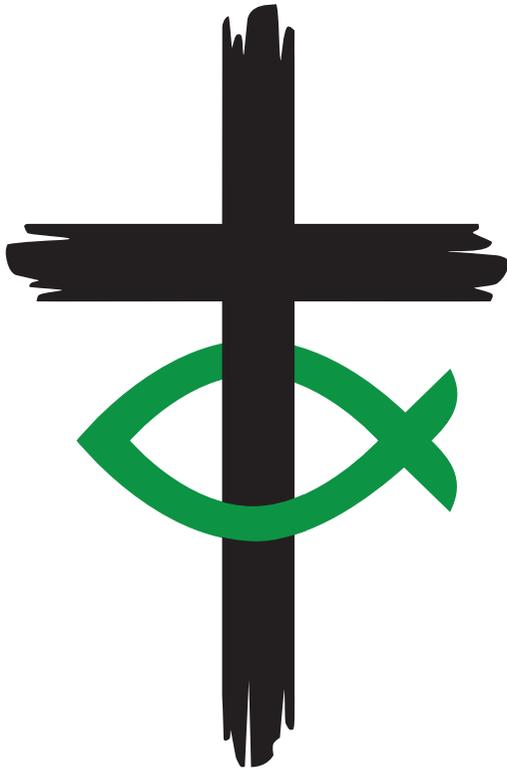


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The Recorder

July/August '17

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick | July / August Diary

Preachers for July 11am services

| | |
|------|---|
| 2nd | Paul Harrod from Christian Aid |
| 9th | Angus Gregson (will include Communion) |
| 16th | John Waines |
| 23rd | Rev. Douglas Burnett |
| 30th | NO SERVICE (see Dates for your Diary below) |

Preachers for August 11am services

| | |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| 6th | Frank Wood |
| 13th | Les Fry and Friends |
| 20th | John Waines (will include Communion) |
| 27th | Barb Kirby |

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 6th July, 7:30pm Church Meeting. All are welcome

Sunday 30th July – There will be NO service at New Brunswick as we will be joining with our friends at Bethany to say goodbye to Rev Ian Thornley and his wife Irene. After many years in Southmead Ian is retiring and along with his wife moving to Kidderminster. This will be Ian's last Sunday preaching. The service will be followed by lunch when there will be an opportunity to say our own personal farewells. We have shared many services together over the years and the church meeting felt it would be apt to close our morning worship on this occasion.

Thursday 7th September, 7:30pm will be a church meeting.

Saturday 9th September, 3-6pm there will be a Quiz and Cream Tea. Cost £5 in aid of church funds.

As we enter the Holiday Season we wish all those going on holiday a safe journey and a time of relaxation and refreshment. For those staying at home we pray they too will be able to relax a little, perhaps in their gardens or at some to the lovely places we have in our own city but take very much for granted.

We continue to remember all those who are not as well as they wish. We continue to think of David Fudge, Anita Hinder and Ivy Pickett, Praying that each will receive from God as their needs require. Healing, patience and acceptance of their situations.

At this time we also uphold to God all those who have suffered in any way from the awful events of the past few weeks. Thinking of those involved on terrorist attacks and all who have lost everything in the Grenfell Tower Block Fire. The loss of near and dear ones, those still waiting news of loved ones. Those who have lost everything and only have what they stand up in.

We pray, too for all those in the emergency services who have worked tirelessly in all these situations. Those who have been ready risk their own lives for the sake of others.

Remembering, too all the 'ordinary' people who have tried to help in some way to ease others suffering. May God sustain them all at this time

Dear friends,

The past few weeks have seen various terror attacks in this country, and also the horrific tragedy of Grenfell Tower in London. At some point in any such event beyond the impact of the shock and horror of such loss of life there is also anger.

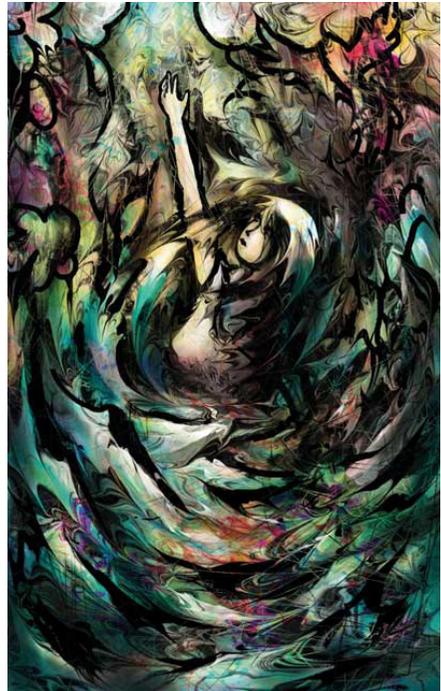
Such anger can be expressed in various directions. There is the anger against those who perpetrated the acts, but not far from that there can also be anger against God. There can be the sense of "If God is a God of love, then why do the innocent suffer?" This is a question that is as old as time. Psalm 73 is very much a meditation on this very problem and it is worth reading. It reminds us that not all worship songs simply celebrate the good things in life.

