



Remembrance Day

— Lest We Forget —



CONTACT

No. 354

November 2022

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends

We recently held a joint service with our friends from St Andrew's, Cheam, to mark 50 years of the United Reformed Church. It was a good occasion and we sung new and older hymns written by URC authors, were reminded of the vision of those who helped our church come into being and thought a little about our purpose as member congregations of the URC.

One thing we didn't do on that occasion was read the Statement Concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church. This is a statement we are required to read whenever we ordain or induct someone as an elder or minister, and every time I hear it I am reminded of the vision, commitment and faith of those who started us on this journey 50 years ago. Although we didn't hear the Statement on 8th October I would like to continue our looking back and looking forward by reflecting on it, so I will share some thoughts about each part of it over the coming months. It won't be every month but hopefully it won't drag on and on.

It begins:

With the whole Christian Church the United Reformed Church believes in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Statement begins with an affirmation of the Trinity. The United Reformed Church is a mainstream Christian church, that is part of the world-wide fellowship of faith whose members declare a belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Trinitarian formula is central to our faith, and the starting point of all that we believe.

But it is a phrase that can all too easily trip off the tongue, and it is worth our while taking time to think what we mean by it, for it sums up what we believe about God, who is the source and goal of our life. Not three gods, but one God revealed in three persons. For some a kind of mathematical riddle but for others an honest attempt to put into some sort of words what they had experienced of a living God. It is an attempt to describe a big enough God, which was a God who in the course of time has come to be understood in three ways, as Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

God who created the world!

God who came into the world!

God who is still at work in the world!

Any attempt to describe this God whom they knew which missed any of these attributes missed something of the essence of the God they had come to know and in whom they believed. It was an understanding which developed over time which explains why there is no explicit or obvious reference to the Trinity in the Old Testament, and why it is not until late in the New, that God is described as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Trinitarian understanding of God should help us to keep our Christian Faith in balance, for our worship, our service, our lives should acknowledge God in all three ways.

If we think only of God as the Father, then we may well go down the line of thinking only of the Creator, who has left us to get on with it; who has brought us to life, given us this world and left us to it. Then we reduce God to an historical figure or, even worse, an historical event, that does not touch our lives in the present - except maybe to wonder at what was given to us.

If we think only of God as the Son, locked into the man Jesus Christ, who is regarded as God, we are in danger of being left just with a humanitarian or political movement, inspired by the example of one person. It leaves so many questions unanswered; fine for life now, but where is its eternal value? We find ourselves worshipping a very limited picture for the Bible contains only a finite picture of the Christ.

And there is the danger of just thinking of God as the Holy Spirit, for if the only understanding of God that we have is the voice within and the awareness of a feeling, it can all become far too subjective - too personal: what we feel and understand with little to check it against and balance our impressions. We can become carried away with moving onward and leaving behind the traditions of the past, and with them the insights and experience of those who went before us.

Our Christian faith has need for a knowledge of all three and so our Statement contains at its very beginning an affirmation of the Trinitarian God

The God who created the world;
The God who came into the world
The God who is still at work in the world.

And so we recall that we are Provided, Pardon and Guided.

In this we echo the affirmations of so much of the world church of which we are a part.

For, though our denomination may be small, we are part of that tradition which has sung God's praises for 2,000 years, not just 50, and who will sing his praises for evermore.

Thanks be to God for that.

Craig Bowman

Our Wider Community

As we move forward rapidly approaching the end of 2022, we come to November with the poignant Remembrance Day Services.

This will be the first Remembrance day led by King Charles III.

Remembrance Day (also known as **Poppy Day** owing to the tradition of wearing a remembrance poppy) is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth member states since the end of the First World War to honour armed forces members who have died in the line of duty. Following a tradition inaugurated by King George V in 1919, the day is also marked by war remembrances in many non-Commonwealth countries. In most countries, Remembrance Day is observed on 11 November to recall the end of First World War hostilities. Hostilities formally ended "at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" of 1918.

Celebrated on the 11th of November, Remembrance Day, known also as the Armistice, is also an annual commemoration of the end of WWII. It's usually celebrated with a minute of silence for the fallen soldiers and the symbol of the day is a poppy flower.

