



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

CONNECT

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God saw all that he had made,
and it was very good.
And there was evening,
and there was morning
- the sixth day
Genesis 1 v 31 (NIV)

Dear Friends

I have been encouraged to share some of the titles of Christian books I have read and would recommend:

Here are twelve:

‘How God became King’...Tom Wright. I recommend any book by Tom or any podcast. He has been one of the great guides in my life since I became a Pastor.

‘The book of forgiving’...Desmond Tutu. The archbishop of South Africa when Nelson Mandela became president. He set up the truth and reconciliation committees.

‘Listening helpfully’...Jeanne Ellin. How to really listen when someone is pouring out their heart to you.

‘The book of mysteries’...Jonathan Cohn. Jesus from a Jewish perspective. Very enlightening!

‘Streams of living water’...Richard Foster. The great classic, I recommend this as the book which looks at all the different ways we can worship Jesus Christ.

‘After’...Dr Bruce Greyson. A search for the truth of near-death experiences by a man whose patients revealed things they couldn’t have known during these events.

‘God on mute’...Pete Greig. Founder of 24-7 prayer, Pete was a very busy man...and then his wife became ill.

‘Sermons in solitary confinement’...Richard Wurmbrand. Possibly my number one choice. Richard was imprisoned by the Communists, tortured, faced death, was filled with joy.

‘What’s so amazing about grace?’...Philip Yancey. Enlarges your understanding and your heart concerning the most important thing in the universe: God’s grace.

‘The history of the Church’...Eusebius. A classic and essential reading if you want to know how the twenty-first century Church is as it is.

‘Chasing the dragon’...Jackie Pullinger. A young Jackie turns up in the walled city in Hong Kong and transforms the lives of many in reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit.

‘Prayer’...Tim Keller. I would recommend anything by the great scholar and preacher, who died a couple of years ago, but has left an enormous legacy in his teachings.

God bless you, David

Gift Aid

As Treasurer, I am delighted to inform you that we have received the sum **£2737.26** from HMRC which is 25% of our total giving of **£10,949.04** for tax year ended 5th April 2026. May I take this opportunity to thank you all for continuing to give on a weekly/monthly or gift basis.

I also thank Jill Perry who is our Gift Aid Secretary for her time and expertise in this matter.

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**.



Prayers for Palestine

God of resilience and love, we come before you with hearts that ache for Palestine, a land steeped in history and yet marked by enduring conflict.

We see the pain in the eyes of those who have lost their homes, their loved ones, and their sense of security.

The weight of the past is heavy, and the present is fraught with uncertainty. Yet, even in this challenging reality, we hold fast to the belief that hope can take root and flourish.

We pray especially for the young people of Palestine, who carry the dreams of a future they have yet to fully experience. May they find solace and strength amidst the difficulties, and may opportunities for growth and peace become tangible realities in their lives.

We remember the families striving to maintain hope in the face of adversity, their resilience a testament to the enduring human spirit. May they be surrounded by support and see glimpses of a brighter tomorrow.

We also lift up the voices of those who tirelessly work for justice and reconciliation, often in the face of great obstacles. Grant them wisdom, courage, and unwavering determination as they labour for a more just and peaceful future.

We recognise that hope is not a passive waiting but an active process of building, sowing, and nurturing. Empower us to be

instruments of your hope in the making, through our prayers, our advocacy, and our solidarity with the people of Palestine.

May our collective efforts contribute to a future where justice prevails, where peace reigns, and where the inherent dignity of all is upheld.

*We trust in your promise of renewal and your unwavering love for all your creation. **Amen.***

By Samar Hashweh, Methodist Liaison Office, Jerusalem

Communion Offering for September

Commitment for Life



Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

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.

Somerset Gallery Quire

Somerset Gallery Quire sing and play the sort of lively and vital music that was performed from the west galleries of English country churches and non-conformist chapels in Georgian times. They meet at Trinity Centre, Nailsea, BS48 4NG, at 2pm on the second Saturday of the month, attracting members from a wide area. They welcome new singers, so if you fancy coming along to see what we are all about please get in touch with Pete on petecr13@gmail.com

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – SEPTEMBER 2026		
SUNDAY 6 TH	COMMUNION SUNDAY WORSHIP with Revd. David Jewell	11.00AM
TUESDAY 8 TH	BIBLE STUDY - Creation Genesis 1 & 2	2.00PM
SUNDAY 13 TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP With Mr Trevor Howard	11.00AM
SUNDAY 20 TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Mr David Finney	11.00AM
TUESDAY 22 ND	BIBLE STUDY - Exodus Exodus 21 v 1-6 & Deuteronomy 4 v 5-8	2.00PM
SUNDAY 27 TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP With Revd Sam Hackett	11.00AM

August Rotas

	Flowers	Readers
September 6 th	Val	Jane
September 13 th	Flower Fund	Peter
September 20 th	Sally	Jeremy
September 27 th	Donation	Isabel
October 4 th	Margaret M	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 Light of Life

In 1905 a scruffy young man holed up in his flat in Bern, Switzerland, engaging in complex thought experiments regarding the nature of the universe. With frenzied focus, the physicist worked and reworked his calculations. Four mind-crunching months later, this man had rewritten much of what was known about how the world works. The man was Albert Einstein. He was twenty six. Yet despite possessing a great scientific mind, Einstein said, "The more I learn, the more I realise how much I don't know."

The Bible frequently points to the majesty of God reflected in His creation: "The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1), and Job predated Einstein's words: "Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens" (Job 11:7-8).

But God's creation glory is even greater than the expanse of universes: "In the beginning was the Word ... The Word became flesh" (John 1:1, 14).

There are no mathematical calculations that can explain God's extraordinary act of entering humanity in the person of Jesus Christ. God is not just "out there" in a universe we cannot begin to know, but He's here alongside us, the Word among us, the light of life (1:4) whom we can know personally and intimately.

**What amazes you about the grandeur of the universe?
How does the majesty of God's creation make you feel
about your relationship with Jesus Christ?**

*Dear God, thank You for the majesty of Your creation and for
Your Son Jesus Christ, who has delivered me into a new life.*

Source: Our Daily Bread

From Humble Beginnings

For most of us who live in the West life would be pretty difficult without motor vehicles. They have proved an enormous convenience, and though a drain on the environment, an enormous benefit to us in many ways.

But it wasn't always the case. The first ever "horseless carriage" was built in 1769 by a Frenchman named Nicholas Joseph Cugnot. It was an enormous three wheeled, steam powered, gun carriage, which travelled along at the neckbreaking speed of 1 kilometre per hour.

At the time I can't imagine people saw that great a benefit in Cugnot's horseless carriage. It was expensive, very noisy, and it couldn't match the pace of even the oldest nag. Yet from that horseless carriage came a revolution.

Sometimes we need to remind ourselves that its OK to start small, with an idea that seems crazy, and watch to see if from that embryonic vision, something great might happen