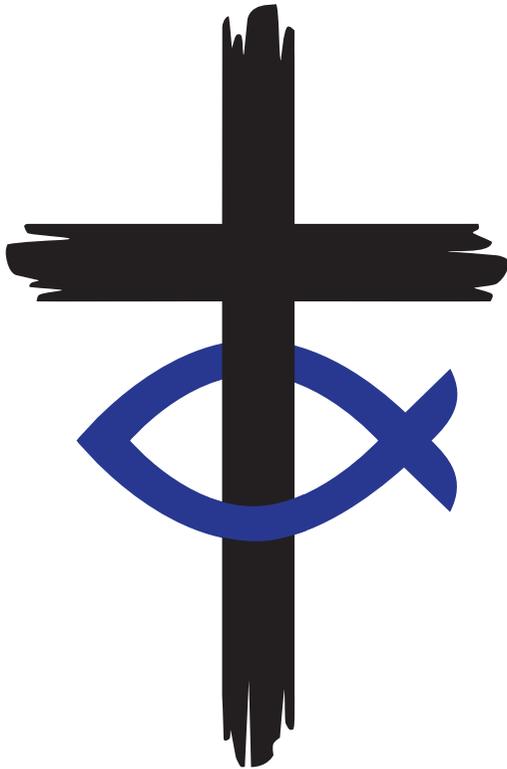


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# The Recorder

April '18

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



[www.redlandparkurc.org](http://www.redlandparkurc.org)

# New Brunswick | April Diary

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## Preachers for April 11am services

8th Angus Gregson  
15th Astrid Domingo Molyneux  
22nd Rev. Douglas Burnett  
29th Angus Gregson

## Preachers for May 11am services

6th Les Fry and Friends

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### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Thursday 5th April.** As part of Hope 2018 there will be Cream Tea at New Brunswick from 2:30-4:30pm. This is for anyone over 50 living in Southmead. If you would like to attend please ring Kathy on 07468 567203 to book a place. This is a FREE event.

**Thursday 19th April.** Church meeting at 7:30pm.

**Saturday 12th May.** Church Party. More information in the next edition.

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We think of those folk who are in need of prayers at this time. Thinking especially of Mary Piggott who had to be readmitted to Southmead (since the last Recorder) after a set back in her recovery. It is good to hear that she is now back at home and starting the recovery process once again.

Anita Hinder is also in our thoughts and prayers at this time as we hear she is undergoing tests and investigations at Southmead.

We think of Wenda and Susan as they start a new phase in their lives. May they be assured of our support and prayers at this time.

Our thoughts are with Ivy who is having further trouble with her ears. Let us pray that a solution will be found.

All these folk we uphold to our Lord and Saviour and ask that He ministers to each in their particular need at this time.

On a brighter note we congratulate Fidel on his efforts to raise money for several good causes by taking part in a swimathon. We were pleased to hear that he raised £180. WELL DONE! Fidel.

We also congratulate Diesel on his performance in 'Carousel' a production put on by Clevedon Light Opera Club. Much hard work and many rehearsals paid off and Diesel did very well. Keep up the good work!

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# Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett

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Dear friends,

The beginning of May will see some 340 serving ministers and Church-Related Community Workers from within the United Reformed Church coming together for a particularly unique conference. The reason for this conference is described by URC Church House as "being held to consult ministers on the Walking the Way process, introduce new resources, and foster an atmosphere where ministerial colleagues can contribute creatively to planning for change."

The first part of the sentence refers to Walking The Way. This is a major new resource being developed by the URC to help church members think through what discipleship means, especially in the 21st century when we have to deal with a largely secular and post-Christian society. Some of us from Redland Park have attended some introductory events for Walking The Way already are encouraged by what we have heard and seen. We hope that over the next few months many more at Redland Park will also engage with these materials.

We can all learn something new at any point in our lives. Or maybe just to remind ourselves of what we learned many decades ago. There will be many different workshops that ministers will be able to sign up for at this conference, by which we can see many of the diverse ways in which ministry can be expressed. There is remarkable work going on in many parts of the Church and it is right that those good things should be celebrated. Maybe the most cryptic part of that sentence refers to "planning for change."

There are changes coming that will affect us all, most notably in the numbers of ministers available to serve the denomination. As from 2022 the numbers of full-time ministers available to our South Western Synod will be 22 spread across some 110 churches. This is a reduction from c.30 ministers just a couple of years ago. So we shall soon be arriving at a ratio of 5 churches to every 1 minister!! This kind of ratio is common over most of the denominations. The Bristol Methodist Circuit, for instance, is already at this kind of ratio once vacancies are also taken into account. It results from the perfect storm of the Baby Boomers retiring, not enough young vocations coming in, and lack of budget. It all means that we shall all have to think a bit differently in not so many years to come. Of course there is always an answer, but that answer will have to be addressed at various levels of the Church (national, synod and local). This impending conference looks to share a positive outlook and to say that God is at work with us in reforming the Church for current and future needs. Think of the Emerging Church movements and also Fresh Expressions of Church. New and good things really are happening. But we also need to take note of resources such as Walking The Way. I would encourage each church member at Redland Park to engage with these events when we put them on. I will also be sharing with you what is done and said at this URC ministers' conference when I get back from it.

