

ESTD 1901

The Recorder

June '19

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick | June Diary

Preachers for **June** 11am services

2nd Delwyn Tilke

9th Angus Gregson (Will include Communion)

16th Rev. Ruth Browning

23rd Helena Mckinnon

30th Angus Gregson

Preachers for **July** 11am services

7th Wendy Mcgee

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 7th June . Quiz at Horfield URC. commencing at 7pm. Entrance fee will include a Fish and Chip Supper.

Thursday 13th June at 7.30pm Church meeting.

Friday 14th and Saturday 15th June there is a play at Horfield URC at 7.30pm admission £8.

Friday 28th June at 7pm will be the next 'Southmead' Quiz. Admission £3 pp. Nibbles and free tea and coffee. Or bring your own.

Saturday 6th July. Southmead Festival will be held at the Greenway Centre.

Sunday 7th July at 6.30 will be the next Joint Southmead Churches service. This will be hosted by St Stephens.

The month of May has been a very sad month for us at New Brunswick as we heard of the passing of two of our very good friends. Firstly on Tuesday 21st **Jeff Whitchurch** passed away peacefully at home. We understand that Jeff's funeral will be held at Canford Crematorium on 20th June at midday. Then on Wednesday 22nd **Jim Hayes** also passed away peacefully at home. At the time of writing we have no information for Jim's funeral. We want to assure both of these families of our love, support and prayers. Asking that God give them all His Peace, Comfort and Strength at this very sad time.

Carol Hawker and family remain in our prayers as they come to terms with the passing of Brian. We pray especially for his wife **Yvonne** and family who are finding things difficult at this time. We pray that God will give them the His strength to face each day without their loved one.

At the end of May we had an opportunity to give thanks for the Life and Friendship of **Rev Mary Piggott**. Again we continue to uphold Mary's family to God praying they know His presence at this time of sadness.

There are others who need our prayers at this time, thinking of **Ella Bryant** who has had two spells in hospital. We pray for God's healing hand upon her. We continue to remember Jen as she makes decisions about her future. **Dave Fudge** is also in our prayers as he waits news on relocating to another part of Bristol.

There are others who are known to us who are undergoing treatment for Breast Cancer. Also friend who are in hospital and finding things difficult to come to terms with. We ask God to be with them and they may know His presence at this time. May they know too of the support of family and friends.

On a brighter note, we give God thanks and praise for the generosity of His people. Our Tearfund Lunch raised £130 and this amount will be matched by the government.

We were amazed that our Gift Day exceeded our expectations. This surely is endorsement that God wants us to be a continued witness in the Southmead area.

We are pleased that several folk from both Bethany and New Kingsland have felt that they want to make New Brunswick their spiritual home. We trust they feel a warm welcome. This is a time of transition for these people but hopefully we can continue our Christian journey together.

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

The beginning of June also sees the celebration of Pentecost on Sunday June 9th. It seems to late this year, and that we are virtually into the summer holidays, the time when we all seem to take travel for granted and as the natural thing to do. But perhaps that is entirely appropriate for the feast of Pentecost.

However much we can argue that Luke in the Book of Acts gives a particular theological and narrative shaping to what happened that first Pentecost (as told in Acts 2.1-21), there was undoubtedly some particular and profound experience of God which set the early Church on a new outward bound trajectory. They were going to go out and actively share the gospel.

This was quite unlike anything previously seen in Judaism. Within Judaism people came to Jerusalem. Jerusalem didn't go to them. And even if people came to Jerusalem, there were rules and regulations as to who could get so far in. So, with this new Jesus movement the people of the Way had seen something new and different in their experience of God, and this was given expression in what became the mission of the Church to the world. Mission has been part of our language ever since.

If we are old enough then we might just remember the likes of the London Missionary Society, or the John Williams ship collecting boxes. The original John Williams ship had been operated by the London Missionary Society in the Pacific region in the 18th century.

Somehow mission was something done on the far side of the world. But now our mission context is the community around us. Over the past several months we have been looking at the various Holy Habits that come as part of the URC's Walking the Way initiative. We have been looking at Easting Together, Gladness and Generosity and Breaking Bread.

Now we move onto Making Disciples. It is what happened at Pentecost. Making disciples! Does that sound scary. If we are all honest it can seem just a little bit scary. The Holy Habits book for this Habit says:

"It is not our job to bring people to faith (God does that), but we are called to share our faith at school, in our places of work and leisure, and in the communities in which we live....People will know when we are speaking with honesty and integrity about our faith. We just need to have the courage to try and not be afraid to make mistakes.!

