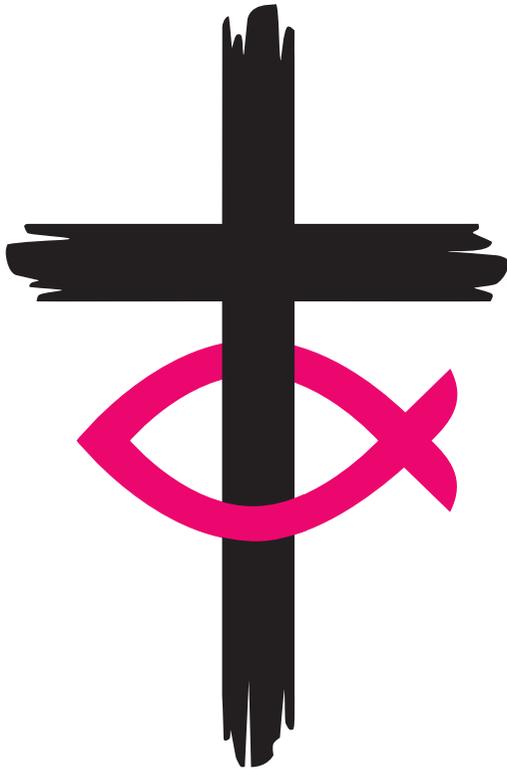


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The Recorder

March '17

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick | April Diary

Preachers for 11am services

April

2nd Trevor Ranger

9th Ella Bryant

16th Angus Gregson - EASTER DAY

23rd Astrid (Lady from Leprosy Mission)

May

7th Angus Gregson

EASTER SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY 13th April at 7:30pm at New Brunswick we will be led in worship by Rev. Ian Thornley and joined by our friends from Bethany.

GOOD FRIDAY 14th April at 10am we will join with the folk at Bethany for worship. This will be followed by Hot X Buns. At 11:30 am a walk of witness will be held to Arnside where we will meet with other churches in Southmead to retell the Good Friday story.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

An error was made in last month's Recorder regarding the date of our next church meeting. Please note that the date should be **THURSDAY 27th April** at 7:30. Apologies for the mistake. Our church AGM will be **TUESDAY 30th May** at 7:30.

A quiz is being held at Muller Road URC on **FRIDAY 12th May**. More details next month but get the date in your diary!

We have been saddened to hear of the passing of two dear friends. In the last Recorder news was shared of Moira Hodgkinson (nee Binding) we have heard that she passed away on 4th March. Her funeral has taken place in Devon but a Memorial Service is being arranged for **SATURDAY 13th MAY** at 2:30pm. All will be welcome as we remember both Moira and Tony who were founder members of our church and were married at the church. If you have any memories of these two loved people please contact Brenda Drake. So these can be shared at the service.

We heard, too, of the passing of Rev Michael Woolsey who for many years was South West Coordinator for Leprosy Mission. He would come to us on an annual basis to keep us 'up to date' with developments in research for a cure for this dread disease. We send our sympathy to his wife Diane and the family. May they know that we uphold them in our thoughts and prayers.

There have also be cause for celebration within the fellowship as on Sunday 19th March we welcomed into membership Liz and Jeff Whitchurch. We pray God's Blessing on them both as they continue their journey of Faith.

We praise God for the generosity of His people. The Quiz and Cream Tea, Gift Day, and emptying of our 'tins' have boosted our church funds. Thank-you to everyone who has supported the work of the church in whatever way. May God Bless you all.

The news on Anita Hinder is encouraging and hopefully by the time you read this she will actually be back at home after being in hospital and Westbury Fields since Christmas Eve! We send her best wishes for her continued recovery.

Dear friends,

The month of April sees the celebration of Easter. Millions across the world will get up on Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection. Many millions will only recognise it as a story and as the occasion when we give each other Easter eggs and have that sense that we have finally moved into the season of spring.

Many will see it only "as a story." In fact that was said to me by a child at St. John's School only a few months ago. The chances are that that comment from that young child originated from their home in which faith, perhaps, is not regarded with any seriousness. To be fair that is increasingly the situation in the world around us where many increasingly describe themselves as being of "no religion."

