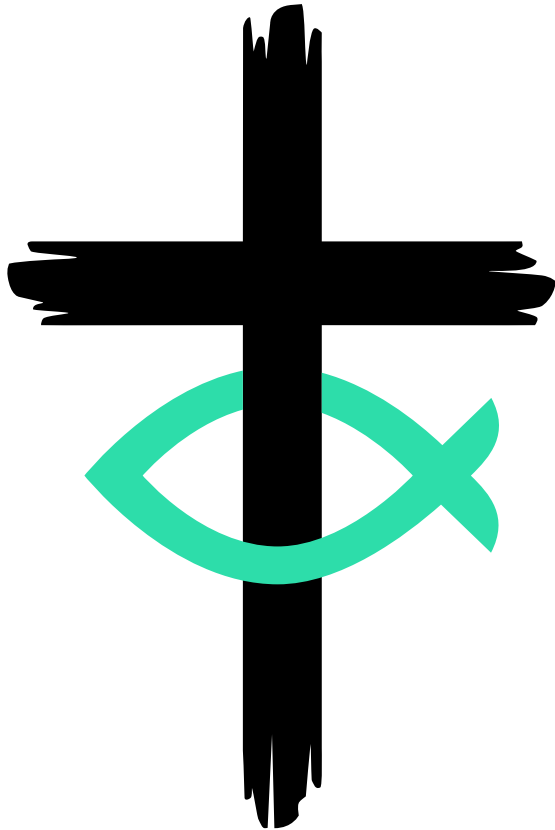


ESTD 1901

The Recorder

May '21

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick Update

My goodness, here we are in the month of May. Later in the month more restrictions will be lifted and life will be a little more like we remember it all those months ago. As long as everything goes according to plan we are hoping to worship together in the church on Sunday 23rd May. So here for the first time in many months is a diary of who will be leading our worship in the coming weeks...

Preacher for 11am Services

MAY

23rd To Be Advised

30th Delwyn Tilke

JUNE

6th To Be Advised

13th Angus Gregson (Will include Communion)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 4th May . Southmead joint churches meeting on Zoom at 7.30pm. Please contact Brenda if you would like the link to enable

You to join us.

Friday 14th May Will be our next church meeting on Zoom at 2.30pm

Wednesday 19th May This will be the next Southmead Joint Churches Meeting. Please remember this meeting in your

prayers as we plan for events in the coming months.

We have heard news of **Carol 'H'** who has now completed her treatment and is feeling well. She has a further appointment later this month. **John W** is not feeling quite so good after a recent procedure but is hoping that meetings with the medical people will lead to some better pain relief. We continue to uphold both of these friends in prayer asking for God's healing.

As mentioned earlier we are hoping to return to 'face to face' worship later in the month. We will be following guidelines issued nearer the time. But think we will be wearing face coverings, keeping social distance, and booking to attend services. I think that singing will still not be allowed but 'watch this space'!! We will contact everyone in the days prior to 're opening'.

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear all,

I hope that you are feeling able to take some the advantages of the easing of lockdown to start getting out and about again, and with a little bit less trepidation and anxiety than has been the case over the period of the past year. Living in the centre of Bristol here in the manse, we get the sense that Chapel Green Lane has once again become something of the rush hour rat-run that it used to be. Whiteladies Road seems to have recovered a degree of vibrancy, whereas for most of the past year it has seemed more like a ghost town. If, in the past few months, tumbleweed had blown past me, I wouldn't have been surprised. Life is getting back to normal. All over the world people are dealing and responding to much the same issues at much the same time. Why do we do what we do?

