

ESTD 1901

The Recorder

June '23

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick Update

Preachers for 11 am Services

JUNE

4th Kate Wintle and Brenda Drake

11th Angus Gregson (will include Communion)

18th To Be Advised

25th To Be Advised

JULY

2nd To Be Advised

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

June 6th Southmead joint Churches Prayer Meeting. New Brunswick will be hosting at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

June 23rd Southmead Quiz. Once again this will be hosted by New Brunswick. Cost £3. Start 7pm.

July 1st Good Afternoon Choir is holding a concert at Westbury Methodist Church. For Tickets please contact Brenda Drake.

July 8th Southmead Festival at the Greenway Centre for 11-4pm. Stalls, Fun Fair. Something for everyone.

We think of **Ruth** who is at the moment having some time at Care Home. This will give her husband, **Peter**, a little rest from caring for her. We send them both our good wishes.

Elaine has not felt able to be with us on a Sunday for the last couple of weeks because of health problems. We send her our thoughts and prayers. Hoping she will be back with us soon.

Elizabeth continues to enjoy her new surroundings and has enjoyed going shopping with Gill to buy new curtains for her room!

We uphold to God **Angie's** daughter-in-law who is undergoing treatment at this time. 9th

Our thoughts and prayers are also with our friends **Alison and Dennis** whilst Dennis awaits results of tests. We also uphold **Barb** to God as she too awaits medical results.

There will be others within our Fellowship, Family and friends who are in need of God's healing for all sorts of reasons, physical, mental or social. God knows each of us and knows our needs. We place into His hands all our cares and concerns.

We send Birthday Greetings to the following folk who are celebrating during the month. **6th Pat, 9th Pamela, 20th Julie, 27th Jenny S.**

May these and all those celebrating Birthdays or other Special Days have a lovely day. One full of God's Richest Blessings.

Redland Park People



It is good to welcome **Teame** back after his visit to nieces and nephews in Germany and Switzerland. He is now the Elder in the family and was treated with love and respect. We also enjoy seeing more of **Zeb and Paris**.

It was wonderful to celebrate Pentecost with two nationalities leading the service and four languages leading the prayers – English (or Scottish!), Korean, Shona and Tigrinya.

It was also lovely to celebrate the wedding of **Jess Rogers and Deniz Kalayci** in church last month with many members of the church, as well as their friends and family from the UK, Germany and Turkey. After the service they will be going to Turkey for a blessing.

Last month from our prayer box, we prayed for a lady who asked for prayers for her husband to be able to find another job to help pay the bills. She also came into the coffee morning so was able to talk about her concerns.

We also had these requests for prayers:

- "Dear God, we want to pray for homeless people and poverty. People who don't have enough food. Amen."

- From Caroline, "Please pray for me. I am being badly bullied. My life is hell. Thank you."

- From another lady "Please pray for the gift of a child for me. Thank you."

We pray for refugees and asylum seekers everywhere, and ask the government to be compassionate to them all, and to help bring peace to the world. We pray especially for Ukraine at present, for Russia that their leader develops some humanity, and for Sudan that the two generals learn about peace.

We also pray for countries suffering from natural disasters, especially those areas suffering from the effects of Climate Change bringing drought, floods, cyclones and famine to countries around the world.

Fairtrade

You will remember that Traidcraft has gone into administration, so I am trying to stock fair trade items which are also eco-friendly, to align with our Climate Justice work; this means NO PLASTIC! I am still able to find Divine chocolate which is always popular, and still have toilet paper and kitchen rolls now wrapped in paper, rather than plastic. There are also bath scrubs and washing up scrubs made from loofah (remember that?) and soap and shampoo bars in cardboard packs, not plastic. There is a wide range of biscuits and chocolate. Please come and have a look.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

If anyone would like to sponsor flowers in church one Sunday, perhaps for a birthday or anniversary, or to remember a loved one, please let Sally King know and they can be arranged for a special flower or colour, as you wish. We all like to see flower arrangements in church and the flower fund needs



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

The Church in Society group is organising a garden party again and, as it's a Sunday, we will be holding this as a lunch rather than afternoon tea, so that people don't have to go home and come out again, especially those who live a long drive away.

The date is Sunday 9 July, the time is after morning worship, and the venue is the beautiful garden of Jane and Richard Pedlar (Trymwood, Trym Road, West-bury on Trym, BS9 3ET)

Bring a folding chair if you have one; lifts will be available, please speak to Carol Fry if you need one, and we look forward to a lovely church family event. We are accepting donations for our church charities. Please come and enjoy yourself.

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Keeping up with the vicar Pt135 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". Appropriately, in our passages from Matthew's gospel, the focus is on Jesus getting the message out to people in word and action.

And to set the scene this month with we start with Matthew's account of the Ascension. It's often called the "Great Commission", with a much more forceful instruction to make disciples than Luke's version recorded in Acts, to make disciples of all nations, and to teach people "to obey everything I have commanded you".

