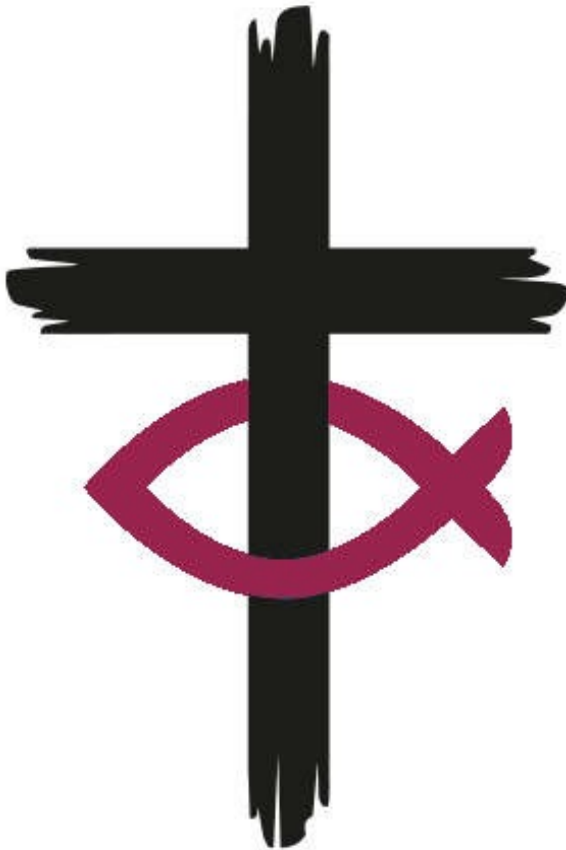


ESTD 1901

The Recorder

July/August '24

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



Vestry Vibes by Dougie Burnett

Dear friends,

Can I share with you of the joys that Helena and I will be celebrating this July 4th? Just in case you might be immediately thinking, “American Independence Day!”, it is not that. It is actually our 25th wedding anniversary. Where have the years gone? I really don’t know. Of course, we have had lots of jokes since then about our very own Independence Day. By the way, it wasn’t especially planned as that day. It is just the way that things worked out. But I have always thought that it had a nice ring to it (as it were!).



For us it wasn’t so much an *independence* day as an *interdependence* day. It was the two of us together, along with the various members of our families and friends. As a church minister I have always thought that the notion of independence could be a bit overdone, or even wrong in places. In the Book of Genesis, Adam and Eve get a bit too carried away with their aspiration to independence. The point is that it is wrong. The way things should be is a wonderful interrelationship with God and creation. Genesis is very much a metaphor for how things can be in the world around us. It can be far too much about “us” above and beyond anyone else. What I see at the moment is various people claiming that they are somehow better than others, and that they don’t want to let “others” in. By contrast there is the faith narrative that says that true flourishing comes about when we are in community with each other, God and creation.

As you read this July 4th will also be the day of the General Election. I hope and trust that most people will vote for the good of the communities around them rather than just for their own particular interests. I think that Redland Park will once again be used as a polling station. I often wonder if when people come into vote, that they peer through the glass doors of the front vestibule and into the church itself, seeing the cross on

the far wall. I hope that sometimes they may think about that, even at the sub-conscious level and allow that to shape how they place their vote. By early July we might start to see how all that voting works through into policies and our everyday lives.

And then it is into the summer months. I hope that July and August might give you some time for respite and recreation with family, friends and God. It's the way that God always intended. Vote, vote, vote...for life!

Dougie

Pause for thought

As I type this (20th June) the death toll in Gaza from Israeli strikes since 7th October is 37 372, which is nearly 1.8 % of the population. This includes an estimated more than 15 000 children.

The equivalent percentage, if this had happened in the UK, is a death toll of over 1.21 **million** including 485 000 children. What would we do if something caused this loss of life in the UK?



Worship details

... at Redland Park

Sunday morning worship at 10.30 a.m. (at Redland Park and on Zoom)

July	7 th	Angus Gregson, including Communion
	14 th	Rev Helena McKinnon
	21 st	Rev Dougie Burnett
	28 th	Rev Michael Docker
August	4 th	Rev Dougie Burnett, including Communion
	11 th	Rev Norman Whitaker
	18 th	Meryl White
	25 th	Angus Gregson

(During August, there will only be Junior Church provision for children aged 8 and older.)

