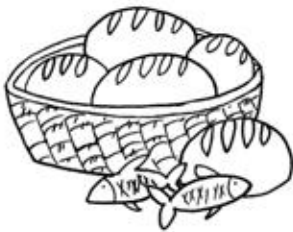


# Wallington United Reformed Church



## ***CONTACT***

No. 365

February 2023

# Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

The weather over the Christmas period and the start of the New Year made it difficult to grasp that the days were getting longer and the dark nights shorter. We are now well on our way to Spring and the signs of new life that are so welcome. We will shortly enter the Lenten period when we recall Christ's time in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry, and when we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter. (The start of Lent, Ash Wednesday, is on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.) As you are well aware many Christians have used Lent as a time of discipline when they either 'give up' something or else commit themselves to something for this special period. The traditional giving up of chocolate has been superseded by the reading of a devotional book or sharing in a study course. Now I wouldn't want to discourage anyone from giving up chocolate during Lent (especially if they felt like giving me the chocolate that was therefore spare!!), however I would certainly encourage people to consider participating in a Lent group.

Phil will be leading a weekly session via Zoom on Wednesday or Thursday night using 'A Beautiful Friendship' which is written by Paul Kerensa and Zoe Young and is based around the film Casablanca. Paul has been on the writing teams for Miranda and Not Going Out and is a stand-up comedian but also a committed Christian who has performed solo shows for numerous years at Spring Harvest, New Wine and Greenbelt. He writes a monthly column for the United Reformed Church's magazine Reform.

Casablanca is a classic film and provides a great basis for discussion of themes of sacrifice, repentance, suffering, loss and hope at Lent. Its wartime setting provides additional poignancy for study at a time of continued armed conflict around the world. Paul makes an intriguing departure from his comedy writing, preparing this moving book. The sessions for the five weeks are: Waiting in the wilderness; Lamenting and lost love; Seeing God's bigger picture; Standing up for our beliefs; The power of self-sacrificial love.

For those who are unable to join in an online evening session I will be leading an in-person session on Friday afternoons at St Andrew's church in Cheam and folk from Wallington will be very welcome.

In the past these groups have proved to be enjoyable and they have been beneficial for individuals and for us as a church, so please join us if you can.

May this Lent be a journey of discovery for you and for our church.

*Craig Bowman*

## **Our Wider Community**

We have heard of a large number of people being unwell over the Christmas and New Year period.

We pass on our thoughts, prayers and best wishes to them all and hope everyone is now beginning to feel much better, and has made a good start along the road to recovery.

As we begin our journey through 2023 we hope to move forward with purpose and strength. The journey may not always be easy, but with support and reinforcement we hope to make a difference and to be able to help so many of those around us.

### **Live A Better Life**

In this new year,  
Let's talk more, chat less.  
Let's call more, text less.  
Let's meet more, Skype less.  
Let's travel more, collect less.  
Let's care more, ignore less.  
Let's do more, gossip less.  
Let's praise more, blame less.  
Let's share more, accumulate less.  
Let's experience more, fear less.  
Let's love more, hate less.

***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](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.*

# Commitment for Life

## Prayer Partners

URC offer these prayers and images for your services of worship, church magazines etc to encourage and guide your prayer for global justice.

### Global Justice Now

At *Global Justice Now* we see that the principles of social and economic justice are central to the teachings of Jesus Christ. We wish to follow his example by standing with the oppressed and marginalised, upholding principles of solidarity, equality and justice.

We pray for residents of countries in the Global South facing economic crisis due to the Global North's refusal to cancel debts, such as Zambia which spends almost 50% of its national budget on foreign debt repayments. We pray for communities fighting trade deals that prioritise corporate interests and profits over human rights and public services.

We pray for all of those who have lost their homes and livelihoods because of the climate crisis; who suffer through extreme weather events knowing rich countries refuse to take real action.

We pray for Black communities and people of colour who face relentless racial injustice, prejudice and hate. We pray for those struggling to access vaccines, treatments and medications in the face of an unfair and profiteering global pharmaceutical system.

We pray that all communities and campaigners championing the causes of climate justice, debt justice, trade justice and universal access to adequate healthcare are successful in their fight. Amen



## Fundraising 2022

A very big 'Thank You' to everyone who has been able to support our fundraising during 2022.

The sales of cakes, jams, books, and craft items, which took place at the Church premises, raised more than £2450 throughout the year. There were four nominated local or national charities: Nickel Support (£317), Christian Aid (£788), Sutton Women's Centre (£255) and Sutton Community Works (£1119). In November there was a smaller Christmas Sale/'mini' Fayre which boosted the Sutton Community Works total.

