



“You are never too old to set  
another goal or to dream  
a new dream.”

C.S Lewis

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

# CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED  
REFORMED CHURCH  
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Those who trust in the Lord  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary  
they will walk and not be faint  
*Isaiah 40 v 31*

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

## Communion Offerings

We have received very appreciative thank you letters from all the charities we supported last year and in total **£571.00** was sent to Commitment for Life, St. Peter's Hospice, Children's Hospice South West and Wellspring Counselling. Thank you, everyone, for your kind giving.

Our charities for the coming year are Commitment for Life, St. Peter's Hospice, Children's Hospice South West and Nailsea Leg Club. We look forward to receiving your continued support of these charities.

## Communion Offering for January

### 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.



Hope-making God, friend of the poor,  
We pray for the beautiful land and people of Bangladesh.  
We grieve for the loss of the forests the rising sea levels the depleted  
soil the polluted air the pressure of human population.

Create hope for those who have lost land and livelihood due to  
floods, river erosion and cyclones, and been displaced to the slums  
of Dhaka.

Offer hope to the land, depleted by pesticides and fertilisers. Bless  
those working to heal it.

Give hope to leaders working to create a new government which  
works for all the people.

Inspire hope through women and men who show that change is  
possible.

Spread hope through the faithful and patient work of community  
organisations which work with few resources. Nurture hope through  
Christian Aid and others who bring international resources to  
strengthen and encourage local initiatives.

Grow hope among those building relationships between Muslims,  
Hindus, Buddhists and Christians, and between Bengalis and  
minority ethnic groups.

God of hope, in all these ways be with and bless the people and land  
of Bangladesh. Amen

By Peter Musgrave

Bible Study Tuesday 2.00pm with Revd. David Jewell

January 13 and 27  
February 10 and 24  
March 10 and 24

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – JANUARY 2026		
<b>SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Mrs Stella Paterson	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>COMMUNION SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Revd. David Jewell	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b> with Revd. David Jewell	<b>2.00PM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Revd. Helena McKinnon	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Revd. David Jewell	<b>11.00AM</b>
<b>TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b> with Revd. David Jewell	<b>2.00PM</b>
<b>SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> with Revd. Keith Clements	<b>11.00AM</b>

## January Rotas

	Flowers	Readers
January 4 <sup>th</sup>	Sally	Philip
January 11 <sup>th</sup>	Donation	Jane
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Flower Fund	Richard
January 25 <sup>th</sup>		Sally
February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Donation	Jane