



CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
MAGAZINE
NOVEMBER 2022 ISSUE 197**

Give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good;
his love endures forever
Psalm 107:1

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

Dear Friends,
we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the United Reformed Church in 2022 and give thanks for its life and work, past present and future. This milestone gives us a chance to reflect on what really matters to us, and helps us to plan for the future.

We are united in our endeavour to take the Gospel to the hearts of people creating a strong Christian presence in our neighbourhood. We are a truly united Church (after the merge of the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church in England and Wales, the Reformed Association of Churches of Christ and the Congregational Union of Scotland). We are united ecumenically as well, as we truly believe in co-operation among the Christian denominations.

However, the URC is not only united, it is also Reformed with roots that go way beyond 1972, back to the Reformation. So, we celebrate not only the 50th, but 500th (or little more) with Reformation Day in mind: 31st October. In 1517, at the end of October, Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the gate of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, which is widely considered the start date of the Reformation movement (strictly speaking it started much earlier...).

We know the circumstances, how the URC started, how the Reformation started and how it spread in the world. But why 31st October? Our secular friends celebrate Halloween this day. Is there any correlation between Halloween and the Reformation Day? Both are celebrated a day before the course of All Saints (All Hallows) and All Souls Day, both make us think of the dead. But they do it differently. Halloween makes us scared of the dead, zombies, poltergeist with scary costumes, which reflect the original human sacrifice at Shamhain, the Celtic harvest festival. The same day of 31st October was chosen by Martin Luther to

thank the legacy of our forefathers, “all saints” and those who had gone before us, on which we build. They all died in Christ, who is the ultimate sacrifice for our spiritual harvest of renewal and fruitfulness.

So, when we do the “trick or treat”, apple bobbing, pumpkin carving and some other “innocent” and not too scary customs, we should still bear in mind the context: Halloween is All Saints (All Hallows) Eve. We give thanks for the legacy of our forefathers, those who have gone before us, and celebrate new life in Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life for us.

With prayers and love,

John

Church Meeting and Lunch

On November 20th after worship there will be lunch followed by Church Meeting. It would be great to have as many of you as possible attending.

Lunch will be £5.00 per head payable on the day. Since I will be on holiday for a couple of weeks now, I would appreciate confirmation of numbers on November 13th on my return.

Christmas Lunch

This will take place on Sunday December 4th and I would very much appreciate exact numbers by November 27th with payment of £8.00 per head. I do hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us on the day as the festive season gets under way.

Commitment for Life Prayer

Prayer for Global Economic Justice

God of abundant love, grace, life.

We turn to you in anger and lament. The state of the world lacks so much; economic injustice steals life - human, environmental, even space. We know that the richer get (much) richer, while the poor fall even more into poverty.

BUT it is not that there are poor nations - there are impoverished nations; or that there are poor people - they are impoverished people ... because the global economic system is based on injustice and lies and stealing.

We turn to YOU - when you said "it is good" you meant it!

Natural resources, sea resources, human creativity, and talents ... there was so much there, and in living together this was multiplied and life was filled with laughter, dance, hope, empathy. Then sisters and brothers were enslaved, nature was exploited, air was poisoned, and wealth was worshipped as deity and accumulation became the norm: those who have *are*; those who don't have *are not*.

Creator, you continue to remind us that your way is best, and until it becomes our way there will be injustice.

In hope we seek you: may your love inspire us to love and grow together in respect.

Amen

Robert Jordan

The URC daily devotions

The URC daily devotions can be accessed via devotions.unc.org.uk These are approximately 5 minutes long.

The Sunday service can be accessed from the same site.

Communion Offering for November

Caring at Christmas

This is the South West's biggest 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 the homeless and vulnerable people in Bristol

Flower Rota NOVEMBER

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.

November 6: Flower Fund

13: Poppies

20:

27: Advent Ring

December 4: Yvonne

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – NOVEMBER 2022

SUNDAY 6TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mr Brian Jones	11.00AM
SUNDAY 13TH	REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMUNION with Rev.d John Gray	11.00AM
SUNDAY 20TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev.d John Gray	11.00AM
SUNDAY 27TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev.d Ruth Browning	11.00AM
SUNDAY 4TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev.d John Gray	11.00AM

Reading Rota for NOVEMBER

November 6: Patrick
 13: Peter
 20: Kevin
 27: Janet

December 4: Patrick

If anyone in the congregation would like to read the scripture on a Sunday morning please see Isabel.

I LOVE THIS ANALOGY

When GOD wanted to create fish, HE spoke to the sea.
 When GOD wanted to create trees, HE spoke to the earth.
 But, when GOD wanted to create man, HE turned to himself.
 Then, GOD said, "Let us make man in our image and in our likeness."

If you take a fish out of water, it will die;
 and when you remove a tree from soil, it will also die.
 Likewise, if man is disconnected from GOD, he dies.

