

# Wallington United Reformed Church



## ***CONTACT***

No. 334  
November 2020

# Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends,

Several years ago Louise, Thomas and I were holidaying on the island of Corfu. We spent one day in Corfu Town, the capital of the island, and besides visiting the Old Fortress, sipping a nice cold drink whilst overlooking the cricket pitch (unfortunately no game was in progress) and wandering around the maze of streets of the Old Town, we also visited the church dedicated to the patron saint of Corfu, St. Spiridon.

The day we had chosen (unbeknown to us) was an important feast day in the Orthodox Church so the church was very busy with devout Greek Christians coming to the church to pray and meditate before the icons of the church, including a very grand gold icon of St. Spiridon, and to pray in front of his silver coffin which is housed in a small chapel behind and to the right of the altar. In the church there were also a great many tourists like us who had come to see the church and perhaps to pray. There was one fairly large tour party who were seated in the chairs on the left side of the church whilst their guide informed them about St. Spiridon. As you can imagine it was anything but a peaceful scene, especially as many of those milling about were carrying icons, crosses, or candles that they had bought in the shops in the narrow street next to the church. Yet, strangely enough, it was a peaceful place and no doubting the sense of the Holy that was to be found there.

However the strangest thing for me was that in the midst of this through a priest was carrying out a blessing service for baby twins whom the parents had brought to the church. Whilst he said the liturgy and prayed over them people were moving all about him and even between him and the altar and when he wished to hold the children over the tomb of St. Spiridon saying a prayer there, he had to

take his place in the queue of tourists and pilgrims who were waiting to enter the side chapel. He had to do this twice – once for each of the twins.

I couldn't help but think what my reaction would be if I was trying to hold a dedication or thanksgiving service for a child at Wallington and people were milling about in this way. At the very least I suspect I would say something sharp to those who got between me and the Communion Table!

But then I realised that the two are not comparable. Things would be very different in that church during the Sunday services - this was not a formal act of worship we were witnessing but something that was happening in a church which was at the heart of the town's life and which had visitors every day. Some of these would purely be sightseers, but others would be devout people of faith.

The parents who had brought their babies for this service knew that it would be full of people, and had chosen to do so. It was a very clear sign that the faith of these people was not separate from daily life but there to be celebrated in the midst of daily life. And those who had come to pray and meditate that day because it was a special day in their church's year also knew that there would be many tourists there, and it made no difference.

For these people their church and their faith were at the heart of the town and the community in which it was set, and I couldn't help but feel that here in this somewhat chaotic hubbub was something very precious and perhaps a reminder for us not to be too ready to separate our faith and church from the daily life of the community around us.

May we all find ways to bring our faith into the daily life of our community.

*Craig Bowman*

## **For Our Wider Church Family**

As we go through the Autumn and head into the colder part of the year it does become more of a worry for those who have older relatives and friends. Our love and prayers go to all those who trying to support family members and friends and all who have lost people close to them 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.*

Half term has come and gone, some schools are working with less children or class groups and we think of them as they work out the best way forward.

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 the volunteers who are supporting the British Legion, as it, in turn, supports all those who are currently serving in the armed forces.



It is not always veterans who need to receive support from the British Legion. There is a range of advice and support services for those who are currently serving.

Physical exercise is important for mental and physical wellbeing and there is support for those currently serving by funding a range of sports across the three services.

Every year during the Poppy Appeal, our volunteers cover as many areas as possible, collecting on the streets, in shopping centres and at stations. However, this year, as a result of COVID-19, many of our volunteers are understandably unable to assist, and reduced footfall in these areas means that our Poppy Appeal income is at risk.

100% of the profit raised for the Royal British Legion goes to help to provide life-long support to our Armed Forces Community.

**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](mailto: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.*

# Harvest



## **HARVEST, SMARTIE TUBES AND CHRISTMAS CHARITIES**

Our harvest donations for Sutton Women's Refuge came to a fantastic total of £305! This is an amazing result in the current climate and we'd like to thank everyone who contributed. In addition to the donations, Janet has been raising money by making and selling masks from a table next to the telephone box in her garden, and has raised a further £153.60. We will be able to purchase the crockery and supplies the Refuge needs and send them a large cheque as well.


