



CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
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*Cast all your anxiety on him
because he cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7*

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

Dear Friends,

At the time of writing this letter it is unknown when and how we can resume church services, activities, gatherings and let out the premises again. It needs careful deliberation and wise planning to adapt to the government's and the URC's "New Normal". How could we comply with social distancing, rigorous cleaning regimes after each gathering, keep services without singing, hugging, handshaking, fellowship without tea, coffee and biscuits? These are important questions. Because of their complexity and the difficulty of the situation the Elders have decided not to reopen the Church for at least another month. Although 4th July is a sort of "Independence Day" for Britain, it is still a sort of. Science often clashes with the economy regarding what is safe to do and what is not profitable to do. Your safety is paramount for us Elders and Minister. In addition, it seems we need to use our common sense to manage everyday and church life in our community, which consists mostly of people aged over 70. Using our common sense, however, is not a bad thing. Contrary, it is one of the good things that Covid-19 gave us. There are many (please think of the positive effect of the lock down on the environment e.g.).

Another good thing that has come out of this strange, unusual (partial) lock down is that our fellowship has strengthened over the last few months. It is valued greatly in our temporarily isolated existence and we *long* to be together again. In our prayers, emails, telephone conversations or at occasional meetings (with strict social distancing) we keep repeating: We Will Meet Again. As the beautiful song "We Will Meet" by John Bell from the Iona Community goes (please note we have included the whole song in this Connect, as it gives lots of food for thought for our fellowship, and you can try to sing it at home), *We will meet; when the danger is over, we will meet when the sad days are done... Until then may we always discover faith and love to determine our way. That's our hope and God's will and our calling for our lives and for every new day. May we always discover faith and love to determine our way...* May the love of God, our fellowship with the Holy Spirit and each other, our love for the church and for the life that God gave us to enjoy (certainly the good weather over the last 3-4 months has helped us to enjoy nature, garden activities, outside daily exercise) keep us going until we meet again safely. May we rediscover faith can and will keep us from dangers that are even bigger than Coronavirus and keep us in spiritual relationship with God as we journey through these difficult times with

courage and optimism. May we discover what Church really is, the strength of our fellowship when some of us need our continuous prayer support in their illnesses. May we rediscover the joy of worship we long to have again. When we meet again our differences will not matter much any more as we unite in Christ and enjoy the fellowship of the believers. How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! (Psalm 133:1). This fellowship is truly a gift!

Love and prayers,

John

Message from John and Elders

Together with our sister churches of Horfield and Argyle Morley, our minister John and the elders of all three churches have decided that due to our age profile and the demands of the 'New Normal' we do not feel able to reopen our churches until at least the end of July.

This position will be reviewed at regular intervals. In the meantime, please remember that our Minister and Elders are here for you. Please continue to pray for our whole church family and remember that God will uphold us in these difficult times.

With love and prayers

Sally and your Elders.

Greetings

Rev'd Ian Kirby and Mr Angus Gregson, who were due to lead our worship in July, send their very best wishes to all at Nailsea URC and hope to be with us in the future.

Communion Offertory - Children's Hospice South West

Charlton Farm usually cares for children and families who live in the South West, including North East Somerset, West Wiltshire, Bristol City and North Somerset. The hospice is situated close to us in Wraxall,

Their aim is to help and support families who face the emotional and physical strain of caring for children who, sadly, are not expected to live into adulthood. This does not make Charlton Farm a sad place, although sadness's are faced together. Charlton Farm is a place of love, happiness and friendship. It provides a haven, a place where children and their families can be nurtured and cosseted, returning home with renewed vigour and a sense of anticipation for what lays ahead.

Charlton Farm is situated in beautiful surroundings in the North Somerset countryside with views over the Severn Estuary. The hospice is an imaginative restoration of a listed farm and farm buildings which has retained the homely feel of the farmhouse and yet provides stunning assistance and spacious, friendly accommodation.

