

ESTD 1901

The Recorder

May '17

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick | May Diary

Preachers for 11am services

May

7th Angus Gregson

14th Angus Gregson (will include Communion)

21st Rev Douglas Burnett

28th Sue Cossey

June

4th Representative from Christian Aid

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday May 12th 7pm, Quiz Evening at Horfield URC. Cost £6 which will include fish and chip supper.

Saturday May 13th at 2:30 pm, there will be a Celebration Service at New Brunswick for the life and work of Moira and Tony Hodgkinson. All are welcome. The service will be followed by refreshments and a time to share memories of Moria and Tony.

Tuesday May 30th at 7:30 pm will be our church AGM. Reports from organisations and reflections from the past year will be shared. All are welcome. Please note change of day from our normal Thursday just for this meeting.

Thursday July 6th at 7:30 pm church meeting.

We continue you to uphold in prayer those who are not as well as they would wish. Thinking especially of Dave Fudge and Ivy Pickett. It is good to see Jim Hayes making steady progress and are pleased to see him sharing with us each Sunday.

Both Gill and Lisa Waines have started new jobs in the last couple of weeks and we pray that they will soon settle in their new employments. Gill has now gone into the 'caring' profession whilst Lisa is looking after twin boys as a 'mother's help / nanny'. We wish them both every success.

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

As we all know by now we are due to have another general election. No doubt all of us will have seen by now that famous clip of "Brenda from Bristol" exclaiming with a certain amount of exasperation, "You're joking. Not another one!"

To some extent we all feel like Brenda. However at the same time for many of us there is still a sense of duty that comes with this kind of engagement.

For those of us who have a Christian faith there is also a faith motivation that comes with such engagement. In our modern world there is still much interest in spirituality. While welcoming and celebrating that interest as indicative of the truth that we are made in the image of God I sometimes wonder if that understanding of spirituality for many stops far too short.

For many it starts and stops with issues of self-realisation and fulfilment. The gospel always celebrate that sense of God that we carry within us, but it also takes that sense of God and translates it into action in the world around us.

For me the most emphatic expression of that lies in what we know as the Magnificat. This is in Luke's gospel where Mary has just learned from Gabriel that she is to carry God's son.

She bursts into the most radical song of praise which is all about up-ending the existing social order. This month of May also sees our Christian Aid fair. Sometimes we might wonder about the work that goes into that, and many other churches have given up on the door-to-door collections. Yet we do it.

The reason why we keep going is that same gospel-based spirituality that understands that our encounter with God also impels us to be out in the world and doing something about it. We might feel a bit tired or drained, but it is what we do.

So if you can be with us on Saturday May 13th for the Christian Aid, please do so. On Sunday May 14th at 2.30pm at Redland Park we shall have a hustings for Churches together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland.

Have the gospel in mind when you cast your vote on June 8th. Have in mind that all-essential question of, "What would Jesus do?"

Dougie



Congratulations to **Malcolm Hamish Hawkins (son of Pete and Lindsay and brother of Cameron)** on his baptism on 9 April; we welcome him into the Christian church and the Redland Park family.

We wish a speedy recovery to **Lydia Edwards** after an operation on 10 April, and we hope she improves well.

Please also pray for **Janet Lockyer** who will be undergoing a cataract operation soon; we hope this helps her sight.

Congratulations to **Opi Edwards** who has been offered a professional contract with Bristol City Football Club, and we wish him well for this opportunity.

Please continue to pray for **John Neugebauer** who will have undergone a further operation on 24 April which we hope will seriously improve his health and well-being.

We celebrate the launch of the biography of **Dr Teame Mebrahtu**, written with **Stan Hazell**, and look forward to a fascinating read.

We congratulate and wish good luck to Florence Manyika, who is in the running (one of the last three) for the award of Nurse of the Year 2017! Well done Florence, and we wish you well.

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.

Thank you very much to everybody who kindly provided us with the tasty meals following the birth of Malcolm, and special thanks to Hannah Hirsch for organising it.

We were so grateful to have a few nights without having to think about dinner.

