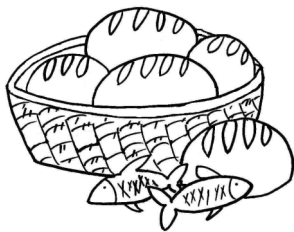


Wallington United Reformed Church



CONTACT

No. 340

June 2021

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

As I write this we are tentatively exploring the further easing of restrictions in England, allowing for bigger groups to meet outdoors and smaller mixed groups indoors. We are about to hold our first service in the church building since December. At this time there is still the expectation that on 21st June the next step will be taken and there will be further easing, with the possibility that all restrictions will be lifted. However there are concerns and we cannot be certain that will happen and it is possible that there will still be limits on how we meet and what we can do, nevertheless we can only plan for what is currently being suggested. We are therefore expecting to return to a more familiar pattern of worship and church life from the end of June.

We have been on an incredible journey over the past year and a bit. Much of it has been inconvenient, some of it has been scary and some of it bewildering. Many of us have recognised that we have to let some things go (at least for a while), we have learnt to do familiar things in new ways and discovered or rediscovered other interests. When I joined you as your minister a year and a half ago I could never have imagined what was to come and, although I expected returning to local church ministry to bring challenges, I could not have planned for this journey!

Although this past year has been extreme I actually think all of life is a journey on which we can never be completely certain what we will face and even where we will end up. This month Louise and I celebrate our 25th Wedding Anniversary and, like most, if not all couples, the years have been a journey filled

with surprises, challenges, blessings and discoveries. I'm not sure how many couples enter into married life with a carefully formulated plan for the years ahead, which may include how many children they are going to have and when, when there are going to be house moves, job changes and ultimately retirement. If they do then I suspect the number of couples for whom that plan works out is miniscule.

As human beings we live our lives adapting. We interact with a world that is not always predictable and we live our lives among people and in community with those who are unpredictable and changeable. It can be frustrating and there are those for whom an absence of order is so difficult, but we have to recognise that we are some of those who are unpredictable and changeable. Our Christian journey is similarly unpredictable and cannot be mapped out in advance. I love the short sketches produced by the Iona Community several years ago, that imagined conversations between Jesus and Peter, entitled 'Eh... Jesus... Yes, Peter?' One of them imagines Jesus' call to Peter with the disciple asking all sorts of questions about the future: Where are we going? Who will we meet? What will I need? At the conclusion Peter is just asked to bring himself. There are no promises, no guarantees just implied uncertainty.

This is the journey we are on. It is a journey not a target – making our way through life, adapting to the challenges we face, coping with unpredictability and changes as we journey onward, learning more about ourselves and our purpose, knowing that we have a companion on our journey. That companion is more faithful than the most loving partner, more tolerant than the closest friend, more reliable than we think ourselves to be. That companion is the one who calls us.

Craig Bowman

Church Community

As we approach the late May Bank Holiday and the summer half term for many schools we think of the pupils and their teachers. The start of the year was, once again, very different and very difficult, particularly for those who needed to work towards exams and assessments.

Teachers will submit grades to exam boards and will choose the evidence they want to use to determine their students GCSE and A-Level grades. Students will only be assessed on work they have been taught.

Students will not sit “mini exams”, but exam boards will publish questions that teachers can set their pupils so they have evidence to base their grades on. Teachers will also be able to look at students’ coursework, mock exam results, essays and in-class tests when determining grades.

Every student will have the right to appeal their grade. No algorithm will be used.

As many High Schools and Universities have now finished their summer term we think of those young people as they seek employment, meet up with friends and generally enjoy their summer break.

Remembering to pray for others and to be consistent can be difficult. Praying or just thinking of others intentionally is a prayer. Praying for someone, using words and sentences, speaking to God, asking for something specific is just one kind of prayer. God knows *exactly* what is needed before it is put into words. When we think of others, and turn those thoughts to God, that is praying for them—without words. Sometimes speaking to God is vital, but turning our thoughts to God can also be powerful. Prayer is ultimately about relationship with God. In human relationships words are not always required and neither are they always required with God.



Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May 2021

From April 6th through to May 28th 2021
was raised from masks, cakes and jam for
Christian Aid.

£373

A BIG **Thank You** to everyone for their
support as the charity will receive a total of

£450

from Wallington URC.

Throughout June
all money raised by
selling masks, cakes
and jam will be going
to the **Alzheimer's Cupcake Day**.



