



CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
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Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise
Psalm 100 v 4

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nailseaurc.org.uk

Dear Friends,

I have been writing a daily blog on the Psalms and am preparing to take the readers through the longest one, Psalm 119. I recall that a few months ago, I was preaching on a Psalm to a local church fellowship. I was speaking to them that their ultimate trust must be in God. Psalm 61 v 2 says, "When my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I." This is David's prayer when the circumstances of life feel they will drown him. He chooses to turn to God, to cry out for supernatural resources and sing. All good medicine when we find ourselves in a similar position.

The fruit of the Spirit of God, joy and peace is always ours, but when life threatens to overwhelm, they can seem far away. But there are things that help and will steady you.

1. Choose to focus on what you know God has done for you - not on your misery or short comings. When news is given and the last thing you want to do is worship or be joyful, praise Him as an act of discipline and sacrifice. Your emotions may not yet have caught up with your words - but keep going, they will!

2. Be thankful. Speak out loud everything you can think of that you have at this moment in your life - you are alive - start there and as you deliberately use thanksgiving as a weapon, the fog will lift, and perspective will return.

3. David asks in Psalm 61 that God will "appoint love and faithfulness to protect him" which enabled David to sing again. Everything about God's wonderful love and care releases a renewed sense of His goodness and presence.

4. Pour out your heart - let go of disappointment: give over the weight you are carrying: the Holy Spirit is waiting to take the load and give you His wisdom, strength and restore your joy and everything else the enemy is seeking to steal.

So, run to the Rock and offer a sacrifice of praise, receive the resources of heaven, and be thankful. As you put these simple steps into practice you will experience God's blessings come down upon you!

God bless you, Pastor of Nailsea URC, David

Welcome Service for David from all three churches on Saturday 13th January @ 2.00 pm

This is taking place at Wrington Church. Everyone is welcome and should you wish to attend please let an elder know as soon as possible so that transport can be arranged/shared as parking at Wrington Church is very limited.

Communion Offerings for 2023

Thank you all so much for your generous giving to last year's Communion Offerings. Your gifts of money have now been passed on as follows:

Commitment for Life	- £243
St. Peter's Hospice.	- £194
Children's Hospice SW.	- £234
Food Bank.	- £167

Communion Offerings for 2024

This coming year our Communion Offerings will be for Commitment for Life, St. Peter's Hospice, Children's Hospice SW and Vine Counselling.

As your Treasurer I thank you all so much for your generosity. As a small congregation we should be extremely proud of our giving to outside causes as well as our weekly/monthly giving to our own church.

Isabel

Communion Offering for January

Commitment for Life

What is Commitment for Life?

A Reminder.

We are the United Reformed Church's global justice programme. Through CFL local congregations can participate in actions for justice around the world.

Our partners are Christian Aid and Global Justice Now. Our four partner regions are Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and Central America (Honduras, El Salvadore, Nicuargua and Guatemale).

New Year Prayer

God of grace,
at the start of a new year
We offer you our thanks
for the gifts of the year just ended
for the possibility of new beginnings
for time to reflect and to look ahead.

We offer you our hopes
for peace among the nations
for forgiveness and reconciliation
for understanding within our communities
for health and wellbeing.

We offer you our dreams and desires
and the deepest thoughts of our hearts,

God of grace,
you make all things new.
We commit this year to you.
Guide us, bless us and work within us
so that we may honour you in all we do.
Amen

Sue McCoan *URC Prayer Handbook 2024*

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.

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – JANUARY 2024		
SUNDAY 7th	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev'd David Jewell	11.00AM
SUNDAY 14TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Patricia and Isabel	11.00AM
SUNDAY 21st	COMMUNION SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev'd David Jewell	11.00AM
SUNDAY 28TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mr Brian Jones	11.00AM

followed by Organ Music at 11.00 am for approximately 45 minutes. More details will follow.

For admission they will be asking for a donation of £5 for adults under 18`s free.

Initial Dates	January	20 th	Richard Johnson
	February	17 th	to be announced
	March	13 th	Eric Tyson
	March	23 rd	to be announced

Angels All Around

In 1986 Billy Graham wrote a book about angels. In it he recounts a most amazing story. John Paton was a missionary in the New Hebrides islands. One night the warriors from one of the local tribes surrounded the mission headquarters, planning to burn the Patons out and kill them. As you can imagine, John Paton and his wife were terrified, and prayed all through the night that God would save them. When daylight came they were astonished to see the warriors leave without attacking them.

A year later the chief of the tribe became a Christian. During the course of their conversations John Paton asked the chief about that night. What had kept the warriors from burning down the house and killing them?

The chief asked, "Who were all those men you had there with you?"

Paton replies: "There was no one other than my wife and I"

The chief tells Paton that he and his warriors had seen hundreds of men standing guard around the mission headquarters, men with shining clothes and holding drawn swords.

Source: reported in Billy Graham, *Angels*

Flowers

Readers

January 7 th	Janet	Patrick
January 14 th		Patricia and Isabel
January 21 st	John F	Richard
January 28 th		TBC
February 4 th	Patrick	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.

Pipe Organ Recital

Did you know that the organ in Redland Park is one of the most Interesting and versatile Pipe Organs in Bristol.

A group are planning a series of short concerts on various Saturdays. Coffee and cakes will be available at 10.30 am