



Wallington United Reformed Church



CONTACT

No. 352

September 2022

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends

As I write this we are in the midst of the driest summer since 1976, which I remember really well – though, of course, many of you are too young to remember.

As a child I loved it and the concerns regarding hosepipe bans and water rationing were grown-up matters which didn't bother me. I just enjoyed camping with my church youth group, being out late in the evening with my friends and cycling through Kentish villages with my brother.

Now I see things differently. I am concerned about water shortages; the tinder dry grass and vegetation frightens me, especially with the availability of disposal barbeques which didn't exist in 1976; and the fact that this is a sign of the changing climate.

The childlike innocence of almost half a century ago is long gone.

Times change and perspective change and I wonder how well we grasp that. I'm sure many of us have a sense of a time when we felt things were so much better than they are now and we long for a return to those days, even though our memories might not be that accurate.

There is a temptation to live in the past, when everything was so much better or simpler, and we long for a

return to those days. However we may need to be wary of judging present circumstances by our experience from the past. Our society is far more multicultural and secular than it once was, even compared with the mid 1970s. World politics and economics are far more entwined than they were 50 years ago. Communication and interaction are much more immediate and widespread than they were 20 years ago.

It is a confusing and challenging world in which we live and perhaps even more so for our young people and children. After all, they have lived a significant period of their young lives in a global pandemic with the challenges that has brought.

In these times my thoughts come back to the prophet Micah. The well-known quote from chapter 6 talks about doing justice and walking humbly with our God but the words that strike me are the middle phrase: 'love kindness'.

Our past experience can lead us to judge the present or view it in a particular way. It can lead us to expect others to act or respond in the way that we would do. But our memories and our experience are not the same as those who come after us or those whose lives are significantly different to ours.

So... love kindness.

Craig Bowman

Our Wider Community

We continue to think of those struggling throughout the world, with wars, famine and extreme weather.

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

May God grant you his peace.

We remember all those who have recently received their exam results, and pray that they will take the next step with confidence, making their way towards their goal, whatever it might be.

*May we make our homes places of relaxation,
joy, love, peace and safety.*

*May we be generous and considerate,
not thinking only about ourselves,
but helping others enjoy the blessings of the summertime.*

*Lord God, Creator of all things,
guide our steps and strengthen our hearts
during these months of summer and vacation days.*

*Grant us refreshment of mind and body.
May we constantly strive to make a meaningful difference
in the lives of our loved ones and in the world around us
as we enjoy the warm days of summertime.*

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.

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

Prayer for the legacy we leave behind:

Kerry McMenamin (Christian Aid)

Generous God, your blessings in our lifetime are immeasurable. We are humbled and grateful. We thank you for material gifts of a safe home, food to eat and clothes to wear.



We thank you for your beautiful creation, with life growing all around us. We thank you for the love of friends and family who are with us for all our precious moments. When we look ahead to the day when you will eventually take us home, let us not be afraid or feel sad for the things that we will leave behind.

Let us rejoice in the lasting legacy that we can pass on to others through our values, our talents, and our generosity with your blessings.

We know that everything we have is yours and so what we leave behind matters, to our family, our church, and our wider global neighbours.

Give us a generous heart so that we may plant seeds of your love to flourish for generations to come. Amen.

Faith - Hope - Love - since 1972

A United Service
to mark the
50th Anniversary
of the United
Reformed Church



is to be held at
St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Cheam
on Saturday 8th October.
The service is to be at 3pm
and will to be followed by refreshments,
tea, coffee and cake.

Please speak to one of the Elders if you need a
lift to St Andrew's on Saturday 8th October.



On Wednesday 5th October, the
anniversary of the actual date of the
formation of the URC, the URC's
South London Synod Area are
holding a service online through
Zoom starting at 7.00pm.

Rev David Pickering has been asked to lead the service and
he will involve colleagues from the area and beyond.

The service will celebrate some of the URC's story over
the last 50 years and some distinctive features of our Church
today, including our hymn-writers with all the hymns to be
sung from the heart and pen of those who belong to the URC.

The Zoom and telephone joining details will follow later.

