Wallington United Reformed Church

CONTACT

No. 345

December 2021/January 2022

Wallington United Reformed Church

Dear Friends....

As we enter December Advent is already under way and no doubt many of us are already caught up in the busyness of preparing for Christmas. Perhaps our preparations are taking on a deeper significance this year with the limitations we lived under last Christmas.

The shops have had their Christmas wares on display for weeks (if not months) now, Christmas lights are all lit up in town centres and illuminations are springing up on many houses. Carols and Christmas songs are regularly heard in shopping centres and individual stores, office and club Christmas 'dos' are taking place with increasing frequency, and the Christmas Cards are beginning to arrive. The world around us loves to prepare for Christmas but, as ever, I wonder how well the Christmas message is taken to heart. When December 25th arrives many folk will enjoy certain aspects of the day and then their thoughts will soon turn to how best to celebrate the next festival of over-indulgence and excess, New Year's Eve!

For those of us in the Church we are encouraged to use these coming weeks to prepare ourselves in order that this season might affect us deeply and not just in some shallow, superficial manner. Then, when we celebrate Christmas itself we recognise not just the birth of a baby, but the very gift of God to us; then when we hear of angels singing it is not the wings and halos that catch our attention but the declaration of peace on earth that encourages and challenges us; then when

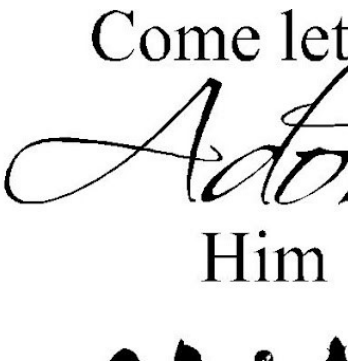
we sing of shepherds visiting a stable it is not so much the thought of fluffy lambs that fills our minds but how the good news of Christ's birth comes first to the outsiders and those on the margins of respectable society.

These next few weeks are not to be dismissed lightly as merely the time to do our Christmas shopping and stock up on the food, drink and presents we will need on the 25th, they are an opportunity to listen, consider and reflect on the Advent themes and messages in order to grasp a deeper truth than the froth of so much of the secular celebration of Christmas.

Why not immerse yourself in Advent this year and through that open yourself to the depths of God's wondrous coming?

May the deep and rich gifts of Christmas be yours this year.

Craig Bowman



Pastoral News

On Sunday 21st November our Thanksgiving and Memorial service was very moving. We were able to remember those known to us who have died since March 2020. This was a caring and heartfelt tribute to all those we have lost, as a church, and a community. We were able to name and give thanks for the lives of those who had any connection to our church family, and sadly passed away, for any reason, not only those who had the Coronavirus.

As we move towards Christmas, and some restrictions once again become mandatory we pray that the majority of the general public will be kept safe, protected and healthy. Face coverings will now be compulsory in shops and on public transport in an effort to keep everyone as safe as possible through this coming winter as different variants of the virus become apparent.

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.

Also all friends, relations, colleagues and all those in our wider world that are feeling under the weather, lost, forgotten or just out of sorts.

May God grant you his peace.

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

Or Email: pastoral@wurc.org.uk

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

The Moderator's Christmas Letter 2021

'*Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Glory to the new-born king*'

Last year Christmas with our families was cancelled, and we wonder if it will happen this year too. The uncertainty continues.

It may seem that after the pandemic we entered a new way of hybrid living, part on zoom and part in person, life might at times feel chaotic and strained at the edges.

You received my letter recently about deployment and maybe moaned at Synod, the national church or even your minister. It doesn't seem very fair that there aren't the number of ministers that we used to have.

As the Hebrews sang in Egypt, it's hard to sing the Lord's song in a strange land. Jesus knew all about strange lands, he ended up in Egypt after he was born, to escape Herod. Sometimes we are taken to a place we don't know, even at Christmas time. Of course, while we have strangeness around us, we can hold onto something that is familiar to us, Christmas and the coming of the Lord Jesus. It doesn't matter what kind of land or liminal space we are in; the story of Christ's birth reminds us that God came to be 'with us' in our strife.

Herald angels come to announce good news:

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2: 8-12

These angels brought good news to bring joy. We, who have heard this good news, are invited to share this news of joy at a time when others need to hear it, rather like the herald angels. Not only your ministers or Elders, we all have someone we could share this amazing news with. Jesus is still coming to us, especially at this time of challenge and uncertainty.

