

# Wallington United Reformed Church



## **CONTACT**

No. 350  
June 2022

# Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends,

I went to a West End theatre recently to see Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. It was a wonderful experience with some amazing special effects and it absorbed me for an afternoon and an evening. (It's in 2 parts so the 1<sup>st</sup> part was a matinee and the 2<sup>nd</sup> part then followed in the evening.) I won't spoil it for anyone who hasn't seen it and might go to see it one day, however the title of the play got me thinking since there is actually more than one person who could be the 'cursed child' of the title. The title we give something is important because it can influence how we approach it, whether it is a play, a person, a place, a story or a parable.

A parable? Yes, the titles that have been given to the parables of Jesus over time, which appear as headings in most Bibles, can influence how we approach them and what we remember about them. In many cases the historic titles help us to engage with the parable and remember a strong point; 'The Good Samaritan' is one example – what else could it be called? (Maybe 'The foolish traveller who took a dangerous road alone?') Others may not be so clear.

The parable of 'The Prodigal Son' is one that intrigues me. The title can lead us to focus on the younger son who is wasteful and extravagant with his inheritance and ends up in dark place. He recognises where he is and, through turning around and admitting his errors, is brought back to a good place. It becomes about the son and can all too easily be used as a moral lesson handed out to those younger than ourselves as a warning for life.

If we consider where in the Gospels the parable is found then other titles might suggest themselves. The parable is the

third of three illustrations given by Jesus that we find in Luke chapter 15. The two that precede it are first about a lost sheep and second about a lost coin. So another title for the parable, which I have heard and may have used myself, could be 'The Lost Son'. There is however another element that links these three stories – rejoicing. The shepherd calls his friends and neighbours to rejoice that he has found his sheep and the woman also calls her friends and neighbours to rejoice when she has found her coin. At the end of the parable when confronted by the older son the father says 'But we had to celebrate and rejoice...' So these three stories could be 'the rejoicing shepherd', 'the rejoicing woman' and 'the rejoicing father'. I like this final title because it focusses our thoughts on the father, who is representative of God, and how he responds to us when we have lost our way. Perhaps there are other parables which come to mind that might, from time to time, benefit from a different title to help us focus on God's activity.

I indicated earlier that it is also important what title or names we give to people. In one sense this can be a matter of etiquette when in a formal setting but I think it is something for everyday life. What we call people, either to their faces, behind their backs or in general conversation with another matters. It reveals what we think of them and about them and the value we give them. When the labels we use are less than flattering or reflect our dissatisfaction with another we are probably not managing to see them as a child of God, just like us, made in his image.

*Craig Bowman*

## **Our Wider Community**

As we approach Pentecost 2022 we take a look back on all that has happened over 2 years.

We weathered the pandemic, and give thanks for the vaccines, and all the care we have received. We think of the families that have suffered as the pandemic raged, and those who still suffer after-effects.

We also think of those struggling in wars. We offer support, as we are able, to the Ukrainian people, as their country is ravaged. Focus has been on Ukraine, although there are also wars we hear little of in other parts of the world.

We pray for peace in all countries where conflict is rife, and people live in constant fear.

***May God grant you his peace.***

### **Forever Jubilee**

In the 2022 Prayer Handbook, by Vanetta Griffiths

Jubilee is happiness,

Jubilee is joy,

Jubilee is knowing

We are free to live.....

Jubilee is sharing,

Jubilee is care,

Jubilee is calling

We are free to live.....

Jubilee is holding,

Jubilee is smiles,

Jubilee is recognising

We are free to live.....

Jubilee is giving,

Jubilee is kind,

Jubilee is thankful

We are free to live.....

Jubilee is prayer,

Jubilee is peace,

Jubilee is stillness

We are free to live.....

