



# CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED  
REFORMED CHURCH  
MAGAZINE  
FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE 200**

I can do all things through Christ  
who gives me strength

Philippians 4:13

Church Secretary Mrs Sally Edmondson

Dear Friends,

Last December Mary and I celebrated our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. It was an enjoyable time in spite of our ongoing health issues; but the highlight was the receipt of a congratulatory card from King Charles 111. The card is now framed on our wall!

Looking back on our life I can see that the Bible has been the bedrock of both Mary and my faith. I thought about the message from the king and then thought about how the Bible is a message from the King of Kings. Jesus said “search the scriptures.... they are they that testify of me”. The Bible is all about Jesus, and of course He was talking about the Old Testament, as the New Testament was not yet written.

It is here that we can read of our Lords’ nativity (Micah 5.2; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6,7). We read of His passion (Isaiah chapter 53; Psalm 22; Zechariah 11:12,13). We read of His resurrection (Job19:25-27; Isaiah 26:19) etc.

Anne Steele was a Baptist hymn writer in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. She wrote the famous hymn “Father of mercies, in thy word what endless glory shines” verse 5 of the hymn says

“Divine instructor, gracious Lord,  
Be thou for ever near;  
Teach me to love Thy sacred Word  
And view my Saviour here”

My prayer is that all members of our church will search the scriptures in the year that lies ahead, and view our Saviour there.

Yours in Christ, Jeffrey

## Christmas greetings from Ken

Received in January!

It’s on our Christmas cards; it’s on our calendars; it’s on our biscuit tins and our packets of sweets. Since the days of Autumn we have been surrounded and consumed by it: I mean, of course, the story of Jesus, of the incarnation.

It’s presented to us in various forms: it can be stylised or sanitised, it can be romantic or realistic. It can inspire us and enthuse us, it can challenge us and provoke us.

As we gaze at the picture on card or calendar are we not drawn into it, do we not mingle with the characters. We see Joseph at his workbench, Mary sitting with her new baby as she recovers from the trauma and joy of the birth. Seeing for ourselves the baby who is the focus of the story.

But is he the focus of our lives, your life and mine? Is he the purpose of our life day by day? For it’s from his manger bed he beckons us, draws us to himself. So come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, and let us celebrate Christmas with awe, with thankfulness and with love.

Praise be to God

With loving greetings from Ken

## Commitment for Life Prayer

### Prayer for Debt Justice



Debt Justice Dear God, thank you that you are a God of justice. We come before you to pray against the social and economic injustices that debt plays in our communities and in our wider world.

We pray for the 54 countries that are engulfed in debt crisis and urgently needing debt cancellation to release resources to deal with rising food and energy costs, the climate emergency and the fallout from the pandemic.

We pray for the leaders of the G7 and the G20 countries to take concrete action to compel private lenders to take part in negotiations to cancel debt.

Closer to home, we pray for people in our communities who have been forced into debt to put food on the table, keep the lights on and a roof over their heads. We pray for the government to take steps to widen debt solutions and introduce a fair debt write-down to reset the finances of people who are at the sharp end of soaring living costs and give them a fresh start.

Lord God, whether it's here in the UK or in lower income countries, we pray for a debt jubilee. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen

Heidi Chow

## The URC daily devotions

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

## Communion Offering for February



### St Peter's Hospice

St Peter's Hospice provides specialist palliative care to adults in the wider Bristol area with life-limiting illnesses, including support to their relatives, friends and professional carers. All Hospice services are free of charge to everyone.

## Last Year's Communion Offertories

It is with very grateful thanks to your generosity that I now confirm that the following payments were sent off just before the end of 2022:

Commitment for Life :	£236.00
St. Peter's Hospice :	£107.00
Nailsea Leg Club :	£117.00
Clevedon & District Food Bank :	£314.00
Caring @ Christmas :	£107.00

A stunning total of £881.00. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!

## To everyone at Nailsea URC

Thank you for the kind donation towards the scout trumpet  
Love, Richard Pepler x

## February Rotas

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.

Date	Flowers	Readers
February 5 <sup>th</sup>	Patrick	Patrick
February 12 <sup>th</sup>		Isabel
February 19 <sup>th</sup>		Phillip
February 26 <sup>th</sup>		Peter
March 5 <sup>th</sup>		Patrick

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

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – FEBRUARY 2023		
<b>SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>COMMUNION WORSHIP</b> with Mr Brian Jones	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Mr Jeffrey Ponsonby	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>COMMUNION WORSHIP</b> with Rev.d Stephen Newell	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Our Worship Group	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Mrs Stella Paterson	<b>11.00AM</b>

## Worship on 26<sup>th</sup> February

Sally and Isabel are in the process of planning worship for this date and we would very much welcome your support both in planning and taking part in this service. Please see one of them if you feel able to give your support.

### The Peace of your Presence

*Heather Whyte*  
*URC Prayer Handbook 2023*

God of sounds and silence,  
of consciousness and subconsciousness,  
in your presence is all creation  
and in your love all are held.

When our minds are overcome by fear  
and shadows merge to monsters,  
may we sense your presence and know your love.

When words bombard and the safety of silence eludes us,  
may we sense your presence and know your love.

When our thoughts are restless  
and we can see no way forward,  
may we sense your presence and know your love.

When faith seems foreign and we feel abandoned,  
may we sense your presence and know your love.

God of this time and all time, this place and all space,  
may we trust in your love,  
and in oneness find communion with creation,  
and peace of mind.