So, given our various gifts, skills and experiences I wonder if there is just one new things that we could all do to connect in such a way? Just some outward movement of faith. It could make all the difference in the world. Happy Pentecost!

Dougie



We pray for both **Laura and Ken Jones**. We celebrate **Laura** as she reaches a milestone birthday, but **Ken** has been in hospital for some time, so we pray for better health for him.

Those who remember the **Runcorn family** who were Redland Park church members for several years and moved away some time ago, will be sorry to hear that Ken Runcorn suffered a heart attack a few weeks ago and, although he is now discharged, it will be some time before he is fit again; we pray this will be soon.

We continue to pray for **Tuida Mutare** as she grieves for her brother in Zimbabwe, killed in a road traffic accident, following the deaths of her mother and another brother within the last three years. Her youngest brother is now suffering from cancer with poor health service in the country, so we pray that he will find the treatment he needs and recover.

It is good to see **Wendy Day** back in church after a bad fall recently; we hope she continues well. It is also good to see **Janet Lockyer** again who has now moved back home on Pembroke Road, after an extended stay in a hotel in town with all

the other residents of the home. A serious flood meant that the whole building had to have extensive work carried out.

We pray for members of our congregation and all those who are currently undergoing hospital treatment, together with those who are ill, and hope that they will all be fully recovered soon. We pray especially for **Derek Jones** and **Teame Mebrahtu** who are still undergoing consultations and treatment.

We pray for all those people who are moved to use our prayer box in the wildflower garden, that they may be granted what they have asked us to pray for in our intercessory prayers.

We pray for all our members and friends who need our prayers at this time, for better health, for help with decisions, for peace of mind; we hope they feel the love of God around them.

Having discussed it at an Elders meeting we are thinking of starting a small Christian library at the back of the Church. This will be composed mainly of books contributed by members which perhaps they have found particularly useful.

An idea was when you borrow a book perhaps you could also donate one. However all would be welcome to use it and I could monitor how well it is going. Please let me have your thoughts and any ideas you have which would make this a success. Jane Beazer



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Prayer page:

Prayer for the month.

Lord, it sometimes feels as though

We are the lone voice crying out in the wilderness.

We know that you are with us

Yet sometimes the task, our mission feels overwhelming.

Help us to feel your presence.

Help us to use our gifts.

Help us to be strong in our faith,

So that the work we do in your name

May help your kingdom come,

Your will be done.

Amen.



Please pray for:

Enid, who is undergoing treatment for leukaemia.

Laura Jones and Ken.

Janet Owen, who has had a fall.

The work of Christian Aid.

Those who are struggling to rebuild their lives after natural disasters.

The innocent victims of war.

People who are persecuted because of their religious or cultural beliefs.

All those who do not have clean water to drink or sanitation.

Those who are suffering from anxiety and depression.

Young people taking important exams.

People living with dementia and their carers.

The work of the foodbanks in Bristol.

Father God, we believe that you are a God, who hears the prayers of his people and who will comfort them in times of desolation and need.

Amen.

You May Believe By Derek Skelcher

You may believe!
You may believe!
But does your behaviour show
Everywhere you go?
Do the things you do and say
Witness Him in any way,
Or your love for Him display
Everywhere you go?

If you believe,
If you believe,
Then it's a fact that you must show
Everywhere you go!
You must let the whole world see
How His love has made you free,
By your side He'll always be
Everywhere you go!

When you believe,
When you believe,
There's one thing that you must
do, Everywhere you go.
You must spread the Master's word
Until everyone has heard
How He forgives all those who've erred,
Everywhere you go!

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Redland Park Church Calendar

Dates for June 2019

Sun 9th	10.30am 10.30am 7.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room Evening Worship led by members
Sun 16th	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room
Sun 23rd	10.30am 10.30am 7.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room Evening Worship led by members
Sun 30th	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room

July 2019

Thurs 4th	2.30pm	First Thursday
Sun 7th	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion Led by Redland Park Members Korean Worship Upper Room

A discussion about Redland Park URC Investments and Oil

John Neugebauer...

In addition to our Bank Accounts, Redland Park has approximately £242,000 invested in an Ethical Investment Fund, managed by CCLA.

The Fund is made up of a variety of investments including shares, and including oil shares. The Investment Managers manage the actual investments. However, the principles of how the funds should be 'ethically' invested are decided in consultation with fund investors, and the URC is represented on this advisory panel.

CCLA actively manages and monitors our investments across a range of ethical criteria. These include human rights, health and safety, corporate governance of the organisation, modern slavery, sugar use, child labour, etc. The fund holds no shares in coal and tar, but does hold approximately 2% of the portfolio in oil companies, and 4% in renewable energy investment.

