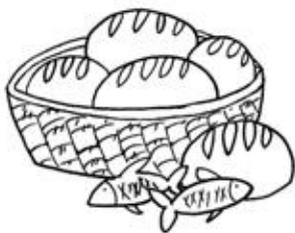


Wallington United Reformed
Church

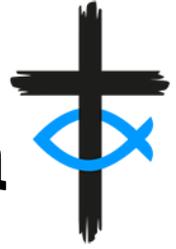


CONTACT

No. 368

May 2023

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends,

This month, as I shared in the rearranged 50th Anniversary Service I return to the United Reformed Church's statement concerning our nature, faith and order. Previously I considered the Doctrine of the Trinity and its place in our belief, and how an understanding and worship of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is essential for our faith.

That faith is renewed and refreshed in a variety of ways, essentially through our life together as fellow believers and through the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion where we recall what Christ did and share in those activities through God's grace.

But our life of faith is also renewed and strengthened through God's Word. In fact, the primary source for our faith is God's Word to be found in the Bible.

The third part of the statement expounds this:

The highest authority for what we do is God's Word in the Bible alive for his people today through the help of the Holy Spirit.

In the United Reformed Church we understand the Bible to contain the Word of God - God himself speaking to each and every one of us.

It was one of the basics of the Reformation for which our predecessors fought and died, that each and every person ought to have access to God's Word, as found in the Bible - that it ought to be readily accessible in a language that could be understood.

That is one of the basic tenants of The Bible Society based in Swindon, for whom many members of my first church worked.

But the URC's basis of faith is that the Word of God needs to be understood though the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

There is an incredible variety within the Bible:

There is history - 1 Chronicles 14:1-3

There is biography - Nehemiah 2:11-18

There is prophecy - Isaiah 11:1-9

There is poetry - Hosea 11:1-4

There are wise sayings - Proverbs

There is worship and prayer - Psalms

There is apocalyptic - Daniel or Revelation

There are mythical stories - Genesis 3:1

There is teaching - Matthew 5:1-4

There are letters - 2 Corinthians 1:1-2

There are laws - Leviticus 19:9-14

And then there are the Gospels - and how would you pigeonhole them?

There is within the Bible such an incredible variety.

And we have to admit that some of it seems not only strange to us, but sometimes blatantly odd and even irrelevant - how about 5 verses on what to do with Women Prisoners of War (Deuteronomy 20:10-14)?

And some things seem to have been surpassed by developments and become irrelevant: in Leviticus chapter 13 there are 13 verses on how to decide what to do about mildew - today we would clean the article in question and if that didn't work throw it away or burn it.

There is a temptation to skip over parts of the Bible that do not appeal to us - those we find irrelevant or parts we find difficult to agree with.

But we need to consider the whole Bible, not just parts that suit us. Seeking to understand apparent contradictions can help us to realise the development of thought that takes place within the Bible.

The Bible is not just a book of historical facts, although it does contain them.

It is an attempt by the people of God over many centuries to put into words their experience and understanding of God and his activity - of what he has done with the world and with them, and for the world and for them.

It is not enough to read the Bible and take it as a literal and word for word truth, but to understand why it was written, who it was written for and by, and then to understand what it says to us in our position and time now.

This is something that cannot be done wholly alone but requires study with others through notes and/or in groups.

But the basis of all this is that God speaks to us today, where we are, though his holy Word which can be found in the Bible.

This is the ultimate authority for all that we do in the United Reformed Church; our authority is not found in people - bishops, moderators, ministers or church secretaries - but in his word which is available and speaks to every single person of faith if, and this is the crux, we will take the time to study it and explore it and learn from it.

Thanks be to God for his Word.

Craig Bowman



The Coronation of King Charles III

A Prayer for Coronation Day

Eternal God,
You order and govern our world and all that is therein,
bless, we pray, Charles and Camilla today
as they are crowned and anointed,
that amid the pomp and ritual,
they may feel your loving presence,
that they may fulfil the roles prescribed for them,
and that we may, in this kingdom, be better governed,
and always reminded of your eternal Kingdom which is to come. Amen



A Prayer for the King and Queen

Eternal God,
You order and govern our world and all that is therein,
bless, we pray, Charles and Camilla
that they may feel your loving presence,
and fulfil faithfully the roles prescribed for them,
and that we may, in this kingdom, be better governed,
and always reminded of your eternal Kingdom which is to come. Amen.

Our Wider Community

Saturday 6 May 2023.

Cheering crowds will wave flags and line the streets to Westminster Abbey, and cameras inside will stream the ceremony to millions across the world. Across the country, church bells will ring out and communities will gather together to celebrate the Coronation of Charles III.

There's no doubt how seriously Charles takes his responsibility as king, just like his mother before him, and how committed he will be to fulfilling his duties.

Looking ahead to this historic moment in the life of our nation, we give thanks for His Majesty The King's example of lifelong public service to others.

The Coronation will be a time to celebrate community, faith and service – values that are reflected in these prayers.

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Throughout history, the anointing is the most sacred part of the coronation ceremony and takes place before the investiture and crowning. The archbishop pours holy oil from the Ampulla (or vessel) into the spoon and anoints the sovereign on the hands, breast and head. The tradition goes back to the Old Testament where the anointing of Solomon by Zadok the Priest and Nathan the Prophet is described.

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.