Pete and Lindsay Hawkins



Prayer page:

You, God, promise abundant life.
Let goodness and mercy surround all for whom we pray.
For the weary, let there be rest;
For the anxious, calm waters;
For those in deep shadow, glimmers of light.
Let goodness and mercy prevail.

For the poor, let there be plenty;
For the hungry, nourishing food;
For the thirsty, clean water.
Let goodness and mercy prevail.

For the persecuted, let there be protection;
For the displaced, a new home;
For the victimised, safe shelter.
That all may dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.



Please pray for:

Carol Fry after the death of her mother.

John Neugebauer and Lydia Edwards, recovering from surgery.

Martin Vaughan, receiving treatment for cancer.

Megan, Myra's sister, who is very poorly.

Rachel, who is suffering from stress.

The new metro mayor.

The candidates for the general election.

World Leaders, that they may seek peaceful solutions in areas of conflict.

Refugees and asylum seekers.

Those who resort to food banks to feed themselves and their families.

All volunteers who help to ease the pain and suffering of others.

God, who sent Jesus that all may experience life in all its fullness, help us to enable others to live that abundant life.

Amen.

Reflections on Easter Crosses and Easter

We invited Dougie to share his thoughts with us as we approached Easter, which he did, with 'audience participation' as well.

We were asked to look at a number of images of crosses and to pick the one which seemed most relevant. Perhaps it was a reflection on our non-conformist background that for most of us it was one of the empty cross images, rather than the crucifixion ones which appealed most. Then, ably assisted by Helena, he showed us a small selection of their collection of crosses.

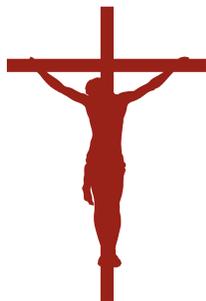
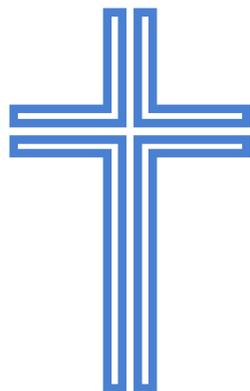
These included ones from the island of Hoy, a beautiful Maltese style one engraved with symmetrical lines and circles on arms of equal length and a slim elongated one engraved on both sides. There was a large heavy stone Celtic cross and a small simple polished wooden one, very tactile and easily held in the hand, which Helena said she often found was a comfort for someone who was very ill or dying, to hold.

He also played some video clips based on a poem called *Strange Fruit*, sung by Billie Holliday, which dealt with the feelings aroused in a racist incident in America in 1939 - and the injustice of it all.

He produced a collection of photos and cards showing interpretations of the Crucifixion by artists from all round the world. These really provided food for thought as they varied from conventional scenes to ones showing various emotions from Christ himself and people around. The one which remains firmly in my mind was a rather terrifying image by a Brazilian artist showing a tortured Christ leaning forward with agony all over his face. A reminder of that side of the crucifixion which perhaps we tend to underplay.

Thank you Dougie for encouraging us to think!

Audrey



The
United
Reformed
Church

URC Daily Devotions

Every morning URC Daily Devotions offer a short Bible reading, reflection, and prayer to help shine Christ's light in our daily lives. These are written by a team of over 100 writers of different places and perspectives from around the URC. You can receive Daily Devotion by email by signing up at devotions.urc.org.uk

Nurturing Older People In The Church

Earlier in the year, I wrote a paper for The Elders, which draws attention to the particular needs of adults in our Church (and especially older adults). They/we are the Church. We value and enjoy our collective life, making our contributions, our worship and our open friendly mutual support. We rejoice in the diversity of our congregations and the presence of lively children and families.

Yet there is good reason to believe that there is an unspoken need in many of us to set our own lives against the templates of the Christian life and our own personal values. The more life we have lived the more we ask questions of ourselves: 'Have I been good enough? What do I believe? What can I do?' These difficult and often unresolved issues are spiritual matters. Should we, can we, find ways of enabling such deeply personal concerns to be enabled safely and well within the church?

