ESTD 1901

The Recorder

April '23

News and views from Redland Park & New Brunswick United Reformed Churches

www.redlandparkurc.org
New Brunswick Update

Preachers for 11 am Services
April
2nd Angus Gregson (Palm Sunday)
9th Angus Gregson (Easter Day)
16th Kate Wintle
23rd Rev. Helena Mckinnon
30th Les Fry and friends

May
7th To be advised
14th Rev. Douglas Burnett (Including Communion)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.
APRIL 4TH at 7.30pm This will be our monthly joint Churches Prayer Meeting. This month it will be hosted by New Brunswick. All are welcome.
APRIL 7TH GOOD FRIDAY There will be a joint service at New Brunswick at 10am led by Angus Gregson and John Shapcott. This will be followed by Hot Cross buns and tea or coffee. Weather permitting, there will then be a witness gathering at Arnside.
APRIL 27 TH at 7.30 Will be our Church AGM.
APRIL 28TH at 7PM is the next Southmead Quiz. Cost £3 which includes tea and coffee and table nibbles.
APRIL 29TH from 12-3pm at the Greenway Centre is the next Craft and Preloved Fair. MAY 2ND Joint Prayer meeting hosted by St Stephens.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS
We are sorry to hear that Dave F has had to spend time in hospital. We pray that his stay won’t be long and he will be back at home. May he be assured of our prayers.

Ruth and Peter. May they get the help they need to make life a little easier.

Elizabeth has settled well in her new home. She is hoping to join us for worship once a month. Probably this will coincide with our Fellowship Lunch.

Anita, Roger and the family remain in our thoughts and prayers. We ask God to give them His Peace and comfort as they go through difficult times.

We thank God for His love and care of Julie and Pete and are so pleased that they have been able to enjoy a short holiday. We pray that Pete’s condition will continue to remain stable.

BIRTHDAYS.
Several of our folk will be celebrating birthdays this month.


We wish them all a very Happy Day, one full of God’s Richest Blessings.

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett

Dear friends,

Easter is with us once again. For many the mention of Easter will mostly mean the prospect of a holiday. That is no bad thing. Especially after the past three years when the opportunity just to get away has been limited, the ability to get away is something to be warmly embraced.

Of course, the notion of holidays was always based in the notion of holy days. Before any notion of “getting a bit of a break” was ever thought of it was all part of the liturgical life of the church, and that certain holy days were always associated with certain aspects of the divine. For Roman Catholics such days are still in plenty and can be connected with particular saints. Each of those saints points to a certain characteristic or aspect of God. Holy days were always about broadening our horizons to see and understand new aspects of the world around us as being within the orbit of God. In the beginning and at the end, all is of God. As the Book of Revelation puts it, God is the Alpha and the Omega. Maybe getting away on holiday is very much about that need that we have as human beings to broaden our horizons and discover something new. Which brings me back to the understanding of the Easter holiday, or the Easter holy day. Nothing could be more fundamental to human beings than some real understanding of life and death.

Birth is obviously what we celebrate at Christmas. But understanding death and looking beyond our mortality is what we come to at Easter. That is a much tougher challenge all round. Maybe that is why many prefer to bypass Good Friday altogether. Understandably so. But even so, there is. But then we move onto Easter Sunday. With Easter Sunday there is always, a feel, not only a real note of celebration (it is the holiest day in the Christian calendar), but also a real sense of relief. Maybe that is because Easter Sunday truly does broaden our horizons in a way that we thought was unimaginable. If you take Easter at all seriously, that is what it does. It is mind-blowing stuff. In fact, the way in which the gospel writers tell in in their writing it is almost as if they are saying, “Look, I know that this sounds crazy, but this is what we saw, heard and experienced.” They had to create this utterly unique category that we still know as the resurrection. The life, death and resurrection of Christ is still, in my mind, the most compelling story in human history. If you can get away over Easter then that is very good. I hope that in some way that you can celebrate with family and friends. I hope that you can find a way to celebrate life. But do remember that at the heart of it all that some 2000 years ago that something remarkable and powerful happened that flowed from God. Because of that we can look forward with hope, faith and confidence. Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Dougie
We pray for several of our members and friends who have been suffering from ill health recently: Anna Ambrose was in Southmead Hospital but is now back home and recovering slowly. John Turner was also in Southmead and had an operation with further treatment to come. Martyn Steel is still recovering from an arm damaged in a fall which is healing slower than he would like. Carole Atter is in the BRI with poor chest health and we hope she is home and recovered by the time this Recorder comes out. We send our thoughts and prayers to all our friends and we look forward to their full recovery and strength.