However that is not to say that people are not spiritual. People will still feel for a certain spiritual quality in their lives, though they may not root that spiritual awareness in any particular faith tradition. So what to do? As I discovered during my sabbatical of last year stories are the basic means by which we learn about God. Bible stories are the essential means by which we all learn our theology.

A key element to the future of the church remains people who are passionate about their faith and the values and insights to be gained from those cherished ancient stories which

are also somehow timeless.

Yet at our synod meeting in March the Reverend Richard Church, who is Deputy General Secretary for Discipleship for the United Reformed Church, shared with us the real problem that for many in our churches they don't truly engage with the Bible from Sunday to Sunday.

Part of the way ahead will be to re-engage with that faith which still burns within us. The more we immerse ourselves in our own faith tradition the more connections we make and the more possibilities we see for ourselves, and the more we want to share our faith with others.

The United Reformed Church as a whole is developing a new vision for the denomination called "Walking the Way." It looks very much to develop a real sense of discipleship. The more we engage the more can happen.

All this should really start in in 2018. But in the meantime in 2017 maybe we could be passionate about sharing Easter by sharing an Easter card or present with someone who normally has no connection with the church? Maybe it might stop them to think that Easter is more than "just a story."

Happy Easter! Christ is Risen!

Dougie

Redland Park People



Please continue to pray for **John Neugebauer** and **Andrew Sims** who have both undergone operations recently and we wish them both a very speedy recovery.

Please also keep **Bryan and Myra Jenkins** in your prayers as they are both suffering ill-health.

Congratulations to **Jane Beazer** on the birth of another grandchild – Sebastian, son of her daughter Suzanne and Ben Atkins, born on 28 February.

We pray for all our members and friends who are unable to attend church as much as they would like, and all who need our prayers at this time.



Are you worried about...

BREXIT

TRUMP

**NHS
DIFFICULTIES**

**REFUGEE
ISSUES**

**HUMAN
TRAFFICKING**

**THE PRISON
SERVICE**

**THE DEVELOPING
WORLD**

POVERTY

**CLIMATE
CHANGE**

PROVISION FOR THE ELDERLY

SYRIA

So is our Church

Visit our prayer vigil in Redland Park URC,
Tuesday 11 April / 8.00am to 8.00pm

Prayer page:

We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
We shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
Tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
We'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed;
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united
Within the vision of a Christ who sets us free.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
We'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
Expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
Raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
We'll leap and dance the resurrection story
Including all in circles of our love.

Jesus, the bread of life, send us out to feed others.
God of justice, send us to plant the seeds of hope to become fruits of
liberation and love.
Holy Spirit, send us to become instruments of fairness, justice and joy.
Use us to your will and glory, **Amen.**



Jesus said " My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations"

This indicates what the main purpose of any place of worship should be – it should be a source of prayer for all nations, first and foremost as part of the ongoing worship of God and the study and contemplation of his world. Sadly, too often prayer can become a peripheral activity. In worship, very often the majority of those present listen to the prayers. Active response is limited and often formal.

The opportunities to meet as a prayer community are few.

A prayer group is such a precious meeting, for those who value a quiet time praying together silently or aloud.

Please remember the prayer vigil at Redland Park on Tuesday April 11th and join with others to pray for our troubled world.

God, our father, we pray that your resurrection light will shine on all the dark places of your world.

Amen.

Persecution of Christians – Sudan

Sudan is 5th on the World Watch list for Persecuted Christians.

Leaving Islam is punishable by death and Christians are afraid even to talk about their faith as this can be construed as an act that encourages Apostasy.

Five Christians were killed in 2016 and 12 imprisoned for their faith.

Aid workers and Church leaders have been accused of spying and given long prison sentences.

As well as using the blasphemy laws to target Christians for arrest and imprisonment, the government also keeps demolishing churches, often at very short notice.

Open Doors equips church leaders in Sudan for different aspects of ministry, supports community development, and provides practical assistance to persecuted Christians.

Please remember Sudanese Christians in your prayers.



Pray that Christians will find other ways of meeting together after their Churches have been demolished.

Pray for President al-Bashir and his Government and leaders of Islam, that the Holy Spirit will change their hearts and use them to bring justice and peace to the country.

For protection for Christians, especially those from Muslim backgrounds who face the most intense pressure.

