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The Recorder

July / August '20

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick Update

Well here we are again with another issue of the Recorder as this is a double issue let us hope that by the time we get to the September edition that we may be at least making plans to meet together in church. We will just have to see what guidance we receive on gatherings of more than just one or two. So very much still a case of 'watch this space'

During the past weeks I have had phone calls from some of our dear friends who come and lead worship for us. Brenda Munden was due to be with later in July and is sorry that, at the moment, this is not able to happen. She sends warm greetings to us all and hopes that we can worship together soon.

I have heard from Trevor Ranger who also sends best wishes to everyone and thanks us for our continued support of his work with 'Synergy Trust'. He, too, looks forward to being with us when circumstances allow.

Delwyn Tilke should have been with us both in June and July but again of course this won't happen. However, in faith, we have pencilled in some dates from September onwards.

These may be confirmed in the next Recorder.

I have continued to keep in touch with most of you over the last month and so I can share news of the following folk. Ivy has had to have another operation on the area around her eye. We send her our love and best wishes for a speedy recovery and ask God to lay His healing hands on her.

Our friends from Henbury are all keeping in good spirits. Kate is 'keeping in touch' with Mary. Ruth and Peter. Like us all, they are missing, not sharing together and hope we can return to 'normal' soon.

I have been talking to Wenda who is keeping well but is worried that, at the moment, she is unable to visit her daughter Susan. Please remember her in your prayers asking God to give her Peace of mind in these difficult times.

Margaret sends good wishes to all, as do Becky, Julie and Elaine.

During the next couple of months many of you will be celebrating birthdays and Anniversaries but will not be able to celebrate as you would have hoped but we hope you all have a day to remember, and that God will bless you on your Special Day.

We would have been having a Celebration/ Reunion for our Girls' Brigade Company as in June our Company was 70 years old!! So I think like a lot of landmark events we will be holding something in 2021.

Ordinarily at this time of year in the Recorder I would be wishing those of you going away on holiday a happy time of rest and relaxation. But, again, these have been put on hold. But I hope that in the coming weeks you will be able to just 'Be Still' and rest, so that God can recharge your batteries in readiness for the work He has for us to do when we are able to get back to something like 'normal', hopefully in the Autumn.

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

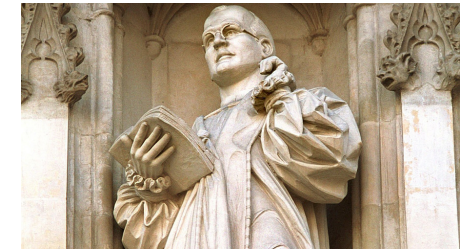
Incredibly it was away back in 2006 when Redland Park participated in the music production of Cargo, which was staged at the Passenger Shed down by Temple Meads. It had been written by singer/songwriter Paul Field. Cargo celebrated the abolition of the slave trade some 200 years before and also dealt the current issues of slavery in the form of human trafficking. The following year we participated in the first ever Unchosen Film Festival. That also addressed the issues of racism and human trafficking. The Unchosen Film Festival series for over a decade after that.

Amidst of the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic, during the weeks of June we have also find ourselves caught up here in Bristol with the Black Lives Matter protests. Those reached a particular climax with the toppling of Edward Colston's statue and that being thrown into the harbour. Those images flashed around the world, with other statues also being damaged and defaced. Questions have been asked about whether we need statues and what statues should represent.

It's a good point, and maybe one that many of us had not particularly thought about before.

Christianity has long celebrated statues and art in a way that Islam never has. That is because we take out cue from the notion of God being incarnate in Jesus Christ. We have Christian art in many of our homes and we all "know" that Jesus looked like from the earliest paintings from the Christian era. We are visual beings and maybe such representation helps us to conceive the inconceivable in a way that words, by themselves, never can. But what do we see when we create such art? Is it just a reflection of ourselves, or something more? I say that thinking of the various representations that I have seen of Jesus wherein he rather white and also rather blond. Maybe not the most accurate depiction of a Jew from the Middle East!

