

ESTD 1901

The Recorder

April '19

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick | April Diary

Preachers for **April** 11am services

7th Angus Gregson

14th Celebration Service led by Rev Ruth Whitehead

21st EASTER DAY led by Angus Gregson

28th Les Fry and friends. (Gift Day)

Preachers for **May** 11am services

5th Angus Gregson (Tearfund)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Good Friday 19th April. We will be joining with our friends at the Pentecostal church at 10am for worship. Followed by a Walk of Witness at Arnside at 11.30am

Also on Good Friday we have been invited to join St Stephens Church at 2pm for a service called 'The Last Hour'.

The next Southmead Quiz will be held at New Brunswick on **Friday 26th April at 7pm.** Entrance £3 includes nibbles and free tea and coffee.

Our church AGM will be held on **Thursday 2nd May** at 7.30pm

Saturday 8th May, in conjunction with 'The Noise' a cream tea will be held at New Brunswick. Further information will be available later in April but booking will be essential.

Saturday 11th May will be our annual Church Party from 3-6pm.

NEWS

We continue to think of folk who are not as well as they would wish. Thinking especially of Ivy who has been suffering from some eye problems. Carol's brother-in-law who has had another spell in hospital but is now back home and little more comfortable.

We were sorry to hear that both Liz and Jeff have had falls. This has resulted in Jeff being hospitalized with a fractured skull and Liz having to wear a support boot for a foot injury.

Our friend Mary continues to be in our thoughts and prayers. We uphold all these folk in prayer to our Lord asking Hlm to minister to each as they need. May these friends, too, be assured of our love and support.

On a happier note it was good to share with Gill as she celebrated her 'special' birthday! Thank you, Gill, for the lovely 'afternoon tea' we were all able to share. It was good to be part of such a happy time.

We heard at our church meeting that Fidel has progressed at Karate and is now the proud owner of a Yellow and White belt. Well done Fidel! Diesel has been performing in a local production of the musical 'Chess' and we hear that it was a very good show. So we congratulate Diesel on his performance.

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

Andrew, Les Brentley and myself spent some 10 days of March visiting Seoul in the company of Bohyun and Yoonjoo.

The reason for the visit was to meet with various elements of the Presbyterian Church of Korea as to future work that we might do together. We remain hopeful that that will be the case. I think that something that struck of three of us was the degree to which missionaries to Korea are still very much celebrated. The main missionary input to Korea came from the 1860s and onwards. Before that time it had been very much a closed kingdom to foreigners.

One of the first missionaries to Korea was Robert Jermain Thomas. He had been in China for some years with the London Missionary Society, but then felt called to go to Korea. This he did in 1866, dying in the process. But from that time many other missionaries also arrived in the country.

While we were in Seoul Bohyun took us to see the missionaries' cemetery which is a well-cared for place, and also offers a visitors' centre with various historical insights as to the history of mission and the individual missionaries how came from Europe, Canada and America.

In many ways it seemed a world away from what we might now experience in the UK, but it does very much speak about the passion that goes with the Easter faith, and it is very much the inheritance that we still have in this country.

We live in a society and world of many faiths, and it is a very good thing that these days that we take inter-faith dialogue much more seriously than we might have done not so many years ago.

Korea was previously dominated by Confucianism and Buddhism. Having studied Buddhism while training for the ministry at Cambridge I certainly appreciated what I learned from that faith tradition. But amidst these various other traditions it is good to be able to celebrate our particular faith insights. For me there remains something utterly unique about the story of Christ, dead and risen.

The gospel writers struggle to contain their own experience of Christ. Christ blows apart all previous categories of experience when it comes to God. He is not simply a prophet, and he wholly redefines the notion of the Messiah. This is a suffering Christ, who somehow opens up new insights into God. It is difficult to understand, yet profoundly attractive and appeals to the deepest of human hopes and needs. So it is that those missionaries took this story to Korea and it found a real response.

The church in Korea is now starting to suffer the same issues that we have been dealing with in this country for some time now. They are also trying to understand new ways of being church. They want to learn something of our experience in the UK. It all goes to say that there is always a need for mission. And at its heart there is the remarkable declaration of the Risen Christ. Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia! Amen.

Dougie



Congratulations to **Allan and Meera Lafferty** on the birth of baby Aditi Grace, born on 7 March. (Aditi means Boundless in Sanskrit, with the emphasis on the first syllable). We wish them every happiness.

