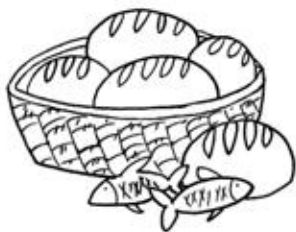


Wallington United Reformed Church



CONTACT

No. 366

March 2023

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends,

A few months back, following on from our 50th Anniversary service, I took a look at the first affirmation in the Statement Concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church. I indicated that from time to time I would take the opportunity to explore the other affirmations, so this month I want to take a look at the second affirmation.

The life of faith to which we are called is the Spirit's gift, continually received through the Word, the Sacraments and our Christian life together.

When considering the first affirmation we noted that this Trinitarian God of ours is God of all of life, not just a religious escapism. Now we recognise that the call of God is always around us - the life of faith is continually received wherever we are and whenever we take the time to consider his presence and offer our praise. It underlines what we have said about God and reminds us that we are here at God's invitation - faith is his gift.

God's presence anywhere is not something to be taken for granted, or regarded as commonplace, but a gift of grace. A wonder to be contemplated, marvelled over and enjoyed. Something that should affect our living whether we are in the church building, in an office or factory, in a football ground or school playground, on a bus or moorland hill.

There is always something to remind us of our God - our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer - if we live believing that his presence is in all of life.

Remember that the United Reformed Church is just that - a church; a group of Christians, not individuals seeking faith on their own. We would affirm that it is in company with others

that we grow in faith and receive more of God's blessing. We are continually blessed, and continually renewed in our faith. And the ways that we receive this blessing -through Word, Sacrament, and our life together echo the Trinity we affirmed at the very beginning:

The Word - the Bible, the record of God's activity in creation and with his people throughout history.

The Sacraments - those reminders of Christ's activity and means of grace. With the rest of the Reformed tradition we believe in two sacraments - Baptism and Holy Communion.

And our life together - where two or three are gathered Christ is also, through his Holy Spirit. We learn and grow together by our sharing under the guidance of that Spirit; - sharing our insights, and testing them alongside the insights of others.

It takes us back to the beginning. Our faith begins with an affirmation of the Trinity, an affirmation that is made in common with Christians around the globe, and throughout history.

Our faith is a communal faith: we learn and share together and grow together.

Our concern is for all God's people - those whom he created, whom he came and lived amongst, and whom he still empowers.

However it is a communal faith that we are each called to stand and declare on our own - for each of us needs to discover God, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Our Creator - our Redeemer - our Sustainer.

May you be open to the presence of God in all of life this month.

Craig Bowman

Our Wider Community

A series of devastating earthquakes have hit southern Turkey and north-west Syria. The first deadly earthquake struck while people were inside their homes, asleep in their beds, with no warning signs. More than 54,000 buildings, including hospitals and schools, were destroyed or damaged. This devastating magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck the Turkish province of Kahramanmaraş, approximately 23 kilometers east of Nurdagi in the Gaziantep province near the Syrian border, at 4:17 a.m. local time on Monday, February 6, 2023, followed by a 7.5 magnitude aftershock nine hours later. At least 13 million people in the region have been impacted by the earthquake and aftershock. Turkey's president declared a three-month state of emergency in the 10 provinces hardest hit by the earthquake.

A second earthquake struck the border region of Turkey and Syria, just two weeks after the area was devastated by a larger quake that killed more than 47,000 people and damaged or destroyed hundreds of thousands of homes. The earthquake, this time with a magnitude of 6.4, was centred near the southern Turkish city of Antakya and was felt in Syria, Egypt and Lebanon.

God of mercy,

We pray for the people of Türkiye and Syria following the recent earthquakes.

We mourn the death and destruction.

and pray for those who have died and those who grieve.

Lord, bring them comfort, strength and renewed hope.

We hold in our hearts those who are injured,

and those who have lost loved ones, livelihoods, and homes.

Lord, bring them comfort, strength and renewed hope.

Sustain and guide all responding to this disaster.

Grant those affected courage and resilience,

as they rebuild their lives and communities.

Lord, bring them comfort, strength and renewed hope.

Inspire us to unite in solidarity,

acting swiftly and generously,

so that help may reach all who need it.

Lord, bring them comfort, strength and renewed hope.

Amen.

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.

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.

Prayer for debt justice

By Heidi Chow,

Debt Justice

Dear God, thank you that you are a God of justice. We come before you to pray against the social and economic injustices that debt plays in our communities and in our wider world.

We pray for the 54 countries that are engulfed in debt crisis and urgently needing debt cancellation to release resources to deal with rising food and energy costs, the climate emergency and the fallout from the pandemic.

We pray for the leaders of the G7 and the G20 countries to take concrete action to compel private lenders to take part in negotiations to cancel debt.



Closer to home, we pray for people in our communities who have been forced into debt to put food on the table, keep the lights on and a roof over their heads.