Bear in mind that the psalms were used in the Jerusalem temple on a daily basis. They were there to give vent to what you truly felt. Psalm 73 doesn't pull its punches. It is the experience of someone who has been faithful but who has also experienced loss and the harshness of life. Yet gradually this psalm writer works through his feelings of pain and anguish to a deeper and profound spirituality.

In essence it is what also happens in the Book of Job. Job has to endure the most horrendous of losses and deprivations, but gradually comes to realise that he is still held in the embrace of God.

The Bible never actually explains why there is suffering. It simply offers the truth and insight that with God that there is more than suffering. That is very much the message of the cross and resurrection, and that is where we find hope.

The presence of faith communities alongside those who suffered loss in each of the terror attack and Grenfell Tower tragedy are living and witnessing to this key element of faith. The Roots material that we use in Junior Church offer this image which says much the same. In many ways such a picture can speak a thousand words:



Redland Park People



Best wishes to **Dr Alison Hooper** who is retiring from the academic staff of the University of the West of England at the end of June; bon voyage to her too, as she goes back to Australia for her son Richard's wedding so we send our congratulations to **Richard and Danielle**.

We also wish bon voyage to **Les Brentley** who is about to go to Zambia to carry out voluntary work there, for which she has been fund-raising for tree planting. We wish her well.

Congratulations to **Kobby Edwards** who is about to graduate from London Metropolitan University with a degree in Criminal Law, and is now working as a Paralegal. Congratulations also to **Junior Edwards** who is working for the BBC in his placement year from Oxford Brookes University. We hope they both enjoy their new work.

Norman Crick continues to be cared for at home and we send God's blessings and best wishes to him.

Please pray for **Ernest Gudgeon** whose son, **Andrew**, is currently undergoing treatment for a brain tumour and continuing issues. We wish God's blessings on his health.

Voices, the magazine for the United Hospitals Bristol community, shows Florence Manyika, who was elected Nurse/Midwife of the Year by the University Hospitals, with her certificate. Well done, Florence.

Thank you to all who took part in the prayer vigil for those affected by the fire in Grenfell House in London. The church was open for prayer and meditation on Friday 16 June and staffed by a rota of volunteers. There was also a book of condolence available for those who wished to record their 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.



Prayer page:



Gracious God, you call us and empower us:
to bring good news
to bind wounds
to proclaim liberty
to call for jubilee
to comfort
and restore.

Forgive us when we have allowed anxiety to dull our imagination,
open our eyes to the possibilities that surround us,
stir our hearts that we are excited again at being called people of God,
help us to catch the rhythm of your life and let it live in us.
We are yours and we will be steadfast and sure.
Amen.

Please pray for:

The victims of the Grenfell Tower fire –those who died, the injured and those who lost everything.

Fire, police and ambulance personnel, nurses and doctors, who have to respond to emergency situations.

Those killed or injured in acts of terrorism.

The government and local councils, who have to make difficult decisions.

The victims of the landslide in China.

Myra after the death of her sister, Megan.

Ernest's son, Andrew, who has undergone surgery.

All who suffer from the loss of a loved one, a home, independence, mobility.

The lonely and unloved.

Those in physical or psychological pain.

Give thanks for times of leisure, holidays, friendships, families.

God, we believe that you hold all people in your everlasting arms. Be near to all for whom we offer these prayers. Amen.

ZIMBABWE

Christian Aid's programme in Zimbabwe has faced many challenges over the last year or so. The political, economic and environmental situation has created an extremely difficult set of circumstances for our partners to carry out their work. That said, through sensitively building constructive relationships at the local government and authority level, Christian Aid has been able to continue implementing its programmes largely unimpeded.

Christian Aid's programme has continued to focus on profitable, resilient, drought resistant agriculture, conflict transformation and peace building, and the strengthening of citizens to build capable states. Projects include those focusing on market development, extractives, tax and responsive budgeting accountability, and transparency. The programme has been designed to dovetail with Zimbabwe's national economic development strategy to support the restoration of economic stability and growth. As such, it strikes a balance between responding to the needs of the poor and seeking transformative change through being rooted in policy and advocacy.

