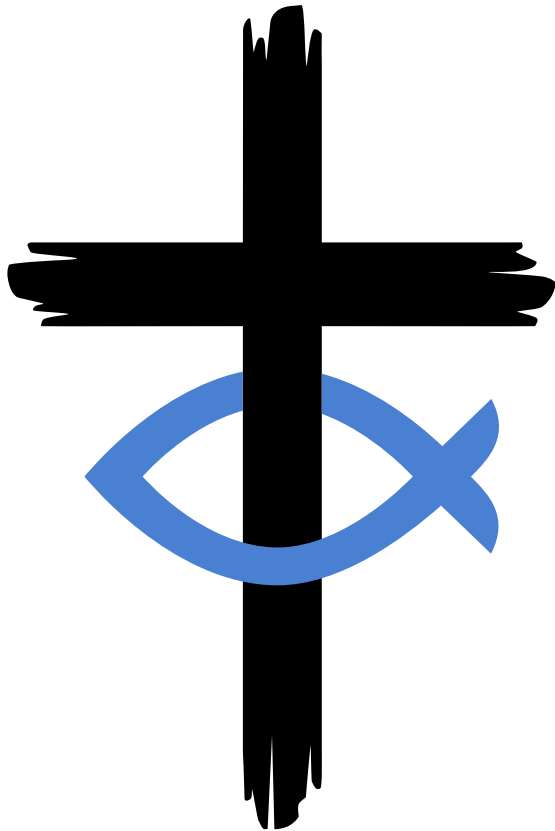


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# The Recorder

April '22

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



[www.redlandparkurc.org](http://www.redlandparkurc.org)

# New Brunswick Update

## Preachers for 11 am Services

April

3rd Delwyn Tilke

10th Sue Thorne (Palm Sunday)

17th EASTER DAY Angus Gregson (including Communion)

24th Trevor Ranger

May

1st To be advised

8th Rev. Douglas Burnett (including Communion)

15th Delwyn Tilke

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5th April Southmead Joint Churches Prayer Meeting hosted by New Brunswick at 7.30pm.

15th April Good Friday Morning Service at Pentecostal Holiness Church at 11.30am. All are welcome. There will be NO walk of witness this year.

2nd May As part of the NOISE events the joint churches are hoping to arrange a 'Cream Tea' to be held at New Brunswick. More details to be announced.

12th May Church AGM to be held at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

## FELLOWSHIP NEWS

We are sorry to hear that Liz has had a couple of short stays in Southmead Hospital. May she be assured of our thoughts and prayers.

It has been good to see Elaine back worshipping with us after having a spell of not feeling as well as she would like.

Our thoughts continue to be with those who are mourning loved ones. Whether that be a recent bereavement or those are recalling the loss of family and friends this month after many years. May God wrap His comforting arms around them all and give them His Peace.

We send best wishes to those who are no longer able to come and worship with us for many different reasons. Thinking of Dave, Ivy, Margaret, Wenda and Susan. May they know God's Love and closeness.

At this time we think of our Brothers and Sisters in Christ who are caught up in the conflict in Ukraine. Perhaps we feel at a loss to know how or what to pray for in that situation. But may they all know that prayers are being said and that are not forgotten. God knows what is on our hearts and will hear our prayers both spoken and unspoken.

We also pray for all those mentioned here and known to us who need our prayers at this time for all sorts of situations in their lives. We ask God to Comfort, Guide and Encourage as each has need.

## Churches of Whiteladies Road Holy week services 2022

Livestreaming available for all services

**Monday 11th April 7.30pm**

St. Paul's Church of England, St. Paul's Road

Join on Zoom:

Meeting ID: 895 1358 5402

Passcode: 182660

Youtube: [https://youtu.be/ge\\_hvNB9iw](https://youtu.be/ge_hvNB9iw)

**Tuesday 12th April 7.30pm.**

Cotham Parish Church, Cotham Brow

Join on Zoom:

Meeting ID: 828 5361 4370

Passcode: 262916

Youtube: <https://youtu.be/iq5Z8sWfFXk>

**Wednesday 13th April 7.30pm**

Victoria Methodist Church, Whiteladies Road

Join on Zoom:

