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CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
MAGAZINE
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Be joyful in hope
Patient in affliction
And faithful in prayer
Romans 12 v 12

Dear Friends,

Gratitude is one of the great gifts and disciplines for Christians. We are called to be grateful people, and this is not just a commitment to positive thinking. There are times when we should bring our complaints to God and the Old Testament and especially the Psalms are full of complaint when it is necessary.

However, we have much to thank God for. We can be grateful for the blessings of shelter, food and drink, the comforts we enjoy, for transport and quiet living. I knew a lovely South African man in Cornwall, and he was a very godly and gentle man. He had moved to the UK from South Africa a couple of years before I met him, and he told me that he was only just getting used to going out in the morning without a gun in his pocket! When I go to buy food from the supermarket, I have to remember to take five essentials with me- my shopping list, bags, my wallet, a pound coin for the trolley and my phone. Imagine having to add a sixth to that list- a gun! There are many other things we can be grateful for- family, people who love us, moderate weather, a free NHS, a school education and so on.

I would encourage you to be grateful for the kindnesses shown you week by week. Do not be like the nine lepers whom Jesus healed, but after having been seen by the Priest to certify that they were clean, forgot to return to Him to say thank you. Be rather like the other leper, the one out of the ten, who did return to Jesus.

I remember a few years ago, Fi and I had the blessing of going on a day trip from Bristol airport to Iceland. We set off very early one Sunday morning, returning home at midnight having had a glorious day seeing a little of the wonders of that very strange country! Do not forget to wonder at God's creation! If you have

eyes to see and time to observe, God will show you so much that you never realised was there!

Practise gratitude and appreciation!
God bless you, David.

Hate has four letters so does Love.
Enemies has 7 letters so does Friends.
Lying has 5 letters so does Truth.
Negative has 8 letters so does Positive.
Under has 5 letters so does Above.
Cry has 3 letters so does Joy.
Anger has 5 letters so does Happy.
Right has 5 letters so does Wrong.
Hurt has 4 letters so does Heal.

It means life is like a double-edged sword.....
So, transform every negative side into an aura of positivity....
We should choose the better side of life.

The other day I was hanging out with a friend. This friend is a Christian, but she doesn't always act, speak or think like one. Some days, she is completely in-line with God's Word, and some days, her life is a struggle that gets the best of her. As our eyes met, I really wanted to say something about it, but, I decided to let the Lord speak to her heart, knowing nothing that I say will have the same impact as the Father's words. So.... I prayed with her, and after some time had passed, I winked at her, and walked away from the mirror. I try everyday, and I fail everyday. I am so not perfect, I am a work in progress, and I'm thankful for God's grace and His promises to His believers.

Mary

Commitment for Life Prayer

Action Prayer with Greta – Bangladesh
Lego prayers
Using some building blocks or lego,
build yourself a sturdy house. Amen

Prayer

Dear God, we thank you for our homes, which are made of solid brick. We remember those who live in countries such as Bangladesh, whose homes and livelihoods, due to the climate crisis, are easily destroyed through floods and strong winds. Amen

Commitment
for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

The URC daily devotions

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

Communion Offering for August

Southfield Road Church Foodbank

Church members run Nailsea Foodbank, which is a branch of the Clevedon District Foodbank, Charity No:1154997.



It is open at the Church from 12:30pm to 2:30pm every Friday.
Emergency Number: 07927 472649 (call/text/WhatsApp).
Email: nailseafoodbank@gmail.com

Communion Offertory Plate

Please note that the Communion offertory plate will, in future, be on the left hand side as you enter the Church, together with the notice to say what that month's offering is for. The general offertory plate will remain in its usual place on the right.

This change has been instigated as it has become increasingly difficult for your treasurer to be sure which is which!!

There will be a church meeting on Sunday 10TH September after lunch

A BIG THANKYOU

to Jeffrey and Mary for their contributions
To Dear Friends for past months.

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – AUGUST 2023		
SUNDAY 6TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev'd Dr Keith Clements	11.00AM
SUNDAY 13TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mr Richard Patterson	11.00AM
SUNDAY 20TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev'd David Jewell	11.00AM
SUNDAY 27TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP With Mr Jeffrey Ponsonby	11.00AM
SUNDAY 3RD	SUNDAY COMMUNION WORSHIP TBC	11.00AM

August Prayer

It's not known who wrote the following prayer, but it is a beautiful prayer of intercession. It offers an important reminder that words alone are not enough, that we must do whatever we can to help bring God's vision to fruition. We may not be able to do much, but we can all do something.

Give me, Lord God, a vision of the world
as your love would make it;
a world where the weak are protected
and none go hungry or poor;
a world where the benefits of civilised life are shared
and everyone can enjoy them;
a world where different races, nations and cultures
live in tolerance and mutual respect;
a world where peace is built with justice
and justice is guided by love;
and give me the inspiration and courage
to share in the task of building it.

Through Jesus Christ my Lord.

Amen

Anonymous

	Flowers	Readers
August 6 th	Isabel	Patrick
August 13 th	Sally	Peter
August 20 th	Flower Fund	Philip
August 27 th	John B	Patrick
Sept 3 rd	Yvonne	Isabel

Please do speak to Sally or Barbara if you know of anyone including outside our church family who would appreciate flowers following our service and if you are able to deliver with a card (I have) we will then be supporting our community beyond our church doors.

The reason to give may be a happy or sad or "just because" as my Auntie Joan used to say!!