News and views from Redland Park & New Brunswick United Reformed Churches
Preachers for 11 am Services

**May**
- 1st Brenda Drake
- 8th Rev Douglas Burnett
- 15th Delwyn Tilke
- 22nd Wendy Magee
- 29th Angus Gregson

**June**
- 5th Delwyn Tilke
- 12th Angus Gregson

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

**Thursday 12 May at 7.30pm** will be our Church AGM. All are welcome.

**Tuesday 7th June at 7.30pm** is the next Southmead joint churches prayer meeting. This will be hosted at New Brunswick. All are welcome.

**Sunday July 3rd** is the next Southmead joint churches service. This time it will be hosted by New Brunswick. More information next month.

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FELLOWSHIP NEWS

We are sorry to hear that Liz has been having further health issues. Our thoughts and prayers are with her as she awaits for further results.

We remember those who aren’t able to attend worship for all sorts of reasons, distance, ill health, frailty. In our prayers we uphold the following: **Dave, Margaret, Wenda and Susan, Ivy, Margaret, Robin, Gareth and Eugene.** We pray that God will be close to them all and minister to each as their need requires. May they also be assured of our love and support.

I omitted last month (April) to mention those people who were celebrating a Birthday. So belated Greetings to **Dougie, Angus, Elizabeth, Elaine, Kate and Dave.** Trusting that you all had a Very Happy Day.

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Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett

Dear friends,

I hope that you had a Good Easter. The first “normal” Easter that we have had since 2019. It was the first time that we have had a fully physical service at Redland Park since 3 years ago. It was joyful to be able to sing together in church, and people truly did sing with vigour and meaning. It was sort of normal, though nothing is quite normal as yet. Furthermore we have now got a major European way happening in Ukraine. This year we hosted the Whiteladies Road ecumenical Good Friday service. For all those attending the awareness of the pain, death and suffering in Ukraine added a particular dimension to that service which perhaps we had not been so aware of in Good Friday services of previous years. We listened to the Ukrainian Holy Week anthem of The Sorrowful Mother, sung in Ukrainian with English subtitles, and thought of those mothers in that country who must be grieving at this time.

As Christians we always understand our lives as lived in faith, and often somewhere between the cross and the resurrection. Holy Week is such a pivotal event for understanding so much. The cross is our reality in so many ways. But beyond that, there is always the hope of the resurrection.

The New York Post reported on Easter Sunday in Ukraine in this way:

“KYIV – Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky vowed on Sunday in an Orthodox Easter message that no “wickedness” will destroy the country and prayed that God returns happiness to children and brings solace to grieving mothers.

In a video address from one of the country’s best-known landmarks, the 1,000-year-old Saint Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv, Zelensky said Ukraine will overcome the darkness that Russia’s invasion had brought upon it.

“I was very struck by the way in which President Zelensky spoke, and how it stood in sharp contrast to the form of words and expression coming from Putin and the Kremlin. I find it most concerning to hear how Patriarch Kyrill, leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, has chosen to express things. Maybe there is something there of the problems when church and state align themselves too closely. But then again there is the prophetic voice of faith that speaks of love, care and humanity. That so many in Ukraine find hope in the message of the cross speaks volumes of the power of the gospel, that it is a very different world perspective from the one that seems to prevail far too often. Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!”

Dougie
Almighty God,
From the soldier facing death on the battlefield, to the veteran mentally reliving the war,
You are our refuge. We trust in you and we are safe.
From the sexually trafficked who are forced into prostitution,
To the victims beaten in domestic violence,
You are our refuge. We trust in you and we are safe.
From the children who fall prey to neglect and abuse, to the kids bullied in the playground by their peers,
You are our refuge. We trust in you and we are safe.
From the mentally disturbed, marginalised by their diagnosis, to the anxious in fear of modern life,
You are our refuge. We trust in you and we are safe.
From the asylum seekers ignored by the system, to illegal immigrants eking out a living,
You are our refuge. We trust in you and we are safe.
From all who suffer the ravages of ill health, to the addicts who can’t function without a fix,
God, you are our refuge.
When we cling to you in love, you will rescue us.
You will protect us, when we know you by name.
We trust in you and we are safe.
Amen.

Requests from our prayer box include a request was for a 16-year old boy called Dan who was killed by a drunk driver. Please pray for the family on their tragic loss. We have also been asked by a lady to pray for her husband that he may know Christ in his life.

Please also pray for a lady named Laura, who was suddenly diagnosed with breast cancer and had to undergo a major operation; we pray for her and her young family, that she will now be healed.

