



CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
MAGAZINE
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Be joyful always, pray at all times,
be thankful in all circumstances
1 Thessalonians 5:16

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

Dear Friends,

We had just had the hottest day of the year with glorious sunshine when I sat down to write this message to you hoping that it would last. My silent prayer was, "Dear Lord, give me just one more sunny, hot, dry day please..." But then I realised I was praying for the wrong thing, because really dark clouds started to congregate in the sky, and it started to rain, and it just rained and rained. Of course, it is typical of English weather, however, there are far more rainy and wetter parts of the UK than Bristol, so I shouldn't complain – not even about the weather or sport. Let's be positive and think of rain as a good thing. As usually it was in biblical times for the ordinary Middle Eastern people due to their climate.

As a positive thing in the Bible rain symbolises new life and renewal. The fact that rain is within everyone's realm of experience is important. The Old Testament prophets often referred to the lack of it as experienced in droughts, but when it arrived it brought newness, renewal, change. In the Book of Isaiah raining is a metaphor for the coming of the Holy Spirit after a long spiritually dry period. "*For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring. (Is 44:3)*". The Holy Spirit has been described using lots of symbols in the Bible one of them being rain. The nature of rain is that it is released from the skies above just like the Holy Spirit that descends from the heavenly realms. God has several intentions for releasing the Holy Spirit like the rain upon the earth. Some of them include: *empowerment (Acts 2:17-18)*, *refreshment (Psalm 68:7-9)*, *restoration (Hosea 6:2-3)*, *a harvest of souls (Isaiah 44:3-5)*, this last one is understood through an interesting concept: God's "latter rain", the end time harvest of believers into God's Kingdom.

Rain is also symbol of God's sovereignty. The fact that we can't really do anything to create rain or prevent its coming is a clear demonstration of God's sovereignty over the weather, and on a spiritual level this sovereignty shows that God is in control of our

lives as well. In most cases, rain comes down based on God's timing and grace. May God's grace shower upon us richly renewing our dry and scorched and parched souls giving us new life and opportunities. May God fill our lives with showers of Blessings!

John

Church Meeting

Our next Church Meeting will take place on Sunday 24th July following worship and lunch. As you are all aware it is important for the congregation to attend church meetings and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Names for lunch (payable on the day) to Isabel over the next few weeks, please.

Message from Delwyn Tilke:

Please convey my thanks to the fellowship for all their kind words, of appreciation, support, patience . . . yes! Not just on Sunday but all the times I've visited you.

The flowers have survived, even in the heat of my flat. They will, of course, fade in time. The memories will not.

The generosity of the gift has bowled me over. The Waterstones card could not be more apt. I do like reading and books. There is a branch in Kings Lynn so will be a day out to look forward to. I shall put a bookplate in them to say how I got them.

As I said on Sunday, thank you for having me a number of times. The services were never a one way street.

Take care and God bless you.

Delwyn

Commitment for Life Prayer

Prayer for Zimbabwe

Dear Lord, we thank you for watching over us as we go through the Covid-19 era. As each day passes, we pray that you grant us wisdom to discover ways of overcoming the pandemic. Guide parents as they strive to look after their families in providing for food and online learning gadgets. Lord, we pray for all the youths in our country that they may desist from drug abuse and any forms of unprotected sexual engagements. Protect all women, and especially young girls, from gender-based violence, which has become rampant in our communities. Plant in every Zimbabwean citizen the spirit of love, peace and tolerance. Guide all those in authority in this country to carry out their day-to-day tasks with humility, love and diligence. We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen

The URC daily devotions

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

Communion Offering for JULY

Church Discretionary Fund

To provide the minister and / or elders with the facility to respond where a genuine case of pastoral need is observed.

"A man bought a donkey from a preacher. The preacher told the man that this donkey had been trained in a very unique way, being the donkey of a preacher. The only way to make the donkey go, is to say, "Hallelujah!" The only way to make the donkey stop, is to say: Amen

The man was pleased with his purchase and immediately got on the animal to try out the preacher's instructions. "Hallelujah!" shouted the man. The donkey began to trot. "Amen!" shouted the man. The donkey stopped immediately. "This is great!" said the man. With a "Hallelujah" he rode off, very proud of his new purchase.

The man travelled for a long time through the mountains. As he headed towards a cliff, he tried to remember the word to make the donkey stop.

"Stop," said the man. "Halt!" he cried. The donkey just kept going. "Oh, no..." "Bible...Church!...Please! Stop!," shouted the man. The donkey just began to trot faster. He was getting closer and closer to the edge of the cliff.

Finally, in desperation, the man said a prayer..."Please, dear Lord. Please make this donkey stop before I go off the end of this mountain, In Jesus name, AMEN." The donkey came to an abrupt stop just one step from the edge of the cliff.

"HALLELUJAH!" shouted the man."

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – JULY 2022		
SUNDAY 3RD	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev.d Stephen Newell	11.00AM
SUNDAY 10TH	SUNDAY COMMUNION WORSHIP with Rev.d John Gray	11.00AM
SUNDAY 17TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mrs Stella Patterson	11.00AM
SUNDAY 24TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev.d John Gray	11.00AM
SUNDAY 24TH	CHURCH LUNCH & CHURCH MEETING	
SUNDAY 31ST	SUNDAY WORSHIP CAFÉ Style with Helena and Meryl	11.00AM
SUNDAY 7TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mr Brian Jones	11.00AM

Reading Rota for JULY

July 3: Patrick Marshfield
 10: Isabel Walters
 17: Philip Sherwood
 24: Kevin Jones
 31: Patricia Taylor

Flower Rota JULY

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.

July 3: Jean Clavey
 10: Flower Fund
 17: Stella Paterson
 24: Barbara Frost