Political outlook

Zimbabwe remains politically volatile, particularly as the country approaches general elections in early 2018. Internal conflicts amongst potential opposition parties abound, meaning, yet again there is virtually no meaningful opposition to Robert Mugabe's ongoing, tyrannical regime.

Outside politics however, a new wave of political activism consisting of individuals, churches and spontaneous social movements has emerged as an alternative force to the malaise of political opposition.

During the second half of 2016, these activists and movements spearheaded a wave of violent demonstrations and confrontations against the Mugabe regime. Security forces cracked down heavily in response to these demonstrations, and in late August 2016, in a direct violation of the constitution, a total ban on demonstrations was introduced

While the momentum of these movements has reduced somewhat in early 2017, there is growing concern that the government is now almost totally preventing and suppressing any alternative or opposing opinions, and as such has ordered the immediate arrests of anyone voicing opposition to the government.

A group of Commitment for Life supporters will be visiting Zimbabwe and will bring back stories and worship materials to share with churches.

Persecuted Christians Afghanistan

It is illegal for an Afghan person to be anything other than a Muslim.

Afghanistan is a tribal society, and so leaving Islam is seen as a betrayal of the tribe. Anyone who becomes a Christian and is discovered may be sent to a mental hospital, as their families believe no sane person would leave Islam. Christian Baptism is a crime punishable by death; several believers were killed in 2016 when their faith was discovered. The Taliban remains active in Afghanistan and targets those who leave Islam.

Converts will keep their faith completely secret and simply meeting in small groups can be dangerous, and the internet is closely monitored. Just the suspicion that someone may have converted can lead to their arrest or the destruction of their home or business.

Please Pray...

For courage and protection for secret Afghan believers

For change to take place within the country, and for openness to other religions besides Islam

For stability and peace in Afghanistan.

Open Doors supports the church in Afghanistan through:

- Literacy training
- Vocational projects
- Emergency aid to victims of violent persecution
- Women's ministry
- Bible literacy
- Pastor's training
- Counselling and trauma therapy.
- www.opendoorsuk.org



Turn The Other Cheek by Derek Skelcher

(Inspired by Matthew 9: 38 - 48)

So many folk, in recent times,
Have suffered death or pain,
Arising from malignant thoughts
And actions, so profane.
But while we grief and sorrow feel,
For injured and for dead,
Our rancour must be tempered by
The words that Jesus said,
"Turn the other cheek!"

It once was said, "Your neighbour, love,
And hate your enemy!"
But as good Christians we must now
See that as blasphemy!
For Jesus said that we must pray
For those who do us ill,
And all our actions must be in
Accordance with his will!
"Turn the other cheek!"

An eye for eye, a tooth for tooth,
Is not the way to go!
And vengeance is an evil thing
That makes the violence grow!
Our goodness must be limitless,
Like God's, must have no bounds.
Whenever someone does us harm,
Then turn that harm around!
"Turn the other cheek!"

Redland Park Church Calendar

JULY 2017

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Wed 5th | 7.30pm | Elders Meeting |
| Thurs 6th | 10.00am 2.30pm | Toddlers First Thursday: Garden Party at 4 Ferndown Close |
| Sun 9th | 10.30am 10.30am 7.00pm | Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room Evening Worship led by members |
| Thurs 13th | 10.00am | Toddlers |
| Sun 16th | 10.30am 10.30am 11.45am | Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room Church Meeting |
| Thurs 20th | 10.00am | Toddlers |
| Sun 23rd | 10.30am 10.30am 7.00pm | Morning Worship led by Rev Stephen Newell Korean Worship Upper Room Evening Worship led by members |
| Thurs 27th | 10.00am | Toddlers |
| Sun 30th | 10.30am 10.30am | Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room |

AUGUST 2017

| | | |
|----------|------------------------------|---|
| Sun 6th | 10.30am 10.30am | Morning Worship with Communion Korean Worship Upper Room |
| Sun 13th | 10.30am 10.30am 7.00pm | Morning Worship led by Rev Meryl White Korean Worship Upper Room Evening Worship led by members |
| Sun 20th | 10.30am 10.30am | Morning Worship led by Rev Nick Adams Korean Worship Upper Room |
| Sun 27th | 10.30am 10.30am 7.00pm | Morning Worship Korean Worship Upper Room Evening Worship led by members |

SEPTEMBER 2017

| | | |
|---------|--------------------|--|
| Sun 3rd | 10.30am 10.30am | Morning Worship with Communion, Led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room |
|---------|--------------------|--|

First Thursday goes down Memory Lane...

“oh! We had one of those...”

“My mother used to use one like that...”

“Do you remember those...?”

“Goodness! Look at that...”