The harvest offertory yielded an unexpected fruit in the shape of some Smartie tubes – Do you remember our plans before lockdown to raise money for Christian Aid by filling Smartie tubes with coins? We had to abandon the

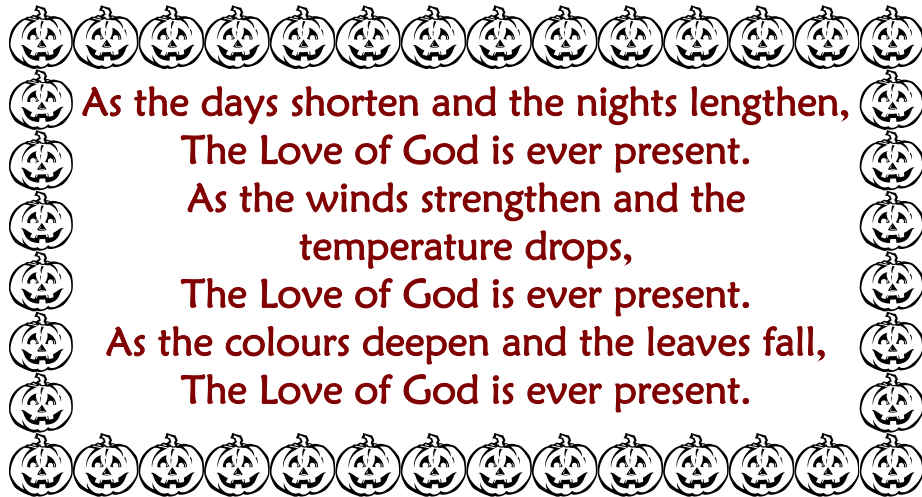


plan at the time, but if anyone else has a coin-filled Smartie tube lurking in a drawer somewhere, please do pass it on to us by late November, and we will transfer the proceeds to Christian Aid in early December.

Finally we are starting to look forward to our Christmas services. Lots of things about Christmas will be very different this year but we hope to collect donations as usual for a nominated charity – watch this space for details. Janet will continue making masks. Elaine has unearthed some nearly completed glass angels and is looking for several good homes at a very reasonable price. Proceeds from sales of both will be added to the Christmas donations.

Do you have a skill or product which would add to our total? It would be fantastic if we can make a really big difference to someone out there this Christmas.

	<p><b>Holy Habits returns!</b> <i><b>Biblical Teaching.</b></i></p> <p>In November, we will be running the Holy Habits discussion group again.</p> <p>It will take place, via Zoom, on Thursday evenings, on the 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th November.</p> <p>This time, the theme will be “Biblical Teaching”. It’s not intended to be a Bible study as such, but a chance to catch up with each other socially, while having a lively discussion about questions like: How was the Bible put together? Why is it so important? How should we interpret it?</p> <p>Do join in if you can. And if you can’t make all four weeks, that’s absolutely fine - each discussion will stand alone.</p> <p>Phil</p>
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As the days shorten and the nights lengthen,  
The Love of God is ever present.  
As the winds strengthen and the  
temperature drops,  
The Love of God is ever present.  
As the colours deepen and the leaves fall,  
The Love of God is ever present.



### **Sutton Schoolswork**

Last month I stressed the optimism that we all felt in the SSW team as we started the new term. There were clear signs that schools were beginning to open up to us, and we had received lots of positive responses from teachers, who, even if they couldn't book a fixed visit, definitely wanted us to be ready to come back in and share our message as soon as possible. I asked for prayer, and it appears you responded, because we have had answers already!

Abby has been into schools already running 'live' assemblies, in class groups, but face to face with the children. It's made her life a little busier when in the school, as she has to run the same assembly several times instead of just once in the hall. However, it's so wonderful to be back telling the children of the love of God, just the hopeful message we know they need at this time.

We've received positive contact from people from all over the country who have seen our videos and it seems we've hit on something that we're good at. This is an area we'll be looking expand over the next few weeks. Apparently Youthscape, the national organisation that some of you may be aware of, has recently referenced our work and its quality!

*Simon Ellingham*  
Director



## *Have you come across the Community Mask Trees?*

Well...

1) they are not all trees!

2) we have our very own just round the corner from the church...in Boundary Road.



To help our donations for the Harvest Festival masks have been on sale through October from this 'tree'... Which is next to our telephone box...

The result was amazing...it is wonderful to build up trust, friendliness and also know that we are helping to keep people safe.

Money was put into the envelopes that had been provided, and put into our letterbox, resulting in an

amazing £153 to add to the other donations for the Sutton Women's Refuge.

Harvest is past, but the masks will be there for as long as possible...all to raise money for local charities.

Christmas design masks will be appearing very soon...so if you are near Boundary Road...do, please, have a look...stand out from the crowd...be an individual....or just have a bit of *fun!*



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

## *November*

Prayer for COP26

God of Life. Our planet is dying.

We are responsible for the destruction of species and eco-systems.

