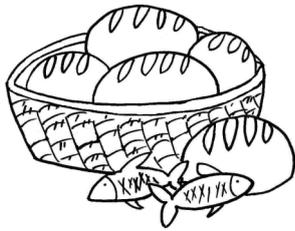


Wallington United Reformed
Church



CONTACT

No. 336

February 2021

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

First let me say thank you for the Christmas greetings Louise, Thomas and I received; they were appreciated.

Christmas now seems a while ago and in this time of a new lockdown the weeks ahead may look long and challenging. Some people will manage well as they have in the past, keeping in contact with friends and family through phones and technology, developing hobbies, reading long-neglected books and catching up on missed tv programmes and films. Others will struggle, even if they have managed well previously. Please be aware of those you know, both within and outside the church family who may appreciate that occasional phone call, timely email or rare letter.

For all of us this is a journey into the unknown, just as it was last March. We have learnt things during the past months about ourselves and our needs, as well as how to manage in a time of isolation. But this time is different again. It comes in the dark and cold days of winter and at a time when we had hoped we would be moving towards a more normal existence. Despite the roll out of the vaccination programme a return to how we used to do things is still a long way off.

We are also about to start another journey; one we make every year, which will end in Jerusalem in a time of great darkness and despair, but which stuns the world with the real ending, which is actually a great new beginning. Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on the 17th February.

The days of Lent are not just a countdown to Holy Week and Easter but recognise the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness grappling with temptation and the purpose in his life. I want to invite you to use the weeks of this journey into the unknown to reflect on the calling of God on our lives and what we can learn about ourselves in these days.

Included with this month's magazine is another prayer leaflet to take us through the weeks of Lent to Easter Sunday, which encourages each of us to reflect daily on what we are finding difficult, what we see of God and what we can do in these days. I encourage everyone to use this as part of a Lenten discipline this year. When we hear 'discipline' we are tempted to think of rules and regulations and control, but the word has its root in the word meaning learn. Disciples are learners and I hope we can all be learners this Lent.

This year we are holding a Lent Group via Zoom which I will be leading. It is based on the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and is spread across 5 weeks. It will be on the evenings of Thursday 25th February, Thursday 4th, Wednesday 10th, Wednesday 17th and Thursday 25th March. If you can't make them all please join us for as many as you can. Since we are meeting on line it will mean no trip out on a dark night so we hope as many as possible can join for one or more of the evenings.

Please feel free to share what you learn this Lent with others, either personally with others or by sending them to Janet for inclusion in the magazine.

Craig Bowman

For Our Wider Church Family

At the present time we are not in a position to see the end of the lockdown which has been put into place to help to keep everyone as safe as possible. The hospitals and NHS in general are coping, but only just! Although this situation is extremely difficult for some, particularly those who feel isolated, or lack support and those who struggle with being alone and it may feel 'inconvenient' to many, it is always possible to find someone to talk to by either contacting our minister, or someone at the church. Please continue to keep an eye on all the friends and neighbours around you who may need help.

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 pray:

Father, we Praise You with a new song and declare Your glory and great works among Your people. For everything under the sun, there is a plan and purpose. This new year 2021 is one of fresh starts and hope, as we leave behind the tragedy of 2020.

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.

Gathered to the Heart of God (1)

Gather your children, loving God.

Out of the cold, dark world,

Onto the warmth and brightness of your never failing love:

Where all our fears can be calmed, our grief comforted

And our selfishness healed.



KNOW YOUR MODERATOR

Dear friends,

I have been asked to share a bit about myself, so here goes:

I was born in Cuckfield, West Sussex. We were living close to my grandparents who lived in Hassocks. They went to Hassocks Congregational Church while my parents went to a little Anglican church in our village. Apart from 2 years in America, I have spent most of my life in Oxfordshire or Sussex, though I have moved about 17 times in total.

It was my grandma who told me the stories of Jesus. I usually sat on her knee and she read from her bible. When I was old enough, she bought me a Good News bible which I started to read but I don't remember how far I got with it. However the stories and love from the bible must have stuck because I committed my life to the Lord as an adult on July 12th 1987 in a Baptist Church evening service and I have never looked back.

I left home at 19 to start my nursing course at Southampton University which I really enjoyed. I then went to do Midwifery at Oxford. I worked as a Midwife for about 10 years before going into research. I worked on several Department of Health contracts finishing back at Oxford University. All the time attending church, ending up at Temple Cowley URC in Oxford.