*Dougie*



We pray for the family of **Tere Pethwick**, who died in February, but whose cremation and funeral had to be postponed because of the snow. We celebrated her long and happy life on Monday 26 March.

We give thanks that **Viv Hayden** is now feeling much better, but pray for **David Hayden** as he prepares for further treatment.

We pray for **Teblez Mebrahtu** who has been suffering ill health for a while and we hope that she can find some improvement and relief. **Teame's**

book had a very happy and successful presentation in London recently, organised by two Eritrean organisations, and we give thanks for that.

Several of our members and friends are suffering ill health and some undergoing hospital treatment at present. We pray for God's healing hands to support them.

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.

## A message from Mary...

I have been feeling somewhat cut off from the outside world recently for several reasons. Somehow, when the last workshop has been delivered and reports and evaluations completed, the "Raison d'etre" dwindles and I feel at sea!

Add that to the fact that Sri Lanka's social medium has been on "shut down" because of a religious uprising in Kandy. Denny spotted a leak on the Australian TV network, but no news has appeared in papers here and Facebook etc unobtainable. Whatsap has been very limited and only local gossip prevails. It seems that the Buddhists and Muslims have had a clash, resulting in several deaths and fire demolished housing. Army and Navy forces were called in and Police presence multiplied,

Down here in the south, there has been an army of armed police surrounding the major crossroads in the Muslim areas and it was good to know that the President was acting

on a Protection Campaign as the Protagonists were mainly Buddhist.

I think that it has now quietened down, although curfews are still in place in the north and social media sporadic,

The other factor has been the weather, which has been most unseasonable. Here I was, at a loose end with time, finally to hit the beach and the skies are grey, the wind strong, the waves high and the rain lashing down.

Still, on a positive note, the last workshop, had record attendants {76} and a trip up to the Ministry of Education, yesterday, may have brought me one step closer to a working visa!!

Plus I am off to Cambodia for a voyage of Discovery, flying tonight and returning on 26th. I may not have internet available during the visit but look forward to catching up when I get back. Much love Mary xx

## Prayer page:

### Prayer for the month

Marvel at the deeds of the Lord!  
Rejoice this and every day in what the Lord has done.  
Give thanks to the Lord, who rescues us from death.  
Risen Lord Jesus, you rose in the darkness of night,  
Discarding the garments of death,  
And met your people in their agony and tears.  
Help us to see your light in our darkness,  
To feel your power in our weakness,  
To discard our gloom and despondency,  
So that we might meet you in unexpected people and places.  
Amen



### Please pray for:

Diplomatic relations between the UK and Russia.

Hilary and her son Chris.

The Edwards family.

- One person simply gives thanks for the garden space.
- Another prays that Roz finds peace with her family.
- Another asks for prayer as they struggle to understand, show love and respect their volatile family who have caused them real anxiety.

Pray for peace in areas of conflict and war.

Pray for light to shine in the darkest places.

Pray for healing for the sick and broken.

Pray for hope to take the place of despair.

Pray for life to overcome death.

Pray for love to banish hate.

Pray for God's Kingdom to come here on earth.

Amen.

*From the prayer box in the garden*

Jesus lives!  
Jesus lives!  
Jesus lives again!  
His body's gone, just the clothes are there,  
We need no longer to despair;  
No longer any need for gloom,  
There's victory in an empty tomb  
For Jesus lives again!

Jesus rose!  
Jesus rose!  
As He said He would!  
Just three days since He was crucified,  
Since they all thought that He had died,  
Believed that He was gone for good,  
He did just what He said he would  
And now He lives again!

Jesus saves!  
Jesus saves!  
All who believe in Him!  
If you devote all your life to Him  
And ask Him to forgive your sin,  
Then, always, He'll watch over you  
And guide you in all things you do  
Because He lives again!

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## April

Thurs 5th	2.30pm	First Thursday – Planning Ahead
Sun 8th	10.30am	Morning Worship
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Wed 11th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 15th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
Sun 22nd	10.30am	Morning Worship
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 29th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room

## May

Wed 2nd	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Thurs 3rd	2.30pm	First Thursday – Botanic Gardens
Sat 5th	11.00am	*** Christian Aid Fair ***
Sun 6th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
		Led by Rev Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room

# Junior Church Update

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We have been preparing for taking Communion, and the Lectionary Readings for 4th February lent themselves to personal statements about who the Young people think God is, so here's a summary of their statements, deliberately anonymous! Les Fry

Stimulus was Isaiah 40 vv 21-31 and Psalm 147 vv 1-11.

