



CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
MAGAZINE**

JUNE 2020 ISSUE 168

*God saw all that he had made,
and it was very good*

Genesis 1 : 31

Minister Revd John Gray details on Contact Page

Church Secretary Mrs Sally Edmondson

Dear Friends,

During the lock down almost everyone in the UK has developed green fingers and is spending considerable time gardening. We have learnt, if we had not experienced it before, that gardening is therapeutic, a calming, creative and highly rewarding activity. We can appreciate the French writer and philosopher *Voltaire's* view on gardening in *Candide* that tending one's garden is good for your soul and productive also. Even if he originally meant that people should produce veg and crops for selling them at markets, and tending one's garden was a way of not interfering with others' business (that's the origin of the saying). I don't know if shoppers in endless queues in front of garden centres and B&Qs did think of Voltaire and *Candide* during their wait to be let in, but if they did, they could agree with the government policy that gardening is really *essential* (and not just for opening certain stores). In the book Pangloss says to *Candide*:

"You are in the right, for when man was put into the garden of Eden, it was with an intent to dress it: and this proves that man was not born to be idle. "Work then without disputing," said Martin; "it is the only way to render life supportable."

Dressing our gardens is very creative, it proves we were not born to be idle indeed, even if it might not be "the only way to render life supportable". We were "put into the garden of Eden" by God, this is something that Scripture confirms also.

The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. (Gen 2:8)

God planted a garden for the first humans to learn, live, develop and work in. The name of this location – *Eden* - provides a description of what it was like. Eden means "pleasure", so working in God's garden is really a pleasurable activity. God's garden provides for us all we need to sustain our bodies and gives us joy. Just as Adam's first job was to name the animals and "tend and keep" the garden, our task is to tend and keep God's Garden, our environment and maintain the harmony in life that was so characteristic in the Garden of Eden.

Yes, working in our little gardens is a peaceful, creative, great experience – particularly in such sunny weather we have had in the last 2-3 months - ; it is the same feeling to tend God's Eden today. To work towards peace and harmony in our world. To restore the original state of our world to which God said "very good", when he finished its creation:

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good (Genesis 1:31).

At the end of May we are having Pentecost, which means God invites us back into his Garden, from which our sins have expelled us. We enjoy his presence, peace, harmony once again, just as much we enjoy His sunshine, drops of rain on our face, a gentle breeze symbolising the Spirit, the beauty of flowers and plants in our own gardens – and the look of the rainbow in the sky. May we keep this harmony when the lockdown is over.

Love and prayers,

John

News of the church family

David McIlveen

David passed away peacefully on Friday 22nd May. His funeral will be held at Failand Church graveyard on Monday 15 June, at 11am. Attendance is limited according to lock down rules. Our thoughts and prayers are with Madeline and the Family.

Iris Burridge

Iris has had a mild heart attack and has been in hospital for a while, home for one night and back in hospital again. More information will be given when available

The Communion Offertory for June is Wellspring

Wellspring was established as a registered charity in 1994 by local Church Leaders and GPs. Wellspring offers confidential help and support to people in our local community. They offer their services to all who seek help whatever your gender, ethnic origin or religious beliefs.

Wellspring offers a unique service in the North Somerset area making counselling accessible to all in a timely and cost-effective manner. Clients all self-refer to Wellspring often after being recommended to come to them by their GP. Wellspring is well respected in the area and has excellent links with local GPs and uses their premises for evening and young people sessions.

Wellspring currently has no statutory funding but receives grants and donations from many local town and parish councils in North Somerset as well as local churches, other groups, Trusts, individuals and through fundraising events.

Wellspring has a team of dedicated professional counsellors who provide sessions for adults facing loss and bereavement, relationship difficulties, stress and anxiety, depression and issues resulting from physical, sexual or emotional abuse as well as other distressing situations. Their adult clients come from all walks of life from age 19 upwards.

Their donation-based Young People Service provides Counselling and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) for young people between ages 11 and 18.

Their Counsellors and CBT Wellbeing Practitioners are professionally trained, have regular clinical supervision and engage in Continued Professional Developments (CPD) as recommended by BACP. Wellspring Counselling is an organisational member of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) and abides by its Ethical Framework for Good Practice in Counselling and Psychotherapy.

Their Mission Statement:

Wellspring is a charity underpinned by Christian ethos, which exists to provide affordable, professional and accessible counselling for the whole community.

Commitment for Life Prayer for June

Prayer for the environment

Wherever we look, O God, we see Your face;
in sacred mountain and ancient forest,
in vast ocean and tiny creature.

We also find you weeping, broken, dying
in burning forest and concrete-ruined meadow;
in oil-slicked penguin and melted glacier,
in thirsty children and overheated coral reefs.
Wherever we look, O God, we see Your face.

Layman's 10 Commandments

1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.
2. So why is a car's WINDSHIELD so large and the rear view mirror so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, look ahead and move on.
3. Friendship is like a BOOK. it takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
4. All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.
5. Old friends are gold! New friends are diamond! If you get a diamond, don't forget the gold! Because to hold a diamond, you always need a base of gold!
6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"
7. When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.
8. A blind person asked St Anthony; "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"
9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
10. WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLE'S, it takes away today's PEACE.

This Month's Joke

For weeks a six-year-old lad kept telling his teacher about the baby brother or sister that was expected at his house. One day the mother allowed the boy to feel the movements of the unborn child. The six-year old was obviously impressed but made no comment. Furthermore, he stopped telling his teacher about the impending event. The teacher finally sat the boy on her lap and said, "Tommy, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?" Tommy burst into tears and confessed, "I think Mummy ate it!"

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.