



CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
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*God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though it's waters roar and foam
and the mountains shake with their surging.*

Psalms 46:1-3

Minister Revd John Gray details on Contact Page

Church Secretary Mrs Sally Edmondson

Dear Friends,

During the lockdown people might have found more time to watch television than normally. On the other hand, there have been many repeats and the challenge is to find good programmes. One of them might be Grand Designs. I like it. It really engages and feeds my creative side to watch people design and build their own homes. The last such programme told the story of creating a “bunker house” in a remote portion of Scotland, which looked like a huge concrete bunker initially then was turned into a very special home with a breathtaking view on the sea. Another episode portrayed the basic structures of a derelict castle in need of “huge modernisation and building work” that was transformed into something incredibly beautiful to live in. However, in almost all episodes and projects there is one thing common. The original budget does not cover the cost. It often spirals out of control and (hundreds of) thousands of extra pounds need to be found to finish off the building.

In Luke 14:27-30, Jesus uses a building project as illustration when he urges his followers to calculate the cost of discipleship beforehand. In much the same way as one would first sit down to look at the cost of building a tower to make sure it can be finished. The thought has often struck me that weighing up the cost of following Jesus through health and sickness, plenty and little, being accompanied by many or being in isolation - like now in Coronavirus time - is a serious business. The “cost of discipleship” often “spirals out of our control”.

The time, the finance, the determination we have put aside for leading a holy life, faithfully proclaiming the Gospel, to be truthful, loving, enabling and to set an example is often not enough.

In order to work on, or even become God’s “Grand Design” we have to make sacrifices until it hurts.

It is difficult. Costly. Impossible... unless they are made by the grace of God, whose love for the world cost him everything when he gave his Son, so that we might live... unless they are made relying on the strength of Christ, who walked the way of the cross because of the joy set before him by his Father. Unless they are made in the power of the Holy Spirit, who raised Jesus from the dead as the Son of God.

For it is only then, that we find our cost calculation turned upside down and inside out. It is only then, that we can give over our derelict structures to God, to be used in his grand design. And it is only then, that impossible promises become possible to make; because of the overwhelming measure of transforming grace, strength and power freely poured out by God.

Yours in Christ,

John

Going for Gold

Congratulations on your Golden Wedding Anniversary to :-

Eveline and Stuart July 18th
Isabel and Gavin July 31st
Margaret and Robin September 1st



“Many thanks for the cards and good wishes for our Golden Wedding Anniversary Eveline and Stuart”

A Word from your Treasurer

It would appear that lockdown is going to continue for a while yet before we are able to worship again in our Church building.

I thought you may like a financial update of how we are placed at the moment. Just recently we received from HMRC the grand sum of **£3317.78** in return for contributions which have been Gift Aided. Normally I would place this in our Savings Account but, as we still have monthly costs to meet, for the time being this is being left in our Current Account. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who uses the Gift Aid scheme and I am sure you are just as delighted as I am with this result.

Several of you have now set up Standing Orders or made payments through the bank for the offertory you have accumulated so far and several have sent me cheques which I have banked. I would like to thank all those who have done any of these. All monies have been recorded against your envelope number for Gift Aid purposes. If anyone would like help in setting up payments through the bank please do not hesitate to contact me for details.

It may not be possible for us to worship with our own congregation at this time but the work of the church does go on and its' costs continue. It is important that we make our regular contributions, as we are able, through whatever channels are open to us, alongside our gifts of time and talents in the service of Christ.

I trust it won't be too long until we come together again for worship in our Church building. Meanwhile, stay safe and well.

Isabel

From a Caithness school test

The following statements about the Bible were written by children. They have not been retouched or corrected. incorrect spelling has been left in.

1. In the first book of the bible, Guinness. god got tired of creating the world so he took the sabbath off.
2. Samson slayed the philistines with the axe of the apostles.
3. Moses led the jews to the red sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.
4. The egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to mount cyanide to get the ten commandments.
5. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
6. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
7. The greatest miricle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
8. David was a hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.
9. Solomon, one of Davids sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
10. When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the magna carta.
11. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
12. The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.
13. The epistels were the wives of the apostles.
14. One of the oppossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.
15. St. Paul cavorted to christianity, he preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marraige.
16. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

A little poem from Ave to make us smile

After the ball was over,
Maisie took out her glass eye
Put her false teeth in water
Hung her wig out to dry
Took out the screws of her wooden leg
Stood it against the wall
Washed off the paint and powder
After the ball !!!

Communion Offertory – Commitment for Life

Commitment for Life encourages all URC churches to take action, pray and give for people living in poverty across the world.

We read in the bible:

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

The CfL team wishes to thank all who are contributing to their aim to ‘do justice’ and to show concern, love and care for people living in extreme poverty.

Your contributions will be much appreciated.

THANK YOU.

Patricia

Commitment for Life Prayer for July

Prayer for Palestine and Israel

Gracious God, You promised Jerusalem as home to many peoples - Jews, Christians, Muslims. Jerusalem; a place to dwell with You and one another in peace. Be with us between Rosh Hashana’s quiet time of repentance and Yom Kippur’s day of shouts and blessings. Save us from Apartheid walls and rocket launches, from uprooted olive groves and illegal settlements. May Your Spirit of peace fill Jerusalem and all the lands.

Amen

The URC daily devotions

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