Some possible ways forward are offered. They will need the active involvement of Dougie as our Minister so that they connect with and extend the leadership we already receive.

The Elders agreed that the document should be made available to all and that there should be discussions about it and how to take its proposals forward - if they are thought worthwhile. A separate printed version will be available in the next few weeks, in a format that is easy to read. An electronic version will also be sent to those on the Church e-mail list.

Malcolm Johnson



Christian Aid Fair

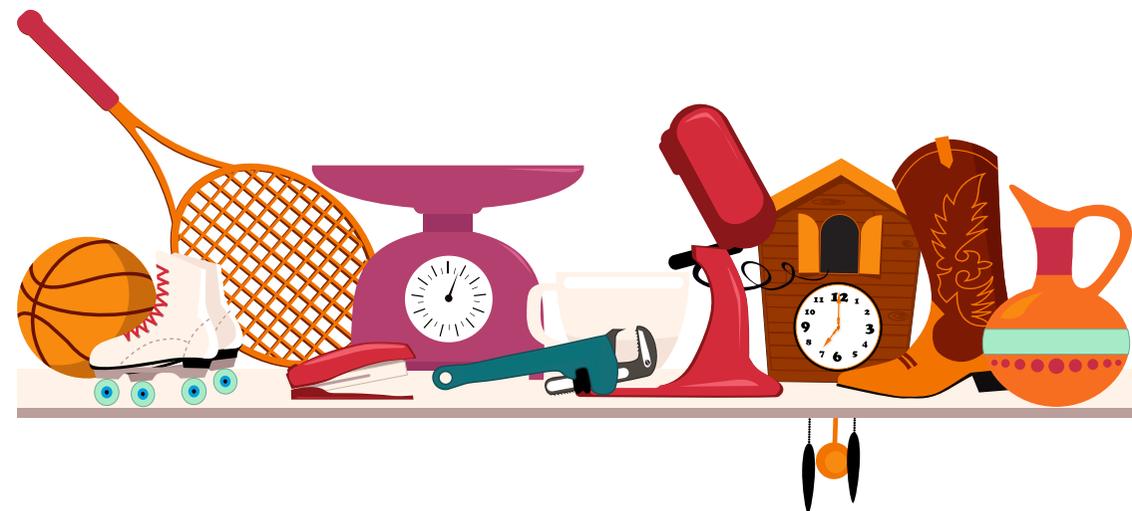
SATURDAY 13 MAY 2017
FROM 11.00am



Don't forget that the Redland Park Christian Aid Fair will be held on 13 May; please come along and buy your bedding plants, pot plants, books, CDs, DVDs, bric a brac. Have a burger or Korean pancake, cup of tea or coffee, and have a chat to a friend or stranger.

If you are de-cluttering and getting rid of anything that can be sold we would be glad of it – books, bric a brac, CDs, DVDs, children's clothes, unwanted gifts, etc.

If you can bake a cake or some biscuits that would be appreciated too!



A Lost And Wayward Sheep by Derek Skelcher

A lost and wayward sheep was I,
That strayed out of the fold,
And like so many other folk,
Like you,
And you,
And even you,
Committed sins untold!

Then came the day the baseness of
My misdeeds did unfold,
And I repented all of them,
Do you?
P'rhaps you?
Or maybe even you?
Repent your sins involved?

Then my good shepherd, Jesus Christ,
Returned me to His fold,
Forgave me, as He will for you,
And you,
You too,
Yes, even you,
When you've your wrongs resolved!

You only have to come to Him,
And your regrets unfold
And He'll forgive the sins in which
You too,
Yes you,
And, not least, you,
Have earlier been involved!

So pray for His great mercy, and
Come back in from the cold,
Then, by your love and faith, proclaim
That you,
You too,
For certain, you,
Are His one hundredfold!