A further £338 was also raised in June for the church itself, in the light of the huge expenditure we faced for the boiler replacement.

We are now taking a break while we build up our energy, stocks of marmalade and jam, try to find a few more helpers and plan our way through 2023.

### In 2023 Lent starts on February 22nd

Lent is a Christian tradition that is observed in many denominations. It is the hallowed forty-day period of sacrifice leading up to Jesus' death and Resurrection.

During Lent, Orthodox Christians, Catholics and some Protestants take time to prepare for Holy Week.

*Is a specific colour used in Lent?*

**Purple.** Worn during Lent or the Advent, purple represents penance, preparation, and sacrifice.

It is also worn at funerals because of its connection to mourning. Purple vestments are donned to remind the funeral-goers to pray for the penance and absolution of the departed.

We are planning to hold a Lenten Course, by 'Zoom', hosted by Phil Hyde and starting sometime around 23rd February...Please watch out for details....

Everyone is very welcome to join any or all of the discussions.

# **snowdrop blaze**

By R G Gregory

from late december onwards the day comes back  
but not till february do we see those glimpses  
that let us take deep darkness off the rack  
and shake it free of lethargy that cramps us  
through those dim months we're made amanuensis  
to what loud rain and bitter spells dictate  
we seek bed early and must get up late

long january's puffing in the right direction  
but its early mornings keep that midnight feel  
it still is subject to the date's dejection  
but once it's over – see how light can steal  
through cracks of trees and curtains - beneath the keel  
of the eastern skyline (rocking like a boat  
surprised so early to find itself afloat)

and from the earth presentiments are rustling  
as cheeky snowdrops hoist their periscopes  
within a week a mass of them is bustling  
and white becomes the flavour of the slopes  
and people flock invigorating hopes  
seasons (they say) have forfeited effect on  
one snowdrop-look and instantly dejection

is whipped (though biting winds and brooding skies)  
away from the pure white cream the eyes are lapping  
a frisson blooms as every bloodstream tries  
to come to terms with its own natural sapping  
and from the earth reorganise that mapping  
that reaches out to plot those far endeavours  
a spirit yearns for (wishing its forever)

so walk away – no spread of simple flowers  
can change the limitations we must live with  
snowdrops come and go – our fickle powers  
play havoc with the talents we can thrive with  
it's just that february comes and lo - forthwith  
for one brief snowdrop moment there's a blaze  
that lights the world up with its splash of praise

# A February Quiz

1. What star sign are you if you were born in early February?
2. February gets its name from the word 'februa', which comes from which language?
3. Valentine's Day is celebrated on which date in February?
4. The February Revolution was the first of two revolutions which took place in Russia in which year?
5. What happened in Britain on the 15th of February, 1971?
6. On 16th February, 1659, what was used for the first time in Britain as Mr Nicholas Vanacker settles a debt?
7. In leap years, February starts on the same day of the week as which other month?
8. Which violet variety of quartz, often used in jewellery, is the traditional birthstone for February?
9. Which popular tradition is celebrated in the United States and Canada on February 2? (Hint: it's also the title of a 1993 comedy film starring Bill Murray.)
10. In the sporting calendar, which event usually happens on the first Sunday in February?
11. On the 12 February, 1554, who was beheaded at the tower of London?
12. Ritchie Valens, J. P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson and which other rock and roll musician were killed in a plane crash on 3rd Feb 1959?
13. Who was elected as the first President of the United States in 1789?
14. Which country, later named Sri Lanka, became independent within the British Commonwealth in 1948?
15. In 1885 the Congo was established as the personal possession of King Leopold II of which country?



16. James II of England became king in 1685 following whose death?
17. The Munich air disaster in which 8 Manchester United players were killed was in Feb of which year?
18. In the DC Comics, on which date in February is Superman's birthday?
19. In the poem called 'The Months' by Sara Coleridge, if 'hot July brings cooling shower' what does February bring?
20. True or false. It is possible to have Easter in late February?