...Snippets of conversation from First Thursday's visit to **Oakham Treasures**, near Portbury, a fascinating museum of memorabilia housed in old farm buildings, therefore plenty of space, high ceilings and all under cover (not that that mattered on June 1st.)

.....

So many memories of things from our childhood; all sorts of chocolate bars - as well as Cadbury and Bournville do you remember Fry's peppermint creams ? and all the chocolates (were they real?) in a setting reminiscent of the Two Ronnies' 'Four Candles' sketch...

cod liver oil. Virol, Milk of Magnesia, Rinso, Vim, scales for weighing groceries, with a background of appropriate advertisements....

Mangles, flat irons, old fashioned vacuum cleaners and sewing machines...

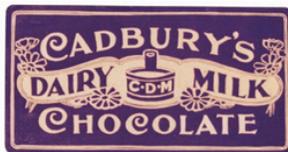
A lovely lace wedding dress (no strapless here!) with corsets like our mothers and grandmothers used to wear, poor things!...lovely hand sewn christening dresses..... saucy postcards (very non-PC!)...an impressive row of brightly painted pillar boxes, including one marked EVIIR with notice of six collections a day...

Dozens of those little china pots and jugs suitably inscribed with the name of a seaside town, shaving mugs...

Larger exhibits beautifully cared for old tractors and a couple of vintage cars...

I could go on and on, but do go and see for yourselves, as we only saw a small part of this huge collection with something for everyone of all ages. (did you really use something like that granny?!)

Audrey



Opening the Church.

Over the years we have tried various ways to open the Church during the week, but for different reasons these have petered out.

At Elders we discussed this again. As we are living through very troubled times, we felt that members of the local community might welcome an opportunity to come in to our lovely Church for a time of quiet reflection, prayers or meditation.

To be able to do this requires volunteers. We would like to arrange to have two people at a time on a rota, and probably be open for perhaps two hours over the lunch time period. Details such as the day of the week have yet to be arranged until we see if we can cover such an opening. Please let me know if you would like to be involved and which days you could do, we will avoid Monday. Myra Jones

77th Bristol Scout Troop Cake Sale

When?: Saturday 8th July at 2pm

Where?: Redland Park URC, Whiteladies Road, BS6 6SA

Supporting the scouts in adventurous activities including parascending

“Prayer Opens the door,
Thankfulness keeps it open”

Lynne Booth, Reflexologist,
attributed to author Agnes Sandford

Maxine Davies

Redland Park Church Meeting Minutes 28/5/17

PRESENT

The Minister and 25 members. Apologies for absence were received from 6 members.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

All matters arising from the previous meeting were covered in other items on the agenda.

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

In total, the Christian Aid Fair raised £628. We were the only church in the area doing house-to-house collections which, combined with the Big Brekkie (£146), the stall at the Farmers Market and other collections, a total of £1,100 was raised in addition to the Christian Aid Fair. The next Church In Society meeting, scheduled for 22nd June, would discuss the value and viability of future house-to-house collections.

The next fund-raising event would be a garden party at the Pedlars in July.

MINISTERIAL MATTERS

Dougie thanked all those who contributed to the services at Easter, and especially Les Fry for organising the Prayer Vigil. He also thanked all who helped host the Moderators and launch Teame's biography on 30th April.

Lydia Edwards had invited everyone to a celebration from 2pm on 10th June.

Further copies of Cyril Grant's book would be received in the coming week.

Dougie was pleased to advise that the application for a further five years' funding for the SCM had been submitted. He also reported that consideration was already being given to funding beyond 2023, when the funding will run out (assuming the application is successful).

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

John Neugebauer presented for adoption the annual report and accounts, which had been approved by the Finance and Property Committee and Elders, subject to a few minor changes to the narrative. The adoption was formally proposed by Malcolm Johnson, seconded by Teame Mebrahtu and passed unanimously.

In a review of 2016's finances, John reported that the year-end position showed a decent surplus thanks to good returns on investments and Cyril Grant's legacy. However, he warned that 2017 was likely to be less good due to expenditure addressing issues raised in the 5-year review.

Whilst the amounts requested for Ministry and Mission (M&M) have declined in recent years, Redland Park had frozen the amount paid and added £1,500 each year. John proposed that we did so again in 2017; this was agreed.

Expenditure for 2017 was already £3,000 more than income, so John asked all members to consider increasing their regular giving in line with any increase in their household income.

SECRETARIAL MATTERS

Following the cancellation of the Joint Synod Big Day Out on Saturday 1st July, Andrew was awaiting details of the refund arrangements.

