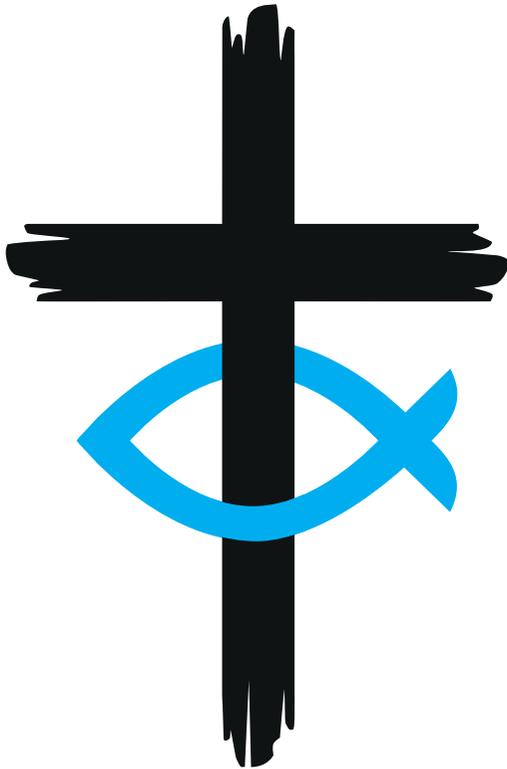


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The Recorder

February '17

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick | February Diary

Preachers for 11am services

5th Rev Mary Piggott

12th Debz Spinney

19th Brenda Munden

26th Angus Gregson

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday March 18th 3-6pm 'Quiz and Cream Tea'

Since the Festive Season we have been sorry to hear that a number of our folk have been unwell so at this time we think of Ivy Pickett and her on going health issues. We remember David Fudge who is in good spirits but does not, as yet, feel ready to re join us on a Sunday. Two of our friends have been hospitalized since Christmas. We send our thoughts and prayers to Anita Hinder (Joyce Groves Daughter) who is in Southmead Hospital having had a fall on Christmas Eve at home. This fall resulted in one broken hip, a chip to the other hip and four fractures of her pelvis! She had her first operation last Wednesday and we assure her of our prayers during this frustrating time.

Jim Hayes took a fall in his kitchen which, again, has resulted in a broken hip! He had his operation to repair the damage last Sunday and is already taking his first tentative steps to mobility. We hope it won't be too long before he is able to share with us again, we miss him sitting at the front of the church with one of his daughters.

There have been others who have been unwell with the 'bugs' that do the rounds at this time of year. We think of Liz and Jeff Whitchurch who were 'laid low'. We ask God to send his healing and patience for all those making recovery from illness, and assure all of our love and support.

It has not all been 'doom and gloom' over the last few weeks as we have been pleased to share in some lovely Celebrations. First Gill and John Waines celebrated (although a little delayed) their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 18th January with a lunch and afternoon tea at the church. It was lovely to be able to share with family and friends in this event.

Then Jenny Pike reached a 'special' birthday in January and again this was celebrated by a lovely roast lunch at church, we enjoyed sharing this happy time with Jenny's family and friends.

We send congratulations to these folk and thank them for sharing their special celebrations with us. May God Bless you all as you continue to celebrate these milestones in your lives.

A 'special' birthday will be celebrated by Jeff Whitchurch later in February so we send him best wishes for a very Happy Day.

Dear friends,

I trust that Christmas was good for you. We are now in the season of Epiphany and soon Lent will be with us.

As human beings we have a love of rites of passage. We mark the seasons of lives with particular celebrations which help us make sense of what has been, what is, and what will be. No matter who we are and where we might come from we all celebrate these rites of passage.

They are derived from the world around us and what means most to us. So we celebrate births and birthdays, weddings and also funerals. The seasons of the Christian year work in very much the same way but also take us deeper into God and how we relate to God and how God relates to us.

I suppose that in a sense that they all say the same thing, that God loves us, but each comes with its particular nuances. Christmas puts its emphasis on light and new beginnings. The birth of Jesus puts the love of God on a scale that we can all relate to, that of a small child. Lent we can see as being very much about how we turn back to God when we have lost sight of God.

