



# CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED  
REFORMED CHURCH  
MAGAZINE  
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For God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble

Psalm 46 v 1

Church Secretary Mrs Sally Edmondson

Dear Friends,

I am glad of the opportunity to contribute to this month's Connect.

Over thirty years ago a cunning plan was implemented by my local church and my wife to celebrate my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, and I was the subject of a "This is your life" evening, complete with the red book. It took me by surprise and my face was as red as the book.

However, it got me thinking that one day every person will have their own "This is your Life" revealed, for we shall all stand before the judgement seat of Christ. Everyone of us shall give account of oneself to God (Romans 14: 10,12).

So, what will be the summary of your life and mine? For some it will reveal:

### 1. A Disappointed Life.

Most people fail to reach life's full potential, not because of socio-political reasons, or educational or physical drawbacks, but because they never allowed God to run their lives. Horatio Bottomley, the founder of the magazine "John Bull" early last century said "A life away from God is a wasted life". He said that in prison, after ruining his own life.

### 2. A Distracted Life

Do you remember when our Lord stayed with Mary, Martha and Lazarus in Bethany, and Martha was annoyed because she was doing all the housework, whilst Mary sat listening to Jesus? Jesus said "Martha, Martha you are full of cares, and troubled about many things" We too can become distracted by the home, the job, the family, or whatever, and miss the true priority

of life, which is to listen to the Lord.

Yet on that day, there will be recounted many a life which will have been.

### 3 A Dedicated Life

How this makes a difference in living, and dying! So many committed lives spring to mind: Florence Nightingale, Dr Barnardo, C.T Studd, Amy Carmichael, John Milton. John Wesley, John Bunyan, William Wilberforce and Mother Theresa. The record of all these lives, and others like them, is above, and one day will be recounted and rewarded. When your life's story is told, what will Heaven's verdict be?

Yours in Christ, *Jeffrey*

## World Day of Prayer

This is taking place on Friday 3rd March 2023 at St. Quiricus and St. Julietta Church (Tickenham) at 2.30 pm. Everyone welcome. Please wrap up warm - have requested heating to be available on the day but.....???

## Thank you

Following on from the Nailsea URC kind donation to the scouts, the scout committee have increased the donation and agreed to buy the instrument. A little kindness goes a long way and that's not all. With renewed enthusiasm 3 other instruments have been fixed and welded so .. watch this space!

Thank you all for your support Richard

## Commitment for Life Prayer

### Poem for Black Lives Matter

If the night sky wasn't inky  
Could the stars shine so bright?  
And if there wasn't darkness,  
Tell me, how could light be light?  
No dark depths of earth –  
How would the flora grow?  
Black is essential, don't you know.  
You tell me black is no good –  
The shade of evil, shade of sin;  
How do I then make sense  
Of the blackness of my skin?  
The skin I didn't choose  
No more than you could choose your own;  
skin that I was gifted –  
Only skin I've ever known.  
Black is what I am; it's who I am;  
It is my pride.  
It's the strength on which I stand –  
Where I refuse to be denied.  
Black speaks of where I'm going –  
How the world relates to me;  
Black speaks of where I've come from –  
Heritage and history.  
But it's hard not to internalise  
The message all around –  
Before a word is spoken  
That in Black offence is found;  
Explicit or implied.  
Yet from your view you cannot see  
The shackles to be broken  
Until Black lives full and free. Amen

**BLACK  
LIVES  
MATTER**



*By Karen Campbell, Global Intercultural Ministries*

## The URC daily devotions

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

## Communion Offering for March

Children's Hospice South West



Children's Hospice South West is a registered charity that provides palliative, respite, end of life and bereavement care for life-limited and terminally ill children and their families from the South West England region. It oversees three of the 41 children's hospices in the United Kingdom

## Promise

(A poem to welcome the Spring)

There's a black fog hiding London  
And every tree looks dead,  
But I've seen a purple crocus and a jonquil's golden head.  
The shallow ponds are frozen  
And there's snow upon the hills,  
But they're selling scarlet tulips and yellow daffodils.

A bitter wind is blowing,  
The rivers are abrim,  
But I toss my head at Winter. I'm not afraid of him.  
Although the sun is shrouded  
Spring is just across the sea,  
For I've seen a spray of lilac and a red anemone.

By Florence Lacey.

## March 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
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Please see new list	Patrick
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	On the hallway	Jill
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Notice Board	Isabel
March 26 <sup>th</sup>		Richard
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>		Patrick

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

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – MARCH 2023		
<b>SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Mrs Stella Paterson	<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 Helena McKinnon	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Rev.d Dr Keith Clements	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Mr Alan Thorpe	<b>11.00AM</b>

## 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

## Held by You

Today, my heart will sing.  
My feet will find a rhythm to dance.  
I will laugh  
And rejoice in the beauty of life,  
The wonder of existence,  
The gift of now.

The world is far from perfect -  
Its problems have not disappeared  
And its sorrows have not flowed away.

But today is mine –  
And it is held by you.

I am held by you  
**We** are held by you.  
**All** is held by you –

So, I can sing, and I can dance,  
And i **will** rejoice –  
In the wonder and the beauty  
And the gift of you.

*Karen Campbell* - URC Prayer Handbook 2023

# Drinking from My Saucer

by John Paul Moore

My grandmother always drank her coffee like this! I thought it was because it was too hot. Do you remember older generations drinking from their saucer? Then today I came across this poem that made me feel there was symbolism to the coffee ritual.

I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now.  
But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.  
And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

I don't have a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough.  
But I've got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.  
I thank God for his blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong, my faith wore somewhat thin.  
But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.  
So God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I've hoed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage, when the way grows steep and rough.  
I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.  
And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads.  
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.