We will be celebrating the dedication of our new tree for the Queen’s Jubilee on Sunday 12 June 2022 (avoiding the 3-6 June when many other people will have other celebrations to go to) and there will be a tea party after the service on Sunday 12 June. Everyone welcome.

We wish better health for those in our church who have been suffering from Covid, the pandemic has not gone away and we all need to be careful of ourselves and each other.

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 today, also for Eritrea, Sudan and Afghanistan at this time. We also pray for countries suffering from natural disasters, including Madagascar and Tonga, and hope that leaders of all the countries will put COP26 pledges into action.

Congratulations to David and Viv Hayden on their 60th Wedding Anniversary, celebrated in style last month, but then followed by a bout of ill health; we send our prayers for a return to good health and to church. Congratulations also to Andrew and Becky Hayden; Becky’s daughter has recently had another baby. We wish them all well.

We are glad to know that Teame Mebrahtu has arrived home safely after his journey to Ethiopia to visit his younger brother Anghesom, who had gone from Eritrea to seek treatment for cancer.

We think of members of the church who are undergoing treatment or waiting for treatment – Andrew Sims and Jane Beazer, but also Lewis Manyika who is having to undergo an operation for glaucoma, so we pray for a successful outcome for him. Peter Ambrose is waiting for a cataract operation and can’t drive at present, so Peter and Anna are unable to get to church. We pray for his operation to go ahead and for success for his sight.

Allan and Meera Lafferty, with Aditi and Alexander will, unfortunately, be moving away in the summer. Allan will be undertaking a theology course to become ordained, and Meera has obtained a new consultancy role near Glasgow. We wish them all success and happiness in their new life.

We wish Adam Stewart a speedy recovery after breaking an ankle bone; we hope he’s soon back on two feet.

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Minshall, Music and Mayhem

I was in the City Temple some months ago and whilst sitting in a pew taking the weight off my feet I spotted a drum kit and guitars in the sanctuary area. I immediately thought of E. Minshall, a late 19th century Director of Music of the London City Temple.

A prominent and highly regarded musician in the City at the time and so revered I think, that he was probably the type of man who may well have been known as EM as a mark of respect. I am yet to find out what the ‘E’ stands for. Of one thing I am absolutely sure as I looked at the motley collection of instruments filling the sanctuary platform, is that he would have thought that he had been transported by steam exiting his ears from this earth to a parallel universe devoid of reason and sense!

I came across this character for the first time in his a book, ‘Fifty Years Reminiscences of a Free Church Musician’ that cost me a fiver in a second hand bookshop in N2. Not exactly a rip-roaring, come-and-buy-me title, but never-the-less one that has kept me entertained for months during bedtime reading sessions.

In this volume, more a series of cameos than prose, he gives insight to the London non-conformist musical world of the 1880/90’s. Looking all too serious in his picture here, Minshall gives the reader a personal and rare view into church life at this time, whilst breathing fresh air into a Victorian starchy and mustiness far bellying his outward appearance.

One glimpse recounts a particular and acrimonious encounter which, after being appointed Director of Music at the City Temple in 1876 led to his unfortunate resignation two decades later.

Minshall had attended a lecture as editor of the Nonconformist Musical Journal by the renowned Sir Joseph Barnby, Precentor of Eton College and composer of many Anglican hymns, chants and anthems.

During the course of the lecture, Barnby, referring to church choirs said that the organist should weed out all worn voices, never mind who the owners were.

This lecture was reported in all musical papers including the Nonconformist Musical Journal, edited by E. Minshall himself. In his book, he recalls an unfortunate meeting with the Minister sometime later:

‘One Sunday evening, about a month after this appeared, Dr Parker (the Minister) sent for me after service. I went to him in his vestry. I saw at once he was very cross about something. I cannot quote his exact words, but in effect he said; “I want to know, can you help me. A man named Barnby has been talking some rubbish about choirs. You have reported his speech in the Musical Journal. Someone has had the impudence to send my wife six marked copies of the Journal, and I want to ask you if you know who sent them. What does this man Barnby know about this place and the choir here?” I could only tell the Doctor that I had not the slightest idea who had sent the copies (and to this day I do not know), and certainly Barnby’s remarks could not possibly be regarded as other than general. They were not aimed at any individual. Argument was useless. The Doctor became white with rage, thumped his table repeatedly, threatened to shut up.