The end of this month of May sees the celebration of Pentecost. Apart from being the "birthday" of the church, this is also about a group of people of faith experiencing the same drive to "get out here" and do something to change the world for the better. The thing is that within this faith narrative this isn't just something that happens to happen. Instead of that it is all put down to the very real and personal presence of God, which we understand as the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We know the story as told in the Book of Acts so very well. For the disciples, who will now be understood as the apostles, there always had been that understanding of the presence of God as understood through their Jewish faith. Then comes the experience of Christ as risen. That was a new insight into God. Now, as the story tells it in the Book of Acts, there is this particular experience of the Holy Spirit. The new thing here seems to be that this remarkable event and presence impels them

to get out into the world to make new connections with those of other nationalities and creeds. There is something here of discovering a common humanity. This is the story of the Book of Acts from here on in. It is out storyline still. Why do we do what we do? It is all down to the experience of God.

As I write there has just been the outcome of the George Floyd case. That might be the opportunity for a race relations reset in the States. In the UK the Church of England is also dealing with issues of race relations. With regard to the issues of climate change, those challenges will come to the fore again as we merge from the pandemic. There are major climate change conferences about to happen. As we emerge from the pandemic we shall have to reflect on divisions within society and why some have suffered more than others.

So, let's take our experience of God, which impels us to get out here, and use that whole faith tradition to shape our future for the better.

This is the world of Pentecost. Let's celebrate what comes our way through the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Dougie



For those who remember **Sheila Radford**, who was a member with us several years ago, she has had much ill-health over recent years and is now in Southmead Hospital with coronavirus; we pray for her and her recovery.

We continue to pray for members and friends who aren't able to attend online church at present, **Sheila Smart**, who has recently had a fall and hurt her leg, **Margaret Prigg**, who is not feeling well at the moment, **Bryan Jenkins**, **Christine and Malcolm Johnson**, **Janet Lockyer**, and all those we know. We pray for them and hope to see them before too long.

We continue to pray for **Margaret Donadel** who is undergoing treatment for cancer, and we hope that things go well for her.

Please pray for all our members and friends, especially **Glyn and Margaret Bennett**, **Rosemary**, **Ken** grieving for a friend, **Jeff** suffering from cancer and back in hospital with sepsis, and

any others known to us, who need our prayers at this time, whether through mental or physical health issues, financial problems, conflict, or family matters.

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, especially in Afghanistan, Mozambique, Brazil, Northern Ireland, Myanmar, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, Cameroon, the DRC, Syria and Yemen.

Prayer page:

When I feel alone, your presence is ever with me. Come Holy Dove, cover with love.

When I am in the dark, your light is all around me. Come Holy Dove, cover with love.

When I am in the cold, your warmth will enfold me. Come Holy Dove, cover with love.

When I feel weak, your strength will seek me. Come Holy Dove, cover with love.

When I am sad, your joy will make me glad. Come Holy Dove, cover with love.

When I am sick and ill, your health will heal me still. Come Holy Dove, cover with love.

Spirit be about my head

Spirit peace around me shed

Spirit light about my way

Spirit guardian night and day

Come Holy Dove, cover with love.

Amen



Please pray for:

Margaret Donadel

Mal and Janet Owen

Sheila Radford

Rosemary

Jeff

Ken

Dougie and Helena, Andrew and John.

The bereaved - especially the Queen and the royal family.

The housebound and the lonely.

The homeless and the agencies that help them.

The people of India, fighting the virus with insufficient resources.

All who have lost their income or livelihood.

All who face discrimination because of ethnicity, colour, gender or sexual orientation.

Help us, God, to stand against injustice and to put the needs of others before our own

for you care for all your children equally.

Amen

Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill

What is the Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill?

The CEE Bill is a ground-breaking piece of legislation drafted by scientists, lawyers and academics, and sets a viable pathway for the UK to tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency. The Bill is the only legislative plan before MPs that aims to address the climate-nature crisis at the speed and scale the science demands.

Please contact your local candidates for all the elections happening in Bristol on May 6th and ask them to pledge to support the Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill if elected.

This is the Pledge they are being asked to commit to.