When I received my call to ministry and began my training I worked for a Community Development company. I used to think what an odd group of skills I have grown but being a minister in a church ready for regeneration, it all came in handy.

I love the URC. I chose to join the church because of the Statement of the Nature, Faith and Order. It made a great impression on me. Here was a church that was willing to stand up for its principles and also try and change. I knew that it was going to take time but change was written into its heart!

I am looking forward to visiting the churches when we are allowed to again. We are all learning new ways of being but we are empowered by the Holy Spirit and have many gifted people.



Thank you for all you are doing in your local church.
God bless

Bridget

Holy Habits returns!
Breaking Bread.

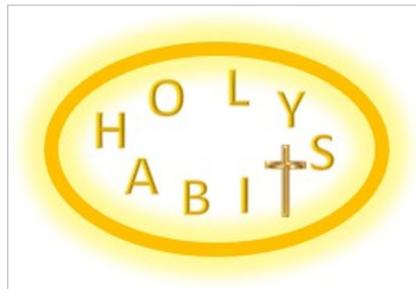
From January 14th our Holy Habits discussion group has been running again.

It takes place, via Zoom, on Thursday 14th January, Wednesday 20th, and 27th January and also Thursday 4th February.

Sessions start at 8.00pm and finish by approx 9.30pm. Phil Hyde is leading the group each week.

Everyone is welcome to join in. And if you can't make all four weeks, that's absolutely fine - each discussion will stand alone.

Later in February and March we are planning a Lent discussion group, watch for more details.



Commitment for **Life** Prayer Partners resource offers prayers based on 'Life-giving faith, defiant hope, generous love'. The prayers can be used to help people focus on generosity of mind and spirit.

Prayers for the Children: Heroes and Villains
Kevin Snyman

Jesus, we love to sit beside our  and listen to stories of heroes and villains. 

What  must fill your  when you hear The children 

What desolation you must feel when you see a child hurt, frightened or .

Jesus, just as you called all the children to be by your side, offering food and life, protection and safety, may we too be a people rising up like heroes to love, honour, and protect all the children of the world.



Amen.

Gathered to the Heart of God (2)

Then, send us back,
Where so many of our neighbours
Are still stricken by the cold,
Struggling through the darkness;

An Update on Church Closures from Southern Synod

Since the last guidance from URC Synod was issued, it is clear that the new variant of the virus has caused a rapid and alarming increase in Coronavirus infections. In light of this, Synod Moderators strongly recommend that churches should cease to meet for in-person worship and move exclusively to online or paper-based worship material.

The URC, through the Daily Devotions team, continue to produce Sunday services which can be listened to online and followed on paper, in addition to any local worship provision. Although we want to maintain our habits of worship, this should not depend on meeting in a church building.

Even when permitted in law, our churches should close for public worship. Because something is allowed does not necessarily make it wise; it is better to do the right thing.

In 'The Message,' Micah 6:8 is rendered in this way:

But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do,
what God is looking for in men and women.

It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbour,
be compassionate and loyal in your love.

A reminder that the work of the church will not cease even when not meeting for in-person worship. Please continue to think about how to care for all in the community, offering support while minimising the risk of spreading Coronavirus.

Although there is rejoicing at the speed of development and deployment of the Covid vaccines, it is not known for how much longer we will have to be very cautious.

The expectation is that the end of 2021 will be a much stronger place than at the beginning of the New Year. Until that point, churches are urged to continue to show care and friendship to one another and to treat others gently.

Our Situation:

Wallington URC Elders decided on 15th December that our church premises would be closed for worship. We agreed at our Elders' Meeting on Wednesday 13th January to continue to only offer online services for the foreseeable future. The audio services are available on our website, wurc.org.uk, and also the option to access the services by telephone, 020 3870 2810.

Daily Prayer
for Lent 2021



Wallington United Reformed
Church

Introduction

For the last 10 months we have been encouraging people to adopt a simple form of daily prayer as part of the response to Covid-19 restrictions and our inability to gather in ways with which we are familiar. As we now approach Lent we want to encourage people to continue in daily prayer but in a slightly different way.