Faith - Hope - Love - since 1972



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

Anniversary of debate about URC Bill marked

A small reception and ceremony were held in the Attlee and Reid Room, where the debate took place on 21 June 1972. The date of the reception was changed due to the train and tube strike.

The celebration was organised by Andy Jackson, Head of Communications, and made possible thanks Lord Boateng and Lord Beith on behalf of the URC.

As well as Members of Parliament and Peers from the House of Lords, the URC was represented by the Revd Clare Downing, Moderator of the General Assembly; the Revd Dr John Bradbury, General Secretary of the URC; the Revd Dr Michael Hopkins, Clerk of the General Assembly, the Revd Sarah Moore, Assistant Clerk of the General Assembly; Morag McLintock, Convenor of the Law and Polity Advisory Group; and Jo Harris URC Youth Moderator.

The gathering was also pleased to have in attendance the Revd Geoffrey Roper, who was present at the original Parliamentary debate. Marsha De Cordova, MP for Battersea, spoke of the value of having people of faith in politics who can influence and bring moral value. "There are many things we might disagree on," she said. "But we all know who we serve."

She added that the pandemic illustrated that by churches and people of faith going out to help people in need.

"Thank you for all that you do. Please continue to be the voice for justice, social and economic justice. We are the voice for the voiceless."

Explaining that the formation of the URC was initially seen as temporary measure on the way to greater unity, Revd Clare Downing, answered the question "why are we still here?"

"God hasn't finished with us yet. God is still good and with us despite the difficulties that we have," she said.



The 50 Year Quiz

1972-2022

Celebrating 50 years of the URC

- 1 The United Reformed Church was created in 1972. Which one of these events also happened in 1972?
 - a) British currency decimalised
 - b) The Beatles split up
 - c) The West End debut of Jesus Christ Superstar
- 2 In which year was the Band Aid single 'Feed The World' released?
- 3 The UK's bestselling model of car ever was launched in 1976. What was it?
- 4 In which year did:
 - a) Rosalind Goodfellow become the first female Moderator of the URC's General Assembly?
 - b) Libby Lane become the first female bishop in the Church of England?
- 5 The best picture Oscar winner of 1981 told the true story of a Congregational missionary. Name the film.
- 6 Put these soap operas in the order in which they started:
 - A) Brookside
 - b) Eastenders
 - c) Emmerdale Farm
 - d) Hollyoaks
- 7 How old was the Queen when the URC was formed in October 1972?
- 8 Which UK musical artists released the following albums:
 - a) 19, 21 and 25
 - b) +, x, ÷ and = [pronounced: plus, multiply, divide and equals]
- 9 Which British runner won the 10,000m on 'Super Saturday' at the 2012 Olympics?
- 10 In which year did the King James version of the Bible celebrate its 400th birthday?

- 11 Each year, the Oxford English Dictionary chooses a word of the year.
Put these four words of the year in chronological order:
a) post-truth b) selfie c) simples d) Sudoku
- 12 Solve these anagrams of UK Prime Ministers since 1972:
a) Hollow Drains
b) Rainy Blot
c) Carve Diamond
- 13 Which saint did Margaret Thatcher quote as she entered 10 Downing Street for the first time in 1979?
- 14 Of which parish is the Revd Geraldine Grainger the most famous incumbent?
- 15 Which hymn of Swedish origin won the Songs of Praise viewers' favourite vote in 2013 and came second in 2019?

Answers in the October Magazine.....



**The next outside sale will be on
Friday 16th September
1.00pm to 3.30pm**

Cakes will be available outside for all passing by to indulge, with books and greetings cards in the coffee lounge. After taking an inventory the card stock has been updated and there are new cards available to look through, as well as many cards at greatly reduced prices.

We will be raising money for the Sutton Women's Centre who offer counselling, and support with English as a second language classes, as well as parenting classes, computer training and toddler groups.



URC Children, a new umbrella for children aged 0 to 12-years-old connected with the United Reformed Church (URC), was launched in July through a new prayer initiative.

This arrived after our July Contact had been printed, but we felt it would be of interest to everyone, late or not.

Only 21% of those worshipping in local URCs are children, with more than double that number involved in other activities and groups. Children have always been important to the life of the URC, and as we celebrate our 50th anniversary it seems timely to renew this commitment formally.

