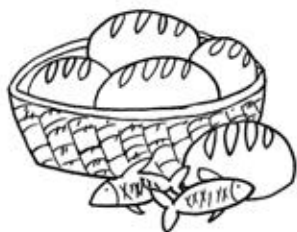


Wallington United Reformed Church



CONTACT

No. 370

June 2023

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends,

As I watched the coronation last month, in a very Anglican ceremony, I was struck that it was our Reformed tradition, represented by the Church of Scotland, that presented King Charles with a Bible and stressed where true authority lies and comes from.

In our Reformed tradition, we have held tenaciously to the idea of the separation of church and state. Part of the reason for this – besides the fact that in our early days we were persecuted by the state – is because power and success are so darn tempting. It is hard to be prophetic when you are cosied-up with the power structure. I have therefore jumped ahead to the penultimate section of the Statement Concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church.

We believe that Christ gives his Church a government distinct from the government of the state.

In the things that affect obedience to God the Church is not subordinate to the state, but must serve the Lord Jesus Christ, its only King and Head. Civil authorities are called to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humanity, and to respect the rights of conscience and belief.

This may sound like rebellion, or insurrection. There are many people who believe the church should have nothing to do with politics. This paragraph will, at first sight, cause them worry and anxiety. To talk about two governments suggests that there can only ever be opposition between church and the state. However, not only do I believe that there is much to be commended in that part of the statement, but I also believe it is wholly Biblical.

We believe that Christ gives his Church a government distinct from the government of the state.

There is here an affirmation that not only does Christ give government to the church - a way of organising and supporting the millions of his followers - but also that Christ and God are the basis of the governments of state.

The statement is not so much a declaration of the independence of the church but an affirmation that all power and authority comes from God. And that is Biblical.

The recipients of the letter of Titus are reminded to submit to rulers and authorities - to obey them. In Paul's letter to the Romans, he writes:

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been

instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

In any kind of community there must be some kind of leadership and authority, some kind of guidance. The type of that leadership - where authority rests - will vary.

I doubt if you will find many who do not think authority is good. It is the use or abuse of it that causes problems. It is up to responsible Christians to ensure that the governments we get are in keeping with the Gospel of Christ.

This is where Christians must be involved in politics. To opt out is to abdicate our responsibility as wise members of God's kingdom. We let down the millions of God's people in this country and around the world whose lives are impoverished or belittled by the actions of people we have done nothing or little to influence.

If we opt out we also cannot say "it's not my fault".

If we opt out we allow others to do what they want.

God gives authority.

God is at work in this world through his people. In a democracy such as ours God, through his people, has the opportunity to remove or affirm that authority.

I do not believe that we can pray for justice, for change, for peace, for whatever, and then just sit back and wait for God to do it. God works through his people and the ordinary things of life as much as through the supernatural and extraordinary things of this world.

Having said all that, having said that we should obey our governments and authorities, there is a but.

But....

But there comes a time when we cannot do what our leaders ask of us.

Although we have an opportunity to influence our Government there are times when democracy only allows the majority to serve self-interest, and there are very many around the world whose government is not representative, and that has been the case since before the time of Christ.

Here obedience is still called for until...

Until the ways of government and authority go against the way of God and Christ. And then our allegiance must be to Christ. The early Christians discovered that.

In seeking not to upset the governments of their world they paid their taxes, they obeyed their laws.

But when it came to such things as offering incense on an altar as an offering to Caesar as god, that they could not do.

In the things that affect obedience to God the Church is not subordinate to the state, but must serve the Lord Jesus Christ, its only King and Head.

There comes a time when it is necessary to stand up against the prevailing spirit of that time, the ways of the rulers. Many committed Christians have found that in the past, and for a large number of them it has cost them their lives.

However, one of the most difficult things that Christians have to decide is when what they believe to be wrong is just a matter of human disagreement, and when it is truly contrary to the ways of God.

There is no easy answer to deciding when it is a civil thing, and when it is an issue of faith.

I suppose, at the end of the day, it has to be a matter of conscience and personal conviction; recognising that sometimes we have to agree to differ.

But there are guidelines and pointers.

Civil authorities are called to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humanity, and to respect the rights of conscience and belief.