Remembrance honours those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life. We unite across faiths, cultures and backgrounds to remember the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from Britain and the Commonwealth throughout all wars and conflicts.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.

They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

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.

**Our October Cake Sale
raised £89.50, which took the total for the
Sutton Women's Centre to £255.50.**

**The next outside sale is planned for
Friday 18th November
1.00pm to 3.30pm**

**If it is fine, cakes will be available
outside, also marmalade and jam. The
usual books and greetings cards will
be available inside where**

**there will also be a few
'Buy Early for Christmas' items, some stocking
fillers and small 'prezzies'.**



We will be raising money for Sutton Community Works which started as an informal gathering of Sutton & Cheam churches as part of Soul in the City in 2004 and grew into a charity out of which operates six projects. The aim has always been to encourage churches in the borough and aid them in putting

their faith into action through initiating projects in response to local needs.





We will be raising money for Sutton Community Works to help to support a variety of their projects over the next few months.

'Fuel Hardship Fund'

Sutton Community Works are seeking to provide those who are most vulnerable with fuel vouchers.

If you or anyone at WURC feel they would like to contribute part or all of their £400 then this will be used to buy fuel energy vouchers and given to most needy.

You can give using this QR code or go to ONLINE GIVING PAGE

£400 Energy Payment - do you need it?

We have set up a hardship fund to be used for those struggling with fuel energy payments.

Donate Here

GiveStar

<https://bit.ly/3B6lpAi>



Sutton Community Works
Registered Charity: 1140363

OR

you can donate by BACS to Sutton Community Works Hardship Fund [e-mail: admin@suttoncommunityworks.org]



**Saturday
19th November 2022**

11.00am - 2.00p.m.

there will be

Christmas Stalls

Games

Gift Items

Greetings Cards & Paper

Cakes Tombola Craft

Refreshments Raffle

Cash Only

FREE Entry...Please come along to Browse

**Raising money for
Sutton Community Works**



**Local Churches
Working
Together**

[‘Sutton Community Works’]

We’re a charity contributing to the transformation of the London borough of Sutton to a safe, healthy and flourishing community. We aim to connect the borough, churches, local community and decision makers]

Sutton Community Works currently partner with 19 churches across the Borough. Churches support many of the projects by advertising opportunities for volunteering, pray for us and offer financial support on a regular monthly basis. This enables the charity to have a base of support and to offer sustainable projects.

Leaders also come to “engine room” meetings 3-4 times a year to hear about developments and contribute to new initiatives. Key agencies within the borough may be invited to attend these meetings; leaders from the council, the police and other agencies who can offer updates on needs and opportunities within the borough.

Sutton Community Works Projects:

The Foodshop helps families and individuals struggling on low income and finding it difficult to make ends meet. There is a membership fee of £3 a week. In return, you can choose 15-20 items of non-perishable, and chilled and frozen food. These items will be worth approximately £15-20 in total, so will reduce your weekly shopping bill.

Sutton Foodbank has been operating in Sutton since 2009 serving people who find themselves in Food Crisis. If you are in need, Sutton Foodbank is here to help. Food parcels feed a person or a family for three days, offering nutritionally balanced and familiar foods.

To access the Foodbank you need to get a voucher from a local agency. You will be welcomed by volunteers who discuss your needs and prepare your food parcel.

Sutton School Pastors and Street Pastors

Street Pastors support the day and night time economy in Sutton by caring, listening and helping those in need on a Friday and Saturday afternoon and night time. They take on many tasks each night from listening to people’s life stories, helping and caring for those who are in vulnerable states, whilst building relationships with the staff of the pubs and clubs, and local police.

This year is the Fiftieth Birthday of



The
United
Reformed
Church



Come to our

Children's Party!



For Ages 4 - 11 years

Sunday

27th November

4.30pm to 6.30pm

Games! Pizza! Activities!

To book your place:

e-mail: sheilacruchley@blueyonder.com

Before 20th November, please

Faith - Hope - Love - since 1972

Whose Job Is It?

This is a story about four people named:

Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.



There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.