Margaret Prigg has now moved to Avenue House in Cotham as her former home closed down at the end of March; we send our best wishes to her as she settles in.

Our premises manager, Adam Stewart, is moving with Ali and Finlay to Wells shortly, but he is continuing his work with us and he will continue to look after the premises as well as being part of our audio-visual tech team. We send them our best wishes in their new home.

Those who remember Elaine Savage from her time at Redland Park will want to know that her funeral is to be held at Canford on 18 April at 2.15pm, conducted by Dougie.

We send our best wishes to the Bristol Korean Church as they call a new minister from South Korea. Revd Bohyun Kim left some time ago to become General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Korea and the BKC has had visiting ministers since then. Revd Johan Song has been visiting from S Korea and has now been called, and has accepted the call, to come to the BKC at Redland Park. We look forward to working with him on joint services and their mission with us.

As the Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter come to an end, we give thanks for good work done for homeless people through the winter. They all appreciated a room of their own, meals provided by many churches around the city, and support as they found work, opened bank accounts, and found accommodation of their own. Redland Park has been providing lunches and servers every Wednesday since the beginning of November. Thanks to everyone who has given support either by making sandwiches, baking cakes, giving donations and serving lunch. There are plans for the 2023/24 night shelter so we will see what happens. The need is still there.

We pray for refugees and asylum seekers everywhere, and ask the government to be compassionate to them all, and to help bring peace to the world. We pray especially for Ukraine at present, and for Russia that their leader develops some humanity, and for the people of Turkey and Syria after the earthquakes there.

We also pray for countries suffering from natural disasters, especially those areas suffering from the effects of Climate Change bringing drought, floods, cyclones and famine to countries around the world.

The Church in Society group is organising a garden party but, as a Sunday has been chosen, we will be holding this as a lunch rather than afternoon tea, so that people don’t have to go home and come out again, especially those who live a long drive away.

The date is Sunday 2 July, the time is after morning worship, and the venue is the beautiful garden of Jane and Richard Pedlar (Trymwood, Trym Road, Westbury on Trym, BS9 3ET)

Bring a folding chair if you have one, lifts will be available, please speak to Carol Fry if you need one, and we look forward to a lovely church family event. Please come and enjoy yourself.

Redland Park is going to hold our usual Christian Aid Fair on Saturday 13 May from 10.30am to about 1.00/1.30pm at the front of the church.

There will be books, plants, bric a brac, cakes, teas and coffees, etc, so anything you wish to de-clutter or donate we would be very grateful to have it.

If you can help on the day, either by coming and buying, making a cake, donating stuff, or helping run a stall, please save the date and let us know. Many thanks.

Les and his team will be serving Big Brekkie on Sunday 14 May from 9.30am so please come along and eat and socialise before we go in for morning service.

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CHURCH IN SOCIETY GROUP
Andrew Sims.

On behalf of Edna, my family, myself and most of all, everyone at Broad Plain, I express our most sincere condolences to Suzy, Matthew, Hannah and Helen on your loss, a great loss also to Broad Plain.

As Leader in Charge of Broad Plain Lad/ Working with Young People and now Broad Plain & Riverside Youth Project for the last 47 years, it has been an enormous privilege to work with, and to know Andrew.

Andrew’s leadership of the Trustees and Management Board at this club, has enabled me and our team to run one of the most successful youth clubs in the South West.

