



# CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED  
REFORMED CHURCH  
MAGAZINE  
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*Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own  
understanding  
Proverbs 3 v 5*

Minister Rev'd David Jewell  
Church Secretary Mrs Sally Edmondson  
[nailseaurc.org.uk](http://nailseaurc.org.uk)

Dear Friends,

I would like to introduce you to a dear friend called John who attended my previous church. He discovered in his thirties that he was going blind and when I got to know him when he was heading towards seventy, he had a trained guide dog to accompany him. When that dog got to the age of twelve, he was retired and went to live with someone else and John got a new dog.

I used to accompany him on his initial walks with the dog, and it was fascinating to see how the two worked together, the dog could see obstacles but was reliant on John to know approximately where they were and where they wanted to go. He told me stories about the time when the dog saved his life. It wouldn't go forward on one regular walk and John got angry; however, then he could feel this large vehicle moving past him very close and he realised that the dog had seen this issue, that which had been unoccupied land was now being built on. It reminded me a little of Balaam's adventure with his donkey recorded in Numbers 22 v 21-35!

I was thinking of John again recently: a man full of grace, who never complained even though he was become deaf as well as blind, and I was thinking of the parallels with the believer's walk with Jesus. A blind person walking with a guide dog is not helpless — they are guided. They trust the one who can see. The dog sees obstacles, finds the safest route, and sometimes even refuses dangerous commands. The Christian life is similar. We walk through a world we cannot fully see or understand, but we follow Jesus — the one who sees clearly. Faith is not stumbling alone in the dark. It is learning to walk with the One who knows the way.

God bless you, David

## Tenebrae service

Dear all, there will be a Tenebrae service on Thursday April 2nd, 7pm at Wrington Chapel. You are warmly invited and if you are coming, are you happy to take one of the readings please?

God bless, David

## Change of Time

Please note the new time for the Good Friday Service at The Methodist Church, Nailsea is 10.30am

## Annual Church Meeting

This is taking place **on 12<sup>th</sup> April** following worship and before the Annual Church Meeting. If you wish to attend, please let me have your name **on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April**.

There are quite a number of you who booked and paid for our Christmas lunch, which unfortunately didn't take place. I still have your payment and if you decide not to join us for the ACM lunch then I will reimburse you. We do hope as many as possible will join us for lunch and stay for the meeting.

Isabel

## Easter Services

April 2 <sup>ND</sup>	MAUNDAY THURSDAY TENEBRAE 7.00PM With Revd David Jewell	
April 3 <sup>RD</sup>	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE With Methodist Friends	10.00AM
April 5 <sup>TH</sup>	EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP With Revd David Downing	11.00am

God of our weary years, you have journeyed with us through struggle and strength.

From the islands and nations of our birth  
to the shores where we planted new roots in faith.

God of our ancestors, may your Holy Spirit descend upon us.  
We remember those whose lives are still marked by poverty –  
families denied opportunity, children going hungry, elders left  
behind by systems that fail to care.

We carry them in our prayers, and in our hearts.

We know that poverty does not have the final word.

Hope is rising – in the laughter of a child fed,  
in the courage of communities demanding justice,  
in the daily resilience of those the world overlooks.

Lord Jesus, make us part of your work of restoration.

Help us to be bearers of hope –

not only in word, but in action;

not only in charity, but in solidarity.

Lord, grant us collective faith and hope to overcome injustices  
imposed by those in power in our world.

With faith rooted in your promises, we pray

in the mighty name of Jesus. **Amen.**

**“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed,  
for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you;  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”**

**Isaiah 41:10**

*By Pat Poinen, a member of the URC and the Windrush generation*

## Communion Offering for April

### Nailsea and District Leg Club

Their Aim is to provide high quality,  
evidence-based clinical  
treatment by qualified NHS nurses  
whilst alongside providing  
refreshments, social interaction and fun



## Open Arms

Dear God of all goodness and mercies,  
Father of all Creation,  
Lead me this day in the pathway of  
Love and justice for all.

You, whose name is Love,  
Teach me to love  
Irrespective of colour or class  
Or any division - real or imagined,  
For we are all your people  
All made to your design  
In your own likeness and image.

Let us -  
Who are called by your name -  
Welcome all others  
With open arms of love  
Giving thanks that you welcome us  
With open arms too.

*Shirley Campbell*

## April Rotas

	Flowers	Readers
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Flower Fund	Jane
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret	Peter
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Donation	Stella
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Peter	Patricia
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Barbara	Jane

### CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – APRIL 2026

<b>THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>TENEBRAE SERVICE AT WRINGTON</b> with Revd. David Jewell	<b>7.00PM</b>
<b>FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - METHODIST</b> With Mrs Stella Paterson	<b>10.30AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>EASTER SUNDAY COMMUNION WORSHIP</b> with Revd. David Downing	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Revd. David Jewell	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING</b> with Lunch after the service	
<b>SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Revd. Sam Hackett	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Revd. Helena McKinnon	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Revd. David Jewell	<b>11.00AM</b>

## Comfort of God

I couldn't wait. My husband and I had just returned from the supermarket, and as we unloaded the shopping, I frantically searched – but couldn't find the doughnuts. Then I checked the receipt. No doughnuts. Frustrated I cried out, "All I wanted from the shop was a doughnut! Fifteen minutes later, my husband handed me a bag of doughnuts. He'd braved the snow again and snuck out to buy them. After squeezing him tightly, I sheepishly said, "I'm glad you didn't get into an accident just to appease my craving."

I don't usually get that worked up about a doughnut! But it had been an emotionally draining week, and so I sought solace in food- but I experienced a much deeper joy through the love and compassion of my husband.

The kind of comfort we get from satisfying our cravings is always short lived. As the apostle shared with the Corinthians, true-and everlasting-comfort comes from the "God of all comfort" (Corinthians 1:3)

Paul understood his readers' deep struggles and needs. Like them he faced daily trials, including persecution for his faith. And because God had comforted him, he was able to comfort them (v4)

When we are hurting, we can turn to Jesus, who abounds in compassion and comfort (v5) There we find solace. And when we've experienced His comfort, we can extend it to others.

Alyson Kieda

God of all comfort,  
thank You for giving me Your solace when I am hurting.