My surprise was great, and after sixteen years of the warmest friendship such feeling disturbed and distressed me beyond measure. I spent a sleepless night, and on the following evening I went to the City Temple, knowing I should find several of my brother deacons there. I told them all that had taken place and intimated that I should resign, because it was quite impossible to work with any comfort if I was to be subjected to such scenes. I was given to understand that a fit of bad temper by the Doctor was not quite new in the Vestry, but by degrees it passed off. My friends urged me, therefore, to think no more of it, but overlook it and go on as usual. I yielded, and endeavoured to go on as if nothing had happened. A year passed, but during that period I could see plainly the Doctor’s attitude towards me had changed somewhat. He had never forgotten the Barnby episode.

One Thursday morning two ladies went into his Vestry and said they had come purposely to hear Mrs Parker sing a solo and they had been disappointed. That was like putting a lighted match to a barrel of gunpowder. It smouldered slowly, but in a little time the explosion came. A few weeks later I was sent for to the Vestry, and I hope I may never again see such a fit of temper. I tried to get out, but the Doctor placed his back against the door.

He accused me of taking up a “hellish” position. Finally I got out. The next morning I cleared all my belongings from the premises”.

Beware the power of editors to cause ‘hellish’ positions! Fortunately, not so in Muswell Hill!!

Open doors watch list

Libya is effectively a lawless land where to be a Christian is to live a secret life of faith.

Those who leave Islam to follow Jesus face immense pressure from family to renounce their faith. Their community ostracises them, and they can be left homeless, jobless and alone. Telling others about Jesus can lead to arrest and even violent punishment.

Believers are further exposed to danger since Libya has no central government, so laws are not enforced uniformly. Targeted kidnappings and executions are always a possibility for believers.

In Libya, women generally live secluded lives under strict family control, making it extremely difficult for women who convert from Islam to Christianity. If discovered, they can face house arrest, sexual assault, forced marriage and even so-called ‘honour-killing’.

If a Libyan man becomes a Christian, consequences can include job loss, physical and mental abuse, and even excommunication from the family. Because men are the family providers, the stress of being unable to fulfill that role due to persecution can cause psychological distress.

Open Doors works with local partners in North Africa to provide leadership training, discipleship, livelihood support, pastoral care and prayer support.

Please pray for their work and for our brothers and sisters in Libya.

“Father, even with the threat of imminent danger, people are bravely seeking You. Thank You for their inspiring example. Protect our brothers and sisters, draw them close to You, and encourage and strengthen their hearts. Help local partners to identify and interact effectively and safely with believers who need help. Bring about a change in the status quo in Libya with strong and fair government and protection for people of all faiths. Amen.”
How can we reduce our carbon footprint by changing the way we travel whenever we can?

Some facts
- Globally, transport accounts for nearly a quarter of all CO2 emissions.
- Road travel accounts for about three quarters of all greenhouse gas emissions from transport.
- In England around 60% of 1-2 mile journeys are made by car!
- Taking a local bus emits a little over half the greenhouse gases of a single occupancy car journey. Bus emissions will go down further as more and more cities implement plans for electric and hydrogen buses.
- A decade ago SUVs made up 17% of global yearly car sales, but now account for 39%. According to the International Energy Agency, this demand for larger cars was the second largest contributor to the increase in global CO2 emissions between 2010 and 2018.
- Flying is a highly controversial topic in climate debates. It accounts for around 2.5% of global CO₂ emissions, but 3.5% when we take non-CO₂ impacts on climate into account.

So what can I do?
- Walk or cycle on shorter journeys if you can. If you are not used to travelling this way, start by committing to one day, then increase gradually.
- Take a bus if possible. Trains are even more eco-friendly.
- If it is possible to share lifts, e.g. to church, try to organise this with someone.
- Next time you change your car, be mindful of how eco-friendly it is.
- If you are travelling abroad, consider travelling overland. By train, for example. Whilst it is more time-consuming and currently more expensive, it is worth considering if you can. If you have to fly, you can offset the carbon emissions caused by the flight by contributing to projects around the world. See ‘myclimate’ for details.

So let’s all see what we can do during the month of May and beyond!

Climate Justice - Travel

CHRISTIAN AID – not just one week a year!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Redland Park is going to hold our usual Christian Aid Fair on Saturday 7 May from 10.30am to about 1.00/1.30pm at the front of the church.

There will be books, plants, bric a brac, cakes, teas and coffees, etc, so anything you wish to de-clutter or donate we would be very grateful to have it.

If you can help on the day, either by coming and buying, making a cake, donating stuff, or helping run a stall, please save the date and let us know. Many thanks.

Myra Jones and Carol Fry

QUEEN’S JUBILEE 2022

For those who have walked round the side of the church near the wild flower garden, you will notice that two new trees have been planted; one Rowan (Mountain Ash) and one Amelanchier (lots of other names including Juneberry and Shadbush). These are to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee and the 50th anniversary of the United Reformed Church.

