

Wallington United Reformed Church



CONTACT

No. 374

November 2023

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

Sitting at the desk in my study I am struck by the fact that there are too many books for the way they are currently arranged on the shelves. Besides being stored upright on the shelves, in too many places there are other books lying horizontally on top of them, and then there are the copies lying on top of my printer and the window sill! I really must find the time soon to reorganise my study in order to fit the newest arrivals on to the shelves, and perhaps move some of the less used ones to another room in the manse.

One of the new arrivals that's waiting for a more comfortable home on a shelf is a book of poetry published by the Iona Community. In dipping into it the other day I came across one of Kathy Galloway's poems entitled 'Prize-Giving'. For reasons of copyright it would be inappropriate to reproduce the whole poem here, however the essence of the poem is that although prizes are awarded to the fastest there is so much to be appreciated and discovered if we take our time.

As Kathy Galloway writes:

the high adrenaline soaked thrill of going somewhere fast
is not to be compared
with the low-down pleasures
of being somewhere
slow

I'm conscious that church life often reflects the rest of life, in that it is often very busy and we seem to be rushing from one thing to the next. I suspect that sometimes we do not gain as much as we might from an activity or a season because we are

so soon preparing for, and then on into, the next one.

In just over a month's time we shall be entering one of the two periods of the Christian year set aside for reflection – Advent. However this will also coincide with an increase in events and activities as we move towards Christmas. I wonder if we might be able to find some way to slow down this Advent and notice more? Like year, there will be an Advent devotional booklet, produced jointly with St Andrew's, available for those who want it. I hope this, as well as drawing attention to the need for reflection, means that when Advent does arrive at the end of the month we have already planned how we are going to use it this year and find the space to reflect a little more than maybe we usually do.

May you find time to notice some of the things you normally miss this month, too.

Craig

Walk and Talk

Friday mornings.

10 am for walking.

Meet outside the first entrance for walking.



11 am for tea and cake in the Waterfall Cafe at Dobbies if you don't wish to walk.



**Everyone
welcome.**



Our Wider Community

Join us for the Sutton Youth Summit 2023 on **Thursday 16th November 2023 at the St Nicholas Shopping Centre SM1 1AW.**

Get your tickets now on Eventbrite

This FREE event is open to any young person in Sutton (11-25 yrs) and the aim is to provide useful information

and advice on the 3 priority areas identified by young people, following last year's Youth Summit

We encourage all young people in Sutton, aged 11-25, to attend the Sutton Youth Summit 2023. It's a chance to be heard, to make a difference, and to shape the future of

our vibrant community. Don't miss out on this incredible event!

There is also a young people's survey on the cost of living crisis

We are working with Sutton Council to find how the cost of living crisis has affected young people in Sutton. This survey has

been created *by* young people *for* young people. The information

gathered will help professionals to target help and support for young people and their families.



We pray for those who are struggling in our community. May they find hope and light in their darkness. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. We think of everyone who is facing financial difficulties during this cost of living crisis. May all who are in poverty, access the support they need. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. We thank you, God, for the hope that we can have in you. May our actions be a sign of hope for all. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. 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.]

A Fantastic Group Discussion Series...Edgy Saints

Many thanks to Phil Hyde for leading us through it...

The Church has declared many people to be saints but it has been good to look at lesser known, edgy, saints.

We cannot cover all five sessions here, but we hope you enjoy this small insight into some people whose lives have been especially pointed to God.

Session 1 – Martyrs: Magnus, our first saint is probably the most well documented, his bones are interred in the Cathedral dedicated to him in Kirkwall in Orkney. Magnus was buried where he was killed. The place then miraculously turned into a green field.

Also known in Britain as **St Uncumber**, **St Wilgefortis** became a popular saint in the fourteenth century. A daughter of a pagan Portuguese king and a Christian mother, she endeavoured to stave off marriage by taking a vow of chastity, but when her father betrothed her to a Moorish king, St Wilgefortis prayed that she would be made repulsive. Her prayers were answered, and she grew a beard which made her fiancé to break off the marriage and caused her father to have her crucified.