Zoom log in: 732 001 8996 passcode 8cC7Zv

Mike Docker was formerly Minister at Tyndale Baptist Church.

Norman Whitaker and Meryl White both included placements at Redland Park as part of their training for the ministry.

Sunday evening worship at 7 p.m. via Zoom

We're starting a new theme - a Bible Society study entitled

"Calling people of goodwill - the Bible and the Common Good".

July	14 th	All who believed were together
	28 th	Come, let us build ourselves a city
August	11 th	Establish justice in the gate
	25 th	That they may all be one

Zoom log in: 815 4053 7777 passcode 087103

Cell groups – both via Zoom

Mondays at 8 p.m.

Zoom log in: 831 5113 5751 passcode 508239

Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m.

Zoom log in: 312 983 3387 passcode 795550

... and at New Brunswick

July 7th Sue Thorne

14th Rev Dougie Burnett including Communion

21st Angus Gregson

28th Barb & Rick Kirby

August 4th *to be advised*

11th Angus Gregson

18th Songs of Praise with contributions by congregation

25th *to be advised*

We are so grateful for the work done by Hannah Hirsch during Dougie's annual summer holiday, and by Brenda Drake the whole year round (!) to ensure that we have someone to lead worship in both of our churches each Sunday. You are a blessing to us.

Point to ponder

Starbucks made \$24.56 billion profit last year.

Which means they could give each of their 400 000 employees a pay rise of \$11 000 and still have \$20 billion in profit.

But instead their workers rely on tips.



Other key dates in the summer *(if it finally arrives)*

Redland Park

Wed 3rd Elders' meeting at 7.30 p.m. at 88 Berkeley Rd, BS7 8HG.

New Brunswick

July:

Tue 2nd Monthly Joint Southmead Churches Prayer meeting. This month hosted by Kingsholm Church. Commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Sun 7th Joint churches Celebration Service hosted by St Stephens. Weather permitting this will be an open air service. The service will be followed refreshment and a time of sharing together. All are welcome.

Thu 11th Church meeting at 7.30 p.m.

Sat 13th Southmead Festival at the Greenway Centre, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sat 27th Craft Fair at Greenway Centre, noon - 3 p.m.

During the school holidays St Stephens, with help from the other churches, are holding a weekly event for Families in the area. Their weekly 'Friendship Cafe' will be extended to include children. There will be craft, games and a short Bible story 'drama'. A light lunch will also be available. This will be from 10 a.m. -12.30 p.m. See Brenda if you are able to lend a hand.

August:

Tue 6th Joint churches prayer meeting hosted this month by Pentecostal Holiness church at 7.30 p. m.

Sat 31st Craft and Preloved Fair at Greenway Centre 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

People news

...from New Brunswick

We have been very saddened to learn of the passing of **David Fudge** on 29th May. Although David no longer lived locally and suffered from ill health he was still very interested in all that was happening at New Brunswick. He continued to support the church in many ways and enjoyed receiving the monthly *Recorder* which kept him up to date with events taking place in what he considered to be still 'his' church. We send our condolences to his family, thinking especially of Kate and Steven and assure them of our prayers and support at this time.

Although not a member of our fellowship we were saddened to hear of the sudden death of **Joan Bennett**. This lady was very valued in the community and worked for many years in the local Post Office in Southmead. Joan was also very involved in decisions regarding the area. Sadly because of her passing the local History Group has had to close. Joan was very knowledgeable about historical events not only locally but also more widely. She was also a keen supporter of the monthly Quiz and was always delighted if there was a History round! Again we uphold Joan's family and many friends to God in prayer asking for comfort in their mourning.

Brenda continues to visit **Jen S** on a regular basis. Jen remains in the BRI and it would appear that there are many more weeks of treatment that are ahead including, perhaps, another operation when she is stronger. The weekly visit of the hospital chaplain is a great comfort to her. Receiving communion is also very meaningful to Jen. On her last visit Jen was keen that she be remembered to everyone. Jen would very much appreciate our prayers for healing, patience and God's presence during these difficult days.

Mary is becoming more and more involved in activities at Westbury Fields. Mary is looking forward to coming to share worship with us again when the weather improves and when she is fully recovered from recent eye surgery. We assure her of our thoughts and prayers.