Save us for our death-dealing systems that rely on fossil fuels that strip-mine the commons that convert Your natural world into cold, hard cash.

Give us wisdom and courage to find new ways of living.

Empower our children who are striking for the climate.

Shield all who work for a healthy environment, particularly indigenous earth-protectors.

Gift COP26 with robust and workable solutions to mitigate the very worst effects of climate disruption.

*In Christ, we pray. Amen*



**The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, is the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference.**

*The 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) is coming to the UK for the first time on the 1st – 12th November 2021. What's even more exciting is that the event will be held at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) in Glasgow!*

As well as the main COP26 event, Italy, who are the UK's COP26 partners, will be hosting a number of key preparatory events including a Youth Event and the Pre-COP Summit. These have been postponed due to the COVID19 pandemic but are now expected to take place Autumn 2021.

## **FINANCIAL FORECAST OCTOBER 2020**

We are now seven months into the coronavirus pandemic, and Elders have been reviewing the church finances. Unfortunately, but unsurprisingly, the picture is not a happy one.

Earlier in the year we recognised that lockdown would cause a significant drop in our income for 2020 and 2021, but at the time it seemed that a cautious easing of restrictions might allow a return to something approaching normal before too long. Now the second spike is here and, it seems that significant restrictions are likely to be with us for some time.

**Our income** has reduced substantially, and we are rapidly eating into the financial reserves that we had built up over several years, which we had hoped to use to support various mission initiatives.

**Congregational giving** has declined. We are very grateful to record an increase in direct giving through our bank account, but giving through the freewill offering envelopes is down and not surprisingly the weekly cash offertory has dried up almost completely. However, we were heartened by the very positive response to the appeal for Harvest donations for the Sutton Women's Refuge.

**Hall lettings** revenue accounted for almost two thirds of our income last year, and has been hit very hard. Our premises were virtually unoccupied for six months from late March, except for Preschool. We cannot yet allow many of our hall users to return. Some activities cannot maintain social distancing, and some are currently meeting online. Other groups are unwilling to venture out, even to our Covid-secure environment. There are very few bookings for the rest of 2020 and we believe that there will only be a very minor increase during 2021 and possibly well into 2022.

**Expenditure**, on the other hand, does not reduce whether we are using the premises or not. Our annual contribution to the URC's national Ministry & Mission Fund remains unchanged, and is set to rise next year as other churches have been hit even harder than us. There may be a modest reduction in heating costs, but equipment still breaks down and has to be replaced – such as the water heater. Repairs are still needed to the structure, and we still have to insure the building. We have also incurred extra running costs in making the

premises Covid-secure, providing online and telephone services, and posting out regular communications to the congregation.

**As a result, our expenditure is significantly outstripping income.** Compared with a surplus of nearly £7,000 last year, in 2020 we will probably spend £20,000 more than we receive. We are likely to incur a similar deficit in 2021, and on current projections we will continue to lose several thousands of pounds each year for some years thereafter. Our reserves won't keep us going forever. If the virus continues to disrupt our lives, we will run out of money within a few years.

### **What can we do about this?**

The Elders would like to encourage all who are able to do so to consider giving a little extra to help reduce our deficit and ensure the work of Wallington URC can continue.

We are planning to hold a Gift Day on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**, in order to focus on the many gifts with which we have been blessed, and to acknowledge all of the contributions received for the work of the church, whenever and however received.

We recognise that not everyone will be able to participate but if you have been gathering up offertory contributions or other donations at home and can't bring them to the church, please pop them into an envelope and ask your Elder to arrange for someone to collect it. If you give direct to the bank please do continue to do so.

*We'd like your ideas too. What can we do to increase income to cover our costs, in order to ensure that we can continue our mission in Wallington and further afield?*

### **And finally, a look back at 2019:**

Earlier this year the Elders put together our very first Trustees Annual Report and Accounts, which adds a report on our objectives and achievements last year to the accounts figures. We would have presented these at the AGM which didn't happen! If you haven't received the report by email and would like a paper copy please let Elaine know.

**Sunday November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Will be our  
**Gift Day**

to support WURC and will include  
our Annual Book Sunday,  
a Presentation to our Children  
and Young People.




Hope to see you there, we will make it  
as safe as possible for you to come.

### **Thinking ahead to Christmas....**

*We are at the end of October  
and, although it has been a  
that has been very 'up-side-  
down' year, we are looking  
towards Christmas.*

*This year, again, we can offer  
you the opportunity to send  
your Christmas*

 *Greetings to your Church  
friends through the pages  
of Contact*

**Your own design, black and  
white or colour can be  
reproduced.**

You can design your own greeting,  
or give us the wording and we will  
produce something for you.

