

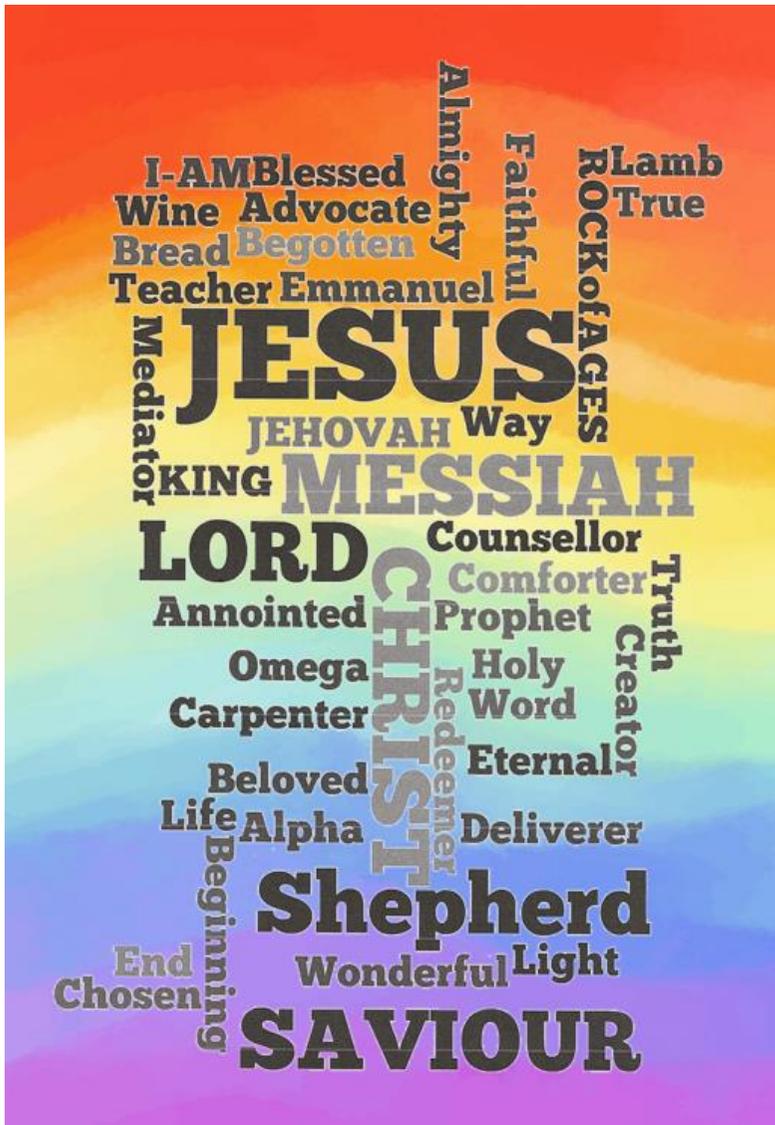
CONNECT

NAILSEA UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2021 ISSUE 176

Morning Prayer

Lord,
help me to remember
that nothing is going to
happen to me today
that You and I together
can't handle
Amen



Minister Revd John Gray details on Contact Page

Church Secretary Mrs Sally Edmondson

Dear Friends,

Lent is often seen as an opportunity to give up unnecessary luxuries and value friendship, loyalty, inner peace and joy instead, to give up procrastinating and do practical work, or to get our priorities right and think of what things really matter in life and what might not. The pandemic may have helped us to reach those goals, as we could hardly say we are indulging in unnecessary luxuries during the lockdown. Also, maintaining our church fellowship, loyalty to each other and to our church has never been so important before. We rejoice with those who find peace and quiet in our slowed down world, appreciate nature, or enjoy their increased fitness levels. However, we also weep with those who have lost a loved one, or badly affected by Covid-19 and the direct or indirect negative effects of the global pandemic. Perhaps, because our church doors have been closed for a long time we have thought over and over again what church really means for us, what we should do differently when normal church life re-commences, and what our priorities are in our lives, which will be our driving motives in an after Covid world.