Meeting ID: 840 8634 3077

Passcode: 269243

**Thursday 14th April 7.30pm**

Tenebrae Service at Tyndale Baptist Church, Whiteladies Road

Join on Zoom:

Meeting ID: 820 346 280

Passcode: 018557

**Friday 15th April 10.00am.**

Joint Good Friday Service

at Redland Park United Reformed Church, Whiteladies Road

Join on Zoom :

Meeting ID: 732 001 8996

Passcode: 8cC7Zv



# Redland Park People



We hold **Teblez and Teame Mebrahtu** in our prayers; Teblez has been having tests for health issues and we pray for a good outcome. Teame's younger brother from Eritrea was diagnosed with cancer and had to go to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia to try to get treatment, as there is no medical care in Eritrea, but not much more in Ethiopia. Teame is currently out there to see his brother and give family support, so we pray that medical help can be successful, and a safe journey home for Teame.

Congratulations to **Adam Stewart**, our premises manager, on his wedding last month; love and best wishes to **Adam and Ali**, for a long and happy life.

As always, we pray for those of our church friends currently having treatment for cancer – **Andrew Sims** and his family, **Jane Beazer** and hers. We also pray for **Suzie and Ben Atkins**, with health issues and work pressures.

**Jane and Dave Penrose's** son **Simon** and his wife **Shakira** have just lost a baby, which was stillborn. We pray for all the family that they know God's loving arms around them.

**Anna and Matt Sims**, with **Sophie and William**, have just moved home and we wish them every happiness.

We welcome **Martyn Steele** to our organist's stool following the resignation of **Claire Hobbs** due to health and family issues. Martyn has been coming to Redland Park for a while following his return to Bristol; he has lived in London for many years and was actually the organist at Muswell Hill URC, so we are glad to hear him each week on the organ and piano, and leading an ad hoc choir.

We wish better health for those in our church who have been suffering from Covid, the pandemic has not gone away and we all need to be careful of ourselves and each other.

Please pray for any other members and friends who are recovering from illness or operations; they are in our prayers and thoughts. Dear God, please uphold these friends and surround them in your loving care.

We pray for refugees and asylum seekers everywhere, and ask the government to be compassionate to them all, and to help bring peace to the world. We pray especially for Ukraine today, also for Eritrea, Sudan and Afghanistan at this time. We also pray for countries suffering from natural disasters, including Madagascar and Tonga, and hope that leaders of all the countries will put COP26 pledges into action.

## A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

God of peace and justice,

We pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,

That your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,

For wisdom, discernment and compassion

To guide their decisions.

Above all we pray for all your precious children,

At risk and in fear,

That you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby and Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

Prayer card in Lichfield Cathedral

# Prayer page:

Christ of the Emmaus Road, thank you for the times when we see clearly that one and one do not merely make two:

When - as we share with another traveller our perplexity or grief or disappointment –

Suddenly we are conscious that you, too, are with us,

Lighting up the past, fitting pieces of the jigsaw together,

Creating a picture that makes sense of our experience.

Our faith tells us that you are always there in our human encounters,

But our sight and hearing are often impaired and we do not recognise you.



Set our hearts on fire with the knowledge of your presence and love even when our meetings seem "merely human".

Help us to listen for your Word within all that is said,

And to see your glory in the faces of those we encounter day by day,

So that our walk along the ordinary road becomes a pilgrimage

On your Way of Life.

Amen

Please pray for:

Andrew Sims and his family

Jane Beazer and her family

Janet and Mal Owen

The people of Ukraine

The families who have lost loved ones

Refugees as they seek a place of sanctuary

Aid agencies and volunteers seeking to help the refugees and victims of war

People waiting for NHS care, especially those with mental health issues

People who are struggling to cope as the cost of living soars

God of the poor, friend of the weak, we pray that you will hold them in your loving embrace and bring them comfort.

# Caring in Bristol

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Caring in Bristol

14 Little Bishop Street

St Paul's

Bristol BS2 9JF

Dear Mrs Hayden and everyone from Redland Park Church,

I wanted to send you this letter because I have received confirmation from our finance department that you have extremely kindly donated £854.78 to Caring in Bristol to support those facing or at risk of homelessness in our city. At Caring in Bristol we wanted to say a huge thank you for donating to our cause and in doing so helping to care for some of Bristol's most vulnerable people.