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God I is incomparable to anything or anyone.	God loves us all.
God is the Creator of the Universe.	God is patient.
God is everlasting in power.	God is all loving.
God rewards everybody.	God is the leader.
God knows everyone and everything in existence.	God is merciful.
God is patient to everyone.	God is everlasting.
God loves all and everything.	All knowing.
God strengthens the weak.	Raises the humble.
God's wisdom is unmeasurable.	Strengthens the weak.
He raises the humble.	He is restoring Jerusalem.
God is always righteous.	Everyone needs God's strength at some time in their life.
He forgives you if you are willing to open yourself up to him.	He will heal all wounds if you put your trust in Him.
God is compassionate.	God is our only God and we NEED Him.
God is the Creator.	God crushes the evil.
God is all knowing.	God restores Jerusalem.
God is patient.	God bandages our wounds with love.
	God provides water and food.

# The Moment by Jaspreet Kaur

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Posted on March 13, 2018 by The Old Wolf

"The moment that you realize that true contentment can be found when we serve others, all other desires will seem so small.

And the moment you see joy in another being eyes, because of your own selfless actions, life starts to make a lot more sense.

And the moment you begin to act as the reflection of the visions that you have a of a better world, things will begin to change.

And the moment that you recognize your own responsibility for the betterment of others, you'll see such beauty in life.

And the moment that you recognize that you'll make more of an impact by being righteous than always being right, rewards will come and fall into your lap.

And the moment that you are more concerned about learning to love, then to be loved, positive emotions of oceanic depths will engulf you.

And the moment that you are more concerned about understanding others than to always be understood, that's when your mind will truly begin to learn.

And the moment that we realize that our enemies are not physical flesh and blood, yet they are our own thoughts, peace will begin to conquer.

And the moment that we overcome those inner enemies, rather than deflecting them onto others, merriment will come find you.

And the moment that you are more concerned about learning to listen, rather than to always be heard, you will hear languages you thought your mind could never fathom.

And the moment that you realize that life will always be about mastering and relearning, hunkering and climbing your journey will begin to feel so smooth.

And the moment that we all believe that we can change this world for the better, we will do it. Where we learn, change, grow and give, so go live your moments."

- Spoken-word artist Jaspreet Kaur, at the 2018 Commonwealth Day Celebration

# Keeping up with the vicar Pt 83 Angus Gregson

Here are the Lectionary readings for April and the first Sunday in May. As you'll recall from last month's piece (maybe) although Mark is the featured gospel this year, because Mark's gospel is the shortest we get a dose of John during Lent and Eastertide, and one reading from Luke, emphasising how very real Jesus' resurrection was, sharing food with his followers. And, as usual, in the period between Easter and Pentecost, the Old Testament reading is replaced by a passage from Acts.

During the Lent readings John has been trying to show how Jesus has come to complete the OT prophecies. Post Easter there is a focus on Jesus' teaching about what's needed for mission, and the need to be rooted in him if we're to bear fruit. It's remarkable not just how unsuitable some of the people called to take the gospel out seem to be, but what they can achieve empowered by the Holy Spirit. Bit like us really. What can we let the Spirit achieve through us?

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.

April	Acts	Psalm	Gospel	NT
8th	Acts 4:32-35	133	John 20:19-31	1 John 1:1-2:2
15th	Acts 3:12-19	4	Luke 24:36b-48	1 John 3:1-7
22nd	Acts 4:5-12	23	John 10:11-18	1 John 3:16-24
29th	Acts 8:26-40	22:25-31	John 15:1-8	1 John 4:7-21
<b>May</b>				
6th	Acts 10:44-48	98	John 15:9-17	1 John 5:1-6

# Christian Aid

Please make a note in your diaries for two events coming up in aid of Christian Aid.

Les Fry will be arranging the second **Big Brekkie** which will be on the morning of **Sunday 13 May**, at the start of Christian Aid Week. This will be supported by the Junior Church but everyone is welcome. Further details next month.

The Christian Aid Fair this year will be on **Saturday 5 May**, and there will be three different food outlets (Korean, burgers and hot dogs, and the Spotted Leopard Cafe providing vegan food) together with home-grown plants, books and bric a brac. Please bring and buy!



Please support fair trade around the world by buying something from the Traidcraft Stall, which helps farmers and small traders in the developing world, or by buying something fairly traded from the larger supermarkets, which helps larger organisations in the developing world.

Deadline for contributions for the May  
Recorder is 29th April.

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or by post to The Recorder at the Church  
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