But would be express through a statue? One of my favourite "collection" of statues is that on the front of Westminster Abbey. It is something of the communion of saints. One of those saints is this one:



This is Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor who opposed the Nazis, and who was executed by the Nazis just before the end of the war. What he represents are those enduring values that come from Christ, and which help form the world in a better place. Many of those whose statues are also on the front elevation of the abbey are there because God's light shone through them. Bonhoeffer's statue is alongside 10 Modern Martyrs. Created in 1998, they are drawn from around the world, of many different races and are both male and female. If you can follow this link do read about their stories:

<https://www.westminster-abbey.org/about-the-abbey/history/modern-martyrs>

So, who might you nominate, and why?

In the meantime there is always our living witness. And, for me, one of the living monuments to better world is the hymn Amazing Grace, written by former slave John Newton. Words and living witness are also very powerful

Dougie

Dougie



Lewis Manyika is recovering from his health problems but this is a long, slow process; please keep him in your prayers, as well as Florence.

Sheila Smart is unable to log into our zoom services but is kept up-to-date with the Recorder and sends love to everyone. It has been good to have **Margaret Prigg** log into the services recently, helped by her daughter Catherine; she also has the Recorder delivered.

It is wonderful that people from around Bristol and around the world are attending our online services - notably **Beth Penrose** in Tasmania, **Kate Lincoln** in New Zealand, **Aileen Burnett** (Dougie's sister) has been spotted from Scotland and **Kate Fry** in Edinburgh.

Anne Hall has attended our zoom services recently and she is a member of Penwortham URC, Preston. Les Fry (whose family church is Kingsfold Methodist Church, Penwortham, Preston) and Carol Fry sent a Redland Park card to her (addressed to the church) which was published in the church magazine 'Contact' noting that this is a reminder of the welcome and friendship of the

Christian Church, however we get together. A lovely card was sent by Anne to the Frys, and a copy of this Recorder will be sent to her for Penwortham URC, with the good wishes of Redland Park.

We also pray for Bennett and his family, as he recovers from brain surgery, and for Harriett and her family after a terminal diagnosis.

Everyone needs to be aware that, whether people are living alone or with others, being in a lockdown situation can be very difficult; please look after your mental health as well as your physical health. There are help lines available for those who need them, and please also call on the Christian love and support of the Redland Park congregation.

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.

Prayer page:

O Risen Christ, you go down to the lowest depths of our human condition,
And you burden yourself with what burdens us.
And even when within us we can hear no refrain of your presence,
You are there,
Through your Holy Spirit you remain with us.

Breath of Christ's loving, Holy Spirit,
Within each person you sow faith,
Faith which can only be a very simple trust,
So simple that everyone can receive it.

Known or unknown, in our darkness
You kindle a fire
Which never dies away.
Amen



Please pray for:

- Toby, whose mother died recently.
- Debbie from Tyndale, whose son Adam is terminally ill and she cannot be with him.
- Bennett and his family.
- Enid who is undergoing treatment for leukaemia.
- Lewis Manyika.
- All who are campaigning to stamp out racism in our society.
- People who are discriminated against because of their colour or religion.
- All who have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic
- The anxious and depressed.
- All key workers who have worked throughout the pandemic.
- The victims of the Reading stabbings and their families.

Loving God, your people cry out to you in their suffering. Hear their cries and support them in your everlasting arms.

Amen

Any Gain From The Coronavirus Pain?

After almost three months of lockdown many residents in my part of Bristol still feel the burden of increased isolation, loneliness and uncertainty about why and how the coronavirus began and when it will end. There was also the added fear that this invisible virus elevated itself into a pandemic by invading countries that identified themselves as “developed” or “developing”, rich or poor, and “democratic or dictatorship”. What is more, the pandemic made no distinctions between peoples of different religions, colours, status and /or gender.