St Guinefort, the holy greyhound. This is the kind of story you may have heard before. A knight and his family left their dog, Guinefort, in charge of the baby. On their return they found the nursery in disarray, the child absent and the dog with blood on his face. The knight immediately slaughtered the dog. But then he heard the cries of his child. St Guinefort had saved the child's life by killing a viper.



Saint Guinefort

Session 2 – Radicals: St Oscar Romero was a Catholic priest and bishop in El Salvador. In 1980, he was shot dead by an assassin while celebrating Mass. Romero condemned the persecution of the Church where it worked to help the poor and gained a huge following due to his weekly sermons broadcast on a Church radio station which became a rare source of accurate news.

Dorothy Day, Servant of God. Dorothy Day was an American journalist, social activist, and anarchist who became a Catholic without abandoning her social and anarchist activism. Raised in a nominally Christian home she was drawn by the liturgy and music, being baptised and confirmed in 1911. She was received into the Catholic Church in December 1927. Day's pacifism was a hallmark of her campaigning and writing for the rest of her life. She praised the reforms of the Second Vatican Council particularly its declaration that nuclear weapons were incompatible with Christian teaching.

Session 3 - Missionaries: Saints from the earlier ages of the Church – all on the edge, all who are valued still despite, or maybe because, details of their lives being rather sketchy. **St Aidan** was an Irish monk, and a member of the monastic community on Iona. When the community first sent Cormán from their monastery to evangelise Northumbria at King Oswald's request, the mission failed.



Cormán blamed the hardheartedness and obstinacy of the Northumbrians. In their meeting Aidan suggested that maybe the mission had failed because the evangelist had not built up a positive relationship, and that a softer and more gentle, companionable approach might work better. As Aidan shared his insight, Bede tells of how all eyes turned to Aidan, and they all realised he had talked himself into being the next monk to honour the King's invitation to go and share the love of God in Christ in Northumbria.

St Colmcille (in Irish meaning ‘Dove of the Church’) is a person of multiple names, many legends and – we might even say – different sanctities. Born in 521 in Gartan, County Donegal, to a wealthy family associated with the powerful O’Neills. Some say his given name at birth was “Crimthann”, meaning a “fox”. A precocious teenager and accomplished musician, Colmcille became a monk and was ordained under St Mobhi at the renowned monastery of Glasnevin. It was not long until he began to found other monasteries around the country, and by the time he was 25, it was said that he had founded 27 communities throughout Ireland.

Cuthbert grew up in what is now North Northumberland/the Scottish Borders, entering the monastic life at Old Melrose under the tuition of St Boisil. Cuthbert moved on from Melrose to Lindisfarne upon the death of Aidan. Monk, a most reluctant bishop, and hermit, Cuthbert blazed a trail in many respects – for example setting up the world’s first recorded bird sanctuary on Inner Farne, just off the coast of Seahouses today. Cuthbert had, like Aidan, and many others in the Celtic church, a close affinity with God’s created world around him.

Session 4 Legendary Exploits: Irish folklore abounds with stories of **St Brigid of Kildare**, born around 455 CE, the daughter of a powerful chieftain Dubhtach and a Christian slave girl. The young Brigid was wearingly generous...with the property of her father! She gave away his cattle, his supply of freshly churned butter - and on one occasion even his sword - to those whose need seemed greater.



St Elisabeth the Wonderworker Born around the fifth century in Heraklea, St Elisabeth the Wonderworker showed early signs of holiness. Given a convent, she first had to remove a dragon from the building. She defeated the beast by spitting on it and trampling it with her bare feet. St Elisabeth’s feast day comes a day after that of another, much better known, dragon-slayer, St George. Their stories invite comparison and tend to represent two types of authority.

Session 5 Visions of A Different World: St Catherine of Siena, was born to middle class parents - her father had his own cloth dying business and her mother was the daughter of a local poet. Lapa, Catherine’s mother, already had 22 children when Catherine and her twin were born; sadly her twin died. Following a vision of Christ Catherine vowed, aged just 7 years old, to devote her life to God. She cut her long hair short as a protest against her mother’s chiding to improve her appearance so as to find a husband. Although opposed to marriage Catherine did not want to enter a convent and, instead, became a lay member of the Dominican order - though feigned illness was used to persuade her mother to let her join.



