



CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
MAGAZINE
OCTOBER 2026 ISSUE 235**

*For the fruits of all creation
Thanks be to God*

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

Dear Friends

We all need to walk. Even if we drive to buy our food or to visit friends or family, at some point we will still need to walk. Some people walk many miles. Georges Holytzer, a Belgian, walked continuously (99% of the time) for 418 miles over a period of just less than a week.

We know that Jesus spent most of his days walking from one town or village to another. It is estimated that, over the period of his three year ministry, He walked 3,125 miles! Only very occasionally did He ride a donkey or travel by boat.

Jesus walked regularly from Galilee to Jerusalem, a distance of ninety or so miles; He walked on water; He walked the via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, carrying His cross; He joined the two men who were mourning His death on their journey to Emmaus.

Jim Irwin, known for his work as an astronaut, was one of only eight people to walk on the moon. He went to space as an agnostic but returned a passionate Christian. He stated: 'The entire space achievement is put in proper perspective when one realises that God walking on the earth is more important than man walking on the moon. I believe that God walked on the earth two thousand years ago in the person of Jesus Christ.'

One of the things about Jesus was that He wasn't fussy about his travelling companions: amongst His twelve chosen disciples were tax collectors (Matthew), fishermen (Simon Peter, John, James, Philip, Bartholomew), carpenters (Thomas) and members of political groups dedicated to the overthrow of Rome (Simon the Zealot).

He calls us to abide in Him as we walk, as we go on the pilgrimage along the Way to God, to fix our eyes upon Him, taking our eyes off ourselves and head in the same direction as Jesus and at the same pace.

The writer to the Hebrews encourages us with these words: 'Let us run with endurance the race God has set us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.' (Hebrews 12 v 2 NLT).

God bless you, David

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival will take place on **Sunday 11th 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 that day, 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 by **Sunday 4th October**.

Communion Offering for October

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.

*God of grace and hope,
God whose power is not limited by time and space in this time
and at this place, we praise you.
We praise you this day in all the places of the Caribbean
for every evidence of your sacred promise to never leave us or
forsake us. Generations of faithful ancestors urge us to stand
firm in hope in you.*

*We pray with thankful hearts for those who have gone before
us, lighting the path, living and fighting for freedom and dying
before its full consummation. We thank you for their inspired
and inspiring lives. As we plant our feet on the rock of faith,
help us nurture every life that yearns for you. Continue to show
yourself in the out-breaking of life-sustaining energy in a people
of resilience and hope. We lament the legacy of poverty which
continues to this day to rob so many of life's potential.*

*We pray for people who struggle with the insufficiency of
nutritious food, inadequate housing, educational opportunity,
health services, security from entrenched violence and
vulnerability to earth's climate emergency.*

*On you we continue to depend, in you, we hope by your power
we strive to rise from the ashes of the past.*

*Bless your people across this globe as we strive together in
hope to contribute to a new day of justice, reconciliation and
peace.*

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*

By Gordon Cowans

ALWAYS GIVING THANKS

A fifty-ton, female humpback whale swam into a web of fishing lines off the coast of California, trapping her in a tangled mess. Hundreds of feet of line and hundreds of pounds of crab traps wrapped around her body as she struggled to stay afloat. Four divers came to her rescue, swimming under her belly. For an hour, they cut ropes - dangerous work since one flap of her tail could have killed them. After they freed her, rather than immediately escaping, she swam to and gently nudged each diver. "It felt like she was thanking us," one rescuer said.

Whether or not whales are able to express gratitude, being thankful is truly an important part of being human. It's vital for our life with God. Many of us thank Him for larger blessings (the birth of a child or healing from a disease). However, Paul tells us to offer gratitude for every gift we receive, for every bit of goodness we encounter. We're to be "always giving thanks to God," the apostle writes (Ephesians 5:20). Not sometimes. Not only for exceptional moments. Always. And to make sure he's made his point, Paul adds a bit more. "(Make) the most of every opportunity" and give thanks "for everything", he says (vv 16, 20).

