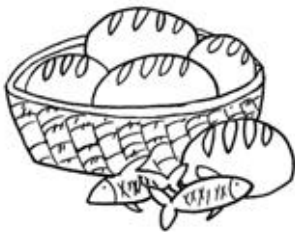
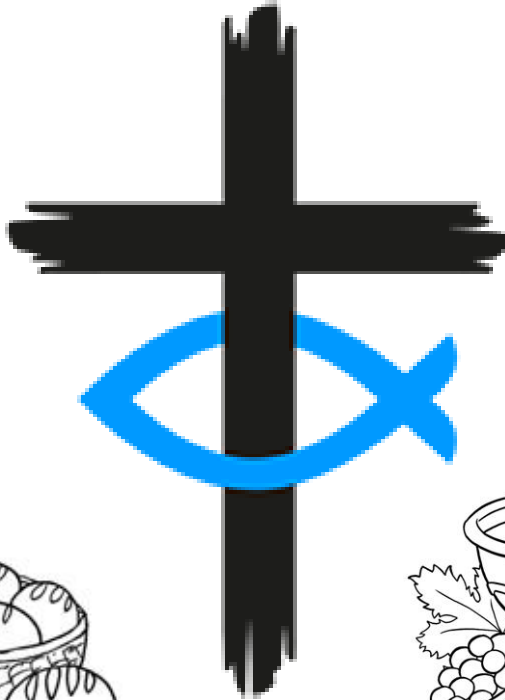


Wallington United Reformed Church



CONTACT

No. 347

March 2022

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

Whilst we continue to live with the effects of the Covid pandemic I was reminded of a conversation I once had with a fellow minister who said there were two things in the life of the Church which were contagious (and he wasn't talking about Covid or other infections).

He said faith is contagious.

If we are open to it we can be fired by the faith and belief of others, especially those around us in our local community of faith. Many of us have found this to be true. Inspired by examples of faith seen in those close to us we have found ourselves more able to act in faith when called upon. Guided by the attitudes and actions of those we know who have developed a strong prayer life over many years helps us to deepen our own spiritual life.

In some ways this is common sense but, as Voltaire said, 'Common sense is not that common!' So maybe we need to be reminded from time to time that when we live out our faith and our trust in God it can inspire others, and they in turn will inspire yet others. It leads to growth, not so much in numbers but in the depth of our shared Christian life.

So what was the other thing he said was contagious? He said, lack of confidence, which is often reflected in despair and negativism.

This, too, is somewhat obvious but my colleague never claimed to be sharing new insights, he was just reflecting on his experiences of churches. However most of us have probably come across people who talk about an activity they are involved with (whether it is a church, a society, a town, a restaurant, or whatever) and who don't seem to have a good word to say about it. All they tell us about are its faults, which makes us certain that we will never go there, and

leaves us wondering, 'Why do you go?' Yet they do go, and they keep going back, which says that things can't be as bad as they say, or that there is something there that is so good it well outweighs any perceived problems. The problem is that most of us don't get to thinking about why they keep going, we are just put off by their complaints about the way they do things there, the people who go there, the inconvenient opening times, unsatisfactory music, poor facilities, or whatever it is that is this week's grumble.

This can be true of the church. When we grumble about the church to those that don't come all they will hear are our complaints; they will not ask why it is that we continue to go, week after week, month after month. And within the church our grumbles are just as potent, particularly when they are about something we are not involved with or something new the church is trying. To dismiss ventures as something that will never work, not only undermines the confidence of those who are trying to do things but dismisses the Holy Spirit as being ineffectual. Some of the things we do as a church may not be quite to the liking of some of us but that does not mean we should easily dismiss them.

Instead let us all take the time to pray for the activities and events of the church, not so much that they will suit us, but in order that they can be occasions through which the Holy Spirit can and will work.

In the coming months please remember, faith and confidence are contagious, and so are despair and lack of confidence (just ask any football team who are struggling near the bottom of their league). But prayer and encouragement can build confidence, and with faith all things are possible.