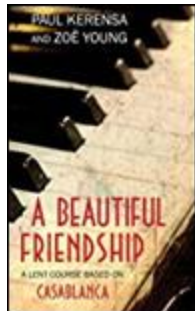
We pray for the government to take steps to widen debt solutions and introduce a fair debt write-down to reset the finances of people who are at the sharp end of soaring living costs and give them a fresh start.

Lord God, whether it's here in the UK or in lower income countries, we pray for a debt jubilee. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen



In 2023 Lent starts on February 22nd

A series of Lent Discussions are planned to explore 'A Beautiful Friendship', a book written by Paul Kerensa and based on the film Casablanca.



To be led by Craig (Wednesday sessions) and Phil (Thursday sessions), the course will run for five week, on 'Zoom'.

The dates are Thursday 2nd March, Wednesday 8th March, Thursday 16th March, Wednesday 22nd March and Thursday 30th March.

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

St Andrew's URC are also holding the Lent Course exploring 'a Beautiful Friendship', with a discussion group on a Friday afternoon at 2.00pm, to be run by Craig, and to which we are all invited. If you cannot join the 'zoom' discussion, maybe you could join the discussion at St Andrew's. Again, everyone is very welcome to join any or all of the discussions.

A series of Lent Reflections:

Banstead URC, Woodmansterne Lane, SM7 3EX, are holding a series of Lent Reflections on a Thursday. Coffee will be served from 10.00am with the speaker at 10.45am.

2nd March: Mary Jones Smith, speaking on 'Experiences of Girls in the Blitz in Maidstone'.

9th March: Professor Rosalind Malcolm, speaking on 'Global Plastics Network'.

16th March: Jenny Hawes, speaking on 'Next Step Project'.

23rd March: Jonathan Aitken, speaking on 'His Life and Work'.
(This is a ticket only event.)

Tickets are £5 and available from Diana Parsk.

Please email Diana for tickets: djparsky32@hotmail.co.uk

30th March: Martin Hayward, the URC Southern Synod Development Officer.

A February Quiz Answers

1. What star sign are you if you were born in early February? **Aquarius**
2. February gets its name from the word 'februa', which comes from which language? **Latin**
3. Valentine's Day is celebrated on which date in February? **14th**
4. The February Revolution was the first of two revolutions which took place in Russia in which year? **1917**
5. What happened in Britain on the 15th of February, 1971?
Decimalisation
6. On 16th February, 1659, what was used for the first time in Britain as Mr Nicholas Vanacker settles a debt? **A Cheque**
7. In leap years, February starts on the same day of the week as which other month? **August**
8. Which violet variety of quartz, often used in jewellery, is the traditional birthstone for February? **Amethyst**
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.) **Ground Hog Day**
10. In the sporting calendar, which event usually happens on the first Sunday in February? **Super Bowl**
11. On the 12 February, 1554, who was beheaded at the tower of London? **Lady Jane Grey**
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? **Buddy Holly**
13. Who was elected as the first President of the United States in 1789?
George Washington
14. Which country, later named Sri Lanka, became independent within the British Commonwealth in 1948? **Ceylon**
15. In 1885 the Congo was established as the personal possession of King Leopold II of which country? **Belgium**
16. James II of England became king in 1685 following whose death?
Charles II
17. The Munich air disaster in which 8 Manchester United players were killed was in Feb of which year? **1958**
18. In the DC Comics, on which date in February is Superman's birthday?
29th February
19. In the poem called 'The Months' by Sara Coleridge, if 'hot July brings cooling shower' what does February bring? **The rain**
20. True or false. It is possible to have Easter in late February? **False**
(March 22 is the earliest Easter can occur)

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

FRIDAY 3 MARCH

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!



I have heard
about your faith



1-30pm

Holy Trinity Church

Maldon Road, Wallington

SM6 8BL



7-30pm

Carshalton Methodist Church

Ruskin Road, Carshalton

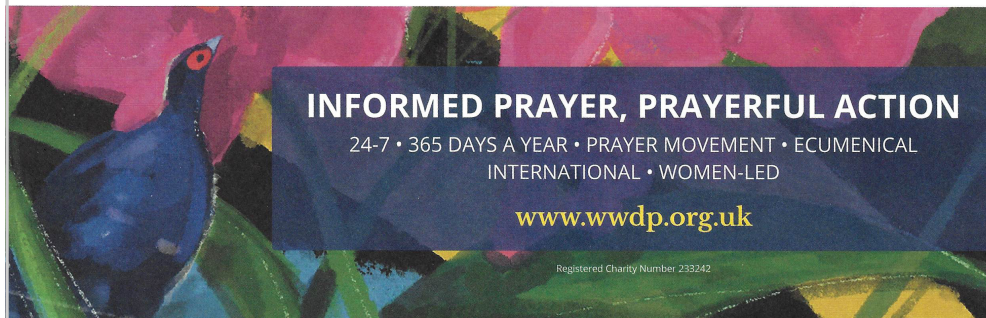
SM5 3DE

INFORMED PRAYER, PRAYERFUL ACTION

24-7 • 365 DAYS A YEAR • PRAYER MOVEMENT • ECUMENICAL
INTERNATIONAL • WOMEN-LED

www.wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233242





World Day of Prayer

March 3rd 2023

A women led, global, ecumenical movement

Informed Prayer; Prayerful Action: We

encourage women to plan ecumenically for the World Day of Prayer, promoting prayerful living and worship for men, women and young people and helping raise awareness of the lives and concerns of others throughout the world, especially those who write the service.

