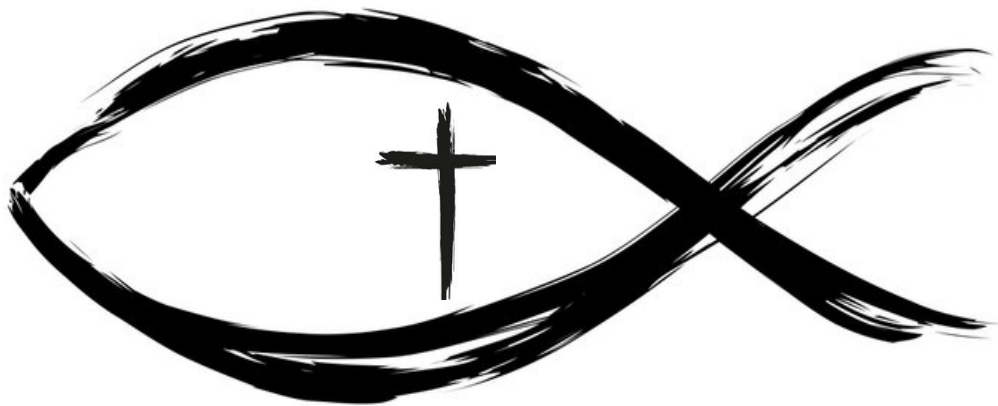


Wallington United Reformed  
Church



**CONTACT  
MAGAZINE**

No.400

June 2026



*Extrinsic*

Did you know...

**[www.wurc.org.uk](http://www.wurc.org.uk)**

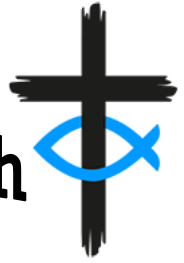
is our church internet address. Look us  
up sometime!

Minister:

Reverend Craig Bowman

Email: [minister@wurc.org.uk](mailto:minister@wurc.org.uk)

# Wallington United Reformed Church



Dear Friends....

As part of my Art A' level (many years ago) we studied late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century painting. This was a period that began with the Impressionists, followed by the Post-Impressionists (or Neo-Impressionists) and I found it fascinating. Today many people like Impressionist art and quite a few will tell you that the works of Renoir, Monet and Degas are amongst their favourites. However their appearance on the French art scene in the mid-1870s was primarily unwelcome and their paintings were rejected for exhibition at the traditional salons; in fact, so unpopular were they that they resorted to holding their own exhibitions.

New things are often a challenge for people and when it is a new way of looking at things people can become very uncomfortable wanting, instead, to hold on to the old and familiar ways that they understand. It may seem strange to many of us that the paintings produced by the Impressionists were so unpopular when they first appeared. For some, though, they are still not liked and they would prefer a Constable depicting things as they actually appear to us.

By the beginning of the 1890s things had moved on further and the challenge here was not only a new way of looking at things (trying to paint the impression we receive when confronted by nature) but using a radical new technique. Here I am thinking of painters like Seurat and Signac who were among the leading exponents of what became known by some as 'pointillism'. Here the painting is created by placing coloured dots of paint next to each other on the canvas with the dots remaining unblended. To be honest I am in awe of these painters,

not only for their technical skill but for their desire and ability to see things differently and to imagine a new way of making it come alive. How on earth, I wonder, do you realize the effect putting coloured dots next to each other (often of contrasting colours) can have when viewed by the human eye?

I was reflecting on this in relation to the church. What if our calling is not to be able to describe God so accurately that everyone knows exactly what he is like and all about him, but rather it is to share the impression God has had on us and our lives? This means we don't have to have all the answers but by our presence, our actions and sometimes our words the impression God has had on our lives is displayed to others. We need to share the truths we have found rather than presenting an enormous document explaining everything.

And, as for those coloured dots, isn't that what the church is? We are a seemingly random collection of people, often finding ourselves next to others who seem so different from us, yet together we make up the picture that shows something of the love and grace of God. If we were all the same, or very similar to those around us, the effect would be of a monochrome image with little depth - rather two dimensional. The colour and the depth, the detail and the beauty, is found in the variety of the dots and their surprising positioning.

I was going to finish by saying that very few of us would view ourselves as the beautiful and accurate work of an old master; we all have our fault lines and brush strokes that stand out from the canvas. However I realise that, in fact, that is exactly what we are – not the brush work of an old master like Rembrandt or Constable, but the creation of the true master whose image we bear and whose impression on our lives we are called to share.