We continue to uphold **the Hinder family** to God in prayer. He knows of their cares, concerns and needs at this time. But may they also be assured of our love and support and continued prayers.

July and August are traditionally 'holiday' months and so we uphold all those who will be taking a break away from routine matters and having some rest and relaxation, exploring new things or visiting old haunts. May they all know refreshment and a recharging of batteries! For those who are remaining at home during these months may they be able to find God's Joy in their local surroundings, parks and gardens. Rejoicing in His wonderful Creation.

CELEBRATIONS!

July: 21st Delwyn, 27th Carol

Aug: 4th Brenda, 23rd Karl, 30th Wenda and Reece.

May all these folk enjoy a very happy day and know God's Blessings not only on their Special Day but also in the year ahead.

There may be folk who are not mentioned above, but for all who have something to celebrate, large or small may they enjoy those special events.

... from Redland Park

We remember **Adam Stewart** in our prayers at the loss of his brother to cancer, and pray for the family.

We are sorry to note that **Suzie Atkins** continues to suffer health issues and is currently waiting for treatment; we pray for her and her family.

We think of members of our church family who are unable to get to church at present; **Audrey Bryant** in Westbury Gardens; **Sheila Smart** and **Margaret Prigg** in Avenue House in Cotham; **Terry King** at home in Westbury on Trym; **Peter and Anna Ambrose** at home in Kingswood.

We remember them all in our prayers.

It was good to see **Brian Day** back in church recently after an operation and we send him best wishes for a full recovery. **Alan Burns** is also recovering from an operation and we send our best wishes to him.

We send our blessings to **Emily Hirsch** who is about to fulfil her voluntary work in Eswatini; she has done a lot of hard work in fund-raising for this and we hope it all goes well, and look forward to hearing from her afterwards.

Alison Hooper's son, Richard, is visiting the UK and Bristol with his wife, Danielle, and their three children from their home in Australia. We hope they have a wonderful time and the sun shines as much as it does at their home!

We wish **Dougie and Helena** a good holiday in August, and they come back refreshed ready for the new church year. At the end of July, Dougie's daughter **Lucy** will be getting married and we wish her every happiness.

Myra and Derek Jones will be celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary at the end of August and we send them our congratulations.

As you will all know, **Teame Mebrahtu** was given an OBE in the New Year's Honours List and he received this at Windsor Castle in June from Princess Anne, with his three daughters and granddaughter present.

A party was held in his honour at the Eritrean Restaurant (Real Habesha) on Gloucester Road and the manager provided authentic food, honey wine and special bread.



What's been happening?

CHRISTIAN AID

Mention was made in the June Recorder about the Christian Aid Fair, but an unusual occurrence was four Janes gathered together – anyone know the collective noun for Janes? Suggestions to the Editor!



A Rocha's "Easy Eco Tips" for JULY...

Help hedgehogs in hot weather. Hedgehogs particularly need help in a heatwave, as their usual prey of slugs, snails and worms are often unavailable. Leaving out a juicy snack, such as mealworms or canned dog food, can help in sustained warm weather.

If you have a garden pond, ensure there's always a way for hedgehogs (and other small mammals) to climb out if they fall in.



... and AUGUST...

Help birds in hot weather. Keeping your bird bath topped up with fresh water in warmer weather can be a life saver for our feathered friends. Get your garden birds through a heatwave when natural supplies, like worms, become scarce, by putting out supplementary food - black sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal, soaked sultanas, raisins and currants, mealworms, waxworms and good seed mixture.

Minutes of Redland Park Church Meeting 12th May 2024

In attendance; Rev Dougie Burnett and 27 members.

Apologies for absence; Andrew Hayden, Audrey Bryant, Alison Hooper, Teame Mebrahtu, Angus Gregson, Rev Helena McKinnon.

Minutes of last meeting 17.3.24 confirmed as accurate and signed by Dougie.

Matters Arising:

The new Moderator of the South West Province, Rev David Downing, will begin work in the autumn, after an early career in Finance and 25 years of Ministry.

News of Members:

Updates on the well-being of 10 members were shared, as well as the news of the death of Margaret Skelcher.