Let us journey on into this year with confidence, trusting in the presence of Christ in all we do.

Craig Bowman

Our Wider Community

You will have all heard the news of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the concerns for Europe. Southern Synod asks for a Call to Prayer by all Synod members.

God of all,
with alarm and concern we bring before you
the military intervention in Ukraine.

In a world you made for peace and flourishing,
we lament the use of armed force.

We mourn every casualty of this conflict,
every precious life extinguished by war.

We pray comfort for those who grieve
and those who are fearful.

Hear our longing that leaders and nations
will honour the worth of all people
by having the courage
to resolve conflict through dialogue.

May all our human failings be transformed
by your wonderful grace and goodness.

We ask this in the name of Christ,
the author of peace and sustainer of Creation.

Amen.

We ask your continuing prayers for all those who have been infected by the covid-19 virus in recent weeks. Many people that we know are still suffering the effects of the virus. We pray for their speedy recovery and recuperation.

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.



World Day of Prayer



2022 is a special year for the World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWNI). These 'home nations' have prepared the World Day of Prayer service, which takes place on **Friday 4 March**.

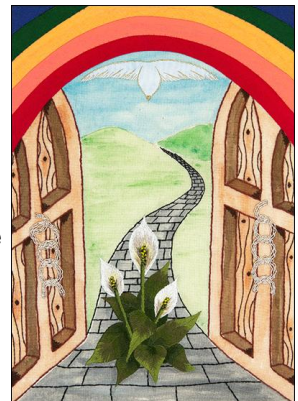
'I Know the Plans I Have For You' Jeremiah 29:1-14

The program is based on the letter that the prophet Jeremiah wrote to the exiles in Babylonia. The exiles were in a context of suffering, uncertainty, and opposing views on how to respond to the moment. In the midst of all the uncertainties we are living under due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the WDP 2022 theme is a balm of confidence. It is an invitation to place our trust in God in times of suffering.

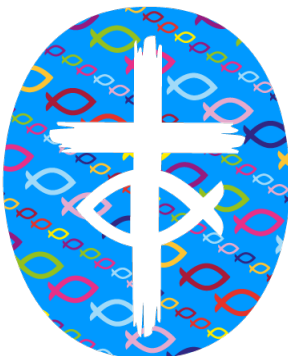
World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical organisation which enables women all over the world to share the ideas and concerns of the writing country. The EWNI WDP National Committee includes 18 different Christian denominations.

In the 19th century, Christian women of the U.S. and Canada began engaging in cooperative activities to support women's involvement in missions across the world. In 1887, Presbyterian women called for a day of prayer for home missions which the Methodist women joined from 1892 to 1894 after calling for a week of prayer. The Baptist started a day of prayer for foreign missions in 1891.

Forming a committee in 1897, women from six denominations would eventually start a united day of prayer for home missions. These women took turns in the other participating denominations and organized the common worship service. In 1912, the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions decided that there should be a united day of prayer for foreign missions that would be observed in different parts of the world.



Faith - Hope - Love - since 1972



The
**United
Reformed
Church**



Later in the year will be the fiftieth anniversary of URC, fifty years since the United Reformed Church came into being...

Should we celebrate?

How should we celebrate?



What would YOU like to do?

50th Anniversary tickets available

FREE tickets to the Anniversary Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving are now available. On the afternoon of 1st October 2022, at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, London, where the Uniting Assembly of the URC took place in October 1972, a chance to give thanks and to celebrate the five decades of the United Reformed Church. It would be really great for as many people as possible to attend from across the denomination.

Book your tickets- Eventbrite booking system at: bit.ly/urc50.

As we go through 2022 the range of greetings cards will be displayed on the last Sunday of the month, whenever possible.

There are Anniversary Cards, Children's Cards (with 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.