In our lives may we display the beauty of our creator.

*Craig*

**Are you taking exams this month...or very soon**

**We hope that everyone taking exams feels supported.**



**Loving Father, we lift up all those facing exams, whatever stage they're at in life. Be with them, give them peace and remind them of their worth in your eyes. May they know your strength and our support during this time. Amen.**

**As many of the young people we know are going through the exam season, this time of the year can be a very stressful. Older students may have exams, while younger ones are still dealing with tests as they approach the end of their school year.**

**As the months unfold try to offer support to everyone facing the pressure and hard work of exams or tests. Try to build in some time to relax, maybe a car journey, or go out for a walk with friends.**

**"All your late nights and hard work are about to pay off. Go in there, show them what you know, and be proud of how far you've come."**

**"However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at."**

**"Every morning you have two choices: continue to sleep with your dreams, or wake up and chase them."**



# Christian Aid Week 2026 10th-16th May

## CARSHALTON AND WALLINGTON

### ART GROUP EXHIBITION

Refreshments, which were on sale every day, raised money to support Christian Aid



Many thanks to everyone who came along, enjoyed the lovely art and helped to raise a fantastic amount of

over **£352**

to go towards our Christian Aid overall total of

**£1089.30**

Which includes the gift aid from online fundraising page.

## **Taken from 2024 Prayer Handbook**

### **'Full to the Brim'**

Edited by Sue McCoan and Stephen Ansa-Addo

Themes of fullness and emptiness run through the Bible. The prayers gathered in this handbook speak of different kinds of fullness - fullness of blessing, fullness of being too busy - and of the need, sometimes, to empty ourselves in order to be filled afresh.

#### **Clay pots**

By John Miller Campbell

Sometimes we are painfully aware how brittle and fragile we are.

Sometimes we feel the lightest breeze could blow us off course.

Sometimes we wonder why you trusted us to carry the treasure of Your presence.

Come to us in our weakest moments,  
when our uncertainty seems as real as our faith,  
and gently refill us with your treasure.

May we see You shine  
through the fragility of our sisters and brothers,  
may we begin again to believe that You can shine  
through our fragility too.

Sometimes we are distressed at how large our cracks are.

We wonder if we are too broken to still be of service.  
We marvel that You ever imagined that we could contain You.

Come to us when our cracks seem to be growing,  
when who we have tried to be seems to be crumbling.

May we see You shine  
through the fragility of our sisters and brothers,  
may we begin again to believe that, cracked as we are,  
You can fill us to the brim.

#### **For your sake he became poor**

By Robert Barthram

How do we say thank you?

Lord, you gave up so much,  
even the life of heaven,  
you gave up heavenly riches  
you did it for us.  
So, however inadequate be our words and thoughts,  
we offer you our heartfelt thanks.

How do we say thank you?  
Lord, you took on so much  
even human birth, frailty and vulnerability,  
you humbled yourself and were obedient,  
even to death on the cross.  
So, however inadequate be our actions and living, we  
offer you our heartfelt love.

In response to your grace may we be prepared  
both to give things up and take on what is hard,  
to enable others to be rich through that same grace.  
Amen.

## Walk and Talk



Friday mornings.  
10 am for walking.  
11am for a cuppa

We're often at Dobbies  
or Oaks Park and sometimes  
elsewhere.

Please Ring Sheila on 07905 301309  
for the day's plan if you would like to join us for  
Walking and/or Talking.

**Everyone**  
welcome.



*From the Editor:*

Welcome to the first edition of **Reformed** magazine. If it looks distinctly familiar, that will be because you have been a reader of Reform and are not thrown off the scent by seeing a couple of extra letters on the front cover.

**Reformed**  
Reforming, Reviving, Reporting, Resourcing

If you are new round here, then here is the story so far. The United Reformed Church had been publishing Reform magazine for as long as had existed, since 1972. No one wanted any drastic change - we are a Church, after all.

But over the last eight years, the name Reform has increasingly had a different ring to it. As the political party Reform UK became more noticeable, people starting asking us if we were going to change our name. We said it was ours first. The book of Genesis didn't change its name when the rock group turned up, and in retrospect that seems sensible.

However, readers started telling us they hid the magazine when friends came round because it had been getting funny looks. Or their churches stopped putting up Reform posters because it was giving the wrong impression. Or they were just fed up of explaining that they were not reading a magazine devoted to Nigel Farage.

