



# CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED  
REFORMED CHURCH  
MAGAZINE**

**April 2020 ISSUE 166**

I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;  
I will tell of all the wonderful things you have done.

*Psalm 9 : 1*

Minister Revd John Gray details on Contact Page  
Church Secretary Mrs Sally Edmondson

## A Message In The Time of Coronavirus...

Dear friends, we have had to cancel one or more coming church services following the advice of the Synod (further notice will be given in time), and we might not even have an Easter Service at church, but Easter itself cannot be cancelled whatever may come. Hope in our Christian faith cannot be denied. Limited social interaction, in terms of physical contact, public gatherings, even self-isolation, may well be part of our “wilderness experience” and our Lenten journey this year. But, as our Moderator writes to the churches:

*“We can face uncertainty with faith. The people of God in the Hebrew Scriptures found their existence as God’s own people tested by ultimately reinforced by their time in the wilderness. God’s love and care is as sure for us as for them – we may not see the “fire and cloudy pillar” but we sing of it (in the hymn “Guide me O thou great Redeemer). Jesus has promised I will be with you always and although we may have to celebrate Easter in our homes, the truth of the resurrection of Jesus from death is undiminished by whatever we may live through.”*

Indeed. Yet, how can we practice our faith in these changed circumstances? How can we keep in touch with our fellowship and help them in practical ways? These are important and challenging questions. We need to find answers to them. For some time we might have to miss meetings with our friends in our buildings (though the premises need regular checking and maintaining), but we won’t have to miss our fellowship in a wider sense. Please make sure our church members and church attached friends are aware of our prayers said for them, of access to online devotions, e.g. URC’s Daily Devotions, virtual worship, use Skype or any other means of the Internet for regular contact. Also, we have to make sure church giving is also maintained during the period of temporary suspension.

It is possible that, strangely enough, the absence of church services for a while will be a great testimony to the presence of God in our care for our neighbours. Finally, let me share a prayer with you written by Rt Rev Colin Sinclair, Moderator of the Church of Scotland.

Lord, we pray for this pandemic spreading across our world, remembering all who have lost loved ones. and praying for those seriously ill at this time. We pray for doctors and nurses and all in the caring professions and those working behind the scenes testing samples, confirming results, giving information to patients. We uphold others trying to understand this virus better. working to create an effective remedy.

...

We pray for our Government, as they work with the best medical advice. to guide us on how we should respond. and what action we should take. May this crisis bring out the best in us, not the worst. Help us to live by faith and not by fear; to build bridges not barriers, and to resist all who would speak ill of any other group.

Help us to find ways of keeping in touch and offering reassurance to those with underlying health issues; for any who feel particularly vulnerable. or in danger at present.

As the virus spreads.

...

We remember those  
who cannot visit loved ones in locked-down care homes;  
for the elderly whose social contacts have been severely curtailed;  
help us to find creative ways of keeping in touch,  
of assuring them they are not forgotten or ignored.  
May our congregation find new ways of living through this time.  
May we not forget our faith, but draw strength from it.

...

Strengthen us, by your Spirit, so that:  
we may carry on our lives as best as we are able,  
looking out for others,  
showing love in action,  
being faithful in prayer,  
and bringing encouragement, hope and peace;  
always trusting in you.  
our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen

*Yours in Christ,  
John*

### **The URC daily devotions**

The URC daily devotions can be accessed via [devotions.urb.org.uk](http://devotions.urb.org.uk)  
These are approx 5 minutes long. The Sunday service can be accessed  
from the same site.

### **Communion is Nailsea Memory Cafe**

**Nailsea Memory Cafe** meets at the Barn on the first and third  
Wednesday of each month 2.15 pm onwards. It is an opportunity to take  
time out to meet other fellow carers and visiting professionals.  
Your loved one will be engaged and supported in variety of appropriate  
activities by trained staff and volunteers. It is free of charge. Please  
contact Karen Smith our coordinator for more details: 07790 344559 or  
email [tbarnmemories@gmail.com](mailto:tbarnmemories@gmail.com)

I send many thanks for prayers calls cards and flowers as I was  
recovering from surgery.  
I have felt really blessed  
Your support and friendship to myself and Ian has been much  
appreciated  
Sally

### **Flower Rota**

Thank you for names on flower list and donations and on returning to  
services will enjoy arranging again.  
Many thanks to Eileen and Barbara for continuing the mission of flowers  
whilst I was off on sick leave.

Look after yourselves

Sally

I thought that this was a suitable uplifting hymn in the present circumstances.

Hymn 115 in Mission Praise  
by Gerald Markland

*Do not be afraid,  
for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name;  
you are Mine.*

When you walk through the waters I'll be with you;  
you will never sink beneath the waves.

*Do not be afraid,  
for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name;  
you are Mine.*

When the fire is burning all around you,  
you will never be consumed by the flames.

*Do not be afraid,  
for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name;  
you are Mine.*

When the fear of loneliness is looming,  
then remember I am at your side

*Do not be afraid,  
for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name;  
you are Mine.*

When you dwell in the exile of the stranger,  
remember you are precious in My eyes

*Do not be afraid,  
for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name;  
you are Mine.*

You are Mine, O My child; I am your Father,  
and I love you with a perfect love.

*Do not be afraid,  
for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name;  
you are Mine.*

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Commitment for Life Prayer

### **Prayer for an Economics of Life**

O God, help us to realise that human flourishing cannot be achieved by worldly economic systems. These shift wealth upwards and relegate the poor to debt, hunger and slavery. Inspired by the Gospel, help us understand Jesus' mission afresh. May we declare again the Year of the Lord's Favour: forgive all debt, overturn tables of monetary greed and tear down the hoarded barns. Help us to restore water, land and air to their pristine state. Give us Your spirit of generous love, and a spirit of fierce determination, as we seek to build an Economy of Life that champions a just and equitable society. In Christ's Spirit we pray.

**Amen**