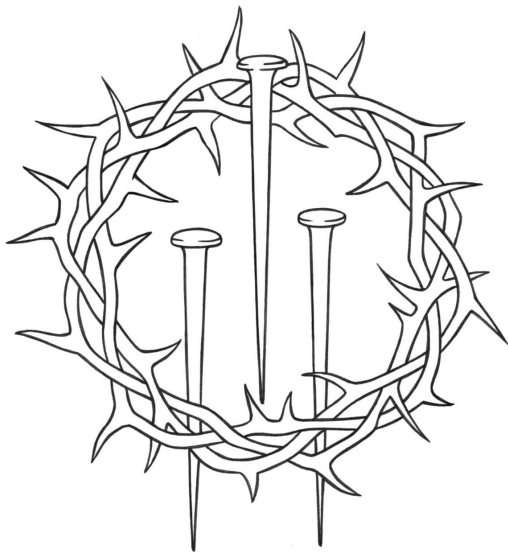


Wallington United Reformed  
Church



***CONTACT***

No. 367

April 2023

# Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

It's wonderful to see the change that comes over a church when it is clear that Spring has come.

For many this has been a hard winter, not because the weather has been particularly harsh (although we have had periods of extreme wet and cold) but a combination of weather, illness, deaths and other factors have combined to depress the spirits of a great many within the church and outside it. (It's not just within the church fellowship that people are giving thanks for the brightness of Spring.)

For those of us within the church the arrival of this period of bright, sunny and, hopefully, warm weather coincides with the celebration of Easter. The days of darkness give way to the bright days of sunshine as we celebrate the rising of the Son. (Read that aloud to understand the full significance of this time of year.) The Resurrection isn't just something that happened to Jesus some 2000 years ago, nor is it merely something that will, through God's grace, happen to us when our days on this earth are ended. It is in fact something that happens regularly to us and within us, not yearly but almost daily.

In our lives there are those resurrection experiences when the old ways die and a new way of living comes upon us.

It happens when someone who has been out of work for a while - maybe months or years - finds that someone is willing to employ them. They rediscover their worth, find they are valued and valuable - that is resurrection.

It happens where a couple who have been married for many years find the things that once held their marriage together have gone, but they discover new depths, new treasures, new security and new love in their relationship - that is resurrection.

It happens when someone who has been a long-standing member of the church finds that they can't quite hold on to the things

they once believed and yet, instead of turning and walking away, find that the Gospel comes alive in new and meaningful ways that speaks to them and their situation - and that is resurrection.

Resurrection is not just a past event, nor merely a future hope, but a present reality where lives are changed by an encounter with the Good News of Christ.

It comes when we live in the moment and are not always looking back or stretching to see what is around the next bend.

Sometimes, however, we do have to look ahead so that the joy of resurrection does meet God's people in the here and now. Working for God's kingdom is about dreaming dreams and having hope for the future. The challenges of the last few years and months have stripped hope from many people's lives but there are still a lot of people who are hopeful about the future and are looking forward to what might be, and as Christians we should be among them. We too must dream our dreams and explore our hopes for the coming years.

But that is all they will remain - dreams and hopes - if we do not plan and work to bring them about.

We might wish for a more inclusive society and more equitable world, but it will never happen if we do not work for it. We may wish for all people in this country to have a roof over their heads if that is what they want, but it will never happen if we do not work for it.

We can wish for everyone to be able to afford the food they need to feed their families, but that requires commitment and effort.

And we may wish for Wallington United Reformed Church to be full every Sunday, but it will never happen if we do nothing about it.

May God inspire your dreams, and may God give you the strength of purpose to begin working them out.

*Craig Bowman*

## **Our Wider Community**

We think of all those who are coming to the end of another school term. For those getting ready for their coming exams, we wish them well. For others looking around for the next step of their education, we send good wishes for whatever they decide, and hope they get the places they need.

Others will be looking forward to the Easter break, and the summer term with its abundance of outside activities, weather permitting.

