

ESTD 1901

The Recorder

May '23

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick Update

Preachers for 11 am Services

MAY
7th Brenda Drake
14th Rev Douglas Burnett (Will include Communion)
21st Angus Gregson
28th Sue Thorne (Pentecost Sunday)

JUNE

4th Kate Wintle and Brenda Drake
11th Angus Gregson

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

May 26th Monthly Southmead Quiz at New Brunswick. Starts at 7pm. Any profit will be given to local Southmead Charities.

May 28th 'Craft and Preloved Fair' at the Greenway Centre from 12-3pm. June 1st at 7.30 will be our church AGM.

We are pleased to hear that **Dave F** is now back home after his stay in hospital and we pray that his recovery continues.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with **Ruth and Peter** as decisions are made as to the best future for Ruth. May they know of our love and support.

We continue to remember those of our folk who are not able to worship with us for whatever reason. Thinking of **Elizabeth, Wenda, Margaret and Joyce**. May they all be aware of God's presence and our love and prayers.

We send congratulations to **Reece** who has attained his Yellow belt in Mixed Martial Arts. We wish him well as he now works towards the next level, an Orange Belt.

More congratulations are sent to **Julie and Pete** as they have celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary during April.

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

On Saturday April 15th I travelled up to London. The reason? It was for the rescheduled 50th Jubilee Service of the United Reformed Church. You might recall that what had been planned for the autumn had to be postponed because of the rail strikes. It was the Saturday after Easter Sunday, which would typically mean that many would be away on holiday. But, even so, some 1200 attended the service. It was glorious.

For those of you who can remember the photos from 1972 the stage party at Westminster Central Hall was mostly, not surprisingly, made up of white men in their black clericals. It was very much of the time. The Jubilee Service was also held at Westminster Central Hall, but this time those on stage were a much more diverse group. Male and female, black and white, and representation from around the world. It said a lot about how the world has changed over that 50 years, but also about how our denomination has changed over that period. We actually had three sermons! Mini sermons, you will be relieved to know!

The first was from the Rev. Dr David Cornick. David reflected on our coming together in 1972 and the subsequent unions in 1981 and also 2000. Victoria Turner, a young PhD student in theology at Edinburgh gave a very current take on what we are and the impact we seek to make. The Reverend Professor Jooseop Keum, a Korean Presbyterian (PCK) and General Secretary of the Council for World Mission brought something of a global perspective to the proceeding. The celebration of communion was led by the Moderator of General Assembly,

the Reverend Fiona Bennett, and the Moderator-elect, the Reverend Tessa Dr. Tessa Henry-Robinson. Just mentioning this variety, I hope, gives you a sense of the diversity of the occasion. I felt very much that this service was a celebration of who we are: a progressive and forward-looking denomination that seeks to include all. There was also recognition that we haven't achieved all that we had hoped for 50 years ago. And none of us could have predicted just how secular society has become. But it was good to be there. It reminded me as to why I wanted to become a URC minister some 36 years ago.

If the past 50 years were unpredictable, then the next 50 years are surely even more unpredictable! That is the case for everyone, though. But this month of May also sees the celebration of Pentecost. That was an unknown beginning and future away back then, but it worked out OK. It was all step by step, but it was OK. I think that we can all run with that same faith and trust.

Dougie



We keep our members in our thoughts and prayers as they undergo treatment or recover from operations, especially Anna Ambrose who is recovering from a mini stroke and other health issues; also John Turner after his operation and we wish him better health.

We also keep **Suzy Sims** and all her family in our prayers as they mourn Andrew; they are all loved members of our church.

We pray for **Florence Manyika** whose mother is elderly and frail but living in Zimbabwe, so Florence is making regular trips there as her only child, but supported by other members of her family. We hope for a peaceful outcome.

We pray for **Chloe Savage** on her return to Bristol and Redland Park, after the death of her mother and the current serious illness of her father. After Elaine Savage's funeral, Chloe is having to deal with probate and clearing her house.

Anne Runcorn has sent a message of her warmest wishes to everyone at Redland Park Church; she says she is preaching most Sundays as there are hardly any ministers in rural Sussex, but she appreciates the weekly link to our services. She and Ken joined us each week during the pandemic while we were only on zoom.

We are very glad that **Martyn Steel** is now recovered enough to play our organ once more (when the theft of lead, rainwater in the organ and waterproofing the roof is done) but grateful to all the other organists (particularly **Michael Kearley**) who have stepped into the breach. We are also pleased to see **Carole Atter** coming to church once more after her hospital stay.

We think of our members who are now in nursing homes, for instance **Sheila Smart and Margaret Prigg**, who always send their best wishes, and to **Audrey Bryant** who is now gaining health and strength at home.

Teame Mebrahtu is now in Germany and Switzerland visiting family over there and we wish him a happy time and look forward to welcoming him back.