For more information www.opendoorsuk.org

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2017 – 13-20 MAY

May is hastening towards us and once again I hope people will be able to volunteer to deliver and collect Christian Aid envelopes for one street in our Redland area. The envelopes will also give a text number to donate through, or they can be put through the church letterbox. This collection is still the major part of fundraising for Christian Aid so is very important. Thank you for your help. Carol Fry



Are you de-cluttering soon?

Don't forget that the Christian Aid Fair will be held on 13 May so if you are getting rid of anything that can be sold we would be glad of it – books, bric a brac, CDs, DVDs, children's clothes, unwanted gifts, etc.

If you can bake a cake or some biscuits that would be appreciated too.



Ten Things You Never Knew About Christian Aid Week...

1. It was nearly called Samaritan Week, as organisers wanted a name that would appeal to Christians and non-Christians alike.
2. The first Christian Aid Week in May 1957 raised £26,000 from the 316 towns and areas that took part. The 2016 event raised more than £10M.
3. Every Christian Aid Week from 1957 to 1971 focused on refugees. In 1972 it changed tack to tell the story of how a Christian Aid partner helped a community move from food shortage towards self-sufficiency. It marked a move away from 'hand out' to 'leg up.'
4. The April/May 1977 issue of Christian Aid News marked the 21st birthday of Christian Aid Week with a centre spread of greetings from church leaders, celebrities and politicians, including James Callaghan, Margaret Thatcher and David Steel.
5. Many of the Christian Aid Week posters have been provocative and bold with the 1970 design being the most controversial. With the slogan 'Ignore the hungry they'll go away' it showed a photo of a children's cemetery in Santiago, Chile. Many found the picture 'too shocking' and one national newspaper questioned this type of advertising by a religious organisation.
6. The 1976 poster 'Let the hungry make your money grow' taught even the most casual poster reader something about the world's poor – that the vast majority are not sitting helplessly in queues for free food.
7. 1985 saw the emergence of what became one of Christian Aid's most powerful messages. The Christian Aid Week poster asked "Do you believe in life before death? We do" subverting the Christian idea of life after death. We want people to take action in solidarity with the poor in this life, not just the life to come.
8. Over the years, many a personality has lent their celebrity clout to Christian Aid Week – older star names include Kenneth More and Alan Whicker, while recent recruits include Damian Lewis, Alexei Sayle, Carlos Acosta, Beverley Knight and Kris Marshall.
9. Many fundraising vents have 'grown up' alongside Christian Aid Week, such as Scotland's famous bridge crosses. This year, sponsored walks in Kent and around the Newton Abbot racecourse celebrate their own 50th birthdays.
10. We can rely on our high ranking clerical supporters to enter into the spirit of fundraising; we've had walking bishops, cycling bishops, abseiling bishops – and in 2011 even barista bishops.C



Co-Opted Governor Vacancy

St John's CE VC Primary School

The Governors at St John's CE VC Primary School in Clifton and Redland are looking for a volunteer to join them on the Governing Body.



St John's Primary School is an Ofsted Outstanding, voluntary-controlled Church of England school located at the top of Whiteladies Road. We pride ourselves on delivering an outstanding education within a nurturing environment. Our holistic approach to learning enables all children to develop in to confident, articulate and immensely capable young people ready for their next stage of education and beyond. More information about our school is available via our website: <http://www.stjohnsprimary.org.uk/>.

The Governing Body

Governors make a substantial and valuable contribution to St. John's School. The four core strategic responsibilities of the Governing Body are to:

- Set the vision and strategic direction of school;
- Hold the Headteacher to account for its educational performance;
- Ensure financial resources are well spent;
- Support the inclusive ethos and values of the school's Church foundation.

The Role

A co-opted governor is an individual appointed by the Governing Body who has skills which can contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. Applications are welcome from parents, guardians or other people from our community – anyone who is interested in helping us to continue improving the school and making a difference to our children's futures.