Congratulations too, to **Vimbai and Larry Fedrick**, a baby girl called Lily, a sister to Luke, born on 16 March which was a little early, but all's well with the family and another grandchild for **Truida Mutare**. We wish them every happiness.

Truida herself is mourning the death of a second brother in three years and we send her our prayers and condolences. He was killed in a road accident but there were suspicious circumstances which cause the family even more sadness.

We pray for **Derek Jones, Teame Mebrahtu, Ernest Gudgeon, David and Viv Hayden**, and all those who are currently undergoing hospital treatment, together with those who are ill, and hope that they will all be fully recovered soon.

We pray for all our members and friends who need our prayers at this time, for better health, for help with decisions, for peace of mind; we hope they feel the love of God around them.



Big Junior Church Brekkie

Sunday 12th May 2019

From 9.15 to 10.25am

FUN, FRIENDS AND FOOD !!



Prayer page:

Prayer for the month.

Lord, without your presence we are all at sea, our night is dark, our labours are in vain.

Come, as a stranger on the shore, and gather us in joy, replacing our grief with the oil of gladness, clothing our broken spirits in the garment of praise.

When today our minds are filled with failure and frustration, create within us a new confidence, rooted in thankfulness for your presence.

Remind us of the Easter task

To bring good news to the afflicted.

To bind up the heartbroken

To proclaim your good news of liberation

The dawn of a new age in which the promise of eternal life is known and shared.

Dawn on our saddened world
and by your resurrection power prepare and feed us for the task
of harvesting the depths with nets of Easter joy.

Amen.



Please pray for:

All those affected by tropical cyclone Idai in Malawi and surrounding areas.

Truida whose brother has died in Zimbabwe.

Those working in the emergency services.

The homeless and unemployed.

The lonely and the unloved.

Thank God for new life in nature and in our church.

Alan and Meera Lafferty and their new daughter Aditi Grace.

Vimbai and Larry Fedrick and their new daughter Ivy.

Thank God that Enid's leukaemia is in remission.

God, whose love passes all our understanding, keep all your children safe in your everlasting arms.

Amen.

So Says The Pharisee By Derek Skelcher

So!
Who's this guy called Jesus?
And what's His little game?
Taking lunch with sinners
Then telling us.
Yes, telling us
That we should do the same!

On
Top of that His followers,
Whenever they eat bread,
Unlike true believers,
Whose hands are seen
To then be clean,
Theirs are Unwashed instead

While
Baptist Johns disciples
All fasted to praise his name,
All of His apostles
Still eat away
Without dismay,
Which doesn't enhance His name!

Then
Hypocrites He calls us,
Attending synagogue
Only so folk see us
But not to pray
In any way
Those thoughts are quite befogged!

He
Thinks that we are devious
And trying to hoodwink God,
Make Him think we love Him
When we don't
And we won't
His ideas are quite odd!

It
Really is outrageous
That He should think that true
Who on earth would do that?
Certainly
Not be me
And definitely not you!

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Redland Park Church Calendar

Dates for April 2019

Sun 14th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by members followed by Soup Lunch in aid of Church Action on Poverty
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Mon 15th	7.30pm	Holy Week worship at St. Paul's
Tues 16th	7.30pm	Holy Week worship at University Chaplaincy
Wed 17th	7.30pm	Holy Week worship at Redland Park
Thur 18th	7.30pm	Maudy Thursday worship at Victoria Methodist
Fri 19th	10.00am	Good Friday worship at Tyndale Baptist
Sun 21st	10.30am	Easter Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	11.45am	Church Meeting
Sun 28th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members

May 2019

Wed 1st	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Thur 2nd	2.30pm	First Thursday
Sun 5th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room

United Reformed Church 94th meeting of the South Western Synod held at Westfield URC Bridgwater Saturday 9th March 2019

The theme of the meeting was "finding God in the world". Myra, Helena and Anne attended.

Opening worship was led by the Spirituality group. The Revd Ruth Whitehead, constituted the Synod and greeted all those who were attending Synod for first time which included Myra. We were informed that Henbury, New Kingsland United Reformed Church has resolved to close on 28th April 2019.

Green Apostles

Revd Rob Weston and Revd Chris Baillie spoke about all of us needing to address issues about everyday life which have an impact on climate change. Nearly ten years ago the URC Vision 2020 included this Statement 10: We will be a church that has taken significant steps to safeguard the integrity of creation, to sustain and renew the life of the earth.