**Cards from 70p, paper 40p per sheet,
3 sheets for £1**

If you need a card on any Sunday, please do ask.
**Look out for greeting cards and wrapping paper
(and Marmalade) on 27th March 2022.**

So far we have raised **£132.90**
for **Nickel Support.**

A chance for people with learning disabilities to shine.

A very **BIG** thank you to everyone
for their support.

The next sale will be on
Friday 11th March
the second Friday of the month (term time).
1.00pm-3.30pm

Do come along for Books, DVDs, Greetings Cards,
Wrapping Paper, Marmalade & Home-Made Cakes



Holy Habits for Lent *Following Jesus*

Holy Habits Lenten course will take you on a journey looking at Holy Habits in the life of Jesus.

Holy Habits is an adventure in whole-life Christian discipleship. It encourages the development and renewal of ten key practices, or holy habits, that were modelled by Jesus and were formative for the earliest Christian communities.

For five weeks during Lent, we will be running another series of Holy Habits sessions. Entitled "Following Jesus" (not a bad idea, during Lent, surely!) each evening session will last an hour, and will involve a mix of discussion, fun and fellowship. No advance preparation is needed, and each session will stand alone, so it's fine if you can't make them all.

It takes place, via Zoom, on Thursday 10th March, Wednesday 16th March, Thursday 24th March, Wednesday 30th March, and Wednesday 7th April.

Sessions start at 8.00pm and finish by approx 9.00-9.15pm. 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.

Tea Towels??

PLEASE does anyone have one or two spare tea towels that could be used at Church?

We have a number of tea towels that have been well used, and washed until they are now getting very thin. We like to offer good facilities to the groups using the premises and for the ones who like to have tea and coffee and just a few updated tea towels would be very helpful.



**Thank
you**

2022 Prayer Handbook

Edited by Karen Campbell and Ian Fosten

It is fifty years since the United Reformed Church came into being.

(This is something that is likely to be a re-occurring
theme throughout the year.)

Recognising this significant milestone,
'Jubilee' is the theme for the 2022 Prayer Handbook.

This Jubilee is not so much a time for looking back, but can give us
an opportunity to look honestly, carefully and prayerfully at where we are
encountering God in everyday events today.

Like a tree

In the 2022 Prayer Handbook, by Carla Grosch-Miller

Plant me in rich soil.
Let my roots dig deep,
Anchoring, feeding, connecting

Slake my thirst with living water;
Feed my fibres with a living word.

Nourish me through the communion of saints;
Connect me to the community of faith.

When the storms threaten,
I will not fear.

When the winds come,
I will not bend and break.

When hail pounds,
I will not bruise.

In due season, I will bear fruit.
The hungry will be fed.
The sorrowful will be comforted.
The poor will be cherished.

And no insult or injury will erase
The blessing God has wrought.

Our citizenship is in heaven

In the 2022 Prayer Handbook, by Fay Rowland

Teach us, Good Father, to hold lightly to this world,
To value our treasure in heaven
More than our treasure on earth.

Guide us, Lord Jesus, to set our minds above
As you transform us day by day
To be like you.

Help us, Gentle Spirit, to speak your promise
To a world that does not know you,
And to live on earth
As citizens of heaven.

Amen

***Walk and Talk into
2022!***

**As often as the weather
will allow!**



**First Saturday of each month. If you'd like to join us or
know more please talk to Elaine or Chris.**

**PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the April 2022 issue of
Contact should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by
Sunday 22nd March unless a later date has been agreed
by prior arrangement. Contributions are very acceptable
by e-mail: jmw321wmj @ yahoo.co.uk.**

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 Fairtrade

Dr Mark Dawson (Fairtrade Yorkshire)

All loving God of justice and mercy, move your Holy Spirit within us:

To consider those who work to produce the goods that we enjoy, but who are not justly rewarded for their labour.

To have care for the producers who struggle to find the resources to feed their families, to send their children to school, or to live safely and comfortably. *To be concerned* about the injustice which allows some people to amass great wealth, whilst others lack the basic needs of life.

