



CONNECT

**NAILSEA UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
MAGAZINE
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*If anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation;
the old has gone,
the new has come.
2 Corinthians 5 : 17*

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

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday I heard a sermon preached which used two quotes from Mother Teresa as part of the conclusion: **“God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer.”** and **“The fruit of prayer is faith, the fruit of faith is love, and the fruit of love is service. The fruit of service is peace.”** With these words and many others, she demonstrated how intimately she knew our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Mother Teresa demonstrated by word and deed that she loved God. She spent much of her life in Kolkata, which I have been blessed to visit three times. The Indians in that city have a deep respect, veering on reverence, for her. She was there when there were thousands of people dying of starvation on the street and her commitment to them was that none should die alone, so she would hold their hands as they passed away!

Mother Teresa was born Agnes in Macedonia. At the age of twelve, Agnes first felt a calling to become a nun and devote her life to God. She left home at the age of eighteen and joined the Sisters of Loreto, an Irish Catholic order with missions in India. She travelled to Kolkata (then known as Calcutta), India in late 1928. She took her first vows as a nun in May 1931, and received a new name: Teresa, after Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. In 1937, when she took her final vows, she became known as Mother Teresa.

It appears over the years her relationship with Jesus became mystical and that was driven by the fact that for over ten years she had no sense of God’s presence in her heart. On the outside she appeared peaceful and saintly while in her heart she described experiencing “untold darkness” and a “continual longing for God” to be her spiritual director.

“The place of God in my soul is blank. There is no God in me” she wrote to him. She received the Nobel peace prize in 1979 and died in 1997, just five days after Princess Diana.

God bless and inspire you! David

Nailsea URC Bible study dates and themes

Break for Christmas, more dates in the New Year!

Communion Offerings

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to our monthly communion offerings and inform you of your generous giving.

Commitment for Life:	£337.00
St. Peter's Hospice:	£192.00
Vine Counselling:	£133.00
Children's Hospice SW	£159.00

The communion offerings for 2025 are as follows:

Commitment for Life
St. Peter's Hospice
Children's Hospice SW
Wellspring Counselling

Please continue with your generous giving as the charities in question are most grateful.

Faithful God,

If we are honest, life does not always feel joyful.
Times can be hard and challenging.
Family, finances, and health can all affect our joy.
True joy, however, is not based on how we feel;
True joy is a gift from You.
Help us know that true joy You give,
even when our feelings make us believe it is not there.
May it flood our very beings, our minds and our souls,
that your true joy may overflow out from us
and into the world around us

Dave Chambers
URC Prayer Handbook

The URC daily devotions

The URC daily devotions can be accessed via
devotions.unc.org.uk These are approximately 5 minutes long.
The Sunday service can be accessed from the same site.

Communion Offering for February

St Peter`s Hospice

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

What`s in a Smile

There`s a story behind every smile.
A smile is a curve that can set a lot of things straight.
A smile is the shortest distance between two people.
A smile is the universal welcome.
A smile is a universal language everyone understands.
Share a smile today.
Let your smile shine all day long.
Be the reason someone else smiles today
Smile, every day is a beautiful day.
Just follow your heart and keep smiling !!
True joy

Flowers

February 2 nd	Flower Fund
February 9 th	Flower Fund
February 16 th	Flower Fund
February 23 rd	Sally
March 2 nd	TBA

Readers

Peter
Jane
Richard
Isabel
Peter

If you are willing to make a small donation to church flowers at any time of the year please let me know as I put into Connect a month ahead eg anniversaries, birthdays that can be celebrated with flowers which are then given to those of our congregation or friends who will appreciate the thought, as we offer mission outreach.

Weekly date list will be on notice board in the corridor
Or feel free to call me 07973 483525

Sally

CHURCH EVENTS DIARY – JANUARY 2025		
SUNDAY 2ND	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Revd. David Jewell	11.00AM
SUNDAY 9TH	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Revd. Helena McKinnon	11.00AM
SUNDAY 16TH	COMMUNIONSUNDAY WORSHIP with Revd. David Jewell	11.00AM
SUNDAY 23RD	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Revd. David Downing URC Southwest Moderator	11.00AM
SUNDAY 2ND	SUNDAY WORSHIP with Rev.d David Jewell	11.00AM

Peter’s words were especially important to those he wrote to, for they were experiencing a situation of pain and isolation. He encouraged them to serve one another during the time of distress to help them bear up under their trials.

Though we may not know the specific pain another person experiences, God can help us to show empathy as well as graciously and cheerfully serve one another with our words, resources and abilities. May God help us serve others as a reflection of His love.

Father, please help me to serve those around me with all that You’ve given me

Source : Our Daily Bread

SERVING WITH LOVE

1 Peter 4:7-11

When Krystal first started work at a coffee shop, she served a customer named Ibby. Because Ibby is hearing impaired, he placed his order using a typed note on his phone. After Krystal learned Ibby was a regular customer, she determined to serve him better by learning enough sign language so he could place his order without writing it down.

In a small way, Krystal showed Ibby the kind of love and service Peter encourages us all to offer one another. In his letter to believers in Jesus who’d been scattered and exiled, the apostle indicates that they ought to “love each other deeply” and use their gifts “to serve others” (1 Peter 4:8, 10).

Whatever skills and abilities He’s equipped us with are gifts we can use to benefit others. As we do, our words and actions can bring honour to God.

Google tells us that if you were born between 1925 and 1946 you belong to an incredibly rare group: only 1% of this generation is still alive today. This era is a unique time capsule in human history.

Here’s why:-

You were born into hardship. Your generation climbed out of the Great Depression and bore witness to a world at war. You lived through ration books, saved tinfoil and reused everything - nothing was wasted.

You remember the milkman. Fresh milk was delivered to your door. Life was simpler and centred around the basics. Discipline came from both parents and teachers, with no room for excuses.

Your imagination was your playground. Without TVs, you played outside and created entire worlds in your mind from what you heard on the radio.

The family gathered around the radio for news or entertainment. Technology was in its infancy. Phones were communal. Calculators were hand cranked and newspapers were the primary source of information. Typewriters, not computers, recorded your thoughts.

Your childhood was secure. Post WW11 brought a bright shiny future - no internet, no global warming debates. It was a golden era of optimism, innovation and growth.

You are the last generation to live through a time when black and white TVs were cutting edge. Shopping meant going into town. Polio was a feared disease.

While your parents worked hard to rebuild their lives, you grew up in a world of endless possibilities. You thrived in a time of peace, progress and security that the world may never see again.

If you're part of this generation take pride in having lived through these extraordinary times.

You are one of the lucky 1% who can say 'I lived through the best of times'.