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# The Recorder

July / August '18

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



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

# New Brunswick | July/Aug Diary

## Preachers for July 11am services

8th	Angus Gregson (will include Communion)
15th	Rev. Helena Mckinnon
22nd	Angus Gregson (Tearfund Sunday followed by a soup lunch)
29th	Rev Douglas Burnett

## Preachers for August 11am services

5th	Angus Gregson (Will include Communion)
12th	Barb and Rick Kirby
19th	Ella Bryant
26th	To Be Advised
Preachers for September 11am services	
2nd	John Waines

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 14th July Southmead Festival held at the Greenway Centre.

Thursday 26th July Church Meeting at 7:30pm

Saturday 28th July Quiz and Cream Tea. 3-6pm cost £5.

Sunday 30th September Harvest Thanksgiving.

There are several in our fellowship who have not been as well as they would like. We uphold to God, Ivy Pickett who is having trouble with both her hearing and experiencing trouble with her legs. We continue to think of Julie (Jim Hayes daughter) who has had some health issues. Morag Gregson has had a short spell in hospital and we ask God for His be with her at this time. We bring before God Mary Piggott who continues to make progress and ask Him to give her patience as the recovery is, perhaps not as quick as she would like.

Most of us have been enjoying the lovely weather we have had these last few weeks but for some it has made medical conditions more difficult and we ask God for His healing for those who are suffering because of the heat.

There are those in our fellowship who need God's Blessing for other issues in their life. We think of David Fudge, Wenda and Jen. May these folk be assured, too, of our support and understanding,

We now look forward to the 'Summer Break' Many activities, groups and meetings do not meet during the month of August. May those who are involved in these things during the year find the 'break' a time of relaxing and recharging their batteries so that they can continue to serve afresh in the autumn.

However you are going to spend the coming weeks I pray that God will Bless all. If you are going away may your journeys be safe and easy. If you are staying at home may you find joy in sharing with neighbours and friends, whenever possible sharing God's Love with all we meet.

# Vestry Vibes by Douglas Burnett



Dear friends,

As I write we are half way through our ecumenical holiday club for those of older age. This is being jointly run by Redland Park, Victoria and Tyndale churches. We have been working with Linkage and Active Ageing in trying to address the issues of isolation in our local area, and helping people to engage with more active lifestyles.

It is going well, but our intention of building community over those two weeks has been more challenging than we had thought. Trying to find those living in isolation has been challenging for the simple reason that such people are isolated. It has also been the case that for some of those coming along, that they have asked questions about why the churches might be doing so. Some wariness is evident. At the same time I have been struck by the conversations I have had just recently about the ways in which social isolation is becoming more widespread. Digital devices may improve communication (how could I survive without my smartphone!!) but, paradoxically, they can also reduce real social interaction at the same time.

One of the day managers at River Cottage, just the other side of Whiteladies Road from ourselves, was reflecting to me what they see happening in that restaurant. Couples and families come in for a meal together and then spend most of the time looking at their phones!! I am aware that this could begin to sound like the rant of a grumpy middle-aged man. I acknowledge that could actually be part of the mix! But more than that what I hanker for is that sense of real community that makes us human and which the Church can offer.

What we as the Church should be able to offer is something that stand in sharp contrast with the isolation and individualism that is increasingly all around us. This is relevant at any age, young or old.

You will see elsewhere in this edition of the Recorder that Les Fry has written about Walking the Way, the URC's new discipleship initiative. We will be working at this much more for the autumn onwards. As Les says, you could just see this as yet another of "those programmes" that we are meant to do. But it is much more than that. It helps us to identify particular issues that we all need to work at.

Out of it all could come a very much renewed sense of community, and that is about everyone's well-being. In the meantime it seems that our holiday club idea is achieving at least something of what we had hoped for. We hope that we can build on it for the future. But as from the autumn I hope we can all discover something more about discipleship in the 21st century.

