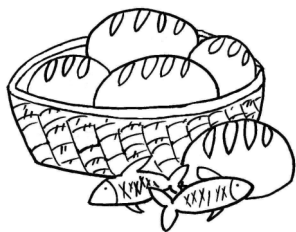


Wallington United Reformed Church



CONTACT

No. 332

September 2020

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends,

This Summer, unlike most recent years Louise, Thomas and I are not visiting Greece. Over the years we have visited many areas of the Greek mainland as well as several islands. One of those islands is Ikaria. When we visited Ikaria was relatively undeveloped so the journey there and back was a little more complicated than we usually undertook. However it is another journey we made that I want to tell you about.

We set out one day to visit the ruin of Koskina Castle which sits high on the summit of one of the peaks in the middle of the island with commanding views over much of the island. As I said, Ikaria is rather undeveloped meaning that many of the roads are rather challenging and we were grateful for the jeep we were using. When at last we could see our destination (after many wrong turning and hesitant forays down interesting roads) we turned off the road and carried on up a track. Eventually we reached a point where even in the jeep we could go no further and we climbed the last bit up the side of the mountain on foot (and at times hands!).

The ruins, when you reach them, are not as impressive as many of the castles here in Britain, but they are an inspiring sight and their location is certainly a cause for wonder. The builders of this castle in the 10th Century carried the stone to a location that is still pretty inaccessible today and built what was a fairly substantial set of buildings in the heat generated by an Aegean sun.

For Louise and I the most stunning event was still to come. After centuries of wear and tear one building is still largely intact and its interior relatively undamaged. We entered out of the heat and harsh glare of a midday sun to find it was a chapel, complete with icons and the fuel for oil lamps. Again it was not the most

dramatic or beautiful of chapels but the coolness, the stillness and the presence of the place refreshed us and rewarded us wonderfully for the effort we had made.

Opposite the doorway we entered by (there was no door) someone had placed a large hand-written sign which read as follows (complete with bad spelling and odd capitals):

*PLEASE, keep this place holy.
PLEASE, DO NOT SMOKE HERE.
Feel the beauty of this place.
Look out of the Chappel and see
and feel the beauty of the island
IKARIA and the sea - This is the
present of the Almighty God to us!
When we keep this world clean, it
is our present to God - let us be
a Brotherhood of Humanity.*

As we left the chapel we looked at the world with fresh eyes and marvelled again at the beauty of the island around us - the place had changed us. However the setting, the views, the chapel itself would not have changed us nearly so much if someone had not taken the time and made the effort to pen those words of encouragement and challenge - someone we will never know.

Who knows when a word of encouragement or a word of challenge spoken or written to those we do know will have an effect on them and change their lives in small or great ways? So keep up the encouragement and don't forget that at times we also need to challenge those we know.

Craig Bowman

For Our Wider Church Family

Our love and prayers go to all those who have lost family members or friends in the past months.

We ask your prayers for those who are anxious or unwell, whether they are part of a church family, or not, and we remember those who are housebound or have difficulties at this time.

At this time of year many of our young people await their exam results. This year has been so very different for them. As we know the results of exams can impact on the moving to the next stage of education and also moving into the 'working' world. Prayers for all the young people (known and unknown to us) whose lives were turned upside down by their results. Prayers also for their families and all their teachers. May a way through the 'chaos' become clear and fair for each. We uphold all young people in our thoughts and prayers, hope they will be able to develop as they are offered opportunities and new directions to go in.

Prayers for all the young people (known and unknown to us) whose lives were turned upside down by their exam results over the last few weeks. Prayers for their families and all their teachers. May there be a way found through the 'chaos' which will support and encourage all of them in a clear and fair way.

September, when the new academic year begins, is the time when many of our young people move on to the next stage of their education. Some will be setting out and be at the beginning of their education, just starting school. Others will be moving from Infants (Key Stage 1) to Juniors (Key Stage 2), and others will be moving to High

School (Key Stage 3). Some will be entering 6th form and others will be looking forward to their time at University. We send love and prayers to all of them, and wish them all the very best.

