



CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
MAGAZINE
JULY 2025 ISSUE 229**

Be joyful in hope,
Patient in affliction,
Faithful in prayer
Romans 12.12

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nailseaurc.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Forgiveness is not...

1. FORGIVENESS IS NOT APPROVING OR DIMINISHING

WRONGDOING. You have been wronged; someone has taken advantage and that is wrong.

2. FORGIVENESS IS NOT ENABLING WRONGDOING. If we don't actively work towards confrontation and forgiveness, then we help prolong the abuse.

3. FORGIVENESS IS NOT DENYING A WRONGDOING. "It didn't happen. I forgot all about it. I just moved on. I pretend like it never happened. I didn't let it affect me." That's not true. It's not the denial of a wrongdoing. Forgiveness is not denying that you were sinned against.

4. FORGIVENESS IS NOT WAITING FOR AN APOLOGY. Some of you say, "I will forgive them as soon as they say they're sorry." Some people are never going to apologize, either because they don't care or they haven't realised their offence.

5. FORGIVENESS IS NOT FORGETTING. This is one of the great Christian myths. "Well, we forgive and forget." No, we don't! You can't forgive and forget. You can't. "Forget it"? You can't forget it. It's impossible.

6. FORGIVENESS IS NOT CEASING TO FEEL THE PAIN. Just because it hurts doesn't mean you've failed to forgive. It still hurts. Some people have had horrible things done to them. Horrible things. It would be so cruel to say, "Well, if you've forgiven them, it shouldn't hurt anymore." Well, it does.

7. FORGIVENESS IS NOT A ONETIME EVENT. It's not like you forgive someone and it's over. Sometimes, they keep sinning, so you need to keep forgiving. Or sometimes you forgive them, but there are emotional moments where it feels fresh.

8. FORGIVENESS IS NOT NEGLECTING JUSTICE. You can forgive someone and call the police and have them arrested. You can forgive someone and testify against them in court. They'd say, "I thought you forgave me." "I do. I forgive you. But you've committed a crime. You've broken the law. And so, there are consequences."

9. FORGIVENESS IS NOT TRUSTING. No way. See, trust is built slowly. It's lost quickly. Trust may take a long time to be restored.

10. FORGIVENESS IS NOT RECONCILIATION. It's not that you're friends and everything's okay. You're close and it's back to normal. Not at all. It takes one person to repent. It takes one person to forgive. It takes two people to reconcile.

Your Pastor David

Isaiah 40:31

*"But they that wait upon the LORD
shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings as EAGLES;
they shall run, and not be weary;
and they shall walk, and not faint."*

Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks? The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come.

When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm, it simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm.

When the storms of life come upon us ... and all of us will experience them ... we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief toward God.

The storms do not have to overcome us, we can allow God's power to lift us above them. God enables us to ride the winds of the storm that bring sickness, tragedy, failure and disappointment into our lives. We can rise above the storm.

Remember, it is not the burdens of life that weigh us down, it is how we handle them.

Equipment – paper plate, scissors, marker pen, glue, or stapler.
 Make a Dove of Peace.

A dove has been used for thousands of years as the universal sign for peace, reconciliation, and forgiveness. Need: paper plate, template, scissors, marker pen, glue, or stapler. Using the scissors, cut out the body of the dove while making sure the tail is lined up against the edge of the plate. When cutting out the wings ensure they are lined up with the rimmed edge for texture. Stick or staple the wings on to the body. Using coloured pens add a beak and eye. Write on the dove 'Peace is ' now finish the sentence with your prayer for peace. (Christian Aid)

Prayer

Dear God, we know that you are a God of peace and love. We pray for wisdom for a lasting peaceful solution for all involved in the war in Gaza. We pray for families that have lost loved ones, for those whose homes that have been damaged and for those that have become refugees. We pray that aid will be allowed in to help all people affected by the devastation. We pray that a great wave of Your love for one another will flow through this whole area and overcome the fear and hatred that is currently present, bringing reconciliation and peace. Amen.

The URC daily devotions

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

Communion Offering for July



Wellspring

Our Wellspring Counselling team includes counsellors from a variety of training backgrounds and they are able to work with adults or young people who may be experiencing difficulties in life or mild problems with their mental health. All our Counsellors are professionally trained, belong to a professional body, have regular clinical supervision and engage in Continued Professional Development (CPD), as recommended by the British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists (BACP). We have a mix of qualified and student counsellors working for us and during the assessment process, we use our expertise to decide who is the best counsellor for you to see.

I'm fine thank you

There is nothing the matter with me,
 I'm as healthy as I can be.
 I have arthritis in both my knees
 And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.
 My pulse is weak, and my blood is thin,
 But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in

Arch supports I have for my feet,
 Or I wouldn't be able to be on the street,
 Sleep is denied me night after night,
 But every morning I find I'm alright.
 My memory is failing, my head's in a spin
 But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral is this as my tale I unfold -
 That for you and me who are growing old,
 It's better to say "I'm fine" with a grin,
 Than to let folks know the shape we are in.

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – JULY 2025

SUNDAY 6TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Our Worship Team	11.00AM
SUNDAY 13TH	COMMUNION SUNDAY WORSHIP with Revd. David Jewell	11.00AM
SUNDAY 20TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mrs Stella Patterson	11.00AM
SUNDAY 27TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Revd. David Jewell	11.00AM
SUNDAY 3RD	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mr Brian Jones	11.00AM

Flowers

Readers

July 6 th	Peter	Peter
July 13 th	Flower Fund	Jane
July 20 th	John F	Patricia
July 27 th	Donation	Stella
Aug 3 rd	Isabel	Isabel

Thank you to all who donate to our outreach causes

If you are willing to make a small donation to church flowers at any time of the year please let me know as I put into Connect a month ahead eg. anniversaries, birthdays that can be celebrated with flowers which are then given to those of our congregation or friends who will appreciate the thought, as we offer mission outreach.

Weekly date list will be on notice board in the corridor.

Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118

Add these numbers up and you get 1188

Q: What is the centre verse in the Bible?

A: Psalms 118:8

Q: Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives?

The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the centre of His will, just send them to the centre of His Word!

Psalms 118:8

"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."

Now isn't that odd how this worked out (or was God in the centre of it)?

When things get tough, always remember...

Faith doesn't get you around trouble, it gets you through it !!