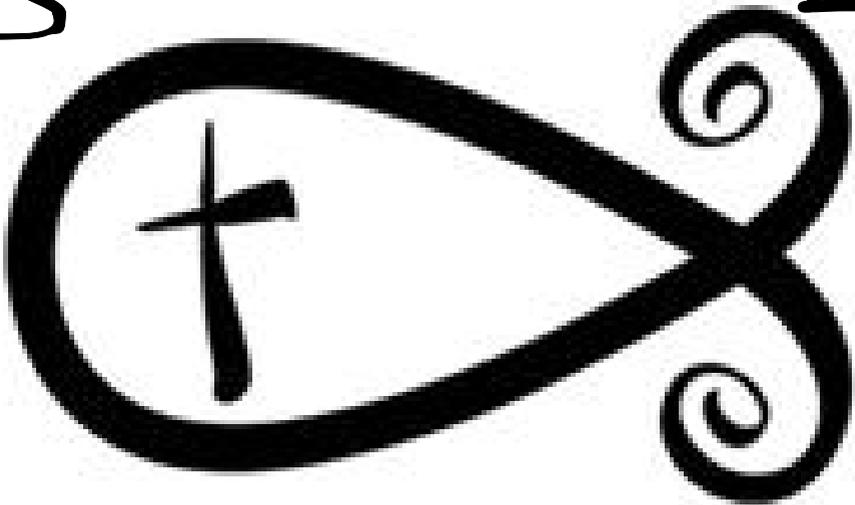


Wallington United Reformed
Church



**CONTACT
MAGAZINE**

No. 390 June 2025



Church

Did you know...

www.wurc.org.uk

is our church internet address. Look us
up sometime!

Minister:

Reverend Craig Bowman

Email: minister@wurc.org.uk

Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

Last month I gathered with many ministers from the Southern Synod to reflect on the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea when in 325 AD Christians from churches across Southern Europe, Asia Minor and North Africa gathered to try and agree on who they believed Jesus to be. This led to the Nicæan Creed which, along with the Apostles Creed, is one of the two traditional creeds of the Christian Church. It was a fascinating few days and I will reflect further on this later, perhaps around the time of the council which was held in late June through to early July.

A couple of years ago I started reflecting from time to time on the Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church. The discussions last month around the attempts to define what the church believed reminded me of the section where we affirm that we are willing to change our defining documents from time to time:

*We conduct our life together according to the Basis of Union in which we give expression to our faith in forms which we believe contain the essential elements of the Church's life, both Catholic and Reformed;
but we affirm our readiness, if the need arises, to change the Basis of Union and to make new statements of faith in ever new obedience to the Living Christ.*

The Basis of Union is a part of the scheme of Union which was signed in 1972 when the Congregational Church in England and Wales united with the Presbyterian Church of England.

It contains 25 paragraphs, some very short, others rather more detailed stating what we believe about the Church, what the purpose of the Church is, how we express our faith in worship and through the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, and how ministry is exercised in the United Reformed Church.

This Basis of Union has been modified in a few ways since 1972, particularly in 1981 when the Churches of Christ united with the URC in England and Wales, to make it the URC in the United Kingdom. Account had to be taken of the Churches of Christ's practice of only baptising believers, and the Basis of Union was modified accordingly.

The faith and practice set out in this document contains the essential elements of our life as a church both catholic and reformed.

The United Reformed Church stands within, not surprisingly, the Reformed tradition, as did Presbyterians and Congregationalists before us. Congregationalism and Presbyterianism originated in the Reformation. Their inspiration came from the continent, especially John Calvin in Geneva. Presbyterians and Congregationalists were Puritans who campaigned for the reform of the Church of England. Presbyterians modelled their church on the Genevan pattern and, had they succeeded, would have made a church rather like the Church of Scotland, with its General Assembly and Presbyteries. Whereas the Congregationalists were more radical, seeking independence for the local church. They were commonly called Independents.

The Churches of Christ who arose on both sides of the Atlantic early in the last century were also within this Reformed Tradition.

Now, to say both catholic and reformed may seem a contradiction for some but note that it is catholic with a small "c". Catholic in its "proper" sense meaning universal and all embracing, not as a title as in Roman Catholic.