GOD is our natural environment.
 We were created to live in HIS presence.
 We have to be connected to HIM
 because it is only in HIM that life exists.
 Let us stay connected to GOD

We recall that water without fish is still water,
 but fish without water is nothing.
 The soil without a tree is still soil,
 but the tree without soil is nothing

GOD without man is still GOD, but man without GOD is nothing.

**Winner of the Poetry Category in the 50th
Anniversary Worship Resources Competition**

“Let them be, as we are; one,” we hear you say.
Those treasured roots do not have to cling so tight.
Always trust the star that guides us on the way.

In this aching world your dreams can be the prey:
Ignored; forgotten; fading out of sight.
“Let them be, as we are; one,” we hear you say.

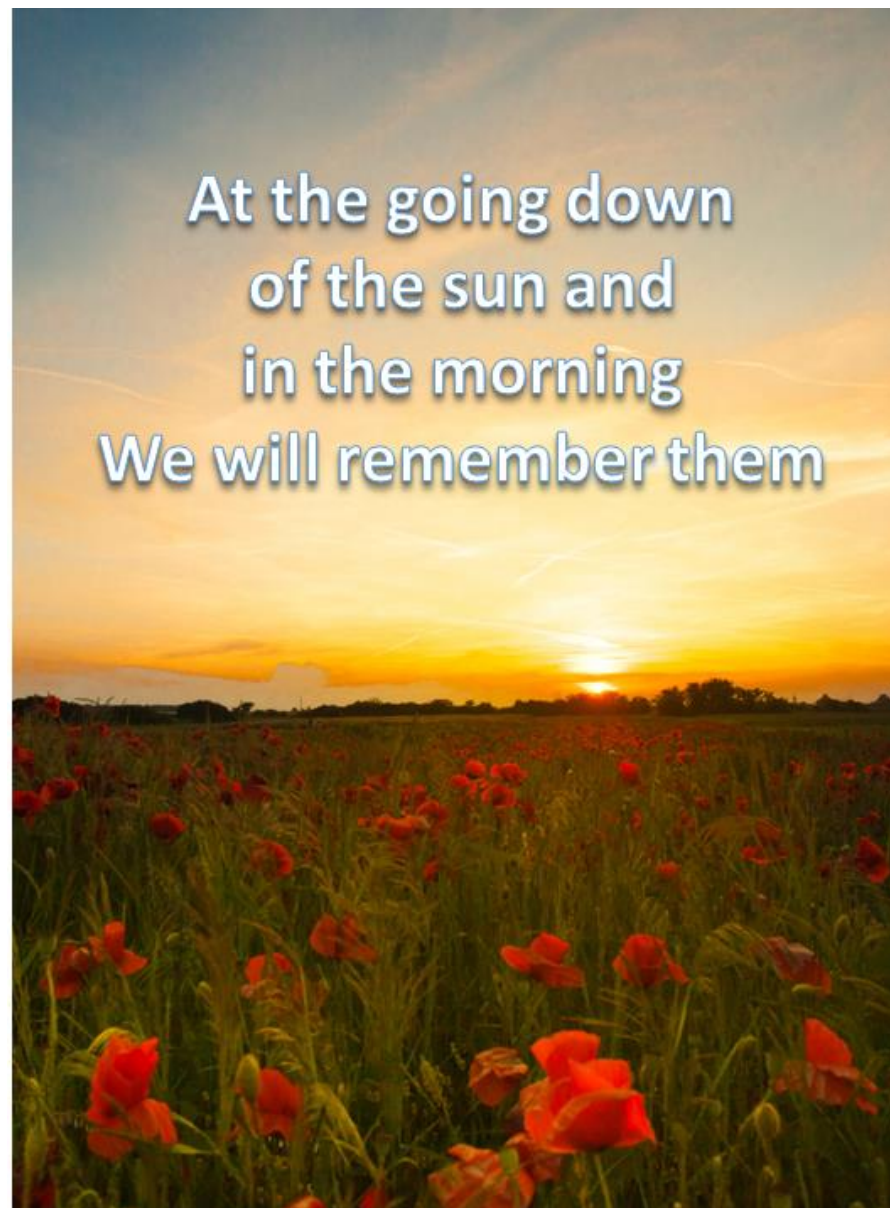
Set sail. Become an answer to what you pray.
Risk open ocean where storms can reach their height.
Always trust the star that guides us on our way.

Sail on. Discern all the Spirit has in play,
Set course by sacrament and word. Know what’s right.
“Let them be, as we are; one,” we hear you say.

Defensiveness, fear, might seem to rule the day,
This is why our love, hope, faith must shine so bright.
Always trust the star that guides us on the way.

Fifty years; our life always yours, come what may,
Pilgrim servants sailing still. Travelling light.
“Let them be, as we are; one,” we hear you say.
Always trust the star that guides us on the way.

The Revd Neil Thorogood



At the going down
of the sun and
in the morning
We will remember them