*Join our Cupcake Day
and rise against
dementia*





Cupcake Day

Help us to raise money for
the Alzheimer's Society and
enjoy some cupcakes too.

Cupcake day is
17th June 2021.



There will be a Cake Stall in
front of the church
(if the weather is kind to us!)
for the Alzheimer's Society on
Thursday 17th June
11.00am - 4.30pm

There is also a second chance to buy cakes
and cupcakes for the weekend, next to the
'Mask Tree' in Boundary Road on
Friday 18th June
2.00 - 4.00pm

Although still dependant on the weather!

**Everyone
Welcome**

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

With the chance to go out for a socially distanced Saturday morning stroll, a group of our intrepid walkers set off through Banstead Woods, not only to 'Walk and Talk', but also to re-visit our Lent Course which was based around the C. S. Lewis book 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'.



Visitors come face to face with the majestic Aslan, the lion, and even walk through the wardrobe 'entrance to Narnia', complete with hanging coats.

Banstead Woods is known for its unique Narnia Trail. You can spot Aslan, and then the wardrobe complete with

wooden "clothes" hanging inside, all quite wonderful to see, and complementing the story as it unfolds. The carvings were beautiful, done with a chain saw (amazing detail!) from fallen trees.

.....✿
"This must be a simply enormous wardrobe!" thought Lucy, going still further in
.....✿





Lucy Pevensy has stepped through and is waiting by the lamp-post.

Although the lamp-post is not actually in situ at the moment it has to be mentioned as it is a very significant, real starting point when reading the book.

The enchanting figures have been carved from standing deadwood by talented chainsaw sculptor Ella Fielding of The Tree Pirates, making use of the site's existing natural resources.

The infamous 'White Witch' has joined Aslan, the lion, Lucy Pevensy and the iconic wardrobe at Reigate & Banstead Borough Council's magical Narnia nature trail at Banstead Woods and Chipstead Downs Local Nature Reserve, Surrey.

The White Witch is an imposing new addition to the trail, thought to be the first of its kind in the country, which brings to life the popular characters from the children's classic tale.



The Bluebells are out from mid-April to May with the duration varying each year due to the weather.



UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
SOUTHERN SYNOD

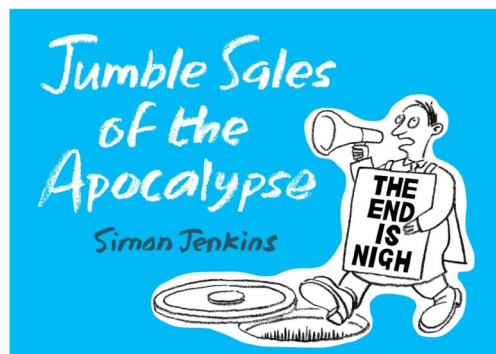
South London Synod Area

South London Synod Area meeting Tuesday 15th June 2021 at 7.30pm

Do you ever wake up in the night worrying whether Jesus might be a bit surprised at how the faith he started 2,000 years ago has ended up today?

How on earth did we get from Jesus to where the church is now?

Ship of Fools, the online magazine and community, has been tangling with that question since the last millennium, and in response has produced features such as the Mystery Worshipper, the 12 Days of Kitschmas, a lot of comedy, and an equal amount of impassioned theological debate.



Come along to our meeting which is open to all church members to listen and discuss with Simon Jenkins, editor of Ship of Fools, and author of *Jumble Sales of the Apocalypse* (SPCK, 2017), as he joins us for an evening of comedy and questioning faith.

The Zoom code is Meeting ID: 880 9277 9657

Passcode: 409162

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88092779657?pwd=R0Zla2ZTRVVQejczQVNiaWg4YVJnUT09>

or: <https://tinyurl.com/2dtnxxct>

There will be some business to be discussed after the talk from Simon but we shall endeavour to keep it to a minimum.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely

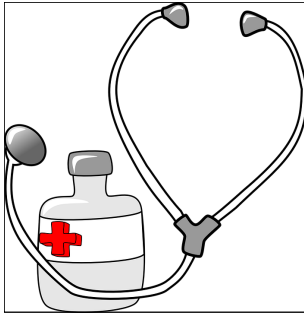
Alistair Wilson

Administrator South London Synod Area.



Area Leader: Revd Lesley Charlton. Email: minister@kingstonurc.org
Area Administrator: Mr Alistair Wilson. Email: slsaadm1n@gmail.com

Written for the 60th anniversary of the NHS



These are the hands,
That touch us first
Feel your head, Find the pulse
And make your bed.

