



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

# CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED  
REFORMED CHURCH  
MAGAZINE  
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*The word of the Lord  
remains forever*

*1 Peter 1:25*

Dear Friends,

This letter always begins Dear Friends and when, in John's absence, I was thinking what to write I thought of John 15 v 15 which says:-

*'I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.'*

Even when Judas Iscariot betrayed him Jesus addressed him as 'Friend' (Matthew 26:50)

So then "Dear Friends" how do we get to know Jesus as a friend? Well, how do we get to know anyone? Suppose a new family moves into our street or comes to our church. How do we get to know them? Surely the first thing we do is talk to them and show an interest in their life. We won't get to know anyone unless we really want to and even then this won't happen unless they want to know us as well. It takes two to make a friendship.

Fortunately, Jesus wants us to be his friends, all of us, good and bad alike. As he said 'I do not call you servants .... I call you friends.'  
So if Jesus is to be our friend we must do our part and get to know him because, after all, he already knows all about us!

But how do we get to know him? It seems to me that the first thing to do is to think about him and read about him regularly. Those who wrote the gospels did so in order that we might learn about Jesus and, as we read their words, we will find stories about the things which Jesus did and said to all sorts of different people.

In my teens I had a pen friend and when a letter arrived I read it eagerly, getting to know her a little better each time. It is much the same with reading the gospels; every time we do it we can get to know a bit more about Jesus.

And surely, it is much better to read a little and do it often than it is to read a lot and do it seldom. A bit like having breakfast; we don't eat seven times as much on Sundays and have nothing for the rest of the week. But that is how some people read their Bible. Surely little and often is the key to consistent progress.

Jesus said 'You are my friends if you do what I command you.'

One of the first songs I can remember singing at Sunday school is:-

Jesus friend of little children  
Be a friend to me  
Take my hand and ever keep me  
Close to Thee

Amen

With love and prayers  
Stella

## From your Treasurer – Envelopes?

As you know, over the past few months I have been encouraging you to consider giving your offertory through the bank in the form of a Standing Order. Thank you to all those who have now agreed to do this but it would be very good if more of you would commit to doing so.

This month I am due to order next year's Free Will Offering Envelopes and since the minimum I can order is 25 sets at a cost of over £60 (and we don't need half of that amount) I am very reluctant to spend this money on unnecessary paper that would otherwise be recycled. Therefore I would urge you, please, to consider setting up a Standing Order with your bank before the end of this year. I am only too happy to provide you with all the necessary details of our bank to enable you to do this.

Of course, cash and cheques will always be welcome and Gift Aid giving would be recorded as usual.

Please do think about this and don't hesitate to ask me any questions on the matter but I would like to have your response in the next few weeks.

Thank you, all, for your continued giving.

*Isabel*

## Commitment for Life Prayer

Prayer for Central America

Loving God, you constantly remind us that all people are made in your image. Thank you that as we support the work of our partners, we can put names to faces and be challenged by their example to be change makers in our lives. We pray for our partner countries in Central America, especially as they struggle to cope with the ongoing impact of coronavirus on the most vulnerable. We give thanks: for the inspiring people working together in projects that are transforming the lives of their communities; for those speaking out against injustice, motivating others in the fight against corruption and for transparency; and for those training and empowering indigenous young people.

In the love of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

## Communion Offering for August

The Children's Hospice South West

I have been donated 20 copies of "The Picnic Hamper recipe" booklet by my friend Sally.

This was Sally's occupation during lockdown!

She suggested they can be sold to support a local charity.

I, therefore, with your elders' permission suggest the donations from this booklet during September goes to the work of CHSW

Please feel free to take and make a donation if you wish, thank you for your support

Sally

## Commitment for Life envelopes

Will be given to you on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September in readiness for you to return to harvest festival service on 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

Mary has retired from leading due to her health problems

We take this opportunity to thank Mary for leading our meeting for 6 months in 2019

We all wish her a speedy recovery

## LATEST GOOD NEWS

Margaret Marshfield has offered to lead an informal "welcome back" afternoon with tea and chat on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm in the hall.

Please bring **your** suggestions

A very warm welcome awaits you all

Margaret

## The URC daily devotions

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

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY - August 2021		
<b>SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>COMMUNION WORSHIP</b> with Rev'd Helena McKinnon	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>BRIGHT HOUR</b> with Margaret Marshfield	<b>2.30pm</b>
<b>SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Bright Hour	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Isobel and Patricia	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Mrs Stella Paterson	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>COMMUNION WORSHIP</b> with Rev'd Stephen Newell	<b>11.00AM</b>

## Flower Rota

If you wish to donate and arrange flowers for the church please add your name to the Flower rota on the Hall notice board. If you would like to donate to the flower Fund please see Sally or Barbara.

## Tea and Coffee Rota

We hope to have tea and coffee in the hall beginning in September, but to achieve this we need volunteers to set up and clear away. Please contact an Elder if you can help.

Jesus, Friend of all the children,  
Be my friend to me;  
Take my hand and ever keep me  
Close to Thee.

Teach me how to grow in goodness  
Daily as I grow;  
Thou hast been a child, and surely  
Thou dost know.

Step by step O lead me onwards  
Upwards into youth;  
Wiser, stronger, still becoming  
In Thy truth

Never leave me or forsake me,  
ever be my friend;  
for I need You from life's dawning  
to its end.

Rev.d Walter John Mathams  
(1853-1931)

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