As we know, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ushers in a time of preparation on our side through prayer, fasting, concentration on our sins and faults, giving and denial of our old self. However, it is preceded by a day of feasting for some of us. It is Shrove Tuesday, a day for pancakes and not just one. Lent is seen to end either on Maundy Thursday or what is called Holy Saturday, which precedes Easter Day. Of course, this is a very important time in our church calendar, even if the lock down could last up to Good Friday (which may well be the case, who knows?). The second important part of our church year is the season of Advent, the preparation for us to receive the coming of Jesus into the world.

In Lent we are preparing for the other of the most important times in our Lord's ministry here on earth. It is when Jesus prepares his disciples for his death and resurrection. In Matthew's Gospel he tells them three times that he must die and on the third be raised. When they come down from the mountain of Transfiguration he says that those who have witnessed the transfiguration must not tell anyone about the vision they have been privileged to see until 'the Son of Man is raised from the dead'.

Those days that last from Good Friday through to Easter Day are most important for us all. They give us all hope that as he promised he will come again and we shall share in the eternal kingdom where he has prepared a place for those who put their trust in him.

In our prayers we should be praying for this world, that both believers and seekers of God find Jesus, who came and gave his life, so we may have life in Him and have it to the full (John 10:10). In our prayers we should be praying for the world that is scarred by Covid-19, that in the wounds of Jesus more and more people find healing.

With love and prayers,
John

There is a short devotional service on Sundays on Zoom for the Joint Pastorate, if anyone is interested please contact the Minister for a meeting ID and passcode nearer the time.

Alternatively, please provide your email address, if you haven't already done so, so that the Minister may email you his weekly Sunday Message.
If you are not on email, please contact the Church Secretary. Thank you

Many thanks and God Bless,
John

Daphne Cook

We are pleased to let you all know that Daphne is settled and very happy in her new home. She is able to meet with other people and has made friends.

Commitment for Life at work in Central America

Flood waters have recently submerged homes in isolated Guatemalan communities, and many people are left without supplies or places to stay.

With no clean water to wash in, playing in stagnant water and living in cramped conditions, diseases are starting to spread.

Health workers who have managed to get through report seeing coughs, stomach issues, vomiting and fevers, as well as skin conditions.

Commitment for Life has worked in Central America for many years and is making a real difference to the lives of the very poorest communities affected by environmental disasters.

Again we are reminded that our support for Commitment for Life is very necessary and much appreciated.

THANK YOU

Commitment for Life Prayer for Bangladesh

God, we thank you for the rich tapestry of the art, poetry and the cultural heritage of Bangladesh,

We thank you that despite being the eighth most densely populated country, Bangladesh is assisting Rohingya refugees and helping them during the life-confining Covid-19 pandemic.

We pray for Bangladesh's poverty and environmental crisis, including groundwater metal contamination and increased salinity due to human and industrial greed for profit.

Help us to act responsibly, Lord.

Help us to live simply so that others in countries like Bangladesh can simply live.

RAINBOWS

We all need to keep sight of rainbows during these difficult times. The following was written by a friend back in 2008.

Rainbows are God's promise to us
as they arc above the land;
reassurance when we need it
that we're held in God's own hand.
First to Noah, when all seemed hopeless,
colours showed across the sky;
promises from God in heaven,
humankind no more need die.

Then again in Revelation,
with God's Glory all around,
when at last in heavenly splendour,
with a rainbow all are crowned.
It needs rain, along with sunshine,
to see colours always there.
How amazing what God shows us
when we look to heaven in prayer.

It is when the world seems darkest,
the bow seems brighter up above,
asking those who know the Saviour
to be reflections of his love.
Rainbows are God's promise to us
as they arc above the land;
reassurance when we need it
that we're held in God's own hand.

Amen

The URC daily devotions

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

Reverend Bernard Wesley Grimsey 22/10/1928 - 4/12/2020

Some of you will remember Bernard who, together with his wife Sheila, was a regular worshipper and service leader at Nailsea URC

A condolence card has been sent to the family.
Donations to Christian Aid in memory of Bernard can be made, if desired, to:-

Cooksley & Son Funeral Directors
1 Walliscote Road
WEston super Mare
BS23 1UY