### **Fun Christmas Questions: Answers...**

- 1) What did the other reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his shiny red nose? **Join in any reindeer games**
- 2) How many ghosts show up in *A Christmas Carol*? **Four**
- 3) Where was baby Jesus born? **In Bethlehem**
- 4) What are the two other most popular names for Santa Claus? **Kris Kringle and Saint Nick**
- 5) What do people traditionally put on top of a Christmas tree? **An angel**
- 6) In the movie *It's A Wonderful Life*, what happened every time a bell rang? **An angel got his wings**
- 7) What words follow "Silent Night" in the song? **Holy night**
- 8) Which real-life person is Santa Claus based on?  
**The Christian bishop St. Nicholas**
- 9) In the song "Winter Wonderland," what do we call the snowman? **Parson Brown**
- 10) According to the song, what did my true love give to me on the eighth day of Christmas? **Eight maids a milking**

## **...What were we (WURC) doing ten years ago... ...in 2013??**

### **Well....**

Cameron & Ross Furley-Smith wrote the introductory letter for the February Issue of Contact.

On Sunday February 3<sup>rd</sup> we welcomed the Revd. Wayne Hawkins to lead our worship. Wayne was the European Regional Secretary for the Council for World Mission (CWM).

We were looking for more help...(do things ever change?).

**CHURCH BURNS CEILIDH.** The Church Burns Supper and Ceilidh was held on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> February from 7 to 10 pm in the Holmwood Hall.

**Friendship Club,** started the New Year on 9th Jan 2013 with a social afternoon.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEDDINGTON AND WALLINGTON held prayer meetings in January and February.

We had a **Food for Thought** get-together on 26th February at Sheila's.

We had no minister, and we were being steered through our ministerial vacancy by Rev Craig Bowman, our Interim Moderator.

CLUSTERS were meeting every Wednesday in Holmwood Hall, when they, too, were looking for more volunteers!

AND...there soon became less clutter upstairs in Mallinson Room, as the Willis Trio set about dismantling the piano in Mallinson on a wet Saturday afternoon.



## 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.*

### Daniel 2:20-23 'The God of the Seasons'

<sup>20</sup> Daniel said: 'Blessed be the name of God from age to age, for wisdom and power are his. <sup>21</sup> He changes times and seasons, deposes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.

<sup>22</sup> He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with him.

<sup>23</sup> To you, O God of my ancestors, I give thanks and praise.

In March and April 2020, I took several photos on the Downs. From memory, some were of the hills and slopes of the Downs themselves; some were of lambs with painted numbers on; some of flowers and trees. Little did I think that the 'lockdown walks' would get summery and warm, then turn wet and autumnal, and then wintry, cold, with ice and snow underfoot...and still they'd be 'lockdown walks'.



This photo is from a footpath by Eastbourne Downs Golf club looking South. Beyond the trees in the distance, you can walk over East Dean Road and eventually to Beachy Head. On the morning I took the picture, it was just beautiful – freezing cold, but beautiful. The sun broke through the clouds as I 'clicked' and you can see the rays in the sky shining down. It'll take a while for the temperature to pick up, the ice and snow to melt and the landscape recover its natural green – but you know as well as I do that this change to come is inevitable. You and I will be walking in Spring days before long, and the world around us will look very different.

Don't we long for those days? When not just the temperature, weather, landscape and natural world will be different, but when the world returns to one where we don't jump out of each other's way in alarm; where we don't hide every face behind a mask; where we no longer follow the news with quite the same daily dread?

As strange and mysterious as the Book of Daniel is (and don't let anyone ever tell you otherwise) we find these nuggets of insight and assurance in it. Daniel's visions and imagery speaks of a God of all seasons, who *"knows what is in the darkness"* that we have felt in months gone by – but also in whom there is light and hope and life. So hold on everyone, for Spring is coming.

### Prayer:

Creator God, as day follows night, morning follows evening, and sun follows moon, as spring follows winter and new life breaks through, help us to hold tight to you in wintry days, knowing you're with us not only in them, but in the warm days to come. We pray to you in Jesus' name – who knows our life in all its seasons. Amen.

*Reflection, Image & Prayer © 2021 Paul 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*