We are looking for someone who is:

- Passionate about education and life-long learning
- Regularly available during school hours and early evenings
- Able to listen critically and ask probing, constructive questions
- Self-motivated and dependable
- Willing to take on the role of 'critical friend' for the school
- Committed to promoting equality and diversity
- Enthusiastic about being an active, positive member of the Governing Body team
- Looking for an opportunity to use and develop their existing skills and learn new skills

For this specific vacancy, a background in one or more of these areas is of interest:

- Financial management/Accounting
- Health and Safety/Risk management

Being a governor is extremely rewarding and enjoyable, but does require a generous time commitment. The full Governing Body meets a minimum of five times a year from 5-7pm. In addition to this, governors are expected to participate in committee meetings, school visits, cluster meetings, and staff interviews among other activities. Governors are also regularly expected to take the lead on activities and named roles.

Training and support is available to help you develop into the role. This includes mentoring as well as free external in-person training.

Further Information

If you would like to have an informal discussion about the role or are interested in applying, please contact the Chair of Governors at governors@stjohnsprimary.org.uk. Applicants will be required to complete a short form. For the protection of children, all governor appointments are subject to a DBS check and will require two references.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 7 April 2017.

Another response from our Green Heart day

From: Thangam DEBBOAIRE, 7 March
Subject: Love for our planet



Dear Carol,

Thanks for getting in touch with me recently regarding Christian Aid's campaign on climate change. Thanks too for the lovely photo of your congregation – I'm impressed with your craft skills and remember the hustings at Redland Park Church well.

I believe the Climate Change Bill you refer to was made law in 2008 and became the Climate Change Act. If I've misunderstood please do let me know, but as a result of campaigning from groups such as Christian Aid, as well as Parliamentarians and environmental charities, the then-Labour Government agreed to change its target to cut greenhouse gases by 60% to 80% by 2050. I'm very glad this change was adopted, because like you, I feel passionately that we must do all we can to protect our environment and prevent further climate change, which is disproportionately impacting impoverished countries.

I am proud that through the Climate Change Act, Labour enshrined the world's first legally binding emissions reduction targets. Tackling climate change is an environmental and economic necessity.

I believe the transition to a low carbon economy can create jobs and growth and the UK Government must show leadership on clean energy at home and international leadership, especially in Europe, to push for ambitious emissions targets for all countries, strengthened every 5 years on the basis of a scientific assessment of progress made towards limiting a global temperature rise to below 2°C. To support this I believe that Britain needs a legally binding target to take carbon out of our electricity supply by 2030.

Thank you once again for taking the time to contact me and please send my best wishes to your congregation.

Thangam Debbonaire, MP
Member of Parliament for Bristol West
@ThangamMP
www.debbonaire.co.uk

Kimonos, Kyoto and Cranes...

...and much else besides.

At our February meeting First Thursday were given by Carol Fry fascinating insights into some of the history, geography and culture of Japan following her recent partly guided holiday with Les. Whilst the basic structure of the trip was organised for them they were mostly responsible for finding their own way from one destination to another. This was largely by the famous bullet trains travelling at 190 mph and always arriving and departing on time and in spotless condition.

It was a holiday of great contrasts, from the modern, bustling city of Tokyo to the more traditional smaller city of Kyoto and the poignant memories stirred by their visit to Hiroshima.

The large concrete skyscrapers of Tokyo contrast starkly with the more rural setting of Kyoto and its timber built temples of traditional Japanese design, although some of these can still be found almost hidden amongst the Tokyo skyscrapers.

The Japanese Tea Party is perhaps the most well-known cultural feature of the country and Carol and Les were able to take full advantage of this experience. I did not know that men too are expected to wear the kimono for this ritual. We saw Les being dressed in two garments the second being superior to the first. These however were nothing compared with the beautiful silk garment which

Carol was loaned for the occasion, the main purpose of which is for the participants to engage in conversation before ritual tea being served.

The visit to Hiroshima was a moving experience. The eternal flame said to have been lit from the dying embers of a building destroyed by the atomic bomb is surrounded by a mainly concrete memorial and formal gardens.

And what of the cranes? No, not symbols of concrete construction but the birds which are the national symbol and much in evidence throughout the country. We were shown the origami chart from which it is possible to make a very realistic crane by folding a paper square. I am sure Carol will be pleased to give this to anyone interested in trying their hand at this traditional craft.

Japan, a modern country with large sky scrapers and bullet trains co-existing alongside traditional timber built temples and tranquil formal gardens and a people who have firmly put behind them their belligerent and horrifying past and become peaceful, friendly and welcoming to visitors.