We ask your prayers:

For all who find this time frustrating or frightening, as the lockdown continues to be eased a little.

For all those who find the wearing of a face covering particularly difficult.

For all those who have really suffered in the very hot weather.

For all those who find this a time of hope although for many there will be very conflicting thoughts and a mixture of emotions.

For all who are caring for others, either in hospitals, or family members or friends at home, visiting and supporting those who need help.

May God grant you his peace.

If you have any news of the church family to bring us up to date please contact Alan. 020 8274 2136

Or Email: pastoral@wurc.org.uk

Names will only be shared in the version of Contact which goes to our usual fellowship and not put into the version posted on our website.



Southern Synod

The United Reformed Church - Southern Synod
Synod Office East Croydon URC Addiscombe Grove Croydon
CR0 5LP

Dear friends,

I am delighted to announce that following the interviews in May, the Revd Bridget Banks has been offered and has accepted the role of Moderator of Southern Synod. Bridget is currently the minister at Crawley United Reformed Church. She will take up the post on 1st September 2020. Bridget and myself will continue with our respective cover responsibilities until then.

We wish Bridget well as she takes up this role full time and we offer her our prayers as she prepares to head up the Synod.

Regards,

Revd G D Watt
(Moderatorial Cover)

The Synod's moderator post has been vacant since November 2019, when the Revd Nicola Furley-Smith became the URC's Secretary for Ministries.

Born in 1965 in Cuckfield in Sussex, Bridget Banks trained and worked in nursing, midwifery and research contracts for the Department of Health and then community development while doing her training at Southern Theological Education & Training (STETS) in Salisbury in 2002.

Bridget was ordained into Christ Church and Trinity URC in Crawley in 2006, and in 2010 the churches united. She has worked with Southern Synod for the past nine years which has included fulfilling roles as the Convener of the Local Church Leaders Advisory Group, Convener of Ministries, and for the past six months as shared moderator duties with the Revd George Watt.

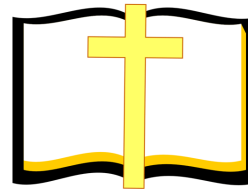
Bridget said: "I feel rather nervous and yet proud to lead the Synod at this challenging time. I aim to support ministers and churches through this change and with the Synod, provide excellent resources for every church. We have the opportunity to find new ways of being church, to dream dreams and explore the new technology. I think the next seven years will be very exciting."

Good news! Good news!

Sunday 13th September will be a special day.

WURC will be gathering for worship in the Sanctuary for the first time since Sunday 15th March – a gap of 25 Sundays!

We have rearranged the Sanctuary space to ensure social distancing and there will be a new one- way route through the space. All will need to have their temperature taken and be expected to disinfect their hands using the sanitiser provided.



It will be quite different, but it will be good to be able to meet to share worship again.

Some key points to give you a flavour of what will happen:

- Craig will be with us that Sunday and the service will start at 10.30 am. With us listening to the audio service. Craig will then deliver his sermon live, returning to the audio service to conclude!
- Junior church will also take place each week (starting after the 2nd hymn)
- Craig will then preach alternate weeks at St Andrews and so he will be back with us on 27th September
- We will gather to listen to the audio service on the weeks Craig is not with us
- This approach will allow us to continue enjoying the different voices and insights of members of both St Andrew's and Wallington
- We will all need to be wearing masks, and there will be no singing, offertory, or notices.
- The audio service will continue to be available on telephone (020 3870 2810) or church web site (wurc.org.uk) for those not able to join us at the church.

Welcome

All will be welcome, but it is important to recognise that you should **not** join us:

- if you have a persistent cough, loss of the sense of smell or taste, or a high temperature.
- If you are self-isolating
- If you are classed as vulnerable.
- We realise this may exclude many of our congregation, but it is important we keep the Church and each other safe.

We will of course review this approach and respond to the changing Covid environment, but this gives a plan for the first few weeks. We will provide more detailed information nearer the time, but for now please hold all in prayer as we look forward to meeting together.

