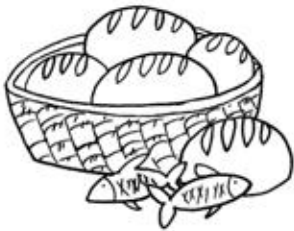


# Wallington United Reformed Church



## ***CONTACT***

No. 372

September 2023

# Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

It's the middle of August as I write this and the waiting is over. For thousands around the country (and not just this country) the emptiness of the past 9 weeks or so is no more since the new football season has kicked off.

'Oh, no,' I hear you cry, 'not already!' But it's true, I'm afraid. And although those damp, cold, "dreechit" (as the Scots would say) days, when you trudge home dejectedly after seeing your team lose to your local rivals with a last minute goal, are difficult to imagine in these days of glorious sunshine and dry grass, they will come. It is in those times that the faith of the true football fan is seen. The lightweights who are only interested during the World Cup are the equivalent of people who only go to church for weddings, funerals and maybe at Christmas. Most Christians would feel hard done by if our faith was judged according to that standard.

For a Christian to be a football fan is not a problem. The challenge is to take their faith into their love and enthusiasm for the game. The Christian football fan should be distinctive, treating other fans and teams with respect, and when they need it compassion, too. Gloating and cheating may be unchristian but competitiveness isn't.

I came across the following passage the other day:

"Would Jesus go to watch a football match? I suspect that he would. He might even support one team over another, although he would appreciate good play from either side. He might join in with the singing, although not some of the less family-oriented chants. Jesus was (and is) interested in people, and if Peter and the others had been regulars on the terraces at Galilee Rovers, I don't see why Jesus wouldn't have gone along as part of his friendship with them. And if he did, you can bet that Peter and the others would

have rethought what they said and did when they were at the game. Yet again, bringing Jesus into a situation results in changed lifestyles.”

This doesn’t just apply to football. It is about all the things we choose to spend our time on. Enthusiasm for football, or another sport, or music, or art, or any one of a thousand things is not something to be derided. These are the things that capture the attention and enthusiasm of those around us and we shouldn’t feel ashamed to share in them as well. Jesus would be there.

It’s not so much about how we spend our time but what we are like when we are spending that time. Do we act with integrity? Do we do and say the same things there as we would in a church situation, and avoid doing and saying the same things there that we would avoid in the church situation? Do we leave our faith at the door or do we take it with us into our leisure time?

Just because our pastimes are relatively unimportant in themselves doesn’t mean that we shouldn’t treat them with the same seriousness as the rest of life – our faith is for them too.

May Christ be with you in both your important and unimportant activities.

*Craig Bowman*

## **Our Wider Community**

We think of all those who have been waiting for exam results over the summer. We wish them every success as they learn of their results and take the next step along their chosen path.

*As the new school year begins we pray that all children are able to learn not only what's in the textbooks, but also important life skills and grow to be wise. We pray that you, Lord, will inspire a spirit of learning in them and prepare them for the school year ahead.*

Please help our children to accept instruction. Give them the desire to learn from the wise and to accept correction. Soften their hearts so they can gain knowledge from their teachers (and parents) and respect all who try to help them throughout every day.

Thank you God for the men and women who invest in the future of our children.

Give teachers and educators wisdom, creativity, and discernment as they lead others this year.

Remind them that they are not alone and their work is not in vain.

Move in close, Lord, and let them sense Your presence and Your support.

**Amen.**

*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 or that you would like to be included in Contact please let Alan know. Thank you.]**

# 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.

## **Climate disruption and the environment**

By Roo Stewart -Joint Public Issues Team

A prayer of repentance  
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, you  
brought light into darkness.  
You breathed life into nothingness.  
You made the world, and it was good.  
You made us, and it was very good.

And then things went wrong.  
At first, we didn't realise our choices  
would bring pain and difficulty.  
Later, we did realise our choices would  
bring pain and difficulty but chose  
them anyway.

The human race has acted with  
disgrace towards this beautiful world: your invitation for us 'to care'  
interpreted as 'to dominate', to abuse, to destroy.

And we are truly sorry.

Sorry for species that no longer exist, wiped from the face of the planet,  
because of our recklessness, thoughtlessness and greed.  
Sorry for neighbourhoods and homes, livelihoods and fields being lost  
beneath the rising tide of vain ambition, ambivalence, prejudice, and  
convenience.



Sorry for children who will only know scorched  
earth, hardship, dirty air, dirty water, lack,  
drought, famine and disease.  
Sorry that praying this makes us feel  
uncomfortable and yet powerless to change.  
Sorry that our choices now still bring pain and  
difficulty.