*You've probably seen this one before,
but behind the play on words, there is some great advice. I
was reminded again of the importance of
taking personal responsibility.*



Don't be like Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. Be true to yourself. Take responsibility for yourself. Don't let Everybody, Somebody, Anybody or Nobody stop you from doing what is needed.

2022 Prayer Handbook

Edited by Karen Campbell and Ian Foster

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.

Peace

In the 2022 Prayer Handbook, by James Ashdown

Lord, we want peace

we want our families to stop arguing

we want our politicians to stop squabbling

we want nations to live peacefully alongside each other

we want wolves and sheep to feed together.

But Lord we know

that sometimes we have to fight for peace

sometimes, hard as it is, we have to face down the bully

sometimes we have to take courage

and find a strength we never knew we had

because without justice there can never be peace.

So, Lord, we pray for that love

which holds together peace and justice

and will alone remain

when all the nations are no more

and all our arguments have ceased

and you, O God, are all in all.

WOMEN IN THE BIBLE

THE WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD

The woman hovered at the edge of the crowd. Nobody watched as she melted into the throng of bodies—just one more bee entering the hive. Her shame faded, replaced by a rush of relief. No one had prevented her from joining in. No one had recoiled at her touch.

She pressed closer, but a noisy swarm of men still blocked her view. She could hear Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, raising his voice above the others, pleading with Jesus to come and heal his daughter before it was too late.

Suddenly the group in front of her shifted, parting like the waters of the Jordan before the children of promise. It was all she needed. Her arm darted through the opening, fingers brushing the hem of his garment. Instantly, she felt a warmth spread through her, flushing out the pain, clearing out the decay. Her skin prickled and shivered. She felt strong and able, like a young girl coming into her own—so glad and giddy, in fact, that her feet wanted to rush her away before she created a spectacle by laughing out loud at her quiet miracle.

But Jesus blocked her escape and silenced the crowd with a curious question: "Who touched me?"

"Who touched him? He must be joking!" voices murmured. "People are pushing and shoving just to get near him!"

Shaking now, the woman fell at his feet: "For twelve years, I have been haemorrhaging and have spent all my money on doctors but only grown worse. Today, I knew that if I could just touch your garment, I would be healed." But touching, she knew, meant spreading her defilement—even to the rabbi.

Twelve years of loneliness. Twelve years in which physicians had bled her of all her money. Her private affliction becoming a matter of public record. Every cup she handled, every chair she sat on could transmit defilement to others.



Even though her impurity was considered a ritual matter rather than an ethical one, it had rendered her an outcast, making it impossible for her to live with a husband, bear a child, or enjoy the intimacy of friends and family. Surely the rabbi would censure her.

But instead of scolding and shaming her, Jesus praised her: "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

His words must have been like water breaching a dam, breaking through her isolation and setting her free. He had addressed her not harshly, but tenderly—not as "woman" or "sinner," but rather as "daughter." She was no longer alone, but part of his family by virtue of her faith.

That day, countless men and women had brushed against Jesus, but only one had truly touched him. And instead of being defiled by contact with her, his own touch had proven the more contagious, rendering her pure and whole again.

Thinking ahead to Christmas....

We are at the end of October and , although it has been a that has been very 'up-side-down' year, we are looking towards Christmas.

This year, again, we can offer you the opportunity to send your Christmas Greetings to your Church friends through the pages of Contact

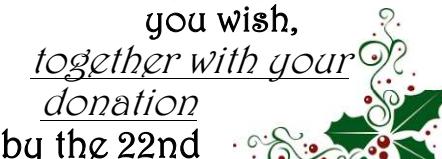
Your own design, black and white or colour can be reproduced.



You can design your own greeting, or give us the wording and we will produce something for you.

For a quarter portion of a page in the December Contact, approximately this size, (95 x 60mm) production costs are £3.00, for half a page, if you would like a larger format, £6.00. Any donations over this amount will be passed to Elaine. Please let Janet & Robin know your requirements.

We will need your design, including a signature if you wish, together with your donation by the 22nd November, please.



Such Audacity....

One often hears these days about catalytic converters being stolen from cars overnight...a neighbour of mine had it happen three times in the last year.