We believe, and proclaim, that we are a part of the whole world-wide church, the universal church of God. Although we have our specific beginnings in the reformation of the 16th Century, with its emphasis on Biblical Authority, our true beginning is the ministry of Christ and those whom he called.... we are both catholic and reformed!

But the Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the URC states our willingness to alter the Basis of Union.

It's a strange church that affirms what it believes and then says it is willing to change that statement in the future. However this is one of the things that makes me happy to be a part of the United Reformed Church because its commitment to seeking the visible unity of the Church has to allow for the Basis of Union to be altered to incorporate other churches with whom we may unite.

There is also another reason why the Basis of Union may need to be altered. In the words of Pastor John Robinson to those ancestors of ours, the puritans who were the Pilgrim Fathers:

"The Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from his word."

As the days and years go by, our understanding of God and his purposes for us should develop and grow. We need to allow for that and expect it.

Craig Bowman

Support for those taking Exams at this time.

No matter what happens in the next few months, or after your *exams*, the Lord loves you and will walk with you for the rest of your life.

Loving Lord,

I come before You today, grateful for Your presence in my life. I ask for Your guidance and wisdom as the exams approach.

Fill me with Your peace, removing all anxiety and fear. Help me to understand and remember everything I have studied. Grant me the clarity of mind to grasp complex concepts and the strength to stay focused and disciplined in my studies. Lord, I trust in Your plan for me. I believe that with Your help, I can succeed.

Shield me from doubt and confusion. Fill my heart with confidence and peace, knowing that You are with me every step of the way.

Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer!

Thank you for the warmth of the sun
and the increased daylight.

Thank You for the beauty I see all around me
and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your
creation.

Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my
friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the
summer season.

[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.]

I wish I'd been there



The Council of Nicaea is 1,700 years old in May. Susan Durber looks back on the most momentous Church Meeting of all.

I'm confident that many readers of Reform have been to church meetings

of all sorts; a few Elders gathered in the vestry to seek wisdom on some pressing matter, a congregation's AGM, a synod meeting or a General Assembly, perhaps a larger conference with hundreds gathered at The Hayes in Derbyshire, or even Vatican II in Rome.

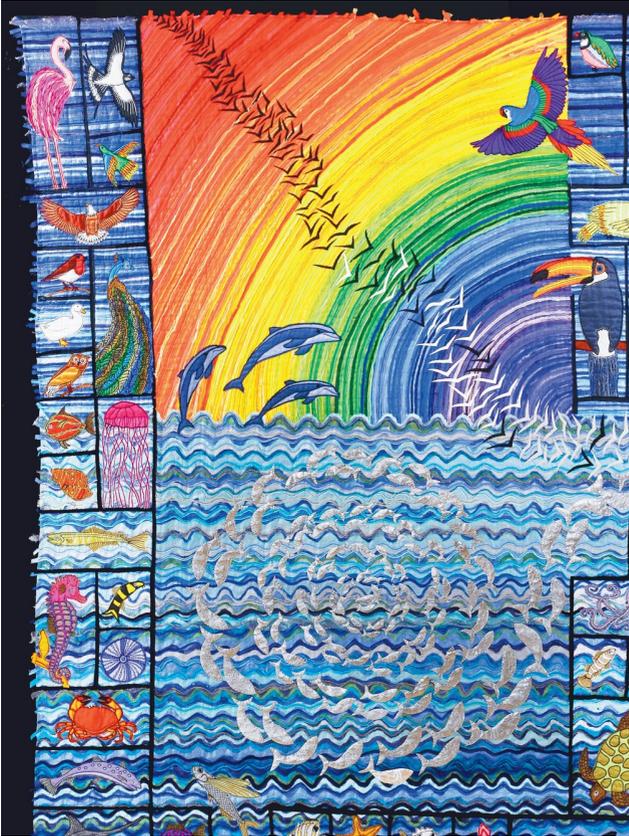
Let me take you to another meeting, in a way the first of its kind. Imagine about 250 delegates from all over North Africa, the Middle East and other parts of Asia and Europe. They came to Nicaea in modern-day Turkey from a dazzling variety of churches and situations. Some of them were highly educated, others barely literate, many bore wounds and disabilities from the vicious persecution of Christians that had ended little more than a decade before. All of them were called 'episkopos', bishop, but they didn't wear mitres or have university degrees. Some of them cared for a small number of Christians from backwater towns and others were from cities where Christianity had flourished. Most of them could probably get by in Greek, the street language of the empire, and some would have Latin, but between them they had many different mother tongues. Some were educated, urbane and experienced in the ways of the Roman world, some might have been freed slaves who had done the work of reading and writing for their former masters, and many would have been simple artisans, tentmakers like Paul, or fishermen like Peter. Their clothes, their music, their ethnicities, showcased the diversity of the world. They each came with an entourage, with deacons and priests, many travelling for weeks to get to Nicaea and perhaps never having ventured far from home before...

