



# ***CONTACT***

No. 373

October 2023

# Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

I took up a new sport just over a year ago. Although it's related to a sport I last played regularly over 30 years ago this iteration didn't exist until a little over 10 years ago. I have been aware of it for a few years now but told a friend that I wasn't going to join in until I reached a certain age. That age was reached last Summer so I ran out of excuses and began to play Walking Football. It's a great opportunity to try and improve my fitness and mix with many other people – both men and women – most of who never go near a church (although one of the people I play with is another United Reformed Church minister). There are several rules that make it different from traditional football including, as the name suggests, not being allowed to run. It's taken some getting used to but the not running hasn't been the hardest part; it's been some of the other rules that have required more adjustment. Some things don't change, though: a foul is still a foul, handball is still illegal and disrespecting the referee is still a no-no (amongst other things).

For me there is here a metaphor for Christian living. When we are young we learn certain rules regarding how to be a Christian but as we get older we realise things are not as straightforward as we once thought and there are nuances to life that can make things seem so much more complicated. Additionally what we are able to give in terms of time, skill and resources change over time. Of course there are certain things that don't change: we are saved by Grace not by our efforts, discipleship is lived out in all of life not just in church and we cannot do this alone (amongst other things).

So how do we determine what are the rules by which we are living, what are the unalterables of our faith, and what do we have to offer in this particular time of our life? To a certain extent it is through private reflection and prayer, taking seriously the call of Christ to lay down our nets (those things that tie us to the past) and follow him. Yet, as I indicated in the previous paragraph we are not solitary disciples and spending time with other believers can help us to reflect on where we are in life and what God might want of us at this time and in this place. This is, of course, one of the reasons we have church meetings and, from time to time a series of group meetings to explore a topic or study material. These not only help in our discipleship but can also be a place where we give support and encouragement to others.

However it is also important to remember that all our church conversations are significant. Chat over coffee after the service may be a chance to catch up on the day-to-day life of our friends but it is also the opportunity to reflect on the service we have just shared in. Did something strike you as significant? Did the preacher say something that challenged or encouraged you? Did you disagree with something that was said or did it make you feel uncomfortable? (I am always happy to receive such feedback.)

This Autumn, let's talk.

*Craig Bowman*

## **Our Wider Community**

We think of all students and teachers as the new term is getting underway.

As the new school year begins, we pray for students, teachers, and parents.

Dear Lord, we ask that you give them peace and courage as they begin a new year of classes.

Surround them with supportive and encouraging friends.

Bless their hard work over the coming months.

Surprise them with unexpected moments of joy.

Dear Lord, please grant all of these students a fruitful, fun, and engaging school environment. A place where each child feels included, cared-for and inspired to grow in character as well as knowledge.

I pray that our children will learn to become the friend that every child wants and needs.

Jesus thank You for friends! Thank You that You created us to be in a relationship with you and each other. We pray our children will build kind friendships this school year. Friendships where they can build each other up and support one another. Give us all a way to build a community where families can work together.

We pray school will be place of great discovery, adventure and creativity. May it be a place where children love to learn and where they learn to love, A place where every one is respected and all are deeply valued. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*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](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.*

**Clare and Pete McNamara's twin grand-daughters,  
Millie and Macy Coughlan:**

The twins arrived early at the end of 2021. Millie, now 1½, was born at 29 weeks with her sister Macy. Unfortunately, at 8 weeks old, Millie required a simple procedure due to Hydrocephalus which went ahead at St George's hospital Jan 2022. The operation went well, and she started to recover. A few days later Millie became extremely unwell, and they found she had caught an E.Coli infection from the hospital which had travelled to her brain. It took Millie 5 months to fight off the infection.



In her first 1½ years of life Millie has had 21 brain surgeries, 21 times putting her life at risk, 21 times risking new infections and 21 times of Millie being a Princess Warrior. Due to brain damage from the E.Coli infection, she has been left with visual impairment, Cerebral Palsy and cranial cysts. As you can imagine this has been a very tough 1½ years.

Millie's Missions are to see the world, to crawl, roll and walk like her Twin, to have access to frequent Hydrotherapy and therapy courses.

