

Wallington United Reformed Church



CONTACT No. 333
October 2020

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends,

One of the surprising things about lockdown is that I didn't get as many books read as I thought I might. For a number of years now I have been promising myself that I will read some of the older classics, and so far I have failed to do it. I have a set of the Barchester Chronicles by Anthony Trollope. The six books revolve around the lives of the clergy in the imaginary cathedral city of Barchester, and the first book was written in 1855 which means that Anthony Trollope was writing at the same time as Charles Dickens.

So far I have still only read the first two in the series, however the first, *The Warden*, has become a favourite of mine. My delight when I read it, several years ago, was all the more surprising because I knew that Dickens and Trollope were from the same era and I have never been that impressed by Charles Dickens, finding it very difficult to get excited by his books. (I know that to say that is a kind of heresy in some quarters, and it is one of the things that my father and I disagree on!) However I took to *The Warden* straight away and will certainly read it again some day.

Two questions you might be asking. First, what is it that I find different between these two great authors? Secondly, what on earth has this to do with the church?

Well, the answer to both questions is tied together.

In their novels both Charles Dickens and Anthony Trollope deal with moral problems and dilemmas. However, whereas

Dickens seems to make those moral pictures quite simplistic, with many of his characters as good as gold or dramatically evil, and the evils in society apparently the fault of individual villains, for Trollope the picture is far more complicated. There is no real villain in "The Warden" but there is a man who is seen as doing wrong. Mr. Harding is a man of great personal integrity who is caught in a no-win situation, perhaps by a lack of vigilance on his behalf. His struggle to do what is right is the core of the book and he gains the sympathy of the reader.

Whilst reflecting on the book my thoughts went to the very well-known incident in John's Gospel of the woman caught in adultery (chapter 8:1-11). There is no doubting that the woman had done wrong, but that is not the point of the incident. Jesus challenges those who would stone the woman to look at their own lives before passing judgment on her, and the passage challenges us to look at our own lives before we pass judgement on the woman, or pass judgment on those who would stone her; indeed to examine our own lives before we pass judgment on anyone.

Our faith teaches us that there is right and wrong, but it also teaches us that all of us are sinners and there is only one who is truly good. "The Warden" reminds us that we should not judge on appearances, and that the best of people are not always right and can still be in the wrong.

Humility and forgiveness are a requirement for all and that is the message I leave you with this month.

May God forgive and bless us all.

Craig Bowman

For Our Wider Church Family

We ask your prayers for the family, friends and all the officers that worked with Sgt Matt Ratana whose life was brutally cut short on Friday morning, in Croydon. In particular may they feel God's love as they grieve for the loss of a lovely man and as the officers come to terms with their own mortality as it could, so easily, have been one of them.

Our love and prayers go to all those who have lost family members or friends in recent 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 all those who are housebound or have difficulties at this time.

We think of all the young people who have recently started university and college. We wish them well in their chosen courses, and hope they will make new friends, explore new localities and find a wonderful environment in which to study. We uphold all young people in our thoughts and prayers, hope they will be able to succeed as they are offered opportunities and new directions to go in.

Prayers for all those who are teaching in Schools, Colleges and Universities where they are helping their students to fulfil their potential.

We ask your prayers:

For all who find this time frustrating or frightening, as the lockdown continues to be reassessed as we move through the year.

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

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

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,
Synod Office,
East Croydon URC,
Addiscombe Grove,
Croydon, CR0 5LP
020 8688 3730
office@urcsouthern.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Synod Clerk

I am pleased to be able to inform you that after advertising for a new Synod Clerk and interviewing we have been able to appoint Revd Russell Furley-Smith as the new Synod Clerk for Southern Synod for a period of 5 years (renewable) with effect from 1st October 2020. This was agreed by a meeting of Synod Council last week and we are grateful to Purley URC for releasing Russell from 25% of his time there to enable him to take up this post.

We wish Russell well as he takes on this role and would reassure him of our support and prayers.