I am of the opinion that a catastrophe of this magnitude is bound to contain some positive or negative lessons that need to be examined. Below are some of the outwardly positive signals that I personally observed in my neighbourhood:

1. Many persons, perhaps more than I anticipated became more mindful and supportive to their elderly neighbours especially those without families and friends.
2. Our area has become less noisy and many of us agreed that the air in our streets was cleaner than what it used to be.
3. During the lockdown more parents spent more quality time with their families.
4. There is a noticeable increase in the use of digitalisation in my area of Bristol as well as through out the country (e.g. zoom church service and virtual parliament)
5. Some neighbours claimed that solitude helped them to face themselves, to become more contemplative and even listen to the word of God more frequently.
6. The coronavirus has highlighted to us how precious and precarious life is. The “normal life” that many of us often, took for granted.
7. The pandemic has also shown us how to keep calm or stay grounded in a positive frame of mind when faced with adversity or when our faiths are tested.
8. Inequality in income and opportunity, we have learnt from the corona pandemic, is a serious problem that needs to be addressed by all nations, sooner than later.
9. In a globalised world like ours, human lives are so intertwined that no nation can afford to be or remain an island unto itself. Human beings are more interdependent, than independent. We are all inherently connected to the rest of Humanity. This belonging to a Community gives us purpose and meaning to life. As S. Chalke (2015) cogently put it.. “we are diminished and dehumanised by our disconnection from one another”.
10. The answer to the question in our title is definitely positive. Although, our exposure to the pandemic is excruciatingly painful, there surely are gains, if we care to learn lessons from the experience. One example is that life is not about “me”, but about “we” or Humanity. Another is that the pandemic has made us open our hearts and minds to reconnect with our true human nature which is about “doing less” by “being more”.

Teame Mebrahtu 25th May 2020.

Redland Park Church Calendar

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

All other events have been cancelled or postponed until further notice, including First Thursday.

Dates for July 2020

Sun 5th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship
Sun 12th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 19th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship
Sun 26th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Helena McKinnon
	10.30am	Korean Worship
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members

Dates for August 2020

Sun 2nd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship
Sun 9th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Les Fry and Allan Lafferty
	10.30am	Korean Worship
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 16th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Les Fry and Allan Lafferty
	10.30am	Korean Worship
Sun 23rd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by the Elders
	10.30am	Korean Worship
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 30th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Stephen Newell
	10.30am	Korean Worship

Dates for September 2020

Wed 2nd	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 6th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship

Ernest Gudgeon – *A tribute*

It was with sadness that we lost Ernest towards the end of March. As we know Ernest had been in poor health for some time, but his resilience had been remarkable and he was still with us in church into the beginning of March. Without doubt Ernest was one of Redland Park's larger-than-life characters. When we had his funeral at Canford during lockdown, with a just immediate family present, his son Mike said the following:

"Dad liked to be involved, if not in charge, of whatever it was he was doing. Wherever we lived he was always at least a Church Elder, and he would quickly be on the Committee of every club and society he was a member of, normally rising up to be Chairman or President.

There was more than a little Captain Mainwaring about him but it was always with the very best of intentions – he genuinely wanted to do his best and give what he could for the well-being of every organisation he was involved in. From the sheer number of messages that have come in from the members of Redland Park, Portishead Snooker Club, Portishead Porters, the Bank Pensioners and other organisations there can be absolutely no doubt that his contributions were extremely welcome and valued."

That resonates so well with the Ernest that we knew and loved. He was the staunchest of church members, and always in church. He served as an elder. He was part of the Redland Park choir, and also Unity when it ran. He served with the Synod Trust, bringing to that all his experience from his professional career which had started away back in Yorkshire and growing up around Saltaire Congregational Church. He always read the church accounts and had a keen eye for detail. If he asked a question in the church meeting, you knew that you had to be on your toes to answer!

There is a that cliché of "We will not see his like again" that can be used around funerals. But somehow with Ernest it is so true. A true Yorkshire born-and-bread disciple!

Dougie

Anne Moody – *A tribute*

We also lost Anne during the time of lockdown. Anne had been increasingly frail over the past few years, and her health had declined more recently. She had moved out of her flat on Redland Park and into a care home in Cotham. And from there to a local hospital. But she had been part of Redland Park for quite some decades. Anne had been one of the "communion fairies": those who helped prepare the elements for communion.

Hers was a quiet ministry. She always sat near the back of the church, and was faithful in her attendance at worship. She also helped out by handing over the church keys to lets who came to use the church rooms. She had grown up in Wiltshire and worked for a time in Holland. But she then worked in administration of the Bristol University chemistry department. She retired from there. She loved walking and was often out and about doing that. She had a lovely, gentle smile and was much loved by those who knew her. We give thanks to God for her life.

