

ESTD 1901

The Recorder

October'20

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



www.redlandparkurc.org

New Brunswick Update

Well it's that time again! Time to share some thoughts and bring you news of our friends in the fellowship. During the past month I have heard news from many of our friends by one means or another.

Trevor Ranger thanks us for our continued support and appreciates our prayers. He sends greetings to all. He is eager to come and share with us and we are looking at dates in 2021!

I have heard again from Ian and Irene Thornley who send love and greetings to everyone. They still, very much, have a heart for the folk of Southmead.

We have heard that Ivy has not been too special these last few weeks suffering from an ear infection as well as other health problems. May she be assured of our love and prayers. We pray that God will bring her healing from these health issues.

Zac has been in the 'wars'! He has fractured his ankle whilst playing football at school. This means he will be off school for a few weeks as he is not able to weight bear for at least a couple of weeks. We send him our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

It has been good to hear that Diesel, Sam, Fidel, Oscar, and Zac have all settled well on their return to college/school after the very long break.

Delyn has been in touch and he is keeping well. Still busy at work in the BRI. He sends greetings to everyone. Neil has also been in contact and is keeping well and wishes to be remembered to all.

The churches in Southmead have been meeting on the first Tuesday of the month on Zoom to pray for the area where God has placed us to do His work. It is also a good time to share our cares and concerns for our individual congregations. If you would like to join us at one of these prayer meetings please let me know and I can get the Zoom 'host' to send you the link.

We are hoping that October will be the month when we will be able to meet for worship in church! It will be different, with measures in place for everyone's safety of paramount importance. Numbers will be limited, because of social distancing, and so it will be necessary to book a place. I will be in touch with everyone in the coming days with further information. It is hoped that Sunday 11th will be our first Sunday back when Rev Douglas Burnett will lead us in worship. Angus will lead us the following Sunday morning. Of course this is all subject to government guidance on numbers of folk who can meet together.

Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

Six months in from the start of lockdown it seems as of the last full week of September that we are in for another six months of restrictions. That is a difficult prospect, and none of us could ever have imagined anything of this sort. With this long period in mind I find myself thinking of the Israelites wandering in the desert for some 40 years, and the anxieties and uncertainties that must have been part and parcel of that whole experience. Not that I imagine that we will have to endure our current restrictions that period of time. But I am reminded that is the Bible that numbers matter, and that they are never simply literal. That is very much the case with "40"

Consider these following examples:

- In Old Testament, forty is often used for time periods, forty days or forty years, which separate "two distinct epochs".
- Rain fell for "forty days and forty nights" during the Flood (Genesis 7:4).
- Noah waited for forty days after the tops of mountains were seen after the flood, before releasing a raven (Genesis 8:5-7).
- Spies were sent by Moses to explore the land of Canaan (promised to the children of Israel) for "forty days" (Numbers 13:2, 25).
- The Hebrew people lived in the lands outside of the promised land for "forty years". This period of years represents the time it takes for a new generation to arise (Numbers 32:13).
- Several early Hebrew leaders and kings are said to have ruled for "forty years", that is, a generation. Examples include Eli (1 Samuel 4:18), Saul (Acts 13:21), David (2 Samuel 5:4), and Solomon (1 Kings 11:42).
- Goliath challenged the Israelites twice a day for forty days before David defeated him (1 Samuel 17:16).

In the New Testament,

- before his temptation, Jesus fasted "forty days and forty nights" in the desert (Matthew 4:2, Mark 1:13, Luke 4:2).
- Forty days was the period from the resurrection to the ascension (Acts 1:3).
- According to Stephen, Moses' life is divided into three 40-year segments, separated by his growing to adulthood, fleeing from Egypt, and his return to lead his people out (Acts 7:23,30,36).

So, it is all about change and transition. That seems to apply to where we are now. The important thing in all of the above examples is that while might not have been that obvious in every instance, that God was nonetheless assumed to be central or somehow the prime mover in all that happened. New insights and world perspectives had to be taken on board. It was challenging yet also profound.

It might just be that something of our "wilderness" period could last about 12 months, though let's hope that it is less. But what new things would you hope to arise out of all of this? We might try sharing this in some way at some point.