To help Millie get a small percent of what she would have had without the infection, she will need physio, ground breaking therapies, adjusted everyday living, sensory and medical equipment and possible overseas corrective surgeries. Although the NHS has been fantastic in getting her this far on her journey many of her medical needs cannot be accessed via the NHS or some in this country.

Clare's son, Ben, and his wife Becka have started a fund-raising page to raise money initially for additional hydrotherapy sessions to support Millie.

*"My mummy has set up this page as she believes in me but doesn't have the funds to support my needs. Please donate small or big to help me live a better life."*

*Love Millie x*

[www.https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/mrcmilliesworld](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/mrcmilliesworld)

## Ministry and Mission Fund - Annual letter to Local churches

**To: All Members and Adherents of United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships**

Dear Friends,

When will normal service be resumed?

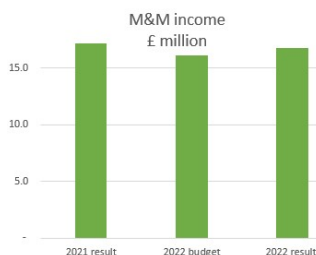
As we are writing this letter and closing off the URC's accounts for 2022, the country is still torn with industrial disputes, mostly notably with Health Service workers, rail industry workers, teachers etc. etc. Whatever your view as to the wisdom or justice of such action, we suspect all of us are affected by the disruption to some degree.

In church too, are we back to "normal life"? Some churches no doubt have returned to something like their pre-Covid level of activity and attendance numbers. Quite a few have recommenced their activity but find their numbers have reduced. Some churches have found re-opening too difficult and have decided to close.

Whatever the "new normal" was to be, we suggest its arrival has (like many trains) been disrupted, delayed, or cancelled all together.

The URC's finance officers had concerns that the late arrival of return to normality would impact very significantly on the giving to the M&M Fund in 2022. However, the churches responded magnificently and giving to M&M was £600,000 ahead of budget. It was also only 2.5% down on 2021's result.

So, thank you to all who contributed to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2022 in full, and thank you to all those



who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could. With normal service not yet resumed, 2023 is not going to be an easy year either. We now have the added disruption of high inflation, pushed up wages and overhead costs. As the Spirit directs and as our means allow, can churches once more respond to the call of our gracious, loving and ever-generous God?

Again, thank you all!

Yours in Christ,

Ian Hardie (Immediate Past Treasurer)  
Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

*If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.*

# 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.

### **Action Prayer with Greta – Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory**

#### **Bubble Prayers**

Equipment – small pots of bubbles.

Praying with bubbles can be fun, but can be best done outside as if you spill it then it can be very slippery and hard to clean up.

God loves you and wants to take care of you. Tell God something that you are worried about or are fearful about and ask God to help you.

Blow the bubbles and burst the bubbles as a sign that you are giving your worry and fear to God.

Looking at the colours in the bubbles, thank God for the world and wonders of creation. Amen

Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for the freedom we enjoy in this country, that we can walk to school relatively safely, and we have access to hot and cold running water 24/7. We pray for your protection over all children who live in constant fear each day. May they know that you are with them and give them strength and courage to face whatever the day brings. Amen

### **Action Prayer with Greta – Bangladesh**

Lego prayers Using some building blocks or Lego, build yourself a sturdy house.

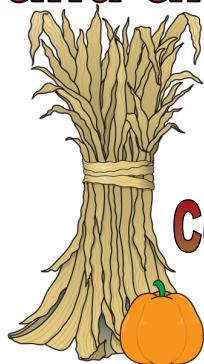
Prayer:



Dear God, we thank you for our homes, which are made of solid brick. We remember those who live in countries such as Bangladesh, whose homes and livelihoods, due to the climate crisis, are easily destroyed through floods and strong winds. Amen

# Let's enjoy the Harvest Festival together!

## Embrace the harvest and all its natural goodness.



Come celebrate the harvest festival:  
fruits, family, friends!



# Sunday 15th October

**An all-age service, with parade  
by Uniformed Organisations  
All donations will be for  
Sutton Women's Centre**



We are collecting boxes and packets of luxury biscuits and deluxe crisps, which are always a nice treat for the ladies who come along. Body wash, shampoo and conditioner, toilet rolls and nappies are also needed for everyday support for many of centre's clients. The Centre helps with cooking skills so fresh fruit and vegetables are often used.