When the actions of our civil governments and authorities are not serving the ways of justice and peace, and when rights are infringed, then maybe the time has come for questions.

Craig Bowman

Trinity Sunday, June 4th 2023

Threefold Thanks

(Taken from the Prayer Handbook 2018, On Eagle's Wings)

We thank you Creator,
for a kingdom to come,
where justice is true,
and chains are undone.

We thank you Jesus,
for teaching the way,
to kingdom understandings,
to belief and grace.

We thank you Spirit,
for blowing where you choose,
for making us one,
for birthing good news.

Amen

(by Alex Clare-Young)

Our Wider Community

We lift up students and schools to the Lord today, that he may bless the teachers and the future generation as they work towards their goals.

As the exams approach, the schedules fill up, and the to-do lists are never-ending, everything can seem daunting and overwhelming, and almost impossible to get through. The testing can cause anxiety as so many students place their value on an exam grade.

The tests and exams require you to draw on your knowledge from an entire course, a full year, or sometimes even longer. We hope they will be able to focus, release the worries, and take positive steps, break free from distractions and feel less test anxiety.

We think of all those who have been taking tests and exams... SATs, GCSE, A level, T level, BTEC and College exams.

Lord, we pray for students who are taking final exams at this time of the year, those we know and those we do not know. You alone know how so many experience similar times with a sense of loneliness, challenge, anxiety and stress.

Reach out and touch the hearts and minds of students with a sense that you are with them; with confidence to face the challenge; and with the realization that their anxiety and stress can be a positive energy in their pursuit of excellence.

Give them insight to understand what they have studied and help them to remember it when the time comes.

Help them to keep in perspective the many gifts and talents you have already given them that they may use them for the greater honour and glory of God.

Amen

May God grant you his peace.

We ask your prayers for all who are anxious or unwell and those who are housebound or have any difficulties at this time.

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.

Charles III

Charles became king upon his mother's death on September 8th 2022. At the age of 73, **he became the oldest person to accede to the British throne**, after having been the longest-serving heir apparent and Prince of Wales in British history. His coronation took place at Westminster Abbey on 6 May 2023.



Charles III is descended from both Christian IX and Queen Victoria twice, as his parents Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip were descendants of both monarchs. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden is descended from Victoria, twice, as his parents were second cousins and they were both great-grandchildren of Victoria.



The British monarchy is entrenched in symbolism. It is the first time in recent history that a consort has opted to re-use an existing crown rather than commission a new one to be made. The palace said Camilla's choice was "in the interests of sustainability and efficiency."

At the heart of the Coronation was the part of the service where the King was anointed in a rite going back to the earliest days of the English monarchy.

In our contemporary society, and certainly within our congregations, there are a variety of views on the monarchy, yet we can unite in wishing Their Majesties The King and Queen a happy future.

Although the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla took place on May 6, the reigning monarch and his consort have been known as Their Majesties since the death of Queen Elizabeth II, when Charles officially acceded the throne.



Since then, and following the May 2023 crowning ceremony, a royal logo featuring the initials 'CR' will appear more.

Over time, this emblem – known as the Royal Cypher – will start to appear on things like new post-boxes, government buildings, state documents, and Royal Family mail.

What does CR stand for with King Charles III?

The meaning is quite simple: **‘CR’ stands for ‘Charles Rex’**. Charles is, of course, The King’s first name and regnal name (sometimes, monarchs choose to reign under an official name, rather than their actual first name).

And Rex is the Latin word for King.

The Royal Cipher also features ‘III’, which are the Roman numerals representing the number three. This is because The King is the third King Charles – with Charles I reigning from 1625 to 1649 and Charles II from 1660 to 1685.

The monogram is Charles’ personal property and was selected by the monarch from a series of designs prepared by the College of Arms. A Scottish version features the Scottish Crown, and was approved by Lord Lyon King of Arms. It will be used by government departments and by the Royal Household for franking mail. The decision to replace ciphers will be at the discretion of individual organisations. The process will be a gradual one and, as you may notice, the ciphers of previous monarchs can still be seen on some public buildings and street furniture, especially post boxes.



We pray that they were able to feel God’s presence as they were anointed and throughout His Majesty’s reign. We hope that they will use their office well and use their voices at the centre for those on the margins of our divided society. We pray that His Majesty The King reminds us of the importance of spirituality and religion in the lives of our nations. Above all, the URC commends their Majesties, The King and Queen, to God’s care and protection.