14 churches in the Synod have now signed up to the Eco Church scheme including Redland Park. **However Synod challenged us that we should have achieved silver status by now!**

The following resolutions in relation to Eco Church were passed: Resolution 1: The South Western Synod resolves to reduce its impact on the environment by:

- a) **Becoming an Eco Synod with A Rocha;**
- b) **Appointing a group to coordinate progress;**
- c) **Preparing an environmental policy to be presented to the next Synod meeting;**
- d) **Encouraging all churches to register with Eco Church.**

Disinvestment

Revd Rob Weston spoke about church investments in fossil fuel companies and the wider consideration of these investments at Synod level and Assembly level. The main debate was focussed on the topic of engagement or divestment. It was stated that by shifting our investment portfolio to a different fund we can remove our current investments from fossil fuel companies on ethical and moral grounds.

The Synod treasurer, Revd Dick Gray then gave an alternative approach. He understands the wish to divest but does not believe that now is the right time to divest. If we work together with other parts of the URC we can more effectively influence both companies and governments.

There were two alternative resolutions placed before Synod: Resolution 2: Tavistock URC urges the South Western Synod to resolve to amend its investment portfolio to avoid investments in fossil fuels, at the earliest opportunity

An Alternative resolution was offered by Dick Gray: The Southwestern Synod requests it Trust Directors to work with the URC Trust and its Investment Committee to encourage our common investment managers to work towards aligning our funds consistent with meeting the intentions of a the Paris accord as it applies to Fossil fuel investments.

A paper vote was held .The count was: **Yes: 34 No: 32 Abstention: 1.** The Synod trust and Executive will bring more information to October Synod. **Local churches will have the opportunity to discuss the matter at church meetings before Synod meets again.**

Resolution 3 was put: Tavistock URC urges the South Western Synod to resolve to request that Mission Council reflects on the report produced by Operation Noah 'Fossil Free Churches' and reconsiders the issue of divestment from fossil fuel companies, which was last reviewed by Mission Council in 2015. Yes: 56 No: 5

Intergenerational Church

Our own lovely Helena, in her role as Pastoral Care Lead and Outreach Coordinator for St Monica Trust, spoke to Synod about intergenerational Church. Intergenerational Church is a deliberate way of making connections with the generations. Meg Brand, a trained music therapist spoke about the Soundtrack project where young musicians are partnered with retirement villages and they write music to represent an older person's life.

Notices:

Website: There will be an additional page on the website for 'Good News' stories from churches and individuals.

Lay Presidency training: two events are coming up in the Bristol area. All those authorised to preside at Holy Communion are required to undertake regular training.

Synod Office relocation: Staff will be leaving the current premises at Norton Fitzwarren on April 15th – telephone numbers and email addresses will remain the same though full address details and how to get there will be in the April e-newsletter and on the website.

Break out Groups: After lunch Synod reconvened in various workshops to explore further some of the issues that had been presented: Eco church, retreats and **intergenerational Church.**

We felt that we would like to explore the idea of holding a retreat. We could look at starting with a day retreat to get the feel of the experience together.

The Revd Dick Gray, the Synod Treasurer, reported that our income was lower in 2018 due to less income from the sale of property. Our expenditure was up a little compared to 2017. M&M situation: some churches gave significantly more than their suggested donation and thanks were expressed to those Churches.

Ruth lead closing worship and the meeting closed at 3.15.

Anne Neugebauer (Synod Representative)

“Day after day, they met as a group in the Temple, and they had their meals together in their homes, eating with glad and generous hearts.” Acts 2 v 46

Gladness and Generosity.

Reporting back!

***Happy Picnic Lunch after the Service on 10th March;

*Come and join in the next one on 14th April

***Film Night.

“Danny Champion of the World” and lots of pizza and popcorn was enjoyed by over 40 young people from Cubs, Beavers & Junior Church on 22nd March

***Positive Lent Sheets.

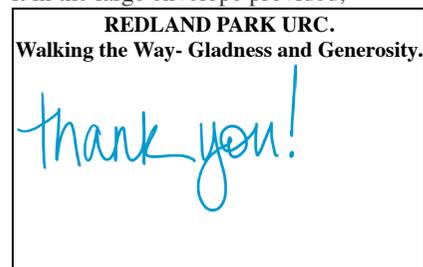
Hope you can keep yours going until Easter!