The URC is - as you would hope - not affiliated to any political party. It does not tell anyone who to vote for or not vote for. The URC General Assembly has taken positions on public issues that are at odds with Reform UK policy, for example on migration and asylum; and Reform UK is not the only UK party for whom this is true.

**'Do stay for tea and coffee PAUL KERENSA'**

**'As someone who has changed his name, may I offer a blessing on **Reformed's** new era?'**

Reformed magazine has a new title, so as someone who's also changed name a few times, may I offer a blessing on this magazine's new era - and a few thoughts on others who've similarly changed monikers. It didn't do Reg Dwight any harm - he's still standing.

I'm old enough to remember Marathon bars becoming Snickers. A classmate of mine said he'd hold on to his Marathon

bar, thinking it would be worth something in years to come. I wonder if he still has it, 36 years later? (Must check eBay...)

'God adds a new ha! to Abram's name'

In 1998, our world was again rocked as Opal Fruits became Starburst. Then at university, I recall a fellow student proudly brandishing a pack of the old and a pack of the new. If that were today, we'd have taken photos galore of the packs side-by-side, but back then nobody had brought a Polaroid camera. For the lucky few there was a taste test, convincing some that the newbies tasted different - less fruity, less opaly, more starbursty. Some products take a long time to bed in a new name. For me, Cif will always be Jif, Oil of Olay will never shake off the Ulay, and X is Twitter.

While brands sometimes prefer continuity, individuals often seize the chance for a rebrand. Jennifer Lopez became J.Lo then went back to Jennifer Lopez. Sean Combs became Puffy, then P Diddy, Diddy and Puff Daddy (either way his past still follows him around).

Many stars chose a name before fame - Cheryl Sarkisian, Robert Allen Zimmerman and Farrokh Bulsara landed well as Cher, Bob Dylan and Freddie Mercury. It's sad that they felt the need to westernise their names, but millions have faced that assimilation dilemma.

My own name change was for much blander reasons: I shared my birth name with a pop star. I'm actually a Young, and my parents were going to call me Neil, but avoided the famous singer's name and chose Paul - not realising that there's also a pop star called Paul Young. When I set out as a performer, the actors' union Equity insisted I pick a new stage name. I tried adding a hyphen between middle and surname, so I was Paul Stephen- Young. But, that sounded like 'landed gentry' and I changed my name again, to my mum's dog's name: Kerensa.

In the Bible, name changes often symbolise profound transformations. The Abrahamic covenant sees God add a new 'ha!' to Abram, while his wife Sarai switches to Sarah, shifting meanings from 'my princess' to 'mother of nations'.

So a new name can be a great blessing, and as Reform becomes Reformed, may this magazine be blessed in its new identity. It has now graduated - well, it's added letters after its name.

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

## ***Create a quiet space:***

*Create a quiet, peaceful space to pause, and allow yourself to feel God's presence alongside you. Each morning the United Reformed Church has a reading, reflection and short prayer which helps us to focus on our journeys of Christian discipleship.*

## **In These Days Filled With War**

The URC offers the following prayer for personal and public use as we reflect on and pray for all caught up in the escalating violence in the Middle East.

Eternal One,  
we remember before You  
the people of Iran, Israel, Abu Dhabi, Oman, and Bahrain  
and those sailing through the Strait of Hormuz:  
all places of pain and division where the nations rage furiously  
together,  
where drones and missiles fly overhead, children cry in bunkers,  
and the bodies of the dead await funerals.  
We remember the Earth, herself,  
longing for redemption from humanity's cruelty,  
where every drone and missile wreak havoc and fear  
even as they further despoil the earth  
and add to the climate change which brings yet more death and  
destruction.  
We grieve a world where there is neither peace nor justice,  
where divisions are made into weapons  
and where ideology is used to maim.  
We bitterly regret the failure of diplomacy,  
and wonder if it was designed to fail.

Guide now, Prince of Peace,  
those who dare to work for peace,  
those tending the injured,  
those seeking to change our world,  
those working for democracy and human rights,

and those who advise our political leaders;  
that Your wisdom may shine through,  
Your compassion be a watchword,  
that consequences of our actions may be acknowledged,  
and the cries of the children may ring in their ears.

Most Holy Spirit,  
breathe Your peace to our troubled world,  
comfort the parents of the girls killed at the primary school in Minab,  
the relatives of those killed in Beit Shemesh,  
and all who mourn in these days filled with war.  
Inspire Iranians longing for a free and fair society,  
and those who must now lead and guide its future.  
Inspire, too, Israelis working for peace and justice,  
longing for security and the chance to finally turn  
swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks.