Ministerial Matters:

a. Pentecost: preparations are already advanced with Yohan for 26th May, including the baptisms of Teddy and Haeun, & a joint choir led by Martyn.

b. 4 individuals have confirmed their desire to become Members of Redland Park, and Dougie is actively pursuing three further possibilities, ideally to join us before the end of July.

c. Dougie had attended Bishop Bosco MacDonald's Episcopal Ordination as the Tenth Bishop of Clifton at Clifton Cathedral, Bristol.

d. Rev Bohyun Kim will lead a PCK visit to Bristol on 16th May.

Committee Updates:

1. Church in Society (Carol)

a. Christian Aid Week, 11th May to 18th, Big Brekkie and service on 12th, Fair on 18th, envelope delivery all week.

b. Garden Party at Jane and Richard's being planned for July 7th

2. Climate Justice (Myra)

a. The new battery has been fully installed, and Myra will provide guided tours shortly.

b. Carbon calculators to be trialled and recommended for everyone.

3. Finance & Property (Les in Andrew's absence)

- a. Further donations towards the battery would be appreciated.
- b. The overall Bank balance is stable.
- c. Andrew will present the annual accounts at the July Church Meeting.

4. Outreach:

a. The Organ (John). The next Organ Treats is on June 22nd – we all need to publicise. The four autumn Saturday events have also been booked, including October when Andrew Kirk will accompany the Henbury Singers.

b. Broad Plain (Les)

Difficult times with health issues amongst leadership and significant financial shortfall at Riverside, with Les needing to offer significant input. Jane Rogers is confident that the sale of Knowle West Social Club is almost complete.

c. Scouts/ Hurle Road (Les)

Premises have been given an “E” EPC rating but is structurally sound.

Scouts to be responsible for all repairs of premises, and put in a better state than presently.

Scouts still seeking Charitable status and financial backing.

Matt continues to lead the process, with the next Monitoring meeting scheduled for June.

Any Other Business:

Sally publicised a “Flowers and Cupcakes” event on Thursday 16 May at All Saints Church on behalf of Alzheimer's sufferers.

Next Meeting will be on Sunday 21st July 2024 at midday.

The meeting closed with The Grace.

How big is your carbon footprint?

The Climate Justice Group are actively looking at ways that Redland Park, and all of us individually, can be more environmentally friendly and also reduce our carbon emissions.

You'll have spotted the monthly tips in the *Recorder* from *A Rocha*, the organisation that's given us its Eco Silver Award, the suggestions about how to reduce our plastic usage, and the news about the battery that will help us make more use of the power generated by our solar panels.

There are websites that use a questionnaire to help you work out your own carbon footprint. They ask different, if similar, questions. I don't know how they do their calculations. I tried two of the more straightforward ones and the results they gave me were:



The result is 3.9 tons CO₂e.

This means that you are a **Climate Friend.**

There are many things you are doing well.

Do you want me to show you?

Or should we jump straight to what you can improve further?

Same me, same answers, but one of them says I'm producing almost twice as much as the other one. In a sense it doesn't matter which "the right" figure is, but it might be a good idea to regularly use the same one to see if you can bring your own carbon emissions down by looking at their suggestions or focusing on areas where you could make improvements.

The websites are at:

<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>

<https://climate-calculator.climatehero.org/>

If you're reading the online version, you should be able to open these by just by clicking on them.

EVERYDAY PLASTIC: 52 ways to reduce your plastic

Carol Fry

(a month at a time)

continued for July and August:

