



CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
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*Be devoted to one another in love.
Romans 12:10*

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

DON'T DO THIS ALONE

As I opened the bookshelf assembly instructions with piles of boards and tools strewn on the floor before me, I viewed a set of instructional diagrams of what to do and what not to do. One diagram – with a large X on top – depicted a person staring at a pile of boards and tools with a bemused frown not unlike mine just a few minutes prior. On the right side was drawn the 'correct' way to assemble. The only difference? A second person was there. Both figures now had smiles on their faces as they worked together.

So I got my husband. "The instructions say I need your help," I said, showing him the drawing. He laughed, and we assembled it together. I could have stubbornly tried to find a way to put it together on my own. But the manual was right; the process wasn't meant to be done alone.

In Romans 12, Paul urges new believers not to try to do life in Jesus alone. Instead of seeing themselves as self-sufficient and thinking of themselves "more highly than (they) ought" (v.3), they needed to see themselves as part of an independent body, where every member needs each other's help (vv. 4-8).

As Jesus helps us learn how to "be devoted to one another in love" (v. 10), we can experience life "in harmony" with each other, where one another's needs, griefs and joys (vv. 13, 15) are never carried alone.

**Why do you think we're tempted to do life alone?
What helps you rely on others?**

Dear God, please help me to rely daily on Your Spirit to unite and guide me in how to share life with Your family of believers.

Source: Our Daily Bread

Bible study Dates

May 12 Matthew 11 v 28-30

June 2 Hebrews 4 v 1-11

June 16 John 6 v 1-15

June 30 Luke 8 v 40-56

July 14-last before September John 15 v 1-17

Angel with the Bushy Beard

Almost everybody has heard of Mother Theresa who worked in the slums of Kolkata (Calcutta). Less well-known is Major Gardiner who also works in that teeming city. Having retired from the Army after 36 years service, the major looked round for some way of helping his fellow men

For twenty years he provided the poor folk of Kolkata with one square meal a day. Thousands came to his efficiently run Feeding Centre each lunchtime, and in the evening he would set off into the darkest slums in search of those who would otherwise starve.

Major Gardiner cheerfully carried this selfless work out seven days a week. Most of us think of retirement as a time when we sit back and enjoy a well-earned rest. Not so this remarkable soldier- on active service for his Lord.

Major Dudley John Gardiner was known for his extensive humanitarian work in Kolkata in the 1960's and 70's He was called the "Angel with the Bushy Beard ."

Environmental Concerns

Forests felled or burnt, destroying homes, habitat and carbon sinks.
Floods kill and lay waste.
Droughts sap life and livelihood, bringing hunger and migration.
Plastics and chemicals fill our rivers and oceans, causing death.
The earth cries out in distress but power denies, belittles and
prevaricates with self-interest at heart.
God, this is way too big for me!

Yet, you call us to be salt, light or yeast.
Small, seemingly insignificant ingredients,
but ones that transform and change everything....
including us!

You encourage us to join with others to guide and enable,
And you promise to be with us every step of the way.

Thank you for signs of Hope in the Making:
A small apple tree planted defiantly in the face of opposition,
the woman refusing single-use plastics or to buy produce out
of season, small groups working on inspirational local projects,
farmers turning to regenerative ways
campaign groups providing inspiration, information and
opportunities to write, sign up or march in protest.

Charities working on alternatives for communities and ecosystems
affected by climate chaos or environmental degradation.
Help us to seek you out and follow,
wherever you may be found.

Amen.

By Liz Styan, Zion URC North Allerton

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.

Communion Offering for June



St Peter's Hospice provides specialist palliative care to adults in the wider Bristol area with life-limiting illnesses, including support to their relatives, friends and professional carers.

All Hospice services are free of charge to everyone

Of course, you have a good excuse
For grumbling night and day
This old world is a sorry place---
You tread a lonely way
But moans don't make life's fog less thick
It's sunny smiles that do the trick

Flower Rota

May 3 rd	Barbara	June 7 th	Barbara
May 10 th	Stella	June 14 th	Flower Fund
May 17 th	Ave	June 21 st	Margaret
May 24 th	Donation	June 28 th	Sally
May 31 st	Pauline	July 3 rd	TBA

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – May & June 2026		
SUNDAY 3RD	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Revd. David Jewell	11.00AM
SUNDAY 10TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mrs Stella Paterson	11.00AM
SUNDAY 17TH	SUNDAY COMMUNION WORSHIP with Revd. Gavid Jewell	11.00AM
SUNDAY 24TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mr Angus Gregson	11.00AM
SUNDAY 31ST	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Revd. David Jewell	11.00AM
SUNDAY 7TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mr Brian Jones	11.00AM
SUNDAY 14TH	SUNDAY COMMUNION WORSHIP with Revd. David Jewell	11.00AM
SUNDAY 21ST	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Our Worship Team	11.00AM
SUNDAY 28TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mr Jeremy Standen	11.00AM
SUNDAY 5TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Revd. David Jewell	11.00AM

Memories

Freda Vowles used to run a Brownie unit for many years in our church and hall, and was also a trefoil member. We celebrated 40 years of Wraxall trefoil Guild 21st April 2026

In a booklet I found that she had produced, are the following prayers

A Child's prayer from a Brownie at St Mary Redcliffe

A little girl was saying her prayers

“God bless my mother and father, my brother Terry, my Gran, my friend Susan and God bless my friends in Brownies And God , please take care of yourself, 'cos if anything happens to you, we've had it”

Did you laugh/smile? As I did along with the ladies at the trefoil party

Also a Thanksgiving prayer (from same booklet)

A prayer of thanks that I've been spared
so many things this day,

That shadows which I greatly feared darkened not my day

That doubts which flocked around my heart

wheeled into sudden flight

An evening prayer of thanks I give-

So many things went right

Amen

On the back wall in church there is a photograph of Freda who we need to thank God for as, along with six other members, they all had great faith and saved our church from closing.

Sally