



# CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED  
REFORMED CHURCH  
MAGAZINE  
DECEMBER 2023 ISSUE 210**

*Unto us a child is born,  
unto us a son is given  
Isaiah 9 v 6*

Minister Rev'd David Jewell  
Church Secretary Mrs Sally Edmondson  
[nailseaurc.org.uk](http://nailseaurc.org.uk)

Dear Friends,

### **'Wonder'**

I was chatting after one Sunday's service-as you do- with a man who is generally fairly taciturn. I had mentioned about Near Death Experiences in my sermon and he was enthusiastically supporting the idea that they are much more common than first thought and that there is great wonder in those who experience them.

Since then, I have had opportunity to reflect on that conversation and having had the great joy of meeting our new grandson for the first time in a central London hospital. I recognised that this brought me to WONDER. I feel that our lives are pursuits to discover wonder. In recent years I have experienced the wonder of the ancient city of Petra in Jordan; treading in the footsteps of Jesus in old Jerusalem; the incredible site of Pompeii and in seeing the will of God at work in bringing me to the three URC churches in Nailsea, Wrington and Winscombe to minister. At the same service I mentioned above, I experienced wonder observing a wheelchair-bound ninety-nine-year-old lady standing for the blessing and holding the shoulders of another elderly lady as she did so. I have also been full of wonder at seeing new and old at church services, those I knew from before we left and those who have begun attending since. I think there is wonder to be found in the smallest things and I think we experience it more as we mature in years, especially at Christians. I was discussing this week with my dear friend and spiritual director, Rob. He is ten years older than me and chairs a philosophy group who meet regularly. Most are atheists and he recognised at a recent gathering how his eyes are open to wonder, where they have become moribund.

I have as a result been pondering examples in the Bible: Moses when he encountered the burning bush in the desert (Exodus 3 v 1-6); Peter being rescued from prison by an angel (Acts 12 v 1-11); the two men whom Jesus accompanied on the road to Emmaus when they suddenly recognised Him (Luke 24 v 13-35); Paul being transported into third heaven (2 Corinthians 12 v 1-5); John's vision recorded in the book of Revelation (Revelation 1 v 9-13); the Transfiguration of Jesus-imagine being one of those three disciples! (Matthew 17 v 1-8).

Seek wonder and embrace it when you discover it!  
David, Pastor of Nailsea URC

A Merry Christmas  
And A Happy  
And Healthy New Year

Thank you so much

Many thanks for all your kindness, prayers, cards and flowers over the last couple of months whilst I have been having appointments and surgery  
I have felt God and yourselves have been alongside us both.

Blessings to you all

Sally and Ian

## Father of Mercy

Father of mercy,  
through your loving kindness,  
Jesus, your Son, was born for our salvation.  
Renew us through the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may not seek to earn your grace,  
but trust in your promises  
and hope for eternal life.  
Amen

Andy Braunston  
URC Prayer Handbook

## The URC daily devotions

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

## Communion Offering for December

### Southfield Road Church Foodbank



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)

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – DECEMBER 2023		
<b>SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Rev'd Jim Thorneycroft	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>CHRISTMAS LUNCH</b>	
<b>SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>COMMUNION SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Rev'd Ruth Browning	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>CAROL SERVICE</b> with Rev'd David Jewell	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> Music, Readings and Prayers For Christmas (led by members of our own congregation)	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>Joint Service at Nailsea Methodist Church</b>	<b>10.30AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 31<sup>ST</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Rev'd David Jewell	<b>11.00AM</b>

### Flowers

December 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Ring  
December 10<sup>th</sup> John B  
December 17<sup>th</sup> Mary and Jeff  
December 24<sup>th</sup> Flower Fund Plant  
December 31<sup>st</sup>

### Readers

Patrick  
Peter  
Richard  
Isabel  
Richard

Please do speak to Sally or Barbara if you know of anyone including outside our church family who would appreciate flowers following our service and if you are able to deliver with a card (I have) we will then be supporting our community beyond our church doors.

Please do not adjust

While people watched their sets one night,  
all seated round the screen, the angel of the Lord  
appeared where evening news had been.  
'Fear not,' said he (for flashing light  
had altered the transmission;  
this strange, celestial visitor had interfered with vision).  
'I bring good news of peace on earth  
for all mankind,' he said;  
but crackling sparks zigzagged the screen  
and every set went dead.  
So angry viewers growled and cursed  
and electricians fumed,  
until as soon as possible  
normal service was resumed.

Nick Fawcett