Our vision is to create a city empowered to solve homelessness with a mission of using imaginative and creative ways to achieve this goal. However, we rely solely on fundraising to support our work and our projects, and therefore without the generosity of kind and generous individuals and organisations like yourselves we simply couldn't do the work that we do. It has been an extremely difficult time for those facing homelessness in Bristol and with rising house prices and energy bills we will be seeing even more challenging times ahead. But we really do believe that Bristol can still be the first city in the UK to solve this crisis and it is people like yourselves which will make this possible.

So from all the team here at Caring in Bristol we want to thank you for your incredible support.

Yours sincerely,

*Luke Mitchell*

*Corporate and Community Partnerships Coordinator*

# Redland Park Church Calendar

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**Sunday @ 10.30am.** (At church and online)

3rd Rev Dougie Burnett. (including Communion)

10th Rev Dougie Burnett.

17th Rev Dougie Burnett. (Easter Sunday)

24th Allan Lafferty.

Zoom log in; 732 001 8996; passcode 8cC7Zv

**Sunday @ 7pm,**

10th and 24th.

Zoom log in; 848 3007 5496; passcode 219761

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**Holy Week.**

**Monday, 11th April @ 7.30pm,** St Pauls;

**Tuesday, 12th April @ 7.30pm,** Cotham Parish Church;

**Wednesday, 13th h April @ 7.30pm,** Victoria Methodist;

**Thursday, 14th April @ 7.30pm,** Tyndale Baptist.

**Friday, 15th April @ 10am,**

Redland Park, Mike Peat (Bristol University Free Church Chaplain), shared with Tyndale Baptist & Victoria Methodist Churches.

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**Elders Meeting.**

6th April at 7.30pm via Zoom



### Resurrection in Zimbabwe

Agnes Machona is a leader and thriving as part of her community garden project. Working with other women, she is bringing in extra income to raise her three sons and supplement the income her husband makes working in construction away from home.

Agnes's community have seen great success through the BRAC project which is helping communities to adapt to climate change and start diverse businesses to provide extra income.

The solar water pump at the community garden has made a huge difference to the foods the women are able to grow. Before, in times of drought, women from the village had to dig and scoop water from sand and carry it long distances.

Now Agnes grows a variety of vegetables and the community garden group have received training in finances, looking after livestock, nutrition and how to harvest wild fruits and berries sustainably.

One of the wild plants Agnes collects is the resurrection bush which can be sold to make herbal tea. After harvesting, this herb can "play dead" for weeks only to resurrect into a green shoot when placed in water. Agnes says, 'When I look at the resurrection bush, I liken it to our lives. Sometimes life is difficult, and the other time it is okay. But the time during which it is



Agnes gathering resurrection bush tea in the mountains with other women from her community garden group.

difficult do not lose hope saying it will not become okay anymore. Anytime life can be good again.'

With this renewed hope through the community garden and the income, Agnes pays school fees for her sons

and has hope for the future. 'I am so happy to see myself as a person who is able to do something meaningful in life. And we are people whose voices can now be considered in the family.'

Thank you for your support through Commitment for Life which is improving income for women on the front line of climate change.

### 'Life can be good again'

#### Keeping hope alive after COP 26?

COP 26 left mixed feelings, and has left us with a lot to do to make climate justice a reality. You can read a round up of the commitments and what comes next on the Christian Aid website including what the next steps will be looking to COP 27 in Egypt.

Thank you to everyone who took part in campaigning and in the Global Day of Action.

Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, CEO of Christian Aid said, 'People of faith have united with activists from the Global South, feminists, youth and indigenous people to demand climate justice. Our movement has never been stronger and this must be the legacy from Glasgow to keep hope alive.'

Read more here:  
[caid.org.uk/climate](https://caid.org.uk/climate)

CHRISTIAN AID – not just one week a year!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Redland Park is going to hold our usual Christian Aid Fair on Saturday 7 May from 10.30am to about 1.00/1.30pm at the front of the church.

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

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

Carol Fry

### CHURCH CHARITIES

For two years, our church charities have been Toilet Twinning (overseas) and Caring in Bristol (local). Despite Covid-19 and lockdowns, we have still been able to raise funds for these organisations.