Pentecost helps us to think of how sense for the Holy Spirit. Easter is very much again about new life, but this time from the prospect of how we cope with the notion of suffering and death. I suppose that Epiphany can be in the way of the “forgotten” season of the Christian year. It comes in almost as the anti-climax after Christmas, and just as we are hunkering down for the cold winter months of January and February.

Yet it has a special point to make. It is very much about the discovery of God in our midst, starting with the magi, and then working on from there to the call of the first disciples and what flowed from that.

A good way to use Epiphany might be to simply reflect of where and when you first encountered God, and to discern how far you have come in your journey of faith, and what might be your future calling and where God might want you to travel next. Happy Epiphany!

Dougie

Redland Park People



We think of **Jane and Dave Penrose** who waved Beth and Rob off to Tasmania after their wedding, and we pray that all will be well for them all.

Beth and Rob stayed in Indonesia on their way to Tasmania for a holiday but have now arrived and Beth starts work at the beginning of February.

We continue to pray for **John Neugebauer** who is suffering from back and hip problems and is undergoing treatment. Please think of him and we hope he will find relief soon.

Please think of **Bryan and Myra Jenkins** who are both suffering ill-health and Bryan can't always get to church.

Dave Redfern unfortunately developed a severe infection on Christmas Day and had to spend a week in hospital. We hope he is feeling much better, and we think of him and **Jess**.

Roger Adams was visited by the Saturday Cell Group recently in his nursing home; Roger is cheerful but confused, and we pray for him.

It was good to see **Norman Crick** recently at the Carol Service, with his daughter and carer. Please hold him in your prayers.

Please pray for **Truida Mutare** whose brother died last week; she is grieving at his loss and away from her extended family in Zimbabwe. We hold her in our prayers.

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.

What's On?

GREEN HEART DAY

Show The Love For The Planet With A Green Heart.

This Valentine's Day we are asked to show our love for the Planet by making and wearing a Green Heart. Last year many hundred's of thousands of people did so and shared them with friends, family and colleagues beginning a conversation about places already affected by Climate Change. GreenHearts were spotted on the BT Tower, in Parliament and even on Premier Football Managers! Make your heart in whatever way you like and whatever materials you have to hand and you may like to decorate them.

Perhaps you could wear one to Church on the previous Sunday and we could take a photo of the congregation to share with our MP. Anybody fancy making a Green heart shaped cake to be cut at coffee time? More ideas at www.showthelove.org.uk

When: February 14th Valentine's day with a difference

Prayer page:

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH:

God of heaven and every season beneath,
help us to leave in the year that has died
all that it held of shame, sorrow and sin, and to treasure the
riches it leaves – the learning, the laughter, the love.

God of past and future,
teach us how to grasp in the year that is born promises by
which we may live,
kindness we can offer, hopes you set before us.

God of work and toil and busy-ness,
we ask for confidence for this year's duty,
energy amid its demands and wisdom in the unfolding of its
days, that we may know the times and discern our task.

God of every season, may the living of our years serve the purpose of
heaven.

Amen.



Please pray for

Donald Trump as he begins his presidency of the U.S.A.

Theresa May, the government and all M.P.'s

Victims of hate crime.

Refugees and migrants.

The N.H.S. and all its employees.

The homeless .

The lonely and depressed.

All who strive to alleviate the suffering of others.

Freya Hollands and her family.

God, your troubled world needs the reassurance of your love and the hope and light that Christ brings.

Amen

Persecution of Christians – Somalia

Christians in the West Bank generally enjoy religious freedom, despite the secular government. However in Gaza, although they are tolerated by Hamas, their rights are neither upheld nor protected. They also face threats from radical Islamic vigilante groups. In both areas, although the total number of Christians is generally decreasing, there is a growing number of Muslim-background believers. The number of violent incidents against Christians, particularly those of a Muslim background have increased.

A Baptist Church in Gaza has been attacked and threatening graffiti written on the walls. The believers now feel less safe and less respected. Some Christian women feel pressurised to cover up.

Muslim-background believers face the most severe persecution. In the West Bank, they are threatened and pressured; in Gaza, their situation is so dangerous that they live their faith in utmost secrecy. Their children are harassed and discriminated against.