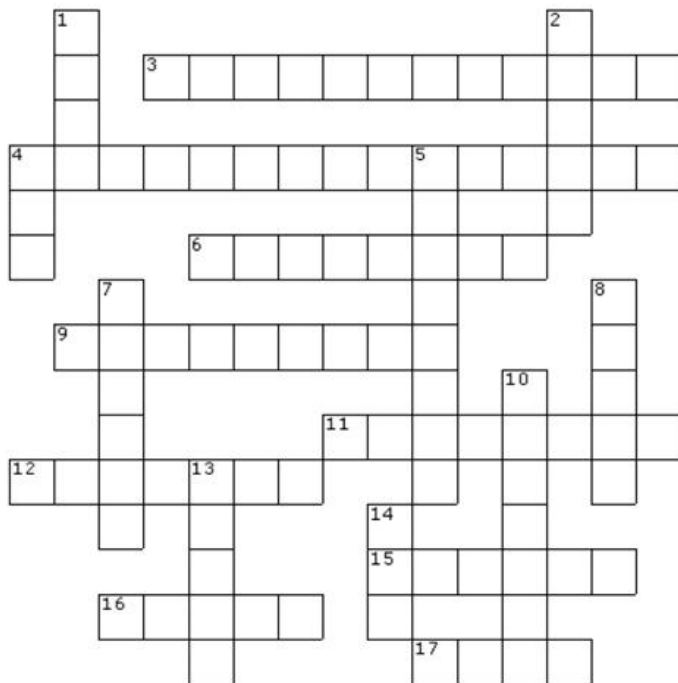
Diary Dates			
February			
Sunday	5th	10.30am	<b>Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>
		12.00	<b>Church Meeting to follow this service.</b>
Sunday	12th	10.30am	<b>Morning service to be led by Phil Hyde</b>
Sunday	19th	10.30am	<b>Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>
Sunday	26th	10.30am	<b>Morning service to be led by Paul Hollingum</b>
March			
Sunday	5th	10.30am	<b>Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>
Sunday	12th	10.30am	<b>Morning service</b>

**PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the March 2023 issue of Contact** should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Wednesday 22nd February** unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement. Contributions are very acceptable by e-mail: jmw321wmj @ yahoo.co.uk.

Sudoku  
Answers  
for December:

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

# Exodus Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

- 3 Destination of Israelites (2 words)
- 4 Rules that God gave to Moses (2 words)
- 6 Wife of Moses
- 9 Death of all Egyptian \_\_\_\_ (final plague)
- 11 Jewish holiday with origin in Exodus
- 12 Egyptian ruler
- 15 Waters parted by God (2 words)
- 16 Second plague
- 17 God called Moses from a burning \_\_\_\_

## DOWN

- 1 Pillar of \_\_\_\_ (nighttime guide)
- 2 Food supplied by God
- 4 Number of plagues on Egypt
- 5 Ninth plague
- 7 Sister of Moses
- 8 A land flowing with milk and \_\_\_\_
- 10 Eighth plague
- 13 Brother of Moses
- 14 \_\_\_\_ of the Covenant



And even a picture to colour!!

# Puzzle Corner

## Bible Word

### Search: Men of the Old Testament

Aaron, Abednego,  
Abel, Abraham,  
Absalom, Adam,  
Adonijah, Ahab,  
Benjamin, Daniel,  
Elisha, Elkanah, Enoch,  
Esau, Ezekiel, Gideon,  
Habakkuk, Hezekiah,  
Isaiah, Japeth,  
Jehoshaphat, Jeremiah,  
Jeroboam, Jesse, Joab,  
Job, Jonah, Jonathan,  
Lot, Manasseh,  
Mephibosheth,  
Meshach, Mordecai,  
Moses, Nehemiah,  
Noah, Obadiah, Obed,  
Rehoboam, Samuel, Seth, Shadrach, Solomon, Zephaniah

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

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

# EVERY WEEK AT WALLINGTON U.R.C.

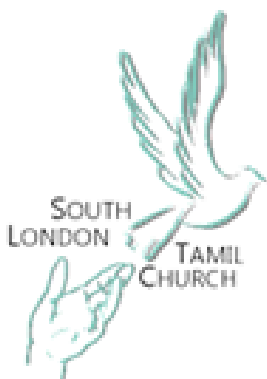
## Times of Worship

**Sunday**                      10.30am                      Family Service

## Activities you can find on our Premises

**Monday - Friday 9.15am-1.15pm Holmwood Pre – school**

<b>Monday</b>	10.00-11.00am	Yoga
	2.00-4.00pm	Bananas Art
	7.00-8.00pm	Yoga
	7.45-10.00pm	Explorer Scouts
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.15am-1.20pm	Hartbeeps (mother and baby activities)
	10.00-11.00	Pilates
	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
	7.25-10.00pm	Carshalton & Wallington Art Group
<b>Friday</b>	9.30am-12.30pm	NAS Coffee morning
	10.00-3.00	Reading Fairy Sutton
	6.45-8.30pm	Guides(8th Wallington)
<b>Saturday</b>	8.15-9.45am	Fitness
	10.00-12.15pm	Zumba



## South London Tamil Church (SLTC)

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

**Everyone welcome!**