

ESTD 1901

# The Recorder

June '20

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



[www.redlandparkurc.org](http://www.redlandparkurc.org)

With the continuation of 'lockdown' we are still unable to meet and share both in worship and fellowship. I hope that in some way you are all able to share in some sort of act of worship on a Sunday. I have heard that many of you are enjoying the Morning Service on the radio each Sunday. Whilst others are finding 'Songs of Praise' uplifting and meaningful. Some of us are taking part in the 'Zoom' service each Sunday morning (organised by the 'techy' folk at Redland Park) which does give you the sense of worshipping with others, although still not the same as being in the same building as everyone else.

If you feel you would like to join in with this act of worship on a Sunday via your computer please let me know and I can pass you details in the right direction.

I try and keep in touch with as many of you as possible either by phone, email, text or letter. So I am able to share news of the following folk...

Ivy had a bit of a health 'blip' recently which required her to go to hospital for a few hours. I have since spoken to her and she is feeling much better and appreciated our thoughts and prayers.

I have heard from Joyce Brettell who sadly had a fall and which resulted in her having to have her arm in plaster! It was her right arm which made things even more difficult! Her arm is now out of plaster so life is a little easier. We pray that God will continue to be with her during her continued recovery.

Over the past weeks I have also had news from Delwyn who continues to work on the 'frontline' at his job in the BRI. He sends love and Blessings to all. May he be assured of our prayers as he continues to serve others at this very difficult time. Neil has also been in touch and sends greetings to all.

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During the coming month we remember those who will be celebrating a birthday and so we send best wishes to Pat Cemlyn-Jones, Julie and anyone else who will have a special reason to celebrate whatever the occasion. We know the celebrations will be somewhat muted because of the situation but hope you can all enjoy a Special Day.

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As we think of those who have things to celebrate, Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries, New Additions to the family. We must be mindful of those who are suffering the loss of a loved one. Either through this dreadful pandemic or for other reasons. May all those known and unknown to us be lifted up in our prayers to our Loving and Comforting God. Asking that all may know of His Peace at this difficult time.

Let us remember, too, that as we continue walking through these strange and different times there is ONE who is walking beside us every step. May we remember to continue to give our God the Praise and Glory for His strength and Love.



Dear friends,

We are now some 10 weeks into lockdown. I hope and pray that you are coping with particular pressures that this time has brought upon us all. We have all had to massively readjust our daily lives and to learn very different new routines. Some of it will have been painful. Some of it may have been positive. But what comes next? As I write some of the the lockdown restrictions have been eased, but we are far from certain as to how the coming weeks and months will develop. It is not quite freedom as yet.

Sunday May 31st is Pentecost this year. So, by the time you read this our joint celebration with the BKC will have come and gone. But just to share with you some of the thinking and process that went into that service. Bohyun, Helena and I joined together on Zoom to think how we might craft the service in light of the current context. Bohyun suggested that we should think of the disciples gathered in that upper room, waiting expectantly in prayer for the Holy Spirit that had been promised by Jesus (see Luke 24.49, Acts 1.8). Then there is that moment when they experience the Holy Spirit (Acts 2.1-4). This is quite literally inspirational. There is that remarkable celebration that Luke recounts in Acts 2.5-21. They rush outside. And from there on it is how the apostles learn to live into the new normal. As much as there had been that remarkable celebration, there must have also been some painful readjustment. If you read the stories further into the Book of Acts, that was very much the case.

As the church in the 21st century we continue to feel our way into what comes next. In terms of the practicalities it is clear that we have some way to go before we can start up our services in the building. But we have been issued with an excellent document from the denomination. A small group has already met, on-line, to start thinking about what that means for Redland Park. It does depend on guidelines issued by the government and by the denomination. And then we will start to discern how we can shape the services. There will be the ongoing matter of how we have meetings. Please note also the letter that you will receive from John Neugebauer about church finances. But there are real positives that we can take forward from our time online. I know that any number of you have really enjoyed having guest readers from all around the world: Edinburgh, New Zealand, Tasmania and South Korea have all featured. It is a real reminder that we belong to the world church. Maybe there is a form of interaction that wasn't there before?

Nothing is ever that straightforward, and all of this can generate a real sense of anxiety and insecurity. To be honest, we are all creatures of habit. But somewhere in the mix of all those emotions, there is God. We may not have that full-on and remarkable experience of the Holy Spirit. God is typically much more understated, but nonetheless very real. So, as we look forward to leaving our "upper rooms" we do so in the knowledge that our faith has got us through many trials before, and that this challenge will be no different.

*Dougie*



We pray for the family of **Anne Moody**, whose funeral was held at Westerleigh Crematorium on 19 May. Only ten people were allowed, and Redland Park was well-represented, including Dougie who led the ceremony. An obituary is in the Recorder.

