



CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
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Unto us a child is born,
Unto us a son is given
Isaiah 9 v 6

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

Dear Friends,

At Christmas time families meet to celebrate the season. However, there will be many who struggle with those whom they find hard to forgive. I constantly hear from those who are aggrieved at something a brother, uncle or mother has done sometimes years ago.

In the parable that Jesus gave about the unforgiving servant recorded in Matthew 18, the servant, who is hugely indebted to his master the king, asks him to have patience with him and he would pay back all that he owed him. The amount the servant was in debt in today's money equates to around £300 billion! There was never going to be a full repayment and both the servant and king recognised that. However, the king released (he forgave) him from the debt.

The word the servant used for 'patience' in the modern translations is better rendered 'long-suffering.' For the king to forgive the debts of the servant he would have to bear the cost of it himself. For example, if a friend was to borrow your car and write it off through reckless driving and hasn't got the wherewithal to replace it then, if you forgive your friend, you will have to find the money to buy a new car yourself.

Forgiveness is not easy for God. This parable hints at what is to come when God, in the person of Christ, offers forgiveness to you and me and the entire world through His pain, suffering and death on the cross. Your forgiveness was not easily achieved; it cost Jesus His life! Jesus gave His all for you and for me! This is what we must keep in the forefront of our minds, so that when the need arises to forgive another, we can do so fully and readily, even though that forgiveness may cost us dearly.

However, I must remind you of what forgiveness is not. It is not necessarily reconciliation, forgetting the offence or neglecting

justice. It may continue to prove painful. The resurrected Jesus demonstrated this when He showed the disciples the nail holes in His hands and the hole in His side from where the spear was thrust into Him.

God bless you, your Pastor, David

Autumn Bible Study dates and Topics

led by our minister, David - 2pm in the church hall.
Everyone welcome

December 9TH Books from the Old Testament

**We wish everyone a Merry Christmas
and a Happy and Healthy New Year**



Commitment for Life Prayer Partners

Prayer for divine direction

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Unite us to be peace makers
building peace among people
promoting human rights
turning arms into ploughshares

Empower us to be justice workers
speaking truth to evil
dismantling oppression
liberating the occupied

Peace perfect peace
Justice perfect justice

Show us how to walk your path
Guide us in the ways of peace
and justice. Amen.

*By Ana Gobledale, URC Originally published in:
'Together in Prayer: Palestine', World Day of Prayer 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.

Communion Offering for December

Commitment for Life

We are the URC's global justice programme. Our goal is to enable you, the local congregation, to make global justice a core foundation of your mission. We offer resources to facilitate prayer, advocacy, and effective action for the most vulnerable people in the world.

Commitment
for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

December Rotas

	Flowers	Readers
December 7 th	Peter	Sally
December 14 th	Lorraine	Jane
December 21 st	Christmas	Various
December 28 th	Flower Fund	Isabel
January 4 th	Sally	Jane

As outreach mission from our church please let Sally know should you be aware of anyone who would appreciate some flowers following our service.

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY 7TH	COMMUNION SUNDAY WORSHIP with Revd. David Jewell	11.00AM
TUESDAY 9TH	BIBLE STUDY with Revd. David Jewell	2.00PM
SUNDAY 14TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mr Brian Jones	11.00AM
SUNDAY 21ST	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Revd. David Jewell	11.00AM
THURSDAY 25TH	CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE Nailsea Methodist Church	10.30AM
SUNDAY 28TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Revd. David Jewell	11.00AM
SUNDAY 4TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mrs Stella Paterson	11.00AM



Welcome Baby Jesus

It felt like we'd been waiting forever for news that our pregnant neighbour had welcomed her first baby. When a sign declaring "It's a Girl!" finally appeared on their front lawn, we celebrated the birth of their daughter and texted friends who might not have seen the outdoor display.

There's great excitement awaiting the arrival of a baby. Before Jesus' birth, the Jewish people hadn't just been waiting a few months, they'd longed for the birth of the Messiah, Israel's expected rescuer, for generations. I imagine that over the years faithful Jews wondered if during their lifetime they would see the fulfilment of this promise.

One night the long-anticipated news was displayed in the heavens when an angel appeared to shepherds in Bethlehem announcing that the Messiah had finally been born. He told them, "This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger"(Luke 2:12). After the shepherds saw Jesus, they praised God and "spread the word". (v. 17) about the baby.

God wanted the shepherds to know that the long-awaited baby had arrived so they could tell others about Jesus' birth. We no longer have to wait to know peace and experience joy, which is good news worth announcing!

Jesus, we want everyone to know that Your birth is good news.

Source : Our Daily Bread