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Redland Park Church Calendar

MAY 2017

Thurs 11th	10.00am	Toddlers
Sat 13th	10.00am	Christian Aid Fayre
Sun 14th	10.30am 10.30am 7.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room Evening Worship led by members
Thurs 18th	10.00am	Toddlers
Sun 21st	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship Korean Worship Upper Room
Thurs 25th	10.00am	Toddlers
Sun 28th	10.30am 10.30am 11.45am 7.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room Church Meeting Evening Worship led by members
JUNE		
Thurs 1st	10.00am 2.30pm	Toddlers First Thursday
Sun 4th	10.30am 10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion. Led by Rev Dougie Burnett Korean Worship Upper Room

Redland Park Church Meeting Minutes 26/3/17

PRESENT

The Minister and 27 members. Apologies for absence were received from 11 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.

CHRISTIAN AID PRESENTATION

Rev. Dan Doherty, Christian Aid Co-ordinator for Bristol and South Gloucestershire, gave a presentation about the work of Christian Aid. He started by thanking the members of Redland Park for their support of Christian Aid and Commitment For Life, and went on to explain how Christian Aid, since being founded 70 years ago, had worked with local partners, and tried to influence government policy, to assist refugees and other needy people around the world.

He also explained how important the house-to-house collections were to the ongoing work of the organisation. Not only did they provide much needed income which funded operations in more than 40 countries, but they also inspired the support workers. So, whilst visiting houses may be difficult and seemingly unrewarding, it was vital to the continued operation of Christian Aid.

Dan ended his presentation ended with a video presentation from Theodore, a Serbian man, a man who had benefitted from Christian Aid's help after World War II, thanks to the house-to-house collections, and had become a worker for Christian Aid as a result.

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Carol Fry appealed for volunteers to help with the house-to-house collections for Christian Aid. The Christian Aid Fair will be on Saturday 13th May, featuring various stalls, and it was hoped that we would have a stall at the Farmers Market across the road that day and the following Saturday.

MINISTERIAL MATTERS

Anne Neugebauer gave a report on the recent Synod meeting which she had attended with Dougie, David Hayden, Helena and Bohyun Kim. The theme of the day was "Walking the Way", with the aim of instilling habits of lifelong mission and supporting churches in the growth of discipleship. This was presented by the Reverend Richard Church, the URC's Deputy General Secretary for Discipleship. Richard explained how Walking the Way sought to address various critical elements in developing the future of the church. We share this challenge with all the mainstream denominations. She drew the meeting's attention to two points.

Firstly, Synod endorsed the ACT Community programme, enabling climate change justice activists for a second year.

Secondly, 'Women of the World Unite' is a women's conference that will be held at Brunel Manor, Torquay from October 10th to 12th this year; Anne and Helena hoped that a group could attend from Redland Park.

Anyone interested should contact Anne or Helena, or see the Synod newsletter. This conference will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first woman to be ordained as a minister of word and sacrament, the Rev'd Constance Coltmann in the Congregational Church in this country in 1917.

Les Fry reported that the Prayer Vigil would be held at Redland Park on Tuesday 11th April, from 8am to 8pm, featuring various presentations. He sought volunteers to staff the event, in one hour slots, and hoped that feedback would be passed on to Thangam Debonnaire, MP, on May 14th – see next item.

Dougie confirmed that Thangam Debonnaire would be the guest of Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland for their "Question Time" event at Redland Park, 2:30pm on Sunday 14th May.

The Good Friday service will be at Redland Park, starting at 10am, with a combined choir from Redland Park and Victoria Methodist churches. Sally King appealed for volunteers to clear up afterwards.

The Easter Day service will be a joint service with the Bristol Korean Church.

The 13 Synod moderators and their partners will be visiting Bristol over the last weekend of April and we had been asked to host them for lunch on Sunday 30th April. This will take the form of a finger buffet with the Bristol Korean Church.

SECRETARIAL MATTERS

Andrew Hayden reminded the meeting of the Joint Synod Big Day Out on Saturday 1st July. He would be submitting the application for the cheaper rate after the meeting, which offered the last opportunity for members to take advantage of the discounted rate.