In committee, his attention to detail in addressing the endless bureaucracy that befalls voluntary sector and charitable organisations like Broad Plain, was consistently, second to none. Andrew always managed to keep us focussed and on the straight and narrow and proud of our link with Redland Park URC.

So from our old premises at Anvil Street, he made sure that the new build at Riverside was something to be proud of, and here we are, nearly 30 years down the line looking at another new development in partnership with Young Bristol, for a brand new club on the same site. This will ensure that Broad Plain, under the Highbury/ Redland Park banner will continue to serve the young people of inner city Bristol and its surrounding areas, for many years to come. An organisation, begun in 1894 continues through Andrew and his wisdom and determined outreach. His legacy will continue here.

Thank you Andrew for being you and thanks to the family for allowing us all, to share him.

Dennis.
Minutes of Church meeting 19.03.2023

REDLAND PARK UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
Redland Park, Redland
Bristol BS6 6SA

www.redlandparkurc.org
Registered Charity No 1131460

Attending; Rev Dougie Burnett & 21 members,


Minutes of last meeting 18.1.23; Confirmed as accurate.

Matters Arising;
1. Warmbank. This effective scheme has now closed. It generated limited take-up & therefore ran significantly under budget.
Project will now extend into a weekly Wednesday Coffee morning from 10.30 am to 1.30pm in the Whiteladies Road vestibule, from Wednesday 3rd May.

Finance & Property update:
Andrew Hayden, new Church Treasurer presented the report. The minutes of 18.9.22 indicated that Andrew would begin this role 11.23, but this was delayed, and confirmed today.

Key Points;
a. Expenditure continues to outstrip income, there remains £24,348 in the Bank account- it may be necessary to draw down additional funds from Reserves.
b. Major recent expenditure includes Manse Roof Repair (£13,000), Painting of rear stairwells, (£7,000). Necessary work for fire precaution compliance (£30,000) & Hurle Road Club Rooms Flood Repairs (Insurance Claim, Church to pay & then reclaim).
c. Gas and electricity expenditure has also increased.
d. Substitute heating will be required following the breakdown of the second boiler.

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2. Climate Justice. (Alison)
a. A letter has been sent to HSBC challenging the funding of Fossil fuel projects
b. A presentation was made at Churches Together in February, & partnership working is anticipated after the next meeting in April.

c. Postcards have been sent today to local MPs addressing Loss & Damage issues.

Secretary’s Issues;
a. Pulpit Supply for 2023 completed- thanks to Hannah.
b. Church Annual Review submitted to South West Province
d. Safeguarding practice has been upgraded subsequent to February training- new DBS checks will be undertaken from April.
e. Premises Manager, Adam is moving to Wells at the end of March, Les is negotiating his new employment schedule.
f. Sally will address the challenge of excess keys in circulation in the April Recorder.
g. Rev Ruth Whitehead’s successor as Moderator will hopefully be in post by October.

II. What do we identify as the key challenges facing the church in the next 5 years?

a. What new opportunities do we hope to have open to Redland Park over the next 5 years?
b. What skills, experience and qualities will our new Moderator need in serving & leading the South Western Synod?

Any Other Business;
Viv & David invite us all to collect old copper & silver coins and add them to the collection bags by the middle of June.

Next Meeting; Wednesday 17th May 2023, 7.30pm by Zoom.

Ministerial Matters;
1. New Members; Upto 6 will be welcomed on Palm Sunday- 2nd April-

2. Bristol Korean Church will formally join the URC as a full member church at the July General Assembly.

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As part of the appointment process, we are invited to submit comments about the following:

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Here are the Lectionary readings for April and the first Sunday in May. As usual in the period between Easter and Pentecost, the Lectionary chooses a bit of Acts in place of the Old Testament reading.

The key to all these is in the last verse of our April 16th reading, John 20:31 which sets out the purpose of the gospel, just as Luke does in the first four verses of his account and Mark, with typical bluntness, does in just one verse, his first.