To devote time to think about the way in which we shop.

To support those traders and businesses who treat people fairly.

To witness to Your loving care for creation in the daily decisions that we make.

And to love you by doing everything we can to treat all people with respect.

We pray in the name of your Son, that we too will stand with the invisible, the forgotten and the marginalised and share in the heavenly kingdom that is theirs. Amen.

Diary Dates			
March			
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	13th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Paul Hollingum
Sunday	20th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	27th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley
April			
Sunday	3rd	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	10th	10.30am	Morning service
Thursday	14th	8.00pm	Maundy Thursday Service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Friday	15th	10.00am	Good Friday Happening
Sunday	17th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	24th	10.30am	Morning service

Sudoku Answers for February:

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

Puzzle Corner

River Deep, Mountain High:

Altar, Ararat, Ark,
Balaam, Carmel,
Cliff, Coast, Dead
Sea, Desert,
Destruction,
Egypt, Elim,
Euphrates,
Flood, Gerizim,
Gihon, Gilboa,
Hill, Jerusalem,
Jordan, King
Herod, Kishon,
Masada, Moses,
Mount Ebal,
Mount Hermon,
Mount Sinai,
Naaman, Nile,
Peak, Philippi,
Pishon, Plains,
Rain, Red Sea, Rivers, Sea of Arabah, Seir, Spring, Storm, Temple,
Tigris, Zerubbabel

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

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.

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

Bible Quiz: Love your neighbour

1) Which did Jesus say was the SECOND most important of all God's commandments?

- ☐ Love God with all your heart and soul.
- ☐ Love your neighbour as yourself.
- ☐ Do not murder.
- ☐ Honor your father and mother.

2) Who were the "neighbors" Jesus was talking about when He commanded us to "Love your neighbor as yourself?"

- ☐ The people who live next door
- ☐ All Christians in the world
- ☐ All family members and countrymen
- ☐ Everyone in the world

3) What is the "Golden Rule?"

- ☐ "Whoever has the gold makes the rules."
- ☐ "Do to others what you would have them do to you."
- ☐ "If anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath."
- ☐ "Wisdom is more valuable than fine gold."

4) What did Jesus teach about judging or criticizing other people?

- ☐ "As you judge, so will you be judged."
- ☐ "Leave judgment to the courts."
- ☐ "Leave judgment to the clergy."
- ☐ "Don't criticize what you can't understand."

5) What did Jesus *NOT* teach about anger?

- ☐ "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."
- ☐ "...Anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment."
- ☐ "...Anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell."
- ☐ "Settle quickly with your opponent on the way to court."

6) What did Jesus teach about enemies?

- ☐ "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth."
- ☐ "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy."
- ☐ "God goes with you to fight your enemies and give you victory."
- ☐ "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

7) What aspect of doing charitable deeds is most important to God?

- ☐ The amount or money of assistance given
- ☐ The number of people helped
- ☐ The need of the people being helped
- ☐ The spirit in which they are done

8) In the "Parable of the Sheep and Goats" in Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus foretells the final judgment of all persons. He speaks of two groups of people: The "sheep" who helped others who were in need and the "goats" who ignored the needy. What is the moral of this parable?

- ☐ Sheep are "clean" animals, but goats are "unclean."
- ☐ We should do what we can to help the clergy.
- ☐ Hypocrites like the Pharisees will not inherit eternal life.
- ☐ Those who refuse to do what they can for the needy will not gain eternal life.

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)
	5.00-6.00pm	Rainbows
	6.00-7.30pm	Brownies (10th Wallington)
	8.00-10.00pm	Epsom Downs Badminton, Winter(Sept-May)
Wednesday	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
	7.25-10.00pm	Carshalton & Wallington Art Group
Friday	9.30am-12.30pm	NAS Coffee morning
	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 (SLTC)

SLTC are now regularly using our premises for their Sunday services.

Their service starts at 3pm, and everyone is very welcome to join them.