



# CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED  
REFORMED CHURCH  
MAGAZINE  
MAY 2021 ISSUE 179**

*God has ascended  
amid shouts of joy  
Psalm 47:5*

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

Dear Friends,

Covid has proved to be traumatic to many of us, and disruptive to our personal, family and church lives. It has been a psychological destabilising element in our decision making mechanism as well, because sometimes we just don't know what the right decision is in connection with scheduled actions and plans affected by the pandemic. We have been told by the government it is all about data not dates when we can go back to normality, when we can re-open our church for physical worship and gathering. The data seem not very worrying, infection rate and death rate are decreasing, yet the psychological element is the fear that what if a third wave breaks out – like it did in many places of the world -, new mutants cannot be so clearly defeated by the available vaccination, so it is better to be safe than sorry and wait a bit longer.

On the other hand, Covid has also proved to be an opportune time for personal reflection, meditation, fitness, exercise and self-study or on-line learning and tutoring. One way to make the most of your extra time and self-isolation is learning a language or improving your language skills. One of the reasons I like Netflix is that I can watch films and programmes in different languages as well. It helps us realise that although English is a uniting language, it is an effort to speak in other languages or understand the other. In some situations an interpreter is needed for personal reasons, sometimes for business and legal purposes.

Thinking of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit is an interpreter for us. With His help we can even understand each other despite our often very different cultural and social backgrounds. In a sense Pentecost is a reverse Babel, at which event people could and can understand each other, their concerns and joys and feelings as well. According to the original Babel story in Genesis 11 God confused the language of the people and suddenly they could not understand each other. It was a punishment for their haughtiness that they wanted to “make a name for themselves” instead of giving praise to God for what they had achieved in life. At Pentecost we reverse Babel, or rather overcome it, and don't “make a name for ourselves” but praise God. The Spirit makes us humble in service, fills us and equips us to do every good work of God to our community. He is the interpreter of Scriptures that we may all understand it and each other, and

empowers us to speak the uniting language of love. That's the miracle of Pentecost.

The following lines of our hymn from Fred Kaan relates to Pentecost in the context of the ongoing pandemic:

*Teach us, good Lord, to serve the needs of others, help us to give and not count the cost. Unite us all to live as sisters, brothers, defeat our Babel with your Pentecost!*

*With love and prayer,*  
John

## Communion offertory for May : My Cancer Cafe

'My Cancer Cafe' was created by Jo Hopkinson as a support group for anyone affected by cancer. The idea was to meet up once a month on a Thursday afternoon at No 65 High Street, Nailsea for shared activities, tea, coffee and cake and a safe place to chat with others in a similar situation. The facility has now re-opened with necessary Covid restrictions in place.

A user of the service recently posted the following message: “I'm sure I'm not the only one who can't wait to meet up with others who are going through cancer treatment, have finished it or have a family member or friend affected. Let's support it!”

A facility available in Nailsea worthy of our support too!

Thank you.

Patricia

## Pauline Hill

Pauline sends greetings to all at Nailsea URC. She now lives at Clevedon Court Nursing Home.

## Commitment for Life Prayer

### Prayer for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Felicity Tunnard

We pray for all the people in Israel and Palestine.  
Help us to seek peace, justice, hope and dignity  
for all people living in this situation.  
Help us to be their voice and help us to share their stories with  
others,  
even though there is uncertainty, indifference and opposition.  
Give us the strength to seek an end to the occupation, so that  
Israelis and Palestinians can create a better future for themselves.  
Help us to prepare tables of dialogue,  
and opportunities for truth-telling around us.  
We pray that the people may start to witness small signs of hope  
and remember they're not alone.  
For all our Christian brothers and sisters in Israel/Palestine,  
this day, we pray "the peace of Christ".  
Amen.

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.

## Prayers during the pandemic

Lord,  
We give thanks for the scientists tackling the pandemic;  
for their curiosity about your world;  
for their commitment to finding rigorous answers.  
We pray for those who nurture young minds;  
for teachers who open up new possibilities;  
for those who make it safe to ask hard questions.  
May your Church be somewhere where we wonder anew at  
Creation,  
hold out hope for a better world for all your children  
and take action to make that world a reality.  
Amen.

## 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!

## Jigsaws

I hope you have enjoyed building jigsaws during lock down with  
satisfaction if finished! if not no one needs to know!  
If you are not too bored with them I have a few more to lend out.

Do you have some you have completed then please let me know and  
I will collect at a distance!!! to keep in our jigsaw library.

Sally  
Please ring me 07973 483525