Thank you to everyone who has helped fundraise and to all who have contributed. Because of the restrictions of the last two years, we haven't nominated new charities from 2021, but we are going to do that now, ready to vote on our two new charities for 2022 to 2024.

Please let me know if you have a local or an overseas charity that you would like to nominate, giving me some information on it, especially if you have first hand experience of this charity.

# What's in an address?

Near the end of December last year, the sale of my house in London was finalised. It went online in July and after just three days a buyer put in a bid for the place. However, the legal stuff involved, meant that the completion of the sale didn't take place till nearly six months later!

During that waiting time, I put in a bid for a new house in Bristol, and by the end of December 2021, I had still not moved in to my new abode. I had to move out and was officially 'homeless' till the legal paperwork was sorted, allowing me access to my new home.

Fortunately, I had a long-suffering family who put me up with me for a while and then I spent a horrible time in a ghastly Travelodge on the Bristol ring road which was absolute purgatory! I finally moved into my new home at Hengrove in February this year, The whole saga, (which so many friends tell me) was a most stressful time, and I can certainly attest to that!

That period gave me an idea of what 'homelessness' meant. Of course, I wasn't homeless as such. I had a roof over my head, food and financially ok. Until I moved into my new house, I had no actual address however. I found that on at least two occasions just after moving, a required fixed abode and registered address were pre-requisites to obtaining services.

Bristol has a magnificent Central Library, and I was keen to join up. It's a place where access to all sorts of facilities, apart from the obvious, are available. Everything went well at the registration desk until I revealed that I was in temporary accommodation for

the time being. Despite having all sorts of ID I could not get membership until I had an address of my own. 'Let us know when you move into your new place' was the librarian's comment as I prepared to leave the library feeling a little out of sorts.

My pride and status as a tax paying citizen, financially stable et cetera was a little dented. A second occasion where I needed a fixed address

was online. I wanted to buy some premium bonds. I went through the forms and got to the final bit where it said your address must match the one stored on the site. Well, it didn't. End of intended transaction. The importance of having a registered address cannot be understated. It's when you don't have one that all sorts of problems surface and find yourself outside a normality loop.

Earlier in December I was on my way to a hospital appointment in central London. As I stepped outside the tube station, I dithered as to which direction to take. A man approached me and asked if I required help. I replied that I needed to get to Queen Square. He said that it was nearby and would walk me there. I thanked him and he responded that he had nothing else to do.

As we walked I was intrigued to know more about him. He was clean shaven, articulate and was keen to tell me his story. Ian told me that he was down on his luck, losing his council home at the Angel, estranged from his wife and children and now living rough for six months behind a 'Pret a Manger' in the vicinity.

I noticed he was limping rather badly and asked him about it. He just said, 'Type one diabetes', then rolled up a trouser leg to reveal a nasty open wound the size of a golf ball. The bandage dressing was rather mucky and had shifted down his leg. He obviously hadn't seen a doctor for some time. 'How do you keep yourself clean?' I asked. 'I pay a few pounds and go the public showers and washrooms in Kings Cross' was his reply.

At no point during our meeting did he ask for money. He was obviously someone with time on his hands and enjoyed some social interaction. I was early for my appointment and invited him into the very 'Pret' that he was 'living' behind. As we sat enjoying a coffee and pastry, he went into more detail about himself and the predicament that led him into his current plight. The conversation didn't dwell solely on his situation but strayed into a variety of topics,

revealing Ian to be an interesting and knowledgeable individual.

Aware that my appointment time was looming, I brought the conversation back to the here and now. I asked him if he was receiving benefits of any kind. 'Nothing' came the reply. 'I don't have an address. Without one, I can't claim anything. There is a hostel nearby that offers a room but I need £28 to secure a place. If I had a room there, I would have one of the poshest post codes in London!' he exclaimed with a glint in his eye.

It turned out that the hostel was opposite the hospital I was attending. We left the 'Pret' and made for Queen Square. I offered him the money to get a room and accompanied him there where he was able to register. With tears in his eyes he gave me a rather uncomfortable hug and we parted ways.

