



CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
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Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!
Alleluia!

Minister Rev'd David Jewell
Church Secretary Mrs Sally Edmondson
nailseaurc.org.uk

Dear Friends,

After a wet winter, it is good to have the days stretching out again and the colours of flowers once again beautifying the landscape, to be able to turn down the heating and enjoy the prospect of days and the odd week enjoying the British countryside! It is always essential that we recognise our Lord God at work in both the days of promise and the times of bleakness and dark.

I recently attended the funeral of a good friend who died very suddenly in his fifties. As I had visited him in the hospital's Chapel of rest with his wife and read Psalm 23 aloud, I was invited to read it again. As you may know it includes the words, 'Even though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil.' As believers we know that Jesus will be with us, even in our darkest hour.

A well-run community hall, golf club or fitness group can be hugely beneficial and give a sense of community. The difference between those groups and church fellowships is that, yes, in a church fellowship there are sound relationships between all those attending - horizontal relationships, but also a vertical relationship with the living God, freely accessed through prayer.

Throughout the Bible people pray. We have prayers recorded from Moses, Joshua, Gideon, David, Solomon, Paul, James, Jesus, and many others. There is no limit on the frequency, length, or type of words that we can use in our prayers.

I recall listening to Pete Greig preach on the Holy Trinity Brompton podcast. If you want to listen to it, go to 'I believe in miracles' on the 'HTB' session. He is the founder of the 24-7 prayer international group, which has reached more than half the nations on earth. He declares prayer to be, 'the heartbeat,

the bottom of the volcano. Without prayer, we are religious, but we don't have a relationship.' He reminds us after reading from James chapter 5 verses 13-18 that the brother of Jesus encourages us to, 'come what may, you must pray'. Prayer is as vital to the Christian believer as oxygen; through prayer we discover more clearly the will of God and draw closer to our Saviour.

One of the ways God demonstrates His loving care of us is through the people He sends to support us in times of personal crisis. I am sure that everyone has examples of this loving care and patient, courteous goodwill towards us. Recently, there have been a couple of events in my life when I have witnessed people going that extra mile, because they care. It is a great encouragement to see these signs of God at work. He loves us, He protects us, He guides us!

May God go with you, Pastor David

Annual Church Meeting

This is taking place on Sunday 7th April after worship and lunch. It is hoped that meeting will commence by 1 pm. All proceeds from lunch going to Commitment for Life. Please bring your copy of reports with you for reference.

Jean Wallington's Funeral

Jean's cremation to take place on Monday 8th April at 12.45 pm at South Bristol Crematorium, family and close friends only. A memorial service will be held at Tickenham Church on Wednesday 10th April at 12.00 pm followed by refreshments at Mizzymead Recreation Centre. All welcome.

Prayer for Easter

Lord, the resurrection of Your Son
has given us new life and renewed hope.
Help us to live as new people in pursuit
of the Christian ideal.

Grant us wisdom to know what we must do,
the will to want to do it,
the courage to undertake it,
the perseverance to continue to do it,
and the strength to complete it.

St Joseph People's Prayer Book.

The URC daily devotions

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

Communion Offering for April

Children's Hospice South West



For more than 30 years Children's Hospice South West has been caring for children and young people with life-threatening conditions by providing children's hospice and professional family support services. We are dedicated to making the most of short and precious lives through the provision of the best possible hospice care for children and young people with life-limiting conditions. The care offered at each of our three hospices is not just about medical and nursing support for sick children but enriching lives of the children and their whole family.

Better Together

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Soren Solkaer spent years photographing starlings and their breath-taking spectacle: murmurations, where hundreds of thousands of starlings move in fluid motion across the sky. Watching this marvel is like sitting underneath an orchestrated, swirling wave or a massive, dark brushstroke flowing into a kaleidoscope of patterns. Most remarkable is how starlings instinctively follow their nearest companion, flying so close that if one were to miss a beat, they'd suffer mass calamity. However, starlings use murmurations to protect one another. When a hawk descends, these tiny creatures enter tight formation and move collectively, beating back a predator who'd easily pick them off if they were alone.

We're better together than we are alone. "Two are better than one," Ecclesiastes says. "If either... falls down, one can help the other up. (And) if two lie down together, they will keep warm". Alone, we are isolated and easy prey. We're exposed without the comfort or protection of others.

But with companions, we give and receive help. "Though one may be overpowered," Ecclesiastes says, "two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." (v12). We're better together as God leads us.

Source: Our Daily Bread

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – APRIL 2024

SUNDAY 7TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev'd Sue Cossey	11.00AM
SUNDAY 14TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mr Jeffrey Ponsonby	11.00AM
SUNDAY 21ST	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev'd Meryl White	11.00AM
SUNDAY 28TH	SUNDAY COMMUNION WORSHIP with Pastor David Jewell	11.00AM
SUNDAY 5TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mrs Stella Patterson	11.00AM

Flowers

Readers

April 7th Peter
 April 14th John F
 April 21st Flower Fund
 April 28th Sally
 May 5th

Patrick
 Jane
 Patricia
 Richard
 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.



Hate no one no matter how much they've wronged you.
Live humbly, no matter how wealthy you become.

Think positively, no matter how hard life is.

Forgive all, especially yourself.
 And never stop praying for the best for everyone.

They call us "The Elderly"

We were born in the 30-40-50s.

We grew up in the 50-60-70's.

We studied in the 60-70-80's.

We were dating in the 70-80-90's.

We got married and discovered the world in the 70-80-90's.

We venture into the 80-90's.

We stabilise in the 2000's.

We got wiser in the 2010's.

And we are going firmly through and beyond 2020.

Turns out we've lived through EIGHT different decades...

TWO different centuries...

TWO different millennia...

We have gone from the telephone with an operator for long-distance calls to video calls to anywhere in the world.

We have gone from slides to YouTube, from vinyl records to online music, from handwritten letters to email and Whats App. From live matches on the radio, to black and white TV, colour TV and then to 3D HD TV.

We went to the Video store and now we watch Netflix.

We got to know the first computers, punch cards, floppy disks and now we have gigabytes and megabytes on our smartphones.

We wore shorts throughout our childhood and then long trousers, Oxfords, flares, shell suits & blue jeans.

We dodged infantile paralysis, meningitis, polio, tuberculosis, swine flu and now COVID-19.

We rode skates, tricycles, bicycles, mopeds, petrol or diesel cars and now we drive hybrids or electric.

Yes, we've been through a lot but what a great life we've had!

They could describe us as "exennials"; people who were born in that world of the fifties, who had an analog childhood and a digital adulthood.

We've kind of "Seen-It-All"

Our generation has literally lived through and witnessed more than any other in every dimension of life.

It is our generation that has literally adapted to "CHANGE".

A big round of applause to all the members of a very special generation, which will be UNIQUE!

-Author unknown
Keep on keeping on!