Thank you Carol for a memorable afternoon.

David Hayden



It was a happy coincidence that we had already invited Myra Jones (who else?!) to talk to us on this subject at the time when the church was asked to think about climate changes and global warming and soon after the 'Green Heart' Sunday.

Myra started by reading from Genesis about God's creation of the world and went on to talk about the various ways in which we, with a little thought, can do as much as possible to preserve our planet for our children, grandchildren and generations to come, as well as our contemporaries world-wide. There is obviously a natural 'greenhouse 'effect, but man has contributed to this by increasing the gases which can be harmful and are increasing the problems of which we are becoming more and more aware. We only have to think of the odd weather conditions we experience and the extremes of floods and droughts in some parts of the world, which have catastrophic effects.

She asked us to consider the three 'Rs' - not the ones we learnt at school - but Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.under various headings, like Home, Food, Water, Garden, Travel.....

We are all probably aware of the need to reduce our use of water and energy, so turning down the heating, (wearing an extra jumper!) turning off lights we don't need, only filling the kettle as full as we need.....Someone pointed out that most First Thursday members are old enough to remember back to the restrictions of war and post-war times, so some of these

ideas come more naturally to us than some younger people! Wasting food is another example and trying to buy locally produced and seasonal food which saves fuel spent on transport. She was speaking when there were reports in the press about the shortage of iceberg lettuces and courgettes.....(were you really worried?!). She did put in a plea for more thought about eating less meat perhaps, as cattle add to the 'greenhouse effect ' by their output of methane! Travel of course, particularly air travel, is very heavy in use of energy and production of carbon dioxide and water vapour; (oh, those pretty vapour trails crossing the sky.)

We are aware of huge areas of deforestation, cutting down vast areas of trees which normally absorb carbon dioxide from the air. I have to admit I hadn't realised certain cosmetics use palm oil, so perhaps we ladies ought to look more carefully on the information on the packaging.

There was plenty to think about and we are grateful to Myra for drawing our attention to ways in which we can be more aware of our actions. She ended by putting such things in the context of God's creation , by reading just one verse from the hymn ' beauty for brokenness'too long to quote here, but well worth a read and consideration.

Audrey

Who Is The Man?

by Derek Skelcher

Who is the Man who's stumbling in the gutter,
Under the weight of a heavy cross of wood?
Never a word, not a single cry, He utters;
Nobody tries to help Him, though they could

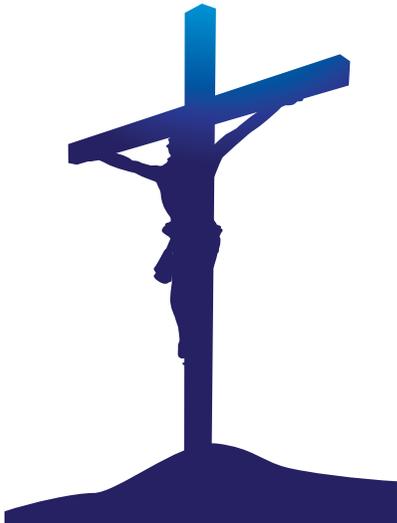
CHORUS

*This was the Man who claimed to be
King of the Jews, turned out to be
Only a carpenter from Galilee!
No king, was He!*

Look at the crown of thorns upon His forehead,
Look at the blood that's pouring down His face.
Look at the way they urge Him on, exhausted,
Staggering to His execution place.

CHORUS

Now He's fallen to His knees,
On the cobble path.
They ignore His silent pleas,
All they do is laugh,
And laugh, and laugh!



Now, once again, upon His feet He rises,
Stumbling down that narrow, hilly track.
See how the crowd the broken Man despises
Bearing the cross of sin upon His back

CHORUS

Who is the Man they're nailing to the gallows,
Hammering nails right through His feet and hands?
Is it a thief, a murderer or a rebel,
Or just a Man that no-one understands ?

CHORUS

Now they are drawing lots to share His clothing,
Tearing His cloak in two to share it out,
Watched by a crowd that's filled with hate and loathing,
Jeering the dying Man at whom they shout

CHORUS

Now He's speaking,
What's He say, Listen everyone!
"Father, pardon them for they
Don't know what they've done."