We give congratulations and all our best wishes to **Jess Rogers and Deniz Kalayci** as they prepare for their wedding on Saturday 20 May, followed later in the year by a blessing in Turkey with Deniz's family. They have invited members of the church to the Redland Park wedding (2.30pm) and if you can come please RSVP for catering purposes to denizkalayci94@gmail.com.

We also pray for two people who have put their requests in our prayer box:

"Your happiness and my salvation."

"Can you please say a prayer for everyone who's fighting cancer and a special lady who has got 3-6 months to live. Please God, don't take her. Her family needs her. Amen. PS. God knows her name."

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, for the people of Turkey and Syria after the earthquakes there, 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.

SAVE THE DATES!

Redland Park is going to hold our usual Christian Aid Fair on Saturday 13 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.

Les and his team will be serving Big Brekkie on Sunday 14 May from 9.30am so please come along and eat and socialise before we go in for morning service.

CHURCH IN SOCIETY GROUP

ASPIRE TEAM AND ONE CONFERENCE LEADERS Plymouth Christian Centre

I would like to share with you some exciting news about a brand new women's conference which is happening on Saturday 17 June at the International Conference Centre in Newport, Wales, which is right next to the Celtic Manor Hotel. We have some incredible speakers lined up, as well as an amazing worship team who will lead us together in lifting up the 'ONE.'

We would also love to invite you to join us on the Friday evening when we will all have dinner together and will be hearing from one of our guest speakers. If you would like to make a weekend of it, we are pleased to share with you that we can offer a special rate to stay at one of the three Celtic Manor resorts hotels although there are also other hotels in the local area.

You can find out more information on all our hotel packages and ticket prices by visiting www.aspirewomen.org/one2023. Please feel free to get in touch should you have any other questions.

Many blessings, Katie Wright and Leanne Mallett
aspire@elim.org.uk

CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY

The Church Action on Poverty have a special Sunday each year, and members of Redland Park led the service on Sunday 26 March in aid of this charity. Thank you to all who contributed to the envelopes in the pews, as these raised £200 plus Gift Aid, so probably about £250 in total. Thank you again, Carol Fry

Coffee Morning!

On Sunday 20th May
From 10.00 to 12.00
in the coffee shop at Tyndale Baptist church
Do come and try some of the games we play and catch a glimpse of what we do on Thursdays

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



Point to ponder...

If you were given **£40 000 PER DAY** from the day Jesus was born until now, you would have received less money than Shell made as a profit in 2022.



Church traidcraft stall

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.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

The Church in Society group is organising a garden party again and, as a Sunday has been chosen, 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, Westbury 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

What a nerve!

In common parlance it is a particular phrase used as an expression of exasperation. An exclamation of outrage. Queue dodgers, uncouth loutish behaviour and a plethora of other antisocial antics all might bring the phrase 'what a nerve' to mind.

The word 'nerve' appears in a number of similar phrases all conveying meaning in a rather pejorative manner: 'gets on my nerves', 'hold your nerve', 'nervous wreck' and 'rather nervy' to name a few.

However, I neither need nor want to dwell on this aspect but instead want to focus on a more edifying and positive quality of the 'nerve' word.

Please bear with me as I digress briefly. Hopefully you will see some thread of relevance unravel itself soon enough!

A 16th century madrigal begins, the 'Month of maying when merry lads are playing, fa, la, la, la' etc. It is left to your imagination to interpret what these seeming innocent fa, la, las mean after the preceding lyrics! So, in May we are. Easter behind us and Pentecost ahead as the month concludes. The year is progressing

rather too quickly with time passing like 'an ever rolling stream' as penned by Isaac Watts, the eloquent 18th century lyricist.

From the beginning of May and after seven months as a 'pew person', I am once again back on the organ bench at Redland Park. I suffered a fall at the beginning of October last year and broke my arm. The consequence of which caused damage to my radial nerve, seriously affecting my right hand and its functionality. The mending of the break was just six weeks, the nerve repair will be a much longer affair and could take another year before quite right. Never before in my day-to-day conversations have I spoken the word 'nerve' and 'radial' so many times. The hospital staff I have seen regularly (mostly physio) have been marvellous but have given me no real positive feedback. Rather, I get words like 'if' and 'when' which leaves me in limbo and lacking confidence. I was reaching the point of thinking that I might never play again.

At the beginning of April, my thumb and index finger which were hitherto rendered useless, gained some articulation and strength. This was a real boost and for the first time, I

had some good news from the hand therapist who confirmed that my fingers were gaining strength. I took myself to the organ and to my delight found that I could play after a fashion and to a reasonable standard required at RP.

This accident has shown with a vivid focus just how wonderful the human body is. In my case I have been made acutely aware the importance of the radial nerve and the implications when not functioning correctly. Our bodies are truly a divinely designed and complex jig-saw. And even in the largest of jig-saws, a single piece missing is noticed and the whole diminished.