Prayer

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.



Coronation Celebrations across the URC

As the nation celebrated the coronation of King Charles III, congregations across the United Reformed Church (URC) held afternoon tea parties, coffee mornings and much more.

Southern Synod

Trinity Church Willingdon held a special coronation café church on Sunday followed by a banquet as part of the Big Lunch initiative.



Yorkshire Synod

At Christ Church Halton's Coronation picnic, the celebration cake was cut by the church's eldest member, Frank Ireland, who, at 103, has been alive during the reign of 5 monarchs.



South Western Synod

Emmanuel URC's lunch club team served a celebratory roast dinner. The 1st Greenmeadow Rainbows Girl Guides based at church each made some bunting to decorate their homes and the church for the coronation.

Wessex Synod

A fun time was had by all at Fleet URC's coffee morning on 3 May. To celebrate the King's coronation, members and friends of the church wore red, white or blue, or dressed up for a palace garden party.



East Midlands Synod

Abington Avenue URC took part in The Big Help Out on 8 May, where people across the UK gathered to lend a hand in their communities. One team went around picking up litter and planted seeds in the garden.

Spalding URC held a lunch comprising scones, cakes and pastries.



North Western Synod

Bamford Chapel and Norden URC held a lovely afternoon tea followed by an outside service.



WELL DONE!!!
To the 8th South Wallington Guides
as their

Jumble Sale

held on the 13th May, raised over £327
A big thank you to everyone who was able to
support this event.

Have you heard of



Your home is where you feel most comfortable and happiest. It is the place you know best. If you want to stay living comfortably at home and need some support 'Home Instead' can help you make that choice.

The range of home care services are varied and flexible. Not everyone's needs are the same...From simple housekeeping to companionship, collecting shopping or preparing meals, as well as offering support with personal care. Home Instead can monitor health conditions as well as offer continuity of care matched to the client.

Care professionals will be matched to clients interests and hobbies, and their visits will not be rushed, but can be built into a supportive relationship.

If you need more information, please speak to Lynn Skelton. (07732 951066)



We were hosting a Joint Service with St. Andrew's, Cheam to support Christian Aid. Saturday 20th May saw a very happy and friendly occasion, with donations to help Christian Aid in their ever increasing work. The joint choir was amazing, and had learned a new

'catchy' number. We were able to take up an 'old fashioned' collection with donations being put into the bags as they came round.

On the Sunday (21st) we also collected for Christian Aid which helped the final total to reach just over

£491

To help raise more money, please join us for

The **BIG** **Church QUIZ**

Saturday

June 17th

7.30-9.30pm

Either bring along a team of six, or come to join with friends once you arrive.

Tea and coffee, soft drinks and a few nibbles will be provided, but please bring along any of your own favourite snacks for the evening.

All money raised will go to Christian Aid.

Christian Aid Week 2023 was 14th-21st May.

Harvest has been celebrated for centuries as a season of plenty. Yet in 2022, the number of people living in hunger and poverty was at an all-time high. Today, more than 811 million people around the world face chronic food insecurity and do not know where their next meal will come from.

One of our long-standing partners is the World Food Programme (WFP), the world's leading humanitarian agency working to improve food security. We are working with the WFP to tackle the needs of displaced people in Bangladesh, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Christian Aid has deep connections with local communities, so our teams on the ground are able to direct aid where it is needed the most. People are at the heart of all we do. We ensure that they participate fully in

this work and tell us what is most needed in their homes and communities.

Our programme aims to break the cycle of food insecurity and support people to re-establish their self-reliance.

And this year we celebrate how our partners in Malawi are helping farmers transform their livelihoods using the humble but mighty pigeon pea: a drought-resistant, soil-revitalising, high-protein, low-cost, delicious crop.

Give Peas a Chance

Why the pigeon pea?...From super crop to super-food

Pigeon peas are the ultimate super-food: a super-resilient, super-versatile crop, that handily enriches the soil for future harvests. They can be a game-changer for communities in Malawi.

The pigeon pea can be used in a multitude of ways. The Great British Bake Off's talented Hermine has helped us come up with irresistible pigeon pea tacos.