If elected on 6 May 2021, I will work to make the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill law to:

- Limit the rise in global temperature to 1.5C
- Restore our natural world
- Involve citizens in the just transition to a zero-carbon society

For more information please use this link.

www.ceebill.uk/elections2021.

Here you will find a template that you can email to the Candidates.

We all need to do what we can to highlight the Climate Crisis in the lead up to COP 26 and put pressure on our Government to make good its promises.

-Myra Jones

Redland Park Church Calendar

Dates for May 2021

Wed 5th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 9th	10.40am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 16th	10.40am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
Sun 23rd	10.40am	Pentecost Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
		*** In Church and live-streamed via Zoom (tbc) ***
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Fri 28th	7.30pm	Quiz in Aid of Christian Aid (via Zoom)
Sun 30th	10.40am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett

June 2021

Sun 6th	10.40am	Morning Worship with Virtual Communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
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Present

The Minister and 30 members were present. Apologies for absence had been received from 2 members.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

All matters were covered by agenda items.

Church in Society

Carol Fry reported that Christian Aid would be spreading their fundraising efforts throughout the year again, and we would look to hold a Christian Aid Fair in September. More details could be found in the article that Carol had written in the Recorder.

There were still some Traidcraft Easter eggs available for sale at £4.50 each.

A quiz in aid of church charities would be held online via Zoom at 7:30pm on Friday 26th March.

Finance and Property

John Neugebauer had prepared a written report which had been circulated in advance. He explained that £20,000 of investments had been sold in order to ease cashflow issues, and he had submitted an insurance claim for the loss of lettings income during the Covid pandemic.

Ministerial Matters

Dougie reported that the proposed partnership with the SPCK was progressing well, with Synod committing to funding and SPCK plans now taking shape. A further letter from the SPCK was expected in the near future, marking the next significant step towards partnership.

Holy Week services would be held online via Zoom, with each church taking turns to lead worship; Redland Park would be hosting the Good Friday service. Zoom links would be issued in due course.

Sally King invited everyone to create a small flower arrangement, photograph it and send the photo to the tech team for sharing on Easter Sunday. The Easter service would also feature music from the young people's music group under the direction of Lindsay Churchill, a teacher at St. John's School. It was hoped that pre-recorded singing would be added to the sound track.

Walking the Way

Nothing to report.

Secretarial Matters

Andrew Hayden reported that the Elders had voted to re-open the church for in-person worship from Sunday 23rd May (Pentecost), assuming that lockdown restrictions were eased in line with current expectations.

An election of Elders would be held at the November Church Meeting, for which Andrew would issue nomination forms in due course.

Mike Kearley would be retiring as our organist at the end of June after 33 years of service. The meeting recorded their grateful thanks to Mike for his excellent contribution to worship at Redland Park.

Andrew also gave a brief report from the recent Synod meeting, which had included a video from Youth Genesis, information regarding Safeguarding training, a review of key data, and a financial report that showed £17m in the bank for the SW Synod. The main business had been the deployment of ministers in the synod, which is covered in the next item.

Ministerial Deployment in Bristol

Andrew Hayden outlined the background to the decision of the Synod Pastoral Committee (SPC) to reduce the scoping of several pastorates in the Bristol area, including Redland Park & New Brunswick. Nationally, the URC was experiencing a decline in the number of ministers, with only two new ministers emerging from training in the last year. As a result, the 13 Moderators had resolved that no new vacancies could be declared in any synod where the number of ministers was greater than their agreed allocation; in the case of the South West Synod, we currently had just over 23 ministers whilst our allocation was 21. Thus, no new vacancies could be declared in the South West until the number of ministers had been reduced to (or below) 21.

The SPC's solution in the Bristol area was to reduce the scoping, i.e. the percentage of ministerial deployment, of a number of pastorates. The criteria used for all such reductions is the number of members, with a national guideline of 140 members to every one minister being suggested. In the case of Redland Park & New Brunswick, with 87 members in total, the proposed reduction was 40%, meaning that we would only be entitled to 60% of a full-time minister's time, and Dougie's stipend would be reduced by the same percentage with effect from the start of 2023. This had come as a shock to us, especially Dougie and Helena, and to the other affected ministers whose reductions would be 50%, taking effect from 1st September 2021.

