

ESTD 1901

The Recorder

April '20

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick | April Diary

Preachers for 11am services

In the current situation all Services have been cancelled until further notice.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sadly, again, because of the Coronavirus all meetings have been suspended.

Although we are not meeting face to face during these 'unusual' times we can still uphold each other in prayer. We think of those who live alone and are having to 'self isolate'. These folk will very much miss the contact at things like History Group, Craft Evening and the several lunch clubs that are organized in Southmead. But let us keep in contact with each other in other ways, pick up the phone and have a quick chat with someone you know is on their own.

We continue to think of those who have not been too well these last few weeks. Thinking especially of Elizabeth who had to have a short stay in hospital recently. But we are pleased that she is now back at home. Ivy continues to be in our prayers as she awaits news of further treatment. We are pleased to hear that Dave's brother is now back home after his stay in hospital. He now has several weeks of recovery ahead so we ask God to give him patience when the recovery seems to be slow.

Our thoughts and prayers go to those who are finding these stressful times. The uncertainty of being laid off work, and how they will cope financially. We ask God to give them His Peace in their hearts. May we also be moved to help where and when we can. Even if it is just to be a listening ear, talking about your concerns can really help.

We hear that Diesel and Fidel did very well in their production of 'Shrek'. Well done guys!

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

Usually this edition of the Recorder what would be happening under entirely "normal" circumstances. But for the past couple of weeks, as I write, whatever is to be regarded as normal has completely changed. Since the beginning of February we have been increasingly aware of the impact of the Corona virus. But even a few weeks ago it seemed very remote, and unlikely to trouble us in this country.

But that is not the case now. As I write pubs, restaurants, theatres and cinemas have all been ordered to shut down. While other countries have ordered various of their citizens to remain indoors, we are not there yet. Who knows that might happen by the time that you are reading this. But as I write it is the case that worship at Redland Park has been suspended for the next several weeks, in common with so many other places of worship throughout the nation. All of this means that we shall be looking to celebrate Easter and maybe even Pentecost on-line than actually together.

But times such as this also cause us to think about how pervasive our faith is in our lives. Our fundamental faith claim is that "Christ is Risen." As bizarre and strange as these times might be, our central faith claim is even more bizarre and strange. It is an utterly unique faith event that is difficult to understand, but somehow through the cross and resurrection something happens that fundamentally changes the world.

It may be unique and thus difficult to understand, but we celebrate it also as inherently true and meaningful for all. It speaks about hope, when to many all might seem hopeless. It speaks to each person and to every age. This faith has addressed many a crisis and transformed those crises into moments of possibility.

My prayer for this Easter is that the resurrection faith will also be able to transform the challenge of the Corona virus. We will be given time and space now and in the future to reflect on the assumptions we have always taken for granted as a society. The Church, with its particular world perspective, will be able to play its part.

But for now we pray for all those affected by the virus, whether through health, death or unemployment. We pray that the Christ who stilled the storm, will also still this storm and bid our anxious fears subside. Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Dougie



As the members and friends of Redland Park are unable to worship together at the moment during the coronavirus emergency, our online and personal prayers are even more important than ever. We pray for all these members, friends and people we know who need the loving, supportive, healing hands of God around them at this time.

We continue to pray for some of our members who are in poor health at present: **Reg D** still suffering the after-effects of shingles, **Sheila S** and **Margaret P** after falls, and **Anne M** undergoing rehabilitation before being moved to a care home more suited to her needs.

We are grateful that **Lewis M** is home and recovering from his hospital stay, and pray for Florence looking after him, and we think of **Ernest G** who needs our prayers at this time.

Please pray for **Jane B's** great-niece and all young people currently travelling around the world or having journeyed but needing to get home, due to coronavirus. Please pray they stay safe and make it home successfully.

We pray for **Rosemary P** a former colleague of John, who has been having chemotherapy for many, many months.

We pray for **Ros N** and her husband as he is very unwell and Ros is very concerned for him.