These believers cannot officially gather as a congregation nor can they openly join existing churches. Nevertheless, the number of such believers is growing slowly.

In the lead up to Christmas please pray for all these Christians and for the work of Open Doors. <http://www.opendoorsuk.org>

Their partners in that area are supporting the church through biblical training, reconciliation work and trauma counselling.

A Visit to Holy Land: A First Thursday report

Our arrival to Tel Aviv was delayed, so it was early morning before we saw the sea and modern buildings in beautiful sunshine.

Our visit to Caesarea named after the Emperor by King Herod, a sort of Donald Trump of his day. Caesarea was an important port, the capital of Judea. Herod built palaces, baths, and a theatre there, many of these buildings, imagined due to the remains which are well preserved. One could imagine Christ walking here with his followers.

Next we travelled to Acre, a 12th Century Crusader city which is very well preserved, with very good displays, The Crusades cause mixed feelings, but they suffered great privation

for their Christian beliefs. Our next stop was Nazareth, to visit the great Church of the Annunciation. This is a modern church built in 1953 by the Catholics. This town is important as Mary was told Christ's birth here and later it was Christ home.

Our next visit was to Tiberias we stayed overnight at a Kibbutz hotel. The rabbi gave us a talk after dinner. All earnings are pooled, the rule of Jewish law is paramount, the community and its well-being is their total focus.

Next morning we had a boat trip to the Sea of Galilee, the water was calm, Kate one of our party read from St. Matthew, a very spiritual moment one felt Christ was there. Having

Zimbabwe: Our Commitment for Life Partner

Current statistics show that over 4 million people in Zimbabwe are food insecure as a result of the El Nino induced drought, especially as the peak of the hunger season sets in. Food is therefore the major priority for rural households at the moment, at the expense of some longer term programme work geared towards building long term resilience. This means projects such as gardening projects are being neglected due to both water shortages and households spending. Much time is spent looking for food. The majority of crops planted during 2015/16 season were a complete write off. In Binga, where the programme is focussing on formal and informal education, drops in school attendances are being reported where there are no complimentary school feeding programmes.

Unfortunately, the programme has not managed to get sufficient funding to integrate food assistance in all its areas of operation.

The current emergency funding has been raised through the ACT Appeal process and is available up to the end of December 2016.



So far only Insiza and Lupane districts are receiving assistance, reaching out to just over 8,000 individuals.

Christian Aid has noted that communities are resorting to negative and asset depleting coping strategies in the face of the ongoing food crisis. For example, where emergency interventions are providing cash for the purchase of both food and seeds, communities are tending only to buy food, and not think ahead to the importance of planting seeds for the next season.

crossed the sea we arrived at Capernaum, here one could imagine Christ calling the disciples, His ministry, and feeding the 5000 on the nearby hill.

The next day, a fun morning by the dead sea, bobbing about like a cork, getting on dry land again with a necklace of salt! Our next stop Masada, up the mountain in the cable car, our guide told of the Roman siege, and the sad tale of the dead Jews, who would not give in to the Romans.

Jerusalem, the Mount of olives, the Dome of Rock, The Wailing Wall, and the Garden of Gethsemane, here, in spite of tourist peace and calm, Christ's agony, another reading from the Bible made this a very special experience.

We visited the Wall at Shabat on Friday evening it was very busy with all the Jews in the best clothes, placing prayers in the wall.

Bethlehem, to the Church of the Nativity, and the site of Christ's birth marked by a large star in the ground, and most fought over holy place in the past. Back into Jerusalem and we visited the holocaust museum, and saw part of the dead sea scrolls, a very moving experience to see the actual Bible written down, in good condition.

Free day! The via Dolorosa, and the Tower of David Museum, another beautiful garden, and the reputed site of Christ's crucifixion. A very memorable holiday in Bible lands.

Planting Trees In Zambia Les Brentley



This July I shall be spending two weeks in Zambia, taking part in the Greenpop Festival, which is an annual environmental project.

Primarily it is aimed at school-aged children from around the world, including from the local villages, but they also allow old fogeys like me to take part for a week or two.

The project includes planting trees, in an attempt to combat the extensive deforestation in the region, creating community gardens, painting inspirational murals on schools and other buildings, upcycling and many more activities. The drum on the site sounds at 6.00 every morning – the signal to get up and start the day – then off to work after breakfast!