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS in 2020

In the June Contact there were details of charities that we have been supporting in our normal communion giving. We can't do much right now, but it is possible that some of us might give as individuals instead.

Under normal circumstances we would be supporting a charity each month, and at this end of the year we do often support the Moderator's Benevolent Fund.

2019 charities were as follows:

September: Refugee and Migrant Network Sutton <http://www.rmns.org.uk/support-us.html>

October: no regular recipient. We donate to whatever is urgent at the time. Last year we gave to the Christian Aid Harvest Appeal.

November: Help for Heroes <https://www.helpforheroes.org.uk/give-support/ways-to-give/how-do-i-pay-money-in/>

December: Sutton Women's Aid (aka Sutton Women's Refuge) - we send a cheque for the proceeds of our communion collection along with the toys and gifts from the Gift Service. We don't yet know how that will work this year so watch this space.

If you are able, please do consider giving to one or more of these as an individual.

Elaine

2020

A Year with
a difference!

Good Friday
Happening

Christmas Fayre

Art
Exhibition

Alzheimer's
Society

Cupcake
Day

Macmillan
Coffee Morning

So many ways we may have raised money for charities, local and national, have had to be put on hold this year. Do you have any fundraising ideas? It would be wonderful if we could come up with ideas to make up for some of this short-fall.

Please let us know of **YOUR** ideas.

Let's hope **2021** can be a **fun**
fundraising time.

Commitment *Commitment for Life* is a way in
for Life which local congregations are
enabled to participate in actions
for justice around the world.

September

Prayer for Zimbabwe

We pray for:

Christian Aid staff and
partner
organisations

Smallholder conservation
agriculturalists

Trainers and teachers, especially in gender
equality

The government, communities and
businesses

For Lydia and Paul Neshangwe, and all those
working for justice.



Amen



Sutton Schoolswork

For this prayer update, I recognise that it would be wrong to see the past month in total isolation. July usually closes off the whole year's activities, and we look back and mark some marker moments, some key events that define the academic year and our part in it. However, for obvious reasons, one thing dominates our thoughts. It's odd to consider that for over half the academic year Covid-19 was a complete unknown, and we had no idea of the storm to come.

I have been struck by the brittleness of our own plans, how they can be thrown into disarray with consummate ease, and how something so small as a virus can completely change our futures. Even though July was quieter than usual, with just our weekly assembly being distributed, we have kept busy in contacting all our schools for an indication of where they see our partnership next term.

By far the majority of those that have replied is that they look forward to seeing us again, although they simply cannot guarantee that we can enter the school building. Some have booked provisional dates, some have deferred those dates until January, and none of them can commit to assemblies. We will plan in faith that we can return in September, but also be ready to continue to provide the online material currently delivered.

This will involve some creative thought, and I am enormously grateful to the determination that our SSW staff have shown in learning new skills, and developing their abilities to use all the modern methods available. I hope you have been able to view some of what has been created, and enjoyed what you have seen! One of the extra delights of the last few weeks is the number of contacts received from people around Sutton, and amazingly from around the country, who have been able to access our material and found it supportive, relevant and encouraging.

Much of this success comes from prayer, and once again I close my update with a genuine, heartfelt THANK YOU. All involvement in our work is vital, and I believe the Holy Spirit flows through what we do because of you.

We look forward to telling you even more next term, how God has exploded in schools with renewed opportunities and contacts, and how the word of God has continued to be proclaimed.

May His Kingdom be known!!!

Simon
Director

Diary Dates			
September			
Sunday	13th	10.30am	Morning service...with a difference
Sunday	20th	10.30am	Morning service...with a difference
Sunday	27th	10.30am	Morning service...with a difference
October			
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...watch for details..