As the evenings grow longer and the darkness seems to deepen, let us hold onto the fact that God is doing what God did 2000 years ago. God is doing a new thing, and we need to take time to recognise it, and embrace it.

May the light of Christ shine in your darkness this Christmas,
Every blessing

Holy Habits returned!

Serving

Throughout November our Holy Habits discussion group was running again.

A big thank you to Phil Hyde for leading the group each week. Everyone who was able to join in had an interesting time with discussions, and lots of fun too.

Thank you Phil

Christmas is coming!

Christmas Cards, Wrapping Paper & small stocking fillers

Come along to buy:
Cakes, DVDs, Books & a variety of Christmassy 'Bits',
at the front of the church on

Friday 3rd December
11.30am - 3.30pm

and Sunday 5th Dec in the morning

Our outside sales have raised **£653** so far.

A very **BIG** thank you to everyone who has been able to help, bring cakes, or offer support in any way. We are supporting **Christians Against Poverty** this Christmas.

Poverty just loves to destroy lives. It breaks families apart, isolates people from friends and family, shatters confidence and drives many to think that suicide is the only way out. UK poverty is real, with millions locked in its miserable grip. We're not prepared to sit back and let it wreak havoc across our nation.

CAP is on a mission. To restore hope for those who are lost and hurting. In partnership with incredible local churches across the UK, we're bringing life-changing freedom and good news to people in desperate need.

A selection of face masks is also still available.

It has been really good to get the greeting cards (and Marmalade) out again, as there was very little chance throughout 2020 and most of 2021.

From January 2022 I am hoping to put the cards in the coffee lounge on the last Sunday of the month, so do remember to bring along a note of any birthdays coming up.

There are Anniversary Cards, Children's Cards (ages up to 8), Sympathy Cards, Get Well Cards, Teenage Cards, 18th Birthday Cards, and general Birthday Cards as well as a selection of wrapping paper for children and adults.

If you need a card on any of the other Sundays, please do ask...it is easy to get out a specific box.

Look for greeting cards and wrapping paper (and Marmalade)

on 30th January 2022.

Greetings.... (after many quiet months) from the Concerts Committee at Sanderstead United Reformed Church!

We are delighted to announce the resumption of our

Sunday Afternoon Concert Series

with the welcome return of the

Croydon Symphonic Band

on **Sunday 12th December at 3pm**.

Conducted by their Music Director David Cox, the Band will present a lively programme to take us well and truly into the Christmas season.

For further information please do email us at **sanderstead.music@gmail.com**

All our concerts take place at

Sanderstead United Reformed Church

on Sanderstead Hill [next to the library] CR2 0HB

www.surc.org.uk

Walk and Talk into 2022!

As often as the weather will allow!

First Saturday of December:

Caroline will lead a walk at Woldingham on Sat 4th December. Starting 10am at Woldingham Station (free parking on road alongside station car park). Approx 5km/3miles.

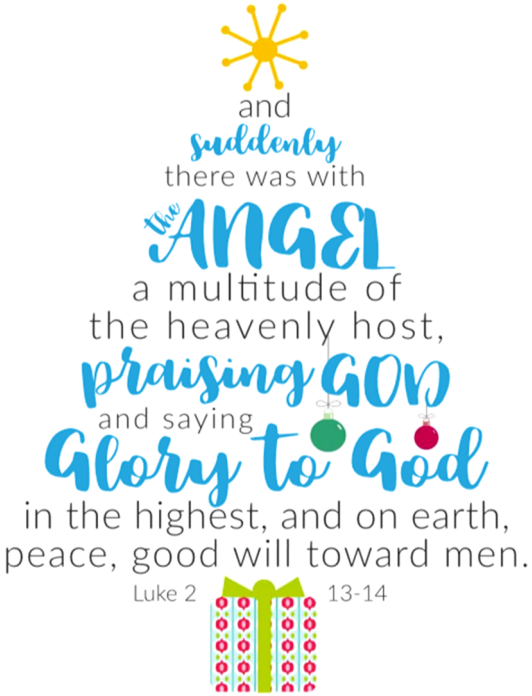
Watch out for more/other details. We are setting up a Whatsapp group to communicate details of walks and gather ideas for future ones.

If you'd like to join in or know more please talk to Elaine or Chris.

William Wordsworth, 'Sweet Was the Walk'.