Ingredients

180ml oil
100g diced onion
3 small garlic cloves, finely chopped
2 sprigs thyme
1 bay leaf
½ tsp ginger powder
Pinch of black pepper
100g carrots, finely chopped
50g celery, finely chopped
100g fresh tomatoes, chopped
¼ tsp cayenne pepper
1 stock cube of your choice (vegetable, chicken or beef)
50g tomato purée
Pinch of bicarbonate of soda
2 x 400g cans pigeon peas, drained and rinsed
200ml water
A small handful of parsley, finely chopped, plus extra for garnish
1 tsp honey
½ tsp salt (or to taste)
2 ripe plantains
½ tbsp of ground crayfish (optional)

Here's What to do: Cook the onions, garlic, thyme, and bay leaf in 2 tablespoons of oil over a medium heat. Add the ginger, pepper, ground crayfish (if using), carrot, celery, fresh tomatoes, cayenne pepper, stock cube, and cook for a further five minutes or until the mixture looks mushy. Add the tomato purée, the bicarbonate of soda, and mix. Pour in the rinsed pigeon peas and the water and stir it all together.

Sprinkle over the parsley, add the honey, and mix. Cover and bring to boil. Using the back of a wooden spoon or spatula, mash about one-third of the beans to thicken the stew. Leave to simmer and reduce for another 10-20 minutes on low, then season to taste.

Peel the plantains and slice into 5mm thick discs and toss them in a bowl with some salt.

Add roughly 150ml oil to a frying pan and heat to about 180°. A good tip is to drop a piece of plantain in the oil and if it sizzles, the oil is ready. If it sizzles but caramelises immediately, the oil is too hot.

Using a frying ladle, place half of the plantains in the oil and fry on both sides until golden brown. Scoop the plantains out and place them on a plate lined with kitchen towel to drain excess oil. Repeat with the remaining plantain.

Assemble by placing two generous spoonfuls of warm pea stew on each taco. Add two or three slices of avocado and some fried plantain. Garnish with chopped parsley and finely sliced sweet red pepper or chilli for a little heat. Finish with a squeeze of lime.

Enjoy!

Diary Dates			
June			
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Morning service...
Saturday	17th	7.30pm	The BIG Church QUIZ
Sunday	18th	10.30am	Morning service...
Sunday	25th	10.30am	Morning service...
July			
Sunday	2nd	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman

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

Sudoku
Answers
for May:

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

QUIZ Puzzle Corner

Each Answer is either a flower or a plant:

1. Girl on a tandem (5)

2. Sounds like animal in a hurry (7)

3. Dessert Bill (5,7)

4. Bovine mistake (7)

5. Winter fall? (8)

6. Sounds like a smart cat (9)

7. A reminder (6,2,3)

8. She could be the apple of your eye (4)

9. Depressed ringer (8)

10. Warm that girl (7)

11. Tinned milk? (9)

12. Regret French street (3)

13. It doesn't wait for anyone, we hear (5)

14. A silly ram got mixed up (9)

15. Wise old man (4)

16. High temperature not many have (8)

17. Sounds like she'll wed for wealth (8)

18. She comes from the dale (4,2,3,6)

19. Bird to encourage horse (8)

20. Miss Golightly to pawn (9)

21. Sugary vegetable (5,3)

22. Scarlet hero (9)

23. Rate healthy (9)

24. Tiers, we hear (4)

25. Jolly greeting to wee girl (8)

26. Break mythical creature (10)

27. Old smoke (8)

28. Whale concealed (6)

29. Female footwear (5,7)

30. Fawltly herb (5)

Answers next month

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.

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

EVERY WEEK AT WALLINGTON U.R.C.

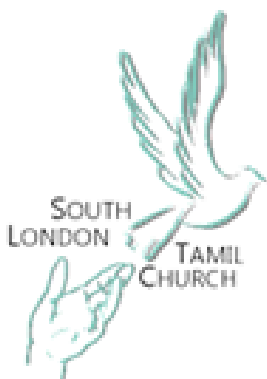
Times of Worship

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	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 (monthly)
	9.30am-3.00pm	Reading Fairy Sutton
	6.45-8.30pm	Guides(8th Wallington)



South London Tamil Church (SLTC)

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

Everyone welcome!