Eternal Trinity of Love,  
Source, Guide, and Goal,  
help us to work for peace even in a world at war. Amen

The Rev'd Andy Braunston  
*Minister for Digital Worship*

We confess our faith in the God of life, not in the god of war. The God we worship sides with the oppressed, hears the cry of the wounded, and judges the arrogance of those who believe violence will secure their future. Peace is not the silence of the graveyard; it is the fruit of justice, accountability, dignity, and mutual recognition.

The prophet's vision still stands before us: swords into ploughshares. Instruments of death transformed into tools of life. This is not naïve idealism. It is God's demand upon history.

May we have the courage to insist upon it.

| Diary Dates |      |         |  |
|-------------|------|---------|--|
| <b>June</b> |      |         |  |
| Sunday      | 7th  | 10.30am | <b>Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>         |
| Sunday      | 14th | 10.30am | <b>Morning service...to be led by Alan or Phil</b>   |
| Sunday      | 21st | 10.30am | <b>Morning service...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>  |
| Sunday      | 28th | 10.30am | <b>Morning service...to be led by Alan or Phil</b>   |
| <b>July</b> |      |         |  |
| Sunday      | 6th  | 10.30am | <b>Morning service...with the Sacrament of Holy Communion...to be led by Revd Craig Bowman</b>         |
| Sunday      | 19th | 10.30am | <i>Morning service will be followed by Church Meeting and our AGM, please do stay if you are able.</i> |

**PLEASE NOTE...Articles for the July/August 2026 issue of Contact** should be given to Janet or Robin Willis by **Monday 22nd June** 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  
 Some other answers  
 Brickwork Word Puzzle  
 HAMLET  
 LATHE  
 HATE  
 TEA  
 MEAT  
 STEAM  
 TAMEST

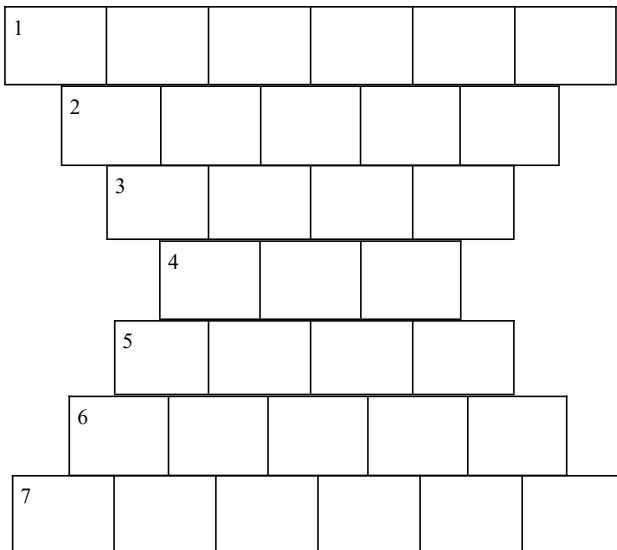
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 7 |
| 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| 3 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 4 |
| 9 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 1 |
| 1 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 4 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9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

# Puzzle Corner

Something new to try!

## A Brickwork Word Puzzle

Enter the answers to the clues in the bricks in the wall. Every word contains the same letters as its neighbour –plus or minus one letter.



1. Pour out
2. Move to music
3. A walking stick
4. Able to
5. To read quickly
6. Scottish tribes
7. Washes or scrubs

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

### Bible Word Search: Acts 1

Apostle, Baptize, Chosen, Clouds, Gift, God, Heaven, Jesus, Ministry, Power, Prayer, Proofs

### Bible Word Search: Christ's Cross

Faith, Grace, Holy, Hope, Justify, Mercy, Perfect, Promise, Sanctify, Save, Sin, Truth

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

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.

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

# 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                                   |
|                  | 1.00-2.30pm                             | Al-Anon                                |
|                  | 2.00-4.00pm                             | Bananas Art                            |
|                  | 7.00-9.30pm                             | Pilates (two classes)                  |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 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) |  |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 10.00-11.30am                           | Baby Massage                           |
|                  | 7.30-10.00pm                            | Chess Club                             |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | 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      |
| <b>Friday</b>    | 9.30am-12.30pm                          | NAS Coffee morning (monthly)           |
|                  | 9.30am-3.00pm                           | Reading Fairy Sutton                   |
|                  | 2.00- 4.00pm                            | Stitching Together (fortnightly)       |
|                  | 6.45-8.30pm                             | Guides(8th Wallington)                 |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | 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!**