Sweet was the walk along the narrow lane
At noon, the bank and hedge-rows all the way
Shagged with wild pale green tufts of fragrant hay,
Caught by the hawthorns from the loaded wain,
Which Age with many a slow stoop strove to gain;
And childhood, seeming still most busy, took
His little rake; with cunning side-long look,
Sauntering to pluck the strawberries wild, unseen.
Now, too, on melancholy's idle dreams
Musing, the lone spot with my soul agrees,
Quiet and dark; for through the thick wove trees
Scarce peeps the curious star till solemn gleams
The clouded moon, and calls me forth to stray
Thro' tall, green, silent woods and ruins grey.

According to Thomas de Quincey, Wordsworth clocked up an estimated 180,000 miles during his lifetime, walking around his beloved Lake District (to say nothing of the Quantocks, where he lived near Coleridge during the 1790s). In this sonnet, Wordsworth recalls a walk he took along a narrow lane at noon, and reflects on how the intervening years between childhood and adulthood have changed his view of the scene as he remembers it.



With warmest thoughts

and best wishes from

Caroline, Paul,

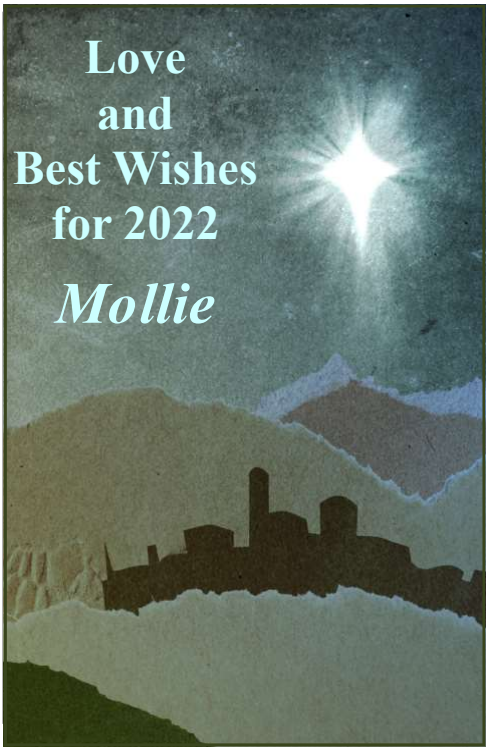
Alexander

and Nathaniel

Littlechild

Wishing you Peace & Joy at Christmas

from Kathleen Claridge



Greetings for Christmas
and the New Year

Wishing you all a Happy,
Healthy and Peaceful 2022.

Pat

John Parkin wishes all his past and present friends at Wallington URC a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

John is also know as "trolleybus654@aol.com".

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

to all our friends

from David, Julia & Orion

Merry Christmas

from

Jane Miller and Family

May the

Peace

and

Joy

of

Christmas

be with you

today

and

always

from

Maggie

Eloise

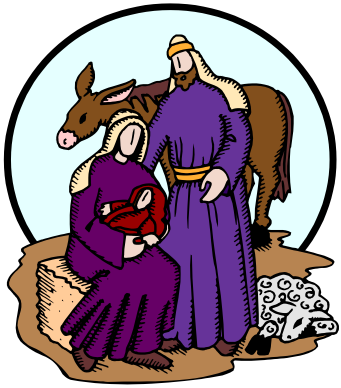
and

Francesca

Wishing you all

Peace and Joy at Christmas
and throughout the Coming Year.

May Bishop



Happy Christmas
from Di, David and Thuy

Wishing you all a
Happy, Healthy & Peaceful
2022

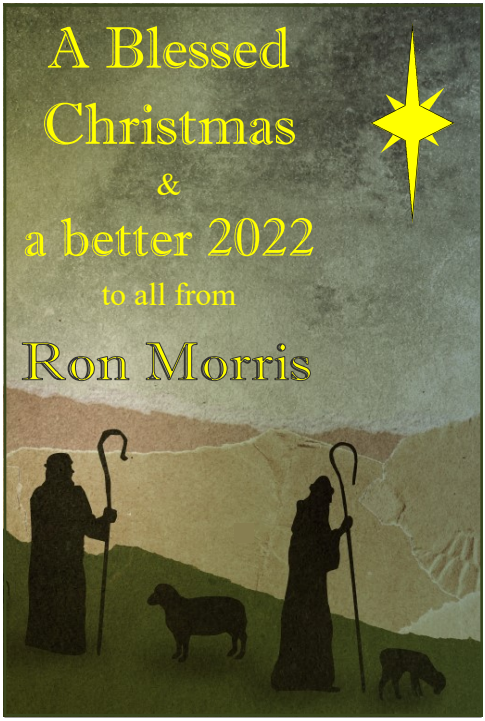
Wishing you all
Peace and Hopefulness
for Christmas and the New Year