They are very grateful that dry goods, pasta or rice are now being donated by supermarket chains.... Thank You....



# Around our World

As **Turkey and Syria** rebuild after the devastating earthquakes that struck six months ago, stories of support from community organisations demonstrate the power of compassion and solidarity during times of crisis.

The two earthquakes that hit southern Turkey and northern Syria in February caused widespread devastation. At least 58,000 men, women and children have died. Homes, hospitals and schools have been destroyed. Lives are changed forever.



In the days that followed, Christian Aid local partners were on the ground in Syria supporting relief efforts. As six months have gone by, our partners have continued their work to support communities as they begin the long road to recovery.

The situation was particularly grim in northwest Syria. Only 5% of reported sites were reached by search and rescue operations in the first 72 hours after the earthquake. There was, and continues to be, a lack of heavy machinery to remove rubble.

Christian Aid has reached more than 60,000 people in northwest Syria in the weeks and months that followed. Winter kits, emergency kits for children and cash to pay for essentials have been distributed to vulnerable families. Another 5,000 people have been helped in Southern Turkey.

Christian Aid has been working with local partners in Syria for decades. But recent continued efforts are made possible by the generosity of our Christian Aid supporters. Over £3.4 million has been donated – thank you!

Where tens of thousands have been displaced and in need of life-saving essentials, community organisations have been making a meaningful difference. Their support has been crucial as people rebuild their lives.

MIDMAR is a renowned advocate of social responsibility and a Christian Aid local partner in Syria. At MIDMAR, they believe that empowering and strengthening communities can take various forms.

Syrians have experienced immense hardships – war, displacement, violence, poverty and now these earthquakes. UNICEF estimates that over 2 million Syrian children have been affected. Many are without family, friends or a support system.

Following on from four years of community work and initiatives, MIDMAR launched the 'Bayt Sity' Kitchen project in response to the earthquakes.

The project served a dual purpose: supporting women in the region and providing much-needed meals to residents impacted by the earthquakes, while actively engaging women in addressing community concerns.



**Following the Morocco earthquake, an emergency appeal was launched to help support people affected.**

On Friday 8 September, 11pm local time, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck Morocco. The epicentre was in the High Atlas Mountains, approximately 70 kilometres south of Marrakesh. A 4.9 magnitude aftershock followed just 20 minutes later.

Local authorities are reporting that more than 2,800 people have died, with many more critically injured. The total number of people affected is in the hundreds of thousands.

Many of the worst affected areas are remote and mountainous, and the impact of the earthquake has made them even harder to reach.

People have lost everything. Homes have been reduced to rubble and survivors are in need of basic support like shelter, food and water.

**Local Moroccan Red Crescent teams were on the ground immediately responding to the earthquake.**

They are supporting authorities with:

- search and rescue
- provision of water, food, shelter and hygiene kits
- evacuation
- first aid
- transportation of injured people to hospital
- psychosocial support

## **Maui Wildfires:**

The death toll from August's horrific Maui wildfires has dropped from at least 115 people to 97, Hawaii officials have announced.

The numbers fell a little following further DNA testing that showed officials had in some cases collected multiple samples from the same deceased people.

But John Byrd, laboratory director with the Defence POW/MIA Accounting Agency, warned during a press conference that the current number of dead should be considered a minimum, because it's possible that toll could rise.

The Lahaina fire is the deadliest in the U.S. in more than a century. Determining the death toll from the Lahaina wildfires has been especially complicated after the August 8th blaze reduced much of the historic town to ash.

## **Libya: catastrophic flooding breaks dams and sweeps away homes**

More than 5,000 people are presumed dead and 10,000 missing after heavy rains in north-eastern Libya caused two dams to collapse, which sent water rushing towards Derna, and caused catastrophic damage. The eastern city of Derna, saw the worst of the devastation, with as many as 6,000 people remain missing.

The flowing water destroyed bridges and carried away entire neighbourhoods, eventually depositing them into the sea.

Several countries and human rights groups have offered aid, aircraft delivering humanitarian aid have arrived in Libya, with search and rescue teams and more humanitarian aid being sent to Benghazi. The aid includes essential medicines and emergency surgical supplies.

Teams were also trying to deliver much-needed aid to families in the eastern part of the city, which had been spared the worst of the flooding but was cut off by road.

