



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

# CONNECT

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As a mother comforts her child,  
so will I comfort you.  
*Isaiah 66: 13*

Dear Friends,

the allure of Spring is that of renewed life. We have a few warm and sunny days and it does everything to encourage us, after those cold, rainy, cloudy, drizzling and gloomy days, weeks, months... Such is the context of the spiritual season of Easter. After the gloom and darkness of the cross where our Saviour was tortured to death, God brings new life to Jesus and to us all who would receive it.

Renewal is something we all need, but doesn't happen automatically. Spiritual renewal is not like the Summer that always comes according to the cycle of seasons. Spiritual renewal begins with some of the reflections we often consider in Lent. Renewal begins with the acknowledgement of need. When our lives become difficult or even unmanageable, then we turn to God for help. The problem many of us have is the lack of courage to be able express our need, lack or brokenness. The strong person is the one who admits they need help. The weak person is the one who thinks they can live life all alone, and everything is just fine. When we think of the Russian-Ukrainian war in Ukraine – it is still going on at the time of writing this article -, we can say, No, not everything is fine in the world, diplomatic solutions need to be explored, ceasefire, peace and reconciliation must begin as well as heartfelt prayers.

Likewise, on a personal level we should acknowledge our need for renewal. It might be hard for us to ask for help. Pride can be an obstacle in our relationships with God. "Don't be humble. You're not that great", Golda Meir, former Israeli Prime Minister. During Lent we realise how much we are in need of God's help, mercy and love in our lives. And how much we need each other at church to build up each other's faith. We need to be stronger, bolder. We need each other's prayers and complimentary service as we use our gifts for the benefit of our church and in reaching out to the community.

Easter is a time for refreshment and renewal – mentally, physically and spiritually, both in a personal and a church context. At this time we celebrate that we have a risen Saviour and a living God who transforms our lives and makes us new. May this Easter renew our faith and our relationships.

Happy Easter, *John*

## Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
Rest, if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,  
As every one of us sometimes learns,  
And many a failure turns about,  
When he might have won had he stuck it out;  
Don't give up though the pace seems slow -  
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than  
It seems to a faint and faltering man,  
Often the struggler has given up,  
When he might have captured the victors cup,  
And he learned too late when the night slipped down,  
How near he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out -  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,  
And you never can tell how close you are,  
It may be near when it seems so far,  
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit -  
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit!

## Commitment for Life Prayer

### Prayer for Global Justice Now

Dear God, thank you that economic and social justice are at the heart of who you are and that you stand on the side of those who are oppressed and marginalised.

We pray for those on the frontline of global injustice

- healthcare workers and vulnerable people who are struggling to access vaccines in the global south,
- those who have lost their homes and livelihoods because of the climate crises,
- countries that are struggling to fund healthcare because of crippling debt to international banks,
- black communities and people of colour who are on the sharp end of racial injustice,
- and communities that are fighting trade deals that prioritise corporate interests over human rights and public services.

We pray for victories for communities and campaigners in the fight for a people's vaccine, for climate justice, for debt justice and for trade justice.

We pray that solidarity, peace and justice will prevail.

In Jesus name, Amen

## The URC daily devotions

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

## Good Friday Service

Our friends from the Nailsea Methodist Church are joining us for our Good Friday Service. Please note that the service will start at 10.30AM

Followed by coffee and Hot Cross Buns before the Service in the precinct at 11.30 am.

## Church Lunch

I hope you all enjoyed lunch on 20th March and getting back to some form of normality. For those who were unable to attend - we did miss you - and hopefully it won't be too long before we can enjoy another Sunday lunch.

£50 was raised from the lunch and this is going to Commitment for Life. Thank you all for being so supportive.

Love  
Isabel

## Communion Offering for APRIL

### Southfield Church - Food Bank

Church members run Nailsea Foodbank, which is a branch of the Clevedon District Foodbank, Charity No:1154997.

It is open at the Church from 12:30pm to 2:30pm every Friday.

Clevedon District Foodbank is part of [The Trussell Trust's](https://www.trusselltrust.org/) UK-wide foodbank network.

For more information go to [clevedondistrict.foodbank.org.uk](https://clevedondistrict.foodbank.org.uk).



**God's Masterpiece**  
~*Herbert Farnham*

God took the fragrance of a flower,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The gentleness of morning dew,  
The calm of a quiet sea.

The beauty of the twilight hour,  
The soul of a starry night,  
The laughter of a rippling brook,  
The grace of a bird in flight.

Then God fashioned from these things,  
A creation like no other,  
And when his masterpiece was through,  
He called it simply - Mother.

**Flower Rota March**

Offers to arrange in a vase appreciated. Please speak to Sally or Barbara.  
Also if you are aware of anyone who would appreciate receiving some flowers  
please let an elder know.

3<sup>rd</sup> April    Jean Clavey  
10<sup>th</sup> April    John Fife  
17<sup>th</sup> April    Easter Bright Hour  
24<sup>th</sup> April

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – APRIL 2022		
<b>SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP – Café Style</b> with Rev'd Helena McKinnon	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY COMMUNION WORSHIP</b> with Rev.d Ruth Browning	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP</b> with Rev.d John Gray	<b>10.30AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>EASTER DAY COMMUNION WORSHIP</b> with Rev.d Ruth Whitehead	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Mrs Stella Patterson	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Mr Delwyn Tilke	<b>11.00AM</b>