Reflecting on this, I wondered whether the bible had anything to say about nerves. An unlikely prospect was my initial thought until 'google' came up with a verse to consider. It was Proverbs 3 verse 8. "It shall be health to your nerves and sinews, marrow and moistening to your bones". Some translations give just 'flesh and bones' but mean the same none-the-less. To put the verse into context we need to know what the 'It' at the beginning refers to. The previous verse enlightens us: "Don't consider yourself to be wise; fear (revere) the LORD and turn away from evil". I am certainly no theologian but I think the concept

here is that thinking right and making appropriate commitments help us become and stay healthier.

So, there we are then.

I would like to thank members of the congregation, elders and Dougie for the patience and understanding shown me over the last seven months. It has been frustrating all round, but hopefully, Deo volente, I will gain further hand and wrist articulation over the forthcoming months.

What a nerve – you bet!

Martyn Steel

Keeping up with the vicar Pt134 Angus Gregson

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

And although this year in the Lectionary cycle the focus is on Matthew's gospel, John always gets a look in in this special time between Easter and Pentecost. There's not a lot of the gospels left for post-resurrection, so we look at some tremendous passages in John's gospel which not only include some of his famous "I am ..." sayings, but also include a lot of what he says about our how our lives should be once he's gone. Maybe just read through those passages from John in one block. It's staggering stuff. Just three verses (the first one we had on April 30th but it goes with this series):

10:10 Jesus to his disciples: I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

14:14 Jesus to his disciples: You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

17:11 Jesus in prayer: Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name - the name you gave me - so that they may be one as we are one.

That's how we can be living out our lives in the light of Easter.

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 1Peter4 is missed out - possibly because of the difficult v6. What is that about? But 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 7:55-60	31:1-5, 15-16	John 14:1-14	1 Peter 2:2-10
14th	Acts 17:22-31	66:8-20	John 14:15-21	1 Peter 3:13-22
21st	Acts 1:6-14	68:1-10, 32-35	John 17:1-11	1 Peter 4:12-14
28th	Acts 2:1-21	104:24-34, 35b	John 7:37-39	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
Pentecost				
June				
4th	Genesis 1:1-2, 4a	8	Matthew 28:16-20	2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Redland Park Church Calendar

May 2023 at Redland Park URC.

Sunday services @ 10.30am. (At church and on Zoom)

7th Rev Dougie Burnett. (including Communion).

14th Rev Helena McKinnon.

21st Rev Dougie Burnett.

28th Rev Dougie Burnett.

Zoom log in; 732 001 8996; passcode 8cC7Zv

7pm Sunday service @ 7pm.

14th and 28th 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

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK.

Christian Aid Day, at church 13th May, 9am to 2pm
Big Brekkie, 14th May, 9.30am to 10.30am.
Envelope distribution all week.

More details from Carol Fry 07787152359, carolmfry@gmail.com

Commitment for life - Zimbabwe

This coming July, Kevin Snyman – Commitment for Life’s Programme Officer – will be travelling to Zimbabwe to meet up with the Christian Aid country team. Kevin hopes to visit several Christian Aid/Commitment for Life partners across the country. The partners are on the ground, carrying out sterling work in support of the goals of climate mitigation, economic empowerment of the poorest, and gender equality rights for women.

Kevin will be travelling with the Revd Wilbert Sayimani, collecting photo, video and written stories that can then be shared with Commitment for Life congregations.

Thank you to all of you who support the work of Commitment for Life in Zimbabwe.

Glorious Grandparenting

Calling all grandparents (or actually anyone who works with children!)

Fun, challenging, inspiring, exhausting, the grandparenting years can mark a glorious time with our younger generations.



Here’s a free workshop put on by URC’s Children’s & Youth Work Team for grandparents of teenagers, children and pre-schoolers:

- * Enrich your relationships at different ages and stages
- * Share your faith – overcoming barriers
- * Celebrate the challenges and blessings.

Online sessions:

Thursday 15 June 2023 from 10.30am to 12.30pm

Monday 19 June 2023 from 7pm to 8.45pm

(I’m assuming that no-one will want to travel to live sessions in Newcastle and Reading, but if you do, ask me for details. Angus)

To register go to

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/

[glorious-grandparenting-tickets-530392266547](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/glorious-grandparenting-tickets-530392266547)

Or scan this QR code to go straight to the registration page...



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

Please send to the editor Sarah Trigg

email: sarahtrigg683@gmail.com

tel: 07816 557 124

**or by post to The Recorder at the Church
address at the bottom of this page**

Minister | Rev. Douglas Burnett

0117 330 9910

douglasburnett@wwmail.co.uk

Secretary | Les Fry

07769 253279

lesjfry@hotmail.com

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Redland Park United Reformed Church,

Whiteladies Road, Bristol, BS6 6SA

redlandparkurc@gmail.com