Foodbanks given thousands of easter eggs

(from Reform, the URC national magazine)

Thousands of 'Real Easter Eggs' (chocolate eggs from Traidcraft accompanied by a booklet about the Christian significance of Easter) were donated to foodbanks through an online scheme run by the Meaningful Chocolate Company. "Usually a couple of hundred eggs are donated in total, but this year we have been overwhelmed – a record breaking 3,000 eggs have been donated," said the company's CEO.

The eight eggs left on the Traidcraft stall at Redland Park when lockdown occurred were also donated to the foodbank in Bristol.

PRESENT

The Minister and 31 members were present. Apologies for absence had been received from 8 members.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

Myra Jones reported that the Prayer Circle was up and running with 10 subscribers. Anyone wishing to submit a prayer request or join the Prayer Circle should contact Myra.

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Carol Fry reported that Christian Aid quiz had been won by Angus Gregson and had raised £660. In addition, John and Anne Neugebauer had held a sale outside their house for Christian Aid, while Myra Jones had plants available with voluntary donations also going to Christian Aid. It was confirmed that collections for Christian Aid could only be carried out in the designated week.

Myra reminded the meeting that food banks were very busy and needed donations of food or money.

Myra also reported that Christian Aid's Campaign for Climate Justice was trying to hit the developing countries most badly hit by climate change and the global pandemic. The CA website included a petition and Prayer Chain, details of which would be circulated to the congregation via The Piccolo.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

John Neugebauer confirmed that, in 2019, £5,600 had been sent by the church to various charities, £1,143 of which had gone to Christian Aid.

He then submitted the 2019 Annual Report and Accounts, circulated in advance of the meeting, for approval. The motion was proposed by Malcolm Johnson, seconded by Sally King and unanimously approved.

John had also prepared a report to members, circulated in advance, outlining the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on the church's finance position. It showed that no fundraising had been possible for the new audio system, reserves had shrunk by around 30%, and considerable lettings income had been lost, perhaps as much as £40,000 for the year. In response, only essential maintenance work would be carried out during the rest of this year, and Gift Aid of around £11,000 had been claimed early to alleviate cashflow. However, he was still anticipating a considerable shortfall in the church's finances for 2020 and asked members to respond by increasing regular giving, doing so by standing order, making one-off donations, fundraising, setting aside £1 per day and offering interest-free loans to the church. He confirmed that the cost of the recent organ refurbishment had met exclusively by one-off donations rather than from regular income.

He asked the meeting to approve and adopt the report and, in doing so, asked each member to personally commit to taking one or more of the suggested actions to help the church's finances, as their individual circumstances allowed.

Each person was invited to send their commitment to John, in confidence, by 31st May. This was proposed by Andrew Hayden, seconded by Matthew Sims, and approved unanimously. It was agreed that the report should be sent to all members and adherents.

John also brought a motion to allow the church to accept voluntary, interest-free loans from members which was proposed by Viv Hayden, seconded by Andy Grand and carried nem con.

Dougie thanked John for the immense amount of work he had put into preparing the report.

Dougie thanked Terry and Sally King, Derek Jones and Tony Milligan for their excellent work in arranging the installation of the new audio system, and made a small presentation to each of them.

MINISTERIAL MATTERS

Dougie thanked the "Top Tech Team", Andy Grand, Ben Atkins, Derek Jones and Andrew Hayden, for their work in moving many of the church's activities online in such a short space of time since the start of the Covid-19 lockdown.

He reported that, for Pentecost Sunday, a "virtual choir" would be formed to sing a song called "The Power of Love", with individual recordings being edited together by Rev. Bohyun Kim. Full details would be issued in the coming days and everyone was invited to participate. It was also hoped that Pentecost Sunday would feature a craft-making exercise.

Progress towards a partnership with the Seoul Presbytery of the Church of Korea had been hampered by the global pandemic and the intended visit of

SPCK members in the summer was in considerable doubt as a result. However, it was hoped that Dougie and Bohyun could meet with Rev. Ruth Whitehead, Moderator of the South West Synod, via video conference in the near future.

WALKING THE WAY

Planned activities were on hold due to Covid-19, with the intended visit to Barton Camp in July looking unlikely. It was hoped that the steering group would meet in the coming days, and Teame committed to preparing a two-page briefing note by 7th June.