Share some of your highlights on the notice board.

Saying Thank You.

We want to follow up our Lent sheets by maintaining our sense of gratitude, so there will be a new page in the monthly recorder which will include “thank you messages”- named or anonymous, to share with the whole congregation.

Please contribute your personal gratitude by sending a message to Dougie or by completing a card like this from the Walking the Way display boards and then posting it in the large envelope provided:



Coming Up !! The planning group have now confirmed the next two Holy Habits (remember there 10 altogether) “**Breaking Bread**” from Easter to Pentecost and “**Making More Disciples**”.

Again we will be exploring these themes in a range of formal and informal services and activities, details of which will be displayed on the boards at the back of the church and advertised through the Church Secretary’s weekly notices.

Please look and listen out for these, and pray that Redland Park can respond to these positive messages and adapt them firmly into our Christian lifestyles in and out of church.

Les Fry

Christian Aid Week



CA Week this year will be from 12 to 18 May 2019. I am grateful to all those who either deliver envelopes, or those who deliver and collect. Christian Aid has sent out a leaflet with helpful information, below.

Carol Fry

Making house-to-house collections easier

House-to-house collections have been, and still remain, hugely successful. They bring in a large proportion of Christian Aid Week fundraising and enable us to step out in a powerful act of witness in our communities.

Relationships are absolutely key to the life of Christian aid and we hear that while some communities love house-to-house collections for all of those reasons, for others it is more of a challenge.

As we move forward, we want to support you to adapt house to house and find new and different ways for people to tackle poverty. We’ve put together some of our best hints and tips to help you make the most of your collections and tackle some of the key challenges.

- Delivery only: if you can deliver envelopes and can’t pick them up, include a note with an address where people can drop off donations, such as your church or a local shop. This will likely mean a lower return per envelope delivered, but it’s a useful tool to extend your reach.
- One stop collection: Rather than doing one trip to deliver your envelopes and another to pick them up, why not knock on doors the first time you go round and give people an envelope there and then?
- Streamline: if you can only collect on a few streets, consider concentrating on the ones most convenient for your collectors, or where you’ve collected recently and are known by the people living there. Or you might know that certain streets are always particularly generous – make sure you collect from them!

This year there are two available envelope formats, so you can choose the right style for your fundraising. Both styles, plus the usual CA Week envelope, are available to order. Church collection envelopes have an inspiring Bible quote and could be used in collections in your church. It also includes an option to find out more about legacies. Gifts in wills have an incredible impact and raise as much as CA Week to tackle poverty around the world. No-reply envelopes are carefully configured based on feedback from 2018; the no-reply envelope contains space for you to let supporters know where they can drop off their CA Week envelopes if they miss your collection.

Don’t fancy house to house but still want to collect? Why not organise a supermarket, station or street collection? We have advice on what days to collect, volunteer recruitment and everything in between at caweek.org/publiccollections.

First Thursday:

The bank that is OPENING branches

Yes, and expanding its activities too. Unfortunately this is the North West Bristol Food Bank which now has outlets at Lawrence Weston, Hope Chapel and Henbury as well as its main base in Avonmouth.

In March Emma Murray, the bank manager, came to explain to First Thursday how this food bank started in 2011 and how it has extended its work well beyond the distribution of food to those in need.

From very small beginnings they now expect to serve up to 6,500 people this year. Those in need are provided with vouchers by GPs and other agencies. These are exchanged for tinned and dried foods enough for three days, the quantity given dependent on the size of the family. Usually the quantity given can be made to last for up to a week. Claimants are restricted to 3 or 4 parcels in a six month period.

All of the goods distributed have been donated, mainly via churches and collection points in Sainsbury's at Clifton Down and Waitrose in Portishead. Some perishable goods such as vegetables and bread are given by supermarkets but of necessity these need to be distributed the same day.

Whilst food distribution is the main activity they also have a café and are seeking funds to install a new kitchen, toilets and shower at Avonmouth to give wider social benefits. They have recently further expanded their work to distribute donated household items such as white goods (which have been safety checked), bedding and cooking utensils.

Most of the work is carried out by volunteers but the bank need to raise £40,000 a year to cover the salaries of four paid staff needed to operate their recently expanded activities.