Deacon James, although he was never made a Saint, he remains one of Church history’s unsung heroes, with only fleeting references and a low profile. Like Simon of Cyrene, he had a ‘bit part’ in God’s unfolding plan. But there are no ‘bit parts’ in God’s kingdom. What we do know is that James experienced Christian life on the edge after the reign of King Edwin came to a brutal and sudden end in battle.



PARENT HUB UK PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS *Market*

EVERYTHING HANDMADE

GIFTS | DECOR | CHILDREN'S GIFTS | CANDLES |
JEWELLERY | AROMATHERAPY SKINCARE | CAKES |

ACTIVITIES FOR TODDLERS

18 NOV 2023

13:30-17:00

HOLMWOOD HALL, HOLMWOOD GARDENS, WALLINGTON
SM6 0HN

Booking recommended , via our site
Free entry

WWW.PARENTHUBUK.CO.UK
FOLLOW US @PARENTHUBUK.CO.UK



Looking forward:
**Come Christmas
Shopping!**



Please come along to help us to
raise money for our chosen charity:

on

Saturday 18th November

11.00am to 3.00pm

Toys *Chocolate Tombola* *Raffle*

Gift Items **Games**

Christmas Decorations

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.*

Commitment for Life

Prayer Partners

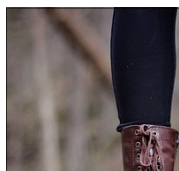
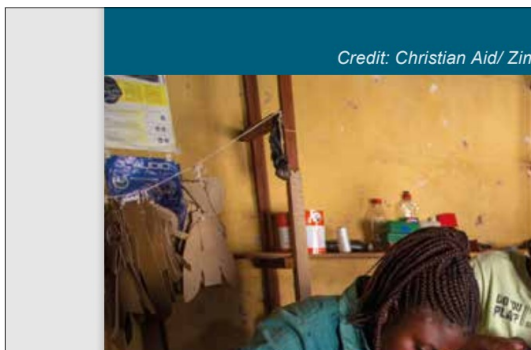
URC offer these prayers and images for your services of worship, church magazines etc to encourage and guide your prayer for global justice.

Action Prayer with Greta – Zimbabwe Foot Prayers

Using a marker and a piece of paper, draw round your foot or shoe. Do you have old reusable shoes that could be given to someone who is struggling financially to buy new shoes?

Prayer: Dear God, help me not to take my shoes for granted. We remember those in countries like Zimbabwe who struggle to earn enough money to buy shoes to wear for school.

We thank you for Christian Aid partners who are working with communities, teaching women new skills in leatherwork so they can make shoes for their families. Amen.



Books bring hope and faith to Zambian school

An idea to bring a few books on a trip to Zambia to celebrate the opening of a new school library has exceeded all expectations. For the flight, members of Cumnor United Reformed Church (URC) in Oxford had hoped to take an extra suitcase full of books but couldn't after an appeal to the congregation and community resulted in 4,000 being donated.

Drawing on Cumnor's ecumenical connections, professional help has been obtained with sorting and classifying the books, and negotiations are in hand to have them shipped to Zambia.

The trip in September was to celebrate the opening of Hope and Faith Christian Community School's new building after £500,000 was donated through Cumnor URC to help create a new library (to be used by the school and community at large), two training rooms for catering and tailoring, three classes

for the senior grade, an IT suite, toilets and showers, a sports hall, additional classrooms and adult education training rooms to add to the school's existing facilities. A new kitchen and dining hall for 300 people was also built and is powered by solar energy.

The building was formally opened on 9 September and is expected to be in full use by the school in October.

The church and school have been working together since 2005. The school is in one of Lusaka's most deprived neighbourhoods and the church has helped with a variety of initiatives from providing a daily meal to the 500+ pupils to bursaries for trade and higher education for former students. However, the relationship between them began in 2003 when Rosemary Mumbi rented a small house in Ng'ombe, a shanty compound in the capital city of Zambia and started a school with two pupils.