- 27 – DIY homemade ice lollies: make your own ice lollies in refreezable moulds. They're quick and easy and you can create any flavour.
- 28 – Lose the wet wipes: use washable cloths to wipe kitchen or bathroom surfaces. Carry wet flannels in a box instead of wet wipes.
- 29 – Tea towels: a great way to wrap your sandwiches for a picnic or work.
- 30 – Avoid hotel mini toiletries which are only used once and then thrown away: take your own refillable bottles for toiletries when travelling.
- 31 – Avoid takeaway cutlery: raid the cutlery drawer at home and take what you need.
- 32 – Keep over-ripe bananas: peel, chop and freeze them. They can be used in smoothies or cakes. Soak the peel in water before watering plants for a boost of nutrients.
- 33 – What goes in your bin? How much of what you bin actually gets recycled, exported, incinerated or landfilled; make appropriate changes.
- 34 – Lose biro, use pencils! Just make sure you have a pencil sharpener.
- 35 – Re-use those jam jars: they're perfect for making a quick salad dressing, storing your spices or for trying your hand at fermenting.
- 36 – Don't bin soft plastic bags: re-use bread and cereal bags as sandwich or freezer bags. Use them as small bin liners or, if you are a dog owner, take them on walks for poo collection.
- 37 – Write to your local MP: ask them to do more to tackle the problem of single-use plastic in your community and to promote accessible refill and reuse systems.
- 38 – Reduce snack wrappers: try making your own flapjack instead of buying. Ask the café for a brownie simply in a napkin. Buy a big packet of crisps and share into individual portions.
- 39 – Don't chuck food scraps: make a stock or compost them. You can also eat many parts of vegetables that often get binned, by roasting or frying them into delicious snacks or sides.
- 40 – Give your laundry a boost: add 200g bicarbonate of soda to a wash load. Whites and coloureds will come out brighter as it helps balance the pH levels to get clothes cleaner.

KNOW YOUR ELDER

A column where we get to know a little more about our Elders.

Liz Whitchurch at New Brunswick

Where did you grow up?

Il grew up in Southmead Bristol..

A memory from your youth?

I was second eldest of 6 children I remember it being quite happy although our mother was very strict about what time we had to be in-no exceptions.



Who/what led me to faith in Christ?

My parents sent us to Sunday School when we were children, although it was our vicar at our local church in Romford, when we approached him for permission to have our 3rd child baptised in Bristol, felt that as we lived in his parish our daughter should be baptised there, we then went to our local church until we moved back to Bristol in 1990.

Why did I start worshipping at New Brunswick?

We started to worship in NB in 2012.

Something good about living in Bristol?

I love the green spaces.

Something you value about New Brunswick?

The community and friends.

A Redland Park Love Affair (continued)

4and in conclusion

Recent times have seen many changes in the life of Redland Park, not all it must be said for the better. The growing secularisation of society in general and the very significant effects of the Covid pandemic have changed life in a way none of us could have imagined 50 or so years ago.

In the late 1960's the BBC Sunday night serialisation of "The Forsyte Saga", a black & white serial based on the novels of John Galsworthy, gripped the nation and severely impacted on Sunday evening services in churches of all denominations, including RP. Our evening services never fully recovered from this but we were able to continue with them well beyond the time when other churches had not been able to do so. It was a great pity when we had to close these services which were more relaxed and contemplative than in the morning – not to mention being able to sing hymns not suitable for earlier in the day.

We have been members of RP during four ministries, all different. Here I will merely offer a few random recollections of each. Cyril Grant was a larger than life character and with his wife Dolores served RP for nearly 25 years. I shall always remember the dignified way in which he departed services to greet people at the door and how his greeting to our sons was to pat them on the head with the words "lovely boy, lovely boy". During his ministry we for a time welcomed a newly ordained James Breslin as Assistant minister with Rev Norman Voice, the Warden of Shaftesbury Crusade as our Associate minister (he had also married us at Knowle Park during a vacancy there).

Cyril was succeeded by Tony Coates who came to us following a spell with the World Council of Churches in Geneva. Hardly surprisingly he found it difficult to follow Cyril but offered a more reflective ministry.

Anthea Coates was very active with the young people of RP and beyond, and was instrumental in bringing "Connect" to Bristol with a final rally in the Colston Hall (now The Beacon). This was the annual highlight of FURY the URC group for young people. Tony also returned to conduct my mother's funeral.

After Tony we welcomed Colin and Angela Baxter who again offered a somewhat different type of ministry. Colin felt the call to full-time ministry whilst still a senior university lecturer in statistics with a PhD and became full-time ordained minister. He came to us following ministry at Guildford and Norwood, London and despite his academic prowess offered a very straightforward ministry. A highlight of Colin's time with us was he and Angela leading a party, mainly from RP, to the Holy Land (an unforgettable experience).

For some years RP hosted an annual afternoon parade service for the Avon Army cadets. The church was filled with mainly young men most of whom had no previous church experience and their lack of attention showed this. At one service Colin led the worship in his full ministerial garb and the congregation's interest was very quickly changed when to make his point of the transformation Jesus can make Colin removed his gown and hood to reveal the most garish trousers more suited to a clown than a minister. The change in the boys' attention from then on was assured.