Russell can be contacted by telephone on 020 8668 0630 or by email on synodclerk@urcsouthern.org.uk.

With best wishes,

Revd George Watt
Synod Council Convener

Harvest



The coronavirus has changed many things and so it is not surprising that our approach to Harvest will be different!

Harvest will be celebrated on 18th October.

Pat has kindly offered to create a small Harvest focal piece for us.

As has become our tradition we will again be collecting gifts for Sutton Women's Refuge.

Although this year the gifts, like the service, will be different. We have spoken to the Refuge and they are delighted that we have remembered them and want to help them.

In the past we have collected tinned food and fresh food but it has become clear that, this year, they would appreciate a different set of gifts. These include consumables such as washing up liquid as well as crockery and cutlery.

Harvest is about giving thanks for God providing us with what we need and so the Worship Group felt that we should embrace this by providing what is really needed by the Refuge this year.

We invite you therefore to make a cash donation so that we can purchase the gifts and so ensure that the Refuge will indeed receive the things they really need.

We would ask that you place your money in an envelope marked Harvest and we are happy to receive your donations on October 11th or 18th.

Please do let me know if you have any questions

Alan Cruchley: acruchley@blueyonder.co.uk 0208 274 2136





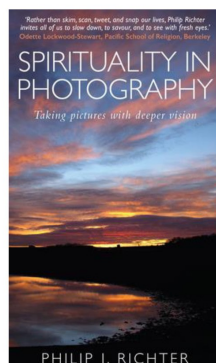
SPIRITUALITY IN PHOTOGRAPHY

**TUESDAY 6th OCTOBER
OPEN MEETING ON ZOOM
at 7.30pm**

email faircloth@hotmail.co.uk
To register for the event

Millions of photos are taken every day across the world. Some are just snapshots. Others are more carefully crafted and can deepen our vision and sharpen our sense of what life is all about. During this online evening we will be exploring how our photography and our spirituality can inspire each other – whether you use a smartphone or ordinary camera for your pictures.

There will be two brief presentations and plenty of time for comment and discussion. The evening will be led by **Philip Richter**, a recently-retired Methodist minister, living in Wallington. He is a keen amateur photographer and writer. His most recent book is: *Spirituality in Photography: taking pictures with deeper vision* (Darton, Longman & Todd, 2017).





South London Tamil Church (SLTC)

from

November 1st 2020

Now Sunday Services have started,

we are happy to welcome

SLTC to our premises

**SLTC will hold their main service on a Sunday
afternoon at 3pm.**

Their services and
any other meetings will
be included on the
weekly timetable which
will be available to see in
the coffee lounge.



How Did It Go?



Sunday 13th September

We gathered for worship in the Sanctuary for the first time since Sunday 15th March – a gap of 25 Sundays!

We had rearranged the Sanctuary space to ensure social distancing and there is now a one-way route to follow during the service. At the end of the service the congregation may leave by the main doors.

Everyone had their temperature taken, used hand sanitiser and was shown to a seat.

There were approximately 15 in the congregation and although it was 'different', it was peaceful to sit and listen with everyone together.

Great To Be Back:

On 13th September we gathered to worship in the church premises for the first time in so many months. It was lovely to see some of the Zoom coffee participants in person again. Being together to listen to the service, hear Craig deliver his sermon in person and join together in prayer was comforting. Of course, things



are not as they were when we last met all those months ago as we now have to follow the specified guidelines. It will be good to see more faces return on Sundays.

Pat

It was lovely to be able to worship in the church again last weekend (September 13th). Craig was present and delivered his own sermon. What struck me most was when shutting my eyes to pray, despite it coming from a recording, I felt Craig was actually leading the prayers.

The feedback was very positive, nice to catch up after, on Zoom for coffee and a chat.

Maggie

We will gather to listen to the audio service on the weeks Craig is not with us although these services may develop as the weeks go by.

On September 27th Craig again delivered the sermon, and was also able to lead the prayers. We did use the audio service for the All the Family section, the readings and the Prayers of Intersession.

