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nailseaurc.org.uk

CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
MAGAZINE
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Give all your worries and cares to God,
for he cares about you
1 Peter 5 v 7

Dear Friends,

Recently, I heard from a struggling friend who has just begun reading a second book on gratitude. It not only blessed me enormously to hear that but reminded me also that we must be radically counter-cultural in our attitudes and living. There is so much today which tells us that we should be dissatisfied with our lives: Why not buy another phone or car? Why not move to a larger home? Why not move on to a more acceptable partner? I know that it is vital for us to have a phone with us these days and to have a car is especially useful in a rural community where public transport is limited. There are times in our lives when a move of home becomes essential and sadly, relationships even involving marriage do break down. I think what we must defend ourselves against is the modern inclination to blame such things on our unhappiness, anything rather than looking into our hearts.

The Bible is true because it tells us who we are: that we are fallen creatures and fall far short of what God wants us to be: But it also tells us that we are loved by God. He loves us so much that, not only does He call us, 'My beloved;' but He sent His Son to die for us to set us free. Our sense of gratitude must begin from this knowledge because it means that whatever we may face, we know that we are loved and so we can always be grateful, whether we are facing a physical or mental health crisis, relationship breakdown or fears for the future for ourselves or loved ones.

I often repeat the maxim that God loves us too much to allow us to remain the same. He works generally through stretching us, putting our faith to the test, asking the question of us: "Do you trust me?". Job declared in the midst of his suffering: "I will trust Him even though He slay me!" That demonstrates to us that

when we are at our wit's end, when there appears no reason to continue to trust in God's goodness and remain as Christians, this is the time when God sees what we are made of.

Repeatedly, I hear complaints against God because there are periods in a person's life when it is a little more troubled than it used to be and I would like to end with words from the song 'Look up now' by Lauren Daigle:

*'Where are you now when darkness seems to win?
You're not threatened by the war,
You're not shaken by the storm,
I know you're in control; even in our suffering,
Even when it can't be seen, I know You're in control;
I hear You say, "Look up child".*

God bless you, David.

Lunch and Church Meeting

On September 10th there will be lunch after worship followed by Church Meeting costing £5.00 per person, payable on the day.

However, I do require numbers attending and would appreciate you "booking" in advance over the next few Sundays. It would be great to see you all there.

Isabel

Commitment for Life Prayer

Action Prayer with Greta – Zimbabwe

Foot Prayers

Using a marker and a piece of paper, draw round your foot or shoe. Do you have old reusable shoes that could be given to someone who is struggling financially to buy new shoes?

Amen

Prayer

Dear God, help me not to take my shoes for granted. We remember those in countries like Zimbabwe who struggle to earn enough money to buy shoes to wear for school. We thank you for Christian Aid partners who are working with communities, teaching women new skills in leatherwork so they can make shoes for their families. Amen



Communion Offering for September

Commitment for Life

Commitment for Life is the URC's global justice programme. Their programme enables churches to pray, advocate and take action for the most vulnerable people. The regions currently receiving support from CfL are Bangladesh, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, and Zimbabwe. At the moment our church is linked with Bangladesh from where we have the following update:

“This region faces debilitating trade deals and unpayable debts. There is an over-dependency on natural resources. The impact of climate disruption is making things far worse. Commitment for Life is supporting farmers to improve their harvest, and women to participate fully in vital decisions through local Christian Aid programmes.”

Your support is very much appreciated.
Keep up the good work!
Many thanks, Patricia

Communion Offertory Plate

Please note that the Communion offertory plate will, in future, be on the left hand side as you enter the Church, together with the notice to say what that month's offering is for. The general offertory plate will remain in its usual place on the right.

This change has been instigated as it has become increasingly difficult for your treasurer to be sure which is which!!

The URC daily devotions

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

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – SEPTEMBER 2023		
SUNDAY 3RD	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mrs Stella Paterson	11.00AM
SUNDAY 10TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev'd Helena McKinnon	11.00AM
SUNDAY 10TH	CHURCH MEETING & LUNCH	
SUNDAY 17TH	SUNDAY COMMUNION WORSHIP with Rev'd David Jewell	11.00AM
SUNDAY 24TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev'd Meryl White	11.00AM
SUNDAY 1ST	SUNDAY WORSHIP TBC	11.00AM

Flowers

Readers

September 3rd
September 10th
September 17th
September 24th
October 1st

Yvonne
Janet
John B
Barbara
Ave

Isabel
TBA
Yvonne
Jill
Patrick

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.

September prayer

Give us a right mind

Lord God,
we confess that we are impatient,
we are tired of injustice,
we are weary of lies.
We have had enough of the abuse of power
and we need you to act now!
Not next year;
not in some far distant future,
but today!

But, forgiving God,
help us in our impatience
not to create idols,
not to turn to false gods
of money, success and celebrity -
easy solutions and quick fixes.
Instead, may we follow only the Suffering Servant
who carries the load,
and leads us into your future of irresistible love.

Amen

James Ashdown
URC Prayer Handbook