Susan Durber is a member of the Landsker Pastorate in Pembrokeshire, and the World Council of Churches President from Europe

Many thanks to URC Reform magazine for these articles and for allowing us to use them

ART IN FOCUS

Threads through Creation exhibition Panel 6: Water & Sky – splash with colour Jacqui Parkinson, 2023



When members from a local church visited Ely Cathedral for a prayer and study day based around a textile exhibition, they were not prepared for the sheer size and exuberance of the works on display. It was, they said, 'almost overwhelming beauty, God's abundance and extravagant imagination, no constraints'. Born in Manchester, the artist Jacqui Parkinson taught drama and directed an arts centre before joining an evening class in stitching. She was hooked! She went on to take a degree in

embroidered textiles and has been making huge textile panels ever since. Her designs are constructed mainly using paint, hand stitching, beads and ribbons, appliqué work, and photo printed linens. Panel 6 of this series focuses on the creation of the seas, inspired by the sheer abundance and diversity of the creatures in and around earth's oceans, seas and rivers.

Many thanks to URC Reform magazine for these articles and for allowing us to use them

Taken from 2021 Prayer Handbook 'hidden in plain sight'

Edited by Francis Brien and Michael Jagessar

The 2021 Prayer Handbook is made up of a mixture of prayer styles and approaches. We live in a world of distractions. Information overload disables our sense of perception. What is right before and around us can seem so far away, even non-existent. We hope that these prayers, inspired by God's Spirit will lead us to discern God's goodness at work, extending far beyond our sight and imagination.

The Lord sent fire down...

By Ian Fosten

If only it was that simple, Lord...

The forces of greed and
iniquity,
the perpetrators of violence
and abuse,
the manufacturers of injustice
and oppression,

might all be gathered up
and treated to a dose of
cleansing, holy fire...

But, since that's not how
things are done today,
may the incremental changes for good
wrought from our work and witness
still serve well
your righteous, holy love.

Go in peace

By Susan Durber

Loving Jesus,
I feel ashamed to remember the worst of myself,
the things I edit from my memories
and from the autobiography I wouldn't print.
If you see everything about me,
you will know how foolish I have been,
what hurt I have brought and damage I have done.

'Your sins are forgiven.'

Show me, Jesus, how to hear these words,
in your voice, addresses to me,
with authority to wipe away my sin
and set me free.

'Your faith has saved you.'

Let this be my story too, as it was hers,
and let the faith we both share in you
be the saving of my soul
and the renewal of my life.

'Go in peace.'

May I find the peace you give me,
and carry it, in my turn, to those who need it too.

Walk and Talk



Friday mornings.
10 am for walking.
Meet outside the first
entrance for walking.

11 am for tea and cake at Dobbies, at the Coffee
Shop, often outside, if you don't wish to walk.

**Everyone
welcome.**





South Croydon Churches Christian Aid Walk

21st June
10:00 – 16:00



St Paul's
United
Reformed
Church

www.stpaulsurc.org.uk

See
website
for more
details

South Croydon Churches Christian Aid Walk

The following 7 churches are taking part: East Croydon URC, St Matthews, St Paul's URC, South Croydon United Church, St Peter's South Croydon, St George's Waddon and St Andrew's Croydon.

We have a route and map which includes various places of interest in Croydon both ancient and modern. Every sanctuary will be open from 10am to 4pm and there will be people

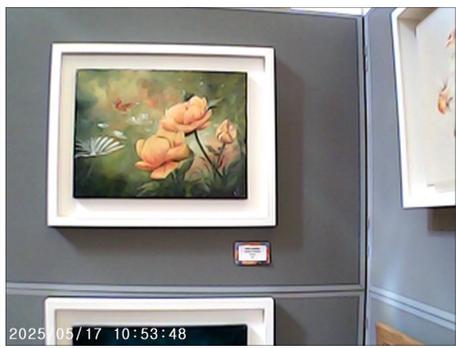
around to explain the mission, history and architecture of their particular church. There will be drinks and maybe snacks on offer and a chance to rest and use the facilities.