There were about 15 in the congregation, some 'regulars' and some new faces.

Very good to see everyone.



How did others get on?

St Andrew's United Reformed Church (URC),

Isle of Man – along with other congregations linked to Churches Alive in Mann – resumed services, 38 days after the island's last Covid-19 case.

The Isle of Man had no corona virus cases for 25 days, restrictions were eased and the church was able to hold its first service on 28 June.

The service included photos from the congregation, taken during lockdown, as people looked at how they had coped as families, or alone, with celebration and with sorrow. They also looked at what new skills they had learnt, and what they had learnt about community and being a church.

Hand sanitiser was available as they came in, and at other places in the church. There were three hymns at the service, and afterwards people said that singing the Lord's Prayer, and the blessing, was very emotional and meaningful. The Bible re-entering for the first time since 15 March was a really emotional moment for us all.



We didn't use our coffee room, as it's quite small, although we brought tables into the main church and served tea and (wrapped) biscuits. We asked the congregation to leave spaces between family groups, just to be sure everyone felt safe.

Members of the congregation felt it was the right time to be back together. People said how wonderful it was to see someone they knew in person – their only contacts had been on screens, or a shouted hello from postmen or deliveries. But, actually, a lot of the people who came wanted to talk about how we had been a church together whilst apart. It was very rewarding to know how many had been looking at the website regularly. We had sent out pastoral letters by email mainly, but otherwise printed and posted.

One lady, who was recently widowed, now living alone, said that to see that video every week seeing familiar faces and hearing their voices, was enough in itself to strengthen her. She said that the content of each of the services had been just the right length and pitch and that they really spoke to her and comforted her greatly.

We also found that these services have been an act of mission over the past months. They had been watched not only by a high proportion of the congregation but by their off-island family members (often at the same time, so that they were worshipping together), by members of other churches who did not do anything similar, and also by distant friends and acquaintances. There have been regular watchers in Spain and the US – one lady in the US told me that our minister's calm voice, and a message that applied the lectionary Scripture reading each week to our current situation, was helping her through living alone in Minneapolis, surrounded by both the virus and the riots, in an apartment with no company but her cat."

No Thank You!

We will not be holding our Annual Christmas Fayre this year, and have no other events where items to sell are needed.

Please

DO NOT

leave any donations, of any kind, on the church premises. Sadly, we won't be able to use them, and will only have to find a way to donate things to a charity shop or to throw them away.

Supporting Local Charities – Your Donations

I'm sure you're all aware that Wallington URC will not be holding a Christmas Fayre this year. In the past we have always gratefully received your unwanted gifts, or toys that children (and adults?) have grown out of, well before the event. Unfortunately we cannot store ANY items at church which might be useful for future events.

It's not just that we're not having a Fayre this year. We don't yet know what will be possible in 2021 either. Meanwhile our work to make the premises Covid-secure means that we have had to minimize the amount of 'stuff' on the premises and we have disposed of many things which are not essential. Other things have been temporarily moved out of rooms to maximise floor-space. So please, please, don't bring donations of any kind onto the church premises.

We can still put our unwanted items to good use (anything has to be better than the teetering pile of perfectly good but unwanted clothes on my bedroom chair, which I keep adding to but haven't yet disposed of!) Most of the high street charity shops appear to be open.

If you want to think local, why not try St Raphael's, the Children's Trust or Queen Elizabeth's Fund for the Disabled shops? Emmaus still has a presence in Carshalton and Purley, for clothes and furniture. Sutton Night-watch will take essentials for the homeless such as sleeping bags, thermal underwear, socks, toiletries, torches. Sutton Women's Centre also accept, and will often collect, clothes and a variety of items to furnish emergency accommodation.

If you have ideas for other local charities, please let us know and we'll circulate the details. Perhaps we can make information on local charities a regular feature in Contact?

Please keep us up to date with any information you may have on updates of charities, where donations can be made, and those who require help.