These are the hands,
That tap your back
Test the skin, Hold your arm
Wheel the bin, Change the bulb

Fix the drip, Pour the jug
Replace your hip.

These are the hands
That fill the bath
Mop the floor, Flick the switch
Soothe the sore, Burn the swabs
Give us a jab, Throw out sharps
Design the lab.



And these are the hands
That stop the leaks
Empty the pan, Wipe the pipes
Carry the can, Clamp the veins
Make the cast, Log the dose
And touch us last.

By Michael Rosen

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.

***Prayer for Israel and
the Occupied Palestinian Territories***

Felicity Tunnard

We pray for all the people
in Israel and Palestine. Help us
to seek peace, justice, hope,
and dignity for all people living
in this situation.

Help us to be their voice and
help us to share their stories

with others, even though there is uncertainty, indifference, and
opposition.

Give us the strength to seek an end to the occupation, so that
both Israelis and Palestinians can create a better future for
themselves.

Help us to prepare tables of dialogue, and opportunities for truth
-telling around us.

We pray that the people may start to witness small signs of hope
and remember they're not alone.

For all our Christian brothers and sisters in Israel/Palestine, this
day, we pray "the peace of Christ".

Amen.



Commitment
for **Life**

***This Prayer for Israel
and the Occupied
Palestinian Territories
seems particularly
appropriate during this time of conflict.***

Occupied Palestinian territories:

The segmented territories include Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The Gaza Strip is a small coastal area bordering Egypt to the south. This region is home to two million Palestinians. The West Bank is the kidney bean-shaped area to the east.

The occupied Palestinian territories have been under Israeli military control since 1967. This makes it the longest occupation in modern history. The segmented territories include Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Israeli settlements:

Israeli settlements are Jewish communities built on Palestinian land. There are between 600,000 – 750,000 Israeli settlers living in at least 250 settlements (130 official, 120 unofficial) in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Israeli settler growth:

The population of Israeli settlers in the West Bank and East Jerusalem is growing at a faster rate than the population of Israel. Roughly 10 percent of Israel's 6.8 million Jewish population lives in these occupied Palestinian territories.

Despite being outside of Israel proper, these settlers are granted Israeli citizenship and receive government subsidies that significantly lower their cost of living.

As of 2020, there were 463,535 recorded settlers living in the West Bank and 220,200 in East Jerusalem.

Jerusalem – the divided city

According to the international standards, Jerusalem is a divided city. West Jerusalem has been Israeli territory since 1948, and Jews are in the majority. East Jerusalem has a Palestinian majority and was occupied by Israel in 1967. Since its annexation in 1980, Israel has considered the entire city of Jerusalem a part of its territory. This is not internationally recognised. For this reason, Israeli maps do not show East Jerusalem being a part of the occupied West Bank.

**Volunteers needed...
Can you help?**



Are you a mum, dad, grandparent or carer?

We need people with your experience to help us support families in Sutton. Volunteer with us and:

- Change the lives of the families you support
- Make new friends and connect with your community
- Enhance your own well-being
- Learn new skills
- Access free, high quality training

For an application pack...

Email emma@homestartsutton.org.uk

**VOLUNTEER
TODAY!**



Make their early years count

Being a parent is hard for everyone but for some it can be overwhelming. Some parents have a fantastic support network of family and friends to help, others don't.

With your knowledge and experience as a mum or dad, grandparent or carer, you could provide the vital support a family needs, and make a big difference to their lives.



If you can spare as little as 2-3 hours a week to support a parent with children under 5, then please get in touch.



**OUR VOLUNTEER
PREPARATION COURSE
STARTS 22nd JUNE 2021**

**Visit www.homestartsutton.org.uk today.
Because childhood can't wait.**



Sutton Schoolswork

Just what is the point of praying? After all, it's just words, isn't it? We close our eyes, mostly, say our words out loud, mostly, and after a few minutes or so, conclude and move on with our lives. Our prayers don't always seem to make a lot of sense; we ask for things completely out of our control, request changes which seem frankly impossible, and we desire that other people change. Does it really make any difference?

Well, this month is testimony of the resounding and positive response,
'Yes!'

I asked last month for prayer that schools would respond, and that we would receive requests for us to start coming back in. More than anything, we wanted to know that God was still active, that He was already preparing the ground, and that we could get back into the schools in a new and exciting way.

God answered.....