PLEASE NOTE... Articles for the October 2020 issue of **Contact** should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Friday 18th September** unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement. Contributions are very acceptable by e-mail contact@wurc.org.uk

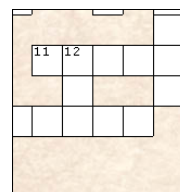
V	A	G	T
I	N	E	V
R	Y	U	P

Over the past few months we have had the Puzzle Corner in Contact. Please let me know if you would like this to continue, or change, or be taken out...

contact@wurc.org.uk

We welcome constructive criticism...

What works for you??



Moving on... Into the 21st Century...

It is now possible to access our magazine

CONTACT

On our website... www.wurc.org.uk

Each Issue will be on our website by 1st of each month.

If you would like to have the 'Contact' magazine sent to you by e-mail, please let us know at :

contact@wurc.org.uk

And you can, of course, still have a paper copy if you would prefer.



Puzzle Corner

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

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

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 **3 x 3 box**.

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

Bible Word-search: Bread at Midnight

Bread, Father, Fish, Gifts,
Give, Heavenly, Jesus,
Knock, Loaves, Seek,
Snake, Son, Spirit, Three

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

Animals

ACROSS

- 2 Food of John the Baptist
5 Therefore do not fear; you are of more value than many ___
7 Daniel was thrown into a den of ___
9 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous ___
10 As the ___ pants for streams of water, so I long for you, O God.
11 First bird released by Noah
14 Before the ___ crows, you will

- disown me three times!
15 Most frequently mentioned animal in the Bible

DOWN

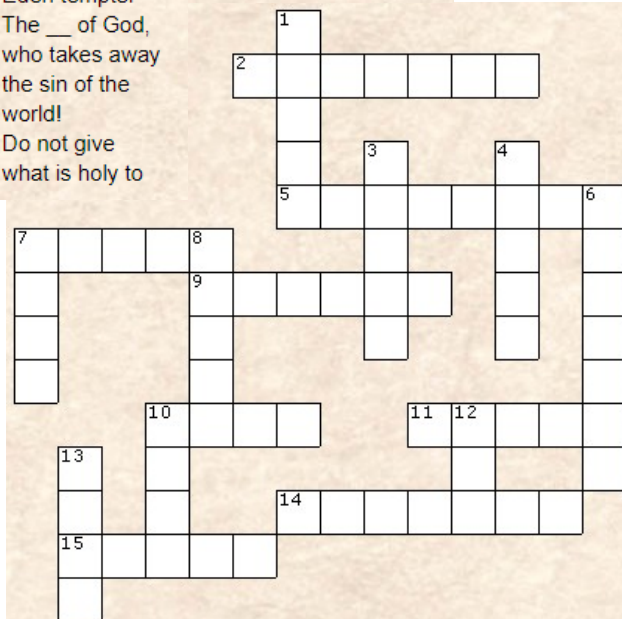
- 1 Jesus' parable of the sheep and ___
3 It is easier for a ___ to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God
4 White animal in Revelation
6 Eden tempter
7 The ___ of God, who takes away the sin of the world!
8 Do not give what is holy to

the dogs; nor cast your pearls before ___

- 10 The Holy Spirit appeared at Jesus' baptism as this animal
12 Industrious insect of Proverbs
13 Jesus fed 5000 with two ___ and five loaves of bread

Can you work out these Anagrams?
Each one is a book of the Bible.

1. hurt
2. raze
3. I select cases
4. a shoe
5. shines on a salt



EVERY WEEK AT WALLINGTON U.R.C.

Times of Worship

Sunday	10.30am	Family Service + Junior Church with crèche facilities
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Activities you can find on our Premises

Monday - Friday *9.15am-1.15pm Holmwood Pre – school back from 2nd September.*

Monday	8.00-10.00pm	Conundrum Art Group
Tuesday	9.15-1.00pm	Pilates Classes
Wednesday	10.15-1.30pm 2.00-5.30pm	Pilates Classes Hartbeeps (mother and baby activities)
Thursday	11.00-12.00noon 7.15-9.45pm	Senior Movers Exercise Carshalton & Wallington Art Group
Friday		
Saturday	10.00-12.30am	Zumba

**We are pleased to welcome
back some activities.
Others are waiting
until later in the year.**