My thanks in the meantime for all the life and creativity that we have seen in and around Redland Park over the past six months. The BKC and New Brunswick URC have been sharing in this journey. We have been able to chart a course through these turbulent. I believe that there will be truly hopeful outcomes when we reach the safe haven. My thanks to all.

Dougie



Please pray for **Teblez and Teame Mebrahtu** who are not in the best of health at present; we pray they will feel your healing hands around them. For **Malcolm Johnson** and **Lewis Manyika**, who are finding recovery slower than they would like.

We think of those members and friends are who unable to log in to our virtual church services and try to let them know we are still thinking of them; for those in our congregation who work in the medical profession that they know how much we appreciate them.

We pray for all those who have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic – whether physically with illness themselves, by losing loved members of their family or friends, financially by

losing their jobs or contracts, having plans for weddings, holidays, reunions or celebrations postponed or cancelled, or life in general put on hold – we pray that God’s healing hands will help them, his loving arms will support them, and his love will help them through.

We give thanks for our Tech Team for helping us all to enjoy our virtual church services all these months, for the re-grouping team who have made it possible for a limited number of people to enjoy an actual service again, and for all those leading the church into the future. We are blessed to have these people to support Redland Park Church.

Prayer page:

Lord Christ, if we had faith that could move mountains,
Yet living without charity, what would we be?
You love us.
Without your Holy Spirit, who lives in our hearts,
What would we be?
You love us.
Taking everything on you,
You open for us a way towards faith,
Towards trust in God,
Who wants neither suffering nor human distress.
Spirit of the Risen Christ,
Spirit of compassion,
Spirit of praise,
Your love for each one of us
Will never go away.



Amen

Please pray for:

- Walter, who is nearing the end of his life, and his family.
- Enid
- Marlene and her family.
- Sheila Radford
- Malcolm and Christine
- Lewis and Florence
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- All who are persecuted because of race, colour, sexuality, or religion.
- The anxious and depressed.

Father God, who loves all of your creation, we pray that you will be nearer to each one of us than breath itself.

Help us as we strive to be your hands and feet on earth so that we may be as Christ to our fellow humankind.

Amen

Junior Church on Zoom!

We all owe real gratitude to the Techy Team who have enabled us to worship together each Sunday morning since March. It's lovely to see familiar, smiley faces greeting everybody ready for 10.40am; really good to have that sense of community with "live" engagement in worship and smashing to catch up with each other in the Breakout Rooms.

Congratulations too to Dougie for adapting his own style and managing a different sort of pressure and preaching to us consistently.

The Junior Church classes have also continued to meet and to worship together each Sunday morning through Zoom. Jane Penrose has taken the bulk of the youngest classes, Dougie supported by his daughter Lucy have reached out to an intermediate group and Les Brentley and I have worked with the older children. We all feel privileged to be invited into the children's homes and to engage with whole families. By setting up "Scavenger " activities, we have learned lots about these homes, and parents have needed to dust off their own creative, artistic gifts to respond to the expectations of children (and teachers!). The number of children attending on line has usually been more than we meet in a standard Sunday morning service.

The older children have been very kind- accepting my inadequacies in this computer age and yelling instructions and advice, as well as sending electronic messages, suggesting how I can rectify my mistakes. They are all highly literate and confident with Information Technology and write on the screen or change their background from the domestic kitchen to the Golden Gate Bridge while I stumble along, nervously seeking out the cursor!

However, I am thrilled at the respect and warmth that the young people show to each other- politely hearing others' views, following the Bible texts in silence and discussing responses respectfully, articulating their faith with mature expression. We have the privilege of working with terrific young people with genuine spiritual awareness.

Meeting people through a screen will always be a poor substitute to being in the same space and laughing and sharing and expressing ourselves physically. However, God has offered us a short term alternative while being in each other's space is not possible.