For a quarter portion of a page in  
the December Contact,  
approximately this size,  
(95 x 60mm) production costs are  
£3.00, for half a page, if you  
would like a larger format, £6.00.

Any donations over this amount  
will be passed to Elaine.

Please let Janet & Robin know your  
requirements.

**We will need your design,  
including a signature if  
you wish,**

*together with your*  
donation

**by the 20th  
November, please.**



## **Holmwood Preschool in the Time of Covid**

After the mixture of providing for children staying at home and those attending preschool in the summer term, all the children started the new school year coming to preschool, some as returners and some as new children.

For most children, starting preschool is the first time they have been left with non-family members. For some, it is the first time they have left mummy. It is a huge step for both the children and their parents. Usually new children and their parents have a visit to preschool to introduce the children to the environment, to give the parents a feel for what their little one is going to be doing each day and to get important paperwork completed. But that could not happen in this 'covid year'.

Julie our admissions administrator, dealt with all the paperwork and made a lot of extra phone-calls and trips to people's doorsteps to get everything in place. But how should we help the parents to prepare their children?

Parents were sent a virtual tour of the parts of the building and the outside areas used for preschool and, in July, we invited the parents of the children already attending preschool to write messages to those parents who children were due to start. These turned out to be the most heart-warming testimonials to the work of Karen and the team. Here are a few extracts:

"From the detailed written reports, verbal feedback at the door and happy children, I know that the staff truly care for every one of their students. If you want to send your child to a welcoming, caring, and supportive pre-school then Holmwood is for you!"

"The staff are amazing and dedicated to all the children there, their time, efforts and love for the children really shows."

"The stand-out thing for us was the care and attention the staff showed towards providing us with feedback about her progress through the school, which was concluded with the wonderful book they produced at the end of her time there."

"They have such pride in their work and take care to develop close relationships with each of the children."

This is evident from the personal feedback from the teachers in person and via the online software they use, which revealed week after week how well they actually knew my child. They teach the early years curriculum in such an incredibly imaginative way ensuring that the children are always learning and absorbing information whilst playing games, having fun and socialising."

"All my (3) children thoroughly loved preschool, looked forward to going to school everyday and always enjoyed their days here. "

"My son only ever comes home with stories about what a great day he has had, and he cannot wait to return for his next session."

"The Preschool teachers are consistently great. They work with the children so closely and get to know them so well. So much love, care and attention are given, as a parent I couldn't ask for anything more."

We could not wish for more positive comments than these. Our preschool 'family' continues to thrive even in this very challenging year for us all.

Sheila Cruchley  
Chair of Preschool Committee



# South London Tamil Church (SLTC)

**Because of changing restrictions  
SLTC have decided to start their  
services in January 2021. Their main service will be on a  
Sunday afternoon at 3pm. Everyone is welcome to join  
them for their services.**

## **An Autumn Prayer**

Father we thank you for the delight of living in your world.  
The delight of shuffling feet along pavements through  
fallen leaves and catching them as they are blown by the  
autumn winds from the trees.

The delight of observing the rich colours in woodlands and  
on hills where the fiery gorse glows and the silvery white  
mantle of the dew shines upon the pastures.  
The delight of helping to sweep the leaves in the garden and  
for bringing comfort to the home in the many tasks we are  
called to do.

The delight of having friends to talk to and laugh with  
and of having in Jesus the most wonderful friend of all  
who can bring sunshine to our hearts on even the most  
dismal autumn day.

We feel the wind and do not see the beauty of the turning  
leaves,  
We become angry at the fading light and miss the colours of  
the day,  
We feel the chill of the foggy air and are ungrateful for the  
warmth of home.

Lord, we give you thanks for richness of Autumn:  
for the distinctive Autumnal smell;  
for the brightness of Autumn flowers;  
for the extravagance of autumn leaves turning green to red,  
gold and bronze.

Lord, we thank you for the colour and beauty of life,  
in creation, in people, in bright imagination and the Spirit's  
gifts.

Lord, relying on our own strength we have discovered our  
weaknesses:  
may we stand again in the autumn sunshine  
and reflect your glory seen in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Diary Dates			
November			
Sunday	1st	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Remembrance Day service...with our minister Rev'd Craig Bowman
Sunday	15th	10.30am	Morning service...
Sunday	22nd	10.30am	Morning service...with our minister Rev'd Craig Bowman
<b>GIFT DAY</b> and also our Junior Church book Sunday.			
Sunday	29th	10.30am	Morning service...
December			
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...
Sunday	13th	10.30am	Morning service...
Sunday	20th	4.00pm	Carols by Candlelight...in church and with an audio service.