Redland Park has supported this work for several years now by donating foodstuffs via our local collection point at Tyndale Baptist Church. This most interesting talk served to remind us that we would do well to ensure that we do not neglect this valuable work.

David Hayden

FOOD BANKS and now HOME BANKS

First Thursday heard about these two organisations at the meeting on 7 March; people of Redland Park donate to the Food Bank and the items are taken to Tyndale Baptist Church, which is our local hub. For those of you who are replacing or decluttering household goods, you might consider donating items to the Home Bank.

They are currently preparing for the launch of the New Homebank service which will provide basic household goods for those referred to them in need. They are currently looking for the following donations

Items they can collect:

Fridges and freezers less than 10 years old. There is a £10 collection charge as these items are classed as hazardous waste by EU laws. This charge helps towards the cost of collection, safety checks and for potential disposal. Collection is limited to Tuesday morning and to a 10 mile radius.

Items you can drop off at their Social Justice Hub by arrangement:

- Toasters,
- Microwaves,
- Small Heaters & Vacuum cleaners
- Plates, bowls, mugs & cutlery (no sharp knives)
- Baking trays, Ovenproof dishes, pans,
- Kitchen utensils
- Towels and bath mats, sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers
- Duvets, pillows and blankets
- Small lawn mowers

For further information please phone: 0117 9235343 the Food Bank office

All items must be in good working order, in a clean condition without any tears, stains or other damage; they are in progress with getting a donor leaflet ready, which will be sent out to their supporters in due course and will be available on the website.

IF YOU ARE GOING FOR THE MARIA KONDO METHOD OF DECLUTTERING THIS SPRING . . .

The Christian Aid Fair this year will be held on Saturday 18 May; we would be grateful for any suitable items you may be wanting to pass on or recycle – books, CDs, DVDs, plants,, bric a brac, etc. We will also be selling cakes, and serving tea and coffee.

Please keep the date free!

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 93 Angus Gregson

As we approach Easter we've had two stories from Luke that are unique to his gospel. Jesus tells people to be aware of signs of the times - he can see what's coming - and we have the wonderful parable of the gracious father. Then a move to John as Jesus comes close to Jerusalem. There's a moving incident in John 12 on the 7th; Luke has a similar but different anointing story in chapter 7 - you might want to compare the two. What is it that the key female character does? Who reacts and why? For John this is preparation for Jesus' death.

For Palm Sunday and Easter Day the compilers of the Lectionary offer a vast array of possible readings, depending on what sort of strand of thought you've been following through Lent. (What's yours?) Being the sort of died-in-the-wool, conservative sort of chap I am, I've listed the more traditional ones.

As we pass beyond Easter, which this year falls on a Sunday, the Old Testament reading is replaced by one from Acts as we see the church begin to grow and spread. How are we getting on with adopting the Holy Habits of the early church?

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.

	OT	Psalm (or alternative)	Gospel	NT
Apr 7th <small>Lent 5</small>	Isaiah 43:16-21	126	John 12:1-8	Philippians 3:4b-14
14th <small>Palm Sunday</small>	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Luke 19:28-40	Philippians 2:5-11
21st <small>Easter Day</small>	Acts 10:34-43	118:1-2, 14-24	Luke 24:1-2	1 Corinthians 15:19-26
28th	Acts 5:27-32	150	John 20:19-31	Revelation 1:4-8
May 5th	Acts 9:1-20	30	John 21:1-19	Revelation 5:11-14

Living Lent

On Sunday 3 March, Dougie reported on this initiative from the URC as part of the Positive Lent campaign. Living Lent invites you to respond to the urgent call to climate action by committing to one of six challenges to change your lifestyle for the climate this Lent.

Taking part in Living Lent is about understanding that transforming our climate is not just an activity, but requires whole-life change. This Lent, we want to be open to exploring what whole-life change could look like for us as individuals, and as a society.



The Living Lent campaign invites you to take up one or more of six challenges. CAN YOU DO AT LEAST ONE OF THESE? Or can you try to do all of them most of the time?

- Go meat free?
- Take up alternative forms of transport?
- Commit to an hour 'electricity free' every day?
- Give up single use plastics?
- Commit to buying goods produced within 30 miles of where you live?
- Commit to buying nothing new?

Like a dog is not just for Christmas, helping to save the planet is not just for Lent!

Deadline for contributions for the
May Recorder is 28th April.

Please send to the editor

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

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