Join us for a great opportunity to get to know parts of Croydon and different churches and see how they translate their vision and mission for their community into practice. There will be information about the work of Christian Aid available at one or more churches.

Do get involved by doing the walk (or part of it) and get sponsored to raise money for Christian Aid. There are also optional bus journeys for part of the way, which can shorten the journey for some. You can join the walk at any point and can visit as many churches as you are able to.

Carshalton & Wallington Art Group Spring Exhibition 2025



A really lovely exhibition

...and...

£200 was raised for Christian Aid...

A HUGE thank you to
everyone who was able to
exhibit or help in any way...



A Good Day for Planting a Tree

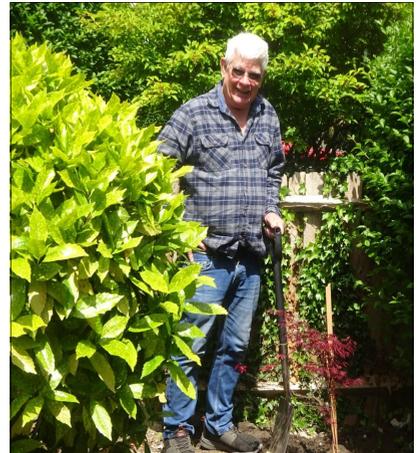


We wanted David Seal to know how much we had appreciated his work in caring for the church premises over many years. So we arranged a small 'Tree Planting Ceremony'

The tree is an Acer- of the Firecracker variety. It should, as it grows, be outstanding with its

vibrant colours, peeping out between the greens of the laurel and the bushes that form the hedge.

David also wanted this tree to be a memento to Brian Lay who had been a big part of Wallington URC over the years, and had supported so many people, including David and Julia.



So, as you are walking around the outside of the premises take few minutes to occasionally glance up from the car park, to where this lovely vibrant tree is now planted. The sun came out at just the right time to catch the vivid red of the leaves and imagine it, as it develops and grows, in a few years time when its dazzling colour will be a focal point.

Diary Dates			
June			
Sunday	1st	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Alan or Phil
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Alan or Phil
Sunday	15th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman
Sunday	22nd	10.30am	
Sunday	29th	10.30am	
July			
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Alan or Phil
Sunday	13th	10.30am	Morning service...to be led by Alan or Phil

PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the June 2025 issue of Contact should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Tuesday 27th 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 May

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

Puzzle Corner

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

Bible Word Search: The Second Coming of Jesus

Angels, Caring, Clouds, Faith, Family, Father, Jesus, Love, Satan, Sinners, Son, Trumpet

Bible Word Search: The Holy Spirit

Baptism, Church, Dove, Faith, Father, Fire, Gifts, Peace, Prayer, Son, Trinity, Witness

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

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		1			7		6
	6			7	4			
3		7	5			9		8
	9				8			4
4				9		8		2
8		6	2		5		9	
	7	3			9	2		1
		4		3			7	
5			7		2			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	Yoga
	1.00-2.30pm	Al-Anon
	2.00-4.00pm	Bananas Art
	7.00-9.30pm	Pilates (two classes)
Tuesday	9.15am-1.20pm	Hartbeeps (mother and baby activities)
	10.00-11.00am	Pilates
	12.30-2.30pm	AA Meeting
	1.40-3.40pm	U3A Art group (fortnightly)
	5.00-6.00pm	Rainbows(1st South Wallington)
	6.00-7.30pm	Brownies (10th Wallington)
8.00-10.00pm	Epsom Downs Badminton, Winter(Sept-May)	
Wednesday	10.00-11.30am	Baby Massage
	7.30-10.00pm	Chess Club
Thursday	10.00-11.00am	Pilates
	11.00-12.00noon	Senior Movers Exercise
	1.15-3.15pm	Lace Making
	2.00-4.00pm	Ladies' Badminton, Winter(Sept-April)
	2.00-4.00pm	Fallen Angels Drama
	6.00-7.00pm	Pilates
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)
Saturday	8.30-9.30am	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!