:

James, Jesus, John, Judas,
Jude, Luke, Mark, Mathias,
Matthew, Paul, Philip, Simon,
Thaddeus

March Crossword

The Book of Genesis
Chapters 3 and 4



Down

- (2) Adam's second son
- (3) Cain's first son (Gen.4:17)
- (4) Adam's first son
- (6) Adam's third son
- (7) What creature tempted Eve
- (8) Cain lived in this land
- (10) First man
- (12) First woman

Across

- (1) Cain's occupation (Gen.4:2)
- (5) The ____ of Eden
- (6) Adam and Eve's first clothes(Gen.3:21)
- (9) Because of sin the ground was _____ (Gen.3:17)
- (11) Abel's occupation (Gen.4:2)
- (13) Cain became a _____ and a vagabond (Gen.4:12)

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
---------------	---------	---

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 8.00-10.00pm 7.30-10.00pm	Tea & Toys Pilates Classes U3A Art group Rainbows Brownies (10th Wallington) 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 Classes 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	9.30-10.40 11.00-12.00noon 2.00-4.00pm 2.00-4.00pm 4.30-5.15pm 7.15-9.45pm	Baby Massage 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