**CARSHALTON AND WALLINGTON
ART GROUP**

Spring

Exhibition 2023

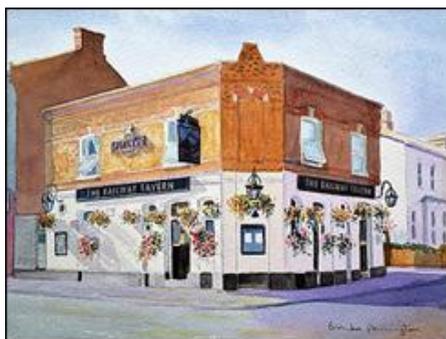
May 25th – 28th

Thursday, Friday,

Saturday and Sunday

10am to 5pm

closing at 1.30pm on Sunday



**Come along to vote
for your
favourite picture.**



**Bring along a friend
for tea/coffee and cake
to support The Alzheimer's Society.**



Our Easter Activities

As we met at 10am for a short introductory service to our Good Friday Activities we were looking forward to a refreshing, cheerful and happy time to be shared by everyone. As some of our friends from St Andrew's URC, Cheam, were able to join us at WURC we extended a warm welcome, and hoped they would enjoy the variety of activities on offer.



The singing group, who added new songs to their repertoire, showed us what they had been learning on Good Friday and also on Easter Sunday.



The Easter Garden was built up and a number of flower arrangements put together. The craft group coloured papier maché eggs, made Easter cards and bookmarks, and built up miniature Easter Gardens.

A wide range of ages was catered for.





And then, during the afternoon of Easter Sunday there was an invitation for everyone to go to Carshalton Park to try their hand at 'Egg Rolling'. *Egg Rolling* is a big *Easter* tradition, going back over 150 years. On Easter Sunday, many Scottish families participate in an egg rolling contest.

After they're boiled and painted, the decorated eggs are taken to a park where they are rolled down a hill. The person whose egg rolls the farthest distance without breaking is the winner of the contest.



Although it is generally considered a children's game, egg rolling actually has a religious meaning: the rolling of the eggs down the hill symbolizes the rolling away of the stone on Christ's tomb associated with his resurrection.





NO MOW MAY

No Mow May is an annual campaign run by Plantlife calling all garden owners and green space managers not to mow during May, allowing grass, and crucially wildflowers to grow. The UK has lost over 90% of its wildflower meadows since the 1970s, so allowing even a small patch to revert to such a meadow can make a real difference. If your church has an area of grass do let us know if you're planning to join No Mow May, and we'd be delighted to receive pictures of any flowers that appear in your patch. We can report back in due course. Meanwhile a couple of tips:

1. Signposting your patch with 'No Mow May' can spread the word and foster support, should your patch look a little straggly
2. Repeating 'No Mow May' in the same patch in successive years may increase the number of flowers that appear, especially if you allow seeds to set by extending the no mow period through to July.

Article by David Pickering



Why not consider taking part at your church?



**Taken from the Service of Thanksgiving and
Celebration held at Methodist Central Hall,
Westminster, 15th April 2023.**

Prayer:

**Based on the theme of the 11th Assembly of the World Council
of Churches, held in September, and written for that occasion**

Holy God, source and Creator of all things,
love made flesh in Jesus Christ,
and known among us through the Holy Spirit,
gather us together in your loving arms
that we may grow in visible communion
and so witness to unity in the world.
Where your people are broken, may love mend.
When hatred shouts in the world, let love bring peace and justice.
As creation groans, may redemption come to all the earth.
Come with your divine love, and enter our hearts.
Move your church, and move the world,
to reconciliation and unity.

Act of Recommitment:

People of the United Reformed Church,
giving thanks for God's mercy and grace in days past,
I call upon you, in this year of jubilee,
to make a new commitment
for today and tomorrow.
May the quest for unity, forge us.
May the celebration of diversity, sculp us.
May the vision of abundant life for all, steer us.
Transfused by God's grace,
walking the way of Jesus Christ,
bound together in Holy Spirit,
we commit ourselves
to be signs and servants of God's new creation.

God of the past, together – we give you thanks.
God of the hidden future, together – we place our trust in you.
God of our own time, together – we will follow where you lead.

**8th South
Wallington Guides**

Jumble Sale

Saturday

13th May

10.00am to 12 noon

in the Church.

Admission 50p

Light Refreshments available

Diary Dates			
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 (with refreshments)
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Morning service...
Saturday	20th	3.00pm	Christian Aid Service, followed by Refreshments
Sunday	21st	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Thursday-Sunday	25th-28th	C&W Art Group Exhibition 10am-5pm(closing at 1.30pm on Sunday) Refreshments will be raising money for the Alzheimer's Association	
Sunday	28th	Please Note: There will be NO service at Wallington on 28th May...Please join with our friends at St Andrew's Cheam.	
June			
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...

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

Sudoku Answers
for April:

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

Puzzle Corner

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

Bible Word Search: Paul's Missionary Journey (Acts)

Achaia, Antioch, Asia
Minor, Athens, Berea,
Caesarea, Caude, Cilicia,
Corinth, Cyprus, Egypt,
Ephesus, Fair Havens,
Galatia, Iconium,
Jerusalem, Laodicea,
Lystra, Macedonia,
Neapolis, Pamphylia,
Paphos, Perga, Philippi,
Phoenicia, Phoenix,
Puteoli, Rhegium, Rome,
Salamis, Salmone, Sardis,
Seleucia, Sicily, Sidon,
Tarsus, Thyatira, Tyra

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.

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

EVERY WEEK AT WALLINGTON U.R.C.

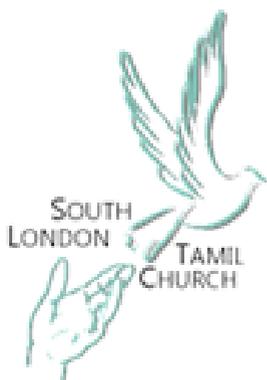
Times of Worship

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
	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
Friday	9.30am-12.30pm	NAS Coffee morning
	9.30am-3.00pm	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!