The artist, Hui-Wen HSAIO, has used several motifs that highlight Taiwan's best-known features to express how the Christian faith brings peace and a new vision to Taiwan.

The women in the painting are sitting by a stream, praying silently and looking up into the dark. Despite the uncertainty of the path ahead, they know that the salvation of Christ has come.

Two endangered species are featured: the Mikado pheasant and the Black-faced Spoonbill, which are both of unique significance to the Taiwanese people. The Mikado pheasant is endemic to mountainous regions of Taiwan and is usually regarded as one of Taiwan's national birds. The Black-faced Spoonbill migrates thousands of miles every year to spend the winter in Taiwan. Their distinctiveness symbolizes a characteristic of the Taiwanese people—confidence and perseverance in times of difficulty.

The green grass and Phalaenopsis (Butterfly) orchids stand out against the dark background. They are the pride of Taiwan, which has a worldwide reputation as the "Kingdom of Orchids." In recent decades, Taiwanese orchid's exports have increased, and Butterfly orchids have frequently been featured in international competitions. This beautiful island is known by its rich natural resources. Green grass represents the Taiwanese as simple, confident, strong and under God's care.

For anyone thinking of attending a service for the first time this year and being part of a worldwide circle of prayer... please do join in, you will be very welcome.



Services for Holy Week



Sunday 2nd April 10.30a.m.

Family Worship for Palm Sunday

Thursday 6th April 8.00p.m.

Maundy Thursday Meditation and Service, will be held at St Andrew's, Cheam. All members of Wallington URC and SLTC are warmly invited.

*Remembering the Last Supper Jesus
shared with his friends.*

Good Friday 7th April 10.00a.m.

Good Friday Happening.

*You are invited to join us
for Easter activities for all ages.*

Finishing at approximately 12 noon.

Sunday 9th April 10.30a.m.



Family Worship
for

Easter Day.

This service will include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Taken from 2022 Prayer Handbook

Edited by Karen Campbell and Ian Fosten

'Jubilee' was 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.

Freed to Ponder

From the 2022 Prayer Handbook, by Karen Campbell

It's me -
Again!

I wonder if you get fed up with me...

Asking the same questions.
Making the same mistakes.
Wrestling with the same doubts and fears.

Sometimes I hear you -
Clearly!
And I am calm
And at rest at ease in you.

But sooner or later -
And too often, it's sooner! -
I'm back again,
With my same old demons
Playing their same old tricks!

Loving God,
Rescue me -
Again! -
From myself.

And give me faith
to live in you
always.

Diary Dates			
March			
Sunday	5th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	12th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Phil Hyde
Sunday	19th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	26th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley
April			
Sunday	2nd	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Thursday	6th	8.00pm	At St Andrew's, Cheam, Maundy Thursday Service - Revd Craig Bowman
Friday	7th	10.00am	Good Friday Happening
Sunday	9th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Phil Hyde
Sunday	16th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
		12.00	Church Meeting

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

Sudoku Answers
for February:

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

Puzzle Corner

Bible Word

Search:

Adam & Eve

Abel, Ancestors,
Ashamed, Beginning,
Cain, Cherubim,
Childbirth, Creation,
Cursed, Death,
Disobedience,
Disobedient, Dominion,
Earth, Enmity, Evil,
Expelled, Fig, First,
Forbidden, Fruit, Good,
Happiness, Hid, Image,
Innocence, Judgment,
Knowledge, Likeness,
Multiply, Nakedness,
Punishment, Serpent,
Tempt, Thistles,
Thorns, Trees, Woman

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

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.

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

EVERY WEEK AT WALLINGTON U.R.C.

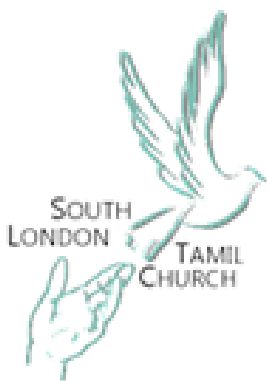
Times of Worship

Sunday 10.30am Family Service

Activities you can find on our Premises

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

Monday	10.00-11.00am	Yoga
	2.00-4.00pm	Bananas Art
	7.00-8.00pm	Yoga
	7.45-10.00pm	Explorer Scouts
Tuesday	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)
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
	10.00-3.00	Reading Fairy Sutton
	6.45-8.30pm	Guides(8th Wallington)
Saturday	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!