But you are still loving and patient.  
Your desire for a world in harmony, peace,  
shalom is within us.

And so we pray.  
And act. Amen



# Jubilee

Freed to Live!

## **Time to breathe...**

I close my eyes. And breathe...

The scenes of the day  
just coming to a close  
replay in my mind.

The busyness. The excitements. The frustrations.

The life-draining moments  
dwell with me  
going round and round in my head.  
Help me to let them go.

Focus my mind on the life-giving moments  
that I may fully acknowledge them  
appreciate them  
draw on them and be renewed.

Loving God, I know  
you are in my moments -  
even when I fail to recognise you  
and when I wear myself out  
by going it alone.

But I take time now  
in this moment  
to sit with you; to be with you, to reflect -  
and recognise -  
your presence with me throughout the day.

Thank you, Lord.  
In you I find rest.  
And breathe.

*Karen Campbell*

# The Uniting Church in Garden Lane

**A unique alliance between a church and its community that has been ongoing for more than 120 years has established a thriving partnership fit for the future.**

It is a traditional chapel established in 1880 for the Methodist Church. Worship has continued uninterrupted on this site since. The church has very strong links with the local community and is considered as being at the heart of what is now called the Garden Quarter.

In 2020, the Uniting Church in Garden Lane, a local ecumenical partnership between the Methodist and United Reformed Churches in Mersey Synod, set about evaluating its current role as a place of worship.



And so, the Plum Project was born.



What does the plum symbolize?

They symbolise **perseverance and hope, as well as, beauty thriving in adverse circumstances**. As the Plum tree blossoms between two seasons, it is also seen as a symbol of spring - bringing warmth, transition and the promise of fruitfulness.

Neil Kendall, Chair of the Plum Project, explains: "We already had activities like dance, drama, photography, non-traditional worship and music taking place in the building, but wanted to take steps ensure a future for community engagement – not just to ensure we could survive after the pandemic, but to also develop the diversity of the building's users and to encourage those people and groups to share their culture and experiences."

The project's steering group carried out a community survey to find out what local people wanted and secured funds to ensure the church building was sustainable and fit for purpose as a modern space designed to serve a wide variety of uses.

More than 200 people responded with 120 offering suggestions, which created a network of 'Plum Friends' and formed a basis of communication for future engagement.

"Here is a church and community growing in relationship, moving and responding together as they listen to the voices of their neighbours,"



2022...Sunday 5th June  
as part of the Garden  
Quarter Jubilee  
Celebrations .

Over three years,  
the church has involved  
its neighbourhood and the  
variety of skills from local  
people to plan and deliver  
festivals and gatherings,  
offer support to  
marginalised

communities.

Neil explains: "This included reworking our usual events like Harvest to include a community food-related workshop, bringing in healing events to mark memories of loss in November, and at Christmas developing a 'travelling nativity' on a pastoral journey around the neighbourhood.

"We also strengthened our partnerships with local organisations. For Refugee Week, we started working with the local primary school to include a creative workshop which produces artistic materials for the celebration. All this involved community members from start to finish."

Links with refugees continued during school holidays where members of the project noticed the need for support, especially for the parents of pre-school children. Help was also provided by way of acquiring re-conditioned bikes and providing somewhere to meet. Theatre and singing professionals offered places at summer workshops for both primary and secondary school-aged children, whilst a 'Sing and Sign' specialist offered sessions with Tots.



## 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.*

### Luke 10:25-28 'Keeping our Hearts with God'

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?'<sup>26</sup> He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?'<sup>27</sup> He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.'<sup>28</sup> And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

At the moment I am reading *God's Smuggler* by a Dutchman called Brother Andrew, who sixty years ago was inspired to smuggle thousands of Bibles into Communist Eastern Europe over the years. Christians behind the



'Iron Curtain' had never felt more alone. He himself had undergone a change in his life and he felt called to the work and the book tells of how his faith grew from nothing to God will provide. Andrew went from church to church and group to group as the appetite of the people was huge. In many countries a Bible was scarce or non-existent. It has made me think of my faith and commitment and I remembered the hymn on the right. The number 'seven' appears many times in the Bible from the

day of rest in Genesis to leaving a field to rest in the seventh year. The fall of Jericho revolves around seven days.

Today, our society views Sunday as just another day, but when I think of Brother Andrew and the work of many who care, it becomes a special day, JUST as all other days. George Herbert's hymn reminds us that we are 'cleared' of all that is wrong in our lives, if we listen to God's voice. The final verse extols us to praise him in all we do each day of the week. It is what is within our hearts rather than rules that we should remember, as Jesus reminded the Pharisees. Thus the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath. So the day of rest is for our physical and spiritual good. We only have to think of the story of the Good Samaritan to think of 'seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee', when the need is in front of our eyes.