Instead of offering a pattern of prayer for three times a day this leaflet includes a theme for each week, a reading for each day and a few questions to reflect upon, to be used at a time of day that suits you. Although the questions come after the Bible passage they are not directly linked to it but are more concerned with your experience and what is happening around you in these days. It may be helpful to have a notebook in which you can jot your answers to the questions each day, so you can reflect on your experience by looking back from time to time.

The questions for each day are:

What am I finding difficult at this time?

Where did I see (or experience) God today? If using this in the morning the question could be, where did I see God yesterday?

Is there something I can do today or tomorrow for God, my neighbour, my family or myself?

Lord God, by your Word fill me with your life-giving Spirit

Ash Wednesday 17 th February	Luke 4.1-13
Thursday 18 th February	Romans 8.1-17
Friday 19 th February	Galatians 5.16-26
Saturday 20 th February	Ephesians 4.17-24

Week 1

Lord God, by your Word fill me with a spirit of repentance and forgiveness

Sunday 21 st February	Psalm 51
Monday 22 nd February	Matthew 6.5-15
Tuesday 23 rd February	Matthew 18.21-35
Wednesday 24 th February	Luke 15.11-32
Thursday 25 th February	Ephesians 4.25—5.2
Friday 26 th February	1 John 1.5-10
Saturday 27 th February	Psalm 130

Week 2

Lord God, by your Word fill me with a spirit of hope and trust

Sunday 28 th February	Genesis 12.1-9
Monday 1 st March	Genesis 22.1-19
Tuesday 2 nd March	Isaiah 51.1-16
Wednesday 3 rd March	Luke 12.22-34
Thursday 4 th March	Romans 4.13-25
Friday 5 th March	Hebrews 6.13-20
Saturday 6 th March	Psalm 62

Week 3

Lord God, by your Word fill me with a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving

Sunday 7 th March	Luke 17.11-19
Monday 8 th March	2 Corinthians 9.1-15
Tuesday 9 th March	Ephesians 5.6-20
Wednesday 10 th March	Philippians 4.1-9
Thursday 11 th March	Colossians 3.1-17
Friday 12 th March	1 Chronicles 16.7-36
Saturday 13 th March	Psalm 103

Week 4

Lord God, by your Word fill me with a spirit of love and servanthood

Sunday 14 th March	Matthew 23.1-12
Monday 15 th March	Mark 10.35-45
Tuesday 16 th March	John 15.1-17
Wednesday 17 th March	Romans 12.9-21
Thursday 18 th March	Romans 13.8-14
Friday 19 th March	1 Corinthians 13.1-13
Saturday 20 th March	1 John 4.7-21

Week 5

Lord God, by your Word fill me with a spirit of discipleship and commitment

Sunday 21 st March	Luke 5.1-11
Monday 22 nd March	Luke 9.22-27
Tuesday 23 rd March	Matthew 10.16-33
Wednesday 24 th March	Matthew 10.34-42
Thursday 25 th March	John 15.18-27
Friday 26 th March	2 Timothy 2.1-13
Saturday 27 th March	2 Timothy 3.10-17

Week 6

Lord God, by your Word fill me with a spirit of obedience and humility

Palm Sunday 28 th March	John 13.1-20
Monday 29 th March	Philippians 2.1-11
Tuesday 30 th March	Psalms 22
Wednesday 31 st March	Isaiah 52.13—53.12
Thursday 1 st April	Luke 22.39-71
Good Friday 2 nd April	Luke 23.1-56
Saturday 3 rd April	Hebrews 4.14—5.10

**Supporting a
Local Charity
January - March** From January 2021
through to Easter we
are raising money for
Sutton Home Start.

This voluntary organisation is committed to promoting the welfare of families with young children. They help to build strong families in our community.

Throughout 2020 Home Start Sutton have still provided support to local families. Weekly telephone or virtual support is still able to be offered. Home-Start Sutton can provide home and community based services for families, tailored to their individual needs and circumstances.

Essential food, nappies, baby wipes, infant milk and hygiene items to families self-isolating or shielding or in financial difficulties have been provided. Some personal shopping and prescriptions collected. Toys, food and furniture have been distributed and help to apply for grants.



70 self-care packages to parents, 90 packs of craft resources, song sheets, colouring crayons to children, together with 70 donated #Toucan boxes and 60 picture books, plus bubbles and yet more crayons. All of this enabled volunteers to make doorstep welfare checks in the early days of lockdown and provide a friendly face to say hello to.