**Here in UK:** Summer 2023 has been one of contrasts - after the warmest June on record we had an exceptionally wet July. Northern Ireland and much of north-west England had their wettest July on record. Across the UK, August temperatures averaged a daily high of 19 degrees Celsius (67 degrees Fahrenheit) and a low of 11 °C (52 °F). The UK as a whole had an average 162 hours of sunshine in August.

*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**

**Toys 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**

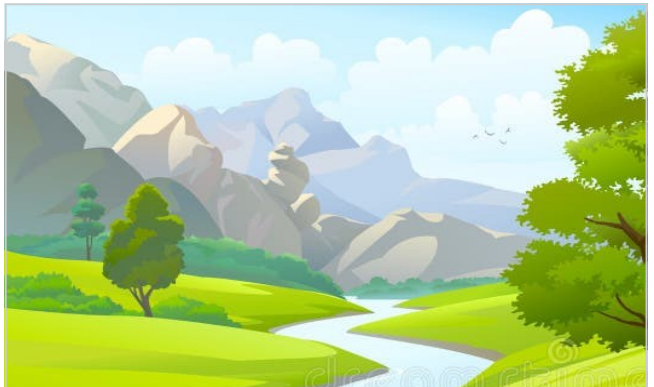
*Any offers of help for this event  
will be gratefully received.*

*With thanks to Philip Brooks*

*A quote from*

*Desmond Tutu:*

There comes  
a point where we  
need to stop just  
pulling people  
out of the river,  
some of us need



to go upstream to find out why they are falling in -

*Something to think about....*

Diary Dates			
October			
Sunday	1st	10.30am	<b>Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>
Sunday	8th	10.30am	<b>Morning service...to be led by Phil Hyde</b>
Sunday	15th	10.30am	<b>Morning service: Harvest Festival and Parade Service by Uniformed Organisations to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>
Sunday	22nd	10.30am	<b>Morning service...to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley</b>
Sunday	29th	10.30am	<b>Morning service...to be led by Paul Hollingum</b>
November			
Sunday	5th	10.30am	<b>Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>
Sunday	12th	10.30am	<b>Remembrance Day service...</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>Christmas Shopping/Stalls...11.00am-3.00pm</b>	

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

Sudoku Answers for  
September

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

# Puzzle Corner

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

## Bible Word

### Search:

### Clothing of the Bible

Bonnet, Bracelet, Breeches, Cap, Climate, Coat, Colors, Cotton, Embroidery, Fabric, Garland, Garments, Girdle, Headdress, Ivory, Jewelry, Leather, Leaves, Linen, Loincloth, Mantle, Necklace, Ornamentation, Ornaments, Palestine, Raiment,

Robe, Sackcloth, Sandals, Scarlet, Sealskin, Sewn, Sheepskin, Skins, Sleeves, Tassels, Wealth, Weaving, White

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

# 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 1.00-2.30pm 2.00-4.00pm 7.00-8.00pm 7.45-10.00pm	Yoga Al-Anon Bananas Art Yoga Explorer Scouts
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.15am-1.20pm 10.00-11.00am 12.30-2.30pm 1.40-3.40pm 5.00-6.00pm 6.00-7.30pm 8.00-10.00pm	Hartbeeps (mother and baby activities) Pilates AA Meeting U3A Art group Rainbows Brownies (10th Wallington) Epsom Downs Badminton, Winter(Sept-May)
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.30-11.30am 7.30-10.00pm	Baby Massage Chess Club
<b>Thursday</b>	10.00-11.00am 11.00-12.00noon 1.15-3.15pm 2.00-4.00pm 2.00-4.00pm 6.00-7.00pm 7.25-10.00pm	Pilates Senior Movers Exercise Lace Making Ladies' Badminton, Winter(Sept-May) Fallen Angels Drama Pilates Carshalton & Wallington Art Group
<b>Friday</b>	9.30am-12.30pm 9.30am-3.00pm 6.45-8.30pm	NAS Coffee morning (monthly) Reading Fairy Sutton Guides(8th Wallington)
<b>Saturday</b>	8.30-9.30am 10.00-12.15pm	Fitness Zumba



## South London Tamil Church (SLTC)

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

**Everyone welcome!**