



Wallington United Reformed Church



CONTACT

No. 351

July-August 2022

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends

I came across a list called "Great truths about life that little children have learned." Here are some of them:

No matter how hard you try you cannot baptise a cat.
When your mum is angry, don't let her brush your hair.
Never ask your 3-year-old brother to hold a tomato... or an egg.
You can't trust dogs to watch your food for you.
You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.

I suspect the children learned these truths and gained their insight after some dramatic eye-opening experience in their lives. Nobody told them these truths, they experienced them in one way or another. Can't you just imagine a child trying to baptise a cat... and learning that this is just not a good thing to do.

A dramatic personal eye-opening experience can give us new insight, new perception, new vision. An experience is worth a thousand words.

As Eliza Doolittle says to her two suitors in *My Fair Lady*:

Don't talk of love lasting through time.
Make me no undying vow. Show me now!
Sing me no song! Read me no rhyme!
Don't waste my time, Show me!
Don't talk of June, Don't talk of fall!
Don't talk at all! Show me!
Never do I ever want to hear another word.

There isn't one I haven't heard.
Please don't "expl'ine," Show me! Show me!
Don't wait until wrinkles and lines
Pop out all over my brow,
Show me now!

One of the distinctions between the Old Testament and the New Testament is to do with words. In the former the law – a series of words – was given to the children of Israel to guide and sustain them in a relationship of trust with God and with each other. Down the centuries the words became an end in themselves. In the latter the Word becomes flesh and lives among us showing, by his actions, the way of God and inviting his children to do likewise.

When we are called to share the gospel – the good news of Jesus Christ – it can seem rather daunting because we are afraid that we won't have the right words at the right times, however the honest truth is that our actions will always speak louder than our words. Our calling is to love one another and love our neighbour as ourselves. This we have tried to do for these last two and a bit year - as have so many others – let's keep on doing that.

St. Francis of Assisi is reported to have told his disciples, "your calling is to go and proclaim the gospel ... if necessary, use words."

Craig Bowman

Our Wider Community

As we reach the end of another academic year we think of all those waiting for exam results which will help them to take their next step along their chosen road.

We continue to think of those struggling in wars, and 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.

The seasons of the year -Summer

Under the warmth
of the summer sun
the world awakes and blossoms
into every imaginable colour.
You created a garden for us to enjoy,
and within it planted
the most magical of flower and trees.
You needed no horticultural training
to plan your colour scheme,
no gardening expert
to recommend variety or design.
Your garden is perfect,
its colours harmonious,
its scale immense,
spoilt only by the clumsiness
of those who tend it.

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

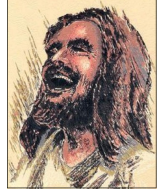
Or Email: pastoral@wurc.org.uk

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.

Create a quiet space:

Create a peaceful space to pause, and allow yourself to feel God's presence alongside you, as near to you as your own breath. In following the reflection below, as a church we will draw closer to God and to one another as we grow in faith and deepen our sense of belonging to God.

Genesis 18:9-15 'Sarah Laughs at the Words of the Three Guests'



⁹ They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.'¹⁰ Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?'¹³ The Lord said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, and say, "Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?"'¹⁴ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.'¹⁵ But Sarah denied, saying, 'I did not laugh'; for she was afraid. He said, 'Oh yes, you did laugh.'

You don't often come across instances of people laughing in the Bible. There are just three in Job, four in the Psalms, one in Proverbs, one in Ecclesiastes (which is a pretty depressing book, anyway – '*Sorrow is better than laughter...*' (7:3)). There are more examples of 'laughing to scorn' than there are instances of genuine mirth. In fact, I could only find two references in the entire New Testament, and they were in Luke. If we didn't know better, we might deduce from this that as Christians we're not supposed to laugh – which would be nonsense.

However, the story of Abraham and Sarah in Genesis should make us all smile – especially when we recall that in the previous chapter, it was Abraham who '*fell on his face and laughed*' with incredulity (Genesis 17:17), so the writer isn't having a dig at women in chapter 18! Essentially, the passage from Genesis above is asking us to re-evaluate our trust in a God who can not only surprise us but who keeps his promises, however unpromising a situation may seem. And remember, Sarah did indeed have a child – it was Isaac, of course. And the name 'Isaac'? It means 'God has laughed'!

There is a picture (above, by Willis Wheatley, the art director of the United Church of Canada) entitled 'The Laughing Christ'. I'm sure that Jesus laughed as much as any of us do, and I wonder what John Wesley would have made of the picture, as some of you will probably be remembering that he told the early Methodists in 1744 to 'avoid all lightness as you would avoid hell-fire, and laughing as you would [avoid] cursing and swearing' – though I feel that this was one of the few examples of less worthy advice from the great man!

We must never be afraid of laughter, even the nervous sort. And if we trust God – even if it's with difficulty, as I suspect it will be for many of us in the current climate – then we shall find him smiling on us, and in his smile, a lasting blessing.