with love from

Jeanette,
Simeon Hopkins
and family

Greetings to one and all
for the Christmas Season

Best Wishes
for
2021
from
Lynn



Wallington
United
Reformed
Church

send

Christmas Greetings

to our
friends,
the
South
London
Tamil
Church

Wishing

you

Peace
and
Joy

at

Christmas

Janet
&
Robin

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.

December:

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Dearest God,

as we hear Santa's sleigh approaching this Christmas Eve,

may the gifts under our Christmas tree be bigger and better than ever!

Yes God, far, FAR bigger portions of food for the hungry!

A much, MUCH better economic system –

one that works brilliantly for the poor and really not-so-well for the super-rich!

Much, MUCH more justice for the oppressed.

Far, FAR bigger taxes on the rich.

Huge wind farms and batteries that decimate fossil fuel companies, and not forests and lakes. Ah yes God, may this be the **biggest, bestest** Christmas ever!

Ho, Ho, Ho -

Amen

Diary Dates			
December			
Sunday	5th	10.30am	**Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman**
Sunday	12th	10.30am	**Morning service to be led by Phil Hyde**
Sunday	19th	4.00pm	**Carol Service**
Sunday	25th	10.00am	**Christmas Day Service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman**
Sunday	26th	10.30am	**Morning service to be led by Phil Hyde**
January 2022			
Sunday	2nd	10.30am	**Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley**
Sunday	9th	10.30am	**Morning service to be led by Rev Bruce Stuart**
Sunday	16th	10.30am	**Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman.** ***Followed by Church Meeting.***
Sunday	23rd	10.30am	**Morning service to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley or Phil Hyde**
Sunday	30th	10.30am	**Morning service to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley or Phil Hyde**

PLEASE NOTE… Articles for the February 2022 issue of Contact should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Monday 24th January** unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement. Contributions are very acceptable by e-mail: jmw321wmj @ yahoo.co.uk.

Sudoku Answers for November:

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

Puzzle Corner

New Year Word Search:

Auld Lang Syne, Baby, Ball, Balloons, Calendar, Celebration, Champagne, Clock, Confetti, Countdown, Dancing, December, Eve, Father Time, Firecracker, First, Flute, Games, Gown, Happy, Hat, Hourglass, Invitation, January, Kiss, Midnight, Music, Noise Maker, Party, Resolution, Sparkler, Streamer, Times Square, Toast, Tradition, Tuxedo, Vow, Year

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

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

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.

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

EVERY WEEK AT WALLINGTON U.R.C.

Times of Worship

Sunday	10.30am	Family Service

Activities you can find on our Premises

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

Monday	10.00-11.00am	Yoga
	2.00-4.00pm	Bananas Art
	4.15-7.30pm	Reigate Academy of Dance
	7.45-10.00pm	Explorer Scouts
Tuesday	9.15am-1.20pm	Hartbeeps (mother and baby activities)
	1.40-3.40pm	U3A Art group
	5.00-6.00pm	Rainbows
	6.00-7.30pm	Brownies (10th Wallington)
	8.00-10.00pm	Epsom Downs Badminton, Winter (Sept-May)
Wednesday	10.30-11.30am	Baby Massage
	7.30-10.00pm	Chess Club
Thursday	11.00-12.00noon	Senior Movers Exercise
	2.00-4.00pm	Ladies' Badminton, Winter (Sept-May)
	2.00-4.00pm	Fallen Angels Drama
	4.20-7.20pm	Reigate Academy of Dance
	7.25-10.00pm	Carshalton & Wallington Art Group
Friday	9.30am-12.30pm	NAS Coffee morning
	10.30-11.30am	Baby Massage
	6.45-8.30pm	Guides (8th Wallington)
Saturday	8.15-9.45am	Fitness
	9.00-10.00	Yoga
	10.00-12.30pm	Zumba

SOUTH LONDON TAMIL CHURCH

South London Tamil Church (SLTC)

SLTC will be holding their
Carol Service on
Saturday 18th December
at 6.30pm
and their Christmas Day service
will be at 8am on 25th December

Everyone is welcome to join them.