

ESTD 1901

The Recorder

April '21

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick Update

Hello everyone, here we are at the start of Holy week. Who would have thought that we would be celebrating another Easter Season in Lockdown? I think we were all hoping that Easter 2021 would see us worshipping in our respective churches, singing and rejoicing with favorite Easter hymns. Sadly that is not to be.

BUT, we look forward to Pentecost Sunday on May 23rd when we are hoping to be able to celebrate the Birthday of the Church together in our own fellowships. So watch the May edition of the Recorder for further details.

In the meantime HAPPY EASTER ! to you all.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 6th April at 7.30pm on Zoom we will be holding our next Southmead Joint Churches pray meeting. If you would like to join us contact Brenda for the link.

Friday 9th April at 2.30pm (again on Zoom) is our next church meeting.

If you are unable to attend either of these meetings perhaps you could uphold them to the Lord in your prayer time. Asking God to guide our thoughts and decisions.

NEWS

We have had Easter wishes from **Trevor** who wishes to be remembered to everyone and he sends thanks to us for our continued support of his work.

Carol has completed her treatment and is feeling well. She awaits further an appointment to hear of the next step forward.

We remember **John** who had a short spell in hospital to have a procedure carried out which will hopefully make life a little easier for him.

Both would value our continued prayers.

Our friend **Brenda M** is continuing treatment and the side effects of this have made her very tired which, after being so active, she is finding difficult to cope with. We pray to our Lord and ask Him to give her patience to cope with this situation.

In the last few weeks we have heard of the passing, back in December, of another of our dear friends **Peter Rouse**. Peter would come to lead worship for us on a regular basis and along with his wife **Margaret** would travel from Bath to share with us. Despite having several health issues he was always cheerful and eager to share the Good News of the Gospel. We have sent our condolences to Margaret. Although it is now three months since Peter's passing we know that grief never goes away. So we uphold Margaret to the Lord in prayer asking for His Peace and Comfort at this sad time.

On a brighter note! Several of our folk celebrate a birthday during April so we send Birthday wishes to **KATE** (who is celebrating a Special Birthday-welcome to the club Kate!!!!) **ELAINE**, **DAVID F**, and **ANGUS**. There may be others also celebrating during the month we wish you all a VERY HAPPY DAY and a year ahead full of God's Blessings.

Dear friends,

Happy Easter! By the time that you read this it will be Easter, and also a large percentage of us will have received at least our first vaccination. Some of us will also have received our second vaccination, and that will have had time to have full effect. What a curious sensation it is to know that the world has changed for us in a way that is otherwise imperceptible but also profoundly real. There is that sense of relief and release. As we come to Easter 2021 I find myself thinking about the story of Lazarus as told in John's gospel. Lazarus suffered his own lockdown, and then came that wonderful release back into the world. That wasn't a story about vaccination, but it was very much a story about faith and how faith brings hope and life. Maybe the two are similar in some ways. Both works almost imperceptibly and below the surface. Normally we are unaware of their dynamics. But the changes that they bring about are profound and real, and mean that we can engage with the world in ways that otherwise would not have been possible.

Since I was a teenager who was finding particular inspiration in theology (alongside the archaeology that I was studying at university) I have always loved interfaith dialogue. For me that bears witness that there is a common humanity which its inspiration in faith in God, however you might want to understand God. That varies between the great faith traditions of the world. My life is greatly enriched by interfaith dialogue. At the same time I still find the Christian story of Christ dead and risen as the narrative that best speaks to the human condition with all our hopes and fears.

That is why I am still a Christian, and that is why I love the major festivals wherein we celebrate those insights and that hope.

That I why I love Easter. Maybe this year I will think about more about what it was like for Lazarus.

Hope and faith within me will take on a whole new meaning.

By the way, it does seem that we will still be on-line only for this Easter. We are being cautious about re-opening. This is in line with the recommendation of the synod moderators. But we are planning to be open for Pentecost. Pentecost is again about moving from a confined existence (the disciples being in lockdown in that room in Jerusalem) out into a much broader and exciting world. See you then.