In order to be accepted onto the project I pledged to raise £1,500 to buy 150 trees for the reforestation work we will be undertaking.

I would therefore be very grateful if you feel able to make a small donation towards this very worthwhile endeavour by visiting my Givengain page at the following website address: www.givengain.com/activist/170733 or, if you prefer, by approaching me directly with your donation!

Thank you in advance and, if you're very lucky, I may even regale you with news of how the project went, on my return!

Les Brentley

From: Mary

Subject: THE NORTH!!

Catapulted from the train in the capital, during Friday's rush hour was a rude awakening for some of the team as we struggled with luggage across the tracks and made for the haven, YMCA. The building was old and had once been grand with pillared frontage and sweeping stairway. Our rooms in the attic were adequate, housing one double room for Jo and Paul, en suite, and 6 singles crammed into the other, en suite, where the bathroom was accessed through a cupboard and the lift shaft covered by plywood. But at 4.5 quid a night and an alarm set at 4.45 AM any more would have been gross misappropriation of funds!

Our timetable for the week was onerous but with 6 volunteers we managed a 6 on 2 off routine that allowed time off! Exploring Jaffna again was glorious and the trip to the island of Delft, just stunning. Rising early and crossing the causeway to get to the ferry soon after sunrise, we spotted flocks of flamingo, heron, crane, hornbill, egret, cormorant and pelican. WOW

The working week, consisted of Teacher Training, Vocational college teaching, Youth work, Preschool teaching and a group who were undertaking an Intensive English course, (Apparently without conversation) From 8 til 5.30 meant we were exhausted on return to the little house we rented, but slept well, despite the dogs, cats and other nocturnal visitors!

Apart from the Library, Auditorium, Preschool and Teaching Centre, Lebara Foundation has a Limb Fitting Centre nearby for landmine victims and we visited there before going on to the final bloody scene of war end, The Killing Fields, outside Kilinochchi. There in the dusk we met some of the few survivors, rebuilding their lives, saw the explosive damage and bunkers wherev people attempted to hide and stood in silent prayer around a rough hewn cement statue, of a man carrying his dead wife, followed by a loan child. It had been delivered by a Catholic priest only a few months ago and erected without light or ceremony in the corner of this wasteland. What horrors it has seen.

Now back in the south we have had continual rain, abnormal for this time of year, but today the sun shines and I am attending a "Homecoming" after the wedding of Vajira's nephew. How I wish I could go to the beach!! Oh well, needs must!

Much love Mary

World Women Day of Prayer



This year Redland Parish Church (BS6 7HE) is hosting the

Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday March 3rd 2017

from 10.00 to 12.00. It has been written by the Christian women of the Philippines and is called 'Am I being Unfair to You?' The service focuses on the Bible story of the Workers in the vineyard.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Children are very welcome as there is a crèche room available.
We want to welcome men to the service as well.

The service and refreshments will start at
10.00 in the Redland Parish Church Halls where a Welcome Café will provide muffins and coffee and artefacts from the Philippines to talk about.

If you want to find out more about the WWDP please visit their website www.wwdp.org.uk or know any more about the service, please see Anne Neugebauer.

Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland Spring 2017

Women's World Day of Prayer 2017, Friday 3 March

(10.00am coffee, 11-12 Service) This year's theme country - The Philippines
Redland Parish Church, Redland Green Road, Bristol BS6 7HE

Lent Conversations 2017 What on earth is the church for?



Evenings will open at 7pm for tea and coffee

Tuesday 14 March **Professor Tina Beattie**

‘What the church is on earth for’

Christ Church, Clifton Down Rd, Bristol BS8 3BN

Thursday 23 March **Rt Revd Dr Lee Rayfield, the Suffragan Bishop of Swindon**

‘The Institutional importance of the Church’,

Cotham Parish Church, Cotham Road, Bristol BS6 6DR

Tuesday 28 March **Revd Dr Keith Clements**

‘The Church, Peace, and World War I’

Apostles’ Room, Clifton Cathedral, Clifton Park, Bristol BS8 3BX

Wednesday 5 April **Revd Professor Stephen Heap**

‘A spiritual presence in a secular space’

Tyndale Baptist Church, 139 Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 2QG

The Devil Pushed Him

by Derek Skelcher

Now father Adam thought he was in clover
Until the day Eve took that apple bite.
Then suddenly his gardening days were over
And he and Eve were cast out in the night!
The devil pushed her, the devil pushed her
And down, down, down she fell
The devil pushed her, the devil pushed her
And sent them down,
Down, down, down,
Sent them down to hell!

