



CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
MAGAZINE
OCTOBER 2021 ISSUE 184**

*For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God*

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

Dear Friends,

Many of us are some ways connected to the yearly Bristol Half Marathon, or as it is officially called the Great Bristol Run, which took place on 19th September this year, which was very well received, greatly anticipated and supported by locals and other enthusiasts from all over the UK and worldwide, partly because in 2020 there wasn't one due to Covid-19. Many of us have someone in the family who ran it, and everyone who did just loves it. The atmosphere is very special, the organisation is great, the charitable cause behind it is noble, the route, particularly under the Suspension Bridge, is scenic. The news around the event is usually interesting, but this year it was extraordinary. Both the tabloids and the local papers shared the story of Omar Ahmed, who won the race, but actually ran the wrong race. With an extraordinary twist he originally entered the 10k, but ended up running 21km. After 6 miles he noticed he took a wrong turn when the routes for the 10k and half marathon, which took place simultaneously, diverged. Poor Omar! His record-breaking 63 minutes' run was eventually disqualified, rules are rules, anyway, the runner finishing second (with 4 minutes behind him) was promoted to first place.

When you are in it, just like myself, other things that might not be so newsworthy attract your attention too – just to keep you entertained. It makes you smile when you notice runners in fancy dress and meet running clowns, ladybirds, giant mushrooms on your journey. Then some of the names of running clubs and charities on runners' T-shirts catch your eye, such as Sole Survivors, Pace Makers or The Extra Mile.

For many "slow" runners the extra mile would be the last thing you would want during the race. Almost like that happened a few weeks ago in Brighton, where the half marathon race route was 568m too long. Organisers have apologised for that since then. However, we Christians are encouraged, even instructed by Jesus, to deliberately go the extra mile.

Jesus says "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles." In context, Jesus referred to the habit of Roman soldiers, who forced Jewish people to go on an extra mile with them carrying all the burden. Jesus wants his followers to demonstrate their self-sacrifice for others to soften the hearts of those around us, who are like Roman soldiers were: brutal and uncompassionate, to help the weak who cannot carry the burden of life. Demonstrating self control and stamina in the Christian race helps others to do the race together. Running, walking, praying and working that extra mile is not just being a Christian, just keeping the "commandments", but demonstrating our love for the Lord and each other.

Yours in Christ, John

LUNCH IS BACK ON THE MENU!

Good news, folks! After worship on 24th October, led by our own minister, John, there will be a soup lunch which will then be followed by Church Meeting. This will be our first Church Meeting since 15th March 2020 when we went into lockdown so it would be very encouraging for John, Elders and all the congregation if as many people as possible could attend. The cost will be £4.00 per head payable on the day but numbers need to be with Isabel by 20th October - at the very latest. All proceeds from the lunch will go to Commitment for Life.

Hope to see you all there.

Isabel

Harvest Gifts

*Please ensure that your Harvest gifts are dry or tinned goods.
These will be given to our local Food Banks*

Commitment for Life Prayer

Prayer for Creation

Creator God, eternal loving parent - when I stop to think, I have to pinch myself to check that we really are here! I mean, how come this mind-boggling universe has precisely the properties that make life possible? Then scientists, with all their brilliant tools, tell us that the chance of intelligent life evolving (us) is probably vanishingly small. Maybe you needed those countless galaxies with all their untold stars so that (just once?) you might find beings who had hearts and souls and minds and strength for you? A race that gave you a way to step into your creation to crown it with your glory? How can we bear the responsibility of being your children? Your purpose in creation hangs in the balance; our race stands at a fork in the road. The narrow way leads to peace of heart, to harmony with each other, to harmony with earth, your other than human creation. The broad way leads to spiralling chaos, bringing untold suffering on humanity and wantonly destroying, in a few short years, what took billions to produce and can never be replaced.

Amen

Charles Jolly

Communion Offering for September

The Memory Cafe

Nailsea Memory Cafe meets at the Barn weekly on a Wednesday at 2.15 pm . There are activities for people with dementia and a carers discussion and support group. Please contact Karen Smith for more details: email tbarnmemories@gmail.com

[Memories at the Barn Website](#)

Commitment for Life envelopes

Will be given to you on Sunday 19th September in readiness for you to return to harvest festival service on 3rd October

We suggest donations of dried goods so we are able to support Nailsea and Clevedon food bank as we did in 2019

Should you be unable to be at the Harvest service please return Commitment for Life envelopes when you are able.

BRIGHT HOUR

Tuesday 5th October speaker John Gray at 2.30

Tuesday 19th speaker Brian Jones at 2.30

Tuesday 2nd November speaker TBA at 2.30

All welcome do join us for fellowship tea and chat



“When you love someone,
you love the person as they
are, and not as you`d like
them to be.”

Leo Tolstoy



“To love a person is to learn the
song that is in their heart, and
to sing it to them when they
have forgotten.”

Arne Garborg

The URC daily devotions

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

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY - October 2021		
SUNDAY 3RD	HARVEST SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev'd Stephen Newell	11.00AM
TUESDAY 5TH	BRIGHT HOUR speaker Revd John Gray	2.30pm
SUNDAY 10TH	COMMUNION SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev.d John Gray	11.00AM
SUNDAY 17TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP To be advised	11.00AM
TUESDAY 19TH	BRIGHT HOUR speaker Mr Brian Jones	2.30pm
SUNDAY 24TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP Followed by Church Meeting and Lunch	11.00AM
SUNDAY 31ST	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mr Brian Jones	11.00AM
TUESDAY 2ND	BRIGHT HOUR speaker tba	2.30pm

Door Rota

We need volunteers to welcome our friends to church and hand out our Order of service and Connect. Please speak to an Elder if you able to help

A Smile by Kurt Hearth

A smile
is a frown turned upside down.
A smile
is painted on the face of a clown.
A smile
Brightens a dreary day.
A smile
chases tears away.

A smile
is a gift that shows you care.
A smile
is priceless no matter where.
A smile
is the key to happiness.
A smile
is a sure sign of success.

When you feel lonely in a strange place
It helps to see a smile on another's face.
If there is any real magic around
It is the silent magic of a smile's sound.

Keep smiling everyone!

Patricia