That is about us as individuals, but it is also about how we live together in real community. Have a great summer! I will be switching off my smartphone at various times and just enjoying the company of other people.

*Dougie*



Our best wishes to **Jane Penrose** who has suffered a detached retina; we hope for a speedy recovery and God's blessings to her.

We send our prayers to **Myra Jenkins** who is receiving end-of-life care in her nursing home, where Bryan is visiting daily and supporting her through.

Although it is a few weeks ago now, we are glad to see **Alan Burns** and **Matt Sims** both recovering well from having appendixes removed! We hope the recovery is now complete.

Congratulations to **Jess Rogers** who graduates on Wednesday 4 July from Birmingham University with a degree in Law and German. God's blessings to Jess for the future.

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.

## The shorts are back in the cupboard

Viv and I have been most grateful for the many messages, cards, gifts, prayers and visits from members of Redland Park following my recent surgery and recovery period.

I am pleased to report that the surgeon is confident that he has removed all of the cancerous tissue and does not wish to see me again for three months.

This all means that the shorts will no longer be visiting church on Sundays.

With love to all, David

## Prayer page:

### Prayer for the month.

God of generosity,  
You have planted in each heart the seeds of your kingdom.  
Day and night, you nurture us, until the seed, grown in secret, bears fruit.

We pray that as we live and as we grow, we may be fruitful.  
May our lives be like mustard plants, growing and flourishing, true and strong.  
As your love spreads out through us into our communities,  
Surprising, irresistible and persistent,  
May all be drawn to you,  
That your kingdom may flourish in this world.

Amen



### Please pray for:

World leaders that they may govern with wisdom and compassion.

Theresa May and the government as they negotiate the Brexit terms.

All who work in the NHS.

Migrants who feel they are not welcome anywhere.

Those who feel excluded from society because they are different.

The sick and those who tend them.

Volunteers who give their time freely to help those in need.

All those on holiday that they may find refreshment and renewal.

**Loving God, you care for everyone in the world. Be with us all as we try to show your love to others.**

Amen.

*We are relaunching the prayer tree. Please write your prayer request on a label and tie it to the tree. It will then be included on the prayer page in the Recorder.*

# What Are You Searching For?

By Derek Skelcher

## CHORUS

*Hey there, hey there,  
What are you searching for?  
Why are you searching for  
What you are searching for?  
Hey there, hey there,  
The things you're searching for,  
Jesus has them all!*

Are you searching  
For something with a zip?  
A scene that's really hip?  
Then brother take a tip  
You can find them  
In Christian fellowship;  
Jesus has them all!  
CHORUS

Are you wanting  
Someone who'll understand,  
And lend a helping hand  
When things don't go as planned?  
Understanding,  
A kindly helping hand,  
Jesus has them all!  
CHORUS

Are you seeking  
New ways to get a kick?  
A love that's going to stick?  
To find what makes life tick?  
Come to Jesus  
And you can take your pick  
Jesus has them all!  
CHORUS

*Jesus has them!  
Jesus has them!  
Jesus has them all!*

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# Redland Park Church Calendar

## Dates for July 2018

Thurs 5th	2.30pm	First Thursday – Garden Party at Carole Atter's
Sun 8th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 15th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	11.45am	Church Meeting
Wed 18th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun 22nd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
	7.00pm	Evening Worship led by members
Sun 29th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Peter Chave
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room

## August

Sun 5th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
Sun 12th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Redland Park Elders
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
Sun 19th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Dr. Allan Lafferty
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room
Sun 26th	10.30am	Morning Café-style Worship led by Les Fry
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room

## September

Sun 2nd	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion Led by Rev Dougie Burnett
	10.30am	Korean Worship Upper Room

## Walking the Way Living the life of Jesus today

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I confess to some real cynicism when anybody directs me to "the United Reformed Church's exciting new focus on lifelong Christian discipleship and mission", after all, every couple of years, a new initiative seems to emerge which is going to transform Redland Park URC.....