These musings have very specifically been about the past and therefore will not include comments on the present or Dougie and Helena except to mention the exemplary way in which they have coped with the trauma of the scoping issues initiated by Synod a few years ago.

My greatest problem in composing these articles has been not what to include but what to omit. How could I have almost ignored our magnificent organ and a series of excellent organists?

I am grateful to those readers who have thanked me for these memories and trust that however the future for RP unfolds we will still be able to proclaim the gospel in our own inimitable way.

David Hayden



Keeping up with the vicar, part 146

Here are the Lectionary readings for July and August. We're in "Ordinary Time" in the church year, the period between Pentecost and Advent. And in Ordinary time we get a long run at several bible passages that build up over the weeks. This is Year B, with the gospel focus on Mark, but because Mark is the shortest gospel we get a big insert from John. We have a remarkable 5 weeks on just one chapter in John, chapter 6, where Jesus shows and explains what being the bread of life really means.

We have a major look at Paul's letter to the Ephesians (which is convenient as that's our focus at the New Brunswick monthly bible study - with cake! - for the rest of this year. Check the dates earlier in the *Recorder* if you'd like to join the study - everyone is welcome.

And then two personal notes. It was the psalm that features on the last Sunday in August that got me using the Lectionary. Psalm 84 is one of my favourites. I think it runs in the family. My grandfather used to be a welcomer at his church, and as he opened the door with a smile for people, he'd recite part of v10: *rather a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness*. (I never did ask him what happened on his camping trips!)

I wasn't leading worship anything like so regularly at the time but realised that when I did I was tending to go back to my favourite passages. Is that something we all do? And if we do, what are we missing? Even the Lectionary tends to miss out some more challenging passages. The entire book of Judges only gets only one visit during the 3 year cycle - even Habakkuk (can you find it?) manages more - and the last 3 chapters of Judges have to be one of the most harrowing narratives in the Bible. But we don't address it if we only focus on the Lectionary readings. Maybe that's as well (from a preacher's point of view). I suspect there'd be a very awkward silence at the end of the service.

And through the summer there's a series from 2 Samuel that covers a huge chunk of David's life. Remember the back story: 1Sam8 (we had it on June 9th). The Israelites want a king "like everyone else". God/Samuel warn that that's not a good idea, but if that's what you want... Saul. Ends in failure.

David takes over. It starts so well: everyone acclaims David as king; the Ark of the Covenant is brought back to Jerusalem. But David is human and has his faults (as Uriah especially finds to his cost). And David's son, Absalom, rebels, the rebellion fails, and despite David's wishes Absalom is killed.

One of the most moving things I have ever sung is Eric Whitacre's setting of 2Sam 18:33. It still chills me every time I hear it. Listen to it at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5g19PaM5Q8>

As David's grief builds, feel the climax of David's grief at 1.46

If you want to understand why Whitacre sets this text to music, and maybe why it came out as it did, you can listen to him at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKrG-0DB9Qo>

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

	OT	Psalms	Gospel	NT
July 7 th	2Sam 5:1-5,9-10	48	Mark 6:1-13	2Cor 12:2-10
14 th	2Sam 6:1-5,12b-19	24	Mark 6:14-29	Eph 1:3-14
21 st	2Sam 7:1-14a	89:20-37	Mark 6:30-34,53-56	Eph 2:11-22
28 th	2Sam 11:1-15	14	John 6:1-21	Eph 3:14-21
Aug 4 th	2Sam 11:26-12:13a	51:1-12	John 6:24-35	Eph 4:1-16
11 th	2Sam 18:5-9,15,31-33	130	John 6:35,45-51	Eph 4:25-5:2
18 th	1Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14	111	John 6:51-58	Eph 5:15-20
25 th	1 Kings 8:22-30,41-43	84	John 6:56-69	Eph 6:10-20

Deadline for contributions for the
September *Recorder* is **15th August.**

Please send your contributions
to the editor Angus Gregson
email: angus.gregson@btinternet.com
or by post to the *Recorder* at the Church
address at the bottom of this page.

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contributed to this edition.

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