The Elders acknowledged the need to allocate ministers fairly across the country and had known of the general issue of deployment for some time. However, they were greatly disturbed by the proposal, presented as a fait accompli with no prior consultation, which would have a devastating effect on the lives of the ministers and pastorates concerned.

David Hayden described the proposal as indefensible and suggested that we should take whatever action is needed to mitigate its effects so that Redland Park remains within a 100%-scoped pastorate.

Carole Atter asked if the proposal was underpinned by financial concerns. Dougie explained that this was definitely not the case as the URC has fewer ministers than can be afforded. The issue is that ministers are retiring at a far greater rate than new ones are being recruited, and it is up to each synod to determine how to allocate its ministers.

Andrew Sims expressed his concern at the tone of the letter from the SPC dated 2nd February, which was very downbeat and demoralising with no positive notes. He also asked how other synods were dealing with this issue, and thought that the proposal as it stood could lead to the death of the URC in the Bristol area and beyond.

Anne Neugebauer had attended the recent Synod meeting and had felt great hostility towards churches in Bristol, with at least one person calling the Bristol representatives "selfish" for having the numbers of ministers that Bristol does. On the other hand, one minister, Rev. Helen Pattie (Bath URC's), had spoken of her concern at the proposal as it would adversely affect her if it was to be implemented in her area.

Dougie explained that other synods were faced with the same issue but were addressing it in different ways. Some synods were clustering churches together under shared ministerial oversight, but no other synods were cutting stipends. The proposal as it stood would leave Bristol with only one full-time pastorate (Trinity-Henleaze), which would make it difficult to attract ministers to the area.

Helena McKinnon was concerned that the proposal was not in the spirit of the URC's tradition of discerning God's will through discussion and consultation via Elders, members, areas and synods. She also pointed out that Church Meetings were the supreme council within the URC, but this had been set aside with the imposition of the SPC's proposal. Furthermore, scoping changes have hitherto been made when a pastorate is vacant; Helena had never encountered any pastorate being re-scoped with a minister in post. She also asked what part of Dougie's ministry would be cut if his stipend, and thus time devoted to the pastorate, were to be cut by 40%.

Church meeting

Carol Fry raised her concern that, by treating ministers so badly, recruiting ministers to the area and synod would become very difficult.

Malcolm Johnson supported Helena's concern that the proposal was not in the spirit of the URC's tradition. He suggested that we ask for the proposal to be dropped and to make changes only when ministers move on naturally or there had been a period of proper consultation. He also questioned how full-time ministers would be recruited if no full-time pastorates were available, and wondered if the proposal was legal.

Jane Penrose was also shocked by the way that ministers were to be treated under the proposal, which she described as "shameful". Andrew Hayden agreed, stating that he believed the proposal amounted to constructive dismissal.

Les Fry urged a conciliatory approach to our future actions and to support all churches across the synod.

Angus Gregson suggested that the URC should embark on a drive to seek out vocation. He also pointed out that the URC was not the only denomination facing this issue and acknowledged the need to allocate stipendiary ministry fairly, but considered the proposal to be wrong.

Andrew Hayden drew the meeting's attention to the conciliatory responses by the Elders to the SPC and had hoped that the same tone was being adopted by the SPC. However, the hostility towards the Bristol area at the Synod meeting left him doubting that this was the case and even doubting the SPC's intention to roll out the plan across the synod, instead opting to reduce scoping in the Bristol area and then stopping the plan.

Dougie thought that the SPC had been taken aback by the level of anger and distress felt in the Bristol area. Other ministers had also expressed grave concerns at the proposal given the effect it would have on them if it was to be implemented across the synod. Dougie and Helena had also told the

Moderator, in a recent conversation, that they had felt as if they were being treated as collateral damage.