Genuine gratitude is more than an occasional word we offer; it's the posture of our lives. Gratitude turns us to God over and over again, always giving thanks in celebration.

What gifts can you thank God for today? How can you move towards a posture of gratitude?

Dear God, please help me to live a life of gratitude to You.

Source: Our Daily Bread

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – OCTOBER 2026		
SUNDAY 4TH	COMMUNION SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mr Brian Jones	11.00AM
TUESDAY 6TH	BIBLE STUDY - Conquest Joshua 2 v 1-13 and 6 v 20-23	2.00PM
SUNDAY 11TH	HARVEST FESTIVAL COMMUNION WORSHIP with Revd. David Jewell	11.00AM
SUNDAY 18TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Revd. Helena McKinnon	11.00AM
TUESDAY 20TH	BIBLE STUDY - Exile Lamentations 3 v 19-36 and Habakkuk 3 v 1-19	2.00PM
SUNDAY 25TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Revd. David Jewell	11.00AM
SUNDAY 1ST	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Our Worship Team	11.00AM

October Rotas

	Flowers	Readers
October 4 th	Margaret M	Jane
October 11 th	Harvest Festival	Peter
October 18 th	Yvonne	Jeremy
October 25 th	Donation	Stella
November 1 st		Jane

Bible Study details until the end of the year

Seven difficult questions Bible study

1. Week beginning Sept 7...**Creation:** 'Can we take Genesis seriously in a scientific age? Genesis 1 and 2
2. Week beginning Sept 21....**Exodus:** 'What about strange laws and customs, including slavery? Exodus 21 v 1-6 and Deuteronomy 4 v 5-8
3. Week beginning Oct.5...**Conquest:** 'Does God condone warfare and violence? Joshua 2 v 1-13 and 6 v 20-23
4. Week beginning Oct. 19...**Exile:** 'Why does God allow people to suffer?' Lamentations 3 v 19-36 and Habakkuk 3 v 1-19
5. Week beginning Nov 2...**Gospels:** 'Do miracles and exorcisms really happen?' Mark 1 v 21-28; 2 v 1-12; John 11 v 32-44
6. Week beginning Nov 16...**Letters:** 'Is the New Testament teaching on sex outdated?' 1 Corinthians 6 v 12-20; Ephesians 5 v 21-33
7. Week beginning Nov. 30...**Revelation:** 'What about judgement, hell and the afterlife?' Revelation 20 v 11-15; Luke 16 v 19-31
8. Week beginning Dec 14...
God's book in summary and any questions?

The Dash Poem

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend
He referred to the dates on the service sheet
From the beginning until the end

He noted that first came to date of birth
And spoke the following date with tears
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years

For that dash represents all the time
That they spent alive on earth
And now only those who loved them
Know what that little line is worth

For it matters not how much we own
The cars...the house...the cash
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash

The Always-Right Answer

A young curate was visiting the Sunday school just before the morning service to say hello to the children. Eager to test their biblical knowledge, he gathered the group around his chair and decided to host an impromptu little quiz.

He smiled warmly, leaned forward, and asked, "Now children, let's see who is paying attention. I'm thinking of a little creature. It lives out in the trees, it has a lovely bushy tail, it loves to scamper up the oak branches, and it gathers up acorns and nuts in the autumn. What on earth could it be?"

The room fell completely silent. The children blinked up at him, a few furrowed their brows, but no hands went up. Undeterred, the curate tried again, giving a little bounce. "Come on now! It's small, brown, chattering, and fast. What is it?"

At that, a little boy right in the front row slowly raised his hand, looking a bit hesitant. He glanced around at his peers, then looked the curate dead in the eye.

"Mister," the boy said earnestly, "I know the answer in Sunday school is supposed to be *Jesus*... but it sure sounds a lot like a squirrel to me."