The Queen’s Jubilee weekend is 3 to 6 June, when many celebrations will take place, so the Elders have agreed that the church will dedicate the Queen’s tree on Sunday 12 June, with a tea party after the service. Please note the date and keep that day free.
Hello, my name is Martyn Steel. I was given names which are commonly misspelt. Still, that's life. Even my middle name can be spelt two ways!

I was born in Bristol (Southmead Hospital) and trained as a teacher at St Matthias College, Fishponds, part of Bristol University. I was organ scholar there and at the same time, studied for about 4 years with the cathedral organist, Clifford Harker.

My career at the organ started when I was 15. I was appointed organist at All Saints' Compton Greenfield (near Easter Compton and Pilning) on a stipend of £60 per annum (paid quarterly). The organ was a one manual (keyboard) instrument which had come from Over Court House nearby, a Tudor mansion (now sadly demolished). Previously I had been in the choir there and sang bass. I can't ever remember being a treble as my voice broke virtually overnight at a ridiculously early age!

A few years later, I was appointed assistant organist at Holy Trinity, Stapleton, which somewhat augmented my lowly student grant.

During my time in London, I was organist in the Anglican parish of Friern Barnet, for several years becoming organist and member of Christ Church URC in New Southgate in 1980. For the past twelve years I have been organist at Muswell Hill URC, London N10 where I was also an elder. Last year, and after 44 years living in East Finchley, London, I had to make a decision. I was living in a large Victorian terraced house which needed much work and funds required far beyond my financial means.

For those who may be remotely interested, I have a BA degree, am a Fellow of the Academy of Saint Cecelia (FASC), have a Diploma in Music and Certificate in Education (University of Bristol). In 2013, I was awarded the St Mellitus Medal by Lord Chartres, Bishop of London.

My family are all based in Bristol and after due consideration, thought that it was the right time to join them.

The Reverend Carole Elphick, a retired minister at Muswell Hill URC helped me in my shift back to Bristol by recommending Redland Park, as she had trained with Dougie at some point in the past! So, no church tasting required. I had a spiritual home set up for me. Both Dougie and Les have been so kind in welcoming me.

Members of the congregation have been so friendly and I feel very much at ‘home’ at RP. So friendly, that after services and chatting at the console I am missing my caffeine boost at the back of the church! Seriously, I need feedback. What I hear at the console is not what you are hearing. Please let me know. Constructive criticism is very welcome.

I have been a member of the Bristol and District Organist Association since 1970. I mention that because our beautiful organ needs to be played and that we can have some recitals from time to time. The BDOA is a fabulous resource. I think I first played the instrumental behemoth at RP when I was 15! Goodness knows what I sounded like! Lost in time, thank goodness.

With my move, I still have so much to do and get done before this house feels like my home. As a result, my time at the organ has been extremely limited so far and I need to get to know this splendid lady. Is an organ a ‘she’?

Redland Park has given me some much needed structure in my life and a place of worship. In a very short time I have met so many warm, welcoming people. Please come and say hello if you haven’t already.
### Christian Aid Quiz - Answers

**Round 1: General knowledge**

1. What was the most popular girls name in the UK in 2019? Olivia
2. What was the old name for a Snickers bar before it changed in 1990? Marathon
3. What is the smallest planet in our solar system? Mercury
4. Who was the youngest British Prime Minister? William Pitt (The Younger)
5. The six main stars of Friends appeared in all 236 episodes. Who is the next most regular character to appear in the show? Gunther (151 episodes)

**Round 2: Family and kids**

1. The song How Far I’ll Go features in which Disney film? Moana
2. In Thomas the Tank Engine, what colour train is Percy? Green
3. In Harry Potter, what animal represents Hufflepuff house? Badger
4. From what country does Lego originate? Denmark
5. What is the name of the tree that produces conkers? Chestnut Tree

**Round 3: Christian Aid**

1. In what year was Christian Aid founded? 1945
2. In what year did the first ever Christian Aid Week take place? 1957
3. What was Christian Aid first known as before adopting its current name? The InterChurch Aid and Refugee Service
5. How many people in Zimbabwe has Christian Aid’s work assisted (so far) in being more resilient to the climate crisis? a. over 12,000 people b. over 18,000 people c. over 27,000 people = 27,000

**Round 4: Geography**

1. What colour is found on 75% of the world’s flags? Red
2. Which seaside is home to the longest pier in the UK? Southend-on-Sea
3. What is the world’s most spoken language? Mandarin
4. Sofia is the capital of which country? Bulgaria
5. Which country has the longest coastline in the world? Canada