Dougie also described the deep distress being felt by other ministers in the Bristol area, whose stipends were to be cut by 50% with effect from 1st September.

Andrew Hayden outlined the changes that were due to take place in the Bristol area in the near future, regardless of the SPC's proposals. Sian Collins was due to retire next year, Horfield URC was effectively closed making John Gray's pastorate untenable, and Stephen Newell would be leaving Zion United Church next year, at which point a Methodist minister would take over. Thus, by the end of 2022, the Bristol area faced the prospect of losing 2.5 ministers.

Summing up, Andrew Hayden said that the meeting had given a clear mandate to invite representatives from the SPC to the next Elders meeting to discuss the proposals in great detail. He would ask again for the proposal to be withdrawn ahead of the Bristol-wide discussions on May 25th, and would continue to assess the SPC's attitude based on the discussions with the Elders and response to the request to withdraw the proposal.

The meeting also asked Andrew Hayden to draft a letter from Church Meeting to the SPC expressing the concerns and views noted above.

News of members

News of member was shared.

A.O.B.

None.

The meeting closed by sharing the Grace.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th May at 7.30pm (via Zoom)

Commitment
for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

May / June 2021

Moving Stories

Zimbabwe

Commitment for Life works in partnership with Christian Aid in Zimbabwe. Our programmes put people at the centre. Faith is crucial to our programmes, along with that values of openness and sharing. We are committed to amplifying the voices of the poorest people. Our work focuses on Matabeleland, and is also linked to action at a national level.

MEET THE COUNTRY TEAM

TAFADZA MUROPA
Social and Economic Justice Lead




Pic: Christian Aid

Tafadzwa leads the Social and Economic Justice Thematic Unit. She plays a leading role in mainstreaming gender in Zimbabwe as well as fundraising and implementing projects in gender equality, transparency and accountability, human rights and peacebuilding. She has worked with local and international organisations in Eastern and Southern Africa for over 16 years.

Tafadzwa has a BA Degree in Economic History and Philosophy with University of Zimbabwe, has received post graduate short course training in public policy, human rights, gender equality, project management and macroeconomic policy with local, regional and international institutions. She is currently completing her dissertation in a Master's in Public Policy and Governance with Africa University, Zimbabwe.

Without people like Tafadzwa, *Commitment for Life* could not begin to be effective in our work for justice in Zimbabwe. We are grateful to her and the rest of the team!

P.S. don't forget to diarise our *Commitment for Life Zoom-to-Zimbabwe* and meet the team! Tues 11 May at 2pm. Email for link: Suzanne.pearson@urc.org.uk



Our best chance of ending this pandemic is to ensure that everyone, everywhere has access to COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments. But pharmaceutical monopolies and patents threaten everyone as no-one is safe until everyone is safe.

People from around the world are calling for a #PeoplesVaccine – freely available to everyone, everywhere. Learn more here

<https://peoplesvaccine.org>

Commitment for Life is the Global Justice Programme of the United Reformed Church in the UK
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www.urc.org.uk/cfl | www.facebook.com/comm4life | Twitter: @Comm4Life1

Christian Aid - not just one week a year!



Christian Aid commemorates 75 years this year, and unfortunately is still as needed as ever.

Last year Christian Aid lost its main fund-raising efforts when the lockdown meant that the house-to-house collection had to be cancelled. Although this was a great method for getting their message out to many households, not many people will miss delivering envelopes and then going back for them. However it did mean that CA had to curtail much of their aid and support around the developing world.

Redland Park was always a great fund-raiser for Christian Aid with both the CA Fair and the house-to-house collections that many of us carried out, raising about two thousand pounds each year. This year, we hope that a delivery-only envelope collection in May will try to raise some funds for CA, as this will get the message out without breaking any lockdown restrictions, and without the difficulties of having to go back for the envelope.