Around 2 weeks ago we had a contact from Greenshaw, a school we have had so little direct engagement with for nearly 3 years, which genuinely excited us. Members of staff were acting together, Christians, and wanted to introduce Kintsugi Hope into the school, with a desire to also establish a Christian support group at the earliest appropriate time.

Our 'normal' work is important still; we are having some interest from primary schools, and Abby is still providing assemblies online and getting some lovely feedback. Just this week we received a positive encouragement from St Dunstan's telling us that they have thoroughly enjoyed the videos and really appreciate them. A few weeks ago, I received a lovely email from an old friend of mine who now lives near Norwich and works in a primary school. She was delighted to have found our material online and had found it so supportive and encouraging to know that God was still alive and active in her old borough of Sutton.

And so, we ask once more for your prayers. Communication, commitment and contact (Spurgeon would be proud!) Communication from all our schools, not just a few, as they begin to regain confidence.

Commitment from schools to engage this term, dates being booked in, and new requests being received. And commitment from churches to continue to engage with us, both prayerfully and financially.

Contact within our schools. Face to face contact, where we can engage directly with children and young people, to enable us to help them to better understand the gospel of Jesus, to know the opportunity to establish a personal relationship with Him, and to find support and empowerment through the Spirit.

Diary Dates			
June			
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion.
Sunday	13th	10.30am	Morning service.
Sunday	20th	10.30am	Morning service.
Sunday	27th	10.30am	Morning service.
July			
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion.
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Morning service.

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

We have continued with the Puzzle Corner in Contact. Please let us have any appropriate feedback.

Do you enjoy the puzzles?

Sudoku Answers for April:

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

Puzzle Corner

Bible Quiz: Famous Bible Quotations I

1) "The Lord is my _____, I shall not want."

- ☐ God
- ☐ strength
- ☐ shepherd
- ☐ provider

2) "Yea, though I walk through the valley of _____, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

- ☐ treachery and torment
- ☐ sin and suffering
- ☐ the shadow of death
- ☐ evil

3) "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; _____"

- ☐ thou maketh me to lie down in green pastures.
- ☐ thou leadeth me beside the still waters.
- ☐ I trust in thee.
- ☐ my cup runneth over.

4) "Surely _____ shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

- ☐ honour and majesty
- ☐ goodness and mercy
- ☐ thy righteousness
- ☐ thy grace

5) "_____ is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

- ☐ The Holy Spirit
- ☐ Thy word
- ☐ The Lord, our God
- ☐ Thy law

6) "To every thing there is a _____, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

- ☐ place under the sun
- ☐ reason
- ☐ season
- ☐ day

7) "He hath made every thing _____ in his time."

- ☐ holy
- ☐ good
- ☐ worthwhile
- ☐ beautiful

8) "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and _____ shall lead them."

- ☐ the lamb of God
- ☐ the spirit of the Lord
- ☐ a little child
- ☐ the spirit of wisdom and understanding

9) "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name _____"

- ☐ Jesus.
- ☐ Messiah.
- ☐ Son of God.
- ☐ Immanuel.

10) "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord _____, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."

- ☐ forgive your sins
- ☐ make His spirit come upon you
- ☐ shower His mercy upon you
- ☐ make His face shine upon you

Bible Word Search: Salt and Light

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and click its first letter then its last letter to highlight it.

After you have found all the words, click the leftover letters in the correct order to form the **mystery answer**.

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

Actions, Bowl, City, Deeds, Examples, Father, God, Hidden, Hill, Lamp, Light, Salt, Tell, Used

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

1				8		5	3	6
	9	6	4		3		1	
8				1	6		9	2
				9			7	
3		9	8		1			5
	5			2				
6	1			3				4
				4	2	3	6	
5	4	3						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, column, and 3 x 3 box.

EVERY WEEK AT WALLINGTON U.R.C.

Times of Worship

Sunday	10.30am	Family Service in the Sanctuary and Audio Service on line.
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Activities you can find on our Premises

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

Monday	10.00-11.00am	Yoga
Tuesday	12.45-3.00pm	AA Meeting (in Holmwood Hall)
Wednesday	1.15-3.30pm	Lace Making
Thursday	11.00-12.00noon 7.15-9.45pm	Senior Movers Exercise Carshalton & Wallington Art Group
Friday	6.45-9.15pm	AA Meeting
Saturday	10.00-12.00noon	Zumba

**Some activities are coming back
as we slowly re-open our premises**