

“Lest We Forget”



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

# CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED  
REFORMED CHURCH  
MAGAZINE**

**NOVEMBER 2020 ISSUE 173**

Happy moments - Praise God  
Difficult moments - Seek God  
Quiet moments - Worship God  
Painful moments - Trust God  
Every moment - Thank God

Dear Friends,

I suggest you read Psalm 46 aloud. It is a wonderful Psalm with a message which may get “re-enforced” when read and heard loudly. A message of encouragement, promise, assurance. Our Psalmist begins by promising that God can help us through all the twists and turns of life – just like the twists and turns (sometimes U-turns) of spreading and handling of the virus. If we turn to him in faith, if we put our trust in him, he will be our *“ever-present help in trouble”*. It doesn’t mean, of course, that prayer can replace the vaccine, or all the safety measures that are in place nowadays. It means that God is not distant for us, but our heavenly Father, who loves to help us. He wants to help us when times are tough. He is able to help us whether our needs are material or spiritual.

When Psalm 46 was first written God had just intervened in history to help his people. In 701 BC God had miraculously protected and preserved the city of Jerusalem. The city had been under siege by the Assyrian army. Jerusalem was surrounded on all sides, its people inside starving to death. But God had helped his besieged city. In just one night God defeated Sennacherib’s army and scattered his soldiers. The *“break of day”*, in verse 5, revealed that Jerusalem had been liberated by the Lord, and saved from its siege.

Christians, of course, can also look back to an even greater ‘break of day’ on the first Easter morning. That dawn when God once again intervened in history – this time to disarm death and offer forgiveness to every follower of his Son. Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness for our past and a new beginning for our lives – if only we will receive it.

But forgiveness isn’t the only help he offers us. Verses 4 and 5 of our Psalm also remind us that God loves to dwell in the midst of his people, he delights to be present with his people. God wants to dwell within us, giving us the courage, strength and perseverance we need in the face of hardships that might be the consequences of Coronavirus.

We also need God’s help in the future as well as for today. In our uncertain world, characterised by so many wars, climate change crisis, job losses, disruption in church life as a result of Covid-19, we all need hope for the future. The great promise is that God is able to and will calm our fears and give us lasting peace. This year as we celebrate Remembrance Day we express our faith that one day all conflict, strife and suffering will end.

We look back with sadness over the loss of our service people, who gave their lives for the freedom we enjoy today, and look forward with hope that one day God’s kingdom will truly come. Because God has always wanted peace in History and by the end of World War One humans wanted peace too, not just those who fought on the frontline, but those also who sat behind their desks and created that awful mess. Of course, from a biblical point of view we wait and strive for lasting peace, a truly lasting peace.

And as we await that great day, I would like to encourage us all to read aloud Psalm 46, particularly in the context of the spreading of the Coronavirus worldwide, and receive the message: *God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*

Please stay safe and take care. *With love and prayers, John*

## Hello friends

In the vestry we have been donated jigsaws for our usual stalls.

However, as we are unable to hold an event at present if you would you like to have one to use whilst we are unable to sell please contact your elder or Sally.

No charge, be good for them to be used.

## Maurice Eveleigh

Maurice also became a friend to all our congregation, leading worship over a few years. However latterly his health was not very good and he needed to “hang up his robes” his expression!

We are very grateful and privileged to have known him.

In the precinct he would stop have a chat and say the precinct was his church.

Thank you, Maurice from all at Nailsea URC.

Sally

### **Tribute to Maurice Eveleigh**

While I was Bright Hour leader I approached Maurice many a time, asking him to come to speak to us.

He was always willing to answer our call. He wanted to know what hymns we would be singing and had his story ready going back over what words were in the hymn.

Sometimes he bought his guitar which pleased the ladies. He enjoyed his cup of tea and always walked around speaking to all.

On behalf of Bright Hour we would all agree Maurice had a very happy disposition and was a true Christian gentleman whom we had the privilege to know. We will miss seeing him around Nailsea

We send our love and prayers to all his family..  
Please remember Pat in your prayers

Barbara

## Your Cancer Cafe

The inspiration for My Cancer Cafe came In January 2019, to Jo Hopkinson (retired deputy head of Golden Valley school), who at the time was battling breast cancer.

Jo explains, “I started to find people in Nailsea going through similar treatment, and I found there was a huge need for people to talk together and offer each other support.”

“If your emotional well-being is good, then you have a much better chance of recovery”, she notes.

So, the vision for a Cancer Cafe where people in similar situations could meet and chat, talk about how they were feeling and how their treatment was going was beginning to formulate in Jo’s mind.

As a result, meetings of the Cancer Cafe now take place every third Thursday of the month at Number 65, High Street, Nailsea and are open to anyone affected by cancer. Each session includes refreshments, cakes, a book swap, crafts and a tombola, which helps to pay for the hire of Number 65.

In Jo’s words, “It’s all about offering emotional support and companionship!”

A very worthwhile local cause for which our support will be much appreciated.

### The URC daily devotions

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

## Commitment for Life Prayer

God of life, our planet is dying.  
We are responsible for the destruction of species and eco- systems.

Save us from our death-dealing systems  
That rely on fossil fuels  
That strip-mine the commons  
That convert Your natural world into cold, hard cash.

Give us wisdom and courage to find new ways of living.  
Empower our children who are striking for the climate.  
Shield all who work for a healthy environment, particularly indigenous earth-protectors.

May robust and workable solutions be found to mitigate the very worst effects of climate disruption.

In Christ we pray.  
Amen

## Thank you

Janet's husband Mike has asked me to pass on a very sincere thank you to all who have supported the whole family following Janet's passing away. Cards, calls and visits have been much appreciated.

Janet was very grateful to all calls, flowers, cards, and prayers sent when she was having treatment. Mike mentioned how much Janet enjoyed services and fellowship at church.

The friendships she made meant a great deal to her and the support we all gave her.

So, THANK YOU all, Sally

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you very much  
for your sympathy card  
and the beautiful  
flowers and your  
prayerful thoughts.  
They mean a lot in my  
grieving.  
I hope you are well,  
and may God give  
you strength we meet  
again. Best wishes. Esther

---

---

## LAST TO REIGN

---

---

*The queen of all the gardens there she stands  
While Autumn tints the world with golden hands.  
Reigning alone, the dahlia rules the world  
With buttons, pompons or with spikes uncurled.*

*And there are some that rule as if in state  
With blossoms like a giant golden plate.  
And those with ragged curls that sweetly swing  
As if to give the earth her final fling.*



---

---

A fine example of a dahlia in all its glory

---

---