



Church Secretary Mrs Sally Edmondson

# CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED  
REFORMED CHURCH  
MAGAZINE  
APRIL 2023 ISSUE 202**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing  
In all circumstances give thanks

1 Thessalonians 5 v 16-18

Dear Friends,

Spring has finally come, and nature's Sabbath has ended. We face a new life and new beginnings and as we approach this Easter season we can concentrate our thoughts on the two great events of our faith, the death and resurrection of our Lord. So let us remember that at Easter the world saw:

### **1. A Dreadful Agony**

"See from His head, His hands, His feet  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down"

Just as the Passover Lamb was slaughtered and its blood applied to the Israelite homes, so our Lord by His death took our punishment, as the "Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53) at Calvary.

### **2. A Divine Mercy**

"O 'twas love, 'twas wondrous love  
The love of God to me,  
It brought my Saviour from above  
To die on Calvary"

We certainly did not deserve such love, as our sins were so great, yet God's mercy was greater From the cross the Saviour cried "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" That love is extended to us all today. Also, at Easter we see:

### **3. A Destroyed Enemy**

Paul puts it like this:  
"Death is swallowed up in victory  
O death, where is thy sting,  
O grave where is thy victory.....  
Thanks be to God who giveth US the  
Victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"

The Bible likens death to a snake which is rendered harmless as the venom has been removed. Yes, death remains but for the Christian it is a defeated foe.

We also remember at this time:

### **4. A Declared Majesty**

In Romans 1:4 we are told Jesus is declared to be the Son of God by His resurrection. The resurrection, which we celebrate on Easter Sunday is the supreme evidence of Christ's Lordship and Divinity. So how will this holy season affect us?

I hope you will all say with Doctor Watts of old

"Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an offering far too small  
Love so amazing, so divine  
Demands my soul, my life my all"

Let this Easter be a new beginning for us all

Yours in Christ, *Jeffrey*

## **Good Friday Worship**

It's a shared service with Nailsea Methodists in our church at 10-30 am, lasting for approx 40 minutes and followed by refreshments in the Hall.

Each Good Friday

CTiNaD host a short time of worship and witness in Nailsea Precinct. In addition to singing, prayer and a talk given by one of the local ministers, hot cross buns are handed out to passers by and local shop keepers.

## Commitment for Life Prayer

Commitment for Life church contacts and synod advocates

Loving God, your love for the world inspires us to take action to seek justice, end poverty and bring hope worldwide, recognising that change starts with all of us.



We bring our thanks and prayers for all *Commitment for Life* Church contacts and Synod Advocates, recognising that some have had the responsibility for a long time, while others are new to the role. Be with them as they continue to use every opportunity to share the *Commitment for Life* message: encouraging, informing and inspiring response from their churches and synods. May they realise what a difference they are making, whether by using resources to share the stories of our partners to show how lives are affected by the action we take, publicising online opportunities to learn more and keep in touch, or conversations at events.

May their valued example encourage all churches and synods to find contacts and Advocates so that *Commitment for Life* is truly the global justice programme of the whole United Reformed Church.

Amen

*By Wendy Cooper, Eastern Synod Commitment for Life Advocate*

## The URC daily devotions

The URC daily devotions can be accessed via [devotions.urc.org.uk](https://devotions.urc.org.uk) These are approximately 5 minutes long. The Sunday service can be accessed from the same site.

## Communion Offering for April

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.

Emergency Number:

07927 472649

(call/text/WhatsApp).

Email: [nailseafoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:nailseafoodbank@gmail.com)



## Smile

Five-year-old Brian had a pivotal verse to recite in an Easter programme: "*He is not here, he is risen*" (Luke 24:6).

Unfortunately, he could not remember what to say, and the director had to quietly remind him of his line. He then confidently grabbed the microphone and shouted, "he's not here; He's in prison!"

## Flower ministry

I have put 2023 calendar dates on board in corridor if any one wishes to donate please put your names on and let Sally or Barbara have your donation. Thank you, Sally

## CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – APRIL 2023

<b>SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Mr Alan Thorpe	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP</b> with the Worship Team	<b>10.30AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>EASTER SUNDAY COMMUNION</b> with Mrs Sally Edmondson Mrs Isabel Walters & Mrs Stella Patterson	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Mr Jeffery Ponsonby	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 23<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> Songs of Praise	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Mrs Stella Patterson	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Mr Jeffery Ponsonby	<b>11.00AM</b>

### April Rotas

Date	Flowers	Readers
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>		Patrick
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	John	Sally
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Flower Fund	Janet
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>		Kevin
April 30 <sup>th</sup>	Ave	TBA
May 7 <sup>th</sup>		Patrick

## A prayer of Praise and Adoration

Risen today!

No longer bound, no longer held,  
we sing today our songs of praise with all creation:  
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
you have stepped from death to life and we proclaim your  
glory!  
With the church across the ages and the faithful of all places  
we worship and adore you.  
Yours is the victory, yours the life made new.  
In you the life God longs to share becomes more than  
possibility;  
the sin that stifles us is undone,  
the death that haunts no longer rules.  
All our brokenness, all that crushes life amongst us,  
finds its answer in you;  
all that undoes creation, all that snatches hope and joy away,  
meet the power of God this day.  
That power is the work of love and mercy  
tumbling from the tomb that could not hold you.  
That power is the way of the cross become salvation's dawn.  
All is made new, begun again, restored.  
Nothing, now can separate us from the love you have revealed.  
Eagerly, we greet you.  
Joyfully, we praise you.  
Humbly, we give to you ourselves.  
All glory, praise, and honour to you we bring.

Amen

*Neil Thorogood*  
*URC Prayer Handbook 2023*