### **Calmly We Walk Through This April's Day** by Delmore Schwartz

Calmly we walk through this April's day,  
Metropolitan poetry here and there,  
In the park sit pauper and rentier,  
The screaming children, the motor-car  
Fugitive about us, running away,  
Between the worker and the millionaire  
Number provides all distances,  
It is Nineteen Thirty-Seven now,  
Many great dears are taken away,  
What will become of you and me  
(This is the school in which we learn...)  
Besides the photo and the memory?  
(...that time is the fire in which we burn.)

### **My April Lady** by Henry Van Dyke

When down the stair at morning  
The sunbeams round her float,  
Sweet rivulets of laughter  
Are bubbling in her throat;  
The gladness of her greeting  
Is gold without alloy;  
And in the morning sunlight  
I think her name is Joy.

### ***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.

## **Prayer for black lives matter**

By Karen Campbell, Global Intercultural Ministries

### **Black**

If the night sky wasn't inky  
Could the stars shine so bright?  
And if there wasn't darkness,  
Tell me, how could light be light?  
No dark depths of earth –  
How would the flora grow?  
Black is essential, don't you know.



You tell me black is no good –  
The shade of evil, shade of sin;  
How do I then make sense  
Of the blackness of my skin?  
The skin I didn't choose  
No more than you could choose your own;

The skin that I was gifted –  
Only skin I've ever known.  
Black is what I am; it's who I am;  
It is my pride.  
It's the strength on which I stand –  
Where I refuse to be denied.  
Black speaks of where I'm going –  
How the world relates to me;  
Black speaks of where I've come from –  
Heritage and history.

But it's hard not to internalise  
The message all around –  
Before a word is spoken  
That in Black offence is found;  
Explicit or implied.  
Yet from your view you cannot see  
The shackles to be broken  
Until Black lives full and free. Amen



# 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.

# Faith - Hope - Love - since 1972



2022 celebrated the fifty years anniversary since the United Reformed Church came into being...



The United Reformed Church (URC) has announced a new date for its 50th Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration – Saturday 15 April, also the new date for the Open Church House event at 86 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9RT.

There's much to get involved in; if you like singing, join the Anniversary Choir, or volunteer as a steward at the service.

Open Church House takes place from 10am-12pm and the service starts at 2.30pm at Methodist Central Hall Westminster.

## Refreshments and a longer 'Coffee after Church' on March 12th

Those who were able to stay enjoyed the extra refreshments after the service on March 12th...

It was a time to chat and catch up with church friends. The fact that we feel as if we have a million things to do, a thousand things to finish, and hundreds of things to fit into our lives means we don't often make the time to sit down to just catch-up and have a chat.

Why do we rush?  
How many times do we rush around, trying to fit everything in? Are we always looking for the next best thing?



We know this all comes from a good heart, but is anything so urgent that we can't take time out to turn towards a friend, pause, and give them the gift of our full attention? Was it good to take time to interact, and enjoy the company of church friends?



If so, watch out for the next extended 'Coffee After Church', possibly 30th April...hope you can make it!

If you feel you could arrange an extended 'Coffee After Church', as we head towards the summer months, please speak to Janet or Elaine.





## People we know...

### Reaching a Milestone

Congratulations to Stephen Tomkins, Editor of Reform, on reaching his 100th issue on 18 January - which coincidentally was the same date as press day! Church House colleagues helped Steve celebrate with a cuppa and lots of cake, donated by Andy Jackson, Head of Communications.



Steve said of all the issues he's worked on, the URC's 50th-anniversary edition was one of his favourites and his dream interview would be with singer, songwriter and activist Billy Bragg.



**Reverend Sarah Moore** is currently serving as Transition Champion within the National Synod of Scotland. This is a special category ministry post that aims to work with congregations, and those who lead them, to discern appropriate patterns of mission and ministry for the future. She also serves the United Reformed Church as Assistant Clerk to the General Assembly.

**The Revd Nicola Furley-Smith**, after serving as Moderator of URC's Southern Synod, has taken up the post as the church's Secretary for Ministries. Nicola brings a great breadth and depth of experience of the URC to the role.

After being selected for ministry and training in Manchester in the 1980s, Nicola served as a minister to churches in Mersey, Yorkshire and the south of England before becoming Synod Moderator in 2011.