URC Children will seek to provide the support, resourcing, participation, and voice for children within the URC, and those who work with them, that URC Youth provides for young people aged 11-25.

It will do this in different, age-appropriate ways, and seeks to help the Church be more child-led in all areas. The Children's and Youth Work team will be developing tools, training and resources to support local churches in their engagement with children.

Dr Sam Richards, Head of Children's and Youth, said: "We want to help the whole Church to hear the voice and receive the blessing of children. URC Children will give a clear focus and identity for our youngest disciples."

The URC General Assembly, meeting 8-11 July, will be asked to mark the launch of URC Children by resolving afresh to ensure that all structures and councils of the church (local church meeting, Synod and General Assembly) are consistently mindful of the voice of children and of the impact of their decisions on children and future generations.

"We recognise that not every local church has children present on a regular basis, and that many long for this to change," adds Dr Richards.



“We want to honour the prayer ministry of all ages by equipping people for a focussed month of prayer for children across our churches – and we wait expectantly to see what God will do.”

Across the month of July congregations were invited to ‘Pray like Hannah’.

The story of Hannah is found in 1 Samuel. Hannah is the wife of Elkanah who is unable to bear a child. In her culture this was a terrible thing – a curse, and seen to be the judgement of God. Children were vital to secure the future of the family, the tribe and the nation.

It is desperation that drives Hannah to prayer. Her prayer is so passionate that Eli thinks she is drunk! Hannah prayed with devotion, fervour, intensity. So, the first invitation is to pray passionately for children to know they are part of God’s family. It’s as simple as that. It is borne out of a deep longing and love for children and a sense of loss that they are absent from our midst.

“The initiative was started by the Revd Dr Sandra Millar in the Diocese of Gloucester many years ago and picked up by Salvation Army in 2011,” continues Dr Richards. The URC’s West Midlands Synod ran the initiative in September 2021, and it seems very timely to invite the whole denomination to come together in praying for children across the month of July.

HARVEST MOON

The Full Moon closest to the September equinox is called the Harvest Moon, and it is either in September or October.

In the old days, the early moonrise for a few days around the equinox meant that farmers could work and harvest their crops for a longer time in the evenings.

The September equinox coincides with many cultural events, religious observances, and customs around the world. For example, the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival, is a harvest festival also celebrated in Vietnam, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

In the US, there are many Harvest Moon festivals with farmers markets, beer- and wine-tasting, craft fairs, concerts, and entertainment. Harvest Moon is also the name of a popular computer game, as well as a 1992 album and song by Canadian musician Neil Young.



HARVEST



The word 'harvest' comes from the Old English word *hærfest* meaning 'autumn', aptly the season for gathering the food of the land. This was a vital time of year, when success was a genuine matter of life or death. A prosperous harvest ensured that a community would be fed throughout the potentially barren winter months. It's therefore no surprise that it was also a time steeped in superstition and, if successful, much celebration. Many of these traditions even pre-date Christianity.

With technological advances lessening our dependence on the seasons and the number of people working on the land greatly reduced over the last two centuries, surviving practises are now mainly symbolic in nature.

What did unite everyone though was the importance of crop gathering and the reverence in which harvest was held.

Roaming groups of labourers would seek employment from farms at the start of the season, in Norfolk they would drag their sickles along the floor to announce their arrival. A 'Lord of the Harvest' would be appointed and was in charge of negotiating rates and conditions of labour. Leading his workers ('reapers') as they scythed the fields, he would be served first at mealtimes.

The church festival that is the most common harvest celebration still held today originated in Morwenstow, Cornwall in 1843, when Reverend Robert Hawker invited the parishioners of his church into his home to receive the Sacrament in "the bread of the new corn." Whether from the Divine, the elements or the mystical, all help was gratefully received.

Now that most of us neither sow nor reap what we eat, it is almost impossible to imagine how crucial this time of year was in the calendar, but by knowing a little of the history and keeping these traditions alive we are honouring those who depended upon it.