SECRETARIAL MATTERS

Andrew Hayden reported that he was gathering a group to look into re-opening the church premises, which would only happen once approval had been granted by the UK government and URC.

Following the issue of the Synod's paper on safeguarding, Jane Rogers reminded the meeting to be vigilant for signs of abuse, particularly in vulnerable adults. Any concerns could be raised, in confidence, to her or Les Brentley in their capacities as Safeguarding Officer and Deputy Safeguarding officer.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

News of member was shared, including the deaths of Anne Moody and Ernest Gudgeon since the last Church Meeting.

A.O.B.

None.

The meeting closed by sharing the Grace.

Next meeting will be held on Sunday 19th July at 11.45am (subject to confirmation) day 17th May at 11.45am

Threatened Annexation

Israel has threatened to annex of large portions of the Jordan. This move has challenged the international consensus for a two-state solution. It will also render UN Resolution 2334 – which affirms the illegality of settlements and calls for differentiation between them and Israel – meaningless.

William Bell, Christian Aid's head of Middle East has called on Boris Johnson to respond. Bell calls on the government to end all trade with illegal Israeli settlements. The UK must demonstrate unequivocally that it considers these settlements, and any further annexations, unlawful and contrary to peace.

The United Reformed Church (URC) has a long history of informed interest in and practical partnership with Christian people and projects in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The Mission Committee is deeply concerned by the proposals of annexation, and has strongly endorsed the Early Day Motion (#464) tabled on 11 May 2020, which was signed by 79 MP's (at the time of writing) drawn from all political parties. This motion states:

That this House notes with concern the plans of the new Israeli coalition government to annex part of the occupied West Bank [and highlights that any such annexation of territory occupied in 1967 is a breach of international law which rejects any acquisition of territory through force and that it would be a major threat to peace; notes that when Russia illegally annexed the Crimea in 2014, the UK joined EU partners in imposing sanctions on that country; calls on the Government to make clear to the Israeli Government that such a step will have severe consequences for the UK-Israel relationship; and further calls on the Government to introduce sanctions similar to those imposed on Russia in the event that an annexation of occupied territory takes place.

The early day motion can be found here:

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/56954/proposed-israeli-annexation-of-part-of-the-west-bank>

Commitment for Life is calling on everyone in the United Reformed Church to write to their MP, asking them to support Early Day Motion #464.

Please make contact, whether you MP has signed up yet or not. Each letter – in the mind of your MP – is multiplied many times! We are determined to show solidarity with all those suffering injustices in the Holy Land.

You can use this handy website to find, and write to, your MP. Put in your postcode, and scroll down to 'MP.'

<https://www.writetothem.com>



Picture by Kevin Snyman in Sept 2019

This barrier was placed illegally by the Israeli Defence Force. Angela (right) explains to the URC group that its purpose is to push the local Bedouins off their land

Mining destroys Communities and Eco-Systems

We don't often think about how terribly destructive mining practices can be, not only for the environment, but also for local communities. In their rush to make revenues, governments often overlook these considerations.

Mining is big business in Zimbabwe, with mineral exports responsible for 60% of the country's export earnings, and 16% of national GDP. The government has outlined ambitious plans to quadruple the sector's total value to \$12bn by 2023, particularly focussed on platinum extraction.

However, the country's lax licensing laws permit foreign companies to own 100% of a mine licence for any commodity, save platinum and diamonds, in perpetuity.

Mining also severely impacts on indigenous communities and eco systems. Strip mining is particularly destructive. Coal fires can burn for decades, releasing fly ash, toxic chemical and greenhouse gases, such as methane. Coal dust inhalation causes black lung disease among miners and those living nearby.

Mine accidents kill thousands every year. Cardiopulmonary disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, hypertension, lung disease, and kidney disease have been found in higher-than-normal rates among residents who live near coal mines.

Toxic levels of arsenic, fluorine, mercury, and selenium are emitted by coal fires, entering the air and the food chain of those living nearby.

Christian Aid in Zimbabwe focusses on creating space for citizen and civil society participation in the mining sector through facilitating the Zimbabwe Alternative Mining Indaba (ZAMI).

This platform was used to advocate for the adoption of a declaration with specific recommendations, which have been presented to the government for adoption in the amendment of the Mines and Minerals Bill.