However, I have pursued this one, starting with the key text :

ACTS 2 verses 42 to 47.

*\*\* (I recommend that you re-read this well known passage about the rapid growth of the early Christian church as the apostles respond to the coming of the Holy Spirit.)*

Wow! Doesn't that time sound wonderful! I would love to have been there with all of the open sharing, joy, worship and fellowship.

The essence of "Walking the Way" is that we re-visit the core values of the very early church and reacquaint ourselves with them and so embed them into our lives again as "Holy Habits".

*\*\* (Another suggestion: re-read the passage and make your own list of the 10 features of those New Testament days of church growth- full check list in the next Recorder for you to confirm!)*

The Elders have agreed that we embark on this programme over the next two years in anticipation that our individual and collective "understanding of what being a Christian disciple means will deepen.", with each Holy Habit dominating our church life for two calendar months.

**We plan to launch this programme on Sunday 16th September**, but if you would like to learn more in advance then do chat with Dougie, Myra Jones, Teame Mebrahtu or me - I do believe that the more we commit to living the life of Jesus today in Redland Park, the more we can grow!

Les Fry



## Inspiration In Your Inbox!

Each morning the United Reformed Church sends out a reading, short reflection and prayer to around 2,500 people. The reflections are written by a variety of people from different places and perspectives across the Church.

You can sign up to receive them by going to

**[devotions.urc.org.uk](https://devotions.urc.org.uk)**

(and you can read previous Devotions there too)

If you'd like to receive the devotions as a booklet in PDF format – so you can print them off for yourself or for members of your church who'd like them but don't have access to the Internet please email Andy Braunston via [dailydevotions@urc.org.uk](mailto:dailydevotions@urc.org.uk) and request this.

# Redland Park Church Meeting Minutes 20/5/18

## PRESENT

The Minister and 24 members. Apologies for absence were received from 6 members.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

## MATTERS ARISING

All matters arising from the previous meeting were covered in other items on the agenda.

## CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Carol Fry thanked everyone who had taken part and helped in Christian Aid Week; the house-to-house collection envelopes were still being brought back, so the total is not yet known. However, we already have £115 from Big Brekkie (thanks to Les Fry and the Junior church), £139 from the Bristol Korean Church, and £26 from a bucket collection at the Farmers' Market. This will be added to the amount raised at the Christian Aid Fair which was £526, so that the final total may well be nearing £1300. The house-to-house collection is increasingly difficult but still raises enough money to make it worthwhile, and also raises the profile of Christian Aid.

Future events being organised include

JUNE	16	3.00pm Garden Party at the Pedlars
AUGUST	–	Soup Lunch after Cafe-style Worship
SEPTEMBER	30	Soup Lunch after Harvest (with Korean Church)
OCTOBER	6 TBC	Zimbabwe Evening
OCTOBER	TBC	Uprooted Exhibition (in Redland Park through Christian Aid)
NOVEMBER	3	Singalong Day

## MINISTERIAL MATTERS

Dougie reported on the National Ministers' Conference, held earlier in May, focussing on future ministry, with a declining number of Ministers. Rowan Williams had been a keynote speaker.

There had also been an emphasis on discipleship, and another guest speaker, Dr Samantha Richards, stressed the importance of young people in the Church. A statistic that she quoted had shown that children raised with Church attendance had a 50% chance of continuing in Church in adult life, whilst those without childhood experience of Church had a 1% chance.

At Redland Park, Dougie explained that Elders had agreed that Walking the Way and Holy Habits should receive particular focus as part of our Church life over the next 2 years.

Planning for the 'Third Age' Holiday Club was now well advanced, with our partners, Tyndale Baptist, Victoria Methodist, Link Age, and Active Aging. The budget was £4,500, of which £2,500 would come from Redland Park and the late Rev Cyril Grant's legacy. Attendees would be invited to make a contribution where they could do so.

Dougie also announced that the Rev Tracy Lewis would be leaving Trinity-Henleaze. Further news was awaited about Ministry cover.