Home-Start is now planning its the next steps, re-launching training and re-starting home-visiting and groups all dependent on guidelines and how the infection rate changes.

Home-Start Sutton are proud to be part of the new Transform partnership. Transform is a partnership led by Cranstoun, a charity with over 50 years' experience of empowering people to live healthy, safe and happy lives.

Transform brings together local organisations, each with unique skills and experience in domestic abuse, allowing us to deliver the best support possible for the Sutton community.

Home-Start Sutton will be offering a nurturing programme for domestic abuse survivors with children under five.

Supporting a Local Charity

You may have seen in the weekly letters and e-mails in early in January that the mask 'tree' which has been outside our house since the end of September 2020 has helped to raise money for local charities. It helped our Harvest Collection, for the Women's Refuge, to the tune of £153 and for the Sutton Nightwatch, our Christmas charity, the masks (with marmalade and jam) raised over £730.

The mask 'tree' is once again set up, with a new range of 'designer' masks. This time there are some that are plain (as requested), and some that are more 'funky', but (hopefully) a good range to appeal to as many people as possible. Having got started after Christmas, I then had a bit of a shock as my sewing machine



had a set back... and needed a service!! Luckily I had a 'back up' machine (yes, really...) so I was able to continue, albeit more slowly.

This is a taster of colours and designs, some are self-coloured with a marbled design, others with a tiny pattern, but please let me know if there is a colour or design that

you would particularly like, and if the fitted or the pleated version is more your style.

It does seem that the face masks will be with us for quite some time... maybe even for years rather than months. I have had some lovely feedback saying that the masks on the 'tree' are better quality than many that have been ordered on the internet, which is very gratifying. I am happy to continue to produce them, and will try to do a 'good job'. Thank you to anyone who has passed any cotton fabric to me for making masks, and if anyone has fabric to spare, preferably cotton (or cotton mix) it will be put to use, either for the masks or the linings.



I am happy to take any orders for masks although cannot promise immediate delivery.

Making the masks keeps me out of mischief, and has helped to keep me sane over the last 4 to 5 months...!

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2021... keep wearing masks...and stay safe...

Janet

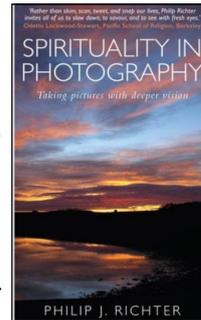


You may remember a poster

with the invitation to an open zoom meeting from Carshalton Churches Together last October.

It caught my attention and the interest of my Son Tim.

Over 20 people joined and listened to the 2 presentations from Philip Richter a retired Methodist Minister and keen photographer.



The first presentation, included a fast flick



through a variety of photographs, some contemporary, holiday shots, buildings etc. I remember, with these photos, he illustrated how many of us might “snap” on our phones and perhaps send on to friends using social media. Think of the typical postcard views of London, in which we may replicate

ourselves on a visit.

(I certainly have many on my phone snapped from a city bus tour of Belfast; which no doubt are almost identical to those of other tourist’s photos of the same iconic buildings!)

He encouraged us to experience a place we are in and what we observe from different perspectives. (Walking through Croydon with friends and their teenage son, he frequently stopped to take photo’s of the different graffiti tags and art. In conversation he opened my eyes to the amount of time and effort



that goes into designing a tag or the art and what it might say.)

The second presentation challenged us to be more reflective. To be more mindful in the moment of time, place and use all our senses, of



touch, sound, sight, etc. This requires us to be still and enjoy time. To use photography to help us see and experience with fresh eyes all that Gods provides for us in his entire creation, that of nature and ourselves.



Jeanette Hopkins

Gathered to the Heart of God (3)

And though the cold may grip us
And the darkness gather round us again,
Let your light and warmth in us
Give comfort. Strength and hope to our neighbours,
And turn their mourning into joy,
As they discover themselves
Folded to your own deep heart,
And the crucified and risen Christ.

Alan Gaunt



Sutton Schoolswork DIRECTOR'S WINTER MESSAGE

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the

season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair ... , we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way ...". Tale of two Cities, Charles Dickens

Written over 160 years ago, these words resonate this year more than any other year I've known. At the time, Dickens was highlighting the conflict between family and love, hatred and oppression, good and evil, light and darkness, and wisdom and folly. However, I'm sure many of you, like me, will see the echoes resounding this year in and around many of the same conflicts.