The farm has eight child-friendly rooms and plenty of accommodation for parents and the rest of the family. It really has a home-from-home feel and they do all they can to make sure that children have some of their favourite toys, games and DVDs waiting for them when they arrive.

there are playrooms, teenagers-only rooms, a spa bath for relieving stiff joints and muscle spasm, a sensory room for chilling out and a soft play area for safe, trouble-free fun. There is also a games room and a large open plan kitchen and dining room, which forms the heart of the house.

There are also a few cosy places to relax and take a little time out.

Please may I beseech you to give generously to this much needed charity serving such deserving children and families in our local community.

Maggie

Commitment for Life Prayer for July

Prayer for Bangladesh - Rohingya crisis

God who hurts with humanity, we pour our hearts out to You in grief and disbelief at the devastating violence forcing so many people from their homes.

We hear of villages burned, families murdered and people fleeing for their lives; may they find refuge as You soften the hearts of their oppressors.

Strengthen our Christian Aid partners to reach displaced people in Bangladesh and Myanmar.

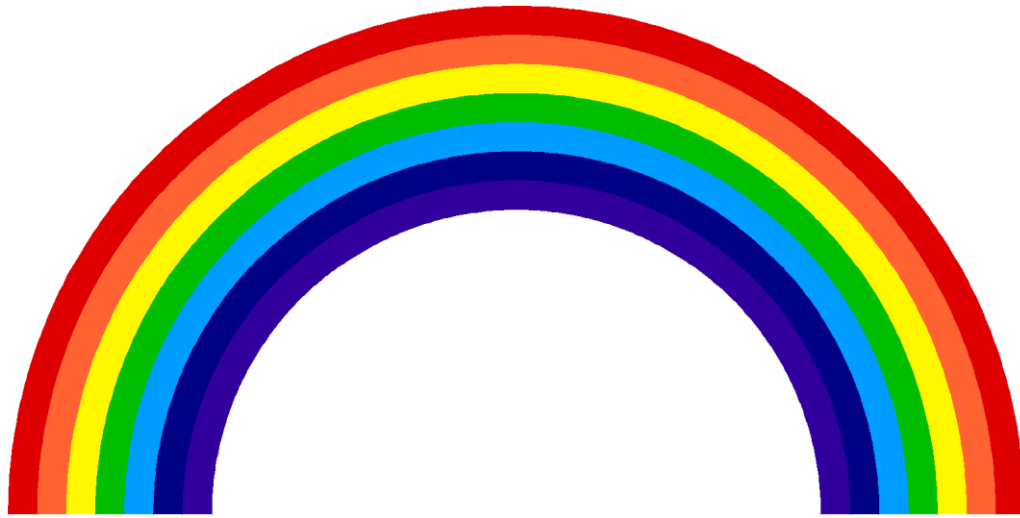
Compassionate God, who loves all humanity, we pray for an end to the violence, for peace, protection and provision.

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

Amen

The URC daily devotions

The URC daily devotions can be accessed via devotions.urc.org.uk
These are approx 5 minutes long. The Sunday service can be accessed from the same site.



SUNNY SIDE UP

Why aren't rainbows happy
Why don't rainbows smile?
I've never seen one grinning and
I've watched them for a while.

Why are rainbow's sulky,
though their colours are so clear?
Why, with so much beauty
don't they grin from ear to ear?

What concerns a rainbow?
What are a rainbow's cares?
Their ends are never turned up
even when they're seen in pairs.

The only way to find out
Is to ask a rainbow why.
So I called out to a rainbow
and it answered with a sigh.

'A rainbow's always smiling,
though you may think they frown.
Cos the angels paint them from above -
you see them upside down!'

Judith Blatherwick

During this pandemic rainbow's have come to symbolise the NHS.
So let us all say:-

Thank you NHS

We Will Meet

We will meet; when the danger is over,
we will meet when the sad days are done;
we will meet sitting closely together
and be glad our tomorrow has come.

We will join to give thanks and sing gladly,
we will join to break bread and share wine,
and the peace that we pass to each other
will be more than a casual sign.

So let's make with each other a promise
that when all we've come through is behind,
we will share what we missed and find meaning
in the things that once troubled our mind.

Until then may we always discover
faith and love to determine our way.
That's our hope and God's will and our calling
for our lives and for every new day.

by John Bell (copyright WGRG The Iona Community)