From our prayer box, we pray for:

John says please keep my family safe, my partner and son (4 years old on April 5th). In my absence and recovery, keep them in love, compassion and security. Amen

Alastair says thank you for keeping me sober today. Thank you for the beautiful sunshine and my happy mood. Please look after my family, my dad, friend and her children, and my friends. Please help me to be of service to any one who needs my support.

Please pray for the people's minds that mental health can get better before ending your life, that was once my only option.

And our prayers for everyone:

We pray for all those who have been affected by floods in this country, by fires in Australia, by coronavirus around the world, and for all those affected by war and conflict, climate change and disease.

Let us pray for all those who have mental health issues and for whom social isolation must be a particular problem.

We thank God for our NHS, for those in the Care services and particularly those who are being looked after in their own homes as these may be the only people they see.

As we can no longer worship together at Redland Park, help us all to feel part of a worshipping and faithful community and feel held in God's Everlasting Arms.

Amen

Prayer page:

Prayer for the month.

Faithful God,

We are grateful for the unfailing love and faithfulness You have shown toward us:

you answer when we call;

you give us strength when we are exhausted;

You stand with us in times of trouble.

Open our eyes to see and know you.

Open our ears to hear your voice.

Give us what we need to we live and work in the world as your faithful disciples.

Amen.

Please pray for:

Anne Moody

Lewis Manyika

Sheila Smart

Ernest Gudgeon

Enid

Trevor Fowler

All who leave prayers in our prayer box.

In this difficult time when we are all affected by the coronavirus, we pray for

- All who have the virus and whose lives are in danger
- All doctors, nurses and ancillary staff who work in the N.H.S
- All who work in the emergency services.
- All who work to provide food.
- All who are unable to go outside their homes, especially those who live alone.
- All who have to make difficult decisions for the welfare of the people.
- The scientists who are seeking a vaccine and treatments for the virus.

May we use this time to reflect on what is important in our lives and society and look outwards to help others when we are able.

Father God, hold us all in your everlasting arms and let us feel your love and care for each one of us.

Amen



Sunday evening worship

Those of us who meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month in church, to worship God, met this evening via Zoom – an online video facility. We sang, we studied the Bible, we prayed and, as is always the case at these services, supported each other on our spiritual paths. It was a really positive experience and good to meet together.

We would like to extend an invitation to you to join us in the coming months to share in worship with us. We meet from 7pm until about 8.15pm. There is no need to commit to every 2nd and 4th Sunday – just those you wish to 'attend'.

This week we looked at the story of Philip and the Ethiopian – Acts 8: 26-40, and between now and the next service we are thinking about how we might begin a conversation with someone, with no Christian background, about Jesus.

Unusually the next time we meet will be April 5th – the first Sunday – as the following week will be Easter Sunday.

If you would like to give it a go – and we'd love to see you there – please let me know by e-mail: lesbrentley@hotmail.com

No need to go out into the cold, dark night, you can join in worship from the comfort of your own home!

We hope you will join us soon!

Les Brentley

Fair Trade And Traidcraft

Even though we cannot meet at church during the coronavirus crisis, the work of Traidcraft goes on in the developing world, and there are items on the stall which are popular.

We have The Real Easter Egg for sale, a fair trade Easter Egg with the story of Jesus in booklet form - £4.00 each. Delivery (within reason) can be made!

We also stocked up on toilet rolls and sanitising handwash – the handwashes were very popular (of course) and a box of six all sold on Sunday, and they are now out of stock – naturally. Toilet rolls are still in stock – still at the normal price of £2.80 for four.

Redland Park Church Calendar

All other events have been cancelled or postponed until further notice. This includes First Thursday, Christian Aid Fair (scheduled for 15th May) and Christian Aid house-to-house collections (but, at the time of writing, house-to-house delivery of envelopes is still scheduled to go ahead).

Dates for April 2020

All the following events will happen remotely due to Covid-19.

