



CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
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For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God

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

Dear Friends,

When we look at our harvest decorations and the symbols of our connectedness to the earth and the natural world, when we realise there is still a large variety of goods, fruit and veg at our favourite shops (despite the cost of living crisis in the UK), we surely feel prompted to sing “All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above“. God’s people have always felt that way. Our Harvest Service is deeply rooted in the Biblical tradition of Harvest and goes back about 4,000 years in time(see Deut 16). The Old Testament mentions three harvest festivals. The first of these Jewish celebrations was the Feast of Passover. It was usually held in March or April each year – at the beginning of what was known as the “Spring grain harvest”. It was a time for thanksgiving. It was a time to remember how God himself had brought the Jewish people out of Egypt miraculously. It was at this festival that God’s people remembered how God himself had been their Saviour. - In the New Testament Passover reminds us that Jesus came to this earth to be our Saviour by taking us out of the slavery of sin and bringing us back into a new relationship with God.

The second major Jewish festival was the *Feast of Weeks* (Ex 23:16) and generally occurred at the end of the barley harvest. It represented the first fruits (Num 28:26) gathered in as the result of the labour of those who reaped the Spring grain harvests in ancient Israel. It took place 50 days after Passover – and is better known to us today as *Pentecost*, which means fiftieth in Greek. - In the New Testament, we see Pentecost having a new significance, because at Pentecost the power of the Holy Spirit was first released on the disciples. It enabled them to experience the first fruits of the Jesus’ spiritual harvest. When we bear the fruit of the Spirit then we are part of God’s Harvest of the Spirit.

And the third festival was the *Feast of Tabernacles*, which is also called as “*the Autumn Harvest*” - which occurred after the grape and grain harvest was over. It was at that festival that the Jews would camp out for a week in tents recalling the temporary dwellings they had after the exodus. For us as Christians, the Feast of Tabernacles is a reminder that our dwelling on earth is not permanent – but temporary.

Our Harvest celebration at church is held around the time of the original Autumn Harvest. However, all three of the feasts remind us of God’s blessing on us – both in the physical and in the spiritual. Let’s look back with thanks and look forward to the future with confidence.

May God Bless us abundantly!

John

After Worship Refreshments

Your elders are very aware that you all enjoy this time of fellowship chatting over tea or coffee. However, for quite some time now it has been the elders serving the refreshments and along with our various other duties on a Sunday morning we are now finding it extremely difficult to continue with this every Sunday. It has been agreed, among the elders, that we will no longer serve refreshments on a communion Sunday and quite possibly on various other Sundays - depending on the availability of elders. Meanwhile, we would like to thank all those who help with the clearing and washing up. Without this help we would be even more stretched. We hope you will continue to help us in this way, it is very much appreciated.

Your Elders

Commitment for Life Prayer

Prayer for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Creator God, God of Palesine, God of Israel.

When the Jubilee comes, all will be free, all will be forgiven, all will be returned. Bring a new jubilee to your Holy Land, Lord.

Let there be freedom for those who queue at checkpoints in the west bank, freedom for those imprisoned for refusing military conscription, freedom for those blockaded in Gaza.

Let there be forgiveness for longstanding tensions between neighbours, forgiveness for acts that stem from fear instead of love, and we ask for forgiveness for our own country's history in dividing the Holy Land.

Let refugees return to their homes, let olive trees be returned to their farmers, let the persecuted return to a place of safety.

Let our call for justice and peace be the trumpet call that heralds the Land's jubilee.

Amen.

Diana Paulding

The URC daily devotions

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

Communion Offering for October

Southfield Road 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.



Harvest Lunch

This is taking place on 2nd October following worship. Just reminder that booking with payment (£5.00 each) is required in advance. Proceeds from this lunch will be going to Commitment for Life. We hope to see you all there.

The Elders have agreed that the usual envelopes for Commitment for Life not be issued at Harvest this year and instead we would be grateful for your gifts of canned and dry goods (or even cash) for the Southfield Road Church Food Bank on the morning of 2nd October. These would then be delivered as soon as possible after that date.

Future Lunch Dates

Sunday 20th November - worship, lunch and Church Meeting

Sunday 4th December - worship and Christmas Lunch

More details closer to the time.

Smiles

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.'

The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – SEPTEMBER 2022		
SUNDAY 2ND	HARVEST SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev.d John Gray	11.00AM
SUNDAY 9TH	SUNDAY COMMUNION WORSHIP with Rev.d John Gray	11.00AM
SUNDAY 16TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mrs Stella Paterson	11.00AM
SUNDAY 23RD	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev.d John Gray	11.00AM
SUNDAY 30TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev.d John Gray	11.00AM
SUNDAY 6TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mr Brian Jones	11.00AM

Flower Rota SEPTEMBER

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.

October 2: Flower Fund

 9: Ave

 16: Jean W

 23: John B

 30

Reading Rota for SEPTEMBER

October 2: Patrick

 9: Kevin

 16: Isobel

 23: TBA

 30: TBA

November 2: Patrick

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

Smiles

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands

A Very Nice Definition of "TIME"

Time is slow when you wait!

Time is fast when you are late!

Time is deadly when you are sad!

Time is short when you are happy!

Time is endless when you are in pain!

Time is long when you feel bored!

Every time, time is determined by your feelings and your psychological conditions and not by clocks. so have a nice time.

Always.