Throughout our relatively short time together, I felt twinges of guilt and was acutely aware that I was living in a large three bedroomed house on my own, not needing to worry about a roof over my head or where the next meal was coming from. Our situations were poles apart, but just a few miles in distance.

Ian's story, like so many others in cities all over the country, is a familiar one. It was an encounter I shall long remember. I hope that he has found some solace and that his fortune takes a turn for the better. What's in an address? Food for thought at the very least!

Martyn Steel

## CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ

### Questions in April – Answers in May!

#### Round 1: General knowledge

1. What was the most popular girls name in the UK in 2019?
2. What was the old name for a Snickers bar before it changed in 1990?
3. What is the smallest planet in our solar system?
4. Who was the youngest British Prime Minister?
5. The six main stars of Friends appeared in all 236 episodes. Who is the next most regular character to appear in the show?

#### Round 2: Family and kids

1. The song How Far I'll Go features in which Disney film?
2. In Thomas the Tank Engine, what colour train is Percy?
3. In Harry Potter, what animal represents Hufflepuff house?
4. From what country does Lego originate?
5. What is the name of the tree that produces conkers?

#### Round 3: Christian Aid

1. In what year was Christian Aid founded?
2. In what year did the first ever Christian Aid Week take place?
3. What was Christian Aid first known as before adopting its current name?
4. In what London borough is Christian Aid's head office located? a. Wandsworth b. Lambeth c. Westminster
5. How many people in Zimbabwe has Christian Aid's work assisted (so far) in being more resilient to the climate crisis  
a. over 12,000 people  
b. over 18,000 people  
c. over 27,000 people

## Round 4: Geography

1. What colour is found on 75% of the world's flags?
2. Which seaside is home to the longest pier in the UK?
3. What is the world's most spoken language?
4. Sofia is the capital of which country?
5. Which country has the longest coastline in the world?

## Round 5: Sport

1. Which tennis Grand Slam is played on a clay surface?
2. Who won the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2019?
3. In which athletics event is 45 metres the maximum permitted run up?
4. In which year did the first London Marathon take place?
5. Who won sport personality of the year for 2021?

## Round 6: Climate change

1. Where is the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly referred to as COP27 climate talks, due to take place?
2. Which iconic New York landmark is completely powered by wind?
3. What major tech company became carbon neutral in 2007?
4. A documentary narrated by David Attenborough released in 2021 showed the impact that lockdowns across the world (due to COVID-19) had on the climate and in nature. What is the documentary called?
5. True or False: Wasting less food is a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

If you would like to support Christian Aid by donating for this fundraising quiz, please go online at [caweek.org](http://caweek.org) or send a cheque to Christian Aid, 35-45 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7R.

Thank you.

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 (although that's not the title it's usually given). And we get a few readings from John's gospel, which doesn't have a Lectionary year focus of its own. There's a moving incident in John 12 on the 3rd; 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.

The key to all of our readings is in the last couple of verses of our gospel reading on April 24th, John 20:30-31. John talks about the "signs" that Jesus gave, which sets out the whole purpose of the gospel, just as Luke does in the first four verses of his account.

Between the resurrection and Pentecost our Old Testament reading is usually replaced by one from Acts. We see the launch of the church as the gospel spreads and the church grows rapidly beyond Jerusalem. We see how driven Peter and Paul (once he'd seen the light - literally) are to spread the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles as they live out what Paul calls "The Way". Have we got the same enthusiasm and drive for spreading the good news that has transformed our lives?

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.

April	OT (or alt)	Psalm	Gospel	NT
3rd <small>lent 5</small>	Isaiah 43:16-21	126	John 12:1-8	Philippians 3:4b-14
10th <small>Palm Sunday</small>	Isaiah 50:4-9a	118:1-2, 19-29	Luke 19:28-40	Philippians 2:5-11
17th <small>easter day</small>	Acts 10:34-43	118:1-2, 14-24	Luke 24:1-2	1 Corinthians 15:19-26
24th	Acts 5:27-32	118:14-29	John 20:19-31	Revelation 1:4-8
<b>May</b>				
1st	Acts 9:1-20	30	John 21:1-19	Revelation 5:11-14

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

Please send to the editor Sarah Trigg

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