### Prayer:

*You are invited to pray through the words of the hymn:*

#### **'King of Glory, King of Peace'**

*George Herbert (1593-1633)*

King of Glory, King of Peace, I will love thee;  
and that love may never cease I will move thee.  
Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me;  
thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing thee,  
and the cream of all my heart I will bring thee.  
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me;  
and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;  
in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.  
Small it is, in this poor sort to enrol thee:  
e'en eternity's too short to extol thee.

*Reflection © 2021 Matthew Earl*

*<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*

*Looking forward:*

*Advance notice of our*

*Come Christmas  
Shopping!*



*fundraising event which is in the planning stage:*

*Saturday 18th November*

*11.00am to 3.00pm*

*Tombola Raffle Games*

*Christmas Decorations Gift Items*

*Greetings Cards & Paper*

*Write your letter to Father Christmas*

*...cakes will be available, also marmalade and jam,  
along with books and DVDs, and of course*

*Refreshments*

*Any offers of help for this event  
will be gratefully received.*

## Harvest Festival

Advance notice that our Harvest Festival this year will be on Sunday 15th October. Watch out for more details.

We are hoping to support the Sutton Women's Centre again this year, who have given fantastic help to so many.

Their counselling service is free to local women who have experienced domestic abuse. A minimum of 12 sessions is offered and a free crèche is available if required.

They offer support groups, English as a second language groups, mum and toddler groups, writing groups, and help with IT skills.

We will be keeping in touch with the Sutton Women's Centre to ask what items are most needed. They do offer help with cooking, so some fresh produce, tins and packets are very acceptable although they may also need other items.

As we find out about their needs, please watch the weekly notices and also October issue of Contact.



Sunday 15th October is also planned to be the next 'extended coffee and lunch'...giving us a modern twist on the 'Harvest Lunch' from days gone by.

Diary Dates			
September			
Sunday	3rd	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Phil Hyde
Sunday	10th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led Philip Brooks
Sunday	17th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	24th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley
October			
Sunday	1st	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley
Sunday	15th	10.30am	Morning service: Harvest Festival and Parade Service by Uniformed Organisations to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Followed by extended coffee and lunch			

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

Word Building answers,  
more on the next page.

o	i	l				Lubricant
l	i	d	o			Open-air pool
i	d	o	l	s		Heroes
s	o	i	l	e	d	Dirtyed
s	l	i	d	e		Slip
i	d	l	e			Lazy
l	i	d				Cover

Sudoku Answers for July/August:

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

# Summer Crossword Answers

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

Take to court

Snooker rods

Hints

Stipulation

Magnitude

Delicate fabric

Beer

s	u	e			
c	u	e	s		
c	l	u	e	s	
c	l	a	u	s	e
s	c	a	l	e	
l	a	c	e		
a	l	e			

f	e	e			
r	e	e	f		
f	r	e	e	s	
f	e	s	t	e	r
t	e	r	s	e	
r	e	s	t		
s	e	t			

Payment

Line of rocks

Liberates

Decay

Laconic

Remainder

Group

# Puzzle Corner

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

## Bible Word

### Search:

### Water in the Desert

Arid, Blessing,  
Cactus, Clear,  
Comfort, Desert,  
Drink, Dry, Faith-  
ful, Flourish,  
Flow, Fountain,  
Gladness,  
Growth, Healing,  
Hope, Hot, Hy-  
drate, Journey,  
Joy, Life, Living,  
Mirage, Mois-  
ture, Oasis, Palm  
tree, Parched,  
Prayer, Quench,

Rain, Recover, Refresh, Respite, Revival, Sandals, Scorched, Singing,  
Spirit, Spring, Stream, Sun, Survive, Thirsty, Wall, Water

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.

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

# EVERY WEEK AT WALLINGTON U.R.C.

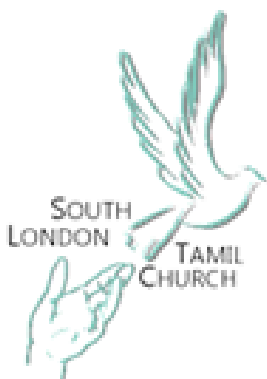
## Times of Worship

**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>	10.00-11.00	Pilates
	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 (monthly)
	9.30am-3.00pm	Reading Fairy Sutton
	6.45-8.30pm	Guides(8th Wallington)
<b>Saturday</b>	8.45-9.45am	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!**