This autumn, even more adult members will be teaching through Zoom, with lessons usually concluded before the main service begins. Please hold all of our Junior Church in your prayers each Sunday and look forward to the fun and energy of Family addresses altogether, when we can meet again together, hopefully before too long. Les Fry

Redland Park Church Calendar

Dates for October 2020

Sun 4th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Virtual Communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	12.30pm	Korean Worship
Wed 7th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 11th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Rachel Haig
	12.30am	Korean Worship
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 18th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	12.30pm	Korean Worship
Sun 25th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	12.30pm	Korean Worship
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members

Dates for November 2020

Sun 1st	10.30am	Morning Worship with Virtual Communion Led by Rev. Dougie Burnett
	12.30pm	Korean Worship
Wed 4th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting

Traidcraft

Contrary to headlines in the sun (or was it the daily mirror?) Christmas has not been cancelled

Hopefully, we can all celebrate Christmas again, the birth of our Lord, even though we will all be socially distancing, wearing masks, using sanitisers, etc. Maybe this year we won't be able to have all the family round, or go to a party, or do the usual things that we usually do in addition, but Christmas cards can let people know that you are thinking of them and why not order some from Traidcraft?

Have a look at their website and choose the ones you would like to send this year; there is a great selection. You can order them yourself if you wish, or order them through me then you don't pay postage <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/>

There are lots of other interesting goods in the Traidcraft catalogue too – from toilet rolls and tissues, kitchen liquids, chocolate and sweets of all sorts, biscuits, cake, teas and coffees.

What about a hamper for a friend or mum? Bamboo socks or shampoo bars for the eco-activist in the family? Christmas paper, decorations, lovely woollen goods and even face masks.

<https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/>
Carol Fry

Christian Aid

Dear Redland Park Church,

We just wanted to say a huge 'thank you' for taking part in Christian Aid Week 2020. It was certainly a Christian Aid Week like no other!

We are so proud of how you put on your creative thinking hats, stepped up to the challenge and fundraised so innovatively during the coronavirus pandemic. We had quizzes with Rowan Williams, vicars shaving their heads, virtual concerts, supporters walking marathons and a sponsored silence to name just a few!

The current total for CAW2020 and the Coronavirus Appeal combined, currently stands at an amazing £4.3 million! This figure has completely smashed our targets and expectations and this is down to you, our faithful supporters.

Our partners who are working in vulnerable communities are already benefitting from your generous donations and are responding to the vital need of hygiene stations, sanitation kits and isolation hospital beds as they continue to fight the coronavirus.

Thank you for your continued support, Christian Aid couldn't continue to deliver vital work across the globe without you.

Blessings,

Tim Jessop

Central Supporter Engagement Coordinator

Keeping up with the vicar Pt 108 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for October and the first Sunday in November. This section of Matthew's gospel began in September after Peter's confession that Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus then turns towards Jerusalem and begins teaching the disciples in earnest what Messiah-ship really looks like.

Palm Sunday is recorded in Matthew 21, so we're now in Jerusalem in the week that will see his crucifixion. He challenges the Jewish leaders to live up to their responsibilities. (From a preacher's point of view, it's a relief that the lectionary misses out the rest of Matthew 23 when Jesus certainly doesn't mince his words, and all of chapter 24. But it seems a bit of a cop out. This is not "Gentle Jesus, meek and mild"! To get a fuller picture it would be worth reading those bits too for yourself during the first week of November.)

As we round up our readings from Philippians, there's another lectionary omission - the last seven verses of chapter 3. And yet 3:20 speaks clearly to Jesus' questions in the Oct 18th Matthew reading, and in a sense makes clear the underlying point of Paul's letter.

And then Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, probably the earliest of all the letters. The start of Acts 17 gives us an idea of Paul and Silas's initial ministry there and the hostile opposition from some of the people. Paul's aim is to build up the Christian community in a city where standing out against the state up could be risky. Is it safer for us in 21st century Britain? In which case should we be more ready and willing to stand up and proclaim publically that "Jesus is Lord" and how that changes our approach to everyday life?

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

Oct	OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
4th	Isaiah 5:1-7	80:7-15	Matthew 21:33-46	Philippians 3:4b-14
11th	Isaiah 25:1-9	23	Matthew 22:1-14	Philippians 4:1-9
18th	Isaiah 45:1-7	96:1-9	Matthew 22:15-22	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
25th	Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18	1	Matthew 22:34-46	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Nov				
1st	Micah 3:5-12	43	Matthew 23:1-12	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Deadline for contributions for the
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