## FINANCE AND PROPERTY

John Neugebauer gave a presentation on the Church's 2017 Report and Accounts, which were formally approved.

John again asked Members to increase annual giving in line with income increases which may be received during the year. Overall, our finances were adequate, but our income and reserves gave no grounds for complacency.

In view of the required £47,000 spend in 2019 on the organ, Les Fry asked that the Church also consider its overall charitable giving.

It was agreed to freeze our M&M payments at 2017 levels, if our 2019 assessment turned out to be lower than £56,808.

Carole Atter asked that the Church consider the workload of Sally King, managing our lettings income of about £60,000 a year. This would be considered as well as more stringent Church letting administration arrangements, required by Church House. A future Church motion would be required on this. Sally King especially asked for support in attending Church during major lets.

Church Meeting recorded their thanks to Viv and David Hayden, Sally and Terry King, Andrew and Matt Sims, Andrew Hayden and Will Robertson, and John Neugebauer for their work on finance and property in 2017.

£1,000 had been sent to Tyndale Baptist Church who were managing the finances for the Third Age Summer Activities, and £700 for the Zimbabwe Church project.

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

News of members was shared, with special thought to David Hayden's post-operative progress.

## AOB

Following a suggestion from Sally King, it was agreed that window blinds should be fitted to the front right windows to enable the TV monitor to be seen during periods of strong sunlight.

The meeting ended with the Grace.

**Next meeting: Sunday 15 July 2018, following the morning service**

# What's On?



Shameless plug warning...

For those of who weren't at the concert on June 30th, you missed a staggering musical treat. 2 Samuel 6:14 - David danced before the Lord with all his might - will just never read the same again.

The next Recorder will be out less than a fortnight before the next concert so here are the details. Surely everyone will find a favourite here, and it's raising money for St Peter's Hospice...

## Saturday 13th October 2018 All Saints church, Clifton

A choral celebration for St Peter's Hospice's 40th anniversary

<i>Parry</i>	<i>Songs of Farewell</i>
<i>Handel</i>	<i>Zadok the Priest</i>
<i>Lotti</i>	<i>Crucifixus a 8</i>
<i>Fauré</i>	<i>Cantique de Jean Racine</i>
<i>Rachmaninov</i>	<i>2 excerpts from Vespers</i>
<i>Brahms</i>	<i>Geistliches Leid</i>
<i>Stanford</i>	<i>Beati quorum via</i>
<i>Parry</i>	<i>I was glad</i>
<i>Elgar</i>	<i>Nimrod (organ)</i>

**When:** Saturday 13 October 2018, 7.30pm

**Where:** All Saints Church, Clifton

Tickets from Angus Gregson or from the choir's website [www.bristolbach.org.uk](http://www.bristolbach.org.uk)

# First Thursday

**Somewhere to visit on the doorstep - well almost.**

June's meeting brought a change of plan: the garden party at Carole's will now be on July 5th. On June 1st a small group of us met at the entrance to **Blaise Castle Museum**, just as a large group of primary school children were leaving, so the age of visitors went from one extreme to the other. The children looked as though they had enjoyed it - and we did too.

The house and museum have obviously been upgraded recently and it was quite different from the way I remember it from many years ago; It now concentrates on the times the family for whom it was built lived there and there was a short running film show about the house and family by means of introduction to the exhibits which are in light and airy rooms, some with views across the grounds.

There was one room devoted to toys - Victorian onwards; lots of lovely wood - pre plastic, (do you remember?) and dolls' houses and another set up as a school room with the sort of desks with the seats attached which I certainly remember, as using your legs, you could gently push the people in front of you forward.....depending on the teacher in charge! Other rooms were given over to exhibits of various household gadgets and essentials, including a variety of heaters and laundry equipment for example.

It isn't a large museum, but a gentle and well presented reminder of mostly domestic items from the past.

A short stroll away, near the car park and children's play area, is a convenient cafe for a cup of tea and/or ice-cream and chat - to round off the afternoon in the usual way.