The 'Community Mask Tree' initiative has made it easier for people across the country to pick up face coverings, giving them the confidence to go out while protecting others and containing the spread of Coronavirus.

There are masks available for sale to raise money for Wallington United Reformed Church **Harvest Festival on October 18th** which is supporting the Sutton Women's Refuge.



All masks have a pocket for a filter, if you wish to put one in, and they are all made with three layers over the mouth.

The pleated ones are 2 layers at the very outer edges top & bottom.

Please let Janet Willis know if you would like a mask (and which type) to help to swell the coffers for Harvest.

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

October

Jesus:

for the dry and thirsty you give living water,
to those drained and empty you come with your
fullness,
among people discouraged and despairing, you offer
gentle love,
in places of defeat and distress, you speak
of hope.



So we pray for our world:

where the ground is dry, we ask for clouds
and rain, in lives that are drained, will you
refresh and restore,
for desperate hearts, we seek the gift of new belief, in
distress, come, Lord Jesus, to sow seeds of promise.

And we ask to be agents of your love, sharing material
help and personal care, offering respect and
understanding, working in hope as partners and friends,
for the sake of your good news. **Amen**

John Proctor



Sutton Schoolswork

1 Thessalonians 5:17 is such a short verse. Just two English words, but so much meaning packed in.

Pray continually...

As September 2020 kicks off, and we see schools opening up in Sutton to all pupils, we are incredibly aware of the fragile nature of this new term. Local lockdowns may occur here, we may see tensions rise, children disturbed once again by massive disruptions to their education, new routines becoming established that have to be changed once more; there are so many areas of concern.

SSW workers are still not able to enter school buildings, and we have been a little frustrated with the lack of contact from some of our more active schools. Concerns about finance have been brewing below the surface for some months, and we are all too aware that many have fears about their employment. Although hospitalisation and death rates have significantly reduced, the infection rate is growing, and it appears the number of young people catching this virus has begun to rise, albeit with limited effect on their health.

It would be easy to be gloomy, and feel an overwhelming sense of foreboding.

SSW is in such a privileged position; God has allowed us to access so many children and young people over the years, and we pray that, at this time, messages of hope they heard throughout those formative years may come back, and the God of peace will be sought for, and, as His word promises, He will be found. We have become keenly aware that, in times like these, those who offer light in a darkened world have the voices that need to be heard.

SSW workers to find new and innovative ways of communicating the truth of the Gospel, despite the lack of personal contact with individuals.

We know God is faithful, just and merciful, and we know that He will continue to pour out His Spirit on this vital work, because He has done so before, and will do it again!

One of the most remarkable aspects of this time has been the way in which the people of the word have supported us.

I must confess, I did fear that we would see a reduction in finances due to the difficulties that some were bound to experience. It is my joy to confirm that, in fact, God has enabled us to have even more than we can ask or imagine! Pray continually. It works!!

Simon Ellingham

Director

Diary Dates			
October			
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Morning service... with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Morning service... with our minister Rev'd Craig Bowman
	18th	10.30am	Harvest... Morning service...
Sunday	25th	10.30am	Morning service... with our minister Rev'd Craig Bowman
November			
Sunday	1st	10.30am	Morning service... with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...
<p align="center">PLEASE NOTE... Articles for the November 2020 issue of Contact should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by Friday 24th October unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement. Contributions are very acceptable by e-mail contact@wurc.org.uk</p>			

Over the past few months we have had the Puzzle Corner in Contact. Sudoku Answers for September:

Books of the Bible Anagrams

1. used ox
2. hi, mac
3. O, I had B.A.
4. coins a loss
5. to my hit
6. me, Saul
7. metal nations
8. O, Sam
9. no Oslo fogs on 'M'
10. cats
11. sew herb
12. money due to 'R'
13. Ben's rum
14. threes
15. Mt. Wheat
16. hurt
17. raze
18. I select cases
19. a shoe
20. shines on a salt

Answers to the Anagrams:

1. Exodus
2. Micah
3. Obadiah
4. Colossians
5. Timothy
6. Samuel
7. Lamentations
8. Amos
9. Song of Solomon
10. Acts
11. Hebrews
12. Deuteronomy
13. Numbers
14. Esther
15. Matthew
16. Ruth
17. Ezra
18. Ecclesiastes
19. Hosea
20. Thessalonians

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

Puzzle Corner

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

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

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.