But, in the meantime, Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Dougie

Redland Park People



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

Sheila Smart sends greeting to everyone at church; she is unable to log on to our services, but she is given the orders of service and Recorder each month, so keeps up with all our news. Please also pray for **Margaret Prigg** who hasn't been very well for a while; we think of them both with love.

We pray for **Richard Pedlar** and give thanks for a successful operation and a good recovery.

Please pray for friends who are undergoing operations or in bad health; **Jeff, Mary, Leanne, Rachel, Chris, Leslie, Debbie and Eleanor**, and we give thanks for another successful operation on **Bennett**.

We also think of **Richard**, the father of a friend who died recently at age 100; we pray for his family and friends.

We pray for the **Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter** which has ended for another year, and the guests who are now leaving secure accommodation, with thanks to St Mungo's who have helped all the guests to return home, or continue to work, or find more permanent accommodation. Thank you to everyone at Redland Park who has helped by volunteering, by donating cakes, biscuits, warm clothes, etc, and by making and serving breakfast and lunches.

Please pray for all our members and friends, and those known to us, who need our prayers at this time, whether through mental or physical health issues, financial problems, conflict, or family matters.

We pray for refugees and asylum seekers everywhere, and ask the government to be compassionate to them all, and to help bring peace to the world, especially in Myanmar, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, Cameroon, the DRC, Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen.

Prayer page:

Prayer for the month.

Lord God, we approach your light.
The light that shines in the darkness of our world.
The light that searches the darkness of our hearts.
The light that banishes the shadows that surround us.
The light that causes some to turn away because they prefer the darkness.

But we lift our faces to your light and walk towards you.

Lord God, we approach your light.

Amen.

Lord, your light has flooded the world;

but we have turned away, preferring darkness.

Lord, you have lifted up your Son that we might be forgiven;

but we have turned away, preferring to remain in our sins.

Lord, you have offered us eternal life;

but we have turned away, preferring the things of this world.

Forgive us, O Lord, as we bow our heads before you.

We do not turn away any longer.

We lift our faces to seek your light.

We lift our eyes to see your Son.

We lift our hearts to live in you, and for you, for ever.

Amen.

Please pray for:

Glyn and Margaret

Richard Pedlar

Leslie

Margaret Donadel

Mal and Janet Owen

Jeff

Mary

Leanne

Father God, be close to each of these people, surround them with your love and comfort them.

Amen



Prayer for Zimbabwe - Wilbert Sayimani

Commitment for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Lord God, in pursuit for justice, freedom and civil liberties, we pray for the leadership of Zimbabwe. Give them wisdom, vision and a desire for justice. We bring before you men and women serving prison sentences for crimes they did not commit. Men, women, and children struggling to put food on their tables as all their means of survival have been thwarted.

Lord, we pray for the eroding economy of this land. Weed out all corrupt elements to prepare for the kind of governance that you desire. We pray for those risking their lives crossing borders in search for greener pastures elsewhere, which for some remains a "pie in the sky" even when they get there. We bring before you those dying in hospitals or at home with no access to drugs or better facilities. We do not forget those sacrificing their own lives for the sake of others. Doctors, nurses, teachers and all other civil servants fighting for the good of all. You are a good God and you hear the prayers of your people. Hear us Lord and come and heal Zimbabwe.

Amen.

Redland Park Church Calendar

Dates for April 2021

Sun 11th 10.40am Morning Worship led by Angus Gregson
7.00pm Evening Worship led by members

Wed 14th 7.30pm Elders Meeting

Sun 18th 10.40am Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett

Sun 25th 10.40am Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
7.00pm Evening Worship led by members

May 2021

Sun 2nd 10.40am Easter Morning Worship with Virtual Communion
Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 113 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for April and the first Sunday in May. As you'll recall from last month's piece (maybe) although Mark is the featured gospel this year, because it's the shortest gospel we get a dose of John during Lent and Eastertide, plus one reading from Luke. We'll get back to Mark in June.