The residual investment in oil is intended to ensure continued dialogue with oil companies about future climate change measures. The principle is that shareholders own the company, and only shareholders can give ultimate direction to the Company Board. Some companies (e.g. BP) are good at this. Some are slow: Shell has been described as 'good at engaging, not so quick at acting', but its directors are now understood to have been required to include climate change in their performance objectives. On the other hand, ExxonMobil has refused to address climate concerns, and has been dropped as an investment.

Without a shareholder voice expressing concern about future climate change, how will oil companies respond? Perhaps they will continue to drill oil and balance this with a concern with renewable resources, continuing to reflect society concerns; perhaps they will feel liberated and simply focus on oil production and sales. Without a nominal shareholding, we will be observers, not participants, in that debate.

There is no doubt that we face an acutely worrying climate change problem. The problems are widespread and not just about oil. With this in mind should we withdraw our investment? As difficult as it is, and in the face of campaigns and actions in other organisations, my own view is that we should not. Why?

- The shareholders' voice, and in this case a Christian voice, is important. Retaining an active shareholding is not doing nothing – it is seeking to influence as co-owners of the business. Campaigns against oil companies which are external to the company intend to

At the last Elders' Meeting, a few of us were each asked to do a note on Oil Investment for the Recorder and in preparation for July Church Meeting. What follows are three opinions...

do the same, but in my view are blunt in comparison;

- Ethical investment is very difficult to manage. I believe that CCLA actively manage their – our – investments as ethically as possible and across a range of ethics. If we went somewhere else, we would need to be very diligent about the overall ethics of the new investment opportunity, as well as the returns for the Church funds.

- Whichever way you decide, what about your own drive to church on a Sunday? Pay £1 extra as a carbon offset to the Church- that way you'll be emulating the slightly higher prices paid by Fans at Forest Green Rovers, the first football club certified by the United Nations as carbon neutral. The church could use the money too.

As much as we criticise others, we need to look at our own climate-related behaviours. In many cases, they're not great. But we can impact these directly in our personal lives. Through Eco-Church, we have achieved a bronze award. To progress, we need to look further at our church practices, but also how we live – energy in the home, car usage, plastics, and so on.

So my preferred way forward? Continued dialogue with oil companies via our small CCLA ethical investment fund, and personal actions to reduce carbon, plastic, waste, and our excessive consumption patterns.

John Neugebauer

Myra Jones...

Climate Change is a justice issue and affects the world's poorest communities the hardest, particularly women and children. So as Christians our faith calls us to act out of love for our neighbours.

We are an Eco Church and one of the questions in the survey we had to fill in to obtain the bronze award, was "are our Church funds invested ethically". This covers a lot of things which are classed as being unethical, one of which is investing in companies that drill or mine for fossil fuels. John's article explains that some of our investments are in fossil fuel companies but that we don't have direct control of the funds.

Other URC churches such as Brighthelm URC in Brighton, Synods such as Yorkshire and the National Synod of Scotland have already divested.

The URC 's strategy has been up to now to have direct engagement in these companies in the hope that they will influence them to invest more in renewable energy. On the whole this policy hasn't worked. However this issue has recently been taken back to Mission Council which met in May.

Continued of following page...

Investments and Oil. Continued

The resolution to Divest from Fossil Fuels was carried unanimously.

The URC now urges its trust bodies to:

- a) not invest in fossil fuel companies whose total turnover is more than 10% derived from the extraction and/or supply of fossil fuels, including thermal coal, natural gas and oil
- b) complete the divestment required to fulfil this decision by the time the URC General Assembly meets in 2020
- c) widen their proactive role as investors, by engaging further with companies whose activities foster significant carbon emissions, for example the electricity and automotive industries, and producers of energy intensive products (e.g. cement)
- d) refocus the Church's investment portfolio by scaling up investment in renewable energy and clean technologies.

The Elders have been discussing this issue for the last few months so hopefully the Church will now feel able to do so.

Of course we all need to look at our own consumption of fossil fuels and try to reduce it as much as possible.

For more information on Mission Council's resolution follow this link,

<https://urc.org.uk/news/3058-urc-votes-unanimously-to-divest-from-fossil-fuel-companies>

Myra Jones

Teame Mebrahtu...

I am pleased and honoured to belong to a Church that never forgets to pray for its sick members and their families, amongst numerous other duties. I am also grateful to God that my Church has voted against unethical investment on non-renewable fossil fuels (one of the major causes of Global Warming, on the grounds that it has a significant threat to human kind and to life in general). This is a massive step forward for two additional reasons. First, it gives a big blow to the deniers of global warming in the North, whose primary fear is that disinvestment in the South will lead to the end of the "golden development" in their hemisphere. Second, our Church's decision sets an example for International Organisation, NGO's and Churches in the South, though many of the latter may not have the Capital to invest in the first place.