Reflection © 2020 Barrie Tabraham.
<https://emmanueleastbourne.org.uk>

Check out the website for more devotions, and meet this Methodist-URC Local Ecumenical Partnership Church located in Old Town in Eastbourne

Faith - Hope - Love - since 1972



This year celebrates the fifty years anniversary since the United Reformed Church came into being...

Send us a postcard

Please help us bring as many URC experiences as possible to our 50th Anniversary Service at Methodist Central Hall, London, on Saturday 1 October, 2022.

We know not all of us will not be able to come to the service in person. But that need not prevent all of our experiences being represented and honoured; a great cloud of URC witnesses!

We invite everyone across the URC to send in a postcard which we'll use in photos on the screen as the service unfolds. The postcards themselves will also be displayed in the worship space itself.

We invite you to get a blank postcard (cards available in church for you to take home) and, on one side, write whatever you feel comfortable to share of your name, age and location (including which URC you are connected to). On the other side of your postcard, as imaginatively and brightly as possible, share your thanksgiving to God for an aspect of the URC that you want to celebrate. You could draw pictures, write something, quote a suitable Bible passage, etc.

Please send completed cards to:

Sam Richards
United Reformed Church
Church House
86 Tavistock Place
London
WC1H 9RT

We'll need to receive the postcards by **Monday 1 August 2022** in order to include them in the 50th Anniversary Service display.



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.

A Commonwealth of Love

From the 2022 Prayer Handbook, by Lewis Reay

Ever present God, we come to praise you,
we thank you for your steadfast love.
We seek to be the bringers of your justice,
your love and forgiveness.

Help us to be open to all people
and welcome them, no matter who they are.
Give us courage to step out of our comfort zones
and welcome those who may be different from ourselves.

Strengthen our faith,
that we may rely on you each day
for all we need to live.
May we seek equity, so that no one is in need.

Help us to share our resources
and use them to bring about your commonwealth of love.
Let us practise fairness in all we do,
remembering to love as you have loved.

Me and You

From the 2022 Prayer Handbook, by Sheila Marsden

Gracious God,
Help me to grow ever closer to you
When I feel you prompting,
help me to open my mind
and listen for the opportunity to respond.

Sometimes I feel fearful and overwhelmed;
I doubt how I can make a difference-
but you are gentle, and lead me step by step
to do what I can.

I have met many people in life
who follow the Jesus way of selfless love and care-
I give thanks for them.
Help me to follow their example
that I may be a blessing to others,
willing to welcome, share and befriend.

God of grace
make me truly human-as you created me to be;
free to be my best self,
held safe in your love
and the knowledge that you will never, ever leave me.



What did we do in June?

The Guides Jumble sale was held on
Saturday 11th June
and raised a
grand total of **£234.**



Many thanks to
everyone who
was able to help
in any way.

The Outside sale on Friday 17th June raised

£86



A really
lovely

day...but VERY hot.



Our RED WHITE & BLUE sales in June
were to help raise money towards our new boilers
due to be fitted in July and August.



A little while after the wonderful Jubilee Weekend came our Tea and Cake Church 'Party'.

About 20 people came along to have a lovely time...with many more passers-by stopping to buy, try the Tombola, and chat...we were outside in the sunshine (with only a few short, drizzly showers, nothing we couldn't cope with!).

A wonderful atmosphere of fun, friendship and fellowship filled the afternoon.

After the Friday Sale,
the Saturday 'Party'
and then selling left
over cakes on the Sunday we raised a magnificent



£327 in total.



This may be a drop in the ocean,
and might only buy a pilot light
for the boilers, but after having
a really great weekend...a
wonderful total!!





More of our RED
WHITE & BLUE



Now all the money collecting pots have
come together the Grand Total
for Christian Aid has
reached



£788.88

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

CARSHALTON LAVENDER

PICK YOUR OWN HARVEST WEEKEND 2022

Celebrating our 23rd Annual Harvest!
30th & 31st July 10am-5pm

Advance Booking Recommended

Lavender Oil, Floral Water, Plant Sale, Face
Painting, Aromatherapy, Craft & Food stalls



A not-for-profit community heritage project.

Oaks Way, Carshalton Beeches, SM5 4NQ
Harvest entry via Fir Tree Grove, SM5 4NG

www.carshaltonlavender.org
07948 174907

Buy Tickets here
£5 Lavender Picking ticket
£1 Adult Entry
Up to 2 children FREE

Commitment for Life

These prayers can be used to help people focus on generosity of mind and spirit.

Prayer for Central America: Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras

Aftab Alexander Mughal (Westbury Gardens URC,
Blackburn)



Gracious God, we pray for a prosperous life
for all people in Central American countries.

Creator of life, your people suffer due to poverty, inequality,
environmental destruction, drug trafficking, corruption,
natural disasters, and gang power. Due to the challenging
situation, the people of that region face a migration crisis as
well. Many look for help even for their basic needs: food,
water, and shelter. The Covid pandemic has multiplied their
pain and anguish.