**Amen**

**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.*

## The Union of the Churches

1972 to 1987

The formation of the United Reformed Church on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1972, from the union of the Congregational Church in England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church of England, left Wallington with two United Reformed Churches within several hundred yards of each other. Joint services had been held as far back as the winter of 1917, and attempts had already been made in 1969 to explore unity but the negotiations had come to nothing. The birth of the URC was a cause for joint celebration. The two churches joined in a service of Holy Communion on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 1972. On 12<sup>th</sup> October the four URC churches in the London Borough of Sutton, along with Banstead, enjoyed an evening of light entertainment, and on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> there was a pulpit exchange between Holmwood Gardens and St Andrew's Cheam.



Meanwhile, discussions on merging the two Wallington churches began. In March 1973, Christ Church presented proposals aimed at bringing the churches together within 5 years. In the interim, combined evening services and a joint newsletter were

agreed on. In January 1975, a joint pastorate was created. By March 1976, negotiations had again come to nothing, and church meeting agreed that efforts be suspended for the time being. The joint newsletter survived, and it was expected that the churches would join together for some special services.

In April 1981, John Waller, Interim Moderator of Christ Church, wrote in the newsletter of his hope that the two churches would pray more together and study the bible together. As a result, the Holmwood Gardens church meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May agreed to invite John to discuss the future relationship of the churches. In September, the Elders met with John and with the Rev Gwynfi Davies who had meanwhile accepted a call to Christ Church. It was concluded that with Rev Davies' impending arrival, the time was not right.

In September 1985, letters from the minister and church secretary of Christ Church invited the Holmwood Gardens Elders to a joint Elders meeting to discuss their future together. The joint meeting agreed that it wished to work towards the establishment of a single congregation in one building. This was accepted unanimously by the Holmwood Gardens church meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1986.

A working sub-committee was set up and professional advisers were engaged to assess the premises and help ascertain the way forward. By January 1987, the shape of the union had been decided and a shadow Elders committee set up. The Holmwood Gardens premises had been chosen as, although the church was smaller, the premises would be easier to maintain and there would be more scope for expansion. Although the new church was scoped for one full-time minister, John Ward would serve full time and Lesley Charlton part time until such time as one was called to another church. Small groups were set up to look at all aspects of worship and church life. From 1<sup>st</sup> March the two churches would worship together at Holmwood Gardens for all evening services and the morning communion services.

Finally, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1987, Christ Church and Holmwood Gardens came together. The inaugural service, presided over by the Rev Cyril Franks, Moderator of the General Assembly, began with a short act of worship at Christ Church, followed by a procession along Stanley Park Road to Holmwood Gardens, accompanied by a

candle and the new church banner. The service ended with an act of worship and dedication at Holmwood Gardens, now Wallington United Reformed Church.



For June we are planning to have a  
**RED WHITE & BLUE** sale on

Friday 17th June

**2.00pm-3.30pm**

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

But also...on Saturday 18th June

**You are** invited to come to join  
**with friends** and **family** on

**Saturday 18th June**

**For tea/coffee and Cake**

**1.00pm-3.00pm**

**Come to see your Church friends,  
bring other friends, and family, to  
have tea/coffee and cake, have a  
chat, catch-up after the strangest  
of times since 2020.**



**Come along to enjoy our**  
**RED WHITE & BLUE**  
**sale and tea...**  
**raising money towards our**

**New Boilers, to be fitted**  
**in July and August**

**Saturday 18th June**  
**10am-3.00pm**

**Home-Made Cakes, Jam & Marmalade,**  
**Books, DVDs, Greetings Cards,**  
**Wrapping Paper, toiletries**

**Tea & Coffee from 11.00am**

**tea/coffee and Cake 1.00pm-3.00pm**

**Everyone is welcome.**

**We are hoping for very good weather**  
**so that we can sit to chat around**  
**tables outside.**





# **The Red, White and Blue is a way to remember the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.**

In 1952 The young Princess Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth II.

A year later there was a special service, a coronation.

At that service there were several symbols given to the new queen. Each symbol is to help her remember something important.

One of the symbols given to the new Queen is a sword. But it's not like most swords. This sword, given to the new queen, actually has a broken tip. It was not sharp and pointed, but broken on purpose, to remind her of something.