**Round 5: Sport**

1. Which tennis Grand Slam is played on a clay surface? The French Open (Roland Garros)
2. Who won the FIFA Women’s World Cup in 2019? USA
3. In which athletics event is 45 metres the maximum permitted run up? Pole Vault
4. In which year did the first London Marathon take place? 1981
5. Who won sport personality of the year for 2021? Emma Raducanu

**Round 6: Climate change**

1. Where is the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly referred to as COP27 climate talks, due to take place? Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt
2. Which iconic New York landmark is completely powered by wind? Empire State Building
3. What major tech company became carbon neutral in 2007? Google
4. A documentary narrated by David Attenborough released in 2021 showed the impact that lockdowns across the world (due to COVID-19) had on the climate and in nature. What is the documentary called? The Year the Earth Changed
5. True or False: Wasting less food is a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? True

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### Keeping up with the vicar

Here are the Lectionary readings for May and the first Sunday in June (which is Pentecost Sunday - happy birthday to The Church). Between Easter and Pentecost we’ve got a passage from Acts in place of the usual Old Testament passage as the good news about Jesus begins to spread. And we get a burst of John’s gospel in this year where the focus is largely focus on Luke’s account.

In the readings from Acts, Peter realises what taking the message of Jesus to “all nations” (Mt28:19) really entails. Somewhere in the week between 8th and the 15th reread the passage from Acts we had on Easter Sunday (or just the whole of chapter 10) to see how he realises this isn’t just for the Jews. The Messiah is for the Gentiles too. That may have been why John curiously mentions that there were 153 fish in the net on the passage on May 1st. Did the sermon that you heard touch on that?

Then the focus switches to Paul. After his conversion in chapter 9, he’s already well into his missionary lifestyle by the time we meet him again in chapter 16. It hasn’t all been smooth going. Paul’s already been thrown out of the region around Antioch, been beaten up in Lystra and had a blazing row with his right hand man, Barnabus. But on the way a lot of Jews and Gentiles have been receptive to his message.

Just as Peter realised in Acts 10 that the message was for the Gentiles too, Paul understands that the gospel needs to spread to Europe, and in Acts 16 we hear about the first church being set up in Philippi. No slouch in church planting was Paul.

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.

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<th>May</th>
<th>Acts/OT</th>
<th>Psalm</th>
<th>Gospel</th>
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<tr>
<th>June</th>
<th>Acts 2:1-21</th>
<th>104: 24-34, 35b</th>
<th>John 14:8-17, 25-27</th>
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Pentecost
Church Charities

For two years, our church charities have been Toilet Twinning (overseas) and Caring in Bristol (local). Despite Covid-19 and lockdowns, we have still been able to raise funds for these organisations.

Thank you to everyone who has helped fundraise and to all who have contributed. Because of the restrictions of the last two years, we haven’t nominated new charities from 2021, but we are going to do that now, ready to vote on our two new charities for 2022 to 2024.

Please let me know if you have a local or an overseas charity that you would like to nominate, giving me some information on it, especially if you have first hand experience of this charity.

Carol Fry

Ever wondered where all our recycling ends up?

We’re all doing our bit to recycle, but plastic waste is still everywhere. Something doesn’t add up.

We need to show the government it’s time to commit to reduce single plastic use by 50% by 2025 by switching to reusable options that work for everyone – and ban sending our waste to other countries.

Could you join “The Big Plastic Count” and help push the government, brands and supermarkets to take bold action to tackle the plastic crisis.

All the details of how to join in can be found here:- www.greenpeace.org.uk/count-me-in.

This might be something that families would find interesting activity to do.

Redland Park Church Calendar

Sunday service @ 10.30am. (At church and on line)
1st Rev Dougie Burnett. (including Communion)
8th Rev Mike Peat.
15th Rev Dougie Burnett.
22nd Rev Dougie Burnett.
29th Rev Dougie Burnett.
Zoom log in; 732 001 8996; passcode 8cC7Zv

7pm service.
8th and 22nd
Zoom log in; 848 3007 5496; passcode 219761

Elders Meeting.
4th at 7.30pm via Zoom
Zoom log in; 732 001 8996; passcode 8cC7Zv

Church Meeting.
16th May at 11.45am, just in church

Church open for prayer.

Wednesdays between Midday and 2pm.
Deadline for contributions for the June Recorder is 29th May.

Please send to the editor Sarah Trigg
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or by post to The Recorder at the Church address at the bottom of this page

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