Audrey.

# Keeping up with the vicar Pt 86 Angus Gregson

What a strange summer. It's hot and sunny, and England still haven't been knocked out of the world cup (as I write). (Apparently, I don't know - I haven't watched any of it. This is me being topical.)

I was in Iceland a few weeks ago (have you seen my photos?) where sunset was after midnight, but now the nights are drawing in, so here are the Lectionary readings for July and August and the first Sunday in September.

For much of July and August there's a reading through of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. (Friends at New Brunswick it's over 25 years since That Series so may we should revisit it.) Unlike, say, the letters to the church at Corinth, where Paul was picking up on specific issues or questions they'd asked, Ephesians is much more a statement of faith, with Paul expounding on how he sees our role as the body of Christ on Earth. When we pray with the Lord's prayer "Your will be done on Earth as in heaven", this is what Paul's addressing here.

It was the reading that we have on July 15th that made me realise just how enthusiastic Paul was about his faith. That whole passage is effectively just one sentence, Paul almost tripping over himself as he tries to get the words out. Try reading it out loud as if you've only just realised the enormity of it for yourself. And then go and tell someone else.

Because Mark's gospel (Year B in the lectionary) is fairly short, it's padded out with bits of John. We leave Mark at the account of the feeding of the 5000 and transfer to John's record of the same miracle. Is this a precursor to the Last Supper – giving thanks, breaking the bread, sharing, more achieved than you'd have thought possible?

Before you hear the snippets, Sunday by Sunday, try reading the whole of John chapter 6 in one go to see how the ideas develop, how the explanation rolls out. And let's all join with Peter's great affirmation in Mark 6:69.

Now, who are you going to tell Ephesians 1:3-14 to?

July	OT	Psalm	Gospel	NT
8th	Ezekiel 2:1-5	123	Mark 6:1-13	2 Corinthians 12:2-10
15th	Amos 7:7-15	85:8-13	Mark 6:14-29	Ephesians 1:3-14
22nd 22	Jeremiah 23:1-6	23	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	Ephesians 2:11-22
29th	2 Kings 4:42-44	145:10-18	John 6:1-21	Ephesians 3:14-21
Aug				
5th	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15	78:23-29	John 6:24-35	Ephesians 4:1-16
12th	1 Kings 19:4-8	34:1-8	John 6:35, 41-51	Ephesians 4:25-5:2
19th	Proverbs 9:1-6	34:9-14	John 6:51-58	Ephesians 5:15-20
26th	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18	34:15-22	John 6:56-69	Ephesians 6:10-20
Sep				
2nd	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9	15	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	James 1:17-27

# Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter

*For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Matthew 25: 35*

Several friends from Redland Park took part in the night shelter held at Tyndale Baptist Church and in various other churches around the city, in January, February and March this year. In fact 450 or more volunteers from over 60 churches signed up to help staff the night shelter this year, more than twice the number who helped last year, which was a pilot of one month.

**Facts:**

- Over 7000 hours of time was donated by volunteers to show God's love
- Volunteer ages ranged from late teens to 75 plus
- 12% of volunteers were from the wider community
- 37 guests were referred to the shelter by St Mungo's, staying from one to more than 28 nights each
- Seven women were referred and three stayed at least one night, the shelter acting as a safety net
- Most guests were from the UK, but also a significant number from Europe and the wider world
- And they were aged from 25 to 55

The shelter provided guests with a hot meal, company and a place to sleep, which also provided stability and the opportunity to focus on other areas of their lives. Four of the guests were able to continue to work and three found jobs while staying at the shelter. 14 guests found more secure accommodation and were therefore able to move on.

The Night Shelter is meeting a need for homeless individuals but it needs the support of churches and the wider community for it to run. Those who helped this year felt rewarded by the experience and enjoyed being able to support the shelter; we hope more can next year.

Deadline for contributions for the September Recorder is 26th August.

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