Creator of the world, your children look to you. You are their
hope and strength, and they believe in you as you walk with
them in all their sufferings. And they know you love them.
Give them strength to seek an end to their miseries.

We are thankful for all those individuals, organisations and
churches that have been helping your people towards a
sustained life. Please, God, bless them abundantly.

We pray that the people should live in peace with their
families and communities without the threats which they

face now. We pray in the
name of Jesus Chris, our
saviour. Amen.



Fundraising

Because the pandemic meant our 'normality' was turned upside-down our fundraising has run along differing routes and pathways and has developed in more



Off The Record

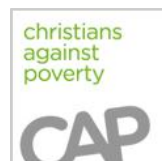


unfamiliar ways. Some sales, some donations, but always showing care and concern, with (almost always) a great deal of cheerfulness. In

general, we have been able to offer aid to local charities more than the bigger national ones. Sometimes it feels as if we are struggling to show support to those who most need it, and we may start to think

'Just what have we achieved?'

Well...



Since October 2020, when we started to hold a few 'Outside' Sales we have been able to assist at least 10 different charities with a total of



£4272

accumulated over these 20 months.

*We will now take a well-earned break...
watch this space in the Autumn!!*

**A very big thank you
to everyone who has been able
to help in any way.**

Churches Together

Churches Together in England is the national ecumenical instrument supporting and encouraging churches from a wide range of traditions to work together in unity.



With churches drawn from the Anglican, Catholic, Pentecostal, Charismatic, Orthodox and Lutheran traditions, as well as Free Churches, Quakers and others, we unite one of the broadest range of churches in the whole of Europe.

It was a pleasure to welcome so many to CTSL Big Gathering addressing the refugee response. Our six speakers provided a range of opportunities for anyone wishing to get involved whether as an individual, a church or a churches together group.

Homes for Ukraine: Nicola Thomas, Head of JPIC at the CofE Southwark Diocese, shared key links.

RCCG refugee response: *Pastor Dr Akpo Onduku, the National Ecumenical Officer for the RCCG, presented the work of the RCCG to support African refugees in Ukraine.*

Welcome Churches:

Here are some ways your church can join in with welcoming refugees in South London:

- Join the Welcome Network welcomechurches.org/join
- Attend training seminars welcomechurches.org/event

Refugees can self refer themselves to a church through the Welcome Network. Other churches and organisations can refer a refugee (with their permission) through our network.

Ukrainian Welcome Centre: *Andriy Marchecho spoke about this new centre in London: www.ukrainianwelcomecentre.org/, available in both English and Ukrainian*

Croydon Refugee Day Centre: - can you volunteer to help?

Ivanka Lennon, Senior volunteer and Trustee at CRDC, outlined the work and main needs of the centre: volunteers! We have plans to provide both more and better services for our guests but can only do this with more volunteers. The work is immensely satisfying.

People are welcome to 'try us out'. Financial donations may be made online. Current top material need: new socks for women and all children. Donate cash or socks!

Current top spiritual need: prayers for volunteers, renewed energy for current volunteers and God's guidance as we look to expand our services.

Please see Jeanette Hopkins for more information.

Diary Dates			
July			
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 to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley
Sunday	17th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Church Meeting will follow this service approx 11.50am		<i>2022 AGM will follow the Church Meeting.</i>	
Sunday	24th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Phil Hyde
Sunday	31st	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
August			
Sunday	7th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Phil Hyde
Sunday	21st	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	28th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley

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

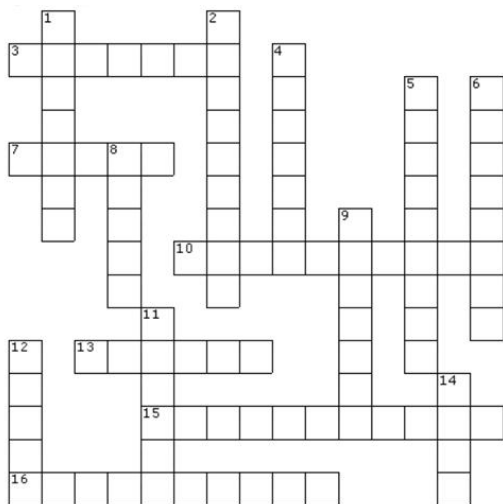
Sudoku Answers for June:

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

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
 baptised in this
 river
 16 God gave
 Moses the Ten
 Commandments
 on this mountain

Crossword Puzzle: Places



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

Puzzle Corner

2 Chronicles:

Angels, Animals,
Answer, Appear, Ark,
Called, Commands,
Dance, Devour,
Dynasty, Epidemic,
Face, Fail, Faith,
Father, Forgive,
Glory, God,
Grasshopper, Heard,
Heart, Heaven,
History, Holy,
Humble, Israel, Joy,
King, Levities, Lord,
Military, Mother,
Palace, Prayer,
Priest, Rejoice,
Royal, Sacrifice,
Seek, Sing, Solomon,
Temple, Trumpets,
Trust, Wisdom

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

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.

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

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
	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 (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.