Listen to what He says as he hangs dying,
"Father, accept my soul into Your hands!"
They were, indeed, a good Man crucifying;
Now that He's dead perhaps they'll understand!

CHORUS

*And by His death upon that tree
This was the Man who set s free
This was the King of Kings from Galilee,
Great King, was He,
This was the King of Kings from Galilee!*

Redland Park Church Calendar

APRIL 2017

Tue 4th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Thurs 6th	10.00am 2.30pm	Toddlers First Thursday – “Sharing Thoughts” with Dougie
Sun 9th	10.30am 10.30am 7.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room Evening Worship led by members
Mon 10th	7.30pm	Holy Week service at Tyndale Baptist Church
Tue 11th	8am to 8pm 7.30pm	Prayer vigil at Redland Park URC Holy Week service at Bristol University Chaplaincy
Wed 12th	7.30pm	Holy Week service at Cotham Parish Church
Thurs 13th	10.00am 7.30pm	Toddlers Holy Week service at Tyndale Baptist Church
Fri 14th	10am	Good Friday service at Redland Park URC
Sun 16th	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room
Thurs 20th	10.00am	Toddlers
Sun 23rd	10.30am 10.30am 7.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room Evening Worship led by members
Thurs 27th	10.00am	Toddlers
Sun 30th	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room
MAY		
Wed 3rd	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Thurs 4th	10.00am 2.30pm	Toddlers First Thursday
Sun 7th	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion Led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 73 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for April and the first Sunday in May. Back on Mothering Sunday last month, we had the story in John, chapter 9, of the man who had been blind from birth having his sight restored. As we move through the chapter the realisation grows on him as to who this man Jesus really is. This is in a sense where our post-Easter readings take us, firstly as belief in the resurrection spreads from a couple of frightened women to the whole group of disciples, and then as they and the early followers begin to realise the implications of the resurrection, of what it means for them and for the people they need to take this message to.

1 Peter addresses the young churches who seem to be having a hard time. "Think of Christ," he seems to be saying. "What you're suffering now is nothing in comparison to what he did for you". As true now as then.

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

April	OT (or Acts)	Psalm	Gospel	NT
2nd <i>Lent 5</i>	Ezekiel 37:1-14	130	John 11:1-45	Romans 8:6-11
9th <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Isaiah 50:4-9a	118:1-2, 19-29	Matthew 21:1-11	Philippians 2:5-11
16th <i>Easter Day</i>	Acts 10:34-43	118:1-2, 14-24	Matthew 28:1-10	Colossians 3:1-4
23rd	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	16	John 20:19-31	1 Peter 1:3-9
30th	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	116:1-4, 12-19	Luke 24:13-35	1 Peter 1:17-23
May				
7th	Acts 2.42-47	Psalm 23	John 10.1-10	1 Peter 2.19-25

Secretary's Notes by Andrew Hayden



I usually use this column to disseminate information, but for a change, I'm inviting you to let me have some information instead. Firstly, we will be updating the Redland Park Handbook, so please let me know if any of the following is missing or incorrect in the current handbook:

- Name
- Address, including post code
- Home phone number
- Mobile phone number
- Email address

Please let me have any amendments either on paper or by emailing me:
andrewhayden@blueyonder.co.uk

Secondly, there will an election of new Elders in November. Please give this your prayerful consideration and submit your nominations when I distribute nomination forms in the next few weeks.

Finally, a reminder that the date of the Church Meeting in May has been moved to May 28th. Subsequent meetings will be on their usual dates.

Wishing you all God's blessings. *Andrew*

TREES FOR ZAMBIA

I would like to say a very big THANK YOU for your generosity in helping me raise funds to buy trees to plant when I go over to Zambia in July!

Thank you to all of you who baked delicious goodies, to those who bought them and for all the kind donations you made for this very worthwhile project.

We raised £318 - almost 32 trees - which is fantastic! I have now reached my target of 150 trees plus a little bit extra to go towards the project target of 5,000 trees!

I shall report back after the event and let you know how it all went!

Thanks again, With love, Les



Deadline for contributions for the
February Recorder is 30th April.

Please send to the editor

email: petejhawkins@mac.com

tel: 07947 405 453

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

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