**PLEASE NOTE...** Articles for the December/January 2021 issue of **Contact** should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Friday 20th November** unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement. Contributions are very acceptable by e-mail [contact@wurc.org.uk](mailto:contact@wurc.org.uk)

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

Other answers next month.

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

# Puzzle Corner

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

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

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 (2)

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

1.) Who seduced Samson into revealing the secret of his strength?

- ☐ Michal
- ☐ Leah
- ☐ Huldah
- ☐ Delilah

2.) Who stayed with and took care of her mother-in-law after both of their husbands died?

- ☐ Bilhah
- ☐ Ruth
- ☐ Dinah
- ☐ Salome

3.) Who saw the resurrected Jesus before He had ascended to the Father?

- ☐ Rachel
- ☐ Hannah
- ☐ Mary Magdalene
- ☐ Abigail

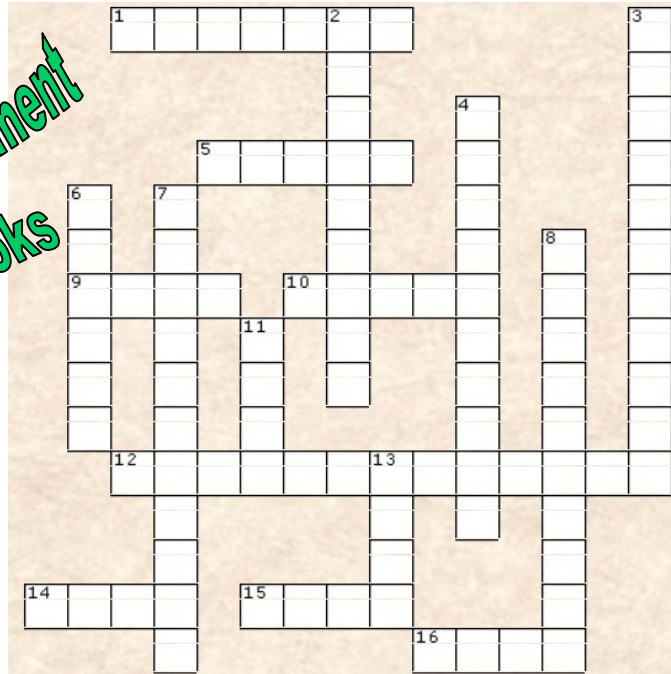
4.) Who was the mother of John the Baptist?

- ☐ Dorcas
- ☐ Azubah
- ☐ Elisabeth
- ☐ Basemeth

5.) Who married Jacob after he married her sister, Leah?

- ☐ Reumah
- ☐ Rahab
- ☐ Rachel
- ☐ Rhoda

# New Testament Books



## Bible Word-search: Paul's Missionary Journey

A	I	T	A	L	A	G	E
C	Y	C	Y	P	R	G	A
O	A	L	I	B	Y	A	N
R	I	E	A	P	M	E	T
I	B	R	T	T	U	R	I
N	A	S	L	E	I	E	O
T	R	O	A	S	R	B	C
H	A	E	M	O	R	C	H

### ACROSS

- 1 Named for a tax collector
- 5 1st and 2nd \_\_\_\_ are named for Jesus' main disciple
- 9 Rhymes with "hark"
- 10 Named for Jesus' brother
- 12 1st and 2nd \_\_\_\_
- 14 Fourth Gospel
- 15 Book Named in a Beatles song?
- 16 1st, 2nd and 3rd

### DOWN

- 2 Letter to Ephesus
- 3 Letter to Philippi
- 4 Letter to Colosse
- 6 Sixth
- 7 Paul's letters to the \_\_\_\_
- 8 Last
- 11 Sounds like a chopping tool
- 13 Rhymes with "duke"

Antioch, Arabia, Berea, Corinth, Crete, Egypt,  
Galatia, Italy, Libya, Malta, Myra, Rome, Troas

## **EVERY WEEK AT WALLINGTON U.R.C.**

### **Times of Worship**

<b>Sunday</b>	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**

#### **Tuesday**

<b>Wednesday</b>	2.00-5.30pm	Hartbeeps (mother and baby activities)
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<b>Thursday</b>	11.00-12.00noon	Senior Movers Exercise
	1.00-3.00pm	Lace Making
	2.00-4.00pm	Fallen Angels

#### **Friday**

<b>Saturday</b>	8.45-9.45am	Fitness Class
	10.15am-12.30pm	Zumba

**We are pleased to welcome  
back some activities.  
Others are waiting  
a while.**