How may we make a difference to respond to Climate Change about which there are some indisputable facts (like increase in Global warming, rising sea levels, bigger green house gas emissions and rapid destruction of coral reefs)? It is not advisable for an individual like me to prescribe a formula on how to solve a problem which affects six billion of us - a fact which in its own right reminds us that we live in one planet Earth rather than in two hemispheres which accuse and blame each other. Put differently, as the above identified crises are by-products of the Globalisation Process, we need to seek their solutions at the global level.

As food for thought, here are a few suggestions for us to consider making our World a safer and more equitable and habitable place for humans and other living things who have the right to share the Planet with us:

1. We need to reform and to reorient our International Organisations like the UN, the World Bank, the IMF etc. to become more robust in defending the rights, justice, and welfare of the majority of Human beings.
2. We need to refrain from pursuing activities eg. like weapons of Mass Destruction whose negative impacts are not fully known.
3. We need to look hard at ourselves, review our perceptions as citizens of the 21st century
4. and decide whether we suffer from the typical symptoms of the malaise of Self-Centred-ness and fragmentation at the family level. If so, we need to tackle such complacency and indifference at the national or individual levels by building deeper and wider global awareness - which is a collective psyche of the different parts of the Globe we live in.
5. We need to revise the formal curricula we provide at our educational establishments by connecting our teaching and learning with the students real life contexts, experiences and the demands of living as members of the Family of Man. (It is worth adding that it is through education/learning rather than through legislation that the social inequalities of our world could be reduced.) Such an approach can cultivate future citizens through education which inculcates civil duty and social virtues in the interest of the Community well being - a right step towards the promise of a more Humane world.
6. More fundamentally, those of us who profess to be Christians need to cultivate a Vision of Hope, which embraces ethics for caring for fellow beings. A challenge that guides us towards our destiny where the meaning of our lives is more enriched through our actions and inner spirituality.

Teame Mebrahtu

First Thursday

The late 1930's had become a very unsettled time with the threat of war, and so the recruitment of young men began to the Air Force as pilots and crew.

One young man from Nottingham enlisted for pilot training. He came from a family who had enjoyed a comfortable life, and wealth from horse racing, sadly that wealth had declined by the outbreak of war.

The aircraft on which he trained was the Hadley Page Hampton, powered by twin Bristol engines.

The aircraft was very cramped, the fuselage was only a yard wide, the pilot had hardly any room in the cockpit to move, and the navigator was in the nose section in front, behind 2 gunners, (one operating the radio). At the outbreak of war, bombing raids were undertaken during the day, but the cost of pilot lives and aircraft was so high, night-time raids became the norm, it must have been very daunting avoiding anti-aircraft fire in a slow plane of max speed of 250 miles per hour. The crew age range was low, some only 18. The gunners had to take care not to hit the tail fin when banking.

Our pilot flew on many raids with little time for leave or rest, but he did marry and have a baby, sadly after many safe returns, his luck ran out and he was shot down, had he lived he would have been father in law to our speaker!

One 18 year old acted very bravely, when his aircraft caught fire he used extinguishers and his bare hands to put out the flames. He became the youngest person to receive the Victoria Cross.

Carole Atter

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is number 46 on the Open Doors World Watch List. The country is a majority Buddhist nation, and so while Christians from more historical churches enjoy a little more freedom in expressing their faith, believers from Buddhist backgrounds are particularly vulnerable and are treated as second-class citizens often facing facing slander and attacks. They are pressured to recant their new faith, as conversion is regarded as a betrayal of their ethnicity. The majority of state schools do not teach Christianity as a subject, so Christian schoolchildren are forced to study Buddhism or Hinduism.

Churches in rural areas have been attacked or closed, and Christians have been assaulted.

In many countries Christians run a higher risk of being assaulted during Christian holy days such as Christmas and Easter.

After the terrible bomb attacks on Easter Sunday Open Doors workers are helping in the area .

Please...

- Pray for the victims and families of victims of the Sri Lanka bombings, pray for healing for those who were injured and comfort for the families experiencing heartbreaking loss.
- Pray for the Church in Sri Lanka to be a source of light and comfort to those who who are hurting, especially as they are hurt themselves
- Pray for the Sri Lankan government as they investigate, pray for good leads. Pray for the Lord's justice to prevail
- Pray for Open Doors partners in Sri Lanka, that the Lord would give them wisdom as they discern how best to help and minister to the victims.