It was back-breaking work, with all the leaning and stooping into the cutting, and bending to gather up the sheaves. In hot weather it was dry, sweaty and dusty; in wet or changeable weather, trying to cut laid crops was difficult and more taxing. The language among the workers was, wrote Richard Jefferies, a contemporary writer, "not that of pastoral poetry".

The day was long – 5am till dusk, but the compensation was the extra pay. Harvest was a special deal for regular and seasonal workers alike. A regular farm labourer earning 10-12 shillings a week (typical of large parts of central and southern England) could get up to £1 a week at harvest time, and there might also be a bonus payment at the end. In addition, his midday meal was usually provided, plus all the beer or cider needed to keep

him going through a hot day. Casual and migrant workers were paid at similar rates in deals struck with the farmer. Some were at piece rates – cutting and tying wheat at 12 shillings an acre, for example.

It cost the farmer a lot. The £25 he had not spent on the reaping machine could easily be paid in additional harvest wages, but it was important for his business survival. For the labourer's family, the harvest extra meant survival. Husband, wife and children could all be earning for these weeks, bringing in enough to pay for things beside food. Richard Jefferies noted that harvest wages allowed labourers "to pay rent, back debts, find shoe leather and so forth".

After the stooks were dried, the crop was carted to the stackyard. Most of the migrant harvesters had gone by now, but the work of loading the wagons and building the stacks continued to draw on local labour beyond the regular men. It was all manual work still; the first machines to lift hay and straw into a stack were introduced in 1863. It was hard work for the horses as well, hauling the heavily laden wagons.



After the harvest came the celebration – harvest home (called 'horkey' in some places).

Harvest was one of the great village festivals – the celebration of the successful gathering in of the corn – and shared by all the village.

A harvest tea or supper, shared by squire, farmer and labourer alike, was followed by dancing and merry-making. It was this final part of the day that caused consternation among the respectable classes – "unrestrained riot and excess" was how the celebration of 1867 was described in the Essex parish of Foxearth. As a result, the festival was "taken in hand by the clergyman", and centred on a thanksgiving in the parish church.

During the 1870s, farmers changed their minds about the reaping machine. It was now reckoned to be able to cut the crop at half the cost of using manual labour, and only a driver, and perhaps a lad, was all that was needed to operate it.

There were still jobs in raking and stooking, carting and stacking, but the farmer was less dependent on casual and migrant labour. The harvest field became less crowded and bustling as the machines took over. The next generation of reaper-binder machines required yet fewer workers, and the process continued until we see today's harvest: an emptier landscape with one man driving the combine supported by two or three others with tractors and corn trailers.





Harvest Festival

**Join us in our
Anniversary Year
on Sunday 18th September
at 10.30am for
as we support the
Sutton Women's Centre
with our donations**



We will be happy to accept
your contributions of:-

Toiletries

Cleaning Products

**Detergents and washing products,
also packets, tins, dried and
non-perishable food
items that can be added
to their food bank**



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.

Jubilee Moments

From the 2022 Prayer Handbook, by Vanetta Griffiths

I am aware that I pray for many things-

I pray for healing, guidance and forgiveness.

I pray my prayers of gratitude.

I pray through the difficult times and in times of grief-
knowing you are ever present.

Dear God, today I come to pray for the Jubilee moments-

the moments of surprise and wonder;

the moments of joy and celebration;

the moments when you leave me amazed
and in awe of you.

I thank you, God, for the Jubilee moments-

the precious moments where your Spirit waits;

the moments I am keenly aware of your presence with me,
and time seems to stand still.

Thank you for those sacred moments-

long-lasting, memorable moments.

These small treasures are my Jubilee moments.

Amen

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.

Ephesians 3:14-15 'Thanksgiving for Our Family'

At this harvest season, it's great to give thanks to God for all the good things he has given us. And among the most important of God's gifts to us are the families we belong to. When I was little I was taught to call all my parents' friends 'Auntie' or 'Uncle', and for years I assumed they were all relations. If they had been, it would perhaps have been the largest family ever. But no – everyone on earth is one of God's beloved children, so it must be the human race that holds that record!

