



CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
MAGAZINE**

OCTOBER 2020 ISSUE 172

“Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.”

Psalm 34, v. 8

Minister Revd John Gray details on Contact Page

Church Secretary Mrs Sally Edmondson

Dear Friends,

I think recently our sense of togetherness has been challenged because our church services and church activities have been suspended, physical contact and any meetings minimised, socially distanced or avoided. It is hard to maintain our fellowship without physical contact, church services etc. Of course, the Internet connects us all, we use on-line faith resources, email and video call each other, arrange Zoom meetings and Zoom and streamed services. We do enjoy this “virtual togetherness”, however it cannot replace the social part of our fellowship.

Coronavirus spread is the context for One World Week at the end of this October, during which we celebrate our togetherness and oneness, as usual. The central theme for this year is “It’s Our World – Let’s make it better.”

The Coronavirus crisis has seen huge changes in most of our lives: sadly, tragedy for some and lasting health problems for many, financial difficulties for ordinary people and great concerns for our churches, some of the URC churches might not even survive the lack of letting incomes for several months. Also, it is hard to maintain the unity between our churches and ecumenical partners. Simply, unity seems to be a contradiction in our world, in which self-isolation, and social distancing are the reality of everyday life.

It is not. I believe we can be more united than ever. Social distancing is necessary. Relational distancing is not. Let’s seize the opportunity to check on our neighbours, phone and email our church members, make the most of our Zoom meetings and experience a kind of growth in numbers when it comes to Zoomed and streamed services. Technology can help in keeping contact with our friends and churches for the time being. One World Week reminds us that if we distance ourselves from each other in our relationships, we are worse off.

To the contrary let’s make this world better by maintaining our relationships, keep praying for those who are unwell or feeling lonely. Let’s make our world better by our being sympathetic, sensitive to the

needs of others, grateful to God for our resources which we can share more justly in our world, by going back to a harmonious state with nature – with much less environmental polluting! -, in which we respect and care for creation and do not exploit it.

I believe we are united in the primary concern of One World Week: Make our World better: fairer, more just, Greener. Can we build on signs of hope in major changes in the world to work for a future which is not just “back to normal? Many are arguing against the idea of going back to what we thought was ‘normal’ but was destroying the natural systems of the world we depend on and created huge social inequalities. So let’s make this the moment to choose a new way of living where we come together to take care of each other and our world – Let’s make it better.

With love and prayers, John

Commitment for Life Prayer

Jesus:
for the dry and thirsty you give living water,
to those drained and empty you come with your fullness,
among people discouraged and despairing, you offer gentle love,
in places of defeat and distress, you speak of hope.

So we pray for our world:
where the ground is dry, we ask for clouds and rain,
in lives that are drained, will you refresh and restore,
for desperate hearts, we seek the gift of new belief,
in distress, come, Lord Jesus, to sow seeds of promise.

And we ask to be agents of your love,
sharing material help and personal care,
offering respect and understanding,
working in hope as partners and friends,
for the sake of your good news.
Amen

John Proctor

A Tribute to Janet Patricia Marian Ford (Jan)

Given by Sue Cossey (Synod pastoral advisor) at Jan's funeral

I only met Jan once, when I visited her in the Hospice for communion. Even though she was very ill, her faith shone through, and I was honoured to give her that comfort as she, Mike, Sally and I shared bread and wine. Even the dog shared in the bread! Since then, speaking to Mike, I have learned what a caring person she was all her life.

Janet was born in January 1954, part of a large family of 6 children to Trevor, and Peggie: Maggie, Sarah, Trevor, Jan, Liz and Martin. She grew up in the Barrow Gurney area in a small community with lots of friends and relations visiting.

After school, Jan embarked on a nursing career, working at Barrow Hospital and also at Southmead and Callington Road.

She met Mike at a St Valentine's dance in 1973, and they were married on 4th May 1974. Her caring continued from then, as they were joined in time by Chris and Joanna, and family remained an important part of her life. She later cared for her parents as they aged and also for Mike's parents Norah and Ted. Once the grandchildren arrived she also looked after them, and I am sure that Ryan, Luke, Amy, Harrison, Zac and little Ted have many happy memories of being with her.

As Jan started to have trouble with arthritis, she endured many operations, but this did not stop her caring for others - she helped with swimming sessions for blind friends, including Harry, and she supported members of a slimming club as well as being a member of the WI and Nailsea URC.

If that wasn't enough, she enjoyed theatre and family board games. She loved poetry, a love passed to her by her mother, and she was creative, knitting and making butterflies like this one. She and Mike also enjoyed cruise holidays.

Her faith was important to her and she felt that, together with her family and friends, her beliefs helped her through her final illness.

She chose the readings and music for this service and specified that people should wear bright colours to celebrate her life. Nevertheless, she will be missed by all her family and friends as she leaves a 'Jan sized' hole in their lives. As you mourn, remember the good times you had together, and remember that it's OK to laugh as well as cry.

Greetings

I have been in contact with several friends of the church who were originally booked to lead worship at Nailsea in the next few weeks, and they have asked me to pass on the following messages:

Greetings to all from Ken Marsh, Helena McKinnon and Mike Peat.

Mike says: "I wish you all well and look forward to seeing you another time."

Ruth Browning writes, "Good to know how Nailsea is doing. Blessings and prayers to all."

She then adds, "Thornbury is gradually re-opening in the building - one Sunday a month until December. Also alternating Zoom services with Trinity-Henleaze URC."

Dougie Burnett (Redland Park URC) extends an offer to any Nailsea folk who might like to join Redland Park for their 'hybrid Zoom Sunday services'.

Something for us all to consider, I guess, though I think we are mostly happy with the many other worship opportunities on offer via radio, television, URC Daily Devotions and other online services.

God bless you all and let's look forward to that time when it will be safe for us to meet again for Sunday worship.

Patricia

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.

Your Inner Song

Be thankful for each morning's sunrise,
See beauty in nature's reveal,
That beauty is also inside you,
Open up and see how you feel,
Let kindness be part of your being,
Make someone else smile everyday,
Even if darkness surrounds them,
Your compassion will light up their way,
Show grace and humility always,
Be patient and loyal and true,
Don't try to be all to the many,
But always be you to the few,
Stand firm at times of challenge,
Maintain your wisdom and poise,
Be attuned to nature's rhythm,
Amid life's trials and noise,
Be proud of the love you are giving,
Spread it equal with strangers and kin,
Your resolve will sometimes be tested,
But your strength will come from within,
Don't dwell on mistakes or regrets now,
Or dread what tomorrow might bring,
Let this moment be all that consumes you,
And may the world hear your inner voice sing.

by Paul Hayward

Thank You

Robin and I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, e-mails
and good wishes on the occasion of our Golden Wedding.

Margaret