We also pray for the family of **Ernest Gudgeon**, whose funeral will be on 28 May; only family will be present but it is suggested that we light a candle and say a prayer for Ernest at 10.00am that day. We hope to hold a thanksgiving service when possible, and his obituary is also in the Recorder.

There is good news on **Reg Dickson** who is improving in health, and being cared for by his wife, **Joyce**. **Lewis Manyika** is also improving in health, being looked after by **Florence**, and we wish them all well. **Sheila Smart** and **Margaret Prigg** are unable to come to church or even zoom services at present but they are with us in spirit and we are keeping in touch with them. We wish all these friends well.

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:

Christ be with me,  
Christ within me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ beside me,  
Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet,  
Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.



Amen

### Please pray for:

- The homeless, who will now find themselves back on the streets after the hotel scheme ends.
- Those who have lost their jobs and incomes.
- The bereaved, especially thinking of the families and friends of Anne and Ernest and Myra Jenkins.
- All who work in the NHS and care homes.
- Key workers in schools, shops and delivery services.
- The anxious and depressed.
- The lonely and lost.
- The Prime minister, the government and the chief scientists.
- Refugees and asylum seekers.
- All whose causes have been put aside because of the global pandemic.

God, we believe that you love and care for all your creation and that all will be well.

Amen.

Dear Friends

As your Synod Pastoral Advisor (or 60% of one), I have been privileged to speak with ministers, secretaries and others about how you, the churches in our area, are coping with the changed circumstances we are all in. From printing Daily Devotions services or copying to CDs / sticks to Zoom and YouTube services, from WhatsApp to phone calls, you are all getting on with being church without a building to do it in. You are caring for another as you have always done.

Some people have seen some benefits – those unable to attend church services are perhaps more included than before – but we all miss being together in one place.

I have heard it said that we are all in the same boat – as if we might all be going through the same experience. Of course, it is different for each person – and even then, our experience varies from day to day. As for the boat – some have a cosy cabin cruiser, while others have a rotting rowing boat that we need to keep bailing out. Others still may be experiencing lockdown on a luxury liner!

There are those aspects of lockdown that affect us personally – whether it is missing family and friends, not being able to go on holiday, or feeling trapped inside – again it is different for each person.

Finally, our faith is tested differently too. Some are valuing space to pray and get closer to God, while others are angry with God, or feel far from God's presence.

The Daily Devotions service on May 10th pictured us as caterpillars going into a cocoon, from which we will emerge as butterflies – transformed and ready to fly.

The writer to the Hebrews has advice for us:

'Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.'  
(Hebrews 12: 1,2)

Endurance and perseverance are essential qualities at the moment, as well as reflecting on how the experiences of these months may change our views about what is most important about church – what will we restart when we can meet again, and what will we see as no longer necessary? In what form will your butterfly emerge?

Stephen and I are available for support as you cope with the current circumstances and as you start to prepare for the changes ahead. In the meantime, we continue to pray for you all, that you may run the race with faithful endurance.

Sue Cossey

Synod Pastoral Advisor, Bristol

# Redland Park Church Calendar

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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 June 2020

Sun 7th	10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett 10.30am Korean Worship
Sun 14th	10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett 10.30am Korean Worship 7.00pm Evening Worship led by members
Sun 21st	10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett 10.30am Korean Worship
Sun 28th	10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett 10.30am Korean Worship 7.00pm Evening Worship led by members

## July 2020

Wed 1st	7.30pm Elders Meeting
Sun 5th	10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett 10.30am Korean Worship

## Christian Aid in India and Bangladesh

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Millions of people have been evacuated from their homes in India and Bangladesh due to Super Cyclone Amphan. But these life-saving efforts are being restricted because of the need to social distance.

Raging winds of up to 120mph and 17 foot high waves have battered and damaged thousands of homes made with mud, tin and thatched roofs.

Please pray with us for our global neighbours who have felt the destruction of Cyclone Amphan. Pray for their protection and safety during these unimaginable circumstances.

We want to thank you for your prayers and overwhelming generosity. It is because of your ongoing support that communities are more resilient and we can provide immediate, life-saving help in times of great need.

Christian Aid's Bangladesh Country Director, Pankaj Kumar says: 'We have an increased number of intense storms year on year, and it is the most poor and vulnerable who are being hit the hardest. They are still restoring their homes and livelihoods from previous years... Amphan risks putting them back to square one.'

Our local partners are assessing the needs of people most in danger so that we can give life-saving support. Immediate help is likely to include safe water, hygiene kits, masks and sanitisers – to avoid transmission of coronavirus.

Our partners are on the ground supporting the evacuations to cyclone centres, especially elderly people and people with disabilities. Your support makes this possible.