In our post resurrection readings from Acts, we see the launch of the church as the gospel spreads and the church grows rapidly beyond Jerusalem. We see how driven Peter and Paul (once he'd seen the light - literally) are to spread the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles as they live out what Paul calls “The Way”. Have we got the same enthusiasm and drive for spreading the good news that has transformed our lives?

When I wrote this piece for the Recorder three years ago, churches in the UK had just suspended their services. How long did we think that would last? So I suggested then that maybe you could read the readings for each Sunday and work out what the sermon would have said. You can still do that now, just earlier in the week, and then play “sermon bingo” on Sunday. How many of your points did the preacher include, and vice versa? It’ll mean listening carefully though…

Angus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>Old Testament</th>
<th>Psalm</th>
<th>Gospel</th>
<th>NT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16th</td>
<td>Acts 2:14a, 22-32</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>John 20:19-31</td>
<td>1 Peter 1:3-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Acts 7:55-60</td>
<td>31:1-5, 15-16</td>
<td>John 14:1-14</td>
<td>1 Peter 2.2-10</td>
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Angus Gregson

Redland Park Church Calendar

April 2023 at Redland Park URC.
Sunday services @ 10.30am. (At church and on Zoom)

- 2nd Rev Dougie Burnett. (including Communion).
- 9th Rev Dougie Burnett, joint worship with the Bristol Korean Church.
- 16th Rev Norman Whitaker.
- 23rd Rev Dougie Burnett.
- 30th Rev Dougie Burnett.

Zoom log in; 732 001 8996; passcode 8cC7Zv

7pm Sunday service @ 7pm.

- 9th and 23rd through Zoom.

Zoom log in; 815 4053 7777; passcode 087103

Cell Groups.

Mondays, 8.00pm.

Zoom log in; 831 5113 5751; passcode 508239

Tuesdays, 7.30pm.

Zoom log in; 312 983 3387; passcode 795550
10 years ago I was Church secretary at Redland Park. At a meeting at the Finance and Property meeting we needed to suggest someone to take over the job of Church treasurer. Seating opposite me, chairing the meeting, was John Neugebauer. I immediately thought he was the man to keep the church on track financially. The committee agreed and luckily John accepted the position. He has guided us through some very difficult financial times over the past 10 years. Probably the worst time was the Pandemic, when for 2 years our lets could not use our rooms, so no income from them. We still had to pay our electricity and gas bills. Thank you John for the hard work in getting the insurance company to pay some of our losses.

It is easy to forget that John was still working, writing a book, treasurer of the Chaplaincy and guiding the BKC with their money matters. Probably one of John’s greatest achievements was being Father Christmas at our Christmas Fayre. The grotto had to be just so, poor Terry going on the roof to black out the window in the office. Christine Johnson being the perfect Santa’s helper!! The children visiting Santa thought it was great.

It is easy to forget that John still attended the Catholic Cathedral, his own church, besides Redland Park.

A very special thank you from me for so much help with guidance when dealing with the lets over the past 3 years.

Thank you John for all you have done for the church over the last 10 years.

I know you blame me!!!

Sally
“Member churches of the Anglican Communion are involved in every part of the story of climate change. We are the people facing devastation in disaster-stricken communities. We are the polluters in wealthy countries. We are people living in poverty and on the margins. We wield power and political influence. We are experiencing loss and damage of our lands, homes and livelihoods. We are investors with financial capital. We are first responders to disasters and those who accompany communities on the journey of recovery and resilience. We contribute to the problem. We contribute to the solution.”

At a recent meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council, Dr Elizabeth Perry from the Anglican Alliance gave the statement above. It is true not only for Anglicans, but also for all members of the worldwide Body of Christ. As you read it, pray that each Christian may recognise his or her part in the story and join with others to share in their burdens or rejoicing. Pray that we may all work together as participants in a new story, shaped by God.”

Myra
Deadline for contributions for the
May Recorder is April 30th.

Please send to the editor Sarah Trigg
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or by post to The Recorder at the Church
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