The programme increased participation of women and men in mining communities in monitoring the environmental impact of mining companies.

Your Support for Zimbabwe through *Commitment for Life* helps empower these communities to stand up to exploitation and abuse by the mining sector. Thank you for your support. Pic: Nicholas leClercq Unsplash



Keeping up with the vicar Pt 106 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for July, August and the first Sunday in September. One of the things I like most about what's called "Ordinary time" in the church year - mostly the period between Ascension and Advent - is that you get a long sequential run at a gospel so you can see how the story develops. This year we also get 3½ months of the letter to the Romans, by the end of which we might have a better handle of how Paul builds up his argument.

The section of Matthew's gospel has a string of parables. We've heard them lots of times, which can be a problem. Try to listen to them as if you're hearing them for the first time - what are they leading us to? I mentioned this several years ago - if you want a graphic retelling of one of the most well known of them, try watching it at www.max7.org/en/resource/ParableSower# - the weeds are truly evil.

And an encouraging thing for us in this rather uncertain year is that again and again in these gospel passages there is a strong message of hope that we can all hold to.

There is the hope that the youngest can make a significant difference, both in understanding the gospel message (July 5th 's reading) and in putting it into action (August 2nd). [And here's your "How well do you know your bible" quiz question: the miracle recounted in Aug 2nd's reading appears in all four gospels. How many of them mention the boy?]

There's hope for each of us individually for when we set off to answer Christ's call but then begin to falter (August 9th).

And there's hope for us all together as a church. At the 7 o'clock service at the end of June we looked at what should be at the heart of a christian organisation - the church - us. There's a huge marker in Peter's response in August 23rd's reading.

And if even those don't bolster your hope enough, there's that glorious affirmation at the end of the Romans reading on July 26th.

The idea was that you read these passages ahead of worship on a Sunday to give yourself time to think on them and maybe get a bit more from the sermon. Actually it's just worth reading them anyway.

June	(not the) OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
5th	Zechariah 9:9-12	145:8-14	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Romans 7:51-25a
12th	Isaiah 55:10-13	65:1-13	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Romans 13:1-9, 18-23
19th	Isaiah 44:6-8	86:11-17	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Romans 8:12-25
26th	1 Kings 3:5-12	119:129-136	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Romans 8:26-39
Aug				
2nd	Isaiah 55:1-5	145:8-9, 14-21	Matthew 14:13-21	Romans 9:1-5
9th	1 Kings 19:9-18	85: 8-13	Matthew 14:22-33	Romans 10:5-15
16th	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	67	Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
23rd	Isaiah 51:1-6	138	Matthew 16:13-20	Romans 12:1-8
30th	Jeremiah 15:15-21	26:1-8	Matthew 16:21-28	Romans 12:9-21
Sep				
6th	Ezekiel 33:7-11	119:33-40	Matthew 18:15-20	Romans 13:8-14

CHRISTIAN AID

Dear Redland Park Church,

Many thanks for your kind and generous donation of £660 towards the work of Christian Aid (made up from donations and a quiz). Your gift will help support our work in 40 of the world's poorest countries.

One of these countries is Bangladesh, where we have been able to help Taslima, a 16-year old girl living in a refugee camp. Taslima and her family fled the violence in Myanmar over a year ago, but the camp where they live is very crowded and was not always safe. The lack of lighting at night made it dangerous for girls and women at night to even venture out to use the toilet, meaning many suffered health problems as they avoided going during darkness.

With your support, Christian Aid has helped install over 300 solar lamps in Taslima's camp, so Taslima, her sisters, and all the women there can use the toilets safely at any time of day or night. Our partners in Bangladesh have also worked with local partners to establish women-friendly spaces, where girls and women can meet, talk, and share their experiences.

Christian Aid believes in strengthening people to find their own solutions to the problems they face. We do whatever is needed to support poor people and their communities, whether it's speaking out against the causes of poverty or funding vital work on the ground. The generosity of our supporters means we are currently able to support over 600 partner organisations around the world as they work towards ending the injustice of poverty.

Once again that you so much for your continued support of our work and for the poorest communities on earth. With your continued help, we can make a difference.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Souter

Financial Processing Assistant.

Deadline for contributions for the
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