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# CONNECT

NAILSEA UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
MAGAZINE
OCTOBER 2025 ISSUE 223

For the fruits of all creation, thanks be to God

#### Dear Friends,

I am certain that we have all observed that the weather has changed in recent weeks and autumn is truly with us! This is the season of harvest celebrations and we are reminded of God's faithfulness in providing for our needs. For farmers throughout the world, harvest marks the culmination of hard work, patience, and trust in the cycles of nature. For us as believers, it is an opportunity to reflect on how God, as the ultimate provider, blesses us abundantly—not just with physical crops, but with spiritual nourishment as well.

The harvest is not just about gathering fruits, grains, and vegetables. It is a season that invites us to gather our hearts in thanksgiving, to recognize God's blessings in our lives, and to share those blessings with others. Just as a farmer sows seeds and waits with expectation for the harvest, we too are called to sow kindness, love, and compassion, trusting that in time, we will reap a bountiful reward.

The Bible reminds us of the importance of gratitude in every season of life. In Deuteronomy 16 v 15, we read, "For seven days celebrate the festival to the Lord your God at the place the Lord will choose. For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete." This passage speaks to the connection between our work, God's provision, and our joy.

As we celebrate the harvest season, let us take time to thank God for the many blessings He has poured into our lives. Whether it's the provision of food, shelter, or the support of family and community, all of these are gifts from our Creator.

While we are grateful for the physical harvest, we must also remember the spiritual harvest that God is cultivating in our hearts. In Matthew 9 v 37 and 38, Jesus speaks of the spiritual need in the world, saying, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

As Christians, we are called to be workers in the spiritual harvest - spreading the gospel, serving others, and helping those in need. Just as farmers labour in the fields, we too are invited to labour in God's kingdom. It may not always be easy, but we trust that He equips us for the task, and that the rewards - both for us and those we serve - are eternal.

God bless you, David

# Autumn Bible Study dates and Topics

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

October 14<sup>TH</sup> Old Testament prophets

October 28<sup>TH</sup> The historical books from Joshua to Esther

November 11<sup>TH</sup> How the Old and New Testaments link

November 25<sup>TH</sup> Genesis to Deuteronomy

December 9<sup>TH</sup> Books from the Old Testament

#### Help Needed

Please can we have volunteers to assist with 'meeting' and 'greeting' at the door on Sunday mornings.. Also we would very much appreciate help with serving teas and coffees after the service.



# **Prayer for Justice**

Dear Loving God and Father, Creator of the universe, who recognises each of us as your image bearers, we pray that you would convict our hearts to treat and value each other as your image. May we pursue justice and dignity for all.

Help us be conscious of the impact of our actions and inactions toward those marginalised and oppressed. Give us courage to challenge the systems that continue to bring division instead of unity and love.

God of peace, may you bring an end to war and violence across the world. God of love may compassion and mercy flow in our streets and communities. God with us, may those in difficult and unbearable situations experience your presence with them.

God of creation, may you cause us to look after and treasure the world you have given us and work together to address climate change. God of heaven, may we know that in eternity we will experience the perfect shalom. In Jesus' precious name. Amen.

By Grace Kariuki, Christian Aid

# 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 October

#### 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.

#### Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival will take place on Sunday 5th October and, as in the past few years, donations of dried goods will be gratefully received and passed on to our local Food Bank. Please make sure that all donations are within their sell-by date.

Also, on 5th, Harvest lunch will be served after worship at a cost of £5.00 per head with all proceeds going to Commitment for Life. Please book and pay Isabel for lunch by Sunday 28th September.

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – OCTOBER 2025			
SUNDAY 5 <sup>TH</sup>	HARVEST FESTIVAL with Mr Brian Jones	11.00AM	
SUNDAY 5 <sup>TH</sup>	HARVEST LUNCH		
SUNDAY 12 <sup>TH</sup>	COMMUNION SUNDAY WORSHIP with Revd. Jim Thorneycroft	11.00AM	
TUESDAY 14 <sup>TH</sup>	BIBLE STUDY with Revd. David Jewell	2.00PM	
SUNDAY 19 <sup>TH</sup>	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mrs Stella Paterson	11.00AM	
SUNDAY 26 <sup>TH</sup>	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Revd. David Jewell	11.00AM	
SUNDAY 26 <sup>TH</sup>	CHURCH MEETING AND LUNCH		
SUNDAY 2 <sup>ND</sup>	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Our Worship Team	11.00AM	

	Flowers	Readers
October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sally (Harvest Display)	Stella
October 12 <sup>th</sup>		Jane
October 19th	Val	Peter
October 26th	Flower Fund	Jane
November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Donation	Peter

Weekly date list will be on notice board in the corridor 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 yyear that would be much appreciated.

#### 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

After years of discipling Caleb by himself, Mark was dismayed to find out that a church leader had assigned another mentor to the young man. The leader remarked, "Finally, Caleb has a mentor." What did they think I was doing all these years? Mark wondered. Though he hadn't expected any reward or recognition, he couldn't help feeling hurt.

Years later, however, Caleb told Mark that he'd entered Caleb's life just when he needed spiritual guidance. On hearing these encouraging words, Mark came to this realisation: God gives believers in Jesus specific gifts to serve him differently -- without comparing with others -- and He oversees the timing.

In 1 Corinthians 12:4-31 Paul stresses the value of members of the body of Christ, the church, having different gifts, roles and assignments. And in chapter 3, he reminds us of the one who's the ultimate source of the results: "I have planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow" (v.6).

Each of us may be given a unique season and opportunity to do God's work. Unlike people, God doesn't compare our work, for He loves us as individuals.

May we keep our eyes and hearts focused on doing our best in the season that God has given us -- relying completely on His strength and empowerment -- and not worry about what others achieve in their own way and time.

Gift-giving God, please help me to focus on the work You've given me to do.

Source: Our Daily Bread

#### Nailsea Climate Cafe

After our August break we are opening our doors again to local people living in Nailsea and surrounding areas - from those deeply concerned to those just curious to know more about the climate crisis we are facing.

We at Nailsea Climate Emergency Group, would be most grateful if you felt you could promote these cafés in your parish newsletters.

