



# CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED  
REFORMED CHURCH  
MAGAZINE  
JULY 2021 ISSUE 181**

Trust in the Lord  
with all your heart

Proverbs 3:5

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

Dear Friends,

at the time of writing my article the weather is very nice, sunny and summery – for many of you it might have been too hot (not for me!) -, nature is at its best, trees are blossoming, flower gardens are colourful, in parks (at least in Bristol) the grass is cut just partly allowing the creation of “wild flower islands”, which is very artistic. I have always loved the countryside, running in it – supposed the grass is not too high and there are no cows around –; it clears my mind and cheers me up. I am sure country walks are one of your favourite pastime activities too. Who would not like marvelling at God’s beautiful creation with all the forests, blossom trees, wild flowers, rivers and seas, mountains and cliffs, beaches and amazing animals in it? There are only a few things in my life that could have a more positive impact on my mood, attitude, faith than marvelling at the wonders of God’s creation. Whenever I connect to nature I indeed feel I need to praise the Lord with songs and poetry, like the one in Hebrew poetry: Psalm 8 (see the whole psalm) *LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

What about you? What makes you joyful and positively thinking? What makes you praise the Lord despite all that has been behind us during the pandemic, restrictions and severe disruptions in social life? At the time of re-opening our church - which is a very positive and exciting news – let us come together as a people of gratitude, who are grateful to God for fellowship and friendship, family, health, our jobs and hobbies, such as walking in the countryside, marvelling at God’s beautiful creation. - Could our “new normal” be that we show to others that during the pandemic we learnt, and are still learning!, what really matters in life and how to count our blessings? Gratitude is not natural, not part of the “old normal”, it is something new, which we learn to show when we go through a very difficult time like this pandemic has been. *May the Lord “teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom”* (Psalm 90:12).

*With Love and Prayers,*  
*John*

## PSALM 8

Lord, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory  
in the heavens.

Through the praise of children and infants  
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,  
to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens,  
the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place,

What is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels  
and crowned them with glory and honour.  
You made them rulers over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under their feet:  
all flocks and herds,  
and the animals of the wild,  
the birds in the sky,  
and the fish in the sea,  
all that swim the paths of the seas.

Lord, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## Commitment for Life Prayer

### Prayer for Divestment from Fossil Fuels

The fuels that we dug from your earth drove revolution and let us build industries and create new things. Let us give thanks for the benefits they brought, but accept that it is time to let them go. And having given thanks, let us build a future where you guide us through wind, tide and sun to energy that does not exhaust your earth. We pray for a renewed and renewable world, where politicians are willing to embrace new ways and we are prepared to let go of practices that do not serve your kingdom.

Amen

Diana Paulding

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

### The URC daily devotions

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

## A Word from your Treasurer

I would like to thank, once again, all those who have continued with their offerings during this long pandemic. It has been greatly appreciated and has meant that we didn't have to reach into our Savings Account, surviving solely on our Current Account. I also thank those of you who set up Standing Orders and Bank Transfers to make your payments.

Now that we are hoping to get back to some sort of normality very soon it would be helpful to me, as your Treasurer, if more of you would consider setting up a Standing Order through your bank for your offertory. If enough of the congregation did this it would mean doing away with the weekly offering envelopes and little or no handling of cash and cheques etc. Of course, if this is not something you wish to do then cash and cheques would still be very acceptable. If you would like to set up a Standing Order through your bank you will require the church bank details - I will be only too happy to assist. All monies would still be recorded for Gift Aid purposes.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries regarding the above.

*Isabel*

## Here for You

Your elders and John do hope you are keeping safe and well but please do not hesitate to call us should you wish, we are here to listen and to have a chat.

Sally and elders with prayers and virtual hugs!  
We will do so one day!

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY - July 2021		
<b>SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>REFLECTIONS “Stepping out with Jesus”</b> led by Isabel & Patricia	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>COMMUNION WORSHIP</b> with Rev.d John Gray	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Stella Patterson	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Rev.d John Gray	<b>11.00AM</b>

In 1979 the tugboat *Cahaba* was headed down the Tombingbee River in Alabama, USA. The current was flowing fast as the tug’s pilot approached the bridge and released his coal barges. He then put his 1800 horsepower twin engines into reverse to get away, but when the boat moved slightly off line the current swung the boat sideways and slammed it into the bridge. The current was so strong that it forced the boat down under the water. To the astonishment of onlookers it passed under the bridge and popped up, upright, with the engines still going and the pilot at the wheel, on the other side.

Why did it come back to the surface in an upright position?

Because it was ballasted with a metre thick lining of cement on the bottom of the hull. It is a vivid reminder that life can often go horribly wrong, but if we have the right “ballast” – faith in Christ – then we can get through it and emerge upright on the other side. By the way, you can view photos of the amazing tug incident on at [www.gcfl.net/stuff/tugboat/](http://www.gcfl.net/stuff/tugboat/).

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'" Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

## Pulpit Supply future planning

As we are all aware, due to various circumstances there is to be a decrease in stipendiary ministry in the URC in the coming months / years!

Also several retired ministers and lay preachers in our area, on the one hand will be in greater demand, whilst also wanting to cut back on their services!!

As you will, no doubt appreciate, there is a need here that we must address.

In preparation for this situation, our elders are beginning to formulate plans to continue with weekly Sunday services. Initially, working from the book “A most amazing man” by \*Nick Fawcett we will be trialling occasional services with a slightly different format.

The first of these services, which we are calling “Reflections”, will take place on 4th July. We are excited about this, and we hope you will be there to share it with us - also to provide us with your honest reactions afterwards!

\*(Nick Fawcett trained for the Baptist ministry and has served in pastorates in several different areas of England. He now lives in Somerset, worshipping in a local Anglican Church, and has committed himself to a writing ministry. His many books are much used by worship leaders in all denominations).

Patricia

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand.

"Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked.

"He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied.

The boy thought a moment and then said,

"Did God throw him back down?"