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CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
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I am the vine,
you are the branches
John 15 v 5

Dear Friends,

When we recall the details of how it happened, the Ascension of Jesus can fill us with awe and wonder and make us “look into the sky”, just like how the first eye witnesses reacted to it. The Ascension must have been quite a spectacle. While the resurrection happened in the quiet of the tomb, the ascension was happening in front of the very eyes of the disciples. It can also make us think where heaven is: up or everywhere around? What would the modern man with a scientific mind say, who approaches the traditional ideas of three-story universe: heaven above, earth between, hell below with doubt? Jesus was taken up to heaven – of course, it does not necessarily mean that heaven is up over the clouds. Perhaps heaven is where Jesus is. He is everywhere. He is here and there, in human hearts and in creation, in small acts of kindness and in the centre of big social changes, in the fight for social justice. Jesus is where he reigns in God’s Kingdom.

While we might feel tempted to join the “star gazer” and “day dreamer” disciples from Galilee “looking into the sky” and leave the experience just there. We cannot understand every miracle in the Bible after all, we could say. However, Jesus reveals as much as we need to understand. *“Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms... This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”* (Lk 24:44, 46-47) Repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations: in our context in the UK and everywhere. Who would be preaching that message? Who would be part of this wonderful mission? You and me. And how? Certainly, not in our own strength.

The message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins can only be delivered when the Holy Spirit empowers us to preach effectively with our own lives. That’s why Jesus promises the

sending of the Holy Spirit to us. *“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”* (Lk 24:49)

The *Thy Kingdom Come* global prayer movement, for instance, invites us to pray between Ascension Day and Pentecost for that power of the Spirit to transform and renew our communities and nations, for more people to come to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour. *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* (Acts 1:8)

God Bless You, John

Pulpit Supply, 15th May 2022

In response to comments received relating to our recent questionnaire regarding forthcoming services when preachers may not be available, it was suggested that an occasional “Songs of Praise” service would be welcomed by many. For this reason I am planning to organise this type of service for Sunday, 15th May, and the theme I am suggesting is “God’s Wonderful World”.

So, thinking caps on! I will be happy to receive your ideas for hymn choices, Bible readings, prose and poetry, meditations / reflections, prayers and offers to participate in the service on the 15th.

Please let me have your ideas as soon as possible and maybe we can arrange a short meeting nearer the time for those willing to participate.

I know I can rely on your help!

Many thanks.

Patricia

Commitment for Life Prayer

Prayer for Bangladesh

Living, loving God,
We pray for the people of Bangladesh who continue to face appalling hardship in the face of poverty, disease and extreme climate events. Grant us the courage to listen to their pain and look at their suffering instead of looking away. We pray that the rich countries of the world will respond with compassion and generosity to the requests for medical equipment and vaccines, and act now to address the causes of climate change which have such devastating consequences for the poor and dispossessed.
We thank you for the work being carried out in transformational and empowering local projects and pray for love, courage, and daily renewal for all those serving throughout the country. Help us to keep hope alive in your world today. 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.

Correction

Please amend your copy of the Church Directory 2022.
Margaret Long's post code should read BS48 2JQ

Communion Offering for APRIL

CARING AT CHRISTMAS



This is the South West's biggest Christmas homelessness project supporting people experiencing homelessness in Bristol throughout Christmas.

2021 saw the return of their day centre at The Trinity Centre, providing breakfast and lunch from some of Bristol's top chefs, entertainment, support and advice services.

Alongside the Trinity event, they delivered hot meals, hampers and festive cheer to doorsteps from Whitchurch to Avonmouth following 2020's successful debut of this format.

By giving through our Communion Offertory, however big or small, makes a real difference to homeless and vulnerable people in Bristol.

A Prayer for Ukraine

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.
We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.
We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.
May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.
Amen

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – MAY 2022		
SUNDAY 1ST	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mr Delwyn Tilke	11.00AM
SUNDAY 8TH	SUNDAY COMMUNION WORSHIP with Rev.d John Gray	11.00AM
SUNDAY 15TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP Songs of Praise	11.00AM
SUNDAY 22ND	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev.d John Gray	11.00AM
SUNDAY 29TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mr Delwyn Tilke	11.00AM
SUNDAY 5TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev.d Sue Cossey	11.00AM

Flower Rota May

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.

1st May Sally
8th May Flower fund
15th May Patricia and Esmond
22nd May Patrick
29th May

If anyone buys flowers or have them given please keep wrapping and either give to Barbara or Sally or leave in the kitchen

READING ROTA FOR MAY

May 1: Patrick Marshfield
8: Peter Cast
15: Yvonne Baggallay
22:
29:
June 5: Patrick Marshfield

If you are able to fill the vacant gaps please have a word with Patricia.

When storms come your way

When storms come your way,
just remember you know
the Master of the wind.
When sickness finds you,
just remind yourself you know
the Great Physician.
When your heart is broken,
just say I know the Potter.
It doesn't matter what you face
or go through Jesus is the Way,
the Truth and the Life,
He is everything we need.

Thanks Mary