We've seen the greatest examples of selflessness, dedication to others, generosity of hand and of spirit, loss, sadness, and, yes, selfishness, greed and sheer irresponsibility. These events have created division, and yet also much harmony, co-operation and patience. In short, humanity has had all its foibles, both good and bad, seriously exposed.

Throughout this year, the church has sought to find ways to communicate the Gospel of Light to ALL. This has proved to be problematic, in that we've not been able to meet together, we've all struggled to master new technologies, and we've wondered how we can support each other let alone anyone outside our fellowships.

Primary Work

This is our fifth year bringing our Discover Christmas workshop to the year 2's of Sutton, although it has had to change slightly this year. Due to Covid we can't do our normal drama of the Christmas story as part of this workshop so this year we have put together a video to tell the story instead and it has proved very popular among the schools we have visited! By the end of this term we will have visited 9 schools with our revamped workshop, which is a lot less than usual but more than we had expected due to lots of schools still not allowing in visitors.

Secondary Work

As Christmas was fast approaching, we spent some time thinking about what we could offer to Schools...which then came the idea of Christmas UNWRAPPED! This was a brand new opportunity that we were really excited to put out to the Schools! We aimed this video for years 7-9, where in a nutshell, we explain the Christmas Story whilst giving them some facts throughout - perhaps about things they did not know originally.

We felt it was very appropriate to explain that no matter what the circumstances of the world, the true meaning of Christmas does not change. Many teachers reached out and were letting us know they are sending it round the RE department and making use of it wherever they possibly can.

Simon Ellingham
Director

Diary Dates			
February			
Sunday	7th	10.30am	Audio Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Audio Morning service
Sunday	21st	10.30am	Audio Morning service
Sunday	28th	10.30am	Audio Morning service
March			
Sunday	7th	10.30am	Audio Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Audio Morning service
Sunday	21st	10.30am	Audio Morning service

PLEASE NOTE... Articles for the March 2021 issue of Contact should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Monday 22nd February** unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement. Contributions are very acceptable by e-mail jmw321wmj@yahoo.co.uk

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

Other answers next month.

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

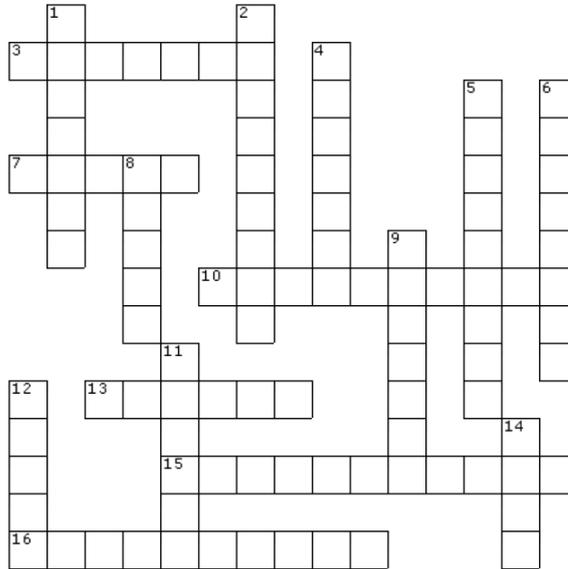
Places

ACROSS

- 3 Sea of ___
 7 Residents of this city tried to build a tower to heaven
 10 Jesus was arrested in this garden
 13 Ancient Jewish kingdom
 15 Jesus was baptized in this river
 16 God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on this mountain

DOWN

- 1 Jesus was crucified on this hill
 2 Jesus was born here
 4 The Corinthians lived here
 5 The Jewish temple was here
 6 Jesus grew up here
 8 Moses led the people out of slavery in this land
 9 Joshua fought the battle of ___
 11 Noah's ark landed in the mountains of this region
 12 God destroyed this city by fire
 14 Jesus turned water in wine at a wedding here



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

Bread at Midnight

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

EVERY WEEK AT WALLINGTON U.R.C.

Times of Worship

Sunday 10.30am Family Service ...Audio Service on line.

Activities you can find on our Premises

Monday - Friday *9.15am-1.15pm Holmwood Pre – school*

Monday

Tuesday 12.45-3.00pm AA Meeting (in coffee Lounge)

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday 6.45-9.15pm AA Meeting (in Holmwood Hall)

Saturday

**All other activities are
suspended until further notice**