Andrew read out a prepared statement regarding the URC's Past Case Review, which was intended to uncover, investigate and offer counselling in connection with any inappropriate behaviour in any United Reformed Church. Anyone wanting details would find them on the poster which Andrew would out on the main notice board.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

John Neugebauer reported that 2017 looked as if it would be a tighter year for finance than 2016. John especially asked that members looked at their regular giving, with a view to increasing giving in line with any increases they received to their own income.

It was intended that the Annual Report and Accounts would be reviewed and agreed at May Church Meeting.

John reported on ideas for the use of Cyril Grant's legacy which had included: Godly Play; deposit with the Churches Mutual Credit Union; bin tidy; new soup run kit; needs of older people; revamp of toilets and dryers. A proposal for a disabled ramp on the Redland Park entrance was considered too expensive and impractical. These ideas were in line with the church's objectives and Elders would make a final decision on each idea. Even if each was followed up, there would be a legacy balance of about £19,000 from the original £33,278. The Finance and Property Committee was still considering the replacement of the chairs in the Conference Room.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

News of members was shared.

AOB

Audrey Bryant gave details of the May meeting of First Thursday at which Bonhyuk Koo ("Bon"), from the Bristol Korean Church, would talk about living and working in a foreign land.

The meeting ended with the Grace.

Next meeting: Sunday 28th May, following the morning service

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 74 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for May and the first Sunday in June. In this period just after Easter the Old Testament reading is replaced with one from Acts.

And although this year the focus is on Matthew's gospel, John always gets a look in in this special time between Easter and Pentecost. The passages from John carry on the theme of echoing the crowds on Palm Sunday, asking about Jesus "Who is this man?" I'm writing this on St George's day and the John reading today includes the end of John chapter 20 when the gospel writer is crystal clear about what he thinks, and what he hopes we think by the time we've got that far.

At other places we hear Jesus talking in picture language and making his listeners think, for example with his famous "I am ..." sayings. It's worth looking at each one of those again for ourselves and reflecting on what they say to us about Jesus.

As we head towards Pentecost we read again of Jesus at the last supper promising the coming of the Spirit. What's the best word to describe what the Spirit is – an "advocate", a "comforter", a "counsellor"? What does your translation have? What different images do they conjure up?

Meanwhile the passages from 1Peter include words of support for newly established churches including, if you're reading in the King James' version, the wonderful image (1Pet2:9) that you are a "peculiar people". I think it's a shame the first part of 1 Peter 4 is missed out - possibly because of the difficult v6 - but does 4:7 speak to us as with the election on the horizon? And how about taking 4:11 as a guide to everyday living?

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. Be peculiar!

Angus

May	(not the) OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
7th	Acts 2:42-47	23	John 10:1-10	1 Peter 2:19-25
14th	Acts 7:55-60	31:1-5, 15-16	John 14:1-14	1 Peter 2:2-10
21st	Acts 17:22-31	66:8-20	John 14:15-21	1 Peter 3:13-22
28th	Acts 1:6-14	68:1-10, 32-35	John 17:1-11	1 Peter 4:12-14
June				
4th	Acts 2:1-21	104:24-34, 35b	John 7:37-39	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Pentecost

Secretary's Notes by Andrew Hayden



Just a reminder about the two pieces of information that I'd like from you, as advertised last month. Firstly, we will be updating the Redland Park Handbook, so please let me know if any of the following is missing or incorrect in the current handbook:

- Name
- Address, including post code
- Home phone number
- Mobile phone number
- Email address

Please let me have any amendments either on paper or by emailing me: andrewhayden@blueyonder.co.uk.

Secondly, the process of electing new Elders has started. Whilst the election will be in November, I invite you to make your nominations now. I have a letter and nomination for each member, which I've started distributing; if you haven't already received yours, please get in contact with me.

Finally, a reminder that the date of the Church Meeting in May has been moved to May 28th. Subsequent meetings will be on their usual dates.

Wishing you all God's blessings. *Andrew*

One final thing...

Please consider contributing to the Flower Fund to keep our Church blooming!



Deadline for contributions for the
June Recorder is 28th May.

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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