Women of the Bible

How well do you know the Bible's leading ladies?

1.) Which woman of the Bible gave birth to Jesus?

- ☐ Martha
- ☐ Mary
- ☐ Magdala
- ☐ Margaret

2.) Which woman of the Bible was the world's first mother?

- ☐ Gaea
- ☐ Sarah
- ☐ Eve
- ☐ Jezebel

3.) Which woman tried to kill Elijah after he put the prophets of Baal to death?

- ☐ Delilah
- ☐ Jezebel
- ☐ Eve
- ☐ Esther

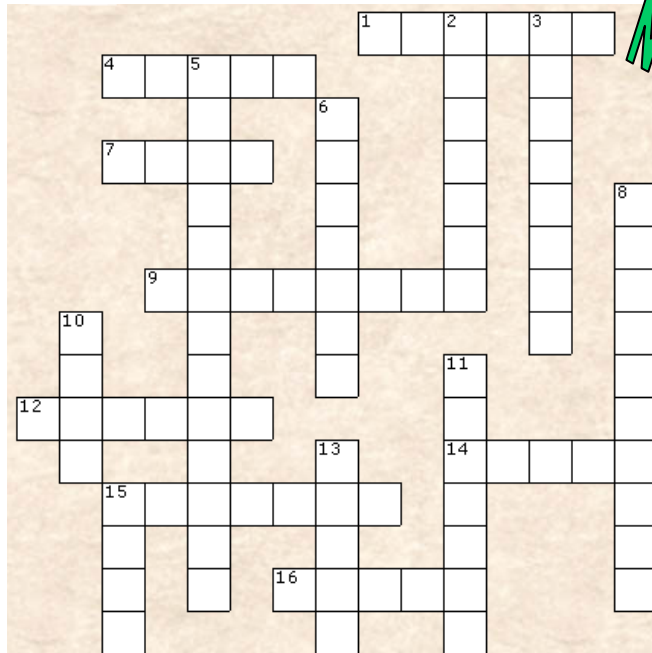
4.) Which woman had her name changed by God to Sarah?

- ☐ Ruth
- ☐ Sarai
- ☐ Rebekah
- ☐ Zipporah

5.) Who became the queen of King Ahasuerus and defended her Jewish people from being destroyed?

- ☐ Mary Magdalene
- ☐ Esther
- ☐ Gomer
- ☐ Rebekah

New Testament People



Bible Word-search: Joshua-What a Man

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

Cave, Courage, Five,
God, Hail, Joshua, Land,
Moon, Obedient,
Promise, Stones, Sun,
Walls

ACROSS

- 1 This Roman governor condemned Jesus
- 4 The disciple Peter's other name
- 7 She was Jesus' mother
- 9 He climbed a tree to see Jesus
- 12 This disciple was known as "Doubting ____"
- 14 This disciple walked on water with Jesus
- 15 This man was the first Christian stoned to death

- 16 This disciple betrayed Jesus

DOWN

- 2 Jesus brought this man back to life
- 3 He tempted Jesus (2 words)
- 5 She found Jesus' tomb empty (2 words)
- 6 This disciple was a tax collector
- 8 Jesus visited the house of these sisters (2 words)
- 10 He had a vision and wrote in down in the Book of Revelation
- 11 John the ____
- 13 Christ
- 15 This man became known as Paul after Jesus spoke to him on the road to Damascus

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*

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 1.00-3.00pm 2.00-4.00pm 7.15-9.45pm	Senior Movers Exercise Lace Making Fallen Angels Carshalton & Wallington Art Group
Friday		
Saturday	8.45-9.45am 10.15am-12.30pm	Fitness Class Zumba

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