This sword with its broken tip symbolises mercy. In fact, it has a special name: Curtana, The Sword of Mercy. The broken tip reminds the Queen that she must not be cruel, but be merciful. She must find ways to bring peace not hardship in her judgements.

She was also given the sceptre with an orb and a cross on top, this symbolises the rule of Jesus Christ over the earth. The monarch holding this sceptre, signifies that she is a servant of an even greater monarch, Christ.



And a Bible, to symbolise wisdom, to show that the monarch is guided by the Word of God.

She also held the Rod of Equity and Mercy – symbolising mercy and equity. The sceptre is topped with a dove, a symbol of peace and the Holy Spirit.

70 years ago Princess Elizabeth became Queen, no one has ever reigned for 70 years before, and it is unlikely to happen again. A truly unique occasion.

...and whatever happens next YOU are now part of history. This year will be recorded in all future history books...and YOU are part of that history.

# Jumble Sale

The Guides will be holding  
a Jumble sale  
on Saturday 11th June.

10.00am-12.00noon

Come along to have tea and cake, find that  
item you have always wanted, or just browse.

Please take any Jumble to Holmwood hall on  
Friday 10th June, between 7.00p m and 8.00pm

**NO large furniture ...thank you**

If you really need jumble to be collected please  
ring Julia Clarke 02031329350 or Jo Moore  
02084016387.

Our Sale on Friday 13th May raised  
**£86.77** for Christian Aid, more sales and  
donations have taken the total to

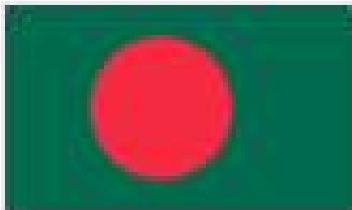
**£173**...so far...



Many thanks to all those who were  
able to support this worthy cause.

# 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 Bangladesh

Lindsay Cross (Jesmond URC)

Living, loving God, We pray for the people of Bangladesh who continue to face appalling hardship in the face of poverty, disease and extreme climate events. Grant us the courage to listen to their pain and look at their suffering instead of looking away. We pray that the rich countries of the world will respond with compassion and generosity to the requests for medical equipment and vaccines, and act now to address the causes of climate change which have such devastating consequences for the poor and dispossessed.



We thank you for the work being carried out in transformational and empowering local projects and pray for love, courage, and daily renewal for all those serving throughout the country.

Help us to keep hope alive in your world today. Amen.

Diary Dates			
June			
Sunday	5th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...
Sunday	12th	10.30am	Morning service
Saturday	18th	10.00am to 3.00pm	Red, White and Blue Sale with 1.00-3.00pm Celebration Tea and cake
Sunday	19th	10.30am	Morning service
Sunday	26th	10.30am	Morning service
July			
Sunday	3rd	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	17th		Morning Service followed by Church Meeting and AGM

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

Sudoku Answers for May:

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

# Puzzle Corner

## God will Provide:

Abraham,  
Bethlehem, Blessed,  
Blue, Brass, Chariot,  
Corn, Crimson,  
Divinity, Egyptians,  
Esther, Fear, Flour,  
God, Gold,  
Government, Hope,  
Iron, Israel,  
Jerusalem, Joseph,  
Judgment, Justice,  
Love, Majesty,  
Multitude, Offering,  
Perfection, Persia,  
Promise, Provision,  
Restore, Rulers,  
Saul, Silver,  
Solomon, Statute,  
Sustenance,  
Testimonies.

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

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.

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

# 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**

<b>Monday</b>	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
<b>Tuesday</b>	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)
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.30-11.30am	Baby Massage
	7.30-10.00pm	Chess Club
<b>Thursday</b>	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
<b>Friday</b>	9.30am-12.30pm	NAS Coffee morning
	10.30-11.30am	Baby Massage
	6.45-8.30pm	Guides(8th Wallington)
<b>Saturday</b>	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.**