* * * * *

We are also planning to hold two online quizzes in aid of Christian Aid, on Friday 30 April, and Friday 28 May, both at 7.30pm. A zoom link will come out nearer the time, but we hope to see many of you there and to raise some money for Christian Aid.

You can donate online via (www.justgiving.com/christianaid)

Christian Aid 300,000 Step Challenge.

As we can't have our normal Christian Aid Fair in May, the Tuesday Cell has decided to accept this Challenge. If you would like to sponsor us please send money to the Redland Park's bank account , asking for it to go to Christian Aid .

A promotional poster for a Zoom event. The background is a close-up photograph of a smiling woman wearing a colorful headscarf. Overlaid on the image are several text elements in a red, hand-drawn style. At the top, it says "ZOOM to Zimbabwe". Below that, "with christian aid" is written next to a small version of the Christian Aid logo. To the right, the date and time "11th May 2021 2 pm" are listed. In the lower left, the event activities "Updates, Music, Food & Friendship" are listed. In the lower right, it says "Hosted by" above the logo for "Commitment for Life". At the bottom, contact information is provided: "Email Suzanne for link suzanne.pearson@urc.org.uk".

ZOOM to Zimbabwe

with **christian aid**

11th May 2021 2 pm

Updates, Music, Food & Friendship

Hosted by

Commitment for **Life**

Email Suzanne for link
suzanne.pearson@urc.org.uk

Dear Redland Park Church,

We are writing to confirm receipt of your generous contribution of **£987.00**, received on 17/03/2021, towards the costs of running the Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter project. Your donation will be held in a restricted fund by inHope and used only for expenses related to this project.

We are excited to be supporting the growth of this project for winter 20/21. We will keep people up-to-date with progress via regular newsletters. Please contact **BristolChurchesWinterShelter@gmail.com** to request updates.

Please pray for Amanda Munday, the Project Coordinator, and for this provision of shelter for the homeless.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Lee
 Chief Executive

jonathan.lee@inhope.uk

Here are the Lectionary readings for May and the first Sunday in June. As we move from Easter to Ascension Day, the Old Testament reading is replaced by one from Acts. Pentecost – the church’s birth day – is celebrated on May 23rd this year. And hopefully we’ll be able to celebrate worshipping together in person again at last.

In the reading from John in this morning’s service (I’m writing at the end of April), Jesus says “I have other sheep that are not in this sheep pen. I must bring them together too, when they hear my voice.” The readings this month see the start of that outreach - the Ethiopian on May 2nd, Peter realising the Gentiles are included too on the 9th. All building up to Pentecost when people from all over hear the gospel in their own languages.

As we return to worship in our buildings in Redland and Southmead, how do we reach out to those around our buildings, to those who don’t know they have a shepherd, that they too are part of his flock?

“Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?” And how?

Many preachers use the lectionary readings as a basis for their preaching. The suggestion is to read them sometime in the week before Sunday worship so that if they are the ones used, it might help you get a bit more from the sermon.

Angus

	OT or Acts	Psalms	Gospel	NT
May 2nd	Acts 8:26-40	22:25-31	John 15:1-8	1 John 4:7-21
9th	Acts 10:44-48	98	John 15:9-17	1 John 5:1-6
16th	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	1	John 17:6-19	1 John 5:9-13
23rd	Acts 2:1-21	104:24-34, 35b	John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15	Romans 8:22-27
Pentecost				
30th	Isaiah 6:1-8	29	John 3:1-17	Romans 8:12-17
Trinity Sunday				
June 6th	Genesis 3:8-15	130	Mark 3:20-35	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

**Deadline for contributions for the
May Recorder is 23rd May**

Please send to the editor Sarah Trigg

email: sarahtrigg683@gmail.com

tel: 07816 557 124

**or by post to The Recorder at the Church
address at the bottom of this page**

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