In Chapters 9-11 of Matthew's gospel we see a lot of Jesus doing just this - reaching out to a wide variety of people, and sending the disciples out to spread the message further and to bring healing. (The account we read on the 11th features in Mark's and Luke's gospel accounts too. Is this Matthew telling of his own calling by Jesus?)

What is this message that we're to take out? If someone asked you bluntly what the gospel is, what would you tell them? Jesus encapsulated it 22:37-40 but we'll have to wait till the 29th October for that one to come up. Paul isn't as succinct, but these passages from his letter to the Romans are worth a bit of careful reflection. Why not share what they say to you with someone else? Jesus goes on to illustrate how the gospel will spread in a series of parables, but we'll have to wait till; next month for those.

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.

Angus

	(not the) OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
June 4th	Genesis 1:1-2, 4a	8	Matthew 28:16-20	2 Corinthians 13:11-13
11th	Hosea 5:15-6:6	50:7-15	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26	Romans 4:13-25
18th	Exodus 19:2-8	100	Matthew 9:35-10:8	Romans 5:1-8
25th	Jeremiah 20:7-13	69:7-18	Matthew 10:24-39	Romans 6:1b-11
July 2nd	Jeremiah 28:5-9	89:1-4, 15-18	Matthew 10:40-42	Romans 6:12-23

Redland Park Church Calendar

June 2023 at Redland Park URC.

4th Rev Helena McKinnon. (including Communion).

11th Rev Dougie Burnett.

18th Rev Dougie Burnett.

25th Rev Dougie Burnett.

Zoom log in; 732 001 8996; passcode 8cC7Zv

Sunday Evening service @ 7pm.

11th and 25th through Zoom.

Zoom log in; 815 4053 7777; passcode 087103

Cell Groups.

Mondays, 8.00pm.

Zoom log in; 831 5113 5751; passcode 508239

Tuesdays, 7.30pm.

Zoom log in; 312 983 3387; passcode 795550

The Gospel Four...

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John,
Bless the bed that I lie on.
Four corners to my bed,
Four angels round my head;
One to watch and one to pray
And two to bear my soul away.
So goes the old rhyme.

Well, it is fairly common knowledge amongst churchy and many non-churchy people, that there are four Gospel writers, aka Evangelists; i.e: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Before I continue, I want to affirm that I am no theologian and that which follows derives from my own research and knowledge gleaned from over 50 years of lurking around churches of all denominations. Please feel free to challenge or engage me on the topic! But, there is symbolism here which transcends their names alone. There has been much historical debate upon the meaning of these representations, but here I offer possibly some of the most common ideas.

Two references: Ezekiel 1 v4-12 and Revelation 4 v. 6-8 are possible origins and may give context to the symbolism used.

Many churches, particularly Anglican and Catholic ones, have paintings, frescoes, mosaics and the like all pertaining to the Evangelists as figurative depictions.

My photographic archive is just full of such examples. Here are some from the beautiful church in Waterford, Hertfordshire:

So, what is this all about? There is underlying meaning to the evangelists' representations. Matthew is always shown as the face of a winged human face. Mark, a winged lion, Luke, a winged bull and John, that of an eagle.

I want to start back-to-front with John. For 25 years I was a teacher in a church





school dedicated to St John. The eagle was the badge of the uniform and much associated with the local church of that name, which like many churches have a lectern moulded as an eagle where the Word of God is read; thus reminding us that John's writings form a most important part of the New Testament canon.

Why the eagle? I like to go with this: John wrote the gospel, three letters, and the book of Revelation. He was present at the crucifixion and afterwards supposedly looked after Mary, the mother of Jesus. The eagle is one of the highest flying birds. In former times this bird was considered the nearest and closest thing to God. So John, by association, with his writings, closeness to Jesus and Mary, rightly has the symbol of an eagle attached to him. Luke as a winged bull. Luke 1 v.5-38 tells of the priest Zechariah with his priestly duties and Luke 2 v19-34 tells of Mary and Joseph making a sacrifice in the temple. A bull, as a large sacrificial animal, is sometimes linked to these two early references in Luke's Gospel. Of course, there are connotations here of Christ's great sacrifice at the end of Luke's Gospel

Mark as a winged lion. The association here seems come from Mark 1 v3 referring to John the Baptist crying in the wilderness, has been likened to a roaring lion.

I am most familiar with this depiction as it is the quintessential symbol of Venice. You just can't escape lions there! The reason that the lion was adopted by the Venetians came about when the relics of the saint were brought to the city, where they remain in the basilica of Saint Mark.

Finally, Matthew as a winged man's face. Matthew's gospel start with the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham. Anyone who has had to read this in church will know that it is quite challenging from a couple of points of view: firstly, there are some tricky names to get the tongue around and secondly, it is quite heavy-going reciting aloud a seemingly unending list of progeny! So Matthew's symbol of the winged man's face represents Christ's human nature and incarnation.

For those still with me and interested, technically, these four representations are known as a tetramorph. The word is Greek in origin: tetra (four) morph (shape). In Christian symbolism it refers to the joining of the four evangelists as a group. Well, there we are then!

Martyn Steel

Deadline for contributions for the
July Recorder is 25th June.

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or by post to The Recorder at the Church
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