The next one to be caught was Abel's brother,
An up-and-coming farming lad named Cain.
And he became the first man to discover
That murder brings you punishment, not gain!
The devil pushed him, the devil pushed him
And he went down as well!
The devil pushed him, the devil pushed him
And he went down,
Down, down, down,
He went down to hell!

And since that time there have been many others
Who've fallen for the devil's wily ways.
And each of them has very soon discovered
The devil always wins, the sinner pays!
The devil pushed them, the devil pushed them
And down, down, down they fell!
The devil pushed them, the devil pushed them
And sent them down,
Down, down, down,
Sent them down to hell!

So listen to the words that I am saying,
And heed the warning that I give to you.
The devil, round the corner, is awaiting,
And he is just awaiting there for you!
And he will push you, yes he will push you,
And send you down as well!
Yes he will push you, yes he will push you,
And send you down,
Down, down, down,
Send you down to hell!

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Redland Park Church Calendar

FEBRUARY 2017

Thurs 2nd	10.00am 2.30pm	Toddlers First Thursday: "Japan – a Fascinating Country" with Carol Fry
Sun 5th	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion Led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room
Thurs 9th	10.00am	Toddlers
Sun 12th	10.30am 10.30am 7.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room Evening Worship led by members
Thurs 16th	10.00am	Toddlers
Sun 19th	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room
Thurs 23rd	10.00am	Toddlers
Sun 26th	10.30am 10.30am 7.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room Evening Worship led by members

MARCH 2017

Wed 1st	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Thurs 2nd	10.00am 2.30pm	Toddlers First Thursday: "On Being Green" with Myra Jones
Sun 5th	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion Led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 71 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for February and the first Sunday in March. In a sense it's a journey from one epiphany to another; epiphany - a manifestation, a showing, from one affirmation of Jesus by God to another. We move from Jesus' baptism by John to his transfiguration on the mountaintop, the voice of God being heard on both occasions. Matthew again showing how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies.

And in between, Jesus is training up his disciples. To be a disciple of Jesus is to accept his discipline. Jesus affirms the Jewish Law but teaches his disciples to apply it in their dealings with everyone. True love is unconditional and self-giving, seeking nothing in return. The standard to which human love should aspire is nothing less than the perfection of God (Mt 5:48). That's the standard we're called to; thank God for his grace.

The accompanying readings remind us, week by week, that God wants to bless the world through people of faith, and how central his teachings, his grace and his fatherly love are for us to live as those people of faith.

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.

Feb	OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
5th	Isaiah 58:1-12	112:1-9	Matthew 5:13-20	1 Corinthians 2:1-16
12th	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	119:1-8	Matthew 5:21-37	1 Corinthians 3:1-9
19th	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18	119:33-40	Matthew 5:38-48	1 Cor 3:10-11, 16-23
26th	Exodus 24:12-18	2 (or maybe 99)	Matthew 17:1-9	2 Peter 1:16-21
Mar				
5th	Genesis 2:15-17	32	Matthew 4:1-11	Romans 5:12-19

Secretary's Notes by Andrew Hayden



Happy New Year! Christmas may be but a distant memory now, but I'd like to thank all those who contributed to the various services and events over the festive period. It was lovely to see so many young people engaged in those services and, especially, "Christmas Through the Keyhole".

Also thanks to Helena and her team for organising and running such a splendid tea on January 22nd. The "buzz" in the Conference Room as people chatted was testament to the spirit of sharing which was the aim of the event, and I look forward to meeting more members of the Bristol Korean Church at future teas.

Finally, a reminder that the dates of the next two Church Meetings have been moved to the following dates:

– March 26th

– May 28th

Subsequent meetings will be on their usual dates.

Wishing you all God's blessings.

Andrew

Deadline for contributions for the
February Recorder is 26th February.

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