Andrew reminded members that nominations for the forthcoming Elders election needed to be returned to him no later than Sunday 25th June.

There had been many cake sales in recent months and Andrew reported that the Elders had requested that such sales be regulated to one per week. With this in mind, he requested that all potential cake sales be cleared with him in advance.

Finally, Andrew requested that he be notified of any changes to the details printed in the Redland Park Handbook, which he would be updating in due course.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

News of members was shared.

AOB

Sally King asked that the church premises be tidied up, particularly the star wells in the side vestibules at the front of the church. Andrew Hayden agreed to co-ordinate such a clear-up.

The meeting ended with the Grace.

Next meeting: Sunday 16th July, following the morning service

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 76 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for July, August and the first Sunday in September. Matthew's gospel seems to have been written for a predominantly Jewish audience (as you read or listen to can you spot what hints at this?). Matthew isn't anti-Jewish but he does record Jesus' questioning of who actually is the real Israel, who are the true children of God.

In this long stretch of readings from Matthew we get several of Jesus parables mentioned. One of the most well known, the parable of the sower (there's a lovely retelling if it at www.max7.org/en/resource/ParableSower# - those thorns are really evil)

is an allegory - everything stands for something. But most parables aren't so we have to be careful not to try to find meaning that isn't there. Most parables are just illustrations for the one main point, and some use hyperbole - really exaggerated detail - to get the point across.

When looking at the readings for each Sunday, sometimes it's easy to spot a common theme. As I write this at the end of June we've just had three of the four readings lamenting that we sometimes get a hostile reception when trying to pass on God's message, but God support for us is constant. Expecting his audience to know their bible (Old Testament) it's sometimes easier to find those links with Matthew.

This series started ages ago when I remembered a time when I'd had to prepare a sermon in case a visiting preacher didn't make it through the snow. Thankfully, he did, but I've never felt better prepared to listen to a sermon. I'm not suggesting we go that far each week but if you do read the passages sometime in the week before Sunday worship, if they are the ones used, it might help you get a bit more from the sermon. Now that the nights are drawing in (!), what better way to spend the evening?

| July | OT | Psalm | Gospel | NT |
|------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2nd | Jeremiah 28:5-9 | 89:1-4, 15-18 | Matthew 10:40-42 | Romans 6:12-23 |
| 9th | Zechariah 9:9-12 | 145:8-14 | Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 | Romans 7:51-25a |
| 16th | Isaiah 55:10-13 | 65:1-13 | Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 | Romans 13:1-9, 18-23 |
| 23rd | Isaiah 44:6-8 | 86:11-17 | Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 | Romans 8:12-25 |
| 30th | 1 Kings 3:5-12 | 119:129-136 | Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 | Romans 8:26-39 |
| Aug | | | | |
| 6th | Isaiah 55:1-5 | 145:8-9, 14-21 | Matthew 14:13-21 | Romans 9:1-5 |
| 13th | 1 Kings 19:9-18 | 85: 8-13 | Matthew 14:22-33 | Romans 10:5-15 |
| 20th | Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 | 67 | Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28 | Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 |
| 27th | Isaiah 51:1-6 | 138 | Matthew 16:13-20 | Romans 12:1-8 |
| Sep | | | | |
| 3rd | Jeremiah 15:15-21 | 26:1-8 | Matthew 16:21-28 | Romans 12:9-21 |

Secretary's Notes by Andrew Hayden



I would like to draw your attention to two dates in July. Firstly, on Saturday 15th July at 2:30pm, I'm organising a working party to tidy up the church premises. I'd welcome all offers of assistance – the more volunteers there are, the less there will be for each person to do!

Secondly, Richard and Jane Pedlar have kindly invited everyone to their house for a garden party from 3pm on Saturday 29th July to raise money for our chosen charities. If you would like to go, please contact Jane Pedlar or Carol Fry.

Finally, if you know of any errors or omissions in the Redland Park Handbook, please let me know.

Wishing you all God's blessings.

Andrew

A note from a satisfied customer...

who bought a pad and envelopes from the White Elephant stall, and then used them to write a note to us:

To the Christian Aid representative (in fact ALL of them),

Just to say how much I admire your standing up, literally (!) for Christian Aid - and what a good cause it is. Also, for not over-charging, thus giving the charity a bad name.

Hope you have a very successful day - in every sense. Good to meet you.

Sandra Lloyd

Finally, did you know...

One in six young people are Christians, many converting after visiting Church buildings.

14% rise in number of people applying for ordination

More Americans now work in the Solar industry than in coal, oil or gas.*

The UK had it's first coal free day for energy generation in April this year.*

Myra

Deadline for contributions for the September Recorder (due 10.11.17) is 27th August.

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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