The Revd Nigel Appleton, Associate Minister of the church, said: "As numbers grew each year, another academic year or 'grade' was added, the school continued to grow in numbers and ambition.



"A milestone was reached when teaching was provided from pre-school and nursery classes to Grade Nine, the conclusion of junior education.

"With funding, some pupils were sponsored to continue their education at other schools. Subsequently, secondary education to Grade 12 was provided on site with these years being incorporated as a private school."

Cumnor URC began supporting Rosemary's work in 2005 when she visited her former teacher and life-long mentor Wyn Cornish.

Wyn brought Rosemary to us at Cumnor URC where she spoke of her ambitions for the school."



Since then, the Church has provided funding toward core costs and the feeding programme which gives every pupil a mid-day meal.

In 2013 Rosemary, another member of the teaching staff and two senior pupils visited the UK," continued Nigel. "Out of this visit came an initiative to form The Oxford Friends of Hope & Faith, an association of Cumnor URC open to all who wished to support the work of the school."

Although the group has provided the school with funds for a variety of purposes, it's principal work is funding awards to meet the fees and other costs for former pupils and staff of Hope & Faith and Max High (the secondary education to Grade 12 provision incorporated as a private school) together with other deserving young people wanting to pursue higher education or trade training. More than 30 young people have benefitted and a number of former pupils who qualified as teachers now teach at the school.



Christmas is coming around ...sooner than you think!!

*We are at the end of October!
As we look towards Christmas
we are happy to offer you the
opportunity to send your
Christmas Greetings to your
Church friends through the
pages of Contact.
& Save on Postage!*

Your design, including a
signature, if you wish, can
be sent by e-mail, or
handed to Janet or Robin.

Black and white or colour can be reproduced.

Design your own greeting, or give
us the wording and we will
produce something for you.

For a quarter portion of a page in
the December Contact,
approximately this size,
(95 x 60mm) production costs are
£3.00, and for half a page, if you
would like a larger format, £6.00.

Any donations over this amount
will be passed to Elaine.

However we will need the
details together with your
donation by the 22nd
November, please.

Sudoku Answers for
October:

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

Diary Dates			
November			
Sunday	5th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	12th	10.45am	Remembrance Day service to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley.
Saturday	18th	Christmas Stalls & Refreshments 11.00am-3.00pm	
Sunday	19th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	26th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Dr Alan Cruchley.
December			
Sunday	5th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	12th	10.30am	Morning service Gift Service and Nativity to be led by Phil Hyde
Sunday	17th	4.00pm	Carol Service... to be led by Revd Craig Bowman N.B. There is NO Morning Service on 17th December
Sunday	24th	10.30am	Morning service to be led by Phil Hyde
Monday	25th	10.00am	Christmas Morning service to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	31st	10.30am	Morning service TBA

PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the December 2023/January 2024 issue of Contact should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Friday 24th November** unless a later date has been agreed by prior arrangement. Contributions are very acceptable by e-mail: jmw321wmj @ yahoo.co.uk.

Puzzle Corner

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

Bible Word Search: Faith In Action

Accomplish,
Assurance, Bear
fruits, Blessing,
Confidence,
Encourage,
Endurance, Faith,
Foundation, Gods
grace, Gods will,
Good deeds,
Good works,
Guidance, Isaac,
Justice, Moses,
Noah, Nurture,
Obedience,
Observation,
Peace, Perfection,
Predestined,
Purpose, Rahab,
Relationship,

Righteous, Seek, Spiritual, Truth, Understand

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

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 1.00-2.30pm 2.00-4.00pm 7.00-8.00pm 7.45-10.00pm	Yoga Al-Anon Bananas Art Yoga Explorer Scouts
Tuesday	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)
Wednesday	10.30-11.30am 7.30-10.00pm	Baby Massage Chess Club
Thursday	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
Friday	9.30am-12.30pm 9.30am-3.00pm 6.45-8.30pm	NAS Coffee morning (monthly) Reading Fairy Sutton Guides(8th Wallington)
Saturday	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!