For more information about Open Doors and Sri Lanka
<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/countries/sri-lanka/>

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 95 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for June and the first Sunday in July. As we move through Pentecost we return to this year's gospel-in-focus, Luke, and OT readings instead of Acts.

But while I was preparing this I got a bit caught up on Paul's letter to the Galatians, so this is a bit tangential to the readings. I'm one of those people that enjoys staring at maps and imagining. And this year I found that helped to make sense of Galatians, especially reading the bits of Acts the Lectionary seems to have jumped over between May and June.

After Barnabus and Paul are commissioned by the Holy Spirit, they set off on a missionary journey first to Cyprus and then north to (what's now Turkey) and up to Antioch, the chief city in Galatia - follow it in Acts 13:1-15. We get Paul's first recorded sermon (13:16-41) and like most of Paul's experiences in Galatia it goes down a storm with some (13:44, 13:49) and provokes hostility from others (13:45, 13:50). Same again several times - read Acts 14.

This letter, probably written shortly after the end of that journey (and the Antioch they return to (Acts 14:26) is a different one than the Galatian one - it's in the top right corner of the Med.) Paul doesn't mince his words - imagine hearing Gal 1:6 or 3:1 read out to you! There have obviously been those questioning his role as an apostle (Gal 1:11-24), and trying to impress upon the new Gentile church that they have to abide by Jewish legal customs and Paul wants to quash this quickly. Faith, not adherence to the law, is what matters (Gal 3:1-14). The key verse is one lifted from Habakkuk (how often can you say that?) in Gal 3:11 "The righteous shall live by faith".

I hope that helps make more sense of the readings we get from later in Galatians.

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.

	Acts / June	Old Testament	Psalm	Gospel	New Testament
	2nd	Acts 16:16-34	97	John 17:20-26	Rev 22:12-21
	9th	Acts 2:1-21	104: 24-34, 35b	John 14:8-17	Romans 8:14-17
	Pentecost				
	16th	Proverbs 8:1-14, 22-31	8	John 16:12-15	Romans 5:1-5
	Trinity Sunday				
	23rd	Isaiah 65:1-9	22:19-28	Luke 8:26-39	Galatians 3:23-29
	30th	1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21	16	Luke 9: 51-62	Galatians 5:1, 13-25
	July				
	7th	Isaiah 66:10-14	66:1-9	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	Galatian 6:1-16

A big thank you



A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way with Christian Aid Week. We had a very happy and successful Fair on Saturday 18 May, with lots of plants, books, cakes, children's clothes and toys, bric a brac, etc; teas and coffees served all morning, burgers from the BBQ and Korean dumplings and chicken balls which sold like hot cakes!

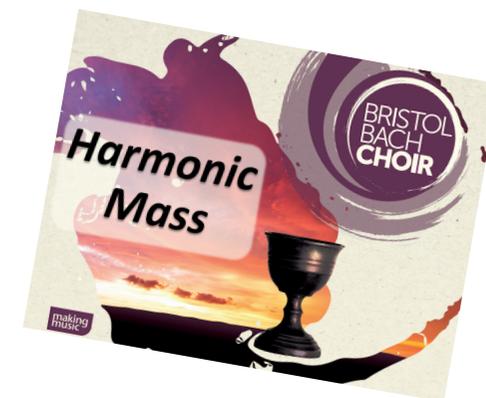
We always have lots of books and hope to have another book sale soon to sell off a few more.

Alicia and Zoe raised £20 with a Name The Bear competition, won by Flo (Sally and Terry's grand-daughter) and the name was Albert; Les Fry raised £100 by organising a Big Brekkie on Sunday 12 May; the house-to-house collection raised £520 and the Fair raised £650 at the last count (but may be more). There is also about £300 to come from the Korean Church food stall.

Future fund-raisers for our two church charities (Toilet Twinning and Caring in Bristol) will include the book sale mentioned above, a church quiz in July and a garden party in early August. Please come and enjoy them all.

Carol Fry

Bristol Bach Choir: Harmonic Mass



The Bach Choir's season concludes with Harmonic Mass, a concert featuring two of the most beautiful compositions for a capella choir, both settings for double choir of the traditional Latin mass.

The first is by Swiss composer Frank Martin, whose stunning and virtuosic Mass for Double Choir was never intended to be performed publicly.

The other is the beautifully meditative contemplation of Rheinberger's Mass in E flat. How many other composers from Liechtenstein do you know?

Tickets from Angus or www.bristolbach.org.uk or 0117 214 0721

When: Saturday 8 June 2019

Where: St James Priory - Bristol's oldest building

Deadline for contributions for the
July Recorder is 30th June.

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or by post to The Recorder at the Church
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