If you'd like to give to support this work, please consider donating on the Christian Aid website.

And please, stand in solidarity and pray for our global neighbours impacted by Cyclone Amphan. We're hugely grateful for all you do for the communities we serve.

## A Prayer During the Coronavirus Pandemic

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O loving god,  
We pray that you will give us courage and wisdom  
As we face the harsh realities which confront us  
In life around the world today.  
May those with gifts for human health and hope  
Discover ways which can help us  
To end the threatening infections of coronavirus  
And restore our lives to a new day.  
Give to us, we pray a profound sense of creative community  
As we care for each other,  
Especially those who are most vulnerable.  
Hold us in your arms like a loving parent would  
As we journey into the future.  
Call us towards deeper faith, o christ.  
Believing that you are with us  
And lift our hearts, holy spirit,  
As we face each moment.  
Amen.

Revd Dorothy McRae-McMahon  
South Sydney Uniting Church  
World Council of Churches

# Keeping up with the vicar Pt 105 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for June and the first Sunday in July. Now that we've celebrated Pentecost, there's a long haul to Advent. In the christian calendar it's called "Ordinary Time", but I think of it more as "Now-get-on-with-it time".

And what better way to begin this period, as we return for a regular study of Matthew's gospel, with the great Commission at the end of his gospel - Jesus sending us to "go and make disciples of all nations". There's the big picture. And then straight away we dive back in to the account of Jesus sending his disciples out on their first mission. But we don't do it alone.

Earlier in Matthew's gospel we heard John the Baptist's promise that Jesus will baptise us with the Holy Spirit (3:11), and in those tremendous readings from John's gospel in May, we heard Jesus promise us that we will be given the Spirit of truth (John 14:16). So our readings from Matthew explore just what living a life, guided by this Spirit, can be.

Mission is very much us working together with God, but its outcome depends solely on God. I've missed the door-to-door collecting for Christian Aid this year. It wasn't primarily about preaching the gospel but it was our response to God's grace for us, and sometimes involved explaining why I was doing it.

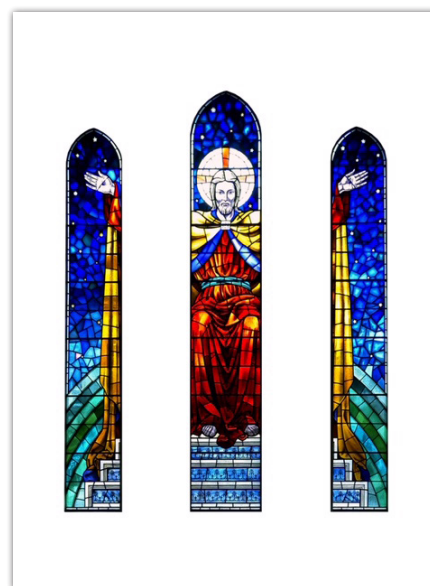
How passionate are we about spreading the good news to those who haven't heard it? What new openings are there because of this pandemic? (I fancifully wondered whether the Zoom problems Redland Park's morning worship had a few weeks ago was because so many people were "going to church".)

During a recent 7 o'clock service (well, about half an hour ago as I type this) we were sharing resources (a Holy Habit) that have helped us during Lockdown. A very common response was that we've found more time to pray. Is this something we can all grow when life becomes busier again? And as a friend regularly asks, are we part of the answer to that prayer? Have you been praying for someone specifically during the period between Ascension and Pentecost - Justin Welby's "The Kingdom Come" mission? Do we stop praying for them now that Pentecost has happened or make that part of our daily routine. We celebrate communion because Jesus told his disciples "do this to remember me". He also told them to "go and make disciples of all nations". Do we do that as often as we celebrate communion? So much mission to do in Ordinary Time...

June	(not the) OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
7th	Genesis 1:1-2, 4a	8	Matthew 28:16-20	2 Corinthians 13:11-13
<i>Trinity</i>				
14th	Exodus 19:2-8	100	Matthew 9:35-10:8	Romans 5:1-8
21st	Jeremiah 20:7-13	69:7-18	Matthew 10:24-39	Romans 6:1b-11
28th	Jeremiah 28:5-9	89:1-4, 15-18	Matthew 10:40-42	Romans 6:12-23
<b>July</b>				
5th	Zechariah 9:9-12	145:8-14	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Romans 7:51-25a

# Redland Park's Stained Glass Window

Cards have been printed with the beautiful stained glass window at the back of the church (or is it the front?) of Jesus on his throne with the red robe, and these are being sold in aid of the new sound system at church. The cards have a black or white surround and are £2 each (with envelope). Please let Carol Fry know if you would like some.



Deadline for contributions for the  
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