Wed 1st	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 5th	10.30am	Morning Worship with communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 12th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship
Sun 19th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 26th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship

May 2020

Sun 3rd	10.30am	Morning Worship with communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship
Wed 6th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting

A Poem for Lockdown

Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.

But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading flyers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.

So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear. But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation. But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying. But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness. But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death. But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 103 Angus Gregson

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.

I've just read the account of Philip and the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-40). Philip finds him reading a bit of Isaiah and asks if he understands it. "How can I", he replies, "unless someone explains it to me?" And in the absence of any Bible notes, Philip does just that.

There's a lot more available for us now. Last month I asked for ideas of any Bible study aid(s) that you find helpful so that I could pass them on for others to benefit from. "The offer is extended..." i.e. I've had no response at all. Yet.

It's exciting how urgently the work of spreading the gospel is from the outset. First thing on Easter morning the women who went to the (now empty) tomb are instructed by an angel, and then just a few verses later by the risen Jesus, to "Go and tell!" And as Peter finds in our reading from Acts 10 the gospel and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is for all. It was certainly a challenge to Peter and the early church. In these troubling days, how can we pass on the good news?

I won't include the usual bit at the end about preachers using the Lectionary readings so read ahead to get yourself ready for the sermon. The evening that I began this, a lot of churches in the UK have suspended their services for the time being. But if you're still at home, maybe you could read the readings each Sunday and work out what the sermon would have said, based on those.

Angus

April	OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
5th <small>Palm Sunday</small>	Isaiah 50:4-9a	118:1-2, 19-29	Matthew 21:1-11	Philippians 2:5-11
12th <small>Easter Day</small>	Acts 10:34-43	118:1-2, 14-24	Matthew 28:1-10	Colossians 3:1-4
19th	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	16	John 20:19-31	1 Peter 1:3-9
26th	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	116:1-4, 12-19	Luke 24:13-35	1 Peter 1:17-23
May				
3rd	Acts 2.42-47	Psalm 23	John 10.1-10	1 Peter 2.19-25

Send your suggestions of Bible study aid(s) that you find helpful to angus.gregson@btinternet.com

This is from a teacher in China reflecting on lock down. It's really nice. Carol Fry

We are just finishing our 7th week of E-Learning, seven weeks of being mainly housebound and seven weeks of uncertainty. We are healthy, we are happy, and we are humbled.

We are allowed to move around freely now with a green QR code that we show when we get our temperature taken. You get your temperature taken everywhere, and it's just become part of the routine. Most restaurants and shopping centres are now open, and life is coming back to our city.

As we watch the rest of the world begin their time inside; here are some of my reflections on the last seven weeks:

1. Accept that you have no control over the situation. Let go of any thoughts of trying to plan too much for the next month or two. Things change so fast. Don't be angry and annoyed at the system. Anxiety goes down, and you make the best of the situation - whatever that might be for you. Accept that this is what it is and things will get easier.
2. Try not to listen to/read/watch too much media. It WILL drive you crazy. There is a thing as too much!
3. The sense of community I have felt during this time is incredible. I could choose who I wanted to spend my energy on - who I wanted to call, message and connect with and found the quality of my relationships has improved.
4. Appreciate this enforced downtime. When do you ever have time like this? I will miss it when we go back to the fast-paced speed of the 'real world'.
5. Time goes fast. I still haven't picked up the ukelele I planned to learn, and there are box set TV shows I haven't watched yet.
6. As a teacher, the relationships I have built with my students have only continued to grow. I have loved seeing how independent they are; filming themselves to respond to tasks while also learning essential life skills such as balance, risk-taking and problem-solving, that even we as adults are still learning.
7. You learn to appreciate the little things; sunshine through the window, flowers blossoming and being able to enjoy a coffee in a cafe.

To those just beginning this journey, You will get through it. Listen to what you are told, follow the rules and look out for each other. There is light at the end of the tunnel.

Deadline for contributions for the
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