A few years back it lead being stolen from Church roofs, and we at Wallington URC suffered several times from these thefts in the last 20 years...including the theft of the copper from the dome over the Church porch.

Other audacious crimes locally include stealing all the York paving slabs from round the Carshalton War Memorial at the Ponds, and the metal plates with the names of those who died in World War I (Fortunately someone had a copy of all the names so they could be reproduced).

But for me, the one that takes the biscuit is something that happened in the mid 1950's at our Church.

In those days men wore suits to Church, and overcoats on top in the Winter (an anorak in those days was a hooded fur jacket worn to the Arctic). There was a row of hooks in the corridor at the side of the Church, before the Coffee Lounge was built, and men would hang their overcoats on these hooks before going into Church.

One Sunday morning during the Service someone must have driven into the car park and stolen all the coats from the hooks.

Probably only Brian Lay will remember this occasion, and might like to elaborate on it.

Kathleen Claridge



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

Prayer for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Creator God, God of Palestine, God of Israel. When the Jubilee comes, all will be free, all will be forgiven, all will be returned. Bring a new jubilee to your Holy Land, Lord.

Let there be freedom for those who queue at checkpoints in the West Bank, freedom for those imprisoned for refusing military conscription, freedom for those blockaded in Gaza.

Let there be forgiveness for longstanding tensions between neighbours, forgiveness for acts that stem from fear instead of love, and we ask for forgiveness for our own country's history in dividing the Holy Land.

Let refugees return to their homes, let olive trees be returned to their farmers, let the persecuted return to a place of safety.

Let our call for justice and peace be the trumpet call that heralds the Land's jubilee. Amen.

Diana Paulding



Diary Dates

November

Sunday	6th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion... to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley
Sunday	13th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
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
Sunday	27th	27th	50th Celebration Children's Party

December

Sunday	4th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Morning service...with Gift Service and Nativity...to be led by Phil Hyde
Sunday	18th	4.00pm	Carols by Candlelight..to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	18th	6.30pm	Carol Praise at St Andrew's, Cheam

PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the December 2022/January 2023 issue of Contact should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by Thursday 24th November unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement. Contributions are very acceptable by e-mail: jmw321wmj @ yahoo.co.uk.

Sudoku Answers
for October:

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

Puzzle Corner

Bible Word Search: False Teachers

Ambitious, Avoid, Contradictions, Controversy, Deceived, Desires riches, Destructive, Different, Disagree, Discernment, Discontent, Dissension, Doctrine, Envy, Flee, Gain, Irreverent, Lead astray, Money, Root of evil, Ruin, Secret, Senseless, Slander, Snare, Suspicious, Swerved,

Temptation, Unhealthy, Unsound, Wolves

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

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

EVERY WEEK AT WALLINGTON U.R.C.

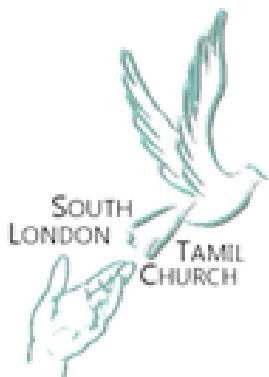
Times of Worship

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 2.00-4.00pm 7.45-10.00pm	Yoga Bananas Art Explorer Scouts
Tuesday	9.15am-1.20pm 1.40-3.40pm 5.00-6.00pm 6.00-7.30pm 8.00-10.00pm	Hartbeeps (mother and baby activities) U3A Art group Rainbows Brownies (10th Wallington) Epsom Downs Badminton, Winter(Sept-May)
Wednesday	10.30-11.30am 7.30-10.00pm	Baby Massage Chess Club
Thursday	11.00-12.00noon 2.00-4.00pm 2.00-4.00pm 7.25-10.00pm	Senior Movers Exercise Ladies' Badminton, Winter(Sept-May) Fallen Angels Drama Carshalton & Wallington Art Group
Friday	9.30am-12.30pm 10.30-11.30am 6.45-8.30pm	NAS Coffee morning Baby Massage Guides(8th Wallington)
Saturday	8.15-9.45am 10.00-12.15pm	Fitness Zumba



South London Tamil Church (SLTC)

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

Everyone welcome!