



CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
MAGAZINE
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*Be still and know that I am God
Psalm 46:10*

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

Dear Friends,

End of July and August is usually a time when many people are on holiday (particularly with children). You can notice that when you drive through Europe (like me, once a year) and become part of never ending traffic jams. Words like “transition and migration” come to your mind, but then the need for a holiday also. That’s one of the hardest things for the modern man, I think, to find a work and life balance, or to be in a position to manage life like that. Many people are “constantly on holiday”, or just work and work until they die.

I found the following story about Aesop, whose tales I extremely like, who was enjoying games with some children one day. A man came up and began to jeer at him. Aesop took a bow, unstrung it, and laid it on the ground. He called the man and said, “What does the unstrung bow imply?” The man racked his brains, but couldn’t find an answer. Aesop said to the man, “if you keep a bow always bent, it will lose its elasticity: but if you let it go back it will be fit for use when you want it.”

I think this story may have two lessons for us. First, it is easy to lose confidence in what we are doing and what we are. We are good at undermining ourselves especially when we try comparing ourselves with others, who seem to be more successful in many areas of life than us. We see only the other person’s strengths, which are our weaknesses. There are also some that seem to be able to make us feel lesser. I’m sure that many of us have been in situations where we have been criticised and not received any praise for at least trying.

The second point is that we are all only human – and that is not an excuse or a bad thing. Like the bow we can only take so much. We need to release the tension and let the bow return to its normal state – straight and strong and true so that when it is

put to the test it is not found to be bent and of no use with no pulling power. It is so easy to plod on in the same route that we become almost trans-fixed in one position. On holiday we have the chance to do something different.

If you are always active, it’s the chance to sit and read a book. If you are not so active physically, it’s the chance to go for a long walk or do some exercise. - In Scripture Jesus didn’t make a direct reference to holidays, but many times he emphasised the need for quiet and a “solitary place” to connect with God in prayer. Of course, in the Old Testament God set a pattern for us when He "rested from all His work" (Gen. 2:3). He also gave us a commandment to rest from work on Sabbath to make it holy. We all need a little time to enjoy life and the presence of God.

John

Gift Aid

I would like to express my very grateful thanks to all those who partake of the Gift Aid scheme. Due to your very generous giving, this year we are receiving £3302 from HMRC! This is a fantastic amount and is very much appreciated.

I also thank Patrick and Stella for compiling the figures prior to them being sent to HMRC.

Isabel
Treasurer

Commitment for Life Prayer

Prayer for the legacy we leave behind

Kerry McMenamain (Christian Aid)

Generous God, your blessings in our lifetime are immeasurable. We are humbled and grateful. We thank you for material gifts of a safe home, food to eat and clothes to wear. We thank you for your beautiful creation, with life growing all around us. We thank you for the love of friends and family who are with us for all our precious moments. When we look ahead to the day when you will eventually take us home, let us not be afraid or feel sad for the things that we will leave behind. Let us rejoice in the lasting legacy that we can pass on to others through our values, our talents, and our generosity with your blessings. We know that everything we have is yours and so what we leave behind matters, to our family, our church, and our wider global neighbours. Give us a generous heart so that we may plant seeds of your love to flourish for generations to come.

Amen

The URC daily devotions

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

Communion Offering for August

St Peter's Hospice

St Peter's Hospice provides specialist palliative care to adults in the wider Bristol area with life-limiting illnesses, including support to their relatives, friends and professional carers. All Hospice services are free of charge to everyone.

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – AUGUST 2022		
SUNDAY 7TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mr Brian Jones	11.00AM
SUNDAY 14TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mrs Stella Patterson	11.00AM
SUNDAY 21ST	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mr Richard Paterson	11.00AM
SUNDAY 28TH	SUNDAY COMMUNION WORSHIP with Mr Angus Gregson	11.00AM
SUNDAY 4TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev.d Stephen Newell	11.00AM

Flower Rota AUGUST

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.

August 7: Margaret Long
14: Ave
21: Sally
28: Flower Fund

Reading Rota for AUGUST

August 7: Patrick Marshfield
14: Janet Jones
21: Peter Cast
28: Margaret Marshfield
September 4: Patrick Marshfield