These were hugely uncertain times for the disciples. Despite Jesus having explained to them pretty clearly what Messiah-ship was really about - being a servant willing to give his all for them - it doesn't look like they'd really taken it in. But here we have a wonderful series of encounters with the risen Jesus that transform Mary Magdalene, the disciples - Thomas especially - and two other disciples on the way out to Emmaus on Easter Sunday afternoon (if we read the bit before the passage from Luke on the 18th).

And what a transformation. If it weren't for them would we have eventually heard the gospel and responded? But we end this set of readings with perhaps the most exciting offer of all in the reading from John chapter 15 on May 2nd. Just read verses 7 & 8 a few times and take in the enormity of that.

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	Acts	Psalm	Gospel	NT
4th Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43	118: 1-2, 14-24	John 20:1-18	1 Corinthians 15:1-11
11th	Acts 4:32-35	133	John 20:19-31	1 John 1:1-2:2
18th	Acts 3:12-19	4	Luke 24:36b-48	1 John 3:1-7
25th	Acts 4:5-12	23	John 10:11-18	1 John 3:16-24
May				
2nd	Acts 8:26-40	22:25-31	John 15:1-8	1 John 4:7-21



Open Doors Ethiopia

Ethiopia is number 36 on Open Doors World Watch List.

Almost 60 per cent of Ethiopians are Christian – that's 67.5 million people. Sadly, though, many Ethiopian Christians are persecuted by fellow Christians, if they belong to a different denomination.

In Ethiopia, persecution is often dependent on what kind of Christian you are or where you live. Because of the government's special relationship with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, other denominations – especially Evangelical and Pentecostal Protestants – are persecuted by the state and Orthodox Church. Christians who change denominations and leave the Orthodox Church are subject to family and community pressure and can face significant mistreatment. Additionally, churches can be restricted from holding religious gatherings.

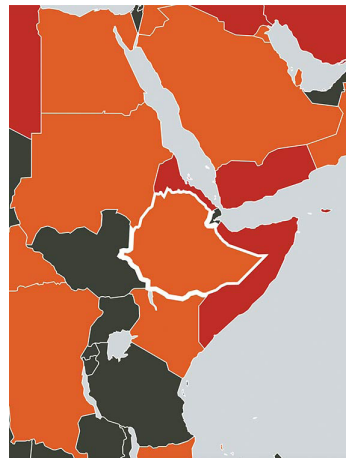
The other major factor for persecution in Ethiopia is Islamic extremism. Particularly in the eastern and southeastern parts of the country, converts to Christianity from Islam can be harassed and oppressed by their families and surrounding communities. In some regions, Christians are denied access to community resources and experience ostracism and discrimination. Additionally, some Christians are vulnerable to violence when Islamic extremists attack churches and homes.

Christian women face the additional risk of being forced to marry non-Christians and then expected to follow the religion of their husband. And if a woman converts to Christianity in a non-Christian area, it is likely she will be divorced by her husband and possibly lose custody of her children.

Please Pray for Christians in Ethiopia

Heavenly Father, we ask You to protect and preserve Your people in Ethiopia. We pray for unity among Your people, and ask that Jesus's command for unity would be embraced by all Christians. We humbly ask that You would sustain those believers who are discriminated against and oppressed, and that You would encourage and give them hope when they are tempted to despair. Amen.

Myra Jones



CHRISTIAN AID - Not just one week a year!

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

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

Redland Park was always a great fund-raiser for Christian Aid with both the CA Fair and the house-to-house collections that many of us carried out, raising about two thousand pounds each year.

This year, we hope that a delivery-only envelope collection in May will try to raise some funds for CA, as this will get the message out without breaking any lockdown restrictions, and without the difficulties of having to go back for the envelope. These special envelopes will encourage people to donate by text (a method used very successfully by Comic Relief, Red Nose Day etc) or to leave at Redland Park.

If you would be willing to deliver envelopes in your street, block of flats, or anywhere else, please see me and I can let you have envelopes, a badge showing you are an official collector, and ID.

Many thanks,

Carol Fry

**Deadline for contributions for the
May Recorder is 24th April.**

Please send to the editor Sarah Trigg

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**or by post to The Recorder at the Church
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