Most of the time, when we say family it's the one into which we were born or adopted as a baby that we think of. We thank God with all our hearts for our parents who nurtured us, for the brothers and sisters we grew up with, for our grandparents who probably spoilt us, and for aunts, uncles and cousins, for all our wider family. We give thanks, too, for all the love and care within families, young caring for old, and old supporting the young. Our family circle grows as we leave home and form adult relationships – setting up home ourselves, perhaps having children, perhaps marrying.



Then we thank God with gratitude for the friends we are closest to, and know best. There are, too, neighbours that we often chat to, and less familiar faces about whom we know so little and greet with just a smile. We thank God for all these people in our lives.

Of the utmost importance is our vital Church family, which we may have belonged to since birth, or come to when we were older. It's where we not only make friends with one another, but gain precious knowledge about God, and come to know Jesus as our friend and brother. We learn together to listen to God and discern the way he wants us to go. This is a most crucial family in our lives, and one for which we give God huge thanks.

There are school families, where we form lasting friendships. If we go on to vocational training, or to university, we become part of new families. When we go to work, wherever that might be, we are part of another great family, our work family. And maybe we join societies and clubs, and are welcomed into further new families.

The family is an essential part of our existence. Through God's grace we have the possibility of belonging to so many different families during our lifetime and this is a gift for which we give great thanks and praise.

Reflection © 2020 Anne Caffyn.

<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

Diary Dates			
September			
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley.
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Phil Hyde.
Sunday	18th	10.30am	The service this Morning is our Harvest Festival Celebration, to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	25th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley.
October			
Sunday	2nd	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...
Saturday	8th	3pm	50th Anniversary Celebration at St Andrew's Cheam
Sunday	9th	10.30am	Morning service

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

Sudoku Answers
for July/August:

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 Word

Search: Plants and Trees:

Almond, Anise,
Balsam, Barley,
Blossoms, Bramble,
Briers, Bulrush,
Caraway,
Cinnamon,
Coriander,
Cummin, Cypress,
Darnel, Fig,
Flowers, Forests,
Gall, Gopherwood,
Grass, Herbs,
Juniper, Lentils,
Mulberry, Mustard,
Myrrh, Oak, Palm,
Papyrus, Rye,
Saffron, Sycamine,
Sycamore, Tares,
Thistle, Threshing, Vegetables, Vine, Willow, Winnowing, Wormwood

L	L	A	G	E	Y	R	R	E	B	L	U	M	Y	F
E	K	C	N	H	S	U	R	L	U	B	R	A	E	L
N	A	Y	N	I	V	U	O	T	H	I	S	T	L	E
R	O	P	G	I	S	S	R	E	I	R	B	H	R	N
A	M	R	N	N	S	E	M	Y	S	S	E	R	A	T
D	U	E	F	O	I	Y	L	Y	P	K	G	E	B	I
N	S	S	M	F	M	W	C	B	R	A	O	S	R	L
S	T	S	N	I	A	A	O	A	A	R	P	H	A	S
B	A	L	S	A	M	S	N	N	M	T	H	I	M	S
R	R	E	P	I	N	U	J	N	N	O	E	N	B	A
E	D	D	N	O	M	L	A	P	I	I	R	G	L	R
H	E	E	E	Y	A	W	A	R	A	C	W	E	E	G
S	W	O	L	L	I	W	O	R	M	W	O	O	D	V
F	L	O	W	E	R	S	T	S	E	R	O	F	I	G
N	I	M	M	U	C	O	R	I	A	N	D	E	R	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		5				2	
			6	2	8			
8	2			3			5	9
	6		1			7		5
		5			6	8		
1	8		3		7		9	
	9			4			6	1
			9		3	5		
	7	3			5		4	2

EVERY WEEK AT WALLINGTON U.R.C.

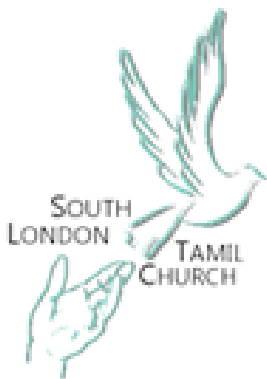
Times of Worship

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
	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 invite you to join
them for their
Sunday service which
starts at 3pm.

Everyone welcome!