Were you able to join in with some, many, most or all of the groups

## 'A Beautiful Friendship'

the Lent Course based on the film 'Casablanca'?

Of all the classic Hollywood films, one of the best-known and most enduring is 'Casablanca', made and released 80 years old.

Even though it featured a stellar cast and top writers, the people involved thought it would be just another Hollywood flick, one of hundreds that the studios produced every year. But the film shot Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman to a new level of stardom and their lines in the film have been woven

into the fabric of modern culture.

The line "Play it again, Sam" is one of the most widely quoted lines from *Casablanca* — but it never actually appears in the film. In the famous piano scene, Ilsa leans on the piano and says, "Play it once, Sam". Rick also says, "Play it" — but nobody says, "Play it again, Sam."

And what about "Here's Looking At You, Kid" or "Of All The Gin Joints In All The Towns In All The World, She Walks Into Mine" or "this looks like the beginning of a beautiful friendship." All sound familiar, and all come from 'Casablanca'

The list of invaluable contributors must also include the supporting cast, too, which gives unique life to a North African city that serves as both refuge and purgatory to varying parties during the second world war. Foremost among them is Claude Rains as Louis Renault, a local police captain whose shameless corruption is also a form of political savvy, his way of handling an area of "unoccupied France". The great Peter Lorre has a small but crucial role as Ugarte, a shady character in possession of two precious "letters of transit", taken from two murdered German couriers, that would allow passage from Casablanca to neutral Lisbon and finally to freedom in the United States.

The release of *Casablanca* was rushed through because of real-life world events. Originally the film was to be released in early 1943, but the film premiered at the Hollywood Theatre in New York City on November 26, 1942. Why? The publicity people moved it forward to coincide with the Allied invasion of North Africa and the capture of Casablanca.

The film then went into wide release on January 23, 1943, to coincide with the Casablanca Conference, a high-level meeting between Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt in Casablanca.

# **Taken from 2020 Prayer Handbook**

## **'Prayers from the heart'**

Edited by Karen Campbell and Ian

Foster

Contributors were encouraged to offer prayers that expressed the whole range and depth of thankfulness, joy, hope, frustration, fear and yearning that might be found

## **As if I was there**

From the 2020 Prayer Handbook, by Karen Campbell

Let me absorb the unfolding scene ...  
see and hear as if I was there  
in the flesh –  
sensitised and raw;

the Friend, betrayed;  
the Peacemaker arrested;  
the Faithful denied;  
the Innocent accused;  
the Blameless condemned;  
the Gentle abused;  
the Healer assaulted;  
the Liberator nailed.

Life put to death.

The lamb sacrificed.

For me.  
Was all of this really for me?

Let me see and hear  
and feel again,  
and offer my heart in return.

Diary Dates			
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
Sunday	23rd	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley
Sunday	30th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
May			
Sunday	7th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Saturday	13th	10.00am	GUIDES JUMBLE SALE

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

Sudoku Answers  
for March:

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

# Puzzle Corner

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

## Bible Word Search: The Cross

Abraham, Afflicted, Christ, Creation, Crucify, Disciple, Forsaken, Freedom, Glory, Good, Heaven, Hell, Honour, Hyssop, Justify, Messiah, Mission, Moses, Passover, Peace, Perfection, Pharisee, Pilate, Power, Praise, Promises, Prophecy, Punishment, Rebellion, Righteous, Sacrifice, Scapegoat, Slavery, Throne, Trinity, Worthy

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.

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

# EVERY WEEK AT WALLINGTON U.R.C.

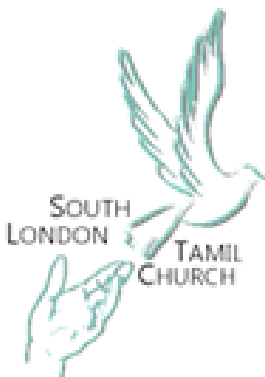
## Times of Worship

**Sunday**